



First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia

May 2020

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amidst the pandemic, partial lockdown, and other ramifications of this crisis, I hope and pray that you and your loved ones are safe and well.

I believe, despite our inability to gather in the sanctuary every Sunday, we as a congregation had a meaningful Lenten season and Easter service. With the support of our tech assistance team, we were able to launch zoom worship services since Easter. I am glad that about fifty of our members have been attending the Sunday worship service via Zoom each week since then. I trust that more members will join in the weeks to come until we are able to resume our in-person activities in our sanctuary.

We are now in the liturgical season of Eastertide. This is the time to remember and renew our hope offered to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In I Peter 1:3, apostle Peter writes that God “has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” The words “living hope” must have been profoundly meaningful for the original audience of Peter’s epistle because they were new Christians who had fled Jerusalem and its surrounding cities to faraway places due to fierce persecution. Some scholars say that the Christians were scattered as far as 300,000 square miles from Jerusalem due to persecution. To these persecuted Christians facing death-dealing circumstances, apostle Peter writes that their situation will certainly change because of the living hope that God has offered in the resurrection of Lord Jesus. Just as the early

continued...

Christians courageously overcame their trials and tribulations because of their faith and hope in the resurrected Savior, let us be encouraged that we will also overcome the current crisis very soon because of our faith and hope in our loving and almighty God.

The God of the Bible cares about the pain and suffering of his creation. The One who took upon himself the sin and suffering of humanity on the cross of calvary is walking with those of us and those around us who are facing loss and hardships due to Covid-19. God has always been fixing the mess that we human have been creating. Even now, God's spirit is at work in the scientists who are inventing an effective vaccination, in the care offered by health care workers, in the services provided by essential staff, in the decisions made by conscientious policy makers, and in the vigilant services of the defense and law enforcement officers. Therefore, let us continue to pray for one another, be intentional as a church, and live in the hope offered to us in Christ Jesus.

Stay safe and blessed.

With prayers,

Rev. Vinod I. Gnanaraj



Seasonal Teams

Harvest Advent Epiphany Lent Eastertide/Pentecost Summer

THE SIGN-UP

Hello to all the members, non-members, members in transition, member members, and those still questioning. The Eastertide/Pentecost Team hopes that everyone is safe and respecting the social distancing guidelines. Without a doubt these times are providing undo frustration. Please remember to reach out to those around you via phone, internet, or even a honking drive by to let people know they are still important and loved. Yes, drive-bys can now be considered okay in this fashion.

Also, at some point things will return to normalcy and we will all reflect on how truly fortunate we are to have the resources and our faith in rough times. Our team wants to push the idea that when we do start attending services at church that we come back with a renewed vigor in worship, mission, and service. Our new minister has had a very rough start to his career here at FPC. We need to show him what we can do.

Currently, May 17th will be the official sign up day. However, given our current at home status we would ask that you consider serving on a team and email your choice to Karen at the church website:

caledoniafirstpc@frontiernet.net, or call the office and leave a message: 585.538.4555.

My friends, whether you have or have not been on a team we need you to help us now.

The Eastertide/Pentecost Team

The Season of Eastertide-Pentecost

The Eastertide-Pentecost seasonal team met on 4/15/20, complete with masks and social distancing. We began with a discussion of the meaning of the season, which spans from April 19th to May 31st.

Eastertide (also known as Eastertime or the Easter season) is a festal season in the liturgical year of Christianity that focuses on celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The team has chosen "Living the Resurrection" as the theme of the season. Our season will necessarily be a little different this year, as we cannot congregate, and much of it will be visual and virtual. You will see our message on both the church website and on the church Facebook Page, as well as through "Zoom" meetings. We will also attempt to communicate as much as possible via telephone, e-mail and 'snail-mail' - **it's vitally important that we continue to stay connected to one another and to our church during this time in our history.**

Some notable dates during the season are *Earth Day*, on 4/22/20, *National Friendship Day* on 5/1/20, the *National Day of Prayer* on 5/7/20 and *Mother's Day* on 5/10/20. We will also be conducting Seasonal Team sign-ups and hope that everyone will join a team for the 2020-2021 year.

New website update:

We've not made the kind of progress we hoped for with corrections to the new website. The team has remained in contact via email and text, but key team members are overloaded with immediate and ongoing priorities (for church, work, school, and family life during CoVid 19). Please be patient with us as we work through the final stages in the middle of a pandemic! Some things are critical priority right now, and others just have to wait as we are all being pulled in many directions. Look for more information in future newsletters, including more specifics on the team!

*Hope in God and Christ for our future!
The Website Team.*

Graduation time is upon us!

Every year the Summer Team plans to welcome and recognize our graduates on a Sunday in June. While many graduation ceremonies are or will be canceled we can still recognize our graduates! We sure hope we can recognize and celebrate in person, but we all know that is to be determined as we move forward. Please call or email the church as soon as possible (today?!) to let us know of your graduate. We are always upset to find we've accidentally left a graduate out.

Summer Seasonal Team



Summer Team – wow really?

YES, really; summer is coming and the Summer Seasonal Team is in planning mode. We've met via Zoom with folks from Evangelical Presbyterian Stone Church and the United Presbyterian Church in Mumford to begin planning for the Joint Summer Worship Sundays of July, August, and September 6. While we are making plans, we are also remaining flexible as none of us know how the summer months will unfold. Summer Season at First Presbyterian Church begins with Sunday, June 7. Our team will meet via phone conference call or Zoom the first week of May, although we've already done some advance planning via email and phone. My, we are getting good with handling business via Zoom!

While we have some hope that we can begin worshiping in person by June, we must remain flexible, and adhere to guidance from the state, our Presbytery, and the health care experts. Stay tuned for more news from the Summer Seasonal Team.

Sunday School Update:

We sure miss all of you, but we are happy to see some of you via Zoom at Sunday worship! What an interesting and challenging time we are experiencing together – yet alone. Hopefully we continue to find ways to learn and grow in faith during these times. Learning and growing in faith is a continual conversation in Sunday School; we should never stop learning and growing in faith! We continue to email weekly Sunday School lessons to our families. Families can expect the emails to continue until we are free to be together. We understand that parents and families are overwhelmed right now, so just use what you can when you can.

As the next few weeks unfold please watch your email for updates. Our hope is that the first week we are all together in Sunday School and worship, our kids can participate in worship!

Be Well!

Peace and Grace

Sunday School Team Leaders: Janet Flynn, Lynn Burdick, and Nancy Wiley.

New email address for Brenda Beardsley (Church Treasurer and Elder on Session):

Please update your email contact for Brenda Beardsley to her new email for church communications: Calfirstprestreasurer@gmail.com

Using the Brenda's new email for church communications will allow her to better manage work and church priorities. Thanks!

Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization Form

Pledging during our Closure: We'd like to remind our members that even the doors are closed to Worship, we are still here doing God's will... just a little differently... the lights are still on and the heat is still there... just waiting to welcome us back home...

To that end, we'd like to remind our Church members to remain current with your pledging/gifting to the Church. You can continue giving via the methods listed below.

1. Via Mail- 3080 West Main Street, Caledonia, NY 14423
2. Via E-Giving- if you are interested in e-giving, please fill out the attached form. Once completed, you may mail the form to Brenda Beardsley, our Church Treasurer, at 2339 Anderson Road, Linwood, NY 14486 or you can email it to her at Calfirstprestreasurer@gmail.com.





First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia

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Caledonia, NY 14423

(585) 538-4555

e-mail: caledoniafirstpc@frontiernet.net

website: caledoniafirstpc.com

The Staff

Rev. Vinod Gnanaraj	Designated Pastor
Brenda Beardsley	Treasurer
Denise Shaffer	Director of Choirs
Marilyn Henry	Organist
Karen Polo	Secretary
Donna Howard	Director of Source of Success
Peggy Stein	Housekeeper
Steve Russ-Clar	Grounds Keeper

The Session

Lisa Morrill	Clerk, Lent/Easter
	Finance/Nominating Committee
Lisa Clark	Advent/Christmas Team
Brian Shaffer	Pentecost/Eastertide Team, Harvest Team
	Property Committee
Valerie Connor	Summer Team, Nominating
Wendy Ebersole	Epiphany Team, Personnel Committee
Brenda Beardsley	
Kathy Kemnitz	
Jay Ward	Memorial & Endowment
Ron Blazejewski	Finance Committee