

# First Presbyterian Church

## NOVEMBER Newsletter 2022



*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6-7)*

Dear family and friends of FPC, Caledonia:

I hope this message finds you enjoying the beauty of God's creation and the splendid Fall colors. Even though Thanksgiving is only at the end of the month, we tend to begin the month of November thinking about it. Sometimes, our thoughts of Thanksgiving are interrupted by the stories of suffering, terror, war, civil unrest, economic uncertainties, climate catastrophe, poverty, and so on that we endlessly see and hear in the news media. To these worldwide crises, if we add our own struggles, the only rational response would be worry and despair, not gratitude and thanksgiving.

The world in which the apostle Paul lived was not very different from our own. In certain circumstances, it was even worse. As a Christian, Paul belonged to a persecuted minority. With multitude of other disciples, he faced ridicule, imprisonment, torture, and eventually even died at the hands of a Roman executioner after many years of incarceration in Roman jails. Amidst the harsh realities in which he lived, Paul did not let his circumstances affect his attitude. In his epistle to the Philippian Christians, he advised them to stop worrying and to put their trust in God who hears their prayers and responds to their needs. According to Paul, the proper response in the face of ongoing difficulties and dangers is thanksgiving rooted in faith that God has all things under control. He affirms this in his letter to the church in Rome: "All things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose."

When the Pilgrims arrived, they barely survived the first winter in 1620. More than half their company died from starvation, disease, and exposure to the elements. However, with the help of the Native Americans, they learned how to farm the land effectively. The following year, their harvest was abundant. In November of 1621, they gathered to give thanks to God not only for the blessings that they had already received, but also for their faithful expectation that God would enable them to survive until the following spring. Thanksgiving is not just our response to the good things that have already happened. It is a way of life which stems out of our faith that all things - past, present, and future - are in the hands of a loving and sovereign God who cares for us and blesses us in all the circumstances of our lives. It is my prayer that God must enable you to celebrate a faithful and hopeful thanksgiving.

Our Harvest seasonal team is planning to make this Thanksgiving special for the Afghan refugee children who are being served by the Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services. From the contributions we have collected over the past months, we will be giving gift cards to 71 Afghan

children to buy winter boots. I want to thank each one of you for your contribution to this ministry. We will soon be offering spoken English classes to Afghan women through Zoom with the help of volunteers who have signed up. If you are interested in this mission, please contact Linda Hill or Louise Haskins.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Rev. Vinod I. Gnanaraj



### Nov. Coffee Hours

Nov. 6th – Session

Nov. 13th – Choir

Nov. 20th - New Years' Party - Harvest Team

### New Address:

Ivan & Diana Carson

Room #4648

Morgan Estates

4855 Morgan View Road,  
Geneseo, New York – 14454



### **Holiday Craft and Baked Food Sale**

This is an opportunity to donate new craft items, baked foods and homemade preserves to benefit our church budget. Bring your items to church on Friday, November 4th, from 1-4 to be priced for sale. **The sale is on Saturday, November 5th from 9am-3pm.** Please encourage your family and friends to attend. Any questions, contact Janet Russ-Clar (585)747-3104 or [Sjlsrc@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Sjlsrc@rochester.rr.com).



## Aging Gracefully Seminar

While we sometimes hate to admit it, we are all getting older and with that reality come a number of questions. The Memorial and Endowment Committee is hosting a seminar to answer many of the questions you have regarding how to enjoy your senior years when provided the necessary information for your questions.

A seminar is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on **Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**. The seminar will feature knowledgeable speakers in the areas of Health & Safety, Legal Issues, Caretaker Issues, Where to Live Best Given Your Situation, Financial Issues and Funeral Planning. Our speakers will feature Lifespan representatives as well as a number of local authorities.

The seminar will last approximately three hours and will allow you to not only listen to and ask questions of our speakers, but also to talk with them afterwards about any individual concerns. They each will have a table set up to feature brochures on their area of expertise.

We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to be in Fellowship Hall from 9-12 on Saturday, November 12. We are gearing this seminar for those 50+ years of age, but others are welcome to attend to gather information for family members.

Any questions may be directed to Jay Ward at 538-6973 or [jwardiii@frontiernet.net](mailto:jwardiii@frontiernet.net).

The Harvest Team invites the congregation to lunch after worship on **Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>** to celebrate the end of the liturgical year and the beginning of another new year! It promises to be fun! There might even be some entertainment!



## RRRS UPDATE (Rochester Refugee Resettlement Service)



The Harvest Team Mission Focus Thank you, thank you for the delicious array of baked goods that were furnished for the Presbyterian Auction on October 9th during coffee hour. Everything looked so yummy! As a result of your generosity, we realized \$230.00 that will be used to purchase gift cards from WalMart. These cards will be distributed to families with school-aged children (about 70 of them). The Afghanistan folks wear sandals back home. You know that would be dangerous in this area. The cards will be distributed soon. Watch for another update.

## CONGRATULATIONS

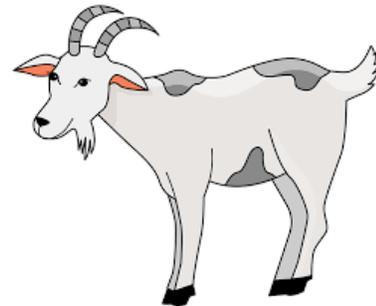
### New Members & our Newly Baptized

On Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> we welcomed new members, Samantha & Jaymeson Barefoot, into our FPC family! What made the day even more special was the baptism of their son Logan! It truly was an extraordinary day!



# WOW!! YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!!

Last year the Sunday School students had offering each week that was determined to go to the purchase of animals and their distribution through the “Heifer Project!” The children donated \$149 which was added to the congregational donations given the day of our picnic, June 5<sup>th</sup> of \$211 for a GRAND TOTAL of \$360!! Well, when it was time to place the order it was discovered that the Heifer Project was TRIPLING any donations given this Fall. So our \$360 became \$1080!!! We were able to purchase 2 goats, 1 pig, 1 sheep, 1 alpaca, 1 water buffalo, 4 hives of bees, 2 flocks of ducks & 2 flocks of chickens!



**This is OUTSTANDING!!**

**Thank you all so much for contributing to this great cause!**

## **Part-Time Position Available**

Regretfully our church office manager, Karen Polo, has resigned to seek new direction in her life. She has served our church faithfully for thirteen years and will be sorely missed by everyone. We extend to Karen our best wishes and thanks for a job well done.

The Personnel Committee is now seeking applicants for this vacant part-time position. The Office Manager must be highly organized and possess competent computer skills. If you, or a person known to you, may be interested in becoming our next Office Manager, please contact Personnel Committee Chairperson Wendy Ebersole for an application and position description. She may be contacted by email at [caledoniafirstpc@gmail.com](mailto:caledoniafirstpc@gmail.com). Thank you

## **Session Synopsis**

October 11, 2022

Rev. Vinod Gnanaraj, Moderator

- Opening in prayer we began our nights work.
- From the Project Regeneration webinar Vinod attended, he suggested session read the book “Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Mission and Practice.”
- Through the Synod Coaching Grant we received, Session and Deacons are working together with a coach to write a church vision statement. We have had the initial meeting, are doing some homework and will plan our next meeting soon. The results of the recent survey of the congregation will be incorporated into the process.

- Linda Hill gave a report on the recent visit to RRRS (Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services.) Plans are underway and should be firmed up soon for the opportunity to help the women practice their English speaking skills. They are in need of gift cards to allow them to purchase correct sized boots as these people only have sandals.
- Presbytery held a zoom presentation on “Active Intruder training” Sept 15. Jay Ward, and Vinod attended. Based on the information learned, Vinod is working to assemble a committee to review resources and create plan for future.
- The computer training with Stephanie Pullyblank continues. Lisa Morrill is making progress on updating the website. We will be adding articles on a regular basis. If you wish to have something added, please inform Lisa. If she can she will add it. Note that it may or may not be something we can do. Check us out at [www.caledoniafirstpc.org](http://www.caledoniafirstpc.org)
- Presbytery will be offering a two night learning event titled “Developing Missional Eyes” Oct 20, Nov 10.
- Samantha and Jaimeson Barefoot were received as new members on Oct 9.
- Logan Barefoot, son of Samantha and Jaimeson, was baptized and presented to the congregation on Oct 9.
- Our new groundskeeper, Jacob Starr, is learning the position well.
- Session will sponsor coffee hour 11/6.
- Prayers were offered for the Russ family, Denise Shaffer and her family, Don and Jeanie Manley, Linda Hicks, Dianna and Ivan Carson, all our service men and women.
- To work on his dissertation, Vinod will be on leave These days:  
10/23 – 10/27, 11/14 – 11/23, 12/1 – 12/7, 12/26 – 12/29