



First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia

February 2022

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7.

Dear FPC family,

I hope this message finds you in the joy and light of Christ during this season of Epiphany. As a church, we have been celebrating this season during our Sunday worship services by reflecting on the theme "*Come Light your Candle. Go Light your World.*" Before we move into the season of Lent next month, I want to impress upon you for one last time the significance of the Epiphany of Christ for each one of us. My hope is that every member of our church should have a personal epiphany of Christ and become the light of Christ in our community and area of influence.

The word 'Epiphany' means a sudden revelation or manifestation. It is like the 'Eureka' moment in our Christian faith where we get a sudden, personal, and profound realization of who Jesus Christ is. This personal revelation of Christ is not something reserved for a privileged few but is available for all. The lives of those who receive this epiphany will be transformed for the best, just as Saul was transformed from being a persecutor of the Church to a faithful proclaimer of Jesus Christ after the epiphany in the Road to Damascus. Though this blissful experience is available for all, there is a simple prerequisite, which is 'Earnest-curiosity'. In Matthew 2:1-12, we read about the wise men who traveled to Bethlehem from a far-away land in the East to see the Christ-child. In all likelihood, these men were non-Jews, and yet they had the epiphany of Christ. The reason is, those wise men who studied the stars and the planetary motion, perceived the appearance of the unique star as an indication of the birth of a king. Informed by their field of specialty, they developed an earnest-curiosity and took a long and arduous journey to confirm their hypothesis of the birth of a king. Though their quest was triggered by a scientific curiosity, their earnestness to see the king made it deeply spiritual. And, when they saw the king, who was unlike any other, they worshipped him and offered the most precious of their possessions – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Dearly beloved, how earnest are we in our pursuit of knowing Christ? Are we deeply committed like the wise men who set aside a considerable part of their lifetime to seek and find the savior? The Savior longs to manifest himself to us. He yearns to have a personal relationship with us. He wants to transform our lives for the best. He wants to light up the dark areas of our lives that need forgiveness, healing and hope. He desires to enlighten us and make us beacons of light who will guide others to God. Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given; seek, and you will find." The way to ask is through prayer. The way to seek is through daily reading and meditation of the Bible. When we come together for worship on Sundays we ask and seek as a congregation. When we earnestly ask and seek, we can be assured of God's epiphany. I exhort you to take time to ask and seek for an epiphany of Christ. May the Holy Spirit guide you in your pursuit of deeper knowledge and experience of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please plan to attend our Annual Congregation Meeting on the 13th of February at 12:30 p.m. after the worship service. As part of our seasonal mission, we are collecting donations for 'Livingston Country Heating Fund', 'Gigi's Playhouse Achievement Center', 'Hurricane Disaster Relief' and 'Souper Bowl Sunday'. Your generosity will be a great blessing to those who are in need.

May the light of Christ guide you in your life's journey. Grace and peace!

In Christ's Service.

Rev. Vinod I. Gnanaraj



“SOUPer” Bowl Sunday

It's that time of the year again! February 13th is our "SOUP"er Bowl Sunday!! So please keep your eyes on the grocery store ads and start to collect some cans of soup! Be sure to bring the soup on the 13th! We will also be collecting money as well as the cans of soup to give to the Cal-Mum Food Pantry!

Last year we set a record with over 250 cans!

Let's set our goal to top that! THANKS!



**Come Light
Your Candle**



**Go Light
Your World**

Be sure to *check out the Epiphany bulletin board* on your way into the Sanctuary!

On it you will find envelopes for your taking next to each of the Missions we are sponsoring during this Epiphany Season! Each week during service we have and will continue to explain each mission. The four missions are: Livingston County Heating Fund, GiGi's Playhouse (the Down Syndrome Achievement Center), Hurricane Relief, & the "SOUP"er Bowl. Please choose a mission, or more, to use to "Go light your world!" Thank you!

DO ALL YOU CAN

DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.

~John Welsey~

The Finance Committee would like to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** for your continued financial support, especially during our most recent Stewardship Campaign. When we first started the campaign, we were at the base of a mountain looking up at an unsurmountable task... To obtain enough pledges to support the immediate financial wellbeing of the Church with the intent of sustaining well into the future.

Well, you did it! You began to climb that mountain and we are in a much better position today with your generous pledges. We were able to increase our totaling pledging by nearly \$26,000!

There is always more work to be done in terms of finances and more talents to be shared with respect to the operation of the Church, but you folks should be proud of the gifts and talents you have provided over the last few months.

This will go a long way to support the continued mission of our beloved Church.

Well done Church Family... Well Done!

In the Name and Spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good Stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent, and our material gifts as an outward sign of the Treasure we hold in Jesus. Amen.

Virtual Annual Meeting February 13, 2022

The 2022 Annual Meeting will be conducted virtually at 12:30 pm on Sunday, February 13, 2022. In keeping with the current session policy of not conducting large gatherings in the church during this phase of the Covid Pandemic, the session has decided to again hold our annual meeting virtually via Zoom.

Recognizing that not all members are able to access a Zoom meeting, a safe location will be set up at the church to allow those members to participate in the meeting.

The Annual Meeting Report booklet will be available either at church or on-line starting Sunday, February 6, 2022. Have your booklet available on February 13th and join your fellow members on the 12:30 Zoom meeting. A link to the meeting will be sent to all members prior to the meeting. See you then.

COVID Guidelines

Due to the sudden spike in Covid numbers, the Session has adopted the following safety plan in line with the safety guidelines provided by the NYS Department of Health:

1. We will continue to worship in-person with all people masked at all times per current NYS guidelines.
2. Holy Communion will be served using prepackaged elements only.
3. We will abstain from physical contact during the Sharing of the Peace.
4. The choir will sing with all participants masked and socially distanced.
5. Coffee hour will be temporarily suspended.
6. Outside groups can use the church facilities with a maximum of 10 participants, and all must be masked.
7. During hymn singing all must wear masks.
8. The collection plates will not be passed during the worship service.
9. The Sunday School will continue with all students and teachers masked.

The Session has adopted these guidelines for one month, and will review at its next meeting.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are growing a community of faith, globally and locally, through worship and service. We do this by:

- Proclaiming the Word through worship in the Reformed Tradition.
- Receiving God's love and forgiveness and accepting God's renewing grace.
- Celebrating the Sacraments.
- Challenging and empowering each other to grow in our love and understanding of God through the ministries of education, fellowship and care giving across generations.
- Welcoming and nurturing the diversity within our church community.
- Seeking to be generous with our time, talents and treasures.
- Using our resources to reach out locally and worldwide to share the love of Jesus Christ

Family Notes

Our Prayers and Sympathy to:

Candy and Jordan Rogers, on the death of Mark on January 16.

*Blessed are those who die in the Lord, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labors and their good works follow them.*

SESSION SYNOPSIS

Jan 11, 2022

Rev. Vinod Gnanaraj, Moderator

- Session met via Zoom.
- The Congregational meeting will be held virtually on February 13th at 11:45 am following Sunday worship service. A zoom room will be set up in Fellowship Hall for the benefit of those who may not be familiar with Zoom.
- Property Team reported - A new boiler has been installed - In person worship was cancelled on January 9, due to this installation. The sanctuary will again have heat by January 16.
- Session voted to adopt the recent Covid Safety Recommendation NYS Department of Health. Congregants will wear masks at all times inside the church. Coffee hour will be temporarily suspended. Holy Communion will be served using pre-packaged elements. The offering plates will not be passed. These safety precautions will be reviewed at the next Session meeting.
- Christian Education team is looking for Sunday School teachers - Our children are the future of the church. You need no special skills to provide such an important service. The CET has all the tools you will need.
- Louise provided more detail on the refugee situation.
- Rev. Vinod would like to restructure committee and team meetings to better allow his presence at all meetings. More detail to come.
- Seasonal teams are looking for help. Epiphany has begun their work - please speak to Wendy or David Ebersole if you are able to help.
- In support of the council of churches, FPC will host the Community service in July.
- Advent team reports the Christmas Joy offering received \$730.00.
- The membership rolls have been reviewed and updated. Our active membership stands at 90 members.
- Session reviewed our Mission Statement. We have lived into this statement with generosity and faithfulness. In 2022 we want to focus on community outreach and member involvement. We put out the challenge to be welcoming and open in all aspects of life. We are generous and giving. Let us share our talents as well.



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The Staff

Rev. Vinod Gnanaraj	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, Nominating
Lisa Clark	Nominating
Wendy Ebersole	Epiphany Team, Personnel Committee
Louise Haskins	Summer
Linda Hill	Harvest
Mike Stuart	Advent/Christmas
Kathy Kemnitz	Eastertide/Pentecost, Finance Committee
Jay Ward	Memorial & Endowment
Brian Shaffer	Property Committee