## THE PARKVIEW

The Park Presbyterian Church Newsletter

# January/February 2021

## FROM THE SESSION

Hello Friends and Members of Park Presbyterian Church,

Happy New Year! The session met on December 30, 2020 via zoom with the help of our COM liaison Ken Allen and our new moderator The Honorably Retired Reverend Dr. Betsey Crimmins. We wanted to share some important information.

The session has been continuing to provide Worship most Sundays. This has not been an easy task for our Worship Team chaired by Karen Cameron. The supply list is a bit confusing and limited. We are allowed to have the same preacher 2x a month. If you would like to help in any way with this, help would greatly be appreciated. We are looking into offering some different types of worship experiences. We have also been able to stream with some neighboring churches. We wish to express our thanks to Rev Carol Wilson for our Facebook LIVE services during the month of December. Working with J., Carol presented beautiful on-line worship experiences. If anyone needs assistance in accessing the LIVE Facebook services, please contact the church office or Elder Paul Salisbury.

The session is also discerning the next steps for Park Church. This includes whether to have an interim pastor, temporary pastor or just filling the Pulpit. In this Parkview you will find a chart helping to explain those roles a little better. Please know that we are prayerfully discerning this process and taking this task very seriously.

The budget for 2021 was approved by session on December 30, 2020 and was presented at the Annual meeting for the congregation to receive. The Steward-ship campaign is in full swing, you still have time to send in your pledges. We have received about \$60,000 in Giving as of this letter. We received an approval from the Audit Committee for 2020. If you would like 2021 pledge envelopes, monthly or weekly, please contact the church office (315-331-2255)

Nominating Committee is being formed and the remaining 3 At Large members were nominated and elected at the Annual Meeting, which was held via zoom call on January 24, 2021. The newly elected members are Holly Burgess, Deb Compher, Anne Rogers, Sue Rowe will represent Deacons and Scott Blondell for (Continued on page 13)



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## Joys And Concerns

We continue to receive calls and e-mails in regards to joys and concerns with church members or friends of the church.

With the building closing again there isn't an easy place to "write" the concerns for visitors to the church to see. With this in mind and an eye towards keeping a digital presence even after we return to normal I will be starting a prayer list.

If you would like to be added to the prayer list please send an e-mail to parkchurch110@gmail.com and ask to added to the prayer list. You can also send any prayers or concerns to that e-mail with an indication that you would like it to go out to the prayer list.

Please be aware that the prayers in the weekly emails will cycle out every 2 weeks, so if you are looking for your joy or concern to last longer please let me know.

## Сниксн Family Life

As you are aware, this has been a year like no other. It has been challenging to keep things running the way we'd like to, during a pandemic and a building project, but I believe our Session has discerned and tried to do so, with the best of our ability, and in following the advice of our presbytery. This month I wish to recognize some of you who have been striving to keep things running, but I fear that I will miss some of you, so I do apologize. I appreciate Elder Karen Cameron, for her dedication in arranging and facilitating Sunday worship. We have been fortunate to have special music from Yoshiko Arahata, Sarah and Bella Humphrey, Rick Bald, and Natalie Lemmon. J. Joslyn has been instrumental in the recording and downloading of services on Facebook Live and thank you to Elder Scott Blondell, who did so, when J. was unable to.

A special thank you to Reverend Carol Wilson, who led our Sunday services throughout the month of December. Her "Laying of the Greens" service and the Christmas Eve service were truly memorable. In January, we were welcomed to watch the live and virtual services of Pastor Kyle Del Hagen from Western Presbyterian Church in Palmyra and we also viewed services from Rev. Dr. Cynthia Huling Hummel, complete with guitar and song. I also appreciate Ruling Elder Susan Frost from the Geneva Presbytery, for traveling from Trumansburg to present the January 17th service. Throughout this time, our sanctuary has been decorated and readied for communion by Natalie and Karen. Jamie Harris continues to keep up with the necessary cleaning of the building, while maintenance issues are always under Scott's watchful eye.

Thank you to Elder Dale Groover, Chris Bald, and the Finance Team, who oversee our investments and see to it that budget issues are taken care of, and that a new one is set for 2021. I also appreciate Elder Paul Salisbury, who lent a hand with the Stewardship Campaign and Family Promise, as well as helping Scott and Rick Bald with the building repair discussions. Many thanks to our Clerk of Session, Elder Cari Taylor, who sets up our meetings, records our minutes, takes care of business, and is our liaison with our distinguished moderator, the Reverend Dr. Betsey Crimmins and to Ken Allen from the Committee on Ministry.

Thank you to the Presbyterian Women who have had strong leadership, led by Mary Cree, whom we shall miss, (along with Bob) and Deb Compher. This group works diligently to aid mission projects locally and around the world, as does our Mission Team. I also appreciate Christine Stephens, for the many years that she has led PW Bible studies. A special thanks to Ann Rogers for organizing the Red Kettle Drive in our community and also for the work that she and Carol Thurston do in supporting Family Promise. Thanks to Ginny Bodine, Karen Doebler, and Ann Rogers for the time that you have spent keeping the book sales going. It was



# PROPERTY TEAM UPDATE

#### **COVID-19** Preparations

Here is an update of what's been installed and/or available:

- Touchless paper towel dispensers have been installed in first floor restrooms.
- Touchless soap/hand sanitizer dispensers installed in first floor restrooms.
- Upper floor restrooms will be done as time permits.
- Touchless sanitizer stands located in entries, lounge, west stair landing, sanctuary entrances.
- Spray bottles for isopropyl alcohol and disinfectant at entrances and in restrooms.
- Disinfectant and 98% isopropyl alcohol in gal. jugs in lounge and dining room.
- Dry surface wipes can be used with IPA or disinfectant.
- Plastic shielding, chain and hooks for main office countertop barrier to be installed late Nov.
- Foam core boards and tripods for displaying guidelines in place.

#### Inside

- Domestic indirect hot water tank is leaking. Replacement purchased on-line (~\$1000 thru SupplyHouse w/ free shipping) and to be installed in-house. Job was a "no quote" from Ruffalo's due to lack of manpower, and quote from Betlem -\$3890!
- Took measurements for replacement of stained flooring for 1<sup>st</sup> floor men's restroom landing. (Will quote thru Secors.)
- Continuing to sort through collections of misc. stuff in basement.

#### Outside

- Replanted and trimmed the Mabel Hommer Memorial Butterfly Bush. It had a great season and overgrew its roots.
- Will install drain screens in the Yankee gutter system and clean out overflows after leaves have dropped.
- Prepped snow blower for season.
- Leaves collected and removed thank you, Jamie!

#### **Completed Annual Maintenance**

- Organ tuning Dec 17<sup>th</sup>.
- NYS Boiler Inspection Dec. 21.
- Scheduling boiler PM by Betlem.

Scott Blondell, Elder Property Team Chair



Our new kitchenette stove installed and ready for use!

## Building Entrance Guidelines

Please remember that we are the middle of a pandemic and there are several guidelines that need to be followed if you are to gain entrance to the building.

- Every individual who enters must sign in and out on the provided log sheets, in legible writing with first and last name and a current phone number.
- All individuals must wear a mask that covers both mouth and nose at all times while in the building.
- If you are currently awaiting a COVID Test result you will need to reschedule your visit to the church, or if you are displaying any COVID symptoms.



# CLERK'S REPORT

### 2020 Session Members

Clerk of Session: Cari Taylor Steve Mitchell Natalie Lemmon

Dale Groover

2 40 0100 01

Scott Blondell

Rick Bald

Karen Cameron

### 2020 Deacons

Gil Burgess Holly Burgess Steve Mitchell Sue Rowe Deb McCrossen Natalie Lemmon Carol Thurston Judy Leone Wow, 2020 what a year it has been. We began our year with 2 new members to session Sandi Marcano and Karen Cameron. In February the Property team began tackling the daunting task of getting our broken beam and roof repaired. We began out the year talking about "how do we GROW our church?" This meant potentially making some changes. We started discussions around the Matthew 25 initiative and looking into ways we could incorporate small changes to help our church connect with the community.

At that time who knew that our last official in person session meeting would be on February 19, 2020. Between Feb and March 26<sup>th</sup> we were hit with the reality of Covid. On March 26, 2020 we had our first ever ZOOM meeting and have not looked back since. Church as we used to know it had changed.

We have adapted to new technology not only for meetings but also in our sanctuary. We added cameras so that J could Facebook LIVE our services on Sunday mornings, Yoshiko and Sarah has been prerecording music for service also. We were at the mercy of the Governor and his guidelines. It was unknown at the time how long we would operate in this unique situation. We had to adapt everything we have ever done and think outside the box. If we were to get back to our "home" we would need to put precautions in place (such as sanitizer stations, shields, contact logs, etc.) It was amazing at how quickly these things became common practice. How would our members "Give?" We adapted our website and offered a way to give electronically, and members could still mail in if they chose.

We prayed for those who were not able to be connected with us and missed them, In April our beam was back in place and the long task of cleaning and cosmetic repairs began. We were given the OK to be back in the building safely, except we still had the whole issue of COVID. There was much discussion and discerning about the rummage sale and our BBQ fundraiser. We decided that they would have to wait so we could all be safe. Our meeting in May was a time for thinking about how to reopen our doors. We had many discussions about what safety measures would have to be in place, and how to get the congregation to adhere to them. These talks went on for a couple months. Just when we thought it may be safe the numbers would rise. There were many hours collecting supplies, researching best practices and putting stations and signs in place in preparing to reopen.

(Continued on page 9)



# Moderator's Missive

January 24, 2021

Dear Geneva Presbytery Servant Leaders,

We just finished a week full of activities: celebrating the life and legacy of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the pageantry of the Inauguration for the 46th President, and our first Presbytery meeting for 2021. We viewed each by either television or computer. We are grateful for this technology so that we may be witnesses of history and being connected.

The highlights from the Presbytery meeting --

- Heard a presentation from The Rev. Dr. Y. Diana Wright, PCUSA Interim Director for Ecumenical Relations
- Welcomed two pastors o The Rev. Dr. Allen Wade for Canandaigua United (PCUSA & ABC) Church
- The Rev. Colin Pritchard for The Presbyterian Church in Geneva
- Passed the 2021 Budget
- Launched a "Friends of Camp Whitman" Campaign
- Received a \$10,00 matching gift for Camp Whitman
- The 2020 Necrology report remembering the Great Cloud of Witnesses of 38 Ruling Elders
- Presbytery Leader Susan Orr's resignation, effective March 25, 2021
- Presbytery Women will regroup with Virtual Tea on January 27
- Heard Covid-19 update from Dr. Rob Anderson
- The Rev. Anita Milne and folks from Waterloo Presbyterian Church led Communion and Worship "For All People"

If you wish to read more about any of the above items, please go to the Geneva Presbytery webpage. Elena keeps it all up to date.

Looking ahead to our next meeting on Tuesday, March 23rd in the afternoon, our theme will be "Won't you be my neighbor." Our meeting is three days after the PCUSA is observing the birthday of the late The Rev. Fred Rogers. This will be another Zoom meeting. Please feel free to wear your cardigan sweaters and sneakers.

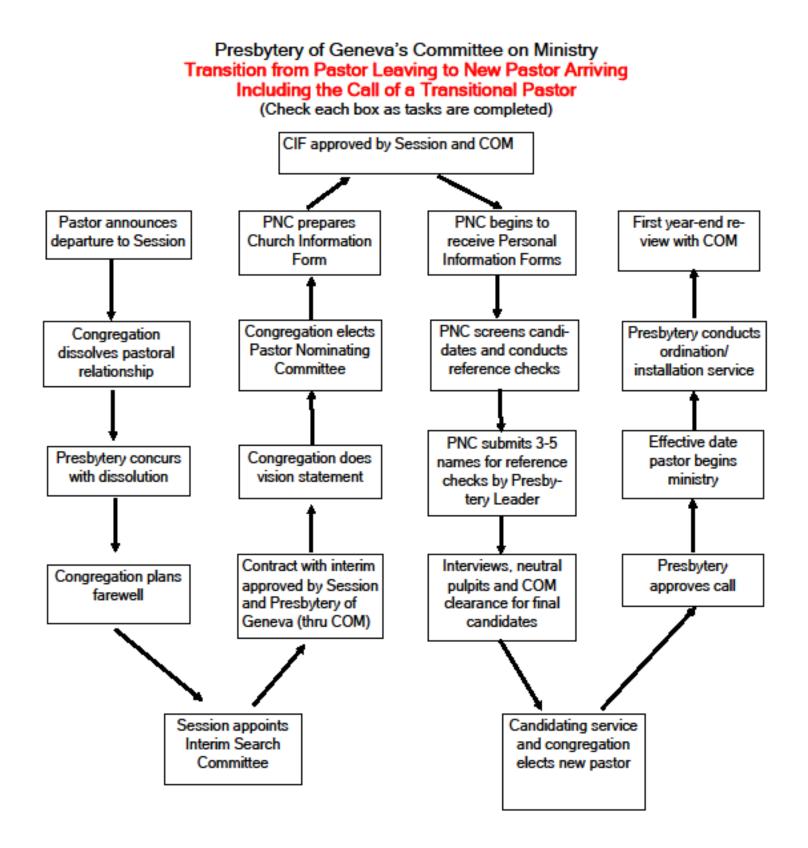
I would like to close with "MKK Day Affirmation"

- I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events around us.
- I refuse to believe we are bound by racism, war, and injustice.

## Online Giving

We have set up our online giving program which will be managed by The Presbytery Foundation. Our church can easily accept secure online donations through the Foundation's online giving system. The program allows for easy, simple and safe transactions for giving, via our website, by electronic funds transfers, and debit or credit card transactions. Check the website for the link!

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#### Abbreviations

PL = Presbytery Leader COM = Committee on Ministry PNC = Pastor Nominating Committee CIF = Church Information Form PIF = Personal Information Form



## January Letter to the Presbytery

January, 2021

Dear Presbytery of Geneva,

I hope all of you are well. I offer an update on the COVID-19 pandemic regionally. According to my most recent briefings, cases in the region have really expanded. Hospitals have been much more full, and there have been many cases. I have personally lost patients to COVID-19 now, and had several more hospitalized. There has been a real surge, and it's stretching the hospital capacities.

On the bright side, there are now 2 vaccines with emergency use authorization, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. Both are mRNA vaccines, and both are approximately 95% effective at preventing symptomatic infection after 2 doses. Millions have been vaccinated (although slower than we would have hoped), and many millions more should be able to be vaccinated in the coming months. Most of my staff has received one dose. I have not, as I'm in clinical trial for the Oxford/ Astra Zeneca vaccine (approved in the U.K. and India, but not yet in the U.S.), and they unblended me. I do know I have received 2 doses of vaccine, and expect that's affording me protection as well. All of this is leading to many questions.

Immediately, the biggest concern is flattening the curve. This isn't doing particularly well, because people aren't following the very strict restrictions we had in March and April of 2020. This virus spreads much more efficiently than influenza (not including the more infectious UK and South Africa variants), and frequently is spread by asymptomatic patients (a recent estimate in a medical journal was 40%). I would encourage people to take significant precautions. My congregation opted to stop in person worship again temporarily this week, and I think that's a reasonable choice. I would discourage dining indoors, attending bars, or gathering without masks in homes with other people until vaccines are more widespread. Other physicians, epidemiologists, and public health experts are advocating similar measures.

I encourage anyone eligible to receive a vaccine. Many of my colleagues have received doses, and found them quite tolerable. If someone asks "which is the best?" my answer would be "whichever is closest to my arm." It's not my quote, but I can't identify the source. I expect as we move into Phase IB and doses become available, some may be through physicians' offices, and others will be available through pharmacies. The next group will be other high risk front line workers and people over 75. The best estimates at this point for that group is availability in February and March. I suspect for the next group, high risk health



(Continued from page 7, January Letter to the Presbytery) conditions and those over 65, it may be March and April. I do still think there may be availability for all adults by the end of the second quarter of 2021.

For those with questions of safety for vaccines, I would note that there really hasn't been any pattern. I've read the report of one physician who died after a vaccine, and unless further information that hasn't been published becomes available, I doubt there would be any clear link to the vaccine. There were a couple cases of suspected Bell's palsy in one group, and again, that's relatively mild. I encourage thinking of the high risk of morbidity and mortality with the ongoing infection, compared to any very small risks of unlikely side effects. The common side effects of fatigue, chills, a sore arm, or headaches are quite tolerable and short lasting. The studies of the vaccines so far have been about symptomatic infection, so we still encourage caution interacting with unvaccinated people. If you're protected from a severe infection but could be asymptomatic, it's possible you could transmit it to other, more vulnerable patients. We suspect when vaccines are more widespread, it will likely be safe for vaccinated people to spend time together (it will be similar to getting together after truly quarantining), but we're not there yet.

My simplest advice is that we need to try to stay home and isolated for the next few months, and we'll likely see a decrease in cases, increase in vaccination, and increased safety. Emotionally, this is a challenge. I encourage all of us to remain in contact via phone, video, or whatever works best for us until we're able to be together. We all need emotional support as we deal with this together. Our faith and understanding of sacrifice supports this approach, but it's still difficult. I pray that we'll be united in care for each other. The light at the end of the tunnel continues to move closer. We simply need to remain united in our goals. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour (or year).

For the Facing of this Hour, Rob Anderson, MD





(Continued from page 4, Clerk's Report)

We decided that on October 4<sup>th</sup> World Communion Sunday would be our "soft opening." Communion would be served in individual packets that were picked up prior to entering church. All members had to sign the contact log and sanitizing stations were placed throughout the lounge and going into sanctuary. It was so wonderful to be back in the building, seeing our friends in the pews (six feet apart) and the sanctuary was "alive" with music again. At our September meeting we gave the ok for the rummage sale to take place at the end of October with the guidelines in place. Unfortunately after one day we had someone come in our building that had tested positive and the rummage sale needed to be shut down. This also ended our time for worship in the church; we lasted 2 Sunday's.

On November 9<sup>th</sup> we held a special congregational meeting for the purpose of the dissolution of our pastoral relationship with Christopher. This came as a surprise to most of us. We were very sad to hear this news and wished him and Ron the best in their new adventures. With this major change and at such an important time of year this became quite the challenge for session. We were able to secure Reverend Carol Wilson for the whole Advent season which was a BLESSING!! On December 30<sup>th</sup> we had our final session meeting for the year with our newly appointed moderator the Honorably Retired Reverend Dr. Betsey Crimmins and our Committee on Ministry Liaison Ken Allen. With their help and direction we are headed into a new year. With God's help all things are possible and session feels the same. HE will guide us into whatever the future holds for Park Church. Session wishes all the congregants of Park Church happiness and good health for 2021. May we work together to serve the people of our church and our community!

#### Peace and Blessings, Cari Taylor (Clerk of Session)

(Continued from page 5, Moderator's Missive)

- I believe those around me are my sister and brother.
- I believe in dignity every day and that our brokenness can be healed.
- I believe we can overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to it.
- This means I seek to reject revenge and retaliation.
- I remember, "Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can." ~~ drawn from writings of MLK, Jr. by Abigail Reichard

In Christ's Service, *RE Virginia Champlin* 2021 Geneva Presbytery Moderator



# Griefshare is Coming!



The GriefShare Program is a biblical, Christ-centered seminar that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. There are three parts to each of the thirteen sessions: a DVD presentation that features nationally respected grief experts and real-life people telling their story; a small group discussion about the topic presented on the video; and a notebook that participants can work through on their own.

If you or someone you know is grieving the death of a loved one, we warmly invite you or them to join this seminar. Why join GriefShare? Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends and family members have returned to their daily routines. They don't understand the deep and prolonged impact caused by the death of a spouse, partner, child, family member or close friend. Those who are grieving need ongoing support. GriefShare is that ongoing support! Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, this group is for people who are looking for encouragement and understanding, as well as valuable information to use in the journey toward the new normal.

Who may join this upcoming GriefShare group? Anyone who is a member or friend of any of the churches in Geneva Presbytery as well as people from the communities served by the churches in Geneva Presbytery. Spread the word about this valuable opportunity, please!

**When** The 13 sessions of GriefShare will be held on Thursdays at 4 pm beginning on February 25. Each meeting will be approximately 60-90 minutes. There will be no meeting on April 1, which is Maundy Thursday. Meetings will be on Zoom.

**Leaders** Your trained leaders for GriefShare are Elder Barb Squires, Elder Judy Mellgard, the Rev. Bruce Incze, and the Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins.

**Cost** The cost of this program is covered for you by the Committee on Leader Care of Geneva Presbytery

How to enroll and register. To enroll, send an email to Elena Delhagen (officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org), Office Administrator of Geneva Presbytery, with the following information: name, mailing address, email address, phone number, name of your church, and whether you have access to Zoom or not. Once you enroll, the workbook will be mailed to you.

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December Birthdays

**10** Stu Blodgett Jr.

#### 15

Roger Brennessel Sally Praino

#### 20

Joe Burgess Ken Rowe

#### 23

**Christine Stephens** 

**24** Mary Cree

**25** Jonathan Taylor

**29** Sandi Marcano





# Synod of the Northeast

#### To Friends Who Share the Journey,

We are both horrified and saddened by the violence and the blatant challenge to our democracy that we have seen at the Capitol today, this day that Christians celebrate as Epiphany. The story of Jesus' birth and the story of Epiphany reminds us that for generations, too many to count, there have always been people who are willing to destroy in order to try and hold on to what they believe to be their birthright. We must stand for another vision. As Christians, we follow the Prince of Peace who came not with a sword but with a message of justice and human and spiritual transformation.

Every chance Jesus had he reminded people to choose the way of God over the way of Empire. As the Spirit of the Lord was upon Jesus, let that Spirit be upon us so that we proclaim good news to the poor, recovery of sight to the blind and that we set the oppressed free. Scripture on this day of Epiphany from Matthew 2: 10-12 tells us, "When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road." Let us leave this day by another road with renewed commitment to follow the Prince of Peace and the ways he taught us to live in the world. Let us choose the road that leads to justice, peace, and obedience to God's call.

Yours in Faith,

Mancy albot

Rev. Nancy Talbot Acting Synod Leader Synod Stated Clerk

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#### (Continued from page 2, Church Family Life)

also nice that so many pairs of socks were donated, along with items for the mitten tree, and delivered by Sandy Marcano and Natalie Lemmon for the Mission Team.

I especially want to recognize all of you who have been a member of the Church Family Life Team during the last six years. Thank you to prior members, Deb Compher, and Bill Doebler, and to our present members Elsbeth Foote, Gwen Mix, Eileen Taylor, and ET Trunick. We have organized or co-led many events over the years. Fond memories of them include: Chicken BBQ's, Kick Off Sunday Picnics, Harvest Dinners, Lenten Luncheons, Continental Breakfasts with the Scouts, Breakfast with Santa Claus, Family Bowling and Pizza, a sleepover with the youth at church, snowshoeing, attending Haiti Auctions and Fall foliage rides, Christmas Socials, Lunch at Warfield's and Creche Viewing, Advent and Palm Cross Nights, Potluck and Game Nights, Music by the Erie and Sodus Point Concerts, attending Newark Pilots' Games, Movies and Popcorn at the Church, and playing mini-golf, followed by having ice cream.

It has been enjoyable to work with our team to offer and attend events with many of you. I thank everyone for your participation and help!

#### Cheryl Lotz Church Family Life Team Leader and Elder

#### (Continued from page 1, From the Session)

Session. At the Annual Meeting we also elected 3 new elders Rick Bald, Natalie Lemmon and Steve Mitchell.

Our longtime friends, the Cree's, returned to Texas in December. We accepted a letter of removal from the membership rolls on December 30, 2020 with regret. We will miss them but wish them much happiness.

We, as Session members, look forward to reopening the church, as soon as this can happen in a "safe" manner. Please remember if you need to come to the building contact the office first and then be sure to sign the log book. Thank you for your cooperation.

We want to say an extra special Thank you to Elders Paul Salisbury and Cheryl Lotz for their dedication and service the last 6 years. They will remain on until our new elders are trained, installed/ordained.

Park Church Session,

Cari TaylorKaren CameronDale GrooverScott BlondellSteve MitchellRick BaldNatalie LemmonState State State

**10** Stu Blodgett Jr.

**15** Roger Brennessel Sally Praino

**20** Joe Burgess Ken Rowe

23 Christine Stephens

**24** Mary Cree

**25** Jonathan Taylor

**29** Sandi Marcano



# December 2020

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Stu Blodgett Jr.	11	12
13	14	15 Roger Brennessel Sally Praino	16	17	18	19
20 Joe Burgess Ken Rowe	21 parkview submissions due	22	23 Christine Stephens	24 Mary Cree CHRISTMAS EVE	25 Jonathan Taylor CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27	28	29 Sandi Marcano	30	31 NEW YEARS DAY		

# December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Stu Blodgett Jr.	11	12
13	14	15 Roger Brennessel Sally Praino	16	17	18	19
20 Joe Burgess Ken Rowe	21 parkview submissions due	22	23 Christine Stephens	24 Mary Cree CHRISTMAS EVE	25 Jonathan Taylor CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27	28	29 Sandi Marcano	30	31 New years day		

Park Presbyterian Church 110 Maple Court Newark, NY 14513



"We will make Christ visible by believing, living and sharing the word of God."



Be sure to check out our social media sites for a way to see the Sunday Services.

Facebook is at: www.facebook.com\parkchurch110\ (Be sure to like and follow to get notifications when we go live.) Find us on YouTube by searching for Newark Park Presbyterian. (Subscribe and click the notification bell to find out when we post new videos.)

