

February 2022

News From the Interim

Park Presbyterian Church’s present Mission/Vision Statements: **We will make Christ visible by believing, living, and sharing the word of God. PPC’s vision of ministry within the community is to be God’s light – a beacon of love, interaction, and guidance in faith and comfort.**

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

As your interim, there are five Focus Points that we will pay attention to as we navigate this transition period together. They are heritage, leadership, mission, connections, and future.

Today, I will discuss Focus Point number one: Heritage.

What is Heritage?

One definition I found was: “Our *heritage* is what we have inherited from the **past**, to value and enjoy in the **present**, and to preserve and pass on to **future** generations.” Heritage has three important components: past, present, and future. Of course, we lean more on the past and the present, but we also must consider the future.

Robert Hoeltzel speaks to heritage in his final paragraph of his book, *A History of the Presbyterian Church, Newark, New York 1825-1980*. Hoeltzel says:

“In reading these pages as the Church approaches its third century, let us remember that ‘others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.’ The Church continues to need the prayers and devoted service of all its people-clergy and laity alike. The founders of 1825 may be saying to us today, ‘I laid a **foundation**, and another one is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.’”



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In my workshop, I have learned that the congregation's heritage, both corporate and individual, is the **foundation** upon which the present rests. Paying attention to heritage means encouraging and hearing all the stories about congregation's past and embracing the rich variety that makes up a particular congregation. What I noticed was that both Hoeltzel and my Interim Ministry Network workshops stress that Heritage has to do with **foundations**. Those foundations were laid in the past, have been maintained and enjoyed in the present, and it is our responsibility to both maintain and to pass this heritage on to the future. When we speak of foundations, we are not talking about an actual building. It has more to do with the core values, programs, community service, worship style, and decision making that have gone before and are present now. It has to do with our faith and our beliefs. How will we share those faith and beliefs with future generations?

As we consider Park Presbyterian's Heritage, I would like you to try the following activity.

First: Consider your church history by your pastors.

Rev. Creighton	1913-1926
Rev. Sanderson	1926-1946
Rev. Hobkirk	1946-1978
Rev. Johnson	1979-2004
Rev. Grohman	2004-2006
Rev. Wareham	2006-2013
Rev. Baker	2014-2017
Rev. Mergener	2017-2020

Second: For each pastor period that you can remember, I would like you to consider and to try answering the following questions:

- What was the community like? What was happening in the neighborhood? What was going on in the world?
- What was the congregation like? Size? Worship style? How were decisions made?
- What were significant events? Who were significant people?

Third: Some other questions to consider.

- How did the church understand your distinctive "calling" as a congregation? Clues:
 - Clergy strengths
 - Primary programs
- What was the church's paradigm for community service?

Soon, we will have a sharing session after church, and I would like you to bring your responses and we will share them in a group setting. These will help us to answer the question, "What does this tell us about our church?"

This past Sunday, January 23, 2022, I spoke of core values. I asked you to start sharing stories with one-another—happy, sad, funny, conflicted...I know

(Continued on page 3)

1

Josh McCrossen

4

Greyson Cole

7

Bethany Comella

11

Eileen Burm

Scott Briggs

14

Stuart Blodgett

19

Evan Lang

21

Marv Ottnod

Shannon Norton

24

Ashlee Williams

Tim Johnson

27

Dick Leone



(Continued from, *News from the Interim*, page 2)

there was a concern from one member that these stories should be positive, but what I want to stress is that these stories name a core value. No matter the story, can you get to the core value of what is being relayed? Share some of the stories with me; send me a list of core values that you have identified with your stories. These too are a part of your Heritage. They will also help you to identify your Mission, which is another Focus Point that we will talk about in March or April.

During our session meeting the other night, Natalie left us with a thoughtful reflection from a book called *Joy in the Journey* by Guy Rice Doud. Doud writes from his own experience saying,

“God’s Holy Spirit will convict us of areas in our lives that are built on crumbling foundations...we need to surrender our feeling of being self-sufficient or we never come to experience true abundance.”

This reminded me of the passage from the Gospel of Matthew. The writer affirms, “Everyone then who **hears** these words of mine and **acts** on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.” Our foundation as Christians is built on the Word of God. But it stresses that we cannot be hearers only. We must be doers to. Still, Doud reminds us that we must always do what we do in response to God’s initiative. The Holy Spirit moves us through the reading, hearing, and mediation on God’s word. God acts first; ours is a response to God’s grace. As you contemplate the questions concerning your heritage during different pastoral times in your history, and you contemplate the core values that come from your stories, remain open to the ways that the Spirit may inspire you as you seek to carry on the Heritage that is Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY. This is a first step in our journey through transition. I am so thankful to be here with you as you take this first step. It is part of the answer to the question, “Who are we?”

Blessings
Susan

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Get a head start on contemplating God’s Word for the month of February

February 6, 2022: Scout Sunday

- Isaiah 6: 1-13; Ps. 138; 1Corinthians 15: 1-11; Luke 5: 1-11

February 13, 2022: SouperBowl of Caring

- Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Ps. 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20; Luke 6: 17-26

February 20, 2022: Annual Congregational Meeting

- Genesis 45: 3-11, 15; Ps. 37: 1-11, 39-40; 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50; Luke 6: 27-38

February 27, 2022: Transfiguration Sunday

- Exodus: 34: 29-35; Ps. 99; 2 Corinthians 3: 12-4:2; Luke 9: 28-43a

2021 Session MEMBERS

Clerk of Session:

Cari Taylor

Steve Mitchell

Natalie Lemmon

Dale Groover

Scott Blondell

Rick Bald

Karen Cameron

2021 Deacons

Gil Burgess

Holly Burgess

Sue Rowe

Deb McCrossen

Natalie Lemmon

Judy Leone

Financial Notes for January 2022

In prior financial reports, we have concentrated on the expenses of the church. This time the Finance Committee will report on the income. We have 34 members pledging to the church. These members are pledging \$52,044. That is an average per pledge of \$1,530 per year or a weekly pledge of \$29.43. Still, the church's total expenses for the year 2022 are estimated at \$199,248.

Session has approved the budget for 2022. It is \$144,552 over pledges. With no additional income, the expenses of the church will be drawn from the Endowment. Part of the Endowment is restricted in its use. There are three parts to the Endowment: restricted, semi-restricted and unrestricted. The only amount that the church can draw on without restrictions is the part classified as unrestricted. As of the end of December 2021 that part is valued at \$821,666. If the church takes \$144,552 out of the Endowment to run the church each year, the Endowment could be gone in about six years. The church would benefit from both an increased number of pledgers and an increase per pledge. If this were to happen, the church would be in a better position for the future. As a church member, would you prayerfully consider this challenge? In all things, we give thanks to God our provider, sustainer, and redeemer.

**Finance Elder
Dale Groover**

NOMINATING TEAM UPDATE

The nominating committee, consisting of 3 at-large members of our congregation - Holly Burgess, Deb Compher and Anne Rogers – together with elder Scott Blondell and Interim Pastor Susan Frost, are working on completing the slate of candidates to fill vacant positions on the deacon and elder teams.

There are 2 elders going off of Session this year, and another elder choosing to serve an additional 3 yr. term if elected. Our church by-laws set the number on Session to be from 6 to 9 elders.

For deacons, there are two members going off the team – one of those to Session – and another choosing to serve an additional 3 yr. term if elected.

Nominating Team would like to thank Cari Taylor and Scott Blondell for their service as elders, and Dale Groover for continuing his work on Session.

Thanks, also, to Natalie Lemmon and Deb McCrossen for their dedicated service as deacons, and to Sue Rowe for continuing her work with the deacons. Natalie will continue serving as an elder on Session.

The complete slate of candidates will be announced and voted on at the annual congregational meeting on Feb. 20th. We hope to see you there!

***Interim Pastor Susan Frost
Scott Blondell, chair
Holly Burgess
Deb Compher
Anne Rogers***

PROPERTY Team Update

COVID-19 Safety

- Masks are requested for indoor activities. Social distancing encouraged. Choir is the exception.
- Consumption of food is not being permitted for any inside activities.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in many areas. Building users are responsible for wiping surfaces before and after use.

Inside

- Boiler replacement/startup in progress by Finger Lakes Comfort. Both new units are on-line with the existing boiler. Wrapping up the details.
- Changed thermostats in sanctuary to ramp up at 330AM to 70F and to continue heating during worship. Will turn the fans to 'LOW" at 955AM to maintain warmth and not disrupt the spoken word.
- Replaced remainder of smoke sensor batteries this month.
- The installation of hood, ductwork and exhaust fan will be completed by Lagana Plumbing. To be scheduled.
- Continuing to sort through collections of misc. stuff in basement.
- Sorting through miscellaneous supplies, etc. in the upper floors in preparation for creating an organized storage room for church files and possibly for Family Promise use - Rick has made great progress.
- Replaced battery in one east stairwell emergency light. Tested all other lights in bldg. – OK.

Outside

- Cleared sidewalks, parking areas and stairs after recent snowstorm. Snowblower working well. Andrew Joslyn has been shoveling/salting as needed.

Scheduled Maintenance

- Installed 2 new light switches for kitchen fluorescents.
- Boiler inspection every 2 years – due 12/22 by Hartford Steam Boiler 800-333-4677.

Miscellaneous

- No updates re: ongoing Camp Hauser investigation.
- Planning for replacement of stained vinyl flooring for 1st floor men's restroom landing and repair of adjacent wall plaster.
- Have several touchless paper towel dispensers and soap dispensers to be installed.

Property Team

Scott Blondell and Rick Bald

IN OTHER NEWS:

- Stu Bear's friend Tortoise has a name. Tortoise smiles every time she calls herself Zoom. (Tortoises are not known for their speed; she likes thinking of herself as fast! Does that always mean speed, or can it refer to her quick wit? Stay tuned to find out more about Zoom!)
- You are invited to my ordination on Saturday, February 5, 2022, at 11:00am here at Park Presbyterian Church. I would love to see as many of you as are able to come and share this special time with me in gratitude to God for God's faithfulness in my journey thus far.
- Join us in celebrating Scout Sunday on February 6, 2022, during the worship service. It will be a special service giving honor to God through the dedication of Scout leaders and the service of their pack, troop, and crew. Watch for something special soon to be put up in the entry hallway Welcoming Scouts on this special day.
- Sunday, February 6th will also be Communion Sunday. Stu Bear needs help filling the Red Wagon. Consider bringing a donation for the Newark Food Closet that day. Needed items include: low sodium corn, strawberry jelly, chicken soup, all types of beans, any kind of juice, canned pears, pineapple, applesauce, low sodium carrots, and boxed milk.
- Bring those soup cans! We are supporting the SouperBowl of Caring on Sunday, February 13, 2022. Again, Stu Bear asks for your help; all items will be donated to the Newark Food Closet.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 20, 2022, directly following worship. There has been an important New York State Law change for churches. Hybrid corporation business meetings are no longer allowed. This means that meetings where ruling elders will be elected can only take place either all in person or all on zoom. As a result, session decided that this years Annual Congregational Meeting will be in person. The meeting will still be streamed on Facebook. All those watching may listen to the meeting and may ask questions by typing them in the chat. Only the votes of those meeting in person will be counted.
- Agenda for the Annual Congregational Meeting will include:
 - Clerk's Report
 - Pastor's Report
 - Presentation of Committee Reports
 - Presentation of the Annual Budget
 - Nomination and Election of Ruling Elders
 - Nomination and Election of Deacons
 - Nomination and Election of 2022 Nominating Committee
 - Any other congregational business that needs to be brought before the congregation
- Transfiguration Sunday-Please plan on staying after worship and sharing your ideas, questions, observations, and suggestions to the questions I posed concerning both core values and heritage. Coffee break will be from 11:00-11:30. We will stay in the lounge and converse sharing ideas from 11:30-12:00. I cannot wait to hear what you have to say! What better Sunday to start this transformational process than on Transfiguration Sunday-which speaks to Jesus' transformation! Heritage here we come!

Blessings
Susan

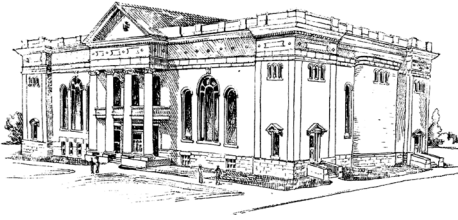
February 2022

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

		1 Josh McCrossen	2 Bible Study 12P	3	4 Greyson Cole	5 Ordination 11A Blue & Gold 1P AA 6P
6 Scout Sunday	7 Bethany Comella Bells 4P	8 Personnel 10A Quilters 4P Webelos 7P	9 Pack 138 7P	10	11 Eileen Burm Scott Briggs NA 5:30P	12 Anderson Burgess AA 6P
13 Souper Bowl of Caring	14 Stuart Blodgett Deacons 10A PW 12P Bells 4P Finance 3P	15 Quilters 4P Webelos 7P	16 Bible Study 12P Pack 138 7P Session 7P	17	18 NA 5:30P	19 Even Lang AA 6P
20 Annual Meeting 11A	21 Marvin Ottnod Shannon Norton Bells 4P Parkview Sub- missions Due	22 Quilters 4P Webelos 7P	23 Folding Party 10A Pack 138 7P	24 Ashlee Williams Tim Johnson	25 NA 5:30P	26 AA 6P
27 Dick Leone Transformation Sunday	28 Bells 4P					

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FEBRUARY 2022

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Christ visible
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sharing the word of God.”***

***“Our vision is to be God’s
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teraction, and guidance in
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Be sure to check out our Facebook page 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.)