

SEPTEMBER 2022

News FROM PPC

News FROM THE INTERIM:

Congregational Discussions resumed on August 7th with questions taken from Carson Mouser's book *The Promise of Narrative Change*. The following narrative was based on three consecutive Sundays at coffee hour following the church worship service-August 7th, 14th, and 21st.

What has the church's ministry of the last twenty plus years meant to you?

The issues that have been going on at Park Presbyterian Church the past 20+ years are due to personalities not principles (tenets of the faith). Personalities can be dealt with; principles are another issue. Discussion took place concerning the fact that several now attending had come from other churches where principles or tenets of the faith had been the issue. Even though personalities were a serious issue, they decided to stick it out this time—not leave as they had done the other church. One person had left for a time; didn't realize how integral (what depth) the church had been in their life until leaving. They felt the church had brought much agony and anxiety; after leaving, they realized the church had influenced their well-being. Others spoke up with similar ideas. Despite everything that happened over the last twenty years, the church was a part of their life; they couldn't imagine life without it. They knew they had to see it through. Despite everything that was going on at the time, they could not leave it. Others spoke to the good friendships they had made at Park; it was a place they came to with their kids where they didn't feel pressured to join. There was certain comfort level in not feeling pressured. Friendships formed. They did eventually join. Some felt that Park had been a good example of what church was and still could be. Work Camps were brought up. It was pointed out that the students had learned to "love their neighbor" through hands-on work experiences, learning to do without, seeing other people different from themselves in another light who were living marginalized lives but still deserving. The students came back better people from the experience. This also afforded the students a chance to meet with other peers from around the state/country. Others brought up mission in general; they felt that Park had provided opportunities to be involved in mission work that they might not have been involved in without the church paving the way. Some stressed programming and how much activity there was at Park Church. This included but was not



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limited to mission; music; fellowship; worship; individual classes (Bible Studies/ Sunday School).

3 Alexandra Briggs

5 Karen Doeblor

5 Rick Ross

12 Judy Wishchoff

13 Joan Boerman

15 Claire Coleman

15 Sue Faro

16 Eleanor Wolfe

16 Nancy Ross

18 Steve Mitchell

19 Jillian Blodgett

21 Marilyn Wilson

24 Callan Burgess

24 Dale Groover

24 Stephanie Lang

27 Sue Tiersen

30 Jim Kline



How have your expectations for the growth of the church's ministry been met?

Concerning expectations, one person spoke to the present hiring of the interim; they felt like the present interim is fulfilling their duties because the congregation is talking and having discussions. Another person spoke to mission projects; they were originally discouraged when Park got rid of the mission team/committee; a little happier now that at least Park is doing mission through Newark Food Closet, Common Threads, Survivor Advocacy Center, Special Collections, etc. Another person spoke up about doing mission projects within reason—what Park can handle with decreasing membership and aging congregation. Still another spoke to the fact that Park could always be counted on to follow-through. During the Iron Kettle Campaign, people could be counted on to volunteer. Those times netted \$13,000 for the community of Newark. In general-there were up times when the congregation was brought together and there were down times when they were split apart. Perhaps expectations must change. The PCUSA has changed. Geneva Presbytery is changing. Park Presbyterian church will need to change. People resources change; salaries are high and incomes low. One person noted that Park could still go to a smaller building and be a church.

How did all of the pastor's (Pastors and Associate Pastors) leadership influence the church's ministry? Or not influence it?

One person felt that pastors who were active in the community made others (businesspeople/Rotary) aware of Park's presence; they considered this a positive influence on Park Church. It made others take notice of Park. Another commented on how the Rev. Tim Johnson knew people's names. This made them feel noticed. There was a realization that Rev. Stu Buisch, Associate Pastor with Rev. Johnson, who was described as a big Teddy Bear and all heart, warm and welcoming of all, had complemented Rev. Johnson's head style. Stu energized and was a magnet; he brought people in and continued to keep in touch with everyone. People admitted that Rev. Mergener had not been as involved with the community as many would have hoped. To be fair, they did admit that he wasn't able to get the congregation on board, and named some possible reasons which included the original church vote -where nearly a third of the congregation had voted no to his becoming their pastor, the possible felt need to prove himself because of this, the building issues-truss collapse coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that he didn't feel welcome in the community definitely had something to do with this. They admitted that he had tried but felt he wasn't a good fit for Park Church.

The following ideas began to immerge in conversation concerning leadership at Park. Words that came out of thinking about leadership: engagement, socialization, community, sensitivity to what this church finds comfortable (core values), flexibility, and being calm, cool, collected, and professional. Times have changed but thinking of congregation may not have. Presbytery considers 35 hours a week full time. Church is still thinking pastor's duties 24/7. Presbytery has evolved; work with congregation on this—respect some privacy of pastor and family time. It used to be that pastor stayed long-term; now, they are shorter terms. The possibility that

as the congregation has aged, connection (engagement) has become more important. People don't want to just be known on the outside; they want pastors to know them on the inside. Stressed that visits are more important now with the aging.

Also noted as important for ongoing leadership at Park: organization, communication, and trained leadership that encourages team responses and participation.

What unmet expectations of the last and current pastoral relationship are still present?

Unmet expectations of past pastors included growing the congregation, more diversity, growth/establishment of a children's ministry, pastoral care (visitations) and community involvement. Discussion also took place about how Park Church responded to Covid. Comments included:

"We were (too) slow getting back after Covid"

"Mission work stopped during Covid"

PW tried a Bible Study outside; were told NO they couldn't do this

Felt session too conservative; treasurer had a hard time doing her job—needed to get in the building even though the church was closed.

"Park avoids risk"—meaning the church administration/congregation is very sensitive to risk. Being aware that this affects actions-possible reaction rather than response-is important moving into the future. Are there times that risk is needed? How will Park respond?

Concerning unmet expectations, continued discussion took place on the word "engagement" in this case how past pastors related (engaged) to Park congregation:

Lack of engagement with individual congregational members

Dictatorial/Directing—Cooperation better

People want to be known on the inside as well as the outside by pastor-didn't happen

Disappointment over inability to engage (sermon's) at congregation's level-feeling that they didn't have a good grasp on what really mattered to the congregation itself

Follow-through important (if you say you'll do something...do it!)

Considered the word connectedness—perhaps connection between pastor and individual congregational members matters more as people age—pastors showing up means something; visitations are important.

What changes to the church's ministry either within the congregation or in the mission of the congregation would you make?

The following conversations ensued:

Fellowship

Food-Eating and Hands-On Activities

Game Nights

Movie Nights

Informal Services/Sandwiches

Harvest Dinner (brings people into the church)

Re-start Mission Team

Mission with a Local Focus

Blog (online presence)

Consistent news releases (Brag about what we do—community presence)

Finger Lakes Times

Times of Wayne County (WaynesCounty.com)

Canandaigua Messenger

Use "hobbies" to promote Christ

Golf Team



How will pastoral leadership and congregational leadership contribute to those changes?

It is important for leadership to follow through and continue relationships in the community beyond the mission. Others suggested that Park wanted more than just preaching on Sunday; they wanted someone out in the community. BUT the group did stress that it wasn't just pastors; leadership and congregation alike need to participate in partnerships in the community. All must do what they do with LOVE—not expectations. Fellowship came up again; stressed follow through with activities, dinners, etc. that will bring people together in fellowship—whether that be working on mission or just informal get togethers where people can get to know each other better. One person stressed that when they brought others to Park the people commented on how peaceful and comfortable they felt in this building. It was suggested that a planning group needed to be put in place by session to access and plan and execute fellowship ideas.

What style of leadership is needed at this point in the congregation's life?

A pastor who is vivacious and energetic. From an earlier question-engagement, socialization, community, sensitivity to what this church finds comfortable (core values), flexibility, and being calm, cool, collected, and professional. Conversation ensued about reality of what Park could afford. The idea of a shared pastor or combining with another denomination was brought up as a suggestion. It was also suggested that maybe it is time to call/install a woman pastor at Park Church.

Based on Chad Hill's Blog, Park Church is looking for a pastor who is either a catalyst or encourager.

Here is what Chad has to say on each of these:

“**Catalyst Leaders** are effective because they can balance their leadership energy toward both member needs and congregational mission. This style is not easy, but it is effective. It takes a lot of skill and work to be a catalyst. These leaders actively initiate relationships and are positive with people. Meanwhile, they also keep a clear sight on the congregation's mission and are constantly helping move things in that direction. **Encourager Leaders** are very person-centered. They listen well and make people feel valued and cared for. They value people while undervaluing tasks and production. They are non-directive and sometimes non-directional. Leaders with this style fit well in congregations who are experiencing stress and conflict.” <https://coachapproachministries.org/hey-pastors-whats-your-leadership-style/>

What will the local community lose if this community of faith ceases to exist?

Conversation took place about the number of groups who use Park Church; they would have to find a different place/space. Some felt that Park would be missed for its aid in mission projects, for its church family, for its pastoral leadership, and just the sense of loss that comes when anything in a community closes or shuts down—whether you use it much or not; the knowing that it is no longer there.

How does this community of faith contribute to the global Christian church.

Mission comes in two forms—giving money and/or hands-on. It was pointed out that Park Church has been faithful to pay its per capita (\$50 per member) to the Presbytery of Geneva. This money is used at the presbytery, synod, and assembly levels—often to fund mission in different forms. Some was recently returned in the form of a \$1900.00 grant to the Newark Food Closet. Park has also collected supplies for Church World Service (CWS) like health supplies and school kits, and it has been a part of the Heifer Project in the past. Park has also supported both monetarily and hands-on—Living Waters and West Virginia Mission Trips. Park also supported a missionary—Nadia—for a time.

As you look this over, what stands out to you? If you have something to contribute that was not written down, let me know!

Yours in Christ,
Susan

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Get a head start on contemplating God's Word for the month of September .

September 4, 2022: Isaiah 55: 6-12; Ephesians 6: 10-20

September 11, 2022: Psalm 85: James 4: 1-10

September 18, 2022: Psalm 119: 81-88; 1 Peter 5: 1-11

September 25, 2022: Proverbs 3: 13-20; James 3: 13-18



Stu's CORNER:



September 4, 2022: *Walking Toward Peace* by Kathleen Krull

September 11, 2022: *The Librarian of Basra* by Jeanette Winter (A True Story from Iraq)

September 18, 2022: *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport

September 25, 2022: *Three Lines in a Circle* by Michael Long



FLOWERS:

September 4, 2022: In Memory of Rita Bender by Christine and Henry Stephens





News from the Newark Food Closet:

Next collection is Sunday, September 4, 2022. The Newark Food Closet is asking for: SpaghettiOs any kind; low sodium tomato soup; chicken soup; mixed vegetables; canned sweet potatoes; boxed or can potatoes; strawberry and grape jelly; Jell-O and pudding; pineapple; mandarin oranges.

4th Annual Color Wayne County Fun Run/Walk

September 3, 2022: Start and finish at Erie Shore Landing in Newark and enjoy the scenery of the newly renovated Erie Canalway Trail in Newark. Registration opens at 9 a.m. and race begins at 10:30 a.m. We will have music, yard games, specials at Erie Shore Cafe and Ice Cream, color powder stations, and more. Let's have some fun celebrating The Arc Wayne! This is a family- and Arc Wayne resident-friendly Fun Run and not an official timed race. The route is approximately 3K. 100% of proceeds from this event benefit The Arc of Wayne Foundation to enhance programs and services for individuals with disabilities in our community.

Three Canals: Wayne County

September 8, 2022 at 7pm-8pm presented by the Newark-Arcadia Historical Society, 120 High Street, Newark.

Newark Rotary Family Festival

September 10, 2022 at 11am-7pm. Newark Fireman's Field (100 Barker Parkway) Come enjoy a day full of music, food vendors, craft vendors and children's games.

POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 16, 2022 at 7pm, Central Park. Presenting ceremonies for Prisoners of War and those Mission in Action.

Newark Farmer's Market:

The Farmer's Market is every Thursday 4pm-7pm in Central Park. Fresh, local produce as well as delicious baked goods, jellies, jams, preserves, and crafts.

Other community events can be found on the Village of Newark website. At <https://www.villageofnewark.com/community-event-calendar.html>



Family Promise:

Our Newark Group 's Fall weeks of support for the F.P. families are the weeks of September 18th and October 23rd. During those weeks we will be providing the Fellowship Dinner as well as providing grocery support to the families needing extra help. Park's representatives to the overseeing group are Paul Salisbury and Anne Rogers. If you have a main dish that you would like to provide for the dinners on Sept. 19th or Oct.23rd, please let us know. Anne Rogers contacts are: anne.j.rogers@gmail.com or 315-331-7808; Paul Salisbury contacts are: psalis14513@gmail.com or 315-331-0442.

News from Common Threads:

Help us fill the bin all the way with children's underwear and more. They take children's clothes size 2-14. No shoes, please. Sarah is in need of helpers on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 9-12. I am sure that even working part of that time would be helpful. Contact Sarah at 585-409-4667 for more information and to schedule a work/help time!

Survivor Advocacy Center:

There will be a bin in the lounge for any items you wish to donate to the Survivor Advocacy Center. Lizzy Lipker emailed that they are in need of food at this time. She specifically asked for microwavable soup, instant oatmeal packets, peanut or almond butter, ritz or clubhouse crackers.

PULLED PORK 'TAKE OUT' DINNER

PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saturday, September 17

\$12.00

Pick up is 11am-3pm

Pre-sold tickets must be picked up by 1pm

COME GET YOUR TAILGATE DINNER!



Call 315-331-2255 to inquire about tickets

Pastor Susan Frost

Office Hours: Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday from 9-4

Please call 315-331-2255 to
make any appointments
Email: interimpastorsfrost2@gmail.com



Peace and Global Witness Offering:

October 2, 2022 is World Communion Sunday. On World Communion Sunday we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved, and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together. Through participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. God's peace, empowered by God's joy, reminds us that we are connected to each other. We are not alone. Peace begins with each of us.

On October 2, 2022, PPC will take a collection for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. 25% of the Offering stays with PPC; 25% goes to mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions. 50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.



Season of Peace: September 4-October 2, 2022: *Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take For Peace*

To tie in with this offering, the PC (USA) is sponsoring a month-long pilgrimage designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families, and individuals. This season is a time of growth, encouragement, challenge, inspiration, and education. As a Matthew 25 Church, PPC will join in this month-long pilgrimage. A book by Christian Iosso called *Five Risks Presbyterians Must Take For Peace* is available in the office for those who might like to read it. It is recommended reading for this Season of Peace. A donation of \$13 for the book would be appreciated. I ordered 5 books to begin with. I plan on using information in the book as part of the sermons leading up to World Communion Sunday and the collection for the peace and Global Witness Offering. You can pick up your book in the office.

PRAYERS:

Let us pray for wholeness, healing, and peace for all who suffer, are in need, face surgeries or times of uncertainty, or who wait for results and/or ongoing tests.

From our own congregation, we lift in prayer to you, O God, the names of: Aaron, Bethany, Dom, ET, James, Glen, Todd, Richard, William, Jaime, David Papineau, Derek Rose, Rev. Tim Johnson, Jim Peck, Douglas Groover, Christine, Ivy, Teegan, and Meghan O'Tool (loss of husband and father), Daniel Allerton, Doris Waddell (loss of son), Wanda Gallagher, Amanda and family, Dan Marcano, Emma Downey, Lisa Tremiti, Shirley May, Becky Teeter, Ginny Bodine, Sandy Rude, Joan B., Ryan and Cara, Sue Faro, and Family Promise families.

Let us pray for courage and strength to face each day for all those in need of care and for their caregivers.

We lift in prayer to you, O God, the names of: Bonnie and Thurlow, Ed and Cheryl, Kay and Dale, Jeanne and Paul, Barb, Eileen B., Betty C., Thelma, Jim and Anne Peck and Marv and Mary Ottnod.

Let us pray for peace, compassion, and strength for tomorrow for all who mourn the loss of loved ones-families and friends. In prayer, we continue to lift up the families of:

Lee Prong, Lynn Donelson, Vern Coleman, Suzanna Blik Stresing, Rev. John Watkins, The Johnson and South families, Dorothy Ehrhardt, and Melody Neely, Florence Chapin, Sean O'Tool, Steve Kepner, Richard Mosich, and Richard Lunt, Patricia Kaupp, Bill Guchone, and Laura Bouwans.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, the kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is kingdom and glory forever. AMEN

Obituary:

Laura Bouwens, daughter-n-law of Suzanne Bouwens, went to be with the Lord on August 16, 2022. Our prayers are with Suzanne and her family.



2022 Session MEMBERS

Clerk of Session:

Cari Taylor

Steve Mitchell

Natalie Lemmon

Dale Groover

Anne Rogers

Rick Bald

Karen Cameron

2022 Deacons

Gil Burgess

Holly Burgess

Sue Rowe

Joan Boerman

Scott Briggs

Eileen Taylor

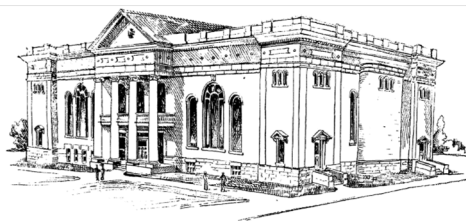
Virginia Bodine



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
					5:30pm - NA Meeting	Alexandra Briggs's 10am - NA Planning 6pm - AA Meeting
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion 9am - Choir Rehearsal @ 10am - Sanctuary	Karen Doeblar's birthday Rick Ross's birthday 4pm - Chancel Bell	4pm - Quilter 6pm - Pack 138 Webelos	6pm - Pack 138 Meeting		5:30pm - NA Meeting 6pm - Wayne Gem and	AA Regional Meeting 6pm - AA Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9am - Choir Rehearsal @ 10am - Sanctuary	Judy Wishchoff's birthday 10am - Deacons 12pm - PPW 3pm - Finance Meeting 4pm - Chancel Bell	Joan Boerman's birthday 4pm - Quilter 6pm - Pack 138 Webelos	6pm - Pack 138 Meeting	Claire Coleman's birthday Sue Faro's birthday	Eleanor Wolfe's birthday Nancy Ross's birthday 5:30pm - NA Meeting	6pm - AA Meeting
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Steve Mitchell's birthday 9am - Choir Rehearsal @ 10am - Sanctuary	Jillian Blodgett's birthday 4pm - Chancel Bell	4pm - Quilter 6pm - Pack 138 Webelos	Marilyn Wilson's birthday 6pm - Pack 138 Meeting 7pm - Session		5:30pm - NA Meeting	Callan Burgess's birthday Dale Groover's birthday Stephanie Lang's birthday 6pm - AA Meeting
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
9am - Choir Rehearsal @ 10am - Sanctuary	Parkview Submissions 4pm - Chancel Bell	Sue Tierson's birthday 4pm - Quilter 6pm - Pack 138 Webelos	6pm - Pack 138 Meeting		Jim Kline's birthday 5:30pm - NA Meeting	

2022

Park Presbyterian Church
110 Maple Court
Newark, NY 14513



***“Our mission is to make
Christ visible
by believing, living and
sharing the word of God.”***

***“Our vision is to be God’s
light – a beacon of love, in-
teraction, and guidance in
Faith and comfort. “***



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.)

Find us on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-PmjX998CQTaJ3EEkSpl6w>

Be sure to subscribe and click the notification bell to be told when we upload videos.

