

November 2019



# First Pres. Press

## A parable about change.

In the mountains a small stream flowed down through the rocks gathering other waters and growing until it became a river. It crashed through canyons, laughing and shouting. Filled with life it scoured out the river bed and tumbled boulders in its rapids. It coursed through forests and meadows but eventually came to the edge of the desert. Just as it had crossed every other barrier it was convinced its destiny was to cross these sands, as well. But every time it threw itself into the sands its waters disappeared.

A voice from the desert whispered, "the wind can cross the desert so can you." The river cried out that it couldn't! The wind could fly over the sand but not its waters. The voice said if you keep hurtling yourself into me in the same way you came down the mountain through the forests and meadows you will either be absorbed by the sand or you will become a marsh. You must allow the wind to take you up. But the river objected. It didn't want to stop being a river and if it lost itself how could it know it would ever regain its flow. "Can I not remain the same river I am right now?" "No" replied the desert "you must change your form or disappear. But when you change what is essential in you will not be lost but it will be carried on the wind."

When the stream heard the voice of the desert it remembered long ago when it or part of it HAD been carried in the arms of the wind. And stream raised its vapor into the welcoming arms of the wind which gently lifted it up over the desert to the mountains many miles away on the far side. There as the air rose and cooled the vapor formed into droplets. And droplets became rain which fell and gathered into little rivulets. Together they joined with other waters and became a a stream once again. It continued to flow and laugh through other canyons and forests and meadows.

Peace,  
Pastor Garrett

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**S.O.A.P. The annual Women's Retreat is on Saturday, Nov. 9th from 9-12 here at the church.** We will be learning all about **SOAP!** SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. We will learn how to use SOAP to develop a daily cleansing habit of devotion. Join us for lady talk, sharing, laughter, and learning in November. Following a time of fellowship and sharing of breakfast, we will meet in small groups to learn and apply the SOAP method of studying Scripture.

You may want to have a fresh new journal to write in. Bring your Bible, a pen and/or pencil. Feel free to bring a friend or two as well! To help with final preparations, please let us know you are coming by contacting Leigh Anne or Tracie. If you need a ride, please let us know as well by calling the church office at 315-457-3161! We hope to see you for SOAP on November 9!



## **“WE” Sunday-November 3rd**

Our next **WE event is November 3**. The theme of this event is "God's Time". The first half of worship will begin at 8:45 a.m in the Fellowship Hall where we will enjoy a muffin and fruit breakfast and then study Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. We will bring the light of Christ from downstairs to the sanctuary for the second half of worship at 10:30 and also will remember those who have, in the past year, left this earth to be with God in His Kingdom. We hope you can be part of this very special Sunday worship time together. Please bring your **Bibles** with you.

**PRAISE GOD!** During our gathering hymn, we invite our young children and our adults who are young in heart to use instruments, scarves and their bodies to express praise! Children are welcome to make noise and dance in the aisles during this time to express their praise to God. Praise instruments and dance scarves are located in the children's worship center in the back corner of the sanctuary.



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### **WE HAVE A DATE!!!!**

**The "Name That Tune" Potluck will be hosted by the Board of Deacons on Sunday, November 17 at 11:30, following worship!** Deacons will be providing soups and bread along with coffee, tea and ice water. We ask you to provide a supplement to this meal; a sign-up is posted in the back of the sanctuary. After we eat, we will be playing "Name That Tune", but it will really be "Name that Hymn"! This potluck will be a lot of fun and you don't want to miss it! Put November 17 on your calendar now!!!!



### **BACKPACK DAY**

The next **BACKPACK Day is November 24, the Sunday before Thanksgiving**. The item for this month and December is macaroni and cheese cups. The children will collect the food donations during the service on November 24. The food then goes to fill backpacks for children who are in need of food at home during weekends and school breaks. **BACKPACK Day** reminds us that our donation combined with everyone else's donations makes the blessings abound!

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### **From the Deacons**

Over the next few months, the deacons will be taking turns writing a short paragraph for our newsletters describing why they agreed to be a deacon. I hope that you'll read these stories, meditate on the journeys, and prayerfully consider the opportunity to serve our church family when called by God to serve.

### **Why I said "Yes!" - Ashley Gouger**

When I was asked to be a deacon, I said yes immediately. I had been through a rough couple of years - my grandmother dying suddenly, a miscarriage at Christmas before we found out that we would have Margaret - and I felt that I was being called to do something, that I had a purpose in our congregation that I needed to find. The day I was asked to be a deacon, I had prayed about finding my path and serving the church during our service. So when asked, it was an easy and enthusiastic, "yes!" The past two and a half years haven't always been easy, but serving as a deacon has brought me immense joy. It's not always easy to be a deacon, truth be told, but it has been spiritually fulfilling.

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## Why I said “Yes!” - Linda Newell

When I was asked to be a deacon, my thinking mind took over with all of the reasons why this wasn't the right time, and why I wasn't the right person. As I prayed for guidance, I felt an overwhelming calm that blanketed me. While my concerns remained, right time and right person, they drifted off into the background. I no longer felt fear nor did I feel alone. We are called, seemingly unprepared, like the Apostles to be servant people. We lift each other up in service, and Jesus lights our way.

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## November Mission Report



### Blessings in a Backpack Update

As part of the partnering rotation for the months of November and December we are asked to collect: **mac and cheese cups (any brand)**

The rotation helps give us appreciation for the variety of foods they are trying to provide for the kids at Seymour Dual Language Academy in Syracuse. For more information or a refresher on the program see the direct link to the Liverpool chapter website:

<https://blessingsinabackpackliverpoolny.org/>

Grey collection bins are labeled BIB in fellowship hall and the back of the sanctuary.

### Samaritan Center

A need has been identified at the Samaritan Center for toilet paper for those who are served by Samaritan Center services. We can collect supplies at LFPC and see that they are delivered with a volunteer.

Samaritan Center is in need of volunteers to help serve meals throughout the week. More specifically, they are in need of volunteers on Tuesday mornings for the breakfast shift. If interested, visit the website at this link:

<https://www.samcenter.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer> or call Amy Rossi, Volunteer Coordinator (315) 472-0650 x 203

As a congregation we next serve at the Samaritan Center on **Tuesday, December 31st**. The meal service hours for New Year's Eve will be served from 3:30-4:30 that day so volunteer service would be from 2:30pm to 5pm.

### Korea Peace Overture

A request has been made through the Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea (PPNK) to approve an overture for peace treaty in Korea. The overture is a general statement authored the PPNK group to affirm PCUSA commitments to peacemaking in Korea, and to direct PCUSA resources to go toward education and advocacy on the subject.

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The declarative part of the overture is as follows:

The Presbytery of (Cayuga-Syracuse) overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to:

1. Reaffirm its commitment to work with the people of Korea and with the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK), the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK), other church partners, ecumenical organizations, and non-governmental organizations in the United States and around the world committed to seeking peace, justice, and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula;
2. Reaffirm the need for a peace treaty for the Korean Peninsula that will replace the current armistice agreement dating from 1953;
3. Direct the Stated Clerk, the Office of Public Witness, and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations to work with our church partners in Korea, the United States, and around the world to advocate for a safe environment for a Korean-led process that will lead to a peace treaty for the Korean Peninsula that establishes peace with justice where no party to this long-continued conflict feels they have to sacrifice civil liberties in the name of security and where refugees and asylum-seekers are treated with love and compassion;'
4. Direct the Stated Clerk, the Office of Public Witness, and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations to advocate for nuclear disarmament on the Korean Peninsula by both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States;
5. Call Presbyterians to learn about the history of the conflict on the Korean Peninsula and the factors that get in the way of making peace on the peninsula today, including the role of the United States; and
6. Direct the appropriate offices and programs in World Mission to identify print, video, audio, online, and other resources and to encourage Presbyterians to use them to learn about the history of the conflict on the Korean Peninsula, the factors that get in the way of making peace on the peninsula, including the role of the United States, and opportunities for Presbyterians and other Christians in the United States to support efforts of the Korean people to make peace.

See Rob for full text if you are more interested.

**At the October 14 session meeting, we approved this overture.** Rob will represent LFPC at November Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery as this same motion will elevate for Presbytery approval too.

Respectfully submitted, Rob Santos

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### **Elsie O'Neil/Woman's Association**

**All Women are INVITED.** We are more than a ladies group. We are a number of individuals who assemble together once a month, & have developed a unifying relationship. We bring our brown bagged lunches & share a delicious dessert. We discuss church business & our many church projects. We support each other in trials & joys. We also work together on a light Bible Study, which sometimes leads to deep & wonderful conversations.

**We meet every month, on the third Thursday @ 12:30PM, in the library.** So, mark your calendars for the fun!

If you haven't thought about joining us before, or been with us in ages, please give us a try. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. Call me with any questions or concerns. 315-247-9304  
Coleen Clapper, Chair

**To our Church Family, Many thanks** for the lovely celebration of our "retirement" from the choir. Each one of you who came made us realize what a wonderful family we have at Old First. Thank you to the choir who made it possible and added their voices, a delicious cake and a beautiful music box. Nancy and Bill Putman

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### **Thank You**

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you our Church family. Your prayers and support over this last month has given us the strength to know as a family we can manage anything. We kept the faith and believed that we would be given direction. Because of this we have become stronger as a family. This Picture is from John's Senior recognition day for football held on 10-19-2019. It was a day of happiness and joy to see him doing the thing he loves most. John is grateful and thankful for all the cards and well wishes.

Sincerely,

Ken, Chris, John, Kaleb and Clarajane Pfeffer



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### **Blessings in a Backpack**

Liverpool, New York Chapter #1854

**We wish to thank all of you who have supported the Liverpool N.Y. Chapter of Blessings in a Backpack because of your efforts we are now able to feed 230 children each weekend.** Each week one of the four protestant churches in the village of Liverpool gathers to help pack the foods. Most of the food is collected from each church on a weekly basis.

Our annual Fill A Buss kickoff held at the RT. 31 Walmart was a big success. This could not be possible without the generous donation of a Buss by First Student and the Syracuse School District. Our Fill A Buss Promotion was a huge success due to the hard work of **over twenty volunteers**. We collected 4,980 Food Items, starting with a generous donation by Paragon Home Loans of 650 cans.

In October the chapter started the month with a great gift from St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Syracuse of over 800 can. **For November we will be encouraging donations on # giving Tuesday. Please remember us with hashtag activism, the Tuesday after U.S.**

**Thanksgiving, there are 272 more children who we would like to reach.** BIB Liverpool Chapter #1854, P.O. Box 52, Liverpool N.Y. 13088

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### **MANUSCRIPT STUDY**

Manuscript study is an interactive way to study Scripture. Scripture is taken apart, observed and studied, then applied to our lives today. If you enjoy writing notes as you study, using colored pencils and markers, and delving deeply into the language of Scripture, then this type of study is for you. It is my favorite way to study the Bible and I am excited to start a Manuscript Study group in our church. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Herd's Home and the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 1:00 p.m. at the Newell's Home. Please let me know if you are interested! Text Leigh Anne Herd 315-727-0178 or email me at laherd02@gmail.com.

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**Choir -LFPC Choir meets on Thursdays at 7.00 pm.** New, returning, and former members are cordially invited to join voices.

## Friends in Faith- Wreath Fundraiser

Support the preschool while decorating your front door for the holiday season. We are taking orders for beautiful, fresh, standard size door wreaths with red bows. Each wreath is \$18.00. Our proceeds of 25% will go towards the purchase of new classroom equipment.



Please call Tracie Folley, Director at 315-457-4090 or the church office at 315-457-3161 **by November 17th**. Wreaths will be available for pick-up on November 24th.

**Thank you for your support and Merry Christmas!**

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**December 8 is our annual Hanging of the Greens event from 3-6 p.m.** It is an afternoon of joyful decorating, frosting cookies, doing crafts, eating popcorn, doing mission work, sharing a pizza dinner and singing carols in the freshly decorated sanctuary. Mark it on your calendar now!

#### November Birthdays

3 – Richard Henderson  
4 – Sue Henderson  
8 – Joe Choat  
12 – Tommy Williams  
13 – Leigh Anne Herd, Liza Thibault, Karen Judge  
17 – Laura Santos, Tim Bricault  
18 – Al Rhines  
24 – Evan Raitt, Tim Overend  
26 – Ray Campbell  
28 – Robyn Nelson  
(If anyone has been omitted from this list, please call the church office)



#### LFPC Food Pantry Shopping List:

Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit in juice or water (not syrup), 100% juice

Protein rich foods 7 grams per serving: Beans, Canned meats, Canned fish, Peanut butter

#### Bottle Drive

We are still collecting returnable cans and bottles for the preschool. There is a bin downstairs outside of Fellowship Hall to place your donations. Please rinse the cans and bottles out first. Thanks!



**The Church Office will be CLOSED**  
**on Thursday November 28th and**  
**Friday November 29th for Thanksgiving.**

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### Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse E-News

Our goal is to highlight things going on throughout the Church: within our Presbytery, in our congregations, as well as in the Synod of the Northeast and across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). To subscribe see: <http://cayugasyracuse.org>.

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**The December 2019 Newsletter Deadline is Friday November 22nd by 12 noon. Please get all articles and pictures into the church office by 11/22. You may call Heather at 457-3161 or email [lfirstpr@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:lfirstpr@twcnny.rr.com).**