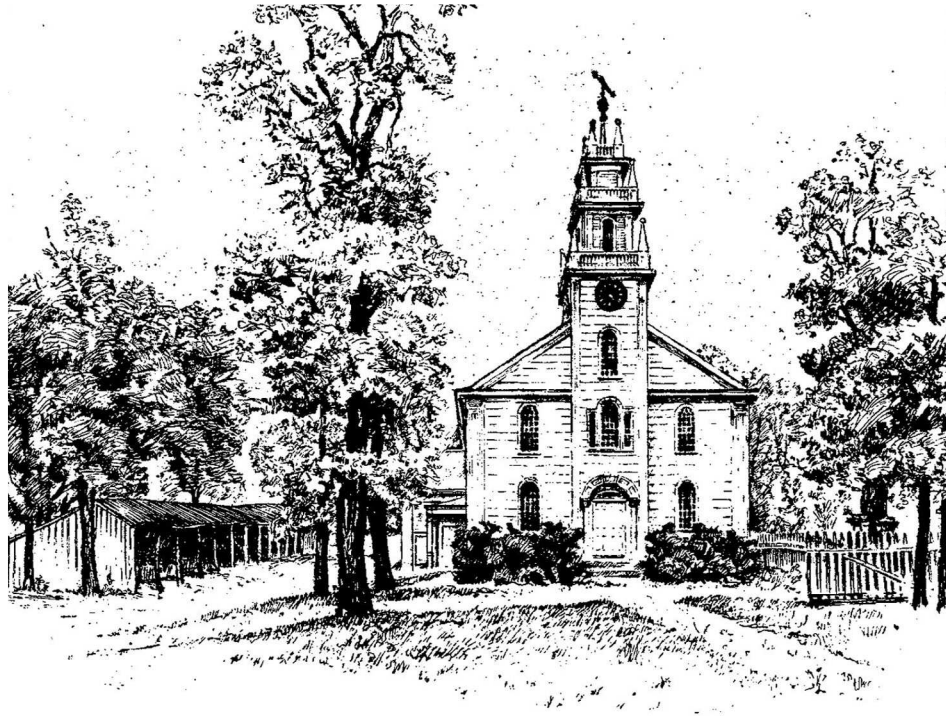


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TIDINGS
FEBRUARY 2010



The Rev. James W. Hulsey, Pastor

Ms. Janice Moore-Caputo
Assistant to the Minister

The Rev. William H. Edwards III
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Joanna Kaczorowska, Director of Music

Dr. Pablo Lavandera, Organist

Ms. Bette J. Adams, Administrative Assistant

Mr. John Weisman, Facilities Manager

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Dear Friends,

Over the years in ministry I have noticed a pattern. After Sunday morning worship, even a very good Sunday morning, in late afternoon between about four and eight, my mood dips. Nothing has gone wrong. The morning joys are still as real as they were, but my emotions cannot sustain them. To complete this pattern, after about seven or eight, my mood lifts.

Does this happen every Sunday? No, but enough over the years for me to notice the pattern. Is the mood dip serious? No, but enough for it to begin to negate the joys of the morning. By noticing it and naming it, I have learned to wait it out and not plan my week between four and eight.

In my experience faith takes the same course as our lives do, including our moods, passions and feelings. Fatigue and disappointment are two other features of the journey. Discerning the spiritual life requires that we distinguish Christ's presence from our moods. Christ is no less real on Sunday afternoon between four and eight, but my mood cannot sustain a strong sense of God's presence.

Moods are curious aspects of ourselves. Unlike feelings, they don't have identifiable causes. One description of a mood is that of a weather front that floats into our lives and stays for a while, and then passes on. We may not be able to identify either the cause of its beginning or the reason for its releasing us. For a while, we find ourselves in a mood's grip, and its hold on us can be either a light grasp or a tight fist.

The disciples in Luke 5 had been fishing but coming up empty. Jesus had been teaching the crowd beside the lake, and when he was finished, he asked Simon Peter to put out again to the deep water. Peter explained that they had been striving all night but catching nothing, but because Jesus asked him, they went out again. This time their nets were so heavy with fish, they began to break. Peter was overwhelmed with the presence of Christ.

All along, Jesus had been near the disciples. For a while, they had caught nothing. Then Jesus asked them to go out again.

Sometimes our fatigue with doing good to seemingly no result can discourage us. Other times our disappointments with the church and/or people we had hoped would behave better than they did can play with the joy of faith's morning.

But Jesus asks us to push through disappointments, fatigue and dipping moods to keep fishing. Lo and behold, their nets were full to the breaking point, and the disciples were in awe of Jesus once more.

Faith follows the contours of our lives. It pursues us in our moods, in our tiredness, in our disappointments with church or life generally. Christ is with us on good days and bad, on Sunday morning highs and the lows that mysteriously come and go. There is the mountaintop with its rarefied atmosphere, but who of us can breathe pure oxygen for long? Not in this life. But we do have our glimpses, our ventilators of the Spirit, the sustaining Word of Christ and occasionally, a great haul of fish.

It's important for us to keep remembering Sunday morning on Sunday afternoon and vice versa. Faith follows Christ always, and Christ does not let go, even through our moods.

Grace and peace,

Jimmy

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION of the First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown, New York, will be held in the Parish Hall of the Church on Sunday, February 28, 2010, at 12:30 p.m. for the purpose of hearing the report of the 2010 budget and annual report for 2009, approving changes in the Pastor's call, electing members of the 2010 Audit Committee, and doing any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

By Order of the Session
January 31, 2010
Susan Gensinger, Clerk of Session

Per Capita amount, the cost of being a Presbyterian, for 2010 is \$28.81.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE NOW OVERDUE. Please submit your report **typed and ready for photocopying**, if at all possible. We hope to have **complete** reports available for distribution one week prior to the Annual Meeting.

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10th EARLY BIRD CIRCLE meets in the Narthex at 10:30 Please bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage will be provided. We will be studying Lesson 4. Please call Lorraine Bird (864-6244) or June Auer (234-8991) for more information.

THURSDAY, FEB. 11th NEW BEGINNINGS CIRCLE is scheduled to meet at 7:45 at the home of Janet Vollkommer.

TUESDAY, FEB. 16th NEW HORIZONS CIRCLE will meet in the Narthex at 11 a.m. Please bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage will be provided.

MONDAY, FEB. 22nd FRESH START CIRCLE will meet in the Narthex at 7:45 p.m.

ON BEHALF OF PW, I wish to thank everyone who thoughtfully donated items in support of Seabury Barn and their work with youth between the ages of 12 and 17. It doesn't matter what time of year – Seabury Barn is there to provide shelter and counseling. Through you, we provide health items and a little joy with our gifts at Christmas. Thank you! *Trudy Engel*

PRESEBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MISSION GATHERING is scheduled this year for Thursday, February 26th. A time for fellowship and assembling the much-needed School and Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. Join us and make a difference!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WISH TO THANK one and all for their support of the Greetings Tree project. The Board of Protestant Campus Ministry at SUNY-Stony Brook will be very pleased and grateful for these donations: June & Peter Auer, Carolyn & Ken Gehlbach, Bette & Mike Adams, Harold & Joan Scott, Shirley & Bill Russell, the Powers family, Edward Cheatham, Ruth Bosch, Ethel & Karl Kraft, Carol & Bill Link, Sue & Tom Nunziata, the Castaldi family, Debbie Rosenberg, the Scarlatos family, the Jones family, Bertha Roos, Bob & Lorraine Bird, Pat & Marty Houk, Timmi Nalepa & Bob O'Brien, Maribeth R. Siskind, Lois Netter, the Schilling family, June Carlson, Becky, Peter, Jeffrey & Emily Wagenhauser, Lori & Greg Yates, Robert & Linda Goodwin, Janet Ashby, Guido Agostini, Jocelyn Pajares, Carol & Ed Miller, Virginia Newcomb, Nancy Bill, Liz Ewing, Dini & Bill Zimmerman and Anonymous.

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM MARIE WEISS – *“Thank you ever so much for coming to my home on December 13th and singing the beautiful hymns of Christmas for me...enjoyed seeing you all and hearing your voices...bringing Christmas into my home.”*

LETTER FROM VELMA TEICHERT – *“I would love to hear from you. Although my short-term memory is not so strong as it used to be, my long-term memories are still with me. It is always nice to reminisce with friends and relatives. My address is: 3160 Gracefield Road, ET-2131, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Telephone 301-8980-3917.”*

BOOK CLUB NEWS - *Her husband dies suddenly, with their daughter hospitalized in critical condition. In her grief, she must find the wherewithal to cope. This is her story...Join our book club for a safe environment to explore and discuss the experience of grief as portrayed in Joan Didion’s The Year of Magical Thinking. Please come on Sunday, February 28th, from 7:30 to 9:30 and share your important insights in the context of this best-selling autobiographical work. We will be led by Amy Fortunato and light refreshments will be served. All are welcome! Please join us!*

Please note: Copies of the book The Year of Magical Thinking are available at the circulation desk at the Smithtown Library’s Main Branch.

Back by popular demand – Adult Bible Study – Join us once again for an informal class led by Pastor Hulsey using the second half of the Kerygma program *“That You May Believe – The Gospel of John.”* This class will continue “studying John and asking where God intersects our lives in a very personal way.” Classes will meet Thursdays mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 and evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 on the following dates: March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and April 15, 22nd and 29th. It is important to note that you do not have to have participated in the fall bible study to be part of this class! Newcomers are not only welcomed, they are encouraged!!

NEXT ADULT EDUCATION MEETING – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 7:30 p.m.

FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Join us during Fellowship Hour on the second Sunday of each month as the Deacons gather all those celebrating their birthdays and honor them by singing “Happy Birthday”.

The following who have signed up have recently celebrated their birthday or will soon be celebrating. Please add your name on the sign-up Birthday List outside the Narthex if it is not already on the list

| <u>January</u> | | <u>February</u> | | <u>March</u> | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 st | Janet Ashby | 1 st | Karen Crecco | 1 st | Tom Rice |
| | Sharon Castlen | 2 nd | Stephanie Castlen | 3 rd | Cate Zimmerman |
| 2 nd | Nicole Rosenberg | 3 rd | Emily Wagenhauser | 4 th | Jasmine Scarlatos |
| 4 th | Kaeleigh Johnston | 9 th | Kevin Henchey | 5 th | Lauren Buturla |
| 6 th | Mary Charlene Harris | | Jon Schmidt | | Hayley Spates |
| 6 th | Jason Lipinsky | 13 th | Timmi Nalepa | 8 th | Edward Hertford |
| 10 th | Michelle Colón | 14 th | Linda Craig | 9 th | Rigel Johnston |
| 15 th | Lynne Leftenant | 17 th | Kathleen Barry | 11 th | Meredith McLeod |
| 16 th | Pat Sartain | 18 th | Elizabeth Sartain | | Karen Langella |
| 17 th | Wendy Countryman | 20 th | Patti Ann Powers | 13 th | Timothy Crecco |
| 18 th | Brian Dalba | 22 nd | Tom Castlen | 15 th | Lindsey Crecco |
| 18 th | Michael Dalba | | Ted Klug | | Michelle Reser |
| 19 th | Janice Meaney | 24 th | Ellen Klug | | Bill Zimmer |
| | Lauren Jaronczyk | | Tracy Schilling | 19 th | Joslyn Betz |
| 21 st | Bente Schmidt | | Terry Schifflet | | Gregory Yates, Jr. |
| 22 nd | Margaret Cowie | | Ashley Farino | 20 th | Kristopher Crecco |
| 22 nd | Emily Hulsey | 25 th | Crysta Craig | 22 nd | Palma Courtney |
| 23 rd | Cayla Faverio | | Meredith Schraner | | Kyla O’Brien |
| | Danny Schule | 26 th | Sue Dalba | 23 rd | Steven Schraner |
| 24 th | Dini Zimmerman | 29 th | Joan Jones | 24 th | Robert Heath |
| | Lori Kohn | | | | Stephanie Leatherman |
| | Alexa Chibbaro | | | 25 th | Betty Bunton |
| 28 th | Evan McLeod | | | | Wendy Drechsler |
| 29 th | Doug Goodwin | | | | Jeannine Rosengrant |
| | Carol Link | | | | |
| | Lori Scarlatos | | | | |
| 31 st | Brian Femminella | | | | |

LAWRENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The A. B. Lawrence, Sr. Memorial Fund was established several years ago to honor the memory of a long-time member of this congregation. A primary purpose for the Fund is scholarships for full-time students in accredited institutions of higher education.

THE WILLIAM and EDNA LINK MEMORIAL FUND

An award shall be given annually by the Session to high school seniors who are active in the music programs of the church, and who show special interest and/or promise in the general field of music. These persons shall be nominated to the Session by the Pastor and the Director of Music.

Applications will be accepted on or before May 1st for both these grants. For more information, contact Lynne Leftenant (361-9835) or Chris Veech (499-1680).

PLAY BALL: SOFTBALL PLAYERS WANTED – The softball season is almost upon us. Our church team is in the process of recruiting additional players for the 2010 season. In order to qualify, a player must be at least 18 years old. Games are doubleheaders, played on Monday nights beginning at 8 p.m. Since we belong to an organized town league involving umpires, the fee is \$160 per player which covers 36 games. If you are interested in playing, please contact Guido Agostini (584-5231) or John Agostini (585-5239). Make checks payable to Guido Agostini.



Bake Sale

ANNUAL BREAD FOR BREAD SALE is our way of renewing our covenant church relationship with Bread for the World, a citizen’s lobbying group which encourages our legislators to relieve hunger in our own country and abroad. **Bakers are needed!** If you are willing to bake bread, muffins or other baked goods, bring them to the church on February 28th, the day of our Annual Congregational Meeting. These goods will be available for sale after both services.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

You are invited to attend

Bread for the World's 22nd Annual

Soup and Bread Supper

When: Ash Wednesday, February 17

Where: St. James R.C. Church
5:30-7:00
Rt. 25A & Ridgeway Ave., Setauket
United Methodist Church
7:00-7:45
230 Middle Country Rd., Smithtown

Why: Share an ecumenical supper as we join with others to begin Lent by identifying with hungry people.

A free-will offering to support

Bread for the World

Seeking Justice . . . Ending Hunger

