

FROM THE PASTOR



Last week Jay and I found a Carolina Wren trapped in our upstairs guest room. We have no idea how it got there. The screens on the windows run the whole length of the window and are put on from the outside, so we couldn't just raise the screen to create a way for it to escape.

It was time to get creative! We had no butterfly net, but we did find in the pool supplies, the net you put on a pole to scoop leaves out of the bottom of the pool. It took a few tries, but we netted the bird and carried it outside and released it.

How like our past two years! We found something beautiful. We experienced the stress of being trapped inside. We got creative to try to find a solution. We used tools we never would have thought to use in this way, and we

succeeded in bringing some happy resolution to this one small problem, knowing that there will be more that crop up as we move through life.

As we look forward to the coming year, we know that there will continue to be challenges but with God's help, we can meet whatever difficulty life throws at us. We may have to get creative again this year as we look for solutions to our problems. I hope and pray that we will find ways to catch and release those things that we see as problems.

Last year in January, we were not able to gather for worship, so we called on a number of drivers to deliver our Annual Report. This was not the way it has always been done, but it gave us a chance to make some kind of contact with everyone in the congregation during a time of isolation. There are blessings that come out of hardship and strength that comes from making it through difficult times.

If you need a net and can't find one, maybe you'll need to improvise. Ask for guidance. Allow yourself to be led. Make connections with others, and always remember to turn to God when you need a successful resolution. God will provide. Amen.

*Grace and Peace,
Dawn*



The 22nd Annual City of Canandaigua Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration is currently scheduled to be held at the First Congregational Church at noon on Monday, January 17. This event will also be live-streamed on our church website. Covid protocols will be in place and the MLK Committee will be following the COVID updates and recommendations.

Message From Our Moderator

Thank You to Our Church Community

The 223rd Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church is in February. We will be distributing the Annual Report in January.

I want to thank all our church staff and committees for the amazing resilience and adaptability shown in 2021. Here is just an excerpt of my report as the Moderator. I hope you look forward to reading the reports from all our committees when the Annual Report is circulated.

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact our community, church and lives. But despite these challenges, our church has continued to evolve and adapt. It takes tremendous effort and coordination from staff and various committees to deliver the experiences we enjoy at The First Congregational Church. The Re-Opening committee continues to advise and guide us through the scientific and operational hurdles. Deacons continued to meet the challenges of welcoming Sunday visitors. The ongoing efforts of Steve Brooks and the team of livestreaming volunteers continues to broadcast the service for those unable to be in our sanctuary in person. Worship Committee along with the guidance of our Music Director, Edie Rice, and Organist, Denise Morphy (who celebrated her 20th anniversary this year) ensured the traditions of our services continued with modifications. All the church's committees continue to work towards fulfilling their missions despite the limitations of being able to meet and gather in person. In this year's annual report, you will see the achievements of each committee highlighted in their reports: Resource Committee, Social Action Committee, Public Image Committee, Trustees, Congregational Life Committee, Special Events/Hospitality Committee, Nominating Committee, and Pastor Parish Committee. Our appreciation to housekeeper, Jamie Varney, for the numerous tasks undertaken. Finally, welcome to our new Office Manager, Karen Colizzi Noonan, who began supporting the efforts of our active church in October.

Hannah Morgan
Church Moderator



Weathervane Deadline for the February Issue is January 15th



Star Words for Epiphany!

Epiphany, Twelfth Night, is January 6th. We will be celebrating Epiphany on Sunday January 9th.

Last year we sent out letters with a star that had written upon it a word. Each inspirational word was different, and they were randomly stuffed in envelopes. I have been amazed at the number of those little yellow stars I've seen on people refrigerators, bathroom mirrors, computer monitors or bulletin boards.

We will again be passing out Star Words this year, but we hope that we will be able to do that in person. We will have baskets with stars and you can choose your own star word from the basket.

If you are not attending in person or are not able to be with us in worship on January 9th you can still get your Star Word. Please send an email to the office and we will send you a star in the mail.

Or alternately, Jen Fulwiler has created a Star Word generator. You can go to this website and have it generate a word for each person in your family.

<http://www.wordoftheyear.me>

You are invited to focus on the Star Word that you receive for the whole of the coming year. We hope that this will bring you blessing and joy in the 2022!



Prayer List

Ancy & Kira (Fred Henry's friend); **Keith Blaker**; **Brad Bliss**; **Marjorie Case**; **Cheryl** (Jennifer Maxfield's sister-in-law); **Judy Clark** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' and Elaine Hilton's friend); **Cathy Coots**; **Corrine** (Denise & Scott's sister); **Bob DeSantis** (Dorice & Don Raw, Sr.'s friend); **Marilyn DeSmith**; **Brian Fuscaldo** (Mara Huberlie's nephew); **Max Grossman** (George Herren's friend); **Carin Herren**; **Mara Huberlie**; **Barb Iglewski**; **Peter Ingalls** (Jean Ingall's son); **Jim and Carolyn** (Amy Ogden's friends); **John** (Lin's nephew); **Sue Kotalik**; **Michelle List** (JoAnn Reed's friend); **Loren** (Jack Radley's friend); **Lynn** (Joan Ryan's friend); **Eileen McCarthy** (Carla DeMeco & Betsy Dresser's friend); **Liz Nelson** (Kathy Ward's friend); **Norman** (Jennifer Maxfield's uncle); **Chris Pritchard** (Rick, Cindy Mullen & George Herren's friend); **Jack Radley**; **Don Raw, Sr.**; **Don Raw, Jr.**; **Sara** (Jack Radley's granddaughter); **Smith/Dworetsky Family** (Okke & Kathy Postma's friends); **Pat Smith**; **Dr. Steven Smith & Family** (Jessica & Dan Casellas' friends); **Betsey Stout**; **Gordon Wenner** (George & Carin Herren's friend); **Josh Yeo** (Barb Stahl's friend); **Jason and Linda Zeller** (Kathy Ward's son and daughter); **Jim Ziegler**



Happy January Birthdays!

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | Kate Meyer | 19 | Denise Morphy ~ Mike Ryan |
| 2 | Don DeSmith ~ Larry Rowles | 20 | Jim Ely Jr. |
| 8 | Andy Platou ~ Brian Weeden | 21 | Richard Moyle |
| 9 | Carl Mabie | 23 | Phil Nevin |
| 11 | Jackie Lowe ~ Samantha Lindsey | 24 | Karen Maxfield |
| 12 | Jill Wheadon ~ Betsy Barrett ~
Hannah Morgan | 27 | Phil Gerner ~ Betsey Stout ~
Ava Ieda ~ Aiden Ieda |
| 14 | Okke Postma | 29 | Jack Leasure |
| 15 | Anne Wehrheim ~ Jerry Diver ~
Jean Landes ~ Jesse Garrett-Larsen | 30 | Elaine Hilton |
| 16 | Brad Bliss ~ Chase Morgan | 31 | Aidan Russell |
| 17 | Sandra Cooley ~ Keith Harter | | |

Do you follow us on Facebook?
If you're a Facebook user, please
Follow, Like & Share our Posts!



Member Spotlight ~ Barb Stahl



I had the pleasure of sitting down with Barb Stahl after lunch at her home on Chatham Lane in Canandaigua. I have known Barb for a number of years; in fact, she was my sponsor when I joined First Congregational Church of Canandaigua. Still it was fun to interview her.

Barb attended a one-room school house in Groveland where she and her parents lived with her grandparents. The family moved to Dansville when she was in third grade. Music and theater were a big interest. She played the bassoon and piano and sang in the choir at the Presbyterian Church in Dansville.

After graduating from Dansville Central Schools in 1958, Barb attended Alfred State University. It was here that she met “the love of her life”- Dick Stahl. They were married in June 1959. Children were soon to follow-Lisa born in 1961, Lynne in 1962, and Jim in 1963. After serving in the Army Reserves, Dick was employed by Boy Scouts of America, in Western and Central New York areas. His job meant that the family moved frequently- Auburn, Weedsport, Pulaski, Ontario, and Naples. It also meant spending some memorable times in the summer in the Adirondacks at Massawepie Scout Camp.

In the early 1970's Barb contemplated continuing her education; husband Dick strongly encouraged her to do so. She earned her Bachelor's degree at SUNY Brockport and her Masters at SUNY Geneseo. Later she would return to SUNY Brockport for administrative education. She was employed as a library/media specialist in the Victor, Naples, and Honeoye Falls/Lima school districts and as the Director of Library & Educational Media in the Oneida School District.

Sadly, Barb lost her husband Dick in 1995 while they were living in Oneida. In 1997 she married Bill Ingham, who helped her adjust to her tragic loss. Together Barb and Bill were the proud owners of a Victorian “painted lady” that they lovingly restored and decorated in Canastota. Again, Barb was faced with a loss when Bill died in 2005.

Barb had retired from Oneida School District in 2002 and after Bill's death in 2005, she decided to move to Canandaigua to be closer to family and friends. As she says she is a “dedicated Western New Yorker”. Music and theater are a very important part of her life. After acting on a suggestion by Ron Krahl to sing with the First Congregational Church choir on Martin Luther King Day, Barb decided to join the choir. She appreciated Reverend Tom Herbeck's sermons and soon after joined the church. She also joined Finger Lakes Chorale to sing under the direction of Dennis Maxfield and continued singing with the Oneida Area Civic Chorale with which she travelled in Europe five times. Before COVID restrictions Barb was a season ticket holder for Rochester

Broadway Theater League, GEVA, and Bristol Valley Playhouse. She hopes to resume her theater attendance soon.

Writing has also been a big interest. Barb has written books on regional history and articles for the "Canandaigua Daily Messenger" under the title of "Lucky to be Here". Currently she writes articles for the monthly newspaper, soon to be a quarterly magazine, "OWL Light" under the title of "Making Lemonade". In addition, Barb has volunteered her time at Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion State Historic Park and Ontario County Historical Society. She is also an avid reader and belongs to three book clubs.

Recently Barb has experienced some health issues and has undergone surgeries for breast cancer and heart valve replacement. She is recovering nicely and maintains a bright positive attitude. This can be partly attributed to her supportive family of three children and their spouses, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild, a network of friends, and respected medical professionals.

Barb expresses her heartfelt appreciation for all the love and prayers that she received from Reverend Dawn and our church family. Although she is grateful to being able to attend church virtually, she looks forward to returning to in person worship and singing in the choir.

Submitted by Jackie Lowe

2022 Pledge and Budget Forecast

As we have considered the total pledges received for 2022, we became concerned that the total would not be sufficient to make up for the non-recurring transfer from PPP funds that were included in 2021.

We went over the preliminary 2022 budget, that did not include any optional increases, and quickly realized that painful reductions in some categories would be needed. There are very few accounts that can be safely reduced to make up a shortfall, that now stands at \$16,000. We are hopeful that all pledges that were part of the 2021 budget could be repeated. Of course, if those of you who have already pledged offer additional support, we could consider appropriate adjustments.

We will provide a more detailed update in January as we prepare the 2022 budget for meeting with Church Council but wanted you to know that our pledges to date have fallen short of our goal.

Many thanks to all for giving this your prayerful consideration.
From the Treasurer's office, Tarry Shipley and Steve Brooks

Offering Cards



We are so grateful to all those who financially support the mission and ministry of our church. Many people send their offering in by mail and others give electronically. Some give annually, some monthly, some weekly. If you give to support the church but do not have something to put in the offering plate, we have designed and printed a card that indicates that you give electronically or by the mail for you to place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. You will find these cards by the green visitor cards in each pew.

Christian Education

Calendar:

- January 2: No Sunday School or Youth
- January 9: Hybrid Sunday School and Youth resume
- January 16: Hybrid Sunday School and Youth
- January 23: Hybrid Sunday School and Youth
- January 30: Hybrid Sunday School and Youth

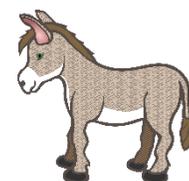


Christmas Pageant Thanks



Many thanks to all who helped make the Christmas Pageant a success: Siu Schroeter, Denise Morphy, Delana Hey, Betty Lyon, so many parents, and of course our performers! Doing the pageant virtually presents its own set of complications, and I appreciate everyone who helped make it happen! You can still watch it on YouTube!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLyrMLdWISE>



Bell Ringing and Christmas cookies!

The youth got together before Christmas to help ring the Salvation Army bell. Afterwards, they decorated cookies and wrote cards to our friends at home. Love and joy came to many, courtesy of our youth! Thanks to those who participated! And a special thanks to Jen Schneider, who made all those cookies!



The **Advent Workshop** was in person this year! The morning was full of music, craft-making, cookie decorating, fun in the photo booth, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus! What a delight to be able to convene once again for this activity!

Winter Youth Event: Look for information from Jon Schwab for a variation of our winter retreat for the youth. It will be outdoors, will not be overnight, and it will be FUN!





Adult Education

Thank you to everyone who participated in Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah, our Adult Education class. We had about half of the class in attendance in person in the social rooms and the other half zooming!

We will offer the second half of this class during Lent starting at the beginning of Lent. Even if you didn't come to the Advent class, you can still join us for the Lent portion of the study. We will meet each Thursday during Lent at 10 am. All are welcome.

Need a Ride? or Give a Ride?

If you find yourself in need of a ride to the doctor's office or the grocery store or anyplace you need to go and can't get there yourself, please call Mike Parsons (585) 743-0012. Mike coordinates our crew of volunteers who are happy to help by driving others.

If you'd like to be part of that group which provides for others who need transportation, please let Mike know as well. Thank you for your service to others!



A Note of Thanks

From our friends at Family Promise:

It has been sheer joy watching the faces of each of our 18 families as they load the generous gifts from donors into their cars for 56 unsuspecting children. You and family Promise volunteers made this possible.

A mother breathes a sigh of relief when we tell her we have found a four-bedroom apartment for she and her 5 young children., They have been living in a hotel room for the past three months. Volunteers provide furnishings and stock the apartment with linens, food, small appliances and a washer and dryer, you made this possible.

Your contributions will help make it easier for this mother and others like her to stabilize their families in crisis. Your support will make the New Year and each ordinary day easier for the children and their parents who are seeking employment and permanent housing in Ontario County.

Staff & Committees - 2021

Pastor.....Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen
Office Manager.....Karen Noonan
Christian Education Director... ..Debbie Lyon
Organist.....Denise Morphy
Music Director.....Edie Rice
Housekeeping.....Jamie Varney

Board of Deacons

*Bill Blaker Jean Ingalls
*Guy Burns Jean Landes
Jim DeMay Don Raw, Jr.
Barbara Iglewski Kathy Ward
 Jan Waxman

Special Deacons:

George Herren, Jim Hilton & Jay Garrett-Larsen

Board of Trustees

Steve Brooks Sue Hawkes
*Linda Case Mike Parsons
Marty Daniels Dan Rice
Don DeSmith Larry Rowles
 Laurie Stoutz

Christian Education Committee

Jessica Casellas Laura McAlpin
Mickey Ely Anne Piorkowski
Fred Henry Adeline Rudolph
Delana Hey Jennifer Schneider
Kelly Leasure *Ann Schwab
Debbie Lyon Jon Schwab

Congregational Life Committee

Cathy Brooks Bonnie Maguire
Lin Case Linda Orrell-Fair
Karen DeMay Logan Piorkowski
Sue Hawkes Don Raw, Jr.
George Herren Joan Ryan
*Jean Landes Laurie Stoutz

Pastor Parish Committee

Jerry Diver *Hannah Morgan
Barb Kutner Debbie Wilbur

Public Image Committee

Alice Berry George Herren
Alison Boldt Mara Huberlie
Lindsey Boldt Mark LaRoach
*Cathy Brooks Jon Schwab
Jessica Casellas Jan Waxman

Moderator..... Hannah Morgan
Vice Moderator.....Cathy Brooks
Clerk.....Debbie Wilbur
Treasurer.....Tarry Shipley
Assistant Treasurer.....Marjorie Case
Historian.....Carla DeMeco

Nominating Committee

Jean Ingalls Laurie Stoutz
Hannah Morgan *Debbie Wilbur

Resource Committee

Curt Bailey Jim Hilton
Steve Brooks Mara Huberlie
Carla DeMeco Milan Kutner
Jim Ely Tarry Shipley
Mickey Ely *Barb Stahl
Elaine Hilton *Laurie Stoutz

Special Events Committee Hospitality

John Allen Judy Holcomb
Carol Benner Jean Ingalls
Alice Berry Barb Kutner
Sue Blaker Betty Lyon
Cheryl Bootes Cindy Mullen
Linda Case Rhonda Nyerges
Marjorie Case Anne Piorkowski
Daisy Case Isabella Piorkowski
Jerry Diver Logan Piorkowski
Carol Ennis Ann Schwab
Gail Gilbert Janet Tenreiro
Stu Gillim Kathy Ward
*Sue Hawkes Jan Waxman

Social Action Committee

Lou Bliss Debbie Lyon
Martha Daniels *Rhonda Nyerges
Barb Davis Don Oakleaf
Carla DeMeco Marie Oakleaf
Jesse Garrett-Larsen Nancy Parsons
*Betsy Gillim Carol Peters
Fred Henry Kathy Ward
Joe Kardesh

Worship Committee

Bill Blaker *Kelly Meath
Lou Bliss Denise Morphy
Guy Burns Mike Parsons
Jim DeMay Edie Rice
Jerry Diver Adeline Rudolph
Betsy Dresser Tim Schneider
Nancy Gilbert Marianne Timms
Carl Jackson Debbie Wilbur

