

FROM THE PASTOR*God's Love is for All*

There are fires burning in Minneapolis, in LA, in Denver, in Chicago, in NYC, in Philadelphia, in Washington DC, in San Francisco, and even in Rochester. People are protesting police brutality, the murder of George Floyd, and the systemic racism that targets people of color. Many of these cities have held peaceful marches where crowds gathered to protest injustice. And then someone breaks a window or starts a fire and what started as a peaceful demonstration turns into violence.

I find myself not knowing what is true and what is acceleration and hype. I have read the news, and tweets, and stories posted on Facebook about the protests and riots. I watch TV reporters being arrested while covering the protests. I hear people shouting with anger and not listening to one another. I see people lying on the ground in peaceful civil disobedience chanting "I can't breathe." I see cars and buildings burning. I see police officers standing with protestors holding up signs that say "Justice for George" and "Standing in Solidarity." I see black protestors leaving the surging crowds to stand as guardians protecting stores from being looted.

I listen to the reports that tell of white supremacist groups inciting the violence and rioting. I see police trying to keep people safe. I hear government officials and officers standing with those who are protesting murder and asking for peaceful demonstrations. I see crowds gathering when social distancing is needed in the midst of this pandemic. And my heart breaks and my stomach churns and I grieve for all those who have been killed, those whose businesses have been burned, for those who have been mistreated and targeted.

Maybe you look at the news and see crowds of thuggish rioters. If so, perhaps you could find the empathy to try to understand the fear and despair that so many people of color live with every day. Maybe you look at the news and see police officers acting inhumanely, targeting the black community. Attempt to put yourself in the place of a law enforcement officer who is trying to keep the peace. Maybe you see a majority of good police officers striving to make a safe world for all and a majority of peaceful protesters with good reason to speak out against racial injustice. Maybe you also see some people in

each group lashing out in violence and know that their actions will bring a shadow upon all of the rest.

No matter what side you find yourself on, there is one thing that we can proclaimed as Christians: God loves all people and values each life. Black, white, brown...it doesn't matter the color of people's skin, they are our family and we must care for them as beloved brothers and sisters. It doesn't matter if you are a Republican or a Democrat or a Socialist or an Independent. God loves us all. It doesn't matter if you are rich or poor, if you are educated or if you dropped out of school. The categories we use to label people as "other" are not important in God's eyes. We are all beloved children of God, and together we must work together toward a world where there is liberty and justice for all.

Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR MODERATOR

### **Celebrating (Virtually)**

Celebrating anything these days seems challenging. We are unable to congregate and share the joy in person. But that doesn't mean we can't find new ways to celebrate virtually.

This is exactly what our church is doing.

From virtual coffee hours to delivering flowers to women in our church family. We have found new ways to be together.

June is the month we celebrate fathers and those graduating for high school and college.

While none of the milestone celebrations have gone the way we expected or wanted, we can still show our appreciation and share congratulations.

In honor of all the dads and grads, cheers!

Hannah Morgan

Church Moderator

## *Reopening Church Planning Begins*

On Thursday, May 28th, the chairs of the church council, trustees and deacons, joined me at a meeting of the NY Conference of the UCC to discuss reopening church. They offered some very helpful guidelines and encouraged each church to adapt them and come up with a plan that works for their congregation.

There are many questions that we must answer before our church can reopen. We need to be diligent in our planning so that when the time is right and we are able to reopen, we have a process for keeping people safe. We have representatives from trustees, deacons, Christian Ed and the medical world who will help us devise a plan that works for our congregation.

~ Dawn

### *Prayer List*

**Muriel Allemand** (Jim & Connie Malone's friend); **Steve Beck** (Heidi Schwarz's brother); **Keith Blaker**; **Brad Bliss**; **Ruth Bundy** (Cheryl Bootes' friend); **Marjorie Case**; **Cathy Coots**; **Peggy & Bob DeSantis** (Dorice & Don Raw, Sr.'s friends); **Julie English** (Janet & Kim Tenreiro's friend); **Brian Fuscaldo** (Mara Huberlie's nephew); **Jerry Gomez** (Kathi Nacca's friend); **Gayle Henry**; **Carin Herren**; **Jeff Johnson** (Jim & John Johnson's brother); **Carol Kober** (Debbie Lyon's neighbor); **Jim Kolesar** (George & Carin Herren's friend); **Sue Kotalik**; **Laura** (Karen DeMay's sister); **Michelle List** (JoAnn Reed's friend); **Loren** (Meg & Jack Radley's friend); **Lynn** (Joan Ryan's friend); **Scott Lyon** (Betty's son); **Eileen McCarthy** (Carla DeMeco & Betsy Dresser's friend); **Sally Mueller**; **Liz Nelson** (Kathy Ward's friend); **Chris Pritchard** (Rick, Cindy Mullen & George Herren's friend); **Jack and Meg Radley**; **Sara** (Meg & Jack Radley's granddaughter); **Scott and Amanda** (nephew and niece of Don & Marilyn DeSmith); **John Paul and Pat Smith**; **Smith/Dworetsky Family** (Okke & Kathy Postma's friends); **Sally Stowell** (Alice Berry's mother); **Walker** (Don & Dorice Raw's friend); **Kathy Ward**; **Gordon Wenner** (George & Carin Herren's friend); **Merle Winn** (Amy Ogden's friend); **Josh Yeo** (Barb Stahl's friend); **Jason Zeller** (Kathy Ward's son); **Linda Zeller** (Kathy Ward's daughter in law)



*Happy Birthday!*



June 2 Beauden Leasure  
June 3 Tim Clancy & Cathy Brooks  
June 4 Jean Trost & John Miller  
June 5 Jane Alden & Matti Francis  
June 6 Gail Gilbert  
June 7 Ann Piorkowski  
June 8 Lou Bliss & Joe Kardesh  
June 10 Michael Muscato  
June 11 Bonnie Maguire & Keith Blaker

June 13 Barbara Henry & Tim Nevin  
June 14 Bill Hallett  
June 17 Matthew Newman  
June 20 Dick Kotalik & Jay Harris-Maxwell  
June 22 Gayle Henry, Sheila Greene &  
Jayne Bobsein  
June 28 Charles McCausland & Bill Blaker



### **New Member Spotlight: Daisy Case**

It was my pleasure to be able to sit down with Daisy Case and interview her for the Weathervane newsletter. Daisy joined our church on January 19th. Daisy was a long-time member of the First United Methodist Church in Mansfield, Pennsylvania. In April, it will be six years ago that she moved to Canandaigua to be closer to her children, Mike in Canandaigua and Mark in Syracuse. She made the decision to relocate two years after the passing of her husband. She proudly states that she has 18 grandchildren in total, 15 of who are grandsons! Daisy says that family is super important to her and she works hard at maintaining warm relationships.

Daisy was the Vice President for marketing at the First Citizens Bank of Mansfield for 32 years before taking every retirement at 55.

Daisy is active in the Canandaigua community as an accomplished artist. She offers painting classes periodically. She can teach anyone to paint, even me! She is a member of the Ontario County Arts Council and the Lake Country Decorative Arts group. Her paintings have been exhibited at many juried arts festivals including the Historical Society and the Fort Hill Performing Arts Center. She is an active member of P.E.O. (Pursuing Educational Opportunities for young women) and sings in the Finger Lakes Chorale.



Daisy said she chose our church at the encouragement of many of her P.E.O. Sisters who are members. She started attending the Christmas Eve services and felt welcomed and right at home. She appreciates Pastor Dawn's sermons and is a great addition to the Tuesday bible class. Daisy, welcome! We are so happy to have you here at FCC.

~ Submitted by Kathy Postma

## *Driveway Visits*

The weather is changing. Spring turns to summer and the warm air brings us out of our houses. The social distancing restrictions remain in place, but that doesn't mean we can't see one another. We cannot gather for worship, but I would love to come to your home for a driveway visit!

I know that not everyone is comfortable with having people from outside of their family unit coming to visit, but if you are comfortable with a six or more feet away visit, outside in your driveway, on your porch or in your yard. I'd like to come visit.

Give me a call 905-3105 or send me an email at [revdawn@canandaiguachurch.org](mailto:revdawn@canandaiguachurch.org), so that we can arrange for a time for me to stop by for a short social distanced visit.

I know that not everybody will want me to stop by for a driveway visit, but I look forward to seeing those of you who would enjoy a chance to chat.

Blessings,

Dawn

## Congratulations to Jerry Diver - Senior of the Year!



Jerry Diver received **2020 Senior of The Year Award**

Jerry and his wife, Bonnie, moved to Canandaigua in 1962 where Jerry began his career in education teaching at the elementary school. With the exception of living in Clifton Springs for seven years, Jerry's life has been anchored in

Canandaigua. Bonnie taught at the primary school and their children attended the Canandaigua schools.

After Jerry's early teaching career (both elementary and sixth grade), he accepted a graduate assistantship at the University of Rochester. Following several promotions, he assumed the position of University Registrar and Director of Registration where he remained until retirement. Work in real estate and as a contract substitute at Canandaigua Middle School followed.

I have divided Jerry's volunteer outreach into three categories: University of Rochester Professional activities; Community related activities; Church related activities. While the first two are significant, my focus is on the latter.

**PROFESSIONAL:** Rochester Area Colleges Registrar's Group; Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and Office of Admission (served as vice president, president); Fraudulent Records Task Force (Chairman); United Way Fund Raising Campaign (Steering Committee 3 years, Chairperson 1 year).

**COMMUNITY:** Youth Hockey, Babe Ruth Baseball (volunteer and coach); Town of Hopewell Zoning Board of Appeals (Secretary); Ontario County Environmental Committee; VA volunteer (2012 and ongoing) Town of Hopewell Republican Committee, Salvation Army Advisory Board (past 6 years and ongoing); Election Inspector for the Ontario County Board of Elections (5 years and ongoing).

**CHURCH:** For over 50 years, Jerry has shown through his untiring Church related activities, extraordinary willingness to volunteer. From teaching Sunday School to serving on numerous committees, Jerry's wonderful, seemingly always present, smile has been a caring outreach in and of itself.

I list committees on which he has served: Every Member Canvas including chairperson; Church Council (member at large, 3 years Moderator); Board of Deacons (Chairperson 3 years); Christian Education; Pastor/Parrish Relations; Special Events; Worship (Chairperson about 40 years and same for Christmas Eve Service); Pastor Search (3 times, Chairperson 1); Genesee Valley Association of NYC UCC – Member of Church and Ministry (Chairperson 3 years).

As I conclude this list of Jerry's contributions to First Congregational Church, I am very struck by a broader picture. 'Church' is often perceived as a building, and, indeed, the First Congregational worshipping community is housed in a very historic, beautiful structure. . . but the church is the PEOPLE who worship there. Specifically, it is the people like Jerry Diver who make not only a difference in the lives of the congregants but make a difference in the broader community as well. The outreach of First Congregational Church in the Canandaigua community is made possible by a person such as Jerry.

~ Nominated by the Church Council and submitted by Mickey Ely

## CHRISTIAN ED

*CE Committee News:* It is with some sadness that we announce that Jennifer Brownell will be stepping down as Youth Leader and CE Chair at the end of this school year. She took on that mantle in our time of need and jumped into this dual role when we needed a strong leader to step up. Her commitment to the development and devotion to the



spiritual well-being of "our kids" has been apparent in everything she has done. We will miss her leadership, but are so pleased that she will continue to serve on the committee. Thank you, Jennifer, for touching the hearts, souls, and lives of the young people of this church! You have been, and continue to be, a gift of love to this church family.

graciously agreed to take over those roles as a team. Jon and Ann bring new energy, ideas and talents to our Youth and to our entire Christian Education Program. Jon and Ann have been working with Jennifer this spring to get to know the Youth and have already been so valuable to our program. We look forward to working with you, Jon and Ann! Blessings on you!

As Jennifer steps down, we are excited to announce that Jon and Ann Schwab have

## **Congratulations, Class of 202 Graduates!**

We are so proud of our seniors who are graduating from Canandaigua Academy this month! We have a strong group of young people who have been involved in church activities from pre-school and elementary, all the way up through their high school years. Our hearts are with each of them, as their senior year has not turned out to be what anyone expected. But their strength of character is carrying them through, and will serve them well as they forge ahead, traveling along life's journey. And so, with joy, let us recognize **Abbie Dutcher, Josh Dutcher, Chase Morgan, Zach Morse, Erich Rudolph, and Aidan Russell**. We believe in you! Go forth knowing you have the support of your entire church family! May God bless you with the riches of love, peace, and joy in the years to come.



## **Congratulations also to our College Graduates!**

*Karen Maxfield* will be graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management from Roberts Wesleyan College. Major in Business.

*Michael Muscato* is graduating from Binghamton with BA degrees in economics and philosophy. He will begin working for Merrill Lynch wealth management in Rochester at the end of June as an associate financial advisor. He looks forward to spending time on Canandaigua Lake this summer, as well as catching up with friends and family.

## **FOOD DONATION SITES**

During these difficult times when many people are out of work and more and more people are going hungry, some of you have asked what you can do to help.

There are two neighborhood places to drop off food where you need not encounter anyone so social distancing is not an issue. You can bring canned or boxed food to donate to: Noah's blessing box which is outside Jeff and Suzanne Marinelli's home. This giving box is located at **99 Chapin St.**, about 2 blocks west of the Canandaigua Bank main office. The box is well marked.

There is also a pop-up pantry outside Sarah's house (from The Spot). In her words "We are getting multiple visitors every day-things like pasta and sauce, canned soups, rice, cereal, apples, etc" You can drop food at **1790 Opal Drive Farmington** – items can be put right in the "pop up" pantry by the road. If you have more question, Sarah can be reached at [thespotcanandaigua@gmail.com](mailto:thespotcanandaigua@gmail.com) Thank you for your generosity!

## **Thank you**

To all who supported the MS Walk's FCC team. We have raised 1,295.00 and are ranked team #4 of 20. Great job! Thank you again!



## **GLENER'S KITCHEN:**

Even though Gleaner's Kitchen is not open for meals, they hand out bag lunches every day. They also are still giving out bags containing enough for two meals for a family twice a week. Additionally, they will give a bag of food to anybody who asks for it, that way, a family does not need to wait – if they need food, they get it immediately.

Although we cannot contribute food at this time, we can send a check. Tom Carter, the manager, can make a small amount of money go a long way by buying through Foodlink.

More people than ever before, families are without paychecks. Their families still need to eat, so please, if you are able, send a check to:

Gleaner' Community Kitchen Attn: Tom Carter  
c/o St. John's Episcopal Church  
183 N. Main St.  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

*God bless you for your kindness!*

## **Honoring and Caring for One Another**

In 2001 Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Witherspoon established the Mother's Fund at the First Congregational Church. This fund is intended to honor all mothers, especially Ruth Miles Witherspoon, Harriet Bento Bentley and Dorothea Bentley Witherspoon. There have been a number of other contributors to this fund, and over the years we have come to honor not just biological mothers but all women in the church with a yellow rose on Mother's Day.

This year, as you know, we were unable to hold worship in the church building on Mother's Day, so we decided to deliver the roses to women in the congregation. A team of 34 drivers took out 180 roses. In addition to continuing the tradition of giving yellow roses to women on Mother's Day, this effort helped members of the church to have an in-person, socially distant visit with each woman. It was a huge success. People who delivered said they loved delivering. Recipients said it made their day and helped them to feel connected, appreciated and loved.

So, of course, the question we were left with following this rose distribution was "What about the fathers and men in the church that we want to connect with, honor and appreciate?" This year, when we cannot meet in person, we have decided to organize another flower delivery, this time red carnations for men on Father's Day weekend. Again, we will include all of the men of the church. We do this so that the men in our congregation will know how important they are to this congregation, how much we appreciate and value them and miss being able to gather to worship with them.

Thank you to Mike Parsons and Rhonda Nyerges for their incredible organizational skills in putting together delivery lists. Dawn will again be at the church on the morning of Saturday June 20 to distribute flowers to drivers and the carnations will be delivered sometime during Father's Day weekend. May this small gift bring blessing, connection and honor to the men of our congregation.

### **Here are some websites to keep us connected during this difficult time:**

**[How to Prevent Loneliness in a Time of Social Distancing \(Scientific American\)](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-to-prevent-loneliness-in-a-time-of-social-distancing/)**

**<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-to-prevent-loneliness-in-a-time-of-social-distancing/>**

**[How to Stay Connected While Social Distancing \(WABE NPR Atlanta\)](https://www.wabe.org/staying-connected-while-social-distancing/)**

**<https://www.wabe.org/staying-connected-while-social-distancing/>**

## **Communion and Church Picnic June 7<sup>th</sup>**

We cannot gather as a large group at the Sauter's home for our annual Church picnic, but that doesn't mean that we can't all share in a picnic each in our own places. On Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to find a place outside on your porch or lawn, or at a picnic table in your yard or in a park, to have a picnic, worship online, and share Communion.

As we did last month, we will ask you to bring bread and juice or some food and drink to be your communion elements. We will worship together, share communion, and have a picnic together!

Remember that you can choose anything to represent the body of Christ, it could be a bagel, a muffin, a rice cake, a graham cracker, just something that you will receive as the body of Christ, broken for you. And the same with a drink of some sort. It could be wine or grape juice, but it could also be coffee, lemonade or iced tea. The important part is that as we break bread together and share the cup, we remember Jesus. May our worship, our communion, and our picnic knit our hearts together across the miles. Come join us on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, for you are an important part of this congregation!

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO BOB WARD**



“Rail Transportation in Ontario County” – Dr. Ward’s Opus, has been published. This book is the result of twenty years of research. It is a huge tomb of information on every railroad that operated in the county. There are details on each railroad and information on when and where it ran, the years of operation and when and why it was abandoned. He describes the Meyers Brothers Railroad, perhaps one of the smallest, and the giants, like CSX! Congrats, Dr. Ward!

## *An Update from the What If? Foundation:*

Dear Dawn,

Over the last year, I've had the honor to lead the What If Foundation as Interim Executive Director. It has been an experience that has enriched my life in more ways than I can express. And, as interim, one of my responsibilities with the Board has been to identify our next Executive Director to lead this wonderful organization. I am happy to share that we've accomplished this, and it is my pleasure to introduce you to David Manson, a seasoned nonprofit leader with a long-held passion for community service and a wealth of experience in fundraising, community relations, program management, and marketing, among other important skills.

David started his career as a classroom teacher in South Central Los Angeles in the late 1980's, working with underprivileged youth. He channeled this experience into a variety of youth and community outreach roles in California. His family then took him to Idaho, where his natural talents as a community leader led him to an Executive Director role at one of the largest direct service food pantries and soup kitchens in the state, growing their capacity almost threefold during his tenure.



*David Manson, New Executive Director of What If? Foundation*

The What If Foundation's Board, our Founder Margaret Trost, and I have all been impressed by David's passion for social justice and his shared understanding that lasting change happens from the ground up, one act of love at a time. This coupled with his skills and experience with youth outreach and food insecurity made him a natural fit for our organization and ideally placed to guide us through the next chapter. I'm excited for you to hear from David directly in next month's newsletter.

This past year has been deeply fulfilling for me and a time I will always look back on as a gift. I've had the privilege of further nurturing our relationship with Na Rive and seeing first-hand how they achieve miracles with the support we provide. Lavarice Gaudin and his team are the real superheroes I tell my kids about at night. I also treasure the opportunity to have connected with you, our family of donors, and to feel the deep love, solidarity and hope we share for the Haitian children. And I feel fortunate to have worked more closely with our staff, collaborators and partners to accomplish important milestones for the What If Foundation and prepare the organization for this new phase under David's leadership. You can read more about these milestones in our 2019 Annual Report.

Thank you for your generosity, commitment, and the trust you've placed in me this last year. I will be working with David and our team over the next few weeks to ensure a smooth leadership transition. I will remain as Chair of the Board of Directors and look forward to staying connected with all of you in that capacity.

With deep gratitude and appreciation,

**Catherine Lelong**

Interim Executive Director

*What If Foundation*

## **June 2020**

**Tuesday 6/2** Pastor Parish Committee Meeting 5:00

**Thursday 6/4** Reopening Planning Team Meeting 7:00

**Sun. 6/7** Worship online Communion and Church Picnic at home

**Mon. 6/8** Trustees 4:00 Zoom

**Friday 6/12** Staff Meeting 10:00

**Sun. 6/14** Worship Online; Deacons 11:45 Zoom

**Mon. 6/15** Weathervane Deadline

**Tues. 6/16** Council 7:00 Zoom

**Saturday 6/20** Carnation Pick up and delivery

**Sun. 6/21** Worship, Graduation Sunday, Father's Day Online

**Sun. 6/28** Worship Online

These dates/events could change based on the NYS guidelines regarding COVID-19. In the event of a change, we will do our best to email the congregation ahead of time.

