The First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville

The *Good News*-Letter

November 2017

First Annual Chili Drive-Thru

Join us for our first Annual Chili Drive-Thru on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7th, 5:00 - 7:00 PM.

The dinner includes a quart of homemade chili, a large serving of cornbread and cookies or a brownie for dessert.

Tickets will be $10.00 for adults and $8.00 for seniors and children.

Treat yourself and/or family to a night off from cooking!

Volunteers needed to make desserts, bake cornbread and help make chili on Monday, November 6.

Thanksgiving Pie Sale - Simplify life by letting us do the pie baking! Pre-orders only (call 496-3814) to be taken by phone up until November 18th. Pie pick up will be on November 22 (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving), 5:00 - 7:00 PM at the church. Each pie is $12.00 and you have a choice of apple, pumpkin, pecan or Nestle Toll House.

Volunteers Needed for Baking Thanksgiving Pies - If you can bake for the Thanksgiving Pie Sale, please sign up on the church bulletin board or email Karen Lipton at karen.k.lipton@gmail.com. Any questions, contact Karen.

First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville

Session Moderator
Rev. Martha Carlson

Clerk of Session
Deborah Chedister

The Session
Lois Dunikowski 2017*
Nancy Bruscino 2018*
Nancy Popoloski 2019*
Bill Cooke 2019

Board of Deacons
Karen Lipton 2017
Beth Tyrrell 2017*
Mark Chedister 2018
Debbie Woodmansee 2018*
Sue Roosje 2019

*indicates second term

Pastor
Rev. Martha Carlson

Organist
Bill Hooper

Office Manager
Cynthia Carey

30 Goshen Avenue
Washingtonville NY
845-496-3814
firstpres@frontiernet.net

Office Hours are:
Tuesday - Thursday
3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Rev. Martha Carlson
revmpc86@yahoo.com

First Presbyterian Church
www.fpcw.makeswebsites.com

Presbytery of Hudson River
www.hudrivpres.org

From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

What inspires our gratitude?

We live in a beautiful part of the country. People travel to here to see the trees changing color on the mountainsides, the trestle bridge standing against a blue sky with fields spread out beneath it, the colors of trees and brown grass reflecting in water. Looking at God's majesty and grandeur reflected in the creation makes me grateful to be part of it.

Sometimes gratitude comes from the other end of our experience. When I narrowly miss a deer on a foggy stretch of road at dusk, it's not the beauty of the scene but the safety I've been granted, which I usually take for granted, that inspires me to be grateful.
Sometimes we're grateful to God for things, like a coffee pot on a chilly morning. Often, we're grateful to God for people. I'm grateful to God for all of you people, for the warmth of the welcome and hospitality I've experienced since I came here, for the way you care about and for each other. I've seen you reach out with compassion when someone is hurting. I've seen you be as happy as the person themselves when someone receives good news. I've also seen you give a good humored yes when someone asks you to bring food to a church function or help around the church in some way. Those yeses, given freely maybe after thinking what it would be like for the person who asked if no one said yes to them, are the family ties that hold our church family together.

I'd like to invite you to think about two things. The first is that the gratitude you feel is actually gratitude to God and the yeses you give are intimately tied to that gratitude. God gave us the people with whom we worship, study, pray, do mission, and have fellowship over shared work. Praise God for such a wonderful gift! The second is that this is the time of year when people will be asking for more yeses. For one thing, I'm inviting you right now to worship and study the Bible frequently between now and Christmas. Also, from the making and selling of chili and pies to the work of the nominating and stewardship committees, many people will be asking. What inspires your gratitude? How will you return thanks to God?

In Christ's love,
Martha

November Prayer

Mighty God, You are a god of grace and blessing. Like the Psalmist, we wonder, what are humans that You notice them, and who am I that You care for me? Thank You for all of Your many gifts: the beautiful world we enjoy, the people You've given us to experience life with, the experiences of all kinds You have put in our paths. Thank You most of all for the gift of Your Son. Because of Him we don't despair. We know You understand us and that Your offer of mercy still stands. That blessing is the most beautiful one of all. Glory be to You, o God!
Amen.

Worship Ministry

On Sunday, November 5th, we will celebrate The Lord's Supper and welcome for the first time a very special guest pastor to our pulpit! The Rev. Edd Carlson will lead worship while Pastor Martha is away. We are thankful for Edd's willingness to serve FPC!

The next "Breakfast with Martha" will be Sunday, November 12th at 8:30 AM in Hazekamp Hall. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please take advantage of this opportunity to become better acquainted with Martha and enjoy delicious food and fellowship.

FPC will join the Cornwall area churches on Tuesday, November 21st at 7:30 PM for the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving service hosted this year at St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church. Hope to see you there!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Blessings and peace,
The Worship Ministry

Where's the Pastor?

Martha ordinarily has office hours at Bethlehem 9-12:30 Monday and Tuesday, and at First Washingtonville Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-5. Anyone is welcome to call or stop in at office hours of either church. Calls made on those phones during office hours will reach Martha; messages left on those answering machines will reach Eileen at Bethlehem or Cynthia at First. Her home phone number is 845-614-0048; her cell number (which might be changed within a few weeks because its reception is poor in the manse) is currently 717-953-2257. Messages left on either of these numbers will reach Martha. You can also speak to her before worship at First, after worship at Bethlehem, before or after choir practice or scheduled board meetings at either church (check the church bulletin for dates), before or after Bible study on Wednesday mornings at First, arrange to have dinner with her on a Thursday in Washingtonville, or make an appointment. Other things to know about Martha's regular weekly schedule is that her Sabbath is ordinarily on Friday, unless there is a scheduled church event on Friday and then her Sabbath will be announced in church publications, and that she spends as much time as possible on Saturdays somewhere out of the way preparing for worship.

Food for Kids Monthly Food Drive

Beginning in November, we are asking our congregation to bring in one or two of the most needed food items for the backpacks of food program. This month please bring in one or both of individual serving Mac&Cheese cups and/or Chef Boyardee pasta individual serving cups.

November's designated donation day is the last Sunday of the month.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 All Saints' Day 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM A.A.	**2** 7:00 PM N.A. 7:00 PM Troop 416 Group Meeting (2)	**3** 4:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 493	**4** 10:00 AM Girl Scout Troop 592 4:00 PM N.A. TURN CLOCKS BACK!
5 9:30 AM Worship, Lord's Supper Rev. Edd Carlson 8:00 PM A.A.	**6**	**7** 5:00-7:00 PM Chili Drive-Thru Dinner 7:00 PM Troop 416	**8** 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM A.A.	**9** 4:00 Girl Scout Troop #503 7:00 PM N.A. 7:00 PM Troop 416 Group Meeting (2)	**10**	**11** Veteran's Day! 4:00 PM N.A.
12 8:30 AM Breakfast with Martha 9:30 AM Worship 8:00 PM A.A.	**13**	**14** 7:00 PM Budget/Session Meeting 7:00 PM Troop 416	**15** 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM A.A.	**16** 7:00 PM N.A. 7:00 PM Troop 416 Group Meeting (2)	**17** 4:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 493	**18** 10:00 AM Girl Scout Troop 592 4:00 PM N.A.
19 9:30 AM Worship, Pledge Sunday 8:00 PM A.A.	**20**	**21** 7:00 PM Troop 416 7:30 ON Cornwall Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service at St. Thomas	**22** 5:00-7:00 PM Pie Pick Up 8:00 PM A.A.	**23** Happy Thanksgiving! 7:00 PM N.A.	**24**	**25** 4:00 PM N.A.
26 9:30 AM Worship Christ the King Sunday 8:00 PM A.A.	**27**	**28** 7:00 PM Session at the Bethlehem PC manse 7:00 PM Troop 416	**29** 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM A.A.	**30** 7:00 PM N.A. 7:00 PM Troop 416 Group Meeting (2)		

Sundays - 9:30 AM Worship Service
10:30 AM Coffee Hour

Church Office Hours are:
Tuesday - Thursday, 3:30 - 6:30 PM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

2 Ernest Hegmann Jr.
15 Juliet Adams
16 Delia Downing
23 Eli Adams
28 Melissa Adams

FPCW's contribution to "Decorate a Scarecrow" sponsored by the Village of Washingtonville's Beautification Committee. Our scarecrow was created by Pastor Martha, LouAnne, Chase and Rylie Strehle (LouAnne's grandchildren) and Beth Tyrrell

Board of Deacons

Food Pantry The food pantry welcomes all donations. Needed for November is: Stove Top stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned corn and canned sweet potatoes. Please add at least one of these items to your shopping list. Donations can be placed in the wicker basket outside Hazekamp Hall.

Angels on Call - We are creating a new list of volunteers who would like to do God's work by bringing meals to members that are in need (post surgery, trauma, emergency, etc). or drive a member who need a ride to the doctor. You can contact any of the deacons and/or sign up on the volunteer list which is posted.

Coffee Hour Needs: Currently coffee hour needs are styrofoam cups along with cookies - baked or store bought. Thank you all for helping the Deacons keep the kitchen stocked!

Prayer Shawl The Deacons are so happy to have this special ministry to help with their shepherding.

E Prayer Circle Please contact Lois Dunikowski at lbd9999@hvc.rr.com if you have any prayer requests.

Emergency Use of the Church Building
If any person in our church family is without power, water, or heat, and needs to use the church as a safe haven, please contact your deacon shepherd so he or she can direct your need to the appropriate ministry elder(s).

The Deacons are very happy to serve the members of this congregation. Please let your deacon shepherd know if he or she can help you in any way. (There is a list posted on the bulletin board in the Denniston Room if you are not sure who your deacon shepherd is.)

Cornwall Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

The 50th Anniversary of the Cornwall Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held this year on Tuesday, November 21, 2017, 7:30pm, at the St. Thomas – St Joseph Roman Catholic Church (340 Hudson Street, Cornwall-on-Hudson).

The Newburgh Ministries will be the beneficiary of the Offering. All are welcome to attend. Both non-perishable food and monetary donations will be collected with all proceeds going to the Newburgh Ministries.

Counting Blessings

Numbered lists grab our attention. In the checkout aisle or on the internet, we gravitate toward headings such as "10 ways to lose weight by summer!" or "3 simple steps to acing that test!"

Ancient Jewish sages urged people to count out and speak at least 100 blessings, or statements of gratitude, each day. What would happen if we intentionally listed 100 blessings daily? Can you imagine?!

What if the first blessing we counted was simply the day itself? "Thank you, God, for this brand new day!" "Bless my use of this day, Lord, that I might glorify you." Scripture encourages such awareness and promises an additional blessing in return: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12, NIV). - Heidi Mann

Two Side of Gratitude

Todah, the Hebrew word for "giving thanks," also means "admitting, confessing, acknowledging." That might seem odd, but when we thank someone, we're acknowledging we needed what they gave us. Rabbi Daniel Lapin explains we're even confessing we were incomplete, or experiencing a shortcoming, beforehand.

Gratitude is so important for the Jewish life that the Hebrew root words for "giving thanks/confessing" and for "Jew" are closely related. A Jewish person, then, is "one who both confesses and gives thanks" - actions crucial to the well-being of the receiver, even more than for the giver.

Christians, too, treat confession and thanksgiving as significant aspects of faith, prayer and worship. While we confess that we wholly depend on God for our life and salvation, we offer daily gratitude to God for his countless blessings.

Clothes for the Climate

Read: Colossians 3:8-17

"Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

- Colossians 3:14

While removing the price tag from an item of winter clothing I had purchased, I smiled at these words on the back: "WARNING: This innovative product will make you want to go outdoors and stay there." When properly clothed for the climate, a person can survive and even thrive in harsh and changing weather conditions.

The same principle is true in our spiritual lives. As followers of Jesus, our all-weather spiritual wardrobe has been prescribed by the Lord in His Word, the Bible. "As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, *clothe* yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Col. 3:12-13 emphasis added).

These garments that God provides - such as kindness, humility, and gentleness - allow us to meet hostility and criticism with patience, forgiveness, and love. They give us staying power in the storms of life.

When we face adverse conditions at home, school, or work, the "clothing" God tells us to wear protects us and enables us to make a positive difference." And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (v. 14).

Dressing according to God's guidelines doesn't change the weather - it equips the wearer.

Heavenly Father, help me to put on Your garment of love

so that I am prepared for whatever life brings me today.

Kindness is te oil that takes the friction out of life.

INSIGHT: What does it take to dress for spiritual success? When writing to followers of Jesus in Colossae, the apostle Paul may have been influenced by the regional clothing industry. The city (in an area of modern-day Turkey) was famous for their beautiful dark-red wool cloth (*colossinum*).

What we do know, however, is that Paul's allusion to being **clothed in Christ** is more important than a regional textile industry or global custom. In behalf of Jesus, Paul urged them - and us - to cloth ourselves in the kind of love that does far more than call attention to ourselves. It is a caring that binds all goodness together in the eye-catching unity of Christ.

--Our Daily Bread

With blessings of love from the Nurture Ministry

Calendar of Prayer for our Congregations and Leadership

The endorsed calendar of prayer is a way for us to be united. It's an awesome responsibility and gift to pray for one another. To make our offering on behalf of one another. Each member congregation, staff member, elected servant leader, ministry team, and mission commitment of our Presbytery is represented:

Bethel PC, PC(USA) Washington Office, Self Development of People Committees (local and national), Rye PC, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, First Church Jeffersonville, Stewardship Team, and Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Newsletter articles for the December 2017 and January 2018 issue are due before **November 20!**

VISION STATEMENT

Together, we worship God through our Study, Stewardship, Service, and Song.

Call Cynthia at **496-3814** or send an e-mail to **firstpres@frontiernet.net** to share your news with our church family!

First Presbyterian Church
30 Goshen Avenue
Washingtonville NY 10992

Address Correction Requested