



Grace United Church

September 2020

Lectionary Scriptures

Sept 6

Ex 12: 1-14 and Ps 149
Ezek 33:7-11 and
Ps 119: 33-40
Rom 13: 8-14
Matt 18: 15-20

Sept 13

Ex 14: 19-31 and Ps 114
or Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21
Gen 50: 15-21 and
Ps 103: (1-7), 9-14

Sept 20

Ex 16: 2-15 and
Ps 105: 1-6, 37-45
Jon 3: 10-4:11 and
Ps 145: 1-8
Phil 1: 21-30
Matt 20: 1-16

Sept 27

Ex 17: 1-7 and
Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16
Ezek 18: 1-4, 25-32 and
Ps 25: 1-9
Phil 2: 1-13
Matt 21: 23-32

From the Chair

September usually marks the end of summer and the beginning of all the back-tos – back to school, back to work from a summer vacation, and often back to church from those who have taken time off. But this is 2020. There’s nothing usual about it.

This week we are going back to our church building that has been painted, de-cluttered, cleaned, and sanitized in preparation for our return. I am grateful for that. While I have enjoyed being able to worship on my own time with YouTube, my heart has ached to see my church family. There’s something holy about sitting with those who are also worshipping and praying together with for those in our hearts who need our prayers.

I know our service will be different. We will be masked and distanced. The joy we feel when we see someone for the first time will not be expressed by a hug. But it will be joy nonetheless. The General Board has worked long and hard to adapt our worship to ensure the safety of our church family and the requirements of the CDC, while still providing the opportunity to praise God as family together. It will not be perfect. No family is. We will make mistakes. But we know that as a family, we will move forward together in the love of Christ.

Grace and Peace, Kim

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We are returning to the church building for worship each Sunday starting August 30 for those who feel comfortable meeting in-person. There will also be a live worship on Facebook for those who want to remain at home and watch.

Worship Starts at 10 am

The speakers each week are as follows:

August 30 - Bev Lyon

September 6 - Claudia Little

September 13 - David Huizenga

September 20 - Steve Reynolds

September 27 - David Huizenga



The Ministry Committee is busy calling and talking with members and friends of the church who don't have internet. We are trying to keep them up to date on what's going on in the church and if there are any needs. The portable DVD is now in the church office and anyone who would like to see the church service is asked to call the office and it can be picked up or someone can bring it to you. We have had good response to this option of seeing the service. We will be contacting the Salvation Army to find out about their new officer who is coming and will let them know that we will continue to work closely with them. Also, we discussed Linda Elliott's knee surgery and dinners will be taken to her for a week.

History Corner: (First Congregational continued)

The first minister to serve in the new church was Rev. Frederick W. Beecher, who served from March 15, 1874, the first regular service in the new building, until June 26, 1892, the longest of any pastor in our church. He was a member of a well-know family, a grandson of Lyman Beecher and nephew of Henry Ward Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe. It was a time of growth and change for the village and the church. During his pastorate the church grew from 125 to 205 resident members.

Apparently Mr. Beecher did not occupy the house intended as a parsonage. Records show that during hispastorate he and his family occupied rented rooms on the upper floor of the Lincoln Hall (now the Community Building) on the corner of Main and Pearl Streets.

During this time period the church was very involved in the temperance movement. It was at this time that the use of wine in communion services was discontinued. May 10, 1877 at a church meeting a motion was made by Julius Hoyt and passed. "In view of the power of appetite over human will knowing that some of our members are now earnestly striving to turn away from their evil desires, therefore be it resolved that the First Congregational Church of Wellsville do hereafter use no fermented wine in the communion service."

January 1, 1882 Rev. Beecher began the practice of preaching a regular sermon to the young people each Sunday. This had never been done before. April 12 of the same year he began a "Young People's Society For Christian Endeavour", the first such society in New York State. This society appears to have been composed of young men and women in their late teens and early 20's, and met each Tuesday evening. Rev. Beecher commented about a meeting October 31, 1882 "The members responded well and many words of beauty, truth and promise were spoken...and listened to."

During this time there were frequent union service and pulpit exchanges, most often with the neighboring Baptist church. The newspaper sometimes referred to the two as the Baptigational Church." One account of this good neighbor practice is noted in church records, January 29, 1882. "The Baptist church was much injured by fire last Sunday afternoon. As they would be deprived of the use of their church for a number of weeks, the trustees of the Congregational Society, through Mr. Beecher, extended to them an invitation to worship with us, in some way in which the pastors might agree." On March 26 it was noted that our Baptist brethren are back in their own house today.

From the **Stewardship committee:**

August has been a busy month for the Stewardship committee. Painting of all external trim on the Worship Center was completed and looks great. Our lawn care team of Rich Johnson and Mary Lou Maxon have kept things looking nice. Also, on the exterior, Phil Pratt has converted the parking lot pole lamps to LED. Rebates for all the LED lights Phil has converted will exceed \$1000, making the switch very cost effective. Cracks in the parking lot surface have been filled. The complete surface will be sealed next summer. New lock cylinders are being installed at the Worship Center to replace worn out locks, and new keys will be available for those requiring them.

Moving indoors, renovations and painting of the bathroom in the Nursery area are finished. This bath has two doors, the entrance from the hallway and a second in the Nursery. For privacy, the Nursery area door will be locked, preventing unwanted surprises. However, that door is unlocked from the inside so it may be used as an alternative exit if needed. Our Wi-Fi system has been upgraded to enhance signal strength throughout the Worship Center. This will support live streaming of our church services for those who are unable to attend. If you desire to connect to the secure guest Wi-Fi, the new passcode will be available at church. Lastly, a video doorbell will be installed shortly, providing added security for the building and our employees.

Our financial position remains stable even though income is somewhat below budget. Our expenses have also been lower than expected resulting in positive net income year to date. Thanks to all who have kept up with pledges and donations while in-person worship attendance has been restricted. If you would like to make a donation, just mail a check to the church to the attention of our Financial Secretary, John Flurschutz.

“The Brown Bag Auction”

A number of our Church Family met on August 14th for a delightful night for our 1st Brown Bag Auction. With a lot of laughter the bidding at times was fierce but everyone got something in the end. We raised \$825 and were asked if we could do it again! We thank everyone who came and those who worked behind the scenes.

Special Offerings

During the absence of being in church we have missed three special offerings in March, One Great Hour of Sharing; in May, Strengthen the Church; and in June, Pentecost. Anyone wishing to make a donation to all or any of these please either earmark your check or put it in an envelope and place it in the offering plate when we begin our church services on August 30th. Thank you

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September 2020 Newsletter for Grace United Church

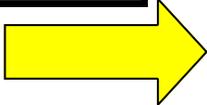
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/5 Susan Lemons & Ralph Wagner

July Financials
Total Income: **\$7,775.00**
Actual expenses: **\$3,926.32**

Total for the year:
Income: \$61,661.47
Expenses: \$50,859.24
Net difference: **\$10,802.23**

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 9/7 Karla Hills
- 9/8 Sue Pederson
- 9/9 Becky Wightman
- 9/12 Sue Williams
- 9/14 Matthew Beckhorn
- 9/16 Karyn Pratt
- 9/17 Cindy Beckhorn
- 9/17 John Flurschutz
- 9/24 Judi VanDine
- 9/25 Dan Babcock
- 9/25 Scott McMorris
- 9/26 Tom Kailbourn
- 9/26 Happy Kelley
- 9/26 Phyllis Moore
- 9/26 Mary Pratt
- 9/30 Ruth Rossman

Worship Volunteer Schedule for August 30 through September:

August 30 : Reader 1 Sharon Dimmig, **Reader 2** Marcia Pratt
Ushers: Carol & John Flurschutz, Nancy & George Johnson **Readers PLEASE arrive at 9:45 am for Mic check**

September 6: Reader 1 Roxie Schmidt, **Reader 2** Sue Johnson
Ushers: Sue Williams, Jan Riley, Bob & Beth Shook

September 13: Reader 1 Nancy Johnson **Reader 2** Sue Williams
Ushers: Sharon Czarnecki, Sue Johnson, Marcia Pratt, Roxie Schmidt

September 20: Reader 1 Kim Toot **Reader 2** Sharon Dimmig
Ushers: Carol & John Flurschutz, Nancy & George Johnson **Ushers PLEASE arrive at 9:40 am**

September 27: Reader 1 Marcia Pratt **Reader 2** Roxie Schmidt
Ushers: Sue Williams, Jan Riley, Bob & Beth Shook