

June
July 2017



Good News Gazette

Leslie's Musings

"A sound roars from the sky without warning, the roar of a violent wind, and the whole house where you are gathered reverberates with the sound. Then a flame appears, dividing into smaller flames and spreading from one person to the next. All the people present are filled with the Holy Spirit..." Acts 2.2-4a, The Voice Bible

The Spirit is afoot! It's so difficult to contemplate what the believers felt and thought on that first Pentecost. As they gathered, a visual confirmation of all they had seen and heard seemed to dance on each one's head as a flame. We might say the believers found their passion and began to exhibit visible manifestations of a changed life—or as St. Augustine and our confessional heritage put it, outward signs of inward grace.

We've talked about "mountaintop" experiences. My son just returned from a great festival where he saw a bunch of his favorite bands, all framed by the Gulf of Mexico. "I wanna go back," he sighed, as I drove him home from the airport.

Of course we want to stay on the mountaintop. It's fun and exhilarating! It's so darned easy to be faithful among all those converts surrounding you—people who have undergone the same transformation and are filled with the Holy Spirit—look, it's even dancing on our heads!

It's another thing altogether to go through the daily slog. To consider the humanity of the less-than-transformed who surround us. Those who don't seem to want to work. The homeless. The addicted. Geez, just pull it together, will you?

I'm so thankful that the beloveds of this church have taken steps to combat the scourge of opioid addiction in our community. Lots of us have opened our eyes and ears and hearts to try and understand the facts surrounding and leading up to this chaotic reality. It seems impossible, yet we need to remember:

The vast majority of opioid addictions begin with legal, prescribed use. Student athletes receive an opioid after an injury, or your young adult after wisdom teeth extraction.

The vast majority of those addicted are white males, living in the suburbs, around 40 years old.

Because prescriptions are now much harder to obtain, people with addiction are turning to cheaper, more available heroin even faster.

So why is this our problem? Well obviously, because Jesus commands us to look after the hopeless and the hurting. But also because it's affecting us directly. You may not know about the addictions in your neighbors, but they are out there. You don't know about children, uncles, mothers and friends suffering. But knowledge is power, and we're going to continue to educate ourselves and others. Is it hard? Absolutely. Is it soul draining? Sometimes. But thank God we're answering the call that has been placed on us, and for that I am sooo grateful.

Stay educated, stay compassionate, stay full of the Spirit. And meanwhile, I'll see you in church!

Love, Leslie

Words from the Worship Ministry Team

“The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, & bring to your remembrance all things that I have said to you.”
John 14:26

Worship starts at 10am for June, July & August!

Sun, June 04th - 10am - PENTECOST SUNDAY; Worship with Pastor Leslie; Intinction Communion; Installation of Church Officers. **Wear RED!** (A limited number of Red Geraniums will be available for purchase after church)

Sun, June 11th - 10am - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Sun, June 18th - 10am - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Wed, June 21st - 6:30pm - Healing Worship Service with Pastor Leslie

Sun, June 25th - 10am - Worship with Pastor Leslie;
Classical Music Sunday

“Shout to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with joy; come before Him with singing.” Psalm 100:1-2



Sun, July 02nd - 10am -Worship with Pastor Leslie;
Intinction Communion

Sun, July 09th - 10am - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Sun, July 16th - 10am - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Wed, July 19th - 6:30pm - Healing Worship Service with Pastor Leslie

Sun, July 23rd - 10am - Youth Led Worship

Sun, July 30th - 10am - Worship with
Elder Terry McIntyre

During our warmer summer days, be prepared to be “flexible” in our gathering site! We may head to Fellowship Hall if it’s quite warm, OR, on those “lazy hazy days of summer”, we may just take worship outside! How fun!

The WMT needs YOU!

NOT 1 PERSON has come forward to join the WMT! BOOHOO
How about it? Come & join us! Next 45min mtg is June 1st at 6p!

A great “behind the scenes way to use your gifts/talents!



A new element to our WORSHIP service...

Each week "someone" will follow the Pastor & the Liturgist down the aisle at the beginning of worship with a pitcher of water for our BAPTISMAL FONT. The water will be poured into the Font during the Prelude. **YOU** could be that "someone". A member of the WMT will be asking for your assistance. Be ready & willing to accept the call!



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Please keep them short!

Utilize our message board, bulletin & GNG to pass along information!

SHARE YOUR GIFT AS AN USHER

If you are interested in being AN USHER, just once every 4 weeks, please talk to any Worship Team member or Nancy and Brian Burns.

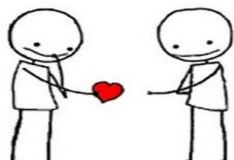
All are welcome to be an ACOLYTE???

Check with Janet Schurr for more information



....."Spot" the sign-up area in the Narthex to be a "GREETER", "LITURGIST", COMMUNION SERVER (those who are Deacons/Elders & had the mini training), &/or host the coffee hour after worship.... PLEASE take a turn!

Have your calendar ready!



Pay it forward

WMT: Chair – Elder Shirley Hagle;

Members: Jane Crossan, Janet Haacker, Pat Loeswick,

Marla Maertin, Laura Marohn, Janet Schurr;

Special Worship Coordinator, Peggy Brown;

Spiritual Advisor, Pastor Leslie

Meet the New Deacons and Elders for the Class of 2020

We would like to thank God for His blessings during our quest for His "Called officers" & also thank YOU, the CONGREGATION, for your prayers & support as we listened to God's voice!



BOARD OF DEACONS

Judy Geerkin:

Judy is a long time member of First Presbyterian Church. She has raised her three lovely children here. Judy has been a Sunday school teacher, Deacon, member of Circle II and a member of choir. She helped with Vacation Bible School, flower committee and church clean-up. Judy participated in the walk to raise money for Son-Rays ministries. Judy has faithfully served our church for many years and in many joyful ways. We are honored to nominate her for the position of Deacon.

Alvin Marohn:

Alvin has been a member of First Presbyterian Church for 64 years. During this time he has served on the Session twice, Board of Deacons, sang in the choir, rang in various bell groups, and participated in Vacation Bible School. He is currently an usher. Since retiring, he is on the counting team, member of Circle II as head dishwasher and an honorary member of Presbyterian Women always around to lend a helping hand when needed. He also pitches in on the property team and is captain of the First Pres Golf team. We are honored to nominate Alvin for the position of Deacon.

Marlene Tyrrell:

Marlene joined our church in 1975, transferring from Riverside Presbyterian Church. Marlene and her husband raised their family in our church. Marlene has previously served as a Deacon and is a faithful participant in the VBS program. She currently sings in the choir with her two lovely grand-daughters. Marlene also volunteers for meals on wheels. We are pleased to nominate Marlene for another term on the Board of Deacons

SESSION

Betsy Crocker:

We are pleased to nominate Betsy for the position of Elder on the Session.

Tom Dugan:

We are honored to nominate Tom for the position of Elder for a second term.

Music Notes ~ June/July

Not only is VBS going "on the road again", but so are our handbells. The outside brass is pitted, the inside piece that holds everything together (the clapper) is cracking, and the bells look tired. So they are going to the "Handbell Spa" to get pampered, polished, and tuned up! A few of us will be traveling down to Hatsfield, PA to drop them off at the factory and to take the tour to learn how they are made and put together. This will take place June 15 - 16 and the bells will be gone most of the summer. This means we can't hear them until the Fall. But don't worry - all of our handbell groups will be putting on a special concert to celebrate having our handbells back. This will take place in October (date TBA) and we will celebrate their beauty and improved sound!

Music Calendar ~ June/July

JUNE

01 - 6:30PM - H4W rehearsal
7:30PM - Choir & H4W rehearsal/Choir rehearsal
04 - 9:30AM - Choir warm-up
3:00PM - concert rehearsals
7:00PM - Music 4 Meals concert here
08 - 6:30PM - H4W rehearsal
11 - 9:00AM - H4W warm-up
15-16 - Bells to PA
18 - 10:00AM - Steve Piortowski in worship
25 - Classical Sunday

JULY

09 - 9:00AM - H4W warm-up
16 - 9:00AM - H4W warm-up/
Stephan Palermo - anthem
23 - 9:00AM - H4W warm-up
30 - soloist in worship

Chasing the Dragon ~ Screening on June 7th

What do a high school athlete and a middle-aged truck driver have in common? They are the face of the opioid addiction epidemic. They're the people, along with the perceived "ghetto addicts," that are dying from heroin and opiate overdoses. According to law enforcement statistics, most addictions start from LEGAL prescriptions—from sports injuries to repetitive muscle pain. The most common overdoses today? 30-40 year-old white men from the suburbs.

On Wednesday, June 7, at 7:00 pm, we're hosting a screening of *Chasing the Dragon*, a film produced by the FBI that confronts the horrors of the heroin and opioid plague that is hitting us hard not only in Buffalo, but in the Tonawandas as well.

The film is graphic, because it depicts the hard edge of drug use and addiction. Viewer discretion is advised. Please feel free to invite friends and neighbors. We'll have a short debriefing session afterwards; FBI agent Brian Burns is scheduled to attend and can answer questions.



MUSIC FOR MEALS

SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH AT 7PM

First Presbyterian Church
149 Broad St., Tonawanda 14150

Join us for our 6th annual fundraiser to benefit the local food pantry.

6TH ANNUAL
MUSIC FOR
MEALS
FUNDRAISER

FREE-WILL
OFFERING WILL
BE TAKEN FOR
THE NT FOOD
PANTRY, HEARTS
& HOMELESS &
THE GOOD
SHEPHERD FOOD
PANTRY

ALL GENRES OF
CHRISTIAN MUSIC
PERFORMED BY
LOCAL WNY
GROUPS

QUESTIONS?

Contact Zach Carr at
799-4257 or
zmcarr@buffalo.edu

Glory Bee



CE Meeting – 7:00 pm MONDAY June 12th

(please note: Parents & Teachers are always welcome at the meeting)

Youth Usher June 11 and July 9, 2017

Youth led worship July 23

VBS 2017

AUGUST 7-10

10AM – 12PM

Jericho Road Ministries

(...on the road again, just can't wait to be on the road again...)

VBS is going on the road!!

We are taking our wonderful VBS program to the children at Jericho Road Ministries. These kids are refugees from countries where they are in danger of being killed. They are here as asylum-seekers, waiting for visas for Canada. They come from many different countries, and many do not speak English. We at First Presbyterian Church have offered to bring our VBS to them.

We will be doing stories, games, crafts, music, and snacks.

Right now, we are in need of:

1 craft leader and 1 helper

1 snack leader and 1 helper

Circle II has graciously offered to donate money toward the snacks. *Peggy Brown* will be bringing her awesome puppets for a couple of storytimes and *Pastor Leslie* will "act up" for the rest. *Diane Charsley* has offered to lead the games and *Marilee Mathias* will be leading music. The story themes will be about refugees from the Bible – Abraham, Ruth & Naomi, Jesus, and the Disciples.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help. Whether you can be part of the VBS team as a leader or helper, or you can help with donations, or pray for us to get the message of God's love for everyone to these children, anything you do WILL help!

Our donation list is as follows:

Pony Beads

Craft Lacing

White scrapbook paper

Coloring pages

Crayons

3 yd. pieces of white or black material

Soccer balls

Stickers

Furry material or rug

Markers (any color)



There will be a bin in the Narthex for your donations. Please consider how you will help VBS this year!

(on the road again, it's just great to be on the road again...)

A Stephen Ministry Message by Janet Haacker



HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

Don't you just wonder...

Who can **HELP** with all your troubles??

Where can you go for **HELP!!??**

Well, Psalm 121:1-2 says, **"I look to the hills, but where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven & earth."**

There's your answer!

God will HELP!

He knows your heart, your troubles, & all your heartaches!

He has even provided a special person just for YOU to **HELP!**

A STEPHEN MINISTER who is

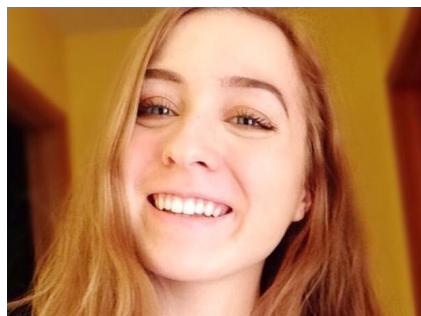
all trained & ready to **HELP** you find the hope, encouragement & comfort needed to get through difficult times!

For a confidential conversation & more information, please contact Pastor Leslie (490-0420) or Janet Haacker (694-4290).

2017 Jack Haacker Memorial Scholarship

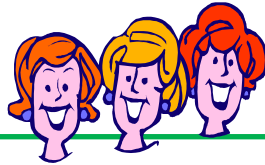
The Scholarship Team is proud to present the Jack Haacker Memorial Scholarship to the following recipient:

Aubrie Nolan



Aubrie has been greatly involved in the events of First Presbyterian Church. She has participated in VBS design and decorations, set up, drama and games; setup, cleanup and serving at spaghetti dinners and chowder lunches; the Variety Shows, Christmas Pageants and setting up the Community Fair. She also has helped with assembling bulletins and newsletters. Aubrie has also extended her services to the outside community which includes time at Odd Fellows Nursing Home and the North Tonawanda food pantry. Aubrie attends Newfane Senior High School. She has participated in cheerleading, softball, and track. She is a member of the Model UN. Upon graduation, she will attend Niagara County Community College for one year. She will transfer to Erie County Community College to pursue a career as a dental hygienist. Aubrie has given of her time and talent to First Presbyterian Church and we are pleased to present her with a scholarship.

Women's News



JOYFUL JUNE SALE

The 46th. Anniversary Celebration
Of Circle II Boutique & Thrift Shops
June 7, 2017 10:00 - 1:30
Special Buffet Luncheon 11:00 - 1:00
Cost of luncheon is \$7.00
Proceeds benefit local charities.

Church Women United June Social Awareness Day Celebration,

June 2nd at 1:00 p.m.
at First Presbyterian Church
149 Broad Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150

Circle II Bag Sale

June 17th 10-12pm; Everything you can fit into a bag for \$2.00

Please remember items you no longer need are still accepted. Please be sure they are in re-usable and clean condition. Please no electronics. Your help is always appreciated.

Birthday Fun

**Happy Birthday to the
members of our Church Family
who celebrate their birthday in**

June/July

Thank God for You!

June

5 Kassandra Martinelli
7 Hillary Vecchio
13 Fonda Lee
22 Joya Palermo
29 Kaitlyn Burns

July

2 Billy Welch
3 John Seager
4 Bonnie Zimmer
8 Justin Kolnacki
9 Joanne Ayotte
9 Connie Holovics
10 Lucille Rowley
11 Mackintosh Barker
13 Jeremy MacLeod
16 Shelby Bearfield
25 David Holovics



Flower Committee



Is now purchasing silk flower arrangements for our Sanctuary but if anyone is interested in purchasing real flower the cost is \$30.00. Please contact Laura Marohn @ 695-1201.

Reminder



Please call the church office if you or a loved one are ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

Adopt-A-Highway Clean up

Saturday June 3rd @ 9:00am. Meet at the Hebel parking lot, 2000 Military Road, Town of Tonawanda.

Worship Assistants

Greeters: June

04 Jane Crossan & Ruth Gebera
11 Mary Ferro
18 Andrea Tasevski & Ryan & Renee
25 Judy Geerkin & Kaitlyn & Kelsey

Greeters: July

02
09 Alvin & Laura Marohn
16 Shirley Hagle & Bonnie Zimmer
23 Linda Barry
30 John Faux



Ushers: June

04 Dave Holovics, Brian Burns, Diane Charsley, Alvin Marohn, Laura Marohn
11 Youth ~ William Welch, Jessica Schurr, Kelsey Burns
18 Tom Dugan, Leslie Dugan, Mary Ferro, John Faux, Linda Barry
25 Randy Marohn, J. William Haley, Bonnie Zimmer, Larry Rayner,
John Greth

Ushers: July

02 Dave Holovics, Brian Burns, Diane Charsley, Alvin Marohn, Laura Marohn
09 Youth ~ William Welch, Jessica Schurr, Kelsey Burns
16 Tom Dugan, Leslie Dugan, Mary Ferro, John Faux, Linda Barry
23 Randy Marohn, J. William Haley, Bonnie Zimmer, Larry Rayner,
John Greth
30 Dave Holovics, Brian Burns, Diane Charsley, Alvin Marohn, Laura Marohn

Liturgist

June:

04 Makcintosh Barker
11 David Charsley
18 Alvin Marohn
25 Sue Schurr

Liturgist

July:

02 Marilee Mathias
09 Janet Haacker
16 Sue Schurr
23 Youth
30 Shirley Hagle



Ministry Team Chairs, Deacons, Church School, Presbyterian Women & Circle groups – it is your responsibility to submit announcements and/or information on events or meetings to the office by the following date if you wish them to be published:

**August/September Gazette articles must be in by:
Monday July 17, 2017 @ 9:00am.**

Announcements for the weekly bulletin must be submitted to the office by Tuesday before Noon to be included in the following Sunday’s bulletin.

Weekly Meetings of Guest Groups

Mon.	10:00 AM	A. A. Morning After Group – FH
Mon.	6:00—7:30 PM	Troop 30878 — CSB Sept-Aug
Mon.	6:30 PM	T.O.P.S. Group – FH
Tues.	6:30—8:00 PM	Troop 30994 Sept—June
Tues.	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Troop 31347 Sept- June
Wed.	6:30—8:00 PM	Troop 31078 Sept—June
Thurs.	10:00 AM	A. A. Morning After Group – FH
Thurs.	6:30-7:30PM	Yoga class

Also Girl Scout Leaders Meetings listed on reg. calendar.

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p Worship mtg. 6p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	2 CWU social awareness here 1-2p UFO 7p	3 Adopt a highway 9a
4 Choir 9:30a Worship/communion 10a installation of officers Concert rehearsal 4p Choir 6p Music 4 Meals concert 7p	5 A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p Girl scouts 6-7:30p	6 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Deacons mtg. 7p	7 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Joyful June sale 10-1:30p Movie ~ Chasing the Dragon 7p	8 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p	9 UFO 7p	10
11 H4W 9a Worship 10a Matt's vocal team 2:30-5:30p	12 A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p Girl scouts 6-7:30p CE 7p	13 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p	14 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Circle II 9:30a Work day and lunch	15 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p Bells to PA	16 UFO 7p Bells to PA	17 Bag Sale 10-12p
18 Marla off Worship 10a Steve Piortowski	19 A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p Girl scouts 6-7:30p Session 7p	20 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p	21 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Circle II 9:30a Healing service 6:30p	22 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p	23 UFO 7p	24
25 Worship 10a Classic Sunday	26 A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p Girl scouts 6-7:30p	27 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p	28 Girl scouts 6:30-8:30p Circle II 9:30a	29 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p	30 UFO 7p	Notes:

July 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship/ communion 10a	3 A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p	4 office closed	5	6 Leslie con.ed. A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p	7 Leslie con.ed. UFO 7p	8 Leslie con.ed.
9 H4W 9a Worship 10a	10 A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p	11	12	13 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p	14 UFO 7p	15
16 H4W 9a Worship 10a	17 A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p	18	19 Healing service 6:30p	20 A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p	21 UFO 7p	22 Leslie Mission trip
23 Leslie Mission trip H4W 9a Youth Worship 10a Belly dance demo 1p	24 Leslie Mission trip A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p	25 Leslie Mission trip	26 Leslie Mission trip	27 Leslie Mission trip A.A. 9a-11a Yoga 6:30-7:30p	28 Leslie Mission trip UFO 7p	29 Leslie Mission trip
30 Leslie Mission trip Duet 9:30a Worship/guest Terry McIntyre Matt's vocal team 2:30-5:30p	31 Leslie returns A.A. 9a-11a TOPS 6:30p	Notes:				



Elders

Class of 2018

Nancy Rolando, Shirley Hagle, Sue Schurr, Laura Marohn

Class of 2019

Linda Barry, Diane Charsley, Dave Holovics, Larry Rayner

Class of 2020

Betsy Crocker, Tom Dugan

Deacons

Class of 2018

J. William Haley, Theresa Rayner

Class of 2019

Donna Blinston, Jane Crossan, Leslie Dugan, Rod MacLeod, Lynette Ryan

Class of 2020

Judy Geerkin, Alvin Marhon, Marlene Tyrrell

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