

September -
October 2018



GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

Leslie's Musings

September-October 2018

Leslie's Musings

"I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ..." Phil. 3:8, CEB

The first *Memory Lane* respite care program is in the books! So much blood, sweat, tears, anxiety, and so many, many prayers. And by all accounts, it was a wonderful success.

You may know that I've experienced a lot of dementia in my family. My dad had Alzheimer's Disease, and so did at least one, and maybe two of his sisters. My cousin on my mom's side had early onset Alzheimer's. Lots of you have walked that same road.

The thing about dementia is loss. Aging is all about loss—loss of ability, loss of friends and family, loss of dignity, loss sometimes of security. It's a hard slog; as I like to say, "Growing old isn't for the faint of heart." I'm at the age where I've become invisible, especially to some young men, who literally don't notice women of a certain age to wait on us. Fortunately I don't have a lot of health issues; our medical system is set up so that doctors don't talk to one another about how your kidney medicine contraindicates your heart drug, and oh, why are you STILL taking that prescription? It's hard out there, beloveds.

And yet, so much grace. I watched the interactions among our guests and their one-on-one companions. I watched volunteers playing with pool noodles and balloons. I watched the faces of caregivers, who looked at their partners with so much love and maybe loss, and yes, grace.

We don't want our children to grow up too fast, but rather enjoy the joyous freedom of long summer days at the beach. We don't want our young adult children to settle down too quickly—see the world and do EVERYthing while you still have the strong back and resilience to go. And then all at once we hit our 40's, our 50's, our 70's, God willing our 90's—and it changes in a heartbeat. There are hushed conversations in our presence about "Mom's driving" or "Dad's power tools," as if along with all those years our dignity and humanity have also disappeared.

Old people, I consistently find, have amazing stories to tell and wisdom to share, if we will just put down our agenda for a moment. Even—especially?—people with dementia have stories, even if you've heard it a couple dozen times already. It feels to me like those with this condition are re-forming their childhood years. Nearly everyone has the patience to listen to a toddler tell a tale; why shouldn't it be so with one whose memory is fading?

Maybe God is like that with our prayers, our speechifying, our thanks and complaints. "Lord have mercy, I've heard that one a million times. But I'm listening anyway. For you are my most beloved child, and in you I am so well pleased. Tell me again. I hear you."

May we find the grace of Christ in our loss, and extend it to one another. Meanwhile, I'll see you in church!

Love,

Leslie

Words from the Worship Ministry Team

September Worship 10am

Sun, Sept 2 - 10a - Worship with Pastor Leslie and Elder Joanne Tunison - "Experiences in Puerto Rico"; Informational gathering after worship regarding Puerto Rico with invited guests.

September Worship 11AM

Sun, Sept 9 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie; Sunday School Rally Day; Intinction Communion

Sun, Sept 16 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Wed, Sept 19 - 6:30p - Healing Worship Service with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Sept 23 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Sun Sept 30 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie; **"Mission Sunday"**

October Worship 11AM

Sun, Oct 7 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie;

"World Communion" Intinction

Sun, Oct 14 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie;

Deacon "Sub Sandwich" Luncheon

Wed, Oct 17 - 6:30pm - Healing Worship Service with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Oct 21 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie

Sun, Oct 28 - 11a - Worship with Pastor Leslie;

"Reformation Sunday"

"The Lord does not see as man sees;
for man looks at the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks at the heart."

1 Sam 16:7



*Communion classes for anyone wishing to take/serve communion: **Saturday, October 6th at 10a-12n.**

Learn the meaning of and help make the bread for communion!
Sign up with Pastor Leslie! All ages invited!



In order that our “**Continuing Prayers**” list in the bulletin is current, each 1st Sunday of the month it will be blank – waiting to receive your requests for that month. This way we will have an update on who & how our prayers are needed.



SHARE YOUR GIFT AS AN USHER

If you are interested in being AN USHER, just once every 5 weeks, please talk to any Worship Team member or Nancy/Brian Burns.

All are welcome to become an ACOLYTE
Check with Janet Schurr for more information



WMT Chair: Elder Pat Loeswick

Members: Jane Crossan, Janet Haacker, Shirley Hagle, Laura Marohn, Janet Schurr

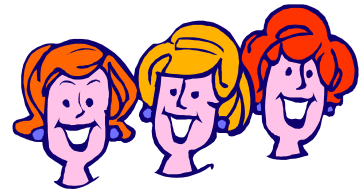
Special Worship Coordinator: Peggy Brown

Spiritual Advisor: Pastor Leslie

Women's News

"Early Autumn Sale"

September 5 - 10am-1:30pm
Luncheon 11am to 1pm
Chicken Salad Plate
Fresh Baked Pie
Coffee, Tea or Punch
Cost: \$6.00
Takeout: \$6.50



"Octoberfest Sale"

October 3 - 10am-1:30pm
Luncheon 11am to 1pm
Homemade Goulash
Fresh Baked Pie
Coffee, Tea or Punch
Cost: \$6.00
Takeout: \$6.50

Please remember items you no longer need are still accepted. Please be sure they are in reusable and clean condition. Please no electronics.

Church Women United of the Tonawandas

Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon
Friday, September 14 at 12 noon
St. Paul's United Church of Christ—Shawnee
4529 Mapleton Road
N. Tonawanda, NY

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex

Come to the PW Fall Gathering!

Saturday, September 29
10:30am - Registration

Maryvale Presbyterian Church
425 Maryvale Drive, Cheektowaga

Topic: "God is With Us in Times of Trouble"

Cost of Lunch: \$7.00

Sign up sheet in the Narthex



It's **September** – that time of the year when we get back into a regular routine. The kids are back in school, worship returns to the 11am hour, Moving-Up Day for Sunday School takes place & we settle in for Fall weather, football games & looking for jackets!

That is – for some of us it's back to routine. For others of us there have been changes in our lives over the past few months. Things are **not** the same. It's hard to look forward. We might feel lonely, lost or a bit confused. We might not know where to start or how to turn around. We can't see the light any more.

Why not consider a Stephen Minister to walk with you through those uncertain times. How about a "prayer partner & special friend" to assist you along the way? The dedicated group of Stephen Ministers has been "called, prepared & is waiting" to hear from you. Galatians 6:10 says, "***Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone – especially to those in the family of faith.***"

We **are** a Family of Faith. We do care about **YOU!**

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

Happy Birthday to our Church Family who celebrate their birthday in September and October.
Thank GOD For You!

September

2 Alvin Marohn	13 Pastor Leslie Latham
2 Georgia Anson	13 Cheryl Yurek
3 J. William Haley	17 Bonnie Sibley
4 Matthew Vittum	24 Peggy Hess
8 Kathleen Nolan	27 Melissa Erikson
11 Johnathan Liberti	28 Jane Crossan
11 Sarah Hankinson	29 Alice Hils

October

2 Pat Decillis
8 Kathy Greenawalt
14 Jacob Nolan
27 Tom Dugan
27 Judy Winters



Memory Lane Respite Program

Thank the Lord! Our first session was a great success and a wonderful experience for all involved. We had three guests with very different personalities and challenges, yet all participated in the many activities and enjoyed themselves.

We started with snacks and a “get to know you” time. Conversation flowed and we got to know many things about our guests. One has 6 boys and loves trains. Another hates to color. Yet another likes airplanes and loves to talk!

We did a craft – making prayer beads – with varying degrees of skill and a lot of laughter. We all sat around the parlor dining room tables and batted balloons with pool noodles. This really brought one of our guests out of his reserve! We experienced a LOT more laughter and worked up appetites.

Lunch was very tasty and filling. Everyone enjoyed the chicken/pasta salad, watermelon, rolls, lemonade, and brownie. We were all fueled up and ready for bingo! We made certain that every guest won – some twice – and they chose prizes from a well-stocked prize table. Everyone agreed that we needed to spend a little more time on bingo!

We had an exercise time. We sat in our chairs and drove our imaginary cars and prepared imaginary food. Then, we had a sing-a-long. We sang many old favorites, including “Bicycle Built for Two”, “America the Beautiful”, “I’m a Yankee Doodle Dandy”, and many more. Everyone sang “with vigor”, as Lance would say!

We ended the day with a quick snack and said our good-byes. The spouses who came to gather their loved ones all expressed their heartfelt appreciation for this ministry. One said that her husband prefers the programs offered by churches because there is more love there. He can feel the difference! What a testimony!

So we do it all again next month! We hope to have more guests. We will have some different activities, repeat some favorites, and hopefully have a therapy dog on hand. If this report has stirred something in you, please consider volunteering. You don’t have to come every month; you do this at your convenience. Contact any team member

Deacon’s Notes



Tonawanda School Mission Project

School is back in session and the Deacons are teamed up with the Tonawanda Elementary Schools again to provide much needed clothing to needy children. Either a monetary donation or clothing donation is acceptable. A list of needed clothing items is posted in the Narthex. There is also a tote in the Narthex where you can drop off any donations. Please see Jane Crossan or Leslie Dugan with any questions you may have. Thank You For Your Continued Support!

SUB SANDWICH LUNCHEON RETURNS

On Sunday, October 14 at 12:15pm, the Deacons will be hosting a Sub Sandwich Luncheon. Bring a can of beef stew, chili, baked beans or hearty soup for donation to Hearts For The Homeless. Monetary donations are also welcome and will be used for the Mission Trip to Puerto Rico.



THANKSGIVING FRUIT BASKETS

The holidays will be here soon, so please mark this date on your calendar and come and help assemble the fruit baskets for our shut-ins:

Saturday, November 17 at 9:00am.



RALLY DAY: Sunday, September 9

Plan to meet your teachers in the dining room next to the parlor at 9:30am.

We have lots of fun activities planned for you this year. We look forward to seeing all of you again. Bring your friends!



Youth Usher:

September 2 & 30

October 28

Christian Education Meeting:

Monday, Sept 17 and Monday, Oct 15

6pm

(Parents & Teachers are always welcome)

Confirmation

We are thrilled to have a confirmation class this year, with as many as 10 students! We have a new Presbyterian curriculum called *Big God, Big Questions*, and each student and family has been invited by letter to participate. The youths are choosing their mentors—an adult from the congregation who will be a partner in the process, sharing their faith journey, developing bonds and having some fun. We will have “field trips” and excursions, some breaking of bread together, and then begin class in 2019. If a youth asks you to be a mentor, please talk with Pastor Leslie about it, pray, and then I hope you say yes!



MUSIC:

It's with sad hearts that we now face the task to find a new Minister of Music.

However, be assured that we are actively seeking candidates for an interview with a team of members dedicated to finding someone to "move us in the Spirit with God's music!"

CUSTODIAN:

Our capable & dedicated Mike Donovan has resigned to spend more time with his family. Therefore, we are also looking for someone to fill that void in order to keep our church looking "spit-spot!"

Human resources depends upon your prayers & community interactions to spread the word while we advertise in the Presbytery Newsletter & various publications. We'll even utilize the church's sign outside to make our needs known!

In the meantime, please help us keep our church clean & neat by coming in as you can, to do a task & initialing the schedule to indicate it's completed. We've done this in the past & it has worked well.....your dedication & love of our place of worship shows! **Please HELP!**

Glory to God Hymnals

A huge thank you to those who have donated to the music fund in Marla Maertins memory. We already have enough to purchase a goodly number of *Glory to God* hymnals, but still need more. Please note on an envelope or in the memo line of your check if you would like to make a donation (\$20 per hymnal). Of course, if you would like to give a hymnal in honor or memory of someone else, we would welcome that as well.



Worship Assistants

Greeters: September

2 Diane & Bob Eshelman
9 Janet, Sue & Jessica Schurr
16 Tom & Leslie Dugan
23 Yurek Family
30 Jane Crossan & Ruth Gebera

Greeters: October

7 Nancy Dietrich
14 Yurek Family
21 John Faux
28 Andrea, Ryan & Renée Tasevski

Ushers: September

2 Team 1
9 Team 2
16 Team 3
23 Team 4
30 Team 1

Ushers: October

7 Team 2
14 Team 3
21 Team 4
28 Team 1

Usher Teams

-Team 1(Youth)

William Welch, Jessica Schurr, Kelsey Burns

-Team 2

Mary Ferro, Tom Dugan, Leslie Dugan, John Faux,
Linda Barry

-Team 3

Randy Marohn, Bill Haley, Bonnie Zimmer, John
Greth, Larry Rayner

-Team 4

Brian Burns, Diane Charsley, Alvin Marohn,
Laura Marohn

Liturgists: September

2 Marilee Mathias
9 Tom Dugan
16 Nancy Rolando
23 Nancy Bassett
30 Janet Haacker

Liturgists: October

7 Lynette Ryan
14 Alvin Marohn
21 Bonnie Zimmer
28 Mackintosh Barker

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.

November-December Newsletter Articles DUE: October 16, 2018

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

September 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 10a Informational Meeting-Mission Trip to Puerto Rico-12 noon	3 Labor Day AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	4 Deacons 1p	5 Circle II "Early Autumn Sale" 10a-1:30p	6 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p Worship Mtg 3p	7 UFO 7P	8
9 Rally Day 9:30am Sunday School 9:30a Worship/Communion 11a	10 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p Mission/Outreach Team 6p	11	12 Circle II 9a	13 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p	14 Church Women United Annual Mtg & Luncheon 12p UFO 7P	15
16 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	17 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p CE Mtg 6p Session 7p	18 Memory Lane 10:30a-2:30p	19 Circle II 9a Healing Service 6:30p	20 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p	21 UFO 7P	22
23 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	24 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	25	26 Circle II 9a	27 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p	28 UFO 7P	29 PW Fall Gathering 10:30a
30 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Mission Sunday						

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	2 Deacons 1p	3 Circle II "Octoberfest Sale" 10a-1:30p	4 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p	5 UFO 7P	6
7 Sunday School 9:30a Worship/Communion 11a World Communion Day	8 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	9	10 Circle II 9a	11 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p Worship 3p	12 UFO 7P	13
14 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Sub Sandwich Luncheon – 12:15pm	15 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p CE Mtg 6p Session 7p	16 Memory Lane 10:30a-2:30p	17 Circle II 9a Healing Service 6:30p	18 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p	19 UFO 7P	20
21 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	22 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	23	24 Circle II 9a	25 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p	26 UFO 7P	27
28 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Reformation Sunday	29 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	30	31 Circle II 9a			



Elders

Class of 2019

Linda Barry, Diane Charsley, Pat Loeswick,
Nancy Rolando

Class of 2020

Tom Dugan, Betsy Crocker

Class of 2021

Laura Marohn, Mary Ferro

Deacons

Class of 2019

Donna Blinston, Jane Crossan, Leslie Dugan,
Lynette Ryan

Class of 2020

Judy Geerkin, Alvin Marohn, Marlene Tyrrell

Class of 2021

Lynn Hyland

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