

TIDINGS

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Healing Creation to Wholeness

Lake Mead near Las Vegas is drying up. The people in the west can no longer use the Colorado River without collaborative planning by several western states. Wildfires and extreme heat are happening in Europe with roads melting, bridges buckling, and the polar ice caps are retreating even more quickly, driving animals in the arctic to migrate even further to find food and shelter. All of this has sparked renewed debates about climate change and what to do, now.

As I have listened and read about the debates and the inaction of leaders around the world, I read an article about the April 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora on a remote island of Sumbawa in the Indian Ocean. This eruption and the disasters caused by it were experienced locally as if a war was being waged on the ocean and according to a witness on an island about ten miles to the south, the entire mountain appeared to turn into "liquid fire". Stones of pumice more than six inches in diameter began to rain down on neighboring islands and violent hurricane like winds and tsunamis began hitting the coasts of neighboring islands swamping and destroying villages, killing tens of thousands of people. Yet, the effects of this volcanic eruption also had a global impact as the dust spewed upwards into the atmosphere carried around the world by air currents, leading to in 1816 the year without summer as crops failed and famine spread around the world.

Here in Baldwinsville, this climate disaster was felt as frosts occurred in every month with crops dying and hunger spreading throughout the community, especially among the Oneida tribal community. Women of First Presbyterian Church met to address the needs of the community collecting food, cloth, and other necessities. They were acting to heal the community by preventing people from going hungry and from getting the diseases that follow famines. Of course, this was the start of the Female Charitable Society that is still, more than two hundred years later, working to address specific needs of the Baldwinsville community and in doing so is living out the second great command to "love our neighbors as we love ourselves."

Yet, the Female Charitable Society's story is tied to the larger story of healing creation to wholeness found in the story of the birthday of the world from the Jewish mystical tradition Kabbalah as told by Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen in a Commonweal interview two years ago,

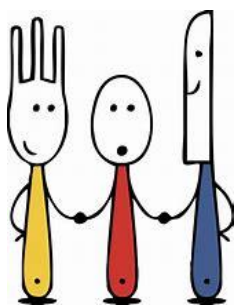
"In the Beginning there was only the Holy Darkness, the source of life. And then, sometime in the history of things, the world as we know it, the world of a thousand things emerges as a ray of light from the heart of the Holy Darkness. And then there is an accident and the vessels containing the wholeness of the world break open and the wholeness of the world is scattered into billions and billions of sparks of light and wholeness. These sparks



of wholeness fall into all things, all people, all institutions, all organizations where they remain deeply hidden until this very day.

The whole human race is a response to this accident. We each were born with the capacity to discern the hidden wholeness in all things, all people, all events, and institutions. We can nurture it and strengthen it; we can lift it up and make it visible once again and thereby we can restore the world back into its original wholeness. This is a collective task involving all the people who have ever lived, all the people presently alive, and all the people yet to come. We can do this not because we are doctors, artists, or writers but simply because we are human beings. So, we share a collective purpose-the Tikkun Olam: we were born to restore the wholeness of the world. You might say that no matter what our "life work" is, we all have a single work," which is to heal creation to wholeness.

We do this work when gathering together like the church women who started the Female Charitable Society and kept it going for 200 years, we do this when we support local farmers who grow food for us, we do this when we treat every person we meet with kindness and respect, when we plant trees and gardens, when we write letters calling our state and federal representatives to act to address climate change, and we do this when we seek ways to connect our light of wholeness with the light of wholeness in others wherever they are in the world, remembering that if we love God with the entirety of our being, then we must love all our neighbors throughout the world.



Community Dinners are Back!

Our Community Dinners will resume on September 1st, and will be held the first Thursday of each alternate month thereafter. Our last dinner was held in early March 2020, right

before the pandemic hit. We served an Irish themed dinner to 131 people, who were grateful for the food and the socialization. This will be our first post-pandemic dinner and we will offer sit-down meals with only 4 people to a table. Take-outs will also be available for folks who are not comfortable being close to others. The dinners are free to all and are funded by the deacons (and optional donations from our patrons). As in the past, the dinners will not be advertised to the general public. Our publicity is targeted to St. Mark's Community Dinner patrons, Conifer Village, PEACE, St. Mary's Apartments and the Baldwinsville Food Pantry. If you would like to help out, please contact Barb Winegard.



August Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 02 – Lindsay Demer | 17 – Robert Smith |
| 02 – Joanne Rodriguez | 22 – Peggy Suddaby |
| 03 – Luke McCoy | 29 – Mary Hamilton |
| 05 – Jonah Offredi | 29 – Ralph Loomis |
| 06 – James Pelcher | 30 – Beth Calnon |
| 09 – Heidi Henderson | 30 – Pat Dickman |
| 15 – Mallory Offredi | 30 – Allan Henderson |
| 16 – Jack Alt | 31 – Joann Adsit |
| 19 – Bob Lasher | 31 – Kathy Bowen |

Add your or a loved one's birthday or anniversary date to our list by contacting the church office.

August Anniversaries

- 07 – Vince & Pam Keckison
- 11 – Jack & Marla Barton
- 26 – Bill & Wanda Wachob

The August Calendar

Sundays 10 am
Worship in the sanctuary



Mondays 6:30 p.m.
Bell practice in the Sanctuary

Mon., Aug. 1
7 p.m. – Acts of the Apostles Bible Study,
Zoom

Tues., Aug. 2
1:30 p.m. – Music & Worship, Media Center

Weds., Aug. 3
11 a.m. – Acts of the Apostles Bible Study,
Media Center

Fri., Aug. 5
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. – Rummage Sale

Sat., Aug. 6
9:00 a.m. - Noon – Rummage Sale, Bag Sale

Sun., Aug. 7
10 a.m. – Communion
2 p.m. – Communion at Buckley Landing

Tues., Aug. 9
7:00 p.m. – Session, Media Center

Tues., Aug. 16
7:00 p.m. – Deacons, Media Center

Aug. 7 – Luke 12:32-40
Aug. 14 – Luke 12:49-56
Aug. 21 – Luke 13:10-17
Aug. 28 – Luke 14:7-14

2022 Board of Deacons

Peg Brussel	Pam Keckison	Martha Stevens
Marge Calkins	Matt McGivney	Peggy Suddaby
Mark Chamberlin	Marty Pond*	Barb Winegard
Heidi Henderson	Joanne Rodriguez	
	*Moderator	

From the Deacon's Desk



- We will continue to support the Bee Full program at Baker High school this summer- they are asking for Aldi's gift cards please contact Marty Pond at 315-440-0779 with any questions.
- Our 1st Community dinner for 2022 will be Thursday, September 1st- more information to follow but please mark your calendars.
- Our Ham dinner will be Saturday, October 8th. It will most likely be a drive-thru which is what other churches in our community are doing. Lots more information to come but as the saying goes "Many hands make light work". We hope many people will volunteer to help.
- Please remember to reach out to any Deacon if you know of anyone who needs a friendly phone call or maybe a "thinking of you" card.

Remember in Your Prayers & Correspondence,

since our last newsletter

- ♡ **GRIEVING**
Doris Hildebrandt and her family, upon the loss of her brother, Robert Becker
- ♡ **HEALTH CHALLENGES**
Barry Bullis
Nancy Dobbins
Anthonia Todd

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Generally, names remain on the prayer list for one month. Please let the church office know if you wish otherwise.



“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken.” – James Dent

The Rummage Sale is scheduled for August 5 & 6! The Fellowship Hall is filling up with lots of treasures for sale. Hopefully we will have another successful sale this year.

Volunteers are needed to work at the sale on August 5 & 6. If interested, please call Kathy Bowen at 315-638-8749.



Let's Keep Recycling!

Paper, deposit bottles and empty printer cartridges can be put into special receptacles in the church and CE Center entryways. Deposits provide funds for the CE program. Recycling of cartridges provides us with money for office supplies.

In addition, each month we are credited with 10-15% of our and your purchases at Staples! Just tell the cashier that your church is part of their Rewards Program.

Identity Statement
We are a loving family of God, following Christ by practicing our legacy of worship, education, and mission to neighbors.

From the Mailbox

Thank you so much to the Church for the scholarship money to help fund my future academics. I am so thankful for the generosity from the Church!

-Rachel Bayer



Please note:
Childcare will not be available during worship for the month of August. It will resume in September.

Dear First Presbyterian Church-

Thank you to the Church and the Special Gifts Committee for honoring our daughter, Rachel, with scholarship money towards her college education. It is an honor to be considered part of the Church family and we truly appreciate your thoughtfulness!

-Elizabeth Bayer

Church Office - Education Center 64 Oswego St.

- Interim Pastor-----Rev. Dr. Carson O. Mouser
Administrative Assistant-----Elizabeth Bayer
Clerk of Session-----Stephanie Stine
Deacon Moderator-----Marty Pond
Director of Music & Choir-----Rheta Jenks
Organist -----Lee Johnston
Nursery School Director-----Jessica Newcomb