

TIDINGS

church office phone 315-635-9964 church office hours Monday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm
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Being An Authentic Community of Faith

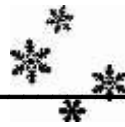
The Narrative transition process is focused on the congregation defining their identity as a community of faith. Yet, what do we mean by identity and how does the congregation define who they are and why they exist? Also, why is this important for calling an installed pastor?

First all identity whether an individual or a congregation are created by the events, facts and experiences of the individual or the congregation that are interpreted using the traditions, culture, community setting for both. For Christian congregations traditions include the Scriptures, the history of Christian churches, the denominational histories and theology and confessions and polity, the community within which the church is located be it rural, suburban, village, or urban and that community's history that includes economics, political, and social histories as well as how long the church has been part of the community and in what nation and hemisphere it is located within.

This interpretation becomes a narrative, a story that is told, re-told and re-told as well as being written and re-written and re-written over time as the people who are telling the story or writing the story take the same facts, experiences and events and the same interpretative elements of tradition, culture and community and emphasize one aspect or another of each of these elements to define who the congregation is for that moment in time. Identity includes not only who the congregation is, but why the congregation exists-the purpose of its being and this is described and defined every time the congregation's story is told.

Identity and the congregation's "Why" for existence prompts the self-aware congregation to do certain ministries and not to do other ministries by choosing to do those ministries that reflect their identity and their purpose for being in the particular community in which they dwell, so that people who witness their ministries understand who the congregation is. By choosing to do only those ministries that reflect their identity and purpose, the congregation is being authentically who they are and for folks who are seeking a church for worship and fellowship, authenticity is vitally important because they are seeking deeper relationships of substance as opposed to music that sounds nice or a theatrical performance by worship leaders. Congregations seeking to grow need to be authentically who they say they are, which is reflected in their words, worship, fellowship, and ministries.

*Happy
New
Year*



So, what does this have to do with calling a pastor? Congregations that seek to be authentic are better equipped to know the kind of person and pastoral skills needed by the person who seeks to pastor the church in partnership with the congregation. Additionally, congregation focused on their own authentic identity and purpose seek a pastor who themselves are authentically who they are and who respond to the uniqueness of a congregation with enthusiasm and a willingness to be a partner in ministry with the congregation. This means the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) are able to ask deeper questions of candidates and listen to candidates knowing who they are seeking and why they are seeking the particular person, God is sending to them.

We begin the narrative transition process in conversation with one another, which is what the informal small group meetings are designed to do. These conversations will begin defining who this community of faith is in the present moment because each person will tell the story of their experience and understanding of who the congregation is and how this has been reflected in ministries over the years each person has been a member of this community of faith. These stories will be told by answering the following nine questions:

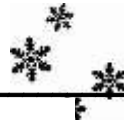
1. What has the church’s ministry of the last 60 years meant to you?
2. How have your expectations for the growth of the church’s ministry been met?
3. How did all of the pastors’ leadership influenced the church’s ministry? Or, not influence it?
4. What unmet expectations of the previous pastoral relationship are still present?
5. What changes to the church’s ministry either within the congregation or in mission of the congregation to the community, locally and globally would you make?
6. How will pastoral leadership and congregational leadership contribute to those changes?
7. What style of leadership is needed at this point in the congregation’s life?
8. What will the local community lose if this community of faith ceases to exist?
9. How does this community of faith contribute to the global Christian church?

Each small group’s answers to these questions will be compiled into a narrative document by me and sent out to each member of the congregation, electronically and mailed. This will allow everyone to know what others are thinking and may spark more conversations during the one-day retreat in February when you will continue the conversation and create a one sentence identity statement using concise, concrete and active voice words that every member of the congregation will know and use in conversations with friends, family and neighbors in the Baldwinsville community.

-Rev. Dr. Carson O. Mouser

Church Office – Education Center 64 Oswego St.

*Interim Pastor-----Rev. Dr. Carson O. Mouser
 Administrative Assistant-----Elizabeth Bayer
 Clerk of Session-----Linda McMahon
 Deacon Co-Moderators--Bea Boak, Marty Pond
 Director of Music & Choir-----Rheta Jenks
 Organist -----Lee Johnston
 Nursery School Director-----Jessica Newcomb*



**Nice Work
Nancy Dobbins!**

After more than 30 years of stellar service, Nancy Dobbins is retiring from her Financial Secretary role. Nancy and Diana Anastas have been the dynamic financial duo for our church for over 30 years. There are not enough words to convey our appreciation and thanks for their dedicated service. Thankfully, Diana will continue as a pillar of financial acumen for our church.

Also, we are blessed to have Andrea Ducharme volunteer for the Financial Secretary duties. Nancy has counted donations for over 15,000 Sundays and mailed over 10,000 statements to church members. Our church is appreciative and blessed to have benefited from her services. Please feel free to express your thanks to Nancy. Our best wishes go out to Nancy as she finishes her duties with the First Presbyterian Church of Baldwinsville.

News from Session

The tornadoes in many southern and midwestern states have left many in dire need of basic necessities. In addition, the First Presbyterian Church in Mayfield, KY was leveled during the storm and can use some help.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is working with those in the various communities hit by the tornadoes.

Session has approved the request by the Special Gifts Committee to generously pledge \$5000 as disaster relief for the Mayfield community. You can expect to see this information in the Presbytery Matters as well.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Presbyterian Church, Baldwinsville is 11 am Sunday, January 30 in the sanctuary.



Angel Tree

The giving tree with the beautiful doves was a huge success thanks to the generosity of our church members.

We gave gifts to an entire family at Baker High School as well as multiple gifts to PEACE Incorporated in Baldwinsville.

In the spirit of giving the Deacons delivered cookies to several of our shut ins.

2021 Session Elders

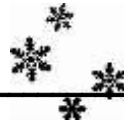
Tricia Adams	Andy Brussel	Linda McMahon*
Harry Boak	Victor Jenkins	Rush Pond
Jeanne Le Porte		Stephanie Stine
		*Clerk



January Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 05 – Megan Gruppe | 18 – Shane Adams |
| 07 – Beth Soeder | 20 – Pam Loomis |
| 08 – Lauren Benedetti | 21 – Heather McCoy |
| 08 – Lynn Brussel | 30 – Roberta Roloff |
| 09 – Tricia Adams | 31 – Barbara Church |
| 12 – Kathleen Prah | |

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



What is on the Calendar?

Sundays 10 am

Worship in the sanctuary

Mondays 7 pm

Boy Scout Troop 107
Fellowship Hall

Fridays 10:00 am

Bible Study in Media Center
(temporarily postponed)
~ ~ ~

Sun. Jan. 2 – 10 am

Communion

Mon. Jan. 3

1 pm - Music & Worship
5:45 pm - Girl Scout Troop 60735

Thurs. Jan. 6

Annual Reports are due

Tues. Jan. 11 – 7pm

Baldwinsville Student Travel Club

Wed. Jan. 12 – 6-8 pm

Girl Scout Troop 60867

Mon. Jan. 17 – 5:45

Girl Scout Troop 60735

Tues. Jan. 18

1-3 pm- Meals on Wheels Board Meeting
7 pm - Deacons

Wed. Jan. 19 – 1 pm

Female Charitable Society

Sun. Jan. 30 – 11 am

Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary

January 2 – John 1: (1-9) 10-18
January 9 – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 16 – John 2:1-11
January 23 – Luke 4:14-21
January 30 – Luke 4:21-30

***Remember in Your Prayers
& Correspondence,***

since our last newsletter

- ♡ Rev. Jeanine Haven
- ♡ HEALTH CHALLENGES
Barry Bullis
Nancy Dobbins
Megan Jenkins (achilles tear)
- ♡ RECEIVING ASSISTANCE AT A CARE FACILITY
Marion Sleight
- ♡ SERVING IN THE MILITARY
Ethan Derr (Marines), Connor Murphy (Navy)

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

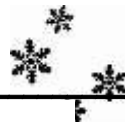


Live Streaming is a Success!

We have been Live Streaming for two months now and we have had 206 views since it began! We have also heard that people enjoy having the bulletin posted online so that they can follow along as if they were attending in person.

The link to watch live is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBy7tnxX963budG6uoW0anw>. If you would like a copy of the link emailed to you, please contact the office at admin@presbville.com.

<u>2021 Board of Deacons</u>		
Bea Boak*	Heidi Henderson	Joanne Rodriguez
Peg Brussel	Pam Keckison	Martha Stevens
Marge Calkins	Matt McGivney	Peggy Suddaby
Mark Chamberlin	Marty Pond*	Barb Winegard
	* Co-Moderators	



What have the Boy Scouts been doing?

In the month of November, Troop 107 had been very active, making the most of any warm weather we may have left. In the beginning of the month, we drove up to Highland Forest and spent the day orienteering, where scouts used a compass and map to navigate their way to different checkpoints all over the campgrounds. However, some scouts decided to stay overnight in the snowy outdoors. We spent time doing mad libs while eating chili around the fire before heading to bed where everyone huddled up in their tents, braving the cold night air. In the morning there was french toast waiting for everybody before people started heading out. Troop 107 also helped out at the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) building's monthly breakfast as per usual. Every third Sunday we help out from 8 to 11 by cleaning tables, welcoming guests, and taking out the trash. The BSA also welcomes a new eagle scout, Ryan P! Due to COVID, many eagle ceremonies had to be postponed, but thankfully these hard-working young people like Ryan are getting the credit they deserve for their amazing accomplishments.

Finally, to kick off December, our troop participated in the Parade of Lights right here in the village of Baldwinsville. We got together, strung lights up on a trailer, and had a good time spreading holiday cheer while waving at the passing crowds. Our troop now can look forward to spending the holidays together and doing more exciting activities throughout December and January.

-Jamie Gruppe



Our Vision Statement

We commit to be a church that fosters spiritual growth and biblical knowledge to fulfill God's calling to be disciples of Christ. We will transform into a mission-focused congregation.

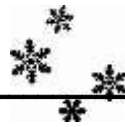


On December 11, twelve of our church members worked at the Samaritan Center. We spent the day preparing, serving and cleaning. Because of the pandemic, many clients take their meal out. Starting Dec 13 all meals will be take out. The clients are needy people and it is rewarding to help them. We hope to do a meal again.

- Kathy Bowen



*In order to be number one,
you have to be odd!*



Nursery School News

The craft fair was a big success for PNS. We had 30 vendors that reserved spots, which earned us around \$800-900. We are waiting for the final check from the event coordinator. Every year we also have extra cookie dough from our sale and I used that to bake cookies that we sold. In addition to those things, vendors donated an item to be raffled off. Between the cookies and raffle tickets we made another \$391!

The feedback from vendors and attendees was very positive and we were pleased with how well this first-time event went.

- Jessica Newcomb, Director, PNS

What is a liturgist?

A liturgist is an active member of the Sunday Worship team. It is a great opportunity to experience the coordination of scripture, sermon message, and music messages. It is a good way to become familiar with the order of worship and share the Gospel with our church family. It is a really good way of learning more about our reason to worship.

If you are willing to take advantage of this opportunity, please call the office and volunteer for a Sunday. You may also speak with Rheta Jenks to set a date on the liturgist calendar. (Rheta is the "unofficial" attendance taker on Sunday mornings - she is keeping track to be sure people can be advised of any Covid exposure.)

Please give this task some prayerful thought and join our worship team.

A Few Musical Notes to Share!

Hallelujah! Our bells are back in church.



Last summer we found that our handbell storage cases were mildewed. This was a result of warm, humid weather conditions and lack of use due to Covid restrictions. Several bells suffered damage to the surface and many had mildew evidence on the internal structure.

The bells were taken to Schulmerich Bell Company in Hatfield, Pennsylvania where they were originally crafted. Since bells need occasional maintenance our special gifts committee agreed to fund the refurbishment. During the work to repair the bells, a delay was caused by Covid. The person in charge of final tuning and quality assurance caught the virus and was quarantined. Fortunately, however, some of the repairs were covered by warranty from Schulmerich from previous work. While we missed the beauty and inspiration from our bells, I am grateful for the financial aid from our church to bring the bells back to quality. Also, I appreciate the dedication of our bell ringers to come and practice with handchimes to keep our playing skills up to date.

It is my prayer that we will bring musical inspiration to our worship in the coming years. Please consider joining our ringers to become a part of this activity. For information about ringing, call me at 315-635-3291.

May God bless our church as we come together to worship.

-Rheta Jenks, Music Coordinator

P.S. We purchased new bell cases to store the renewed bells----and the cases have wheels!

