

THE CHRISTIAN CONNECTION

The Good News from Parma Greece United Church of Christ

"No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life's journey, you are welcome at PGUCC"

November 2014



Thoughts from the Moderator

Valley Forge 2014

Recently, Sue and I traveled to Valley Forge to enjoy some time together and participate in a remembrance and celebration service with other DAR folks from Pa, NY, and Maryland at the Valley Forge Episcopal Church.

As we toured the Valley Forge encampment overlooking the training grounds, there was a large statue of Friedrich von Steuben. He was a sturdy man of military Prussian stock who arrived from France on February 23, 1778 with a letter a recommendation from Ben Franklin (French ambassador) for George Washington. George could see that he would be able to train the farmers with military discipline, tight quarter fighting, musket loading, and marching. He wrote the 1st military regulation "blue book".

When he arrived, the army that started with 10,000 men in December ended up with 2,500 dead from disease and 1/3 discharged or deserted, which left roughly 3,000 men capable of training. The men were ragged, malnourished, untrained for warfare, and in low morale. It is an amazing testament that one man forged an army in just 2 months of drilling from sun up to sun down every day.

The French allies came to visit Valley Forge on May 6, 1778 and were greeted by orderly marching formations and men that were ready to battle for their freedom. Von Steuben spoke French and German and a little broken English. Yet his spirited voice was heard in the camp above the fray ordering the daily drills.

Congress finally provided funds for pay and clothing, foraged food stocks, and discipline instilled by Von Steuben; the men were ready for the English. He surprised the American officers, typically from Harvard, Columbia, and Yale, because he worked directly in the trenches with the soldiery. He worked without pay or rank.

Sue and I observed ,on Sunday, a large group of German Americans that were gathered around Von Steuben's statue listening to speeches overlooking the fields that were once training grounds. His presence did more to the American cause and morale than what the Congress and American officers could do.

America seems to get what it needs for leadership in a time of crisis. In the winter of 1620, Squanto trained and saved the pilgrims through the first 3 winters in Plymouth, Lincoln saved the union, and Roosevelt guided the world through WW2. Once again humanity is challenged across many fronts with Ebola and endless wars in the middle east where America can help and lead.

Christ became our example of compassion, discipline, and leadership. I Peter 2:21.

Now there are four people that are my favorites; my wife, Jesus, Lincoln, and von Steuben. I bet if von Steuben and Lincoln were to share stories together in front of a fireplace it would be a night filled with uproarious laughter!

In Christ,
Roger



Not long ago, while search for a book, I came across a book of prayers that I had not opened in a while. It is by Kenneth G. Phifer titled **A Book of Uncommon Prayer**. Thumbing through it I found a Prayer for Thanksgiving Day which I found interesting. As the days of November move toward our own Thanksgiving, I hope you will give his prayer some thought. I share a portion with you.

*"I will praise the name of God with a song:
I will magnify him with thanksgiving."*

So wrote the Psalmist long ago.

*I am grateful, O Lord, for all the impulses to praise you
which come to me in life.*

*Even in the discouragement of some situation wherein I feel
helpless and totally inadequate,*

I feel the impulse to grow and do the best I can.

Amid the pain and the hurt that life can bring,

*I find solace and comfort that come to me from
friends and loved ones.*

Just at the time I feel most alone,

*there are evidences of the concern of others
and assurances of your Presence.*

I am not always conscious of these realities, God...

*I withdraw from life around me,
take pity on myself for misfortunes
and feel no desire to praise.*

*Then I am startled into a new awareness
by a flower, a song, a persistent friend, a gift, a smile.*

*Almost in spite of myself I am lifted up
and lifted out into thanksgiving and life begins again*

*I am thankful, O God, that you keep prodding me
and pushing me into joy and celebration.*

*I am thankful for spoken word and silent gestures,
for laughter and outstretched hands,
for back-door mercies and winding graces that enwrap me...*

*I am thankful for the music of the heart
and music of the human voice...*

I will praise your name, O Lord, with a song.

I will magnify you with thanksgiving.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Blessings
Pastor Kurt+*



As is our tradition, we will recognize the Saints that have passed away during the last year on All Saints Sunday, November 2th. Please pass the names of the Saints you would like to be read (or any names you would like to be removed from the list) during our service to Pastor Kurt by Thursday, October 30.

THE BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

Thanksgiving Breakfast



The PGUCC Annual Thanksgiving Breakfast will be held November 23rd at 8:30 a.m. All are invited. Our Kitchen Krew will supply pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage. If you are able, please bring a dish of your choice to share.

A sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board. If you are not able to sign up, but wish to attend, please contact Sue Wyant at 392-9497.

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO..

- 5 Beth Mueller
- 12 Ray Schrieb
- 14 Mike Wyant
- 16 Richard Dawkins
- 25 Tom Wyant
- 29 Kay Perrine

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Is Your Pledge Up-To Date?

As we head into the Fall, our Boards and Committees are wrapping up their activities for 2014 and taking a look at their plans for next year. This includes the status of their 2014 budget items and thinking about their budget requests for 2015.

A key part of our church's finances is your annual pledge. Currently, the pledge income is about 6-7% behind what we would have expected to receive by this time in the year.

The Financial Secretary will be providing you with the total amount that you have contributed.

Please take a moment to review the status of your pledge. If your pledge is up-to-date, "Thank You" for your support. If you have not fulfilled your pledged amount and you are able, please consider fulfilling your pledged contribution.

Thank You

THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT



November 2nd
 (November's first Sunday)
 We'll all get together
 And have a real fun day

With your Halloween costume
 inside a sack
 after Kid's Sermon
 we'll head to the back

we'll change into costume
 then go to the kitchen
 where cookies are waiting
 for frosting bewitching

then onto the fellowship
 hall where you'll stay,
 a few spooky games
 wait to be played

if you have any questions
 please give us a call
 the Halloween party
 is open to ALL!

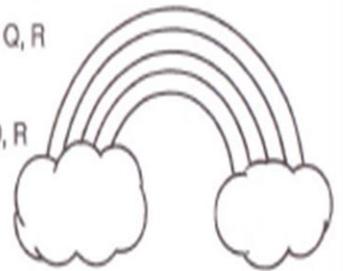
KID'S CORNER

There is a special Presence at work in the world.
 You can't see the Presence working.
 But you can see what the Presence has done.

What is this special presence?

Color in the spaces at these points. Find the answer.

- Row 1- A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, N, P, Q, R
- Row 2- A, F, H, J, L, N, P
- Row 3- A, C, D, F, H, J, L, P, Q, R
- Row 4- A, D, F, H, J, L, R
- Row 5- A, B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, P, Q, R
- Row 8- A, B, C, Q, R, S
- Row 9- A, E, F, G, O, R
- Row 10- A, B, C, E, G, I, K, L, M, O, R
- Row 11- C, E, F, G, I, K, M, O, R
- Row 12- A, B, C, E, I, K, L, O, R
- Row 13- E, I, K, M, O
- Row 14- I, K, M



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Church History



GIVING THANKS

“As President of the United States, George Washington proclaimed the first nation-wide thanksgiving celebration in America marking November 26, 1789, "as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God". [Thanksgiving was first celebrated on the same date by all states in 1863 by a presidential proclamation of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln proclaimed the date to be the final Thursday in November in an attempt to foster a sense of American unity between the Northern and Southern states.] Because of the ongoing Civil War, a nationwide Thanksgiving date was not realized until Reconstruction was completed in the 1870s. On December 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a joint resolution of Congress changing the national Thanksgiving Day from the last Thursday in November to the fourth Thursday.”

– Wikipedia

Our Church’s founding members rarely had time to celebrate Thanksgiving (or any holiday for that matter.) The challenges of everyday life kept them busy and focused on more practical things, like putting food on the table, planning for the future and staying warm and dry. We take it for granted that they celebrated as we do now, roasting a big turkey and sampling multiple pies. This was certainly not the case. But taking things for granted is human nature – we assume the people around us know we love them, we assume that our partners in work, church and community know we respect them, we assume our children know we appreciate their efforts. This Thanksgiving, let us take the time to “acknowledge with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God” as George Washington suggested. Pay someone a compliment. Tell someone you love them. Express your appreciation, whether face to face, in a letter, an email or over the phone. It could make a difference in their day, or even their life. Let’s not continue to assume they already know – let’s make sure they understand just how thankful we are to have them in our lives.

I’ll close this story with a recipe – taken from the 1906 PGUCC cookbook – there are no exact measurements – Mrs. Siebert naturally assumed you’d know....

TURKEY HASH – Reka Siebert

Remove the meat from the bones of a turkey and cut it into bits, stir this into white sauce, season to taste, make the stuffing of the turkey into meat cakes, fry them and arrange on the dish around the hash.

Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving – Jessilou Gage Vaccarelli, PGUCC Historian

THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS

“Blessed to be a Blessing,”

We are blessed, and by sharing our blessings, we become a blessing to others. Because through us, others can experience God’s presence in their lives and then pass on that blessing as well.

We are “blessed to be a blessing,” and that reminds me of the familiar camp song: “Magic Penny.” The chorus goes like this: “Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away, you end up having more.”

May we all experience God’s blessings and be a blessing to others.

You will soon receive a letter with a pledge card and information about our Stewardship Campaign and Stewardship Sunday. Please reflect how you are blessed and rejoice in this when you consider your financial commitment for 2015. Pledge cards will be collected and dedicated on November 9th. You may mail your pledge card to the church.



Blessed
TO BE A BLESSING.

“...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Gen 12:3

Frequently Asked Questions about Christian Stewardship and Pledging

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee. (I Chronicles 29:14)

What is Christian stewardship?

We define stewardship as “using the gifts that God gives us to do the work that God calls us to do.”

What is pledging?

Pledging is a commitment to give a certain amount of money to God's work through our church for the coming year, usually with an indication of how our gifts will be made (weekly, monthly, etc.), regardless of when you attend worship.

Why does the church ask us to pledge?

Pledging is a demonstration of faith in which the spiritual needs of individuals and the corporate need of the church body intersect. First, pledging provides people the opportunity to think about the place of money and the priorities in their lives. Second, the church is able to use the amount pledged as a basis for planning and keeping its annual budget.

What will my pledge go towards?

Your pledge will go to the Operating Fund. The “Operating Fund” operates the church such as compensating the church pastor and staff, and provides for many mission programs at local, national and worldwide levels.

Our Board of Trustees will be preparing a summary of our financial picture and 2015 budget with the information from the pledge cards.

Why should I give money to the church?

The church is the Body of Christ, and together we are able to do God's work in our world far beyond what could be done separately. We give *through the church* to God and God's work. In turn, the church provides a spiritual home – a place to worship, learn, and serve. As we are able, we have responsibility to support these ministries we share.

Can I change my pledge if my financial circumstances change?

Yes. We understand that things happen. Sometimes people realize they are able to give more than they originally pledged. Other times, they need to reduce or cancel their pledge. Pledges can be changed at any time.

Why should I pledge if I put money in the collection plate whenever I come to church?

To provide ongoing programs, we need to have predictable revenue. Our expenses for salaries, utilities, maintenance, and committed missions continue regardless of attendance. We cannot budget adequately based on fluctuating collection plate contributions. We hope that you feel called by God to be part of the sustained mission and ministry we provide.



The Board of Stewardship & Missions has recommended that Parma Greece adopt 3 families from the Greece area to receive a Thanksgiving Basket. We will need the following items for each basket:



Turkey & Roasting Pan
Potatoes
Stuffing Mix & Gravy
Cranberry Sauce

Bread or Rolls and Margarine
Vegetables
Milk & Coffee & Tea
Dessert

(Candles, napkins, candy and other seasonal items are optional)

(Any additional items will be donated to the Hilton Food Shelf for their Thanksgiving Baskets)



The Board of Stewardship & Missions asks our congregation each year for contributions to the gift bags for the guests at the Salem Nutrition Center. This year we are asking for “Socks for Salem”! We have promised 50 pairs of men’s socks for the gift bags. You may leave your donations in the in the Narthex by November 9. Thank you for making a happy Christmas to the guests of Salem.



Hilton Parma Emergency Food Shelf



Hilton- Parma Emergency Food Shelf
 P.O. Box 127
 Hilton, New York 14468



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY



When?

November 8, 2014

Where ?

Hilton DPW Garage
 50 Henry Street
 Hilton, NY 14468

Food will be distributed between 11AM- 1PM.



THE BOARD OF WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE

November Lectionary Readings

November 2, 2014 (31st Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Joshua 3:7-17, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 or

Micah 3:5-12, Psalm 43

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

November 9, 2014 (32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, Psalm 78:1-7 or

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24

Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 5:1-13

November 16, 2014 (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123 or

Zephaniah 1-7, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11), 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 23, 2014 (Reign of Christ)

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100 or

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

November 30, 2014 (First Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37



Time and Talents –November 2014



	Altar Care	Head Usher	Usher	Usher	Lector	Fellowship Hour	Nursery	Sunday School
November 2	P Dunning	R Perrine	D Harris P Dunning	J Hayward W McAuliff	M Zebulske	S Listman	M Harris	S Luyk
November 9	P Dunning	R Perrine	M Fess	M Harris	P Dunning	L Oster	S Luyk	J Vaccarelli
November 16	P Dunning	R Perrine	A Weitzel	R Weitzel	M Costantino	S McAuliff	M Fess	M Fess
November 23	P Dunning	R Perrine	E Romig	S Romig	Pastor Kurt	Thanksgiving Breakfast (Congregational Concerns)	M Harris	S Listman
November 30	P Dunning	R Perrine	S Luyk	R Mueller	J Hayward	K Traugott	L Oster	M Fess
December 7	M Costantino	M Zebulske	D Harris P Dunning	J Hayward W McAuliff	Pastor Kurt	S Romig	M Harris	

The following people are **Communion Ushers**

(P. Dunning, J. Hayward, S. Luyk, W. McAuliff, E. Romig, M. Zebulske, & T. Zebulske)
if you need a replacement for your assigned day.

If you are not able to carry out the assigned task or have switched days with someone, please let Pastor Kurt know by the Thursday of the week you are assigned.

PARMA GREECE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Rialdi & Ford Wedding 2 PM
2 Worship & Communion 10 AM <i>All Saints Day</i> Choir Sings Halloween Party Daylight Savings Time Ends	3 Trustees @7PM	4 Stewardship & Missions @ 7:30 PM	5 Worship & Spiritual Life @ 7 PM	6 Christian Development @ 7 PM	7	8 Congregation Concerns 9:30 AM
9 Worship 10 AM <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> Program Committee 11:15	10 Salem @ 10:30 AM Council @7PM	11 Veteran's Day	12 Supper & Study 6PM	13	14	15 Dec. & Jan. Newsletter Deadline
16 Worship 10 AM	17	18	19 Supper & Study 6PM	20	21	22
23 Worship 10 AM Choir Sings Thanksgiving Breakfast 8:30	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 Worship 10 AM First Sunday of Advent Advent Event						

PARMA GREECE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1211 Manitou Rd
Hilton, New York 14468
(585) 392-6120

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THE CHRISTIAN CONNECTION

The Good News from Parma Greece United Church of Christ
Our Faith Is Over 2000 Years Old, Our Thinking Is Not!

November 2014

Rev. Kurt Traugott

Office Phone - 392-6120

Home Phone - 730-7186

Cell Phone - 354-8825

E-mail: pastorrtk@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thur. 10-1 or
by appointment

Announcements and Prayer

Concerns:

Pastor Kurt - see above

Newsletter Contact:

Tina: 227-0937 or

TMZebulske@aol.com

