

# First Presbyterian Church of Mahopac- 2022 Newsletter #1



## CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION:

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## **From the Pastor's Desk**

### **Rev. Casey Carbone**

**I haven't watched cable television regularly since I left home to attend college. There's not much that interests me, and since I subscribe to a handful of streaming services, I can watch complete series whenever I want to. One of the series that I completed was Hawaii Five-0. Not the original 1968 version, but the 2010 reboot. For a procedural show, it has a good number of humorous or light moments, but one of the things that bothered me most was the plot holes that would arise repeatedly. If there were one criticism, it would be that, and it was pretty frustrating.**

**"What happened?" I would find myself saying to the television but never receiving an answer. It's a summary you might say for the past two years now that we have experienced as a church and as a community as a whole. "What happened?" is a question that we find ourselves asking. We can remember or name the highlights, trauma, or significant events, but everything that led up to these things seems to have vanished as if time just melted away or was washed away like the sand by the ocean.**

**I bring this up because I find myself praying to see where God is doing something new amidst all of these occurrences. Again, I come back to the words of the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah:**

**I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.**

**Isaiah 43:19, NRSV**

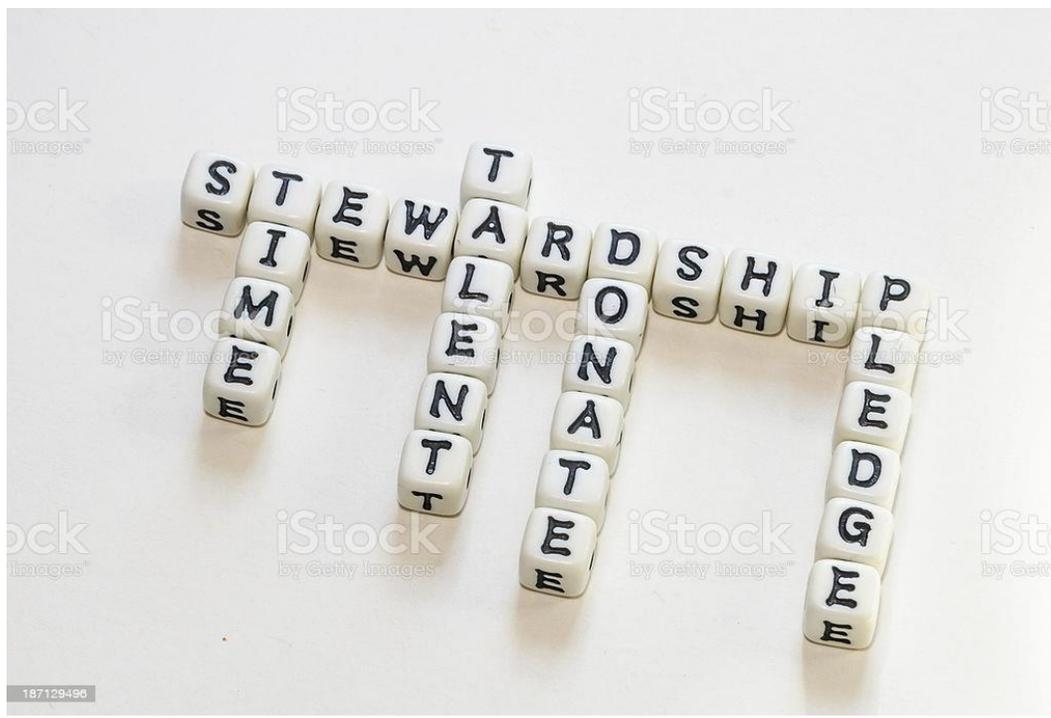
**Where is God doing something new? Where is it springing forth? On some days, these answers are crystal clear, and on others, I can't tell what is up or down or where God is trying to point me. I wonder if anyone else has felt this way over the past year. For me, it has highlighted the wonderful strides we've made in some areas and others the growing edges where we can live more faithfully as the people of God.**

**If you asked what popped out for me, it would be the need to reimagine our call to mission and fellowship. Now hold on..... First, this isn't a critique of what we've done, but rather a vision for our ministry after all the current pandemic times have passed. Second, I say this to inspire all of us to consider how we might take what we learned and apply it to our**

**commitment as disciples of Christ. There are occasions where we don't know everyone in the church, and there are still occasions where we want to envision our mission projects, but x, y, and z pops up that needs addressing.**

**How might each of us step into a new role in our gradual reemerging out of our hibernation? Perhaps it is through a discernment process on whether to become a deacon or an elder. Maybe it's a mission project you have in mind and are willing to help coordinate it with others' help? This is to say that our work in the new year is not possible unless the load is shared and we continue to create a space to imagine and reimagine what God is calling us to do in Mahopac and Putnam County.**

**That is my prayer for the new year, my resolution, would you be willing to join me, join us in that process?**



# **What keeps First Presbyterian together as a church family?**

**By Kathryn Cinquina**

**The quick answer to this is – of course- THE PEOPLE.**

**A church consists of a pastor who leads a group of friends and neighbors by providing a sense of community and a common goal of being a source of light in the world. We are all different people, of course. Different joys, problems, stresses, hopes, goals.....That is what makes life interesting.**

**There is also a small staff, who handle the more administrative tasks that enable the church to be a constant in people's lives.**

**Now, COVID has shaped and changed a lot of things in our church lives the last two years. We have tried to hold onto as many things as possible. It has not been always easy and sometimes we have had to put things on the back burner or let things go.**

**I am very proud of our church. But there is still more to do to stay on track.**

**We just had our annual Congregational Meeting. The various Committees presented their reports on the activities- or as it may be- "lack there-of".**

**Now, after reading through the individual reports, you may be thinking two things:**

**1). How does First Presbyterian have enough people to have committees??!! And**

**2). I hope I don't get asked to be on a committee!!!!**



**Well, the surprising thing is that most committees here at First Presbyterian consist of 1, 2, or 3 people.**

**Is it enough? YES**

**Is it enough to be truly effective? NO**

**If you knew what was involved, would you consider participating on a committee?**

**Because you want to be useful? Because you love your church? Because you like being a part of initiatives that help your church and the community?**

**Imagine the following pages as a virtual "Job Fair"- where each committee within First Presbyterian would have it's own table, advertising what they are about to see if it is something that peaks your interest, or stirs something within your heart.**





## **Table # 1-Audit Committee**

The internal church auditors review the church finances once a year. They meet with the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary to ensure that accounting books are in order. They also review the Endowment Fund and the Mahopac Falls Nursery School.

Let Kathy know if you are interested! [office@mahopacchurch.org](mailto:office@mahopacchurch.org)



## **Table # 2-Finance and Stewardship Committee**

This committee organizes the Stewardship Drive each Fall and asks the congregation for pledges to support the church's general budget. Organizes the schedule of congregation members to speak on Stewardship during the Sunday Service during the weeks of the pledge drive. They work with the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary and are also in charge of investing the church's Endowment money (with the support of Session). Lastly, they create the annual budget.

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### **Table # 3- Missions (Community Outreach)**

**This committee is a venture of Session, Deacons and congregation members. Initiatives under this committee include cooking for Jan Peek House in Peekskill and donating food and non-food items to Putnam CAP (Putnam Community in Action) in Brewster. Other missions include the organization of an Earth Day Clean-up in the community, group cleaning up, painting, and repair work for our own church buildings, etc. Past missions have included a trip to Maine with Habitat for Humanity to build housing!**

**This committee is for you if you look around the local church community and see a need and have ideas for pulling together and meeting that need.**

**Let Kathy know if you are interested! [office@mahopacchurch.org](mailto:office@mahopacchurch.org)**



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### **Table # 4- Buildings and Grounds**

**This committee acts like a “homeowner” and treats the church like their own property. Members care about maintenance, repairs, and proper upkeep of all three (3) church buildings and property. These include the Sanctuary, the CE Building (which houses the Church office, the Mahopac falls Nursery School, and the lower-level Community Meeting space), and the Manse- which is the residence of Rev. Casey.**

**Let Kathy know if you are interested! [office@mahopacchurch.org](mailto:office@mahopacchurch.org)**

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### **Table # 5- Fundraising**

**This committee does important work on two levels:**

- 1). Organizes events to benefit First Presbyterian directly- to further support financial obligations of the church and advance initiatives and goals.**
- 2). Organizes events with direct links to the community, furthering our reach and establishing our reputation of a church of friendly people. Our twice a year Community Tag Sales, our Rummage Sales, and Christmas Bazaar are well known and loved in the community.**

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### **Table # 6- Music & Worship Committee**

**This committee works with Rev. Casey, the Accompanist, and the Choir (when in effect) to facilitate a complete worship service. On a monthly basis, committee members help prepare the Lord's Table for Communion and stay on top of communion supplies. When applicable, this committee arranges for Pastoral or musical coverage in the event of vacations or some other need**

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**Let Kathy know if you are interested! [office@mahopacchurch.org](mailto:office@mahopacchurch.org)**

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## **Table # 7- Nominations Committee**

**This committee is elected during the annual Congregational Meeting. This committee meets 1-2 times to discuss possible candidates to fill empty Deacon and Session members seats, as members rotate off at the end of their terms. They then approach the candidate to gauge willingness to serve.**

**CURRENT MEMBERS for 2022:**

**Kathryn Cinquina, Maryann DeSanctis and Verna Lee**

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## **Table # 8- Christian Education**

**It is hoped that this committee can be relaunched in the near future to plan Sunday School. COVID really affected the participation of children in church and church life. This committee would be responsible for recruiting teachers and students and in vetting a Sunday School curriculum to service the age groups enrolled. With the guidance of Rev. Casey, this committee would be responsible for planning such activities as Rally Day (the kick-off of Sunday School), the Christmas Pageant, and the Children's Day Picnic.**

**Let Kathy know if you are interested! [office@mahopacchurch.org](mailto:office@mahopacchurch.org)**

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### **Table # 9- Communications Committee**

**This committee serves to connect congregation members within the church and to the outside community as well. This committee publicizes church news, fundraising events, community drives and special Church services. This is done through print media, e-mail communications, and Facebook.**

**Members: Kathryn Cinquina, Rev Casey, Suzanne Jand  
The office administrator would appreciate one or two more contributing members to the newsletter!**

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### **Table # 10- Personnel Committee**

**This committee oversees all paid church staff and conducts annual reviews (which are submitted to Session). When the need arises, the committee searches for and hires on a contractual "as needed" basis.**

**Let Kathy know if you are interested! [office@mahopacchurch.org](mailto:office@mahopacchurch.org)**

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### **Table # 11- Membership Committee**

**This committee is the Welcome Wagon for the church. They greet visitors and answer any questions they may have. They work to encourage membership and promote events like "Bring your Friend to Church" Sundays.**

**Member: REALLY- ALL OF US! WE CAN ALL SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR FRIENDLY CHURCH!**

**Kathryn Cinquina will gladly highlight opportunities for us all to do this throughout the year. But anyone who has ideas to share- please do!!!!**



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### **Table # 12- Nursery School Committee** **(Board of Directors)**

**This committee oversees the operations of the Mahopac Falls Nursery School which is housed in the Christian Education Building, and which was recently relaunched as a traditional care program with Full and Half Day programming, as well as a Before and After School Care Program for school age children.**

**Members: Karen Trovato, Sue Morris, Lloyd Williams**



## **Table # 13- Hospitality/Visitation Committee**

**This committee is essentially the Deacons. Responsibilities include staying in touch with sick and shut- in members and friends of the church-either via cards, e-mails or phone calls. Pre-Covid and hopefully one day soon, hospital visitation and at home visits to spread a little sunshine may resume.**

**This committee is also responsible for staying on top of supplies needed for church events, like our weekly Coffee Hour after church (currently on hold due to Covid). Once that is resumed, the members of this committee take turns setting up for Coffee Hour in the Library (or the CE Building basement for outdoor services) each week.**

**If you enjoy the "social" aspect of church life- with regard to serving and caring for others- this committee is for you.**

**Members: Briana Byrne, Maryann DeSanctis, Jessie Ralph, and Loretta Billington**

**Let Kathy know if you are interested! [office@mahopacchurch.org](mailto:office@mahopacchurch.org)**

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## **Jan Peek-**

**This monthly community outreach opportunity allows us to team up with people we know well- and- with those we don't know well but who are a pleasure to meet and work with!**

**We provide the evening meal for Jan Peek residents on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.**

### **JAN PEEK 2022**

#### **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

**Please email Kathy if you can help!**

**A full calendar=STEWARDSHIP!**

**VOLUNTEER FOR AN OPEN DATE WITH FRIENDS OR JOIN SOMEONE'S TEAM- JAN PEEK SERVICE IS AN EXCELLENT GROUP ACTIVITY!**

SATURDAY, 2/19/22- MELANIE L. AND HER DAD AND BARBARA

SATURDAY, 3/19/22- JIM, MARILYN, TONY AND DIANA

SATURDAY, 4/16/22- JOHANNA & ALAYNE'S BOOK CLUB

SATURDAY, 5/21/22- MARYANN D.

SATURDAY, 6/18/22- JOHANNA & KAREN'S BOOK CLUB

SATURDAY, 7/16/22-

SATURDAY, 8/20/22-

SATURDAY, 9/17/22- GINA A.

SATURDAY, 10/15/22- MELANIE L.

SATURDAY, 11/19/22-

SATURDAY, 12/17/22- CHRIS & ZOE H.



## **JAN PEEK (CONTINUED)**

### **A BIG Thank You to:**

Johanna, Karen, Ellen, Nancy & Nina, who provided the October meal.

Their menu consisted of: BBQ Chicken, Pulled Pork, Rolls, Apples, Potato Salad, Rice and Grilled Vegetables.

### **A BIG Thank You to:**

Gina, Melanie, Kim & Heather, who provided the November meal.

Their menu consisted of: Turkey, Meatloaf, Sausage Stuffing, Pasta, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Salad, Pumpkin Pie and Cookies.

### **A BIG Thank You to:**

Heather & Maryann, who provided the December meal.

Their menu consisted of: Pork Loin, Pizza, Sweet Potatoes, and Salad.

### **A BIG Thank You to:**

Heather & Johanna, who provided the January meal.

Their menu consisted of: Chili, Rice, Cornbread, Green Salad and Chocolate Chip and M & M cookies.



**~THE LAST FEW MONTHS IN PICTURES~**  
**OCTOBER, 2021-**  
**Outdoor Fellowship**





**NOVEMBER, 2021**  
**Talking about Stewardship and Planting**  
**Hopeful Seeds**





**DECEMBER, 2021**  
**Working together and putting on the Glitz**





# And.....Our First In-Person Indoor Christmas Bazaar since 2019 HAPPENED!





**AND.....In Person Christmas Eve happened too!!!**



**LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING MORE  
MEMORIES THROUGHOUT 2022!**

## **FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY AND A CHANCE TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY**



**Please, please, please donate cans of soup for the Gilead Presbyterian Food Pantry. Collection boxes are located in the front or back lobbies of the church building. The collection will run through Sunday, 2/27/22. You can also donate money to be sent to Gilead.**

**I report our numbers to a national Souper Bowl Sunday website- we are definitely running behind this year, but can make it up!**

**And FOUR WONDERFUL PRESBYTERIAN LADIES are making  
HOMEMADE soup to order:**

**All proceeds will benefit First Presbyterian.**

**Quart- \$10.00 each/ Pint- \$5.00 each**

**Choose from:**

**Pasta Fagioli**

**Split Pea**

**Butternut Squash**

**Chicken Noodle**

**Pre-payment - by cash, check or PayPal ONLY.**

**Orders are due by Sunday, 2/27/22- e-mail to:  
office@mahopacchurch.org. Pick-up details will follow.....**

## **A NOTE FROM THE MAHOPAC FALLS NURSERY SCHOOL-**



### **Welcome to February 2022!**

We are so excited and ready for all the fun learning activities we have planned for the month. We have added more academics into our daily learning to include numbers/math, making predictions, continuing to perfect our writing skills, letter identification (upper case vs. lower case), and beginning writing sight words.

It is now time to register for our Summer and Fall programs.

**Summer Camp Program:** We offer both half day as well as full day Summer camp options for children ages 2 years 9 months through 12 years old. The school hours are Monday through Friday 7am-6pm. The Summer camp has fun activities for your child to explore the outdoors, basic cooking lessons, arts and crafts, water play and so much more.

**Our Fall Program:** We will continue to offer a half day nursery school program. After we surveyed our parents, we are so excited to announce that our new hours have been extended to 9am-12pm. In addition, we will continue to offer a full day program and our hours are from 7am-6pm. We also offer Before and After school care for children enrolled in Kindergarten through 5th grade (Lakeview, Fulmar, and Austin Road Schools) The school is open for drop off as early as 7am, and we are open until 6pm each school day. We are also open when schools are closed for breaks, 2 hour delays, snow days and most school holidays.

**PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SO THE  
SCHOOL CAN GROW!**



**March 2, 2022- ASH WEDNESDAY**

**April 14, 2022- MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**April 15, 2022- GOOD FRIDAY**

**April 17, 2022- EASTER SUNDAY**

**Service details will follow.....**



**REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS  
AHEAD 1 HOUR ON BEFORE YOU GO TO BED  
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022**

HOPE NEVER LEAVES YOU IN THE  
DARK; IT'S A RAY TO LIGHTEN UP THE  
DARKNESS FROM YOUR LIFE.

HOPE NEVER FAILS.

