

Keeping in Touch



August 26, 2022

Pastor Karen Crawford

Tracy Henchey, Editor

First Presbyterian Church^{of} Smithtown

Letter from the Pastor



Dear friends,

We will welcome another member into our congregation and the Body of Christ through baptism this Sunday, Aug. 28. Perry Joseph Savarese, son of Amanda Booth and Thomas Savarese, will be our fourth baptism since May. We will ask God to bless him with all the spiritual gifts he will need to serve the Lord faithfully.

We have nearly finished our first summer in ministry together. Look what God has done! Let us rejoice in the Lord and give thanks for the power and unity of the Spirit with us. Let us not take for granted the blessing of children and young families in our congregation and always be grateful for the opportunity to be a blessing to our next generation—and make a difference in the world and the Kingdom of God.

Every baptism is an opportunity to show the love and welcome of Christ to friends and extended family of the one being baptized. Interestingly, hospitality—caring for strangers—is part of the lesson in our reading in Hebrews this Sunday. “Let mutual love continue,” says Hebrews 13:1-2. “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” What a motivation to show hospitality—because the strangers may be angels in our midst, as they were for Abraham long ago.

And speaking of making a difference in the world by caring for the next generation. We are seeking a teacher (or a couple of teachers who could take turns) to lead our middle school Sunday School class beginning Sept. 11. That God has entrusted them to us is a great blessing and responsibility for our congregation—not to be taken lightly. These are our church families, and these students are precious children of God!



Perry Joseph Savarese

If you are considering serving in our Sunday School this fall, you will be supported in your teaching ministry by other longtime teachers and your pastor. Additionally, you will have engaging curriculum materials to help nurture the children in faith, hope, love, and witness. The Lord your God is with you—and so is your church.

Please let Janet Lipinsky, our Christian Education elder, or me know if you believe God may be leading you to help with our Sunday school beginning this fall as a teacher, co-teacher, or helper. We are already praying for those God may be calling to this specialized ministry.

God bless you as you seek to serve the Lord with all your gifts and talents—and continue in mutual love, showing hospitality to strangers and angels in our midst.

See you on Sunday!

Pastor Karen

Lectionary Scriptures this week: Jer. 2:4-13; Prov. 25:6-7; Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14.

Questions for Reflection

Where do you experience mutual love in your life? Is there someone you disdain? How might you show love for that person in thought, word, or deed?

Morning Prayer

God, in the freshness of the new day, let me walk in your ways and live to your glory, rather than to my own. Amen.

Evening Prayer

Lord, you are my helper; therefore I will not be afraid, for you are ever with me. Help me to release the regrets of the day into your care. Refresh me in my sleep, that I may rise in the morning confident in your love and strengthened in faith. Amen.

Tidbits from the Food Pantry



First of all, many thanks to all of our congregation members who volunteered to help staff the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry during July. With 17 volunteers, many of whom served more than once during the month, we truly turned out “in force”, as Food Pantry Coordinator Pat Westlake put it. If you were not able to participate in July, there will be more opportunities to serve in the coming months. In addition to working directly in the pantry, other opportunities might include doing shopping, or assisting with maintenance or upkeep of the facility.

During July, the pantry was opened a total 13 days (Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 10am-12 noon) and 4 Wednesday evenings, (5-7 pm). Although we only served 3 families on these Wednesday evenings, it was the first time the Pantry has been open at night, and

people we told about the extended hours were enthusiastic about it, so we anticipate more activity going forward

During July, 131 families came to the pantry, including 11 new clients. Total people served: 340 adults, 106 children 5-18 and 32 infants to 4 Years.

Although monetary donations have slowed, we continue to be in a strong financial position, enabling us to provide our clients with eggs, milk, cheese, butter and frozen chopped meat and chicken parts (as available). Bread, pastries, and baked goods donations continue to be donated by Fresh Market and Stop and Shop.

Donations of both money and non-perishable food and products (paper goods, cleaning supplies, personal toiletry items, diapers, wipes, and pet food) are both welcome and needed. We received several large donations of non-perishable food collected by the Smithtown Sunrise Rotary Club at the Tuesday evening Smithtown Community Band outdoor concerts.

Representatives from the Pantry have been meeting with contractors to get estimates on some much-needed renovations to the facility, to create a space that is safer, more efficient, and more comfortable for both clients and the volunteers who serve them.

Finally, a big thank-you to Presbyterian Women, who are providing gardeners in our congregation a way to share their harvest abundance both with members of the congregation and the Food Pantry. Visit their table in the hallway outside the Parish Hall to pick up fresh produce and make a free-will donation for the fresh fruits and vegetables. Leftover produce will be given to the Food Pantry each week. Money collected from the free will donation will be donated to the Food Pantry at the end of the year.

Please feel free to contact Marci or Tom Deakins with any questions about the Food Pantry.

Participate in our VegeTable

PW member, Judy Michon had great idea for a produce table, which gives us an opportunity to serve one another AND as part of our mission, generate a contribution to the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry.

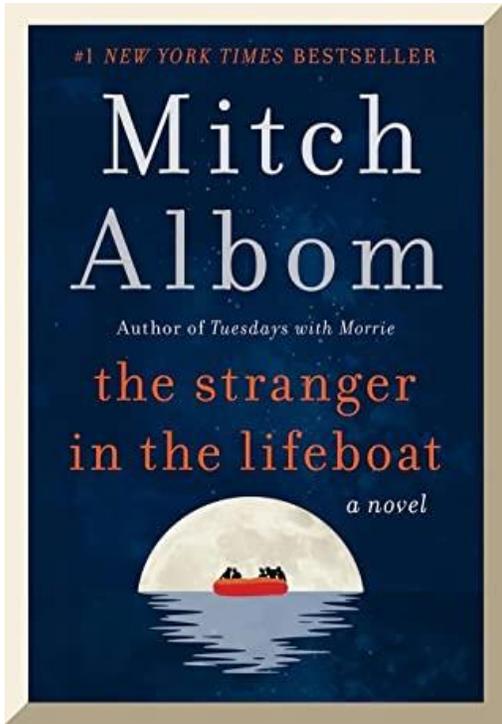
Come visit the Presbyterian Women's Fruit & Vegetable Garden Table each Sunday morning in the hallway near the parish hall. Feel free to bring produce from your garden that may be wasted, or you can take produce home by leaving a donation in free-will offering jar.

Any produce left following our Sunday Morning church service will be taken to the Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry. At the end of the growing season, all monies collected will be donated to the Food Pantry. With joy, we serve one another! Questions? Contact Judy Michon.



FPCS Book Group

First Presbyterian Church of Smithtown book group invites you to discuss
The Stranger in the Lifeboat by Mitch Albom



Adrift in a raft after a ship explosion, ten people struggle for survival. Short on food, water, and hope, they spot a man floating in the sea. They pull him in. “Thank the Lord we found you.” a passenger says. “I am the Lord.” the man whispers.

Date:

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Narthex

For those of you who do not want to buy the book, there are there are 4 copies of the book available to borrow in the church office. Please sign the sheet that the book was taken. You can also call the Smithtown Library at 631-360-2480. Provide your library card number and they can put the book on hold for you. It may take up to 4 to 5 days for the book to become available.

Light refreshments will be served.

If interested, please contact Isabel Buse or sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Stewardship Thought for August

Thank you to those who have been keeping current with your pledges and contributions. As we continue into August, it is financially important to FPCS that we continue to be good stewards. As you know, FPCS continues to have financial obligations during these summer months. Be well. Be safe. Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

**“God loves a cheerful giver”
2 Corinthians 9:7**



How can you contribute to our weekly services?

Volunteer to be an Usher

Ushers are needed for our Sunday morning services. No experience required.
Please contact Lucia Spahr if interested.

Contribute to Fellowship Hour

If you enjoy the tasty treats during Fellowship Hour, please consider signing up for one Sunday as a Silent Partner. Just drop your goodies in the kitchen when you come to church. You can contribute with a friend or as a group. There is a sign-up sheet near the coffee at Fellowship Hour every Sunday. See a deacon in the kitchen if you have any questions.
Thank you!

Join the Stream Team

The Stream Team is looking for volunteers to stream our church service on Sunday mornings. Streaming has become an important part of our Sunday Church service since Covid. Members of the Stream Team will train you.
For more information, please contact Scott Wallace.

In Our Hearts and Prayers

- Sue and Tom Nunziata
- Bente Schmidt
- Caroline Kelleher
- Richard Heath, continuing recovery at an acute care rehab center for a brain injury
- Virginia Newcomb
- Richard Engel
- Harriet McMahon, at The Arbors, 1065 Smithtown Ave, Bohemia
- Evelyn Saddlemire, at Water's Edge Nursing Facility, 150 Dark Hollow Road, Port Jefferson
- Jean Lown
- Vivienne Grizzle-Jaber
- Ethel and Karl Kraft
- Andrea Mohabeer



Trustee of the Week

August 26 - September 1 - Chris Park
September 2 - September 8 - Rick Booth
September 9 - September 15 - Rob Springer
September 16 - September 22 - John Agostini
September 23 - September 29 - Ed Lipinsky

Deacons of the Week

August 28 - Allison Brennan and Beth Davidsen
September 4 - Charles Bunton and Suzanne Perri
September 11 - Laurie Wallace and Allison Brennan
September 18 - Barbara Ruoff and Joyce Brozyna
September 25 - Lucia Spahr and Lisa Hubbs

August Birthdays

Please contact the church office if you have an August birthday but are not on this list

August 4 - Chris Landi
August 6 - Beth Davidsen
August 7 - Jean Sheerin
August 8 - Brenda Faverio
August 9 - Ed Lipinsky
August 9 - Anne Probish
August 12 - Angel Garcia Jr.
August 12 - Susan Gensinger
August 14 - Caroline Kelleher
August 15 - Marlene Wolke
August 20 - Laurie Wallace
August 23 - Lisa Hubbs



How to Contact the Church Office or the Pastor

Church Office

Hours:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10 am - 12 noon
Phone: 631-265-5151
Email: fpcs@optonline.net
Website: www.fpcsmithtown.net

Pastor

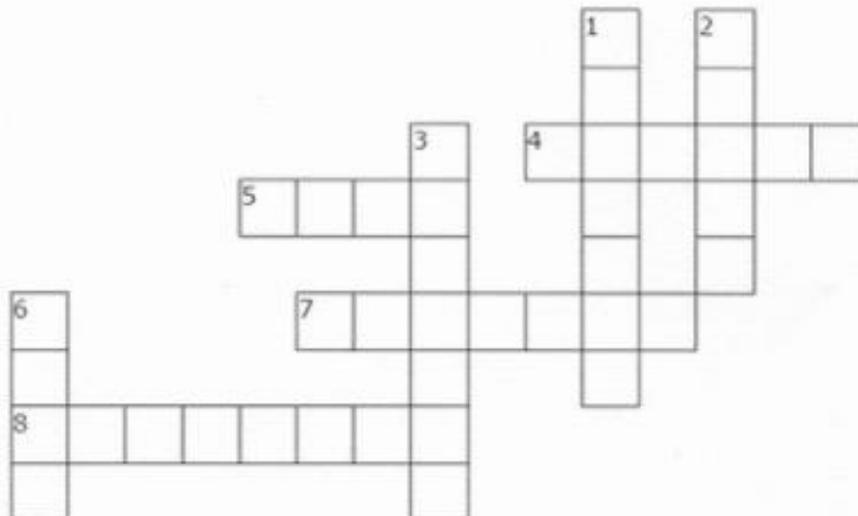
Rev. Karen Crawford
Email: karenpts@gmail.com
Phone: 631-813-9172
Blog: <http://pastorkaren.org>

Left Out?

"But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed."

Luke 14:13-14a (NIV)

Based on Luke 14:12-14



ACROSS

4. To ask someone in a friendly way to do something
5. Having very little money or possessions
7. To be highly favored by God
8. To be lame or disabled in the feet or legs

DOWN

1. A dinner party for many people
2. Unable to see
3. People that you know well and like very much
6. Having a lot of money

BLIND
RICH

FRIENDS
POOR

BANQUET
INVITE

BLESSED
CRIPPLED

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I M Z R P T U A Y B G T R P T
 U N P S E O U K P R B G E E A
 B H V G G L O K Z R I L U L E
 L L O I G D A R W I C Q I K D
 N A E S T O Z T N C N V Q N R
 R M E S T E I J I A M K Z U D
 L E Z C S D S V B V A E N H E
 E N B Q Q E S Z R T E A E T M
 D I N N E R D L I M Z S I G B
 F R I E N D S C C Z C L G L V
 F E H J S Q X E H R X Y H V O
 A P S Q H R J Z M S T M B B U
 F A I K C R I P P L E D O K P
 S Y P Z Y X U K U B E S R J U
 Y D B R O T H E R S N N S K B

DINNER	HOST	CRIPPLED	RELATIVES	REPAY
BANQUET	LAME	BLIND	BROTHERS	INVITE
NEIGHBORS	RICH	FRIENDS	BLESSED	POOR

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