

Worship - Sunday 10 AM  
Sunday School - during worship  
(Sep-Jun)

# Twins Talk

February 2023

PO Box 303  
Holland Patent, NY 13354  
315-865-5754  
Email: [fpreshp@gmail.com](mailto:fpreshp@gmail.com)  
Website: [twinchurches.org](http://twinchurches.org)



## Pastor's Corner

Greetings Fellow Travelers!!

I hope this finds you hale and hearty! Last month squished to a close as one of the warmest Januarys on record: and it did it almost exclusively without the Sun!! The season thus far has made winter sports difficult and dog walks more pleasant. Still: it's winter so . . . let it snow!!

During Sunday's service we talked about "Happy People" or as it is traditionally called - The Beatitudes. I shared two websites with you via the bulletin along with an invitation to read Matthew 5:1-20 once a week for 3 weeks!

An easy way to do that is to go to [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) where you can view any verse in The Bible in any one of 63 different translations. Easy and interesting! Find your favorite translation, read gently and consider how the reading settles in and then changes each reading. Fun times!

I also shared Richard Rohr's website [cac.org](http://cac.org). Richard founded The Center for Action and Contemplation in 1988 as a retreat to foster action within our faith lives, coupled with contemplative prayer and practice. At this site you will find a wide variety of contemporary writings on faith and God's love. I encourage you to expand your relationship with God by contemplating the ideas and concepts you will find there. Happy? Happy!

AND in case that isn't enough fun for you, on Epiphany Sunday I invited you to chalk your doors. This modern Epiphanytide practice serves to protect Christian homes from nasty spirits as it reminds you and all who enter that your house offers God's abiding Love to all!

Have YOU chucked your doors? You don't want to miss this chance to add an element of safety and care to your house and home!!! Remember the symbol you chalk over the door: "20 † C † M † B † 23."

No chalk?? I put a fresh box on the table in the narthex just for you!

Come join us for worship and community please!! You are welcome just the way you are!!!

Steve

*"No one has ever seen God; but if we love each*

*thank you*

*Thank you all for your cards, calls and prayers following Dan's surgery. They mean so much to us both.*

*Beverly and Dan Seifried*

## Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 29 following worship. Below are the highlights of the meeting.

- Appreciation for Steve Vance being with us was expressed with a round of applause.
- There was no Annual Meeting last year, so Session activity over the past 2 years was reviewed in place of reading the minutes.
- The 2023 Budget was presented and discussed.
- No one volunteered to serve as Member at Large for the Nominating Committee.
- Kathy Lemieux was elected to continue as church Treasurer.

## Steubenstock is Back!



Gail Brett shared the joy that the Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Assn. has volunteered to help host Steubenstock 2023! Stay tuned for more information.



## Tabitha's Fund - Rescue Taiba's Family

Taiba and her mother Naik are refugees from Afghanistan who were very fortunate to make it to the US several years ago. Taiba lost her hearing in a bombing and met our Vicky. She and her mother have worshiped with us many times and Vicky has been active in efforts to rescue the rest of Taiba's family.

The current Afghan regime has denied women the right to be educated beyond 4th grade, so Taiba's female cousin cannot finish college and her male cousin can no longer attend medical school because the professors have left. Food is scarce and Taiba is supplementing her family's income so they can obtain food. Despite now having passports, her family cannot leave the country without paying bribes.

All funds donated to our loving sheep, Tabitha, will go to help reunite Taiba's family. Tabitha is a hungry sheep who resides outside the Sunday School room, waiting to be fed.... You can also donate by sending a check to the church and designating it for Tabitha's Fund. All contributions to help Taiba's family will be sincerely appreciated. Vicky is always available if you have any questions about Taiba and her family.



### Sunday School Takes Epiphany Journey

We celebrated Epiphany by reenacting the Magi's journey following a bright star (Abbie Howard) through the

fellowship area and church halls with a first stop in Jerusalem (aka the meeting room) and not-to-be-trusted King Herod (aka Shane Fox) and then on to Bethlehem with our gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Christ child.

A first impression of smelling frankincense . . . "it smells a lot like my nana."



### Session Scene

- The 2023 Session will continue with 7 members. Shawn DePalma is completing his 6-year term and will be replaced by Janet Lanning. Thank you, Shawn and welcome, Janet.
- It was noted that the Church's By-Laws were suspended in January of 2021. It will be the goal of Session to consider how to edit and/or reinstate the By-Laws during the coming year. (Terms for Elders and Deacons are dictated in the Book of Order.)
- We are still seeking volunteers to serve as a Liaison Member to the Foothills Board, an Elder Commissioner to attend Presbytery meetings, and an at-large member for the Nominating Committee.
- The Fellowship Hall will be painted the weekend of February 24-26 by a Boy Scout from troop 175 as an Eagle Scout project.
- Next meeting - February 14 at 6:00 via Zoom



### Aya Project



Thank you, First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent for your donation. We were able to purchase a new laptop for Nadrkoro school (their very first computer). The principal will use this computer to help in the classroom and send information on the students' progress to the government and get updated information for the school. The focus this year is to support the school and students!



- Mar 18 - Heartbeat Duo*
- Apr 1 - The Cadleys*
- Apr 22 - Nick Piccininni & Joe Davoli*
- May 6 - Jamcrackers*
- May 20 - John Kirk & Trish Miller*
- Jun 3 - Local Favorites*

## Memories of My Friend, Meg Sargent

Recently my niece, Nina Lemieux (age 22), passed on to my granddaughters Isabella 5, and Emma 3 (pictured above), a dress and vest made by Meg Sargent. This triggered many memories of Meg and our church.

Meg passed away in 2018 and would have been 92 on January 6<sup>th</sup>. We first met while working at the former Rome State School. We were members of the first interdisciplinary team - myself as a dietitian and Meg as a great, compassionate occupational therapist. Interdisciplinary care would become the future of care for the developmentally disabled.

Over the years we transitioned from institutional care serving units of 40 adults providing basic care, to personalized care in 12 bed homes in the community. Meg and I would later work on the Camden community team.

Our relationship grew through our worship together at First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent. Meg and husband Howard were active in the work of our church. I believe her son Dan still performs at some of the Park Coffee Houses.

Meg and I served together at our church on the Mission Committee. She loved working in her gardens and was very concerned about our environment. She actually met her late husband, Howie as she fondly called him, while hiking in the Adirondacks. Meg was still enjoying long walks late in life. Mission has been one of the most active of our church committees for many years.

Meg helped with the SERRV sale at our old-style Octoberfeast events. The angel hanging pictured above is a SERRV item I bought many years ago. It always needs a lot of untangling and had been pushed to the bottom of our Christmas decorations. Granddaughter Emma decided it was "lovely", so it now hangs in our front window, as seen in the picture. I can see Meg's gentle smile if she could have heard granddaughter Isabella saying during Christmas as I sat below the hanging angels, "Grandma you are surrounded by angels." "Yes, I am Isabella, many of them are church friends." Oh, the words of little ones. Our old wooden nativity set used as a children's teaching guide, is also from SERRV. I am sure many of you have SERRV items at home. That could be a whole story.

Prior to COVID, we had a beloved event, *The Time and Talent Auction*. My first memory triggered by the dress/vest pictured on granddaughters Isabella and Emma above, related to a Time and Talent Auction. It must have been one of the early auctions as Nina now 22 was just a toddler. Meg had put up a hand-sewn child's dress for auction. She did beautiful work. My sister Susie won the bid. She bought pretty Teddy Bear print fabric and Meg created a dress and vest. They have become a beloved family heirloom.

Meg always had a gentle smile, and a sincere interest in the people and world around her.

Meg, you are missed and remembered with love.

Your friend, Peggy Curtacci



### February

- 1 Jon Dziekan
- 7 Ken Allen  
Lori LeBuis
- 8 Mary Vannicola
- 9 Paul Sears
- 13 Larry Beasley  
Laura (Kalk) Gurdo
- 14 Jim Moseman
- 15 Cathy Vannicola
- 16 Trent Fox
- 17 Kathryn Evans  
Jim Marconi
- 18 Jim Vannicola
- 19 Sarah DePalma
- 20 Julia Racha
- 21 David Dunn  
Allen Solomon
- 26 Joshua Dziekan
- 28 Heidi Taubert  
Linda Bamford  
Abigail Howard



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Worship Schedule

**Feb 5** Janet Stengel

**Feb 12** Steve Vance - *Communion*

**Feb 19** Steve Vance

**Feb 22** **Ash Wednesday Service** - Steve Vance

**Feb 26** Bonnie Tryon

### Events

**Feb 12** Souper Bowl Sunday

**Feb 14** Session Meeting - 6:00 - Zoom

**Feb 24-26** Fellowship Hall being painted

# VALENTINE'S DAY : HISTORY RECAP



LUPERCALIA FEST TOOK PLACE FROM FEB. 13-15 IN CELEBRATION OF FERTILITY. DOGS AND GOATS WERE SACRIFICED. WOMEN WERE WHIPPED WITH THE HIDES OF THE SACRIFICED ANIMALS TO ENSURE THE WOMAN'S FERTILITY. SWEETS WERE THEN CONSUMED.

ST. VALENTINE WAS IMPRISONED FOR MARRYING SOLDIERS AND WORSHIPPING THE CHRIST GOD. WHILE IMPRISONED HE WROTE A LETTER TO A GUARD'S DAUGHTER AND SIGNED IT, "YOUR VALENTINE." HE WAS EXECUTED SHORTLY AFTER.

AROUND 496 A.D. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ESTABLISHED THE FEAST OF ST. VALENTINE, IN ORDER TO SUPPRESS AND REPLACE THE PAGAN LUPERCALIA FESTIVAL. IT IS BELIEVED THAT SWEETS WERE STILL CONSUMED AT THIS FEAST.

IN THE AGE OF COURTLY LOVE AND G. CHAUCER, VALENTINE'S DAY WAS FIRST ASSOCIATED WITH SYMBOLS OF LOVE AND ROMANCE: HAND-MADE GREETINGS, SWEET CANDIES, LOVE POEMS, A NAKED FLYING BABY WITH A BOW & ARROW, AND SO ON. MAKES SENSE.

ADVANCES IN MECHANICS AND PRINTING LED TO THE RISE OF THE GREETING CARD INDUSTRY. HAND-MADE CARDS WERE REPLACED BY MASS PRODUCED GREETING CARDS. WOMEN ARE NO LONGER WHIPPED AS TRADITION, BUT SWEETS ARE STILL CONSUMED IN LARGE AMOUNTS.

JUSTE