



# Newsletter



November/December, 2023

## NOTE FROM MIKE

Hello, Three Voices! I continue to be amazed at all of the folks willing to get up into the pulpit to lead a service ... I bet none of you had ever done anything in church on that level before.

If you also are excited to see the many different faces each week looking out at you from up front, and maybe interested in doing it also but just not really sure what it entails, let me share some of the behind-the-scenes magic with you.

There are suggested readings for each day as well as a book filled with all of the sections for you to choose from in preparing a service. You can use that or write your own service from scratch. Often, I will write up sections based on the readings and if those don't touch my heart I might go to the words in the hymns or even something totally different as the mood strikes. I base my sermons usually around the reading for the day, but even that is not carved in stone.

But the best part is, you can do what you want. If you don't feel moved by a particular suggested passage for the day you can do something else altogether. You can even change your mind once you are in front of the congregation - the only rule is to serve the church as the spirit guides you.

Give it a try - I bet it will grow on you and strengthen your own faith at the same time!

Mike Jaquays  
Worship Team Leader

**PRAYER REQUESTS—Nayeli/Brenda, our sponsored child in Guatemala and Leul Asefa, our new sponsored child in Ethiopia, Linda and John Marafioti, Edith Lohr, Mary Phipps, Dalton Prievo, Dorothy and Neil Clark, Patty Reap, Tim Waterman, Kerry Boyce, Peg Corbett, Gary Sherwood, Tess' great-granddaughter, Julia (age 9), Chrystal Russitano, Carol Price, John Wellman, and Carol Dygert. Dorothy Clark is staying with her daughter, Sarah, and would enjoy cards, phone calls and visits. Her address is: Sarah Clark, 3 Judson Drive, Vernon, NY, 13476, and the phone number is 315 525-2285.**

**Remember our members who are unable to get out on a regular basis in prayer, with phone calls, and/or greeting cards: Gene Hallagan, Ginny Elliott, Jack Schuyler, Joyce Sieniecki, Pete Froass.**

## MISSIONS

Three Voices' Mission for November is Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes will be available with instructions on November 5th.

During December we will share God's Love through a collection of gifts for the Presbyterian Home at our Women's Christmas Dinner and by donating food and gifts to the Town of Verona Christmas Box Program. The offering at our Christmas Eve Service on December 24 will be donated to the Mary Rose Health Center in Oneida.

### THANK YOU NOTE

**Our friends and wonderful community,**

**Thank you for your generous donation to the J. D. George students. We would not be successful without your involvement.**

**Sincerely, Jennife Behr, RN, JDG school nurse.**

Pillows with hand-made pillow cases were given to the students.

**The Food Pantry this year will be distributing Turkey dinners during folks' usual monthly visit. So, beginning next Thursday, November 2 we will have Turkeys and a complete meal available for our neighbors as they come into the pantry.**

**People have asked what we need for this extra special distribution. Attached is a list of needed items:**

**Frozen Turkeys and Turkey Breasts of all weights ...**

**Cream of Mushroom Soup**

**Jars of Pickles and Olives**

**Cake mixes and frosting**

**Pumpkin Pie filling**

**Frozen Pie Crusts**

**French fried onions for green bean casserole**

**Items may be dropped off at the Verona Post Office or brought to the Food Pantry during regular hours:**

**Tuesdays 1:00 to 2:30 and Thursday 5:30 to 7:00**

**or call Peg at 315 480 4174 or Deb at 315 255 0559**

**and we can arrange to pick up supplies.**

**Thanks to a generous grant from the Food Bank of CNY we are able to obtain the other items needed to supply our neighbors with a complete meal.**

**We can ALWAYS use cereal, paper products, and baked beans.**

**Thanks for your continued support.**

**Deb Rafte, Director Peg Ward, Coordinator**

**Leule Asefa** is our newest sponsored child through Compassion International. He turned 12 years old on September 26th. He lives in the town of Tigregna in Mekele, Ethiopia with his parents and siblings. Tigrena is a mountainous community, home to approximately 38,000 residents. Typical houses are constructed of dirt floors, mud walls and tin roofs. The primary ethnic group is Tigrain and the most commonly spoken language is Tigregna.

There are not many employment opportunities for his parents. He attends the Maychew Fullgospel Believers Church Child, Development Center. He runs errands and his hobbies are sports and children's games. His grade level is about 3rd grade. He likes science.

The regional diet consists of maize, sorghum and wheat. Common health problems in this area include parasitic diseases and HIV/AIDS. Most adults in Tgrian work as day laborers and earn the equivalent of \$36 per month. This community needs housing, tuition assistance and income generating activities.

Our sponsorship allows the staff of Maychew Fullgospel Believers Church Child, Development Center to provide your sponsored child with Bible teaching, health screenings, indoor and outdoor games and educational assistance. The center staff will also provide health education and evangelism for the parents or guardians of your sponsored child



**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

## November

5 Abriel Peterson                      20 Don and Mary Jane Lanz  
 7 Denise Gass                            25 Carl and Debbie Greene  
 10 Becky Marsala  
 21 Barbara Pekola  
 30 Linda Marafioti

## December

5 Karen Schmidt                        5 Ruth and George Ostrander  
 14 Kevin Peterson                      20 Peg and Greg Ward  
 26 Virginia Elliott                      22 Brent and Jackie Collins  
 28 Peg Ward                              22 Rick and Barb Hanson  
     28 Kaye and Larry Sarandrea  
 30 Bruce Lanz                            29 Kevin and Linda Bailey

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

November – Cochran Memorial

December – Verona

Christmas Eve—Cochran Memorial 6:00

**WORSHIP LEADERS SCHEDULE**

DATE	PREACHING	READER	LITURGIST	MUSICIAN
Nov. 5	Gary Sherwood	Kathy Sherwood	Gary Sherwood	Becky Watson
				Leon Bronson
Nov. 12	Clearpath Veterans	Leon Bronson	Leon Bronson	Leon Bronson
Nov. 19	Mike Jaquays	Irma Jaquays	Mike Jaquays	Chris Labuszewski
Nov. 26	Kevin Bailey	Linda Bailey	Kevin Bailey	Kevin Bailey
Dec. 3	Mike Jaquays	Bob Stanton	Mike Jaquays	John Nolan
				Leon Bronson
Dec. 10	Peg Ward	Jan Moore	Peg Ward	Becky Seifert
Dec. 17	Kevin Bailey	Linda Bailey	Kevin Bailey	Owen Paz
				Peg Corbett
Dec. 24	Brent Collins		Brent Collins	Kevin Bailey
6:00 (one service)				
Dec. 31	Carol sing-along	Clara Meier and Jan Moore		

## LOOKING AHEAD

**BIBLE STUDY:** They will not meet December 24 and 31, resuming in January.

**DEACONS:** Tuesday, November 7, at 10:00 at Verona First.

Christmas party will be Tuesday, December 5, at Ebenezer's Restaurant in Sherrill. They will gather at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6:00. The menu will be a choice of chicken parm with spaghetti, pot roast with mashed potatoes, or shrimp scampi with rice. All dinners include rolls, salad, dessert, coffee, tea and punch. The cost is \$32. Everyone is asked to bring a gift in a gift bag for the Presbyterian Home. Reservations and money need to be in no later than Sunday, November 26. Checks should be made out to Three Voices Deacon's Fund.

**BOOK CLUB:** They will be reading "If My Heart Had Wings" by Nadine Taylor. The discussion will be Tuesday, November 14, at 10:00 at Verona First.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Saturday, November 18, at 9:30, at the Corner Diner in Sherrill. There will not be a breakfast in December and will resume in January.

**STONE SOUP:** Verona First will be serving a Thanksgiving meal Thursday, November 16, from 4:30 to 6:00. The menu will be turkey casserole, fresh squash, and Fall desserts. There will not be a meal in December.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS:** On December 10, 2023 the Three Voices Presbyterian Church will have a Congregational Meeting immediately following worship to elect officers for 2024.

On January 21, 2024 following the worship service the congregations of the former Mt. Vernon, Cochran Memorial and Verona First Presbyterian churches will meet and review their final annual report. At that meeting the Three Voices Presbyterian Church will vote on the 2024 budget and the new officers will be ordained and installed.

### *COMMUNITY EVENTS*

Festival of Christmas, First Presbyterian Church, Oneida, Saturday, November 19, from 9:00 to 3:00. Lunch of chicken and biscuits will be served from 11:30 to 1:30. There will be 10 Christmas shoppes.

**THREE VOICES CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

**If you would like to order a poinsettia for Christmas, please fill out this form. The cost will be \$12 a plant. The order form and money are due November 19. Checks should be made out to Three Voices Deacons/Women’s Fund.**

**Please return the form to Irma Jaquays, 259 School St., Sherrill, NY, 13461**

**Thank you.**

**PLEASE PRINT**

**Given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
OR**

**In honor of \_\_\_\_\_**

**Given by \_\_\_\_\_**

**Number of poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**PARISH ASSOCIATE Peg Ward, 315 480 4174**

**THREE VOICES COORDINATOR**

**Diane Davis 315 761-9790**

**THREE VOICES WEBSITE CONTACT**

**Mike Yeoman 315-363-4547 [onefreelance1@gmail.com](mailto:onefreelance1@gmail.com).**

**ONEIDA CASTLE**

**ELDERS**

**Don Lanz, Clerk of Session**

**Norma Palamara**

**Janet Isabelle**

**John Paul Froass**

**DEACONS**

**Ruth Ostrander**

**Irma Jaquays**

**Janice Freer**

**Karen Schmidt**

**Linda Marafioti**

**MT VERNON ELDERS**

**Gary Onyan, Clerk of Session**

**Jess Prievo**

**Leon Bronson**

**Eric Vaill**

**VERONA**

**ELDERS**

**Becky Marsala, Clerk of Session**

**Mary Phipps**

**Phil Marmelstein**

**Gary Sherwood**

**Casey Faber**

**DEACONS**

**Barb Pekola**

**Joan Drummond**

**Kathy Sherwood**

**Clara Meier**

**Joyce Sieniecki**

**Verona First  
Corner Rock Rd.  
& Main St.  
Verona, NY 13478  
315-363-2728**

**Cochran Memorial  
11 State St.  
Oneida Castle, NY 13421  
315-363-0492**

**Mount Vernon  
PO Box 534  
Vernon, NY 13476**

Cochran Memorial Presbyterian Church  
11 State Street  
Oneida Castle, New York 13421

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*Three Voices is a publication of Cochran Memorial, Mt. Vernon and Verona First Presbyterian Churches*



