

THE PATHFINDER

"Making disciples who make a difference."

June 2017

THE VIEW FROM THE MANSE

I want to alert you to some opportunities and challenges in our ministry to our friends at Washington Center. First let me talk about an opportunity. Since I have been in Argyle, we have led the Washington County Sunday afternoon worship service on the 5th Sundays of the month – ie. 5 times a year. Recently we have been asked to fill in some other services due to the decreasing number of churches in our area with full time pastoral leadership. There is an opportunity for us to take a regular monthly slot. However, to do this we'll need more volunteers. Our volunteers simply sit with the folks from the Center, talk with them and help them turn the pages of the songbook. There are always opportunities to help lead in worship, but most of our volunteers are simply hosts and hostess for the service. If you would be interested in doing this, say every other month, please send me an email or mention this to me when you see me. If we have enough interest, we'll proceed with this.

Here is the challenge. We simply don't have enough drivers and helpers on Sunday mornings to transport our Washington Center friends to worship and back. Our small group of loyal volunteers has been doing a great job, but we are having to shut down this ministry for the summer because of a lack of people. We hope to start this up again in the fall, but that will depend on us having at least two more teams of two people each – a driver and a helper. If you would be interested in joining this ministry in the fall, please let me or Gabe Johnson know. You can check with Gabe for more details on this.

Steve McLean, Pastor

(steve@argylepresbyterian.org)

P.S. Recently the Session recognized Jenn Bushway for her 10 years of service as one of our nursery workers. When you see her, please let Jenn know how much you appreciate her long service to our children.



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P.O. Box 66, Argyle, New York 12809 *
(518) 638-8072 * www.argylepresbyterian.org

FRIENDLY REFLECTIONS FROM A TRANSPLANT

I am learning that living in Washington County means that we miss some trends. There is no Kombucha dispenser at the local Stewart's. I have yet to see a male romper on the streets of Greenwich. No one has pulled me aside for a conversation about a Broadway musical. But one trend we have not missed is Netflix. You can get Netflix anywhere and one of the popular shows being binged on Netflix is called *13 Reasons Why*.

The show is based on a mystery novel by Jay Asher. It is the story of a high school girl who commits suicide and leaves tapes behind for people who affected her life to listen to. I bring up this show because it is getting a lot of attention and it deals with a lot of significant topics such as over-working, drug addiction, cyber-bullying, domestic violence, and suicide. If you have a child in high school chances are they have talked about the show or watched it. USA Today released an article in May (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/05/23/13-reasons-why-holds-lessons-for-parents-column/101985974/>) encouraging all parents to watch this show because of the conversations it could start and the reflection it might provide. The show has been contracted for a second-season; it will not go away. What to consider?

The show is graphic. They go into detail with some traumatic scenes including the suicide itself. The grief of the mother is on full display and may be difficult to bear. It is thirteen hours long and drags in places according to reviews, but it has many references to well known romantic comedies of the eighties and nineties (I'm looking at you *Breakfast Club*). I am not writing to encourage or discourage you from watching this show (full disclosure: I have not seen the show). Although, if your kids have watched or are watching it, you should certainly watch it with them (or encourage them to stop watching it and talk to you if it is creating anxiety in them). I only bring the show up because it raises questions. The questions are out there even if you have not yet heard them. Suicide numbers are on the rise in our schools and we, as the church, want to help any who are living beneath this dark cloud of feeling forgotten, unimportant, overlooked or unloved. Everyone you know is loved by the Lord, but not everyone you know knows that they are loved by the Lord. Here are a few articles to help you further examine *13 Reasons Why*:

- <http://www.russellmoore.com/2017/04/27/13-reasons-glamorize-teen-suicide/>
- <http://people.com/human-interest/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-suicide-and-bullying-after-netflixs-13-reasons-why/>

We seek the wisdom of the Lord together as we attempt to love one another and love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind.

Bryan Fitzgerald, Associate Pastor

(bryan@argylepresbyterian.org)

THANK YOU

Dear congregation, Thank you so much for all of your donations to the CROP Walk. We had so much fun walking together this year! There was great weather, folks of all ages, and lots of laughter. The \$2024 we raised will help feed hungry people around the world and locally. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely, Joyann Stimpson, Lisa Dennis, and the Deacons

NEW SCHEDULE FOR THE PEWS

New Holland, our pew contractor, is very busy. Our delivery date has been changed to the week of October 9th. We will remove the pews on Saturday, 9/30, at 8:00. Joyce Durkee has agreed to coordinate food for the day. On Tuesday and Thursday, 9/26&28, pews will also be available. A Trustee will be on site. We need to be careful not to damage the floor, which will be refinished the week of 10/2. No one will be able to enter the sanctuary that week, due to the finish that will be drying. Finally, carpeting will be installed the week of 10/16. Many more details will follow, as we approach the end of September.

The Pew Task Force selected a deep, dark red fabric, with a gold accent, for the pew cushions. It harkens back to the original, red, horsehair cushions*, which can still be seen in the balcony. A sample of the fabric and the mahogany finish are on display in the Lobby. This fabric is not thick or strong enough for the stretching required to upholster the balcony pews. That fabric will closely harmonize with the new pew fabric, though.

There is a nice start to the Pew Fund. Contributions just need to be clearly marked; a separate check is extremely helpful. Now that we have tallied all of our estimated costs, the \$25,000 figure is definitely the amount that is necessary. Thank you for the donations that have been made. (\$7,000 of \$25,000 raised to date. Even though there is no charge for a pew, a contribution is appreciated.)

Any questions can be directed to a member of the Task Force: Lou Hoffis, Tanya MacNeil, Ken Bain, Chris Copeland and Eileen Jackson.

(*Civil war era – newspaper was used in constructing these cushions – we've gotten our money's worth!)

TRUSTEE TALK THANK YOU!

Our Spring Work Day was a tremendous success. We accomplished many jobs, large and small. The Friday Night Couples Bible Study provided a delicious coffee break. Thank you, one and all, for your help. We could never do it without you!

Work will start in the balcony soon, in preparation for the pew and carpeting project. A section of the balcony will be closed off for the floor repair and painting. This will allow thorough curing of the paint and enable tools to be left out. Our job in the balcony must be completed by the 9/30 official start of the pew project.

The front and side gates are in need of painting. Half of the front gate is only attached by wire! Mark Duley has been contracted to do that repair, as well as to make three new hooks for the chain. He will also scrape, prime, and paint both gates. This will help preserve them, make the front gate safer, and definitely improve their appearance. Mark's goal is to complete this project by the Fourth of July.

Lou Hoffis has removed a lot of leaf piles and yard waste recently. Thank you, Lou!

Our tour of the grounds revealed some repair and painting jobs that will be worked on this summer. Again, if you see a problem, please let us know. We appreciate your prayers for guidance and safety.

Don't Miss Our ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC on June 4

One of the highlights of the year is our Annual Church Picnic. This year it will be on Sunday, June 4 following worship, in Fellowship Hall and on the lawn.

- The Fellowship Committee will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, beverages and plates, cups, etc.
- We would welcome you to bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. There will be room in the events fridge to keep dishes cold during worship.
- There will be games for the kids

There will be inside seating and outside seating under the tent. Everyone is invited, so put this on your calendar and start making the potato salad. Feel free to dress casually for worship.

CHOIR & PRAISE TEAM RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Our annual **Choir & Praise Team Recognition – Strawberry Shortcake Sunday** will be on **June 18th this year**. It is our pleasure on that day to honor those talented people who share their gift of music. Each Sunday they inspire, enhance and deepen our worship experience! Please plan on staying for a few minutes after worship to say thank you and share in this social time with them (and you get to eat dessert for lunch!) Everything is provided by the Fellowship Committee for this event.

MISSIONS CORNER

Here are recent updates on some of our missionaries:

- In May, Katie Lohret went on a short term, medical missions trip with her church (Grace Fellowship Latham) to Uganda. Katie will be reporting on her trip to the congregation this summer.
- There is still room to join our team headed to Young Lives Camp at Lake Champion, August 4-9. We'll be providing childcare and support to the teen moms in camp. Talk to Steve or Kim McLean ASAP if you are interested.
- Please continue to pray for Andrew Brunson's release from the Turkish prison he has been held in since October. And pray for strength for his wife, Norine. To find out the latest news or how you can help go to www.epc.org/forgottenamericaninturkey.
- Niki Campbell reported that the first week of Basileia went great with 35 students from RPI and Russell Sage attending. Basileia is InterVarsity's end of the school year camp for college students at Saranac Village (Young Life's camp in the Adirondacks). Basileia is a series of three one week conferences. Niki and Danielle Bailey will serve in leadership during the other weeks.

You are invited to join us for Missions' Prayer which meets every Tuesday morning from 6:30 to 7:00 a.m. at the McLean's.

The Missions Prayer Team

NEWS OF NOTE

- Our celebration of the Lord's Supper this month will be on June 11 instead of June 4. Our regular practice is to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the 1st Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.
- The church has some old tables and chairs stored in the shed that are available to be borrowed for family and community events. These can be signed out through Tawni in the office.

PRIMETIMERS SCHEDULE (Plus 50's Ministry)

The purpose of the PrimeTimers is to provide programs for plus 50 adults that are ministry focused, study focused or fellowship focused. PrimeTimers' events are open to anyone who is at least 50 years old and their spouses. Feel free to invite friends from outside the church. Please mark your calendars for...

- Miniature Golfing & Ice Cream on Wednesday, June 25, 1 p.m. at Hillbilly Fun Park in Fort Ann. Folks car pooling will leave the church at 12:30 p.m.
- Annual Picnic on Saturday, July 29, 4 p.m. at Jan Cole's. Bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair. Everything else will be provided.

The PrimeTimers' Planning Team

(Jan Cole, Paul & Faith McWhorter, Steve McLean, Betty & Bob Reynolds, Larry Reid, Alyce Linscott & Ed Dennis)

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

Historically there has been a group of volunteers who serve as our **summer fellowship committee** for the months of July, August and early September. This time to visit has been very popular with many people who have classes or other obligations during the Sunday School year. **To offer this fellowship time** we need 1 or 2 volunteers for each Sunday, July 2nd through September 10th. This could be a time for your family to serve as a group or share with a friend that you would enjoy visiting & working with. It's light duty and can be done by one person, but as with most things it is more fun with 2! Duties include making cold drinks prior to church and refrigerating them, putting packaged cookies in baskets, getting out paper cups and napkins. Or use your creativity and imagination to serve whatever, and however, you would like! You would need to come out of service during the last hymn to get things on the counters. As the crowd dwindles you would need to clean up and put things away. This is a great way to explore a different ministry!

A schedule and more details will be given to each volunteer when the list is complete. If you would like to volunteer for the summer fellowship group please see Pat Evans or call her at 638-8253. There will also be an opportunity to sign-up on the Fellowship & Worship form. Thank you so much!

JUNE SCHEDULE OF VOLUNTEERS

Infant /Todler Nursery

Jenn Gonzales
Jun 4 – Brooke & Nina
Daley
Jun 11 – Karen Lorhret,
Rich Monroe
Jun 18 – Beth Cook,
Linda Clark
Jun 25 – Sandy Hoffis,
Kim Wood

Food Pantry – Saturday, 10 a.m.

Jun 3 – Dianna & Kermit Monroe, Tim Johncox
Jun 10 – Linda Clark, Janet Brown
Jun 17 – Diana Eggleston, Loanne Bain
Jun 24 – Ron & Kay Williamson

Open Door Soup Kitchen – Lunch- Tuesday, June 13th

Gayle Smith, Barb Munger-Russell

Open Door Soup Kitchen – Lunch- Tuesday, June 27th

Marty & Elna Butterfield

Open Door Soup Kitchen – Dinner-Friday, June 16th

Tim Johncox, Andy & Beth Cook

Greeters

Jun 4 – Flower Family
Jun 11 – Colleen Coulter, Gordy Jackson
Jun 18 – Paul & Faith McWhorter
Jun 25 – Tom & Corinne Genovese

Ushers

Jun 4 – MacNeil Family
Jun 11 – Rick & Lisa Dennis,
Faith McWhorter, Carol McNeil
Jun 18 – Bea Neron, Val McMurray,
Tom & Corinne Genovese
Jun 25 – Gary & Ellen Fullerton,
Beth Cameron, Tim Banfield

Children's Church

Joh Benson
Jun 4 – Matt Randles
Jun 11 – Marcia Monroe
Jun 18 – Jessie Steidle
Jun 25 – Janet Townsend

Food Pantry Item of the Month

Tooth brushes (single packs),
Men's and Women's deoderant,
Grocery bags