



The Herald

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church
NewsLetter

November 2024

Rev. Heather Finck's Sabbatical

My sabbatical was absolutely incredible. Did I get all the things done that I'd dreamed of doing?

Nope.

But I did have weeks full of rest and rejuvenation. I had priceless time with my children. I enjoyed the theater, museums, and live music. I was blessed to travel to Athens with one of my aunts. We stayed busy in and around Athens and then traveled to the island of Serifos. We stayed together for a week and then she returned to Minnesota and I was on my own. It is one of the less commercialized islands. Greece was all I could have imagined; the beaches, the food, the Aegean Sea, even testing my recollection of Greek from my seminary days.

Throughout my time I thoroughly enjoyed time with family and friends but I especially appreciated the alone time. Time to journal, read and reflect. Time to eat chocolate filled croissants and talk with all the feral cats that Greece introduced me to.

In October I enjoyed the extensive work of the Hoffman process which led me to deep personal exploration, and I believe it will change the structure of many of my relationships.

My final adventure was to travel, with my Connecticut sister, to visit Nashville, TN to meet my sister Alison's second born son before the third arrives in December. (Pheh....just made it.)

I am ever so grateful to Freedom Plains United for making this Sabbatical a reality for me and I am excited to get back to work!



The Committee Page

Property Committee:

The Property Committee has been working on cleaning out the old basement to make it functional. The medical lending area is down there. It includes a couple wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, a commode, a transfer bench for the tub and additions to toilet seats. If someone is in need of these items, check with the church secretary.

Currently the new attic is being straightened up and we have discovered an abundance of Christmas trees. We will be organizing work days up there; if you are interested in helping, talk to Cheryl Christensen.



There are plans to replace the outdated flood lights on the crown and the front of the church. We are also getting bids on painting Fellowship Hall and the hallway from the East door to the sanctuary.

There have been substantial upgrades this year to the Wi-Fi network as well as the installation of security cameras and automated door locks. We have several projects for the future that enhance the security and safety of the church.

The Property Committee can always use new members. We meet on the second Monday at 7PM in the library

Pastor Nominating Committee

The 7 members of the pastor nominating committee have been meeting regularly since June. We are at the stage where we are interviewing multiple candidates each week. We are feeling very optimistic and hopeful that we will find a candidate just right for Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church. Please keep us in your prayers!

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear FPUPC Family and Friends,

As we approach the holiday season, it is good to pause, gather and give thanks for all of the ministry which has taken place in and through this congregation. Indeed, you have continued to use your gifts in a myriad of ways for the Glory of God!

For this inaugural newsletter, I want to give a quick glimpse into the happenings through December.

- **November 17** at 4pm Friendsgiving in Fellowship Hall with our friends from Shir Chadash. We will gather for light snacks, play some fun games and bring food to donate to Dutchess Community Outreach.
- **November 24** at 11:15am **Advent Wreath Making**; This is an opportunity to either make your own or make one for one of our homebound members. We'll even make our own candles!
- **Advent Book Study**~The Redemption of Scrooge; This study will be at 7pm on Zoom for 12/1, 12/8, 12/15 and 12/22
- **December 8**, Music Sunday, 10am; Our choir and guest instrumentalists will lead us in a worship service sure to get us into the holiday spirit!
- **December 15**: Morning worship and at 1pm Blue Christmas Service, understanding that the holidays may be difficult for some
- **December 22**: Christmas Pageant/Special Service
- **December 24**: Christmas Evening Services at 5pm and 8pm

We hope you will join us for any or all of these opportunities. Of course, our Sunday services will continue to be available online as well. Indeed, we have much for which to be grateful!

Blessings,
Shannon
Interim Senior Pastor

LIFE EVENTS in the past 2 months:

Marriage of Hayden Kellermeyer and Dominic Sinacruz on October 19,2024. Congratulations!!

Death of Christopher Long, age 41 of Pleasant Valley on October 8. He was the son of David and Barbara Long and the brother of Mark Long of North Carolina.

Back Page Fun

Did you know? The Deacons sent out over 25 Halloween goodie packages ? Once again, the Deacon's organized care packages to show our love to the kids who have gone off to college or the military and to Shut In's. The Deacons sent candy, party favors, and cards with personal notes of encouragement. It was definitely appreciated by this young man!!!



Rummage Wrap-up: Because of our awesome volunteers and your donations, the Rummage Sale and Flea Market, once again, raised over \$10,000. There were 200 people in line, at 9 am, to get into our sale! Thank you everyone!

Book Club: "The Redemption of Scrooge" Coordinator: aimeehopkins@optonline.net
Our book study will begin: Sunday, December 1, 2024 and continue on 12/8, 12/15 and 12/22
Where: via Zoom
Time: We will meet for 1 hour. We are still finalizing our start time. Book cost \$12.80

Prayer of Peace

My I become at all times, both now and forever: a protector for those without protection; a guide for those who have lost their way; a ship for those with oceans to cross; a bridge for those with rivers to cross; a sanctuary for those in danger; a lamp for those without light; a place of refuge for those who lack shelter and a servant to all in need

Stay Connected with Us!

Follow our church on Facebook and Instagram for updates, inspiration, and ways to get involved. It's a great way to stay connected with our community throughout the week!

Send Pictures or Herald ideas to: fpupcmedia@gmail.com
attn: Visibility Committee



Rev. Shannon A. White, Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Heather M. Finck, Associate Pastor
Montana Smith, Music Director
Diane Wassick, Music Accompanist
Bonnie Biskup, Parish Nurse

Anna Strong, Christian Ed Coordinator
Meredith Travepiece, Bookkeeper
Sean Date, Sexton
Susan Conrad, Clerk of Session
Gerry DeFiglio, Acting Treasurer

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