

FRONTSTREETER: NOVEMBER 2020

The Reformed Church of Canajoharie
15-19 Front Street, Canajoharie, NY 13317
Phone: (518) 673-2816

Email: office@canjoreformed.org Website: www.canajoreformed.org



Pastor's Page

“Do not put your trust in princes, or in human beings who cannot save...” (Psalm 146). On election day, we need to remember these words. This election has been cast in Apocalyptic terms by both sides. The alternatives set before us are represented as either a socialist hellscape or a banana-republic-style dictatorship that would make Anastasio Somoza blush for shame. Well, perhaps. There is no point in appealing to established democratic norms or the fundamental good sense of the American people. Both seem to be in short supply in these times. Many people take comfort in the idea that no matter what happens the country will remain “Same as it ever was...” as the Talking Heads would put it. But there are no guarantees.

There is only one guarantee. If we are not to put our whole trust in princes or kings, strong-men or elected officials or bureaucrats, where do we put it? In the only One who stands above and beyond all human institutions and governments and even pastors or Popes. In God. He is the one who holds all the nations in a bucket (Isaiah 40). He is the one whose love will remain when all human institutions and governments have been swept away. Elect Him, first of all. Choose Him to be what he already is, whatever you may think. He is God. Trust in Him, not in political parties or institutions or even the United States.

A couple of additional thoughts from one who majored in Political Science. First of all, God-talk has been used by political figures and their supporters since before the United States was first visited by white people. God is always being recruited to support one side or another. The combination of spirituality and politics is a heady elixir, and people enjoy the flavor. But the will of God for any country is his own, and not always for the aggrandizement of that country. Ask the Pharaoh of Egypt how it felt to be chosen by God for a purpose. God cannot be enlisted on our side. He enlists us on his. So be careful when people present the debates as “Me and God versus that guy.” IS it for real, or are they violating the third commandment?

Secondly, that which makes a country a Christian country is not what it says about itself or what slogans it adopts, or what it says on its money. It is not Christian roots or the amount of church-goers that makes a country Christian. If it is possible to be a Christian nation, what makes it so is how well it follows the teachings of the Bible and honors God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Frankly, I see the effort to build a Christian nation as not as important as building the Kingdom of God. Under whatever form of government we live in the call is the same, to make disciples of all nations and to spread godliness in our communities. If the government allows us free reign, we will take it. If it tries to stop us, we will still make the attempt, whatever slings and arrows come our way.

Finally, if we go back to the original framers of the Constitution, we see that one of their main concerns is that we be able to live without a king. As originally designed, the president was envisioned as an Administrator in Chief, not a grand figure of power and authority. Policy was to be set by the Congress. They would make the laws, and the President was in charge of making sure the laws were kept, and the Courts were to make sure that the laws followed the Constitution.

Pastor's Page – continued

You can see that the Constitution was set up to put these branches in tension with each other. This demands compromise and cooperation. Like Israel in I Samuel, we always want a king and we elect people into a role that is not called for in our system of government. But there is one King, and only One. Those who elect him, or rather are elected by Him so that they elect Him (always the Calvinist, I know), are citizens of his Kingdom. If you feel the urge, elect Him now. And when you go to the polls or vote early, remember that you can have more impact as you elect to live like Jesus in your daily lives. Government and society are not spectator sports, and neither is a life in Christ. But do exercise your franchise, and vote.

Pastor Matt

Financial Report

September 2020 Financial Update:

The general financial update (as approved by Consistory) is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Regular Offering Income:

Budgeted: \$ 65,000.00 Jan.– Sept. 2020: \$ 47,531.50

Benevolence & Special Offering Income:

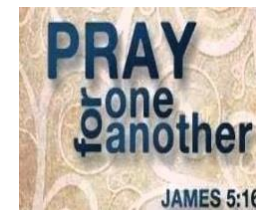
Budgeted: \$ 6,775.00 Jan.– Sept. 2020: \$1,671.01

Total Operating Receipts:

Budgeted: \$249,712.00 Jan.– Sept. 2020: \$183,313.84

Total Expenses:

Budgeted: \$205,778.00 Jan.– Sept. 2020: \$132,376.40



Prayers for those in need of comfort and healing: John Snyder – who recently had another PET scan and continues with physical therapy. John’s family is asking for prayers that the cancer has shrunk and that the physical therapy works so he can walk again (cards and notes may be sent to John at 111 Maple Ave., Canajoharie, NY 13317); John Rocas – recently hospitalized at the Albany VA Hospital; Janet Rocas – health issues; Emory Luck – health concerns; Jane Hawkins - health concerns; Charles Jones – health concerns; Jessica Eiss – health issues; Cathy Smith – health concerns; Cynthia Clements – health concerns; Bob Mount – health concerns; Melvin Smith – health issues.

Prayers for those Homebound or in Healthcare Facilities: Stan McMillan – c/o Palatine Nursing Home, 154 Lafayette St., Palatine Bridge, NY 13428; Grace Fenno – c/o Arkell Hall, 55 Montgomery St., Canajoharie, NY 13317; Paul Flint – c/o St. Johnsville Nursing Home, 7 Timmerman Ave., St. Johnsville, NY 13452; Barbara Draffen (*Pastor Matt’s Mom*) now at a rehab facility in Schenectady; Alice McEwan (*Carol Cechnicki’s Mother*) – St. Johnsville Nursing Home, 7 Timmerman Ave., St. Johnsville, NY 13452.

Prayers for our Missionaries: Felipe & Janelle Silva – serving in Romania; Mark, Deb & Zach Wilson – serving in Cambodia.

Prayers for those who are incarcerated: Scott Cole – DIN# 15B2351, Great Meadow Correctional Facility Box 51, Comstock, NY 12821-0051.

Prayers for: Dan Cauwenberghs – (*Bobbi’s son*) who is working in Kosovo.

November Berean Bean News

Knit & Stitch

Knit & Stitch meet at the Bean
Tuesday's at 9AM.
Come join us even if you don't hook!

Bread Give Away Tuesday's at 10AM

Men's Breakfast

Will meet for breakfast at the Bean on
Saturday Nov. 7th @ 8AM! All are welcome!

Comfort Zone News

The **November Comfort Zone** will be held **Mon. Nov. 23rd @ 6PM** here at church.
Please help spread the word.

- Drive-thru or walk-up in front of the church.
- Gift bags and large items will be handed out.
- Diapers will be available.
- Social distancing and masks will be required and enforced for car passengers and walk-ups.

Flowers at Church



Because Johnstone's are no longer available for flowers, Lois Comins & Janet Rocas will be making silk arrangements by request for those who would like flowers on the altar.

If you would wish to donate toward these arrangements, please put your donation in an envelope with your name on it and place it in the collection plate.

For more information please contact Lois at 518-673-5342.

A special thank you to our friends at Johnstone Florist for the many years of suppling our church with countless beautiful flowers.



Operation Christmas Child

The time is NOW to think of the **Operation Christmas Child Shoebox** mission. This global mission, started in 1993 and has delivered 178 million shoebox gifts to children in 170 countries and territories around the world. The Operation Christmas Child team has been working hard this year to be sure the shoebox gifts can be collected and delivered safely even to places missionaries cannot reach in person.

The mission starts with us and can be done safely at home! Use any standard size shoebox to pack for a girl or boy or pick up a preprinted box we have provided on the table in back of the sanctuary.

Pack the shoebox and label it for a boy or a girl age: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. You can find suggestions of what to pack and not pack listed below.

- ### "WOW" ITEMS
- Soccer ball with pump
 - Dolls
 - Stuffed animals
 - Shoes

- ### TOYS
- Toy cars
 - Jump ropes
 - Yo-yos
 - Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

NON -LIQUID HYGIENE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Bar soap
- Washcloths
- Combs / Brushes

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators

ACCESSORIES

- Socks, Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights with extra batteries

SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS

DO NOT INCLUDE:

Candy; toothpaste, gum; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol can.

Return packed shoeboxes to the church on Sunday mornings until Nov.15, 2020. For more information contact Holly Blacker at www.hblackerathome@yahoo.com or 518-234-2782.

Fowler Camp & Retreat Center

www.campfowler.org 518.631.6789



5 October 2020

Reformed Church of Canajoharie
15-19 Front Street
Canajoharie, NY 13317

To the Saints at the Reformed Church of Canajoharie,

The two pictures above tell the story of 2020. For the first time in 65 years we didn't host summer camp. Camp wasn't the same.

But to say camp was "cancelled" would be false.

- We welcomed over 1,000-day guests who got the chance to breathe fresh air, go paddling, swimming, enjoy a picnic, and even make a s'more or two.
- More than 21 clergy & families took advantage of our offer to stay in a Prayer Cabin
- We have opened the Prayer Cabins, Pine, and Troost for family or small group rentals this fall.
- We undertook big projects, such as sandblasting & refinishing Fenimore and the start of constructing 2 new shower houses.

Summer was a time of lament *and* a time of sabbatical when many things were re-thought, re-set, and renewed,

The Board of Trustees is making plans for summer 2021 with modifications regarding the Pandemic. Continue to check our website or social media for updates. We ask for your prayers as we plan new ministry challenges for the future.

We know that all of our churches and the communities you serve have been affected by this pandemic. Fowler is not (how do they say it?) "essential". But it remains **vital** to the lives of many who spend time in this sacred space and leave it inspired and equipped to do God's work.

We ask for your continued support of this ministry.

Walk in balance,

Rev. Kent Busman
Executive Director

The Fowler Board is committed to raising 89% of our funding needs through individual donations. Fowler receives no financial support from your church's assessments to the Reformed Church or other church judicatories.



Many thanks
for your
amazing
generosity!
-Kara



September 2020

Dear Supporters,

Thank you very much for your \$200.00 donation to Mountain Valley Hospice.

Mountain Valley Hospice is dedicated to serving individuals and families facing serious, life-limiting illnesses and those grieving losses. We provide these services regardless of ability to pay. Your generosity in supporting our organization helps to ensure that this mission is fulfilled.

Again, many thanks for your amazing generosity!

Sincerely,
Kara Travis;
President / CEO
Mountain Valley Hospice

NOVEMBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Scott Morrison
- 3 Victoria Rocas
- 5 Pat Douglass
John & Evelyn Van Kersen (1960)
- 7 John Prime
- 9 Candy Jo Herrick
- 18 John Pugliese (Church St Day Hab)
Beth Luck
- 25 Chuck Jones
- 26 Jayden Green
- 29 Eloise Fetterly (Church St Day Hab)



Mission & Outreach Meeting

Tuesday November 17th
6:30PM