

The Spirit

Byron Presbyterian Church

September, 2021 Newsletter

Inside: Turkey Dinner details, Sunday School, Mission & Prayers!

The Basics

- Sunday In-Person Worship at 9:45 AM
- Sunday School begins Sunday, September 12 at 9:45 AM
- Sunday Zoom-only service is at 11:00 AM www.Zoom.us; ID# 773 728 758 Passcode 858134 Telephone 929 205 6099
- Our building is wheelchair accessible with a lift at the side entrance.
- Contact Rev. Jim Renfrew by call or text. _____
- Visit our Byron Presbyterian Facebook page for information ahead of each Sunday service.
- Visit our website to find past sermons and other church information.

Special Message

Dear Friends, My computer (with newsletter software) is in the shop this week, so I am having to use my laptop (without newsletter software) to compose our September newsletter. So we have a temporary "new look" this month! [Rev. Jim Renfrew]

Here's Where We Are

- Right in the heart of Byron, you can't miss us! Perfectly located for worship and mission!
- Easily reached from surrounding towns.
- Not so easily reached from beyond that, but, amazingly, people find their way here!
- We have a lift if stairways are a challenge.
- We have a weekly Zoom-only Sunday service at 11:00 a.m., very convenient if you are unable to leave your home or if you live in a distant place.
- A happy place to enjoy community and friendship.
- A safe place if the world is getting you down.
- A great opportunity for children to learn and grow.
- Yes, it has been a challenging year, but we keep moving ahead in faith and hope!

Updated Health Safety Protocols August 1, 2021

If you are vaccinated, no mask needed.

If you are not vaccinated, wear a mask please.

Please continue to exercise caution
for your own health and for the health of others.

The Annual Turkey Dinner

Keep your eyes peeled for a turkey on a tractor! He will lead the way to our annual Turkey Dinner at the Byron Presbyterian Church. We promise to have more turkey, more stuffing, more everything!!

When: Sunday, **October 17, 2021**

Time: 11 AM to 2 PM

Cost: \$12/dinner

How: Drive Thru Only – follow the turkey signs!!

Turn down Terry Street. Turn onto Mae Street.
Turn onto Pauline Street and enter the driveway.
Your order will be taken. Pay for your dinner.
Proceed to receive your dinner!
Never leave the comfort of your vehicle. Voila!



We will still need volunteers for preparation of the food and packaging of the meals. We will need people to take orders and fill orders. If you have questions or can help, please contact Kim Dewey. Sign-up sheets will also be available at church. Mark your calendars now!!

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

We have been finding our worship inspiration from the Letter to the Ephesians over the last two months, so I want to remind us of some of the gems we have found there.

Of course, there's our memory verse from August: ***"I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel"***. It stands in contrast to how we often picture the journey of faith as a slow, difficult slog. So, for a change, try running with your faith!

I like how the Letter tells us that ***"God is building a home. God is using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building."*** Sometimes we feel like we are little more than spectators to what God is doing in the world, a passive kind of faith; "God acts and we watch". But this verse gets us thinking that God needs people just like you – no matter who you are, what you have done or how you got here – to make what is vital happen.

I think my favorite Ephesians verse of all is this one: ***"Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that."*** So much of how we serve the Lord is filled with caution, calculation, and even suspicion, but this verse gets us thinking about love, mission, and service as "over the top", filled to the brim, and spilling over the side for others in your life.

Can we be extravagant with things that we do not fully grasp? We pray, sing and preach about the Cross, resurrection, forgiveness and healing; we may know all about them intellectually, but do we really understand? Even the author of Ephesians feels the limitations: ***"And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ."*** When we come to worship on a Sunday we can easily feel overwhelmed by our unreadiness or inability to receive what is offered – forgiveness, grace, mercy, a new start. We often think that what God has to give is limited to only few of the most deserving. If you are feeling that way, read the Letter again, and read it as if it is addressed to you! **[Jim Renfrew, Pastor]**

Preaching Texts

September 5	James 1:17-27	"First Fruits"
September 12	James 2:14-18	"What Are You Doing?"
September 19	James 3:13-18	"A Harvest of Righteousness and Peace"
September 26	TBA	Rev. Bill Hockey will be preaching
October 3	John 6:1-14	"Multiplication"



SUPERHEROS OF THE BIBLE

We're learning about superheroes of the Bible this year. Join Mrs. Tyler as she teaches our kids about all the wonderful and exciting people found in the Bible. Mrs. Tyler will have stories, crafts, and we bet there will be capes!!

Sunday, September 12th @ 9:45 am Children (4 yrs. old & up) will be excused from the service after the children's sermon.

In addition: We will be awarding Bibles to our kids moving from 3rd to 4th grade (and one or two others as well). We will also be recognizing our "Cradle Roll" – our newest superheroes!

After church we will have doughnuts and refreshments for everyone – adults and kids alike, to celebrate the fall season. We hope to see you there!!

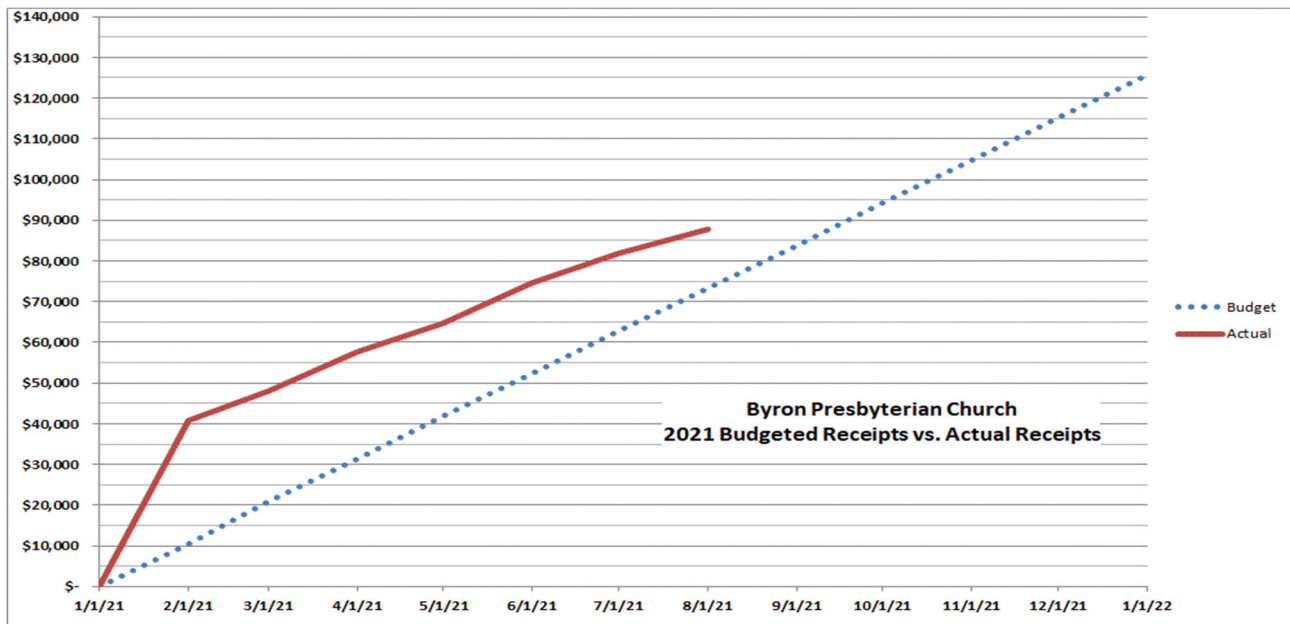
***We will need our superheroes to wear a mask during class. We want healthy, happy heroes! But never fear.... we have special superhero face masks as well, and we've managed to add a 2nd table to our Sunday School room to give everyone a little extra elbow room!!*



Sunday, September 19, 2021
Sunday service – 9:45 am

Join us as we say good-bye to
Ron & Robin Glazier
Jim & Patty Welch

We will recognize these special people during our worship service and have a reception in their honor immediately following the service.



Bible Study

Our September Bible Study will be a week earlier than usual, on **Monday, September 20th**, 7 pm. Join us in-person or on Zoom. Zoom access numbers are not the same as the ones we use for Sundays, Meeting ID 878 691 3489, Passcode 12481632, Telephone 929-205-6099.

Our text will be John 6:1-14, the story of the large crowd being fed: ¹⁰ *Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.* ¹¹ *Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.* ¹² *When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."* ¹³ *So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.*

We don't like division because it pulls us apart. Subtraction reduces us, so that we are less than what we were. Addition is better than subtraction, but it can be very slow. But multiplication is where it's at! Multiplication is how we measure miracles. Multiplication bursts through the boundaries of our limitations. The ability to multiply, and be multiplied, is an important way to measure the vitality of our congregational faith and mission.

Bring your Bibles, bring your slide rules, bring your calculators, bring enough fingers and toes to count the blessings of our lives in Christ!
[Jim Renfrew, Pastor]

Trustees

Fall will soon be here and it can be a very beautiful time to get out and enjoy God's creations around us. Fruit, vegetables and flowers have been bountiful this year so please support your local growers who work hard to bring us fresh products that we often take for granted.

The Trustees have been gathering information and quotes on some large projects that need to be addressed. We are looking to have the top coat of blacktop installed on the parking areas, What is now there is the base and needs to be finished before it deteriorates further. The second project is either painting and or siding the church.

We have received new tin panels to repair the ceiling over the pulpit in the sanctuary. The next step is to figure out how we are going to get up there to install them. We are also continuing to update the electrical system of the church. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact any of the trustees. **[Tom Nesbitt, Trustees Chair]**

Financial Information:

- **Offerings & Gifts:** We now have a secure on-line donation feature now available at the Byron Presbyterian Church, please visit our website at <http://byronfpc.com> and click the big "Give Now" button at the top.
- Offering envelopes are always available on request.
- Our beloved treasurer **Robin Glazier** is stepping down after many years of service. **Shannon Thompson** has been elected by Session to serve as Treasurer. For transition purposes, Robin has been named "Assistant Treasurer".

Choir Schedule:

Wednesday Practice: September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, October 6, 13, 20, 27;
7:00 PM

Anthem Sundays: September 12, October 31, November 28, December 5,
12 & 19 (Sunday rehearsals at 9:00 a.m.)



Mission Committee

Our **Mission Committee** has not met in quite a while and it's time for a new beginning. In September we are re-starting and re-grouping around mission, and we hope that you will want to be a part of it. Our mission begins with the passion we feel from faith, our mission is vital, our mission is what gives us visibility in the community; our mission is how our community knows who and what we are, our mission dissolves the barrier between inside and outside, our mission changes the world and changes ourselves. Tuesday, September 14, 6:30 PM is date and time. Where are we, where have we come from, and where are we going in mission? Let's find out! **[Jim Renfrew, Pastor]**

The Backpack Project continues as the new school year gets underway. We will need to determine how many families would welcome backpacks. Many thanks to Robin and Ron Glazier for assisting for a number of years. Anyone interesting in contributing is welcome to send monetary donations or drop in the plate, indicating "Backpack Program". **[Pam Kenward, Backpack Coordinator]**

Vital Congregations Initiative

VCI has not met over the summer so there is not an update related to our fall activities. Our first meeting of the cohort is September 15. We will be starting *Sacred Sense* by William Brown that I referenced last time. In the future, I will share more on what unfolds as we work on this book. The national VCI has resumed the once a week VCI updates where guest speakers discuss one of the seven marks. This is at 2:00p each Wednesday and anyone can join in. Jim Renfrew has the login information.

As you know, during the month of August Rev. Renfrew has focused on Ephesians. I love when things come together in that amazing way (God's working) because during this month the small Bible study group that I am involved in that meets each week was also studying Ephesians! On top of that, last night, in a book of daily devotions that I read, there was a consistent message that has resounded throughout Ephesians! I love what a friend calls, "synchronicity" where you are bombarded with, in this case, God's message. And, what is that message? We need to ACT in addition to believe! One of the reasons to 'put on the full armor of God...' Ephesians 6:11. In short, studying Scripture rather than merely glancing at what the Bible tells us requires very different actions.

It is evident then that when we study the word of God, we are called to action. Where have we heard this before? In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus tells us, "...whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me. Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." As you may know, the Presbyterian Church-USA has started a Matthew 25 initiative and the Genesee Valley Presbytery has joined in this effort. Churches in the Presbytery have been asked to join. It is very consistent with the VCI movement (more synchronicity) and involves doing much of what we are already doing. As Christians, we are called to act and becoming a Matthew 25 church is one way we reinforce our own commitment to 'the least of these' and do so with many others in the Presbytery. It is also a public statement that we as a church are ACTING to fulfill the message of Jesus Christ.

Jim Renfrew has called a meeting of the Mission Committee for September 14, 2021 at 7:00p at our church. We need people to help whether or not we decide to become at Matthew 25 church. Please plan to attend that meeting. Mission is part of being a Vital Congregation --- Mark 3: Answering Christ's command to go out into the world sharing the Good News by answering the call to serve and be in mission.

In closing, one of our weekly 'assignments' in the Bible study I mentioned above is to look for and report back on 'God sightings' --- those times when we are aware of God's presence directing our lives and encouraging us to recognize our blessings. While we may 'know' that God is present and we are blessed, this requires paying attention so we don't miss the sightings. So, let's start to look for our God sightings and share them with each other. May you see many! **[Ruth Andes]**

8 Habits of Evangelism In our work with the Vital Congregations Initiative, we have gained access to a variety of useful resources. We are please to announce the arrival of “8 Habits of Evangelism”. It can be found at the following web site: <https://8habits.org/preamble/> You are invited to participate in a series of Zoom discussions about 8 Habits, on Wednesdays, 3 -4 PM, September 8 through October 27. The program is free. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Jim Renfrew and he will get you registered.

VCI Preaching Rev. Jim Renfrew and Presbytery Leader Susan Orr are VCI Facilitators for our Genesee Valley Presbytery. In this capacity, Jim is periodically invited to preach at some of our other congregations. On Sunday September 26 he will be at the Chili Presbyterian Church and on October 31 he will be at the Dansville Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

HAITI: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has had long-standing partnerships in Haiti for decades. These meaningful relationships enable us to come alongside communities affected by disaster in the immediate aftermath, as well as support communities planning multi-year, long-term recovery projects. Most recently, PDA is responding to the devastating 7.2 magnitude that struck Haiti the morning of August 14, 2021 that has resulted in the loss of more than 1,200 lives. Working closely with Presbyterian World Mission, our traditional partners on the ground and ACT Alliance, PDA is responding to emergency needs such as WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), emergency power generators, shelter, food, first aid and more. We remain committed to the long-term recovery.

HURRICANE IDA: As PDA monitors Hurricane Ida, we know the impact will be crucial and the needs will be significant.

To support our response, designate gifts to [OG100000-Haiti](#), or [DR000169 - Hurricane Ida](#). To give by phone, call 800-872-3283. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

AFGHANISTAN: From October 2020-July 2021, four thousand Afghans have arrived in the U.S., resettled in 32 different states. California is the largest destination. Congress has approved funding to receive thousands more in the months ahead. They need basic furniture and supplies to set up apartments, rental housing, financial support and volunteers. Encourage your local community leaders, elected officials and the U.S. Government to work together to welcome these newcomers and to provide the services that support their integration. PDA has general information on how refugee resettlement works and how churches welcome refugees. Because people are moving quickly, local resettlement offices are frantically trying to meet the immediate needs of those who are arriving. Church World Service will be handling inquiries by national staff through refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org

Prayer Chain

This has always been my favorite sign, mostly because I think a little bit of absurdity is always a good thing. I taped it to the side of the family car when our parents drove the family west one summer to the PCUSA’s Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. I loved all of the dumbfounded looks when people in other cars saw it as we drove along.

Maybe there’s more than absurdity at work here. Maybe the sign is a commentary about people like us who easily overlook important signs of the times happening all around us: pandemic dangers, climate change, water scarcity, and resources depletion. We’re pretty good at ignoring such things until they impact us. And then there’s this: Sometimes we even have trouble spotting the signs of God’s love and care.

All of this is to say, use our Prayer Chain. Share your worry, joy, or story and we will not ignore YOU, we’ll be right there with you! **Send prayer requests** to [Chrystal](#)



Speaking of Prayers ...

We are praying for **Irene Barber** (Janet Pike's sister, with a serious back injury), **Dan Gilully** (Nancy's Curran's brother also a fall with serious injuries), **Audrey Blount**, **Melanie Nesbitt**, **Gail Radley's friends**, **Gene Richenberg**, **Bob & Sally Estes**.

After a pandemic hiatus we have weddings happening again: please pray for **Sydney Moore & Alex Carli**, **Larisa Sloat & Matt Chiverton**, **Lee Shuknecht & Anna Smith**.

Jean Roda, our oldest church member passed away in July, her 99th year. What a saint she had been in the life of our congregation! **Elizabeth Kowalik**, Wally's mother, passed away in July, RIP.

Prayers for family members in military service: **Leanna and Matt Paine** (Air Force), **Nicole Stanton** (Navy) and **Sean Holly** (Air Force).

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2 Zach Platt

6 Laura Platt, Alexandra Walker

8 Bob Tyler

10 Sue Hockey

11 Darryl McCracken

13 Justin Beverly

14 Pam Kenward

15 Carol Stamp

16 Daniel Stevens (Dad)

18 Ellie Wilt, Kimber Beverly

23 Winnie Elizabeth Small

28 Kristina Kelley Dickson, Lindsay Stein

30 Marilyn Britt

September Anniversaries

4 Bob and Beth Wilson

7 Sarah and Steve Small

Church Leadership

Session: Clerk: Shannon Thompson, Moderator: Rev. James Renfrew

2021 Shannon Thompson, Vicky Truax, Patty Welch

2022 Jim Welch, Laura Bestehorn, Ron Glazier

2023 Ruth Andes, Chrystal Britt, Liz Weber

Deacons: Co-Moderators: Faline Tyler and Laura Platt,

Treasurer: Sara Geissler, Secretary: Elizabeth Shuknecht

2021: Linda Engle, Marilyn Britt, Sue Hockey

2022: Faline (co-Moderator), Sara Geissler, Elizabeth Shuknecht

2023: Wendy Louis, Patty Iamon/Laura Platt (co-Moderator), Luan Riner

Trustees: Chair: Tom Nesbitt Secretary Robin Shuknecht

2021: Robin Shuknecht, Eric George, Mark Dewey

2022: Lee Blair, Jr, Rich Hillabush Walker, Tom Nesbitt

2023: David Keller, Marc Kenward, Kim Dewey

Mission Associate: Jordan Sloat

Church Information

Sunday Worship: in-person at 9:45 AM, and on Zoom at 11:00 AM.

Sunday School: resumes on September 12.

Church Office: 585-548-2800

Church Secretary: position currently vacant

Church Web Page: www.byronfpc.org

Church Facebook Page: "Byron First Presbyterian Church"

Church WiFi Password: BYRONPC2020 (2G option works best)

Pastor: James Renfrew 585-548-2800, office)

jim.renfrew@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Shannon Thompson

Treasurer: [Shannon Thompson](#)

Assistant Treasurer: Robin Glazier

Organist / Choir Director: Laurence Tallman

Board of Trustees: Tom Nesbitt, Chair

Sexton: [Penny Kennett](#)



11:30 a.m. Worship Service

Peace & Global Witness with Sara Lisherness & Rosemary Mitchell (PCUSA)

12:15 p.m. Sandwich Buffet Sticky Lips BBQ; Adults \$5, under 18 FREE, Registration required

You and your family are invited to a day of fun, food, and fellowship at Stokoe Farms Pumpkin Patch and Harvest Fest on **Saturday, September 25**. This is the first of a series of occasional gatherings for presbyters and families focusing on fellowship, mission and fun. Thanks to the generosity of the Stokoe family you can access the grounds and activities without charge anytime from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Be sure to join in the worship service at 11:30 and sandwich buffet meal at 12:15 (reservations for lunch is required).

Fun—A day at the farm is a matchless experience! For 209 years, the Stokoe Family has been cultivating a sustainable and regenerative farming heritage. They are dedicated to sharing their traditions with you. Stokoe Farms Pumpkin Patch & Harvest Fest offers unique and wholesome family entertainment with 35+ activities: hayrides, pumpkins, farm animals, and special events.

Worship & Mission - Special guests at 11:30 Worship Celebration, Sara Lisherness and Rosemary Mitchell, from the PCUSA in Louisville will lead a service focusing on the upcoming Peace & Global Witness Offering.

Food We'll have a delicious sandwich buffet from Sticky Lips BBQ at 12:15. There is a vegetarian option.

Reservations—Reservations for lunch are required at the Presbytery Office by Thursday, September 16: \$5 per adult, FREE for kids under 18. You may request tickets for the activities without reserving lunch but must also register by September 16.

Attire This event is rain or shine, we have indoor tables and seating. There are many activities on the grassy area outside and the Harvest Barn (worship & meal) is not heated or cooled so dress appropriately for the weather on that day.

Contacts—Bill Haake, haake@rochester.rr.com; Jim Renfrew, jim.renfrew@gmail.com; Kay VanNostrand, kvannost@rochester.rr.com

September 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5 PM T.O.P.S. 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM AA	2 6:30 PM Personnel Committee	3	4
5 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Zoom 2:00 PM Wedding	6 LABOR DAY	7	8 11:00 AM Country Neighbors 5 PM T.O.P.S. 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM AA	9	10	11
12 Sunday School Begins 9:00 AM Choir 9:45 AM Worship 10:45 AM Donuts and Cider! 11:00 Zoom Service	13	14 7 PM Mission Committee 7 PM Trustees	15 5 PM T.O.P.S. 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM AA	16 7:00 PM Session	17	18 2:00 PM Wedding
19 9:45 AM Worship and Communion 11:00 Zoom Service	20 7:00 PM Bible Study	21 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee	22 5 PM T.O.P.S. 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM AA	23	24	25 10 AM – 5 PM Presbytery Gathering at Stokoe Farm 7:00 PM Stewardship Bonfire on the Lawn
26 9:45 AM Worship with Rev. Hockey 11:00 NO Zoom Today	27	28 7:00 PM CE/Worship Committee	29 5 PM T.O.P.S. 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM AA	30		

North Bergen Presbyterian Church Free Food Pantry

Saturdays, 9:00 AM – Noon, September 18 & 25; Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, September 15 & 22.

Clothing, personal items, household items and books are often available. Donations of hygiene items are much needed. Volunteers are always welcome, call Pastor Dave at 290-5487.

Stewardship Bonfire, Sept. 25

The Stewardship Committee invites you to enjoy s'mores and cider around a bonfire on the church lawn, Saturday, September 25, 7 PM.

The Stewardship theme this year is "Multiplication", and what better way to multiply God's blessings than to enjoy multiple s'mores with multiple friends waving multiple sparklers! This will be fun for all ages!

Turkey Dinner

**Byron Presbyterian Church
Sunday, October 17, 2021
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Drive-Through only
Follow the Turkey Signs!
\$12 per dinner**



**First Presbyterian Church of Byron
P.O. Box 206
Byron, NY 14422-0206**

