

Pres Notes

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Happy New Year! May the dawn of a new year be a blessing to each of us as we start afresh. What makes a single day, January 1st, the moment of transition? The end of one year and the beginning of another? What makes a birthday, or a wedding day, etc. different from the day before or the day after? It's our attitude, isn't it? Certainly, there opportunities, duties and responsibilities associated with certain benchmarks and transitions, but

it is an attitude, an embrace of a new phase, that makes the day different. The dawn of a new year is a great opportunity to embrace this transition, a movement into everything a new year offers.

Embracing the new year, necessitates having some tools in our pocket, foundational ideals that put us on the road to success. Here are a few that undergird my prayer and 'interior' life.

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle." You've heard me use this quote before. This quote has been attributed to many people over the centuries, but the earliest attribution is to Philo of Alexandria (c. 50 AD). It's also been re-phrased, "Everyone is on a different journey." I find this sentiment particularly important because I'm prone (and I think many of us tend this way) to get caught up in my own busy-ness, and it's important, for example, to remember that the slow-moving person in the grocery store may be accomplishing a huge milestone simply by walking through the store. (*They're not just in the way of me getting to the tomato sauce.*) We each face physical, emotional and spiritual struggles. It isn't a contest to compare our scars or torments; this moment of consideration for the things our neighbors endure can help make me, and all of us, a touch kinder and more considerate as we enter each new day.

"Smile and the world smiles with you." It is a simple fact that our kindness doesn't cost a thing. And, moreover, when we smile, when we think positive thoughts, our mood is lifted. I'm not a big fan of what I call 'bumper sticker' or 'soundbite' ideologies, but I can truly say that I have found that this works. Keeping with the grocery store example, wandering the aisles sour faced can cause my fellow shoppers to veer toward the other side of the aisle. While an inviting smile can offer a welcome, a 'hello' and occasionally a brief conversation. All of which lightens my mood and is brightens each of our days. As we transition from 2019 to 2020 a little bit of sunshine, the glint of a welcoming smile, might be just what we need.

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"The past is past." Like every person, I have a lifetime of memories from a host of experiences. They float to the front of my brain from time to time – landmarks, smells, tastes, passages from books, conversations, any and all of these things can bring a memory back. Some are fond, even beloved, others are sad, some even anger inducing. At Thanksgiving we were in Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with folks from high school, some I hadn't seen in 25 years. I even met a couple people from my class that I never knew – the consequence of having more than 600 kids in my graduating class. Our past was, and is, a sturdy foundation for future, but the past is past – dwelling on was or what might have been, only holds us back. That is to say that however fond I am of those memories, I can't recreate those moments. So, rather than living in that past, what I wonder is, what is possible now? I happened to have a couple of conversations that evening that challenged me to consider what better self I want for my future. Simply put, I love my past, but I can't and won't live there. So, what's the best future I can build for myself?

What's your best future? Where will you share your smile? What small consideration will you give to the neighbor who is also fighting a great fight? These are important questions for our daily lives, and for us as a congregation. I pray that we will be blessed with a joyous and happier, New Year.

In Christ,

Rev. Aaron D. Frank

FOOD PANTRY NEWS



They operate Tuesdays and Thursdays Noon -2pm.

They have served in the first 11 months of 2019 (through the end of November):

1,746 Families

2,370 Adults

1,267 Children

892 seniors

Total Clients served 4,529



January

	LAY READER	HEAD USHER	COFFEE HOUR
5th	Ellen Benedict	Jim McIntosh	Deacons
12th	Doug Cotton	Doug Day	Community Meal
19th	Allen Oldfield	Guy Stillman	B&G / Mission
26th	Jan Stillman	Joe Matejka	Christian Discipleship

Friday,
January 10th
@ 4:30PM

Free Community Dinner



Sunday January 12th

At 3:00 PM



Installation

Of Rev. Aaron D. Frank

Men's Breakfast in December had 7 guys fellowshiping and eating French Toast, Bacon, and Fried Potatoes. Attached is a picture of a few visiting while waiting for breakfast and Jim also sent this picture of the food.

The next Men's Breakfast is January 4th 9am Omelets to order, home fries, and sausage.





**Sunday January 19th
After Worship
Annual Congregational Meeting**

Kitchen Rules



We have noticed that there are frequently items in the refrigerators that are not labeled and ultimately, they get thrown away. If you use the refrigerator or freezer, please put a label with your name and date on it. If there are no names or dates, the item will be considered open to anyone and it may get thrown out. Dates are important, especially when the Health Department makes an inspection. There will be labels and a marker in an envelope on the front of the refrigerator for you to use.

Thank you!



Our Fall Rummage Sale was a big success as we made over \$3200. However, it was one of the most difficult that we have ever had. There was very little help and an exceptional amount of trash that had to be thrown out and tons of bags of items to be sorted, placed and marked.

In addition, we made 500 cinnamon rolls to sell.

A future sale is up in the air – **SO PLEASE DO NOT BRING ANY ITEMS** and leave in the sale rooms. If we have a future sale, it will need to be handled differently. We would like to try to come up with some new ideas for fundraising. Thanks for your support.

From the Church Secretary

Happy New Year everyone. As we begin the New Year, the church office is also beginning new policies.

One of the biggest challenges of my job has always been keeping the calendar up to date and making sure I am aware of all the upcoming meetings & events for both Church related and outside group activities.

Effective immediately, there is now a procedure for the church Calendar. If there is an activity you need on the calendar, you will need to notify the appropriate contact person to have the event added to the church calendar.



If the activity is **Church Related**, I will be the contact person. The best way to contact me is by secretarial email hfpcoffice@verizon.net
You can also leave me a message on the church phone 607-739-3854 or in my Secretarial mailbox outside the Study Lounge.

If the activity involves an **outside group**, Lori Ann Congdon will be the contact person
lanncongdon@gmail.com

We need to be notified of all events & special church functions/services/meetings (including date, time, room...). If we are not notified, we cannot put it on the calendar. If this is an ongoing meeting/activity – please make to notify when there are changes (ex. not meeting for a holiday, or summer...)

Effective immediately, No one else is to write/add events on the calendar. Only events that have been added by the appropriate contact person will be honored.

I would like to thank everyone their cooperation.

I am excited to have a comprehensive/efficient calendar for the church.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

The Deadline for February's Newsletter is **Wednesday January 22nd**.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Newsletter this month, it was wonderful to see all the articles from all the different groups.

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00a Coffee & Conversation 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	2 1:00p Prayer Shawl Group	3	4 9:00a Men's Breakfast
5 10:30a Worship Service	6	7 10:00a Bible Study	8 10:00a Coffee & Conversation 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	9	10 4:30p Free Community Dinner	11
12 10:30a Worship Service 3:00p Rev. Aaron D Frank's Installation	13	14 10:00a Bible Study	15 10:00a Coffee & Conversation 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	16	17	18
19 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Annual Congregational Meeting	20	21 10:00a Bible Study	22 10:00a Coffee & Conversation 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	23	24	25
26 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Deacon's Meeting	27	28 10:00a Bible Study	29 10:00a Coffee & Conversation 6:00p Bell Choir 7:15p Choir	30	31	