

June 2017

Worshiping God With Joy.

Serving Others.

Embracing All.

Pastor's Ponderings...

As I 'pondered' what to write, this little snippet popped into my mind: "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree." OK - you may not, but I call it 'divine inspiration.' So I got to thinking about trees.

The little 'snippet' is actually from a poem – maybe you remember it – by Alfred 'Joyce' Kilmer. Though a prolific poet whose works celebrated the common beauty of the natural world as well as his religious faith, Kilmer is remembered most for his short poem titled "Trees" (1913), which was published in the collection *Trees and Other Poems* in 1914.

Here's the entire poem:

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Trees speak to my heart and soul. They always have. I find them fascinating and beautiful in and through every season – and anticipate and relish each and every change – from their soft green budding in the Spring, their full bright- green lushness in the Summer; their stunning and multi-colored beauty in the Fall, and their naked, silvery-gray branches in the Winter.

Trees are truly symbolic representations of that Ecclesiastes verse (3:1): "For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven." A time of budding and new beginnings; a time of full bloom and flourishing; a time of maturity and closing out a season in a blaze of glory; and a time to rest and of slowing down; a time to get ready for another season and another cycle of purpose.

Kilmer says: "Only God can make a tree." Truly, only God could create such glory and with such purpose. Trees are truly extraordinary in their variety and uniqueness and purpose. They are so many wonderful things: solid, dependable, beautiful; they provide a harvest of fruit and nuts; they provide lumber; they serve as habitats to the animals who nest within their leafy arms; they provide shade from the hot sun; trees improve air quality by giving off oxygen; their decaying leaves return nutrients to the soil and enhance future growth. Remember too perhaps their most fun use – for climbing and hiding away from the world.

Kilmer is not the only one inspired by the tree. So was the prophet Jeremiah: "Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8)



Ogden too is inspired and blessed by trees. The almost 200-year old White Oak on our front lawn symbolizes the deep roots and rich tradition of our Church. This grand giant is one of the oldest trees in Chatham and has witnessed all of our years of mission and ministry. It is deeply rooted, literally and figuratively, in Chatham's history too. The stories it could tell! And last year we planted two pear trees on either side of our front walk to symbolize a new beginning for Ogden as we step forward in faith toward our future and whatever purpose God holds for Ogden. It is to be deeply hoped and a part of our vision that some Ogden pastor or member will write about our 200 year-old pear trees someday – and that they too will have amazing stories to tell about our Church and its faithful ministry and loving service. Stories of how a small but faithful group of people loved their church and loved “worshipping God with joy, serving others and embracing all”. May this summer be for you a time of strength, joy, greenness and bearing of fruit. And maybe you'll even be inspired to hug a tree or two!

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. (Ephesians 3:17)

Sundays at Ogden – June

Sunday, June 4 – Pentecost

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Chancel Choir |
| 9:20 a.m. | Chimes Ensemble |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship – Communion |
| 10:15 a.m. | Last Day of Sunday School |
| 11:00 a.m. | Coffee Fellowship |
| 11:00 a.m. | Youth Music |
| 11:15 a.m. | Deacons |

Sunday, June 11 – Youth Sunday

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Chancel Choir |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship - Baptism |
| 11:00 a.m. | Coffee Fellowship |
| 11:00 a.m. | Youth Music |
| 11:15 a.m. | Worship & Music Committee |

Sunday, June 18 - Father's Day

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship |
| 11:00 a.m. | Coffee Fellowship |
| | No Ensembles/Guest Organist |

Sunday, June 25 - Baccalaureate Sunday

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. | Chancel Choir |
| 9:30 a.m. | Youth Music |
| 10:00 a.m. | Worship - Baptism |
| 11:00 a.m. | Coffee Fellowship |





Please note that Sunday School's last day is Youth Sunday, June 11, and will resume again on September 17 with our Kick-Off Outdoor Service, Picnic and kids' activities. More information will be available in the near future. Bibles will be awarded to our children and youth at the June 11 service.



Baccalaureate Sunday – June 25

On June 25 we will be honoring all our graduates... 8th Grade, High School, College, and Masters Programs. Please send your graduation information (name, degree, and school) to June in the Church office no later than **Wednesday, June 22**, (973-635-5567) so the graduates can be listed in the bulletin.



FISHAWACK 2017!! June 10th – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

It's almost here! Lots of plans are being made and lots of help is needed. Perhaps you had a chance to read the wonderful article – “Strawberry Festival returns” - in the Chatham Courier on May 18. It talks about reviving the “beloved Fishawack tradition” of Ogden’s Strawberry Festival. Sophia was quoted (along with many other people): “We want to showcase all aspects of Ogden at the festival and show that it’s worthwhile to stop by and see what happens behind the walls of Ogden.” Pastor Kathi told the reporter “Rallying everyone in the church to work on a part of this community outreach event is symbolic of our theme ‘Putting Love First in the Heart of Chatham’ and all about making Ogden visible in the community.” So this is the “rallying” call. Please volunteer to help – there is so much to do. We want this to be a group effort and a pulling together of every Ogdenite as we put our best foot – and strawberry shortcake – forward.

Here’s a few of the tasks for which help is needed: greeters, strawberry washers/slicers, servers, set up, clean up, and a whole host of other tasks. Please be in touch with Sophia to find out how you can participate on 973-635-0456 or soffmh@gmail.com.



Summer Worship Hours

Please note that we will begin 9:30 a.m. worship in the Narthex starting Sunday, July 2, and continuing through Sunday, September 3. We will resume 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, September 10. **“Welcome Back to Church Sunday”** and a special outdoor celebration will be held on **Sunday, September 17, at 10:00.**

Call to Congregational Meeting

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation of the Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, July 16, 2017, in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m., immediately after the Worship Service, for the following purposes:

1. to receive reports from the Session, the Deacons and other organizations of the church;
2. to receive and vote on recommendations of the Nominating Committee;
3. to elect congregational members to the 2017-2018 Nominating Committee;
4. to receive the report of the Audit Committee; and
5. to conduct any other business that may properly come before the meeting.



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Thank you to our **Chancel (Adult) Choir, Chimers** and our **Youth Musicians** for adding beautifully to recent services. This month is our lead-up to summer and the end of the ensemble year, but has some special highlights:

- Sunday, June 4, is Pentecost and includes special flute music as well as our **Chimes Ensemble** and **Chancel Choir** adding to worship.
- **Chancel Choir** is set to sing every Sunday in June except for June 18.
- **Youth Musicians** will likely also sing the final Sunday of the month, June 25, and rehearse most Sundays after worship.

I'm looking forward to adding to Ogden's Fishawack festivities on Saturday, June 10, and sharing some organ, piano and vocal music – from Bach to Bebop to Broadway – during our two afternoon sanctuary tours. This will be a few short moments of featured music, as well as some background tunes while visitors explore our stained glass windows.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for our Summer Hymn Sings Sundays: July 9 and August 20.



Youth Group

Preliminary Plans are starting to emerge for Glamping 2017, set to take place at the end of July. Youth Group leaders are finalizing the dates and details with participants and their families.



News From Session

At its May meeting, the Session:

- Approved five baptisms;
- Set the next Congregational meeting for July 16;
- Heard of plans for recognizing our graduates, and celebrating the end of Sunday School year;
- Discussed Ogden's participation in the Fishawack Festival, and planned a special planning meeting on May 30;
- Discussed replacing the furnace, and arranged a meeting to hear from one of the bidders;
- Expressed our appreciation of Nancy Bressler's work on the Elmwood Avenue door planters;
- Learned that we have signed a contract to sell the Coleman lot.

MISSION IN ACTION: CHRISTIANS WHO CARE!

Putting love first in the heart of Chatham!

Thank you to all of you who participated in our dual missions for May. We were able to collect a large amount of paper towel and toilet paper rolls for St. Hubert's Animal Shelter and a number of Box Tops for Education and ring tabs for the Early Childhood Learning Center.

Thank you to those of you who contributed to our collection at the May 5th Cinco de Mayo picnic. This donation of \$ 171 benefited the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter.

Our current mission project is "The T-Cap Project." The Madison Senior Center is collecting clean, used adult T-shirts and polo-type knit shirts to be made into chemo caps/turbans for patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment at the Carol Simon Center at Morristown Hospital. These centers can be quite chilly so the patients really appreciate head coverings which help provide warmth. In addition, the people responsible for constructing and decorating the caps are producing quite a fashionable and attractive product! There is a collection box in the Narthex in which to deposit the shirts. Shirts may also be dropped off at other times. Just give June a call on 973-635-5567 to make arrangements. Thanks so much for caring and being a part of 'Putting love first in the heart of Chatham!!'



Please take time out from your busy schedules to remember the June birthdays listed below. Send a card or make a phone call. Your greetings will be appreciated by all! If you have not seen your name on the lists, please call the church office so that we can update our files with your birth date. We promise not to print the year in the "Birthday Corner."

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Lydia Stusnick | 1 |
| Kenny Bressler | 2 |
| Maggie Masson | 8 |
| June Jeannette | 10 |
| Dick Ligertwood | 15 |
| Roger Bender | 18 |
| Caroline O’Gorman | 23 |
| Todd Ferrie | 26 |
| Cassandra Farnow | 27 |
| Chelsea Knoll | 27 |



Let Us Pray...

Let us pray for our members...Marcia Casais, Becky Jarvis, Martha Kiff, Barbara Molitor

Let us pray for...Mariclaire Miller, recovering from surgery

Let us pray for...Charlie Roussel (June Jeannette’s son-in-law) who will undergo open heart surgery on June 12

Let us pray for...

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Kevin Boettger | nephew of Pat Hammeke |
| Kathy Dixon | sister-in-law of Marcia Casais |
| Ed Dunn | great-uncle of Casey Molino Dunn |
| Josh Fernandez | 12 year old neighbor of the Roos family |
| Auriel Gonzales | mother of Sandy Roos |
| Paul Horgan | friend of the Crescas family |
| Patricia Maher | friend of Marcia Casais |
| Denny Mayer | friend of Marcia Casais |
| Ron McBride | uncle of Cheryl Conklin |
| The Mears family | our missionaries in Haiti |
| Charles Molino | uncle of Casey Molino Dunn |
| Kian Musgrove | 4 year old friend of David Molino Dunn |
| Marion Nash | friend of Janice and Balcom Parcels |
| Clark and Jean Paradise | parents of Allan Paradise |
| Dennis Paradise | brother of Allan Paradise |
| The Roche Family | neighbors of Marcia Casais |
| Gloria Rodgers | cousin of Ginnie Trowbridge |
| Charlie Roussel | son-in-law of June Jeannette |
| Mindy Shaw | friend of Janice Parcels |
| Laurie Sheppard | friend of Cindy Parlavecchio |
| Frank Squindo | son of Janice Parcels |
| Mark Squindo | son of Janice Parcels |

Let us pray for those serving our Country...Scott Armstrong, James Glendening, Morgan Glendening, Robert Traver, Doug Verblaauw.