April Parish Newsletter--March 25, 2020

Greetings from Pastor Nancy!

I am writing this letter a little early, due to what is happening in the world with Corona Virus. The churches are closed for at least two weeks, but you can still send a check with your regular contribution by mail or arrange for your bank to send a check for you. I will be putting our services online at the church website lakeandriverparish.org. until further notice.

Here in the Lake and River Parish communities our restaurants are closed to sit-down dining, but some are doing call-ahead take-out and delivery. The American Legion in the Cape is doing the Fish Fry during Lent, and Snug Harbor is doing takeout. The bank is open at the Chaumont drive-through and mail is being delivered.

On a happy note, the birds are returning, so nice to see and hear them. Seaway is opening April 1, unless they let out more water. The grass is greening I am so looking forward to the return of our summer people. We must keep in mind that God is with us always and he will get us through this times of uncertainly.

Also, some of our church members are stepping up. They are shopping for our home-bound folks if they need any groceries or medicine etc. Our communities are coming together just like they did during the ice storm. God is good and hard times brings us together. If you need help with grocery pick-up or medications, please contact Pastor Nancy 607 348-3832

I know this is a hard time to be isolated, but we can take advantage of this time. Read your bible. Watch movies, spend time writing cards. We have so many people who could us a card since they won't be getting visits.

At the Summit--Betty Binsley, and Jim Gosier. Summit Village 2262 Campus Drive, Watertown NY 13601; at Samaritan Keep--Isabella Binsley, Clara Van Doran and Eleanor Shafanda, 133 Pratt St, Water town NY 13601; and at SMC--Bob Ewing Samaritan Medical Center PCU 850 Washington Street, Water town NY 13601.

Attached is a special announcement from the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee.

**Announcement:**

Dear Members of the Lake and River Parish Churches:

We on the Staff Parish Relations Committee have an important announcement to share:

Bishop Mark Webb of the Upper New York Annual Conference intends to appoint Christiane Depestre (*pronounced: Chris-ti-anne De-pest*) to serve as Pastor of the churches and communities of the Lake and River Parish of the Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church. Pastor Christiane will begin serving on July 1st 2020.

Over the next few months pastor Christiane will be visiting with us and preparing to serve in our midst.

Your PPRC committee members are encouraged by Pastor Christiane’s obvious love for her office to be a “feeder of sheep”, as she described her calling from God, to pastor people. She wants to walk in partnership with us to make disciples for Christ and care for our communities. We look forward to exploring with her how to best use all of our gifts in the One Body of believers of this Lake and River Parish.

God has a plan for Pastor Nancy’s ministry in the future. You will undoubtedly hear more about this in the weeks to come. Your SPPRC will be involved in plans to celebrate Pastor Nancy’s ministry with us parish-wide. It is most appropriate to let Pastor Nancy hear from you to thank her for her almost 6 years here. Her email is [lakeandriverumc@gmail.com](mailto:lakeandriverumc@gmail.com) and her cell is 607-348-3832.

Please pray for all the churches and pastors involved in this move. It is never an individual effort. Congregations, pastors, district superintendent and Bishop’s Cabinet must all be involved. Itinerancy is the system that keeps ministries fresh and gives all involved an opportunity to have their individual gifts multiplied for the good of the Body of Christ, the church, and for making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Reverend Weeden asked us to share Pastor Christiane’s contact information with the parish so that anyone may send her words of welcome and encouragement. Her email is [chris\_depoung@hotmail.com](mailto:chris_depoung@hotmail.com) and her cell is 347-517-8461.

All forms of communication should be used to spread this news to the congregations, Facebook, email, etc. We want everyone to know at the same time, but in this current restriction on in-person contact, we must all be resourceful.

Let us all commit to pray first; act second. We will always be in a place of spiritual safety then. We have God’s word on it.

On behalf of your SPPRC committee members, we send you greetings and prayers for your good health.

Chair Linda Rowe: email [trowe7@twcny.rr.com](mailto:trowe7@twcny.rr.com) cell 315-222-4287

Point Peninsula Lay Leader Linda Denny; Three Mile Bay Lay Leader Sally Grimshaw, Julia Gosier;

United Church of Cape Vincent Lay Leader Cathy Snyder, Don Brown, Pat Regan, Perry Golden, Bob Brown