



January/February 2021 Communiqué

John Calvin Presbyterian Church

50 Ward Hill, Henrietta, NY 14467

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Welcome my friends to 2021!

A new beginning with hope for much good news in the days and weeks to come. 2020 was a difficult year for all of us in one way or another. And we ended the year having to say goodbye to our good friend Crystal Connor, who returned home to the everlasting arms on December 30, 2020.

Crystal and her twin sister, Ellen, are long-time members of JCPC. In recent years you would always find them working at the ticket table for JCPC Spaghetti Suppers and welcoming everyone with their beautiful smiles. Crystal and Ellen both served as deacons and with the help of their grandmother, Pat Plassche, made sure that birthday greetings were extended throughout the year. Crystal was a willing volunteer for assisting in worship leadership and truly enjoyed being a contributing member to the mission and ministry of JCPC. We will miss her dearly.

Crystal's friendship included many people. Below is a beautiful tribute message that was written by Doreen Clark Blankenbush.

Recently I copied a post about being a Retired Teacher. I must add that the students I have had the honor of teaching are the most important part of our work. They become our kids! ❤️

Sadly, I've lost another "kid", Crystal Connor. She and her twin, Ellen Connor, were first in my preschool summer class as 3 year olds. Spunky, funny and full of energy! We were bonded due to their mom being a friend of my sister. As they grew up, they remained "my kids", in summer programs and then High School and through their transition years! They went on to be employed, independent and amazing people. They worked hard through the challenges life threw at them. They had infectious smiles and giggles! They loved to read, write and figure out math problems, usually! They loved a good joke and all animals! They were two peas in one awesome pod! Losing Crystal, for Ellen, will be her biggest challenge ever. Unfortunately, no lessons were ever taught that would prepare you for the loss of a sister, especially a twin.

Losing a student is never what we want to experience. We were family, Monday-Friday, all day and always wanted so much for them. The goal: to be the best people they can be! Crystal exceeded my expectations! 🙌🙌

Fly high with the Angels my dear Crystal. Tell Debbie I love her! Hug your mom and let her know you've done well! Hugs to you Ellen and family.

As we begin our journey of 2021, may we be encouraged and inspired by the way in which Crystal lived her life – embracing the challenges and finding the fun along the way.

Rev. Marie



Crystal Ann Connor, Daughter – Sister – Friend, passed on December 30, 2020.

She was predeceased by her mother, Sherri L. Connor and grandparents: Jane and John Havranek, George Johnston and Ernest Connor.

She is survived by her father, Kenneth Connor; sister, Ellen Connor; grandparents, Darwin and Patricia Plassche; aunts, Elizabeth Connor and Eileen Connor; uncle, Jim (Ann Marie) Johnston; cousins, David Costilow and Justin (Anna) Johnston as well as many dear friends.

The first born of twins, Crystal was a generous and selfless soul who deeply loved her family. She cared greatly for any person who came into her life and loved all animals. She took pride in living her best life. She was a gaming buddy and enjoyed playing Harvest Moon and Rune Factory. #Weaboo

She was strong of heart and body, a self-less healer, a wolf-spirit. A day won't go by without people thinking about her. She will be missed by all who knew her.

A celebration in honor of Crystal's life will be held in warmer weather when family and friends can gather safely. Until then, keep her memory alive in your little acts of kindness and stories shared with her family.

<https://millerfuneralandcremationservices.com/obituaries/crystal-ann-connor/187/>

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January & February 2021

Sunday, January 10 @ 10:00 a.m.

In-Person Worship at JCPC with a recording of the service to be shared by email later in the day.

Sundays, January 17, 24, and 31

An order of worship with links to videos will be emailed on Saturday evening.

Sunday, February 7 @ 10:00 a.m.

In-Person Worship at JCPC with a recording of the service to be shared by email later in the day.

Sunday, February 14 @ 10:00 a.m.

In-Person Worship at JCPC with a recording of the service to be shared by email later in the day.

Sundays, February 21 and 28

An order of worship with links to videos will be emailed on Saturday evening.

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 17

Weekly Bible Study / Book Study to Resume in February

Watch for details in coming weeks.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION – Sunday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place via ZOOM on Sunday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m. Annual Reports for your review will be emailed prior to the meeting. An invitation to the meeting is provided below and will be sent out again prior to the meeting.

Marie Hanselman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Annual Congregational Meeting

Time: Jan 31, 2021 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85150603721?pwd=ZlI4VzE3QnFoVjBHa0tqNE1lc2hkQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 5060 3721

Passcode: 893544

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,85150603721#,,,,*893544# US (New York)

+13126266799,,85150603721#,,,,*893544# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 851 5060 3721

Passcode: 893544

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85150603721?pwd=ZlI4VzE3QnFoVjBHa0tqNE1lc2hkQT09>

Highlights of Session Meetings – November and December 2020

- Development of a hybrid plan for worship in January and February due to increased prevalence of COVID19 in our community.
- Approval of 2021 Budget, which Elder John Stever (Treasurer) will report on at the Jan 31st Congregational Meeting.
- Election of New Elders and Deacons for 2021 at the Congregational Meeting November 1.
- Approval of amended By-Laws for number of Elders and Deacons and their terms of service. (Approved by Congregation November 1st.)
- Joint Meeting of Elders and Deacons, past year and coming year November 14.
- Installation and Ordination of new Elders and Deacons November 15.
- Mission and Outreach stayed strong, thanks to Elder Barb Hamilton and Elder Jody Day, with Christmas donations to Kirkhaven, Friendship Children's Center and Mary's place. Weekly visits to Cameron Ministry continued, and ongoing donations for their Teen Center continued. Also, Thanksgiving dinners were delivered by them and will also for Christmas.
- Approved leftover Mission funds in budget be used in the following donations:
 - 100 dollars to Presbyterian Home
 - 100 dollars to Mary's Place
 - 100 dollars to Cameron Ministry Teen Center
- Elder Randy Hamilton kept Buildings and Grounds running well, responding to RNS needs and taking care of boiler, furnace and electrical problems as they came up.
- Treasurer and Elder John Stever reported consistent pledging and financial stability for the church's finances, despite the differences in worship.
- Congregational Meeting on January 31st will be held via Zoom. Committee reports due by January 19th to Mary Cunningham so she can prepare the reports for distribution via email distribution and mailed copies to those without computer access.
- Election of the following positions for 2021:
 - John Stever, Treasurer
 - Jan Stever, Assistant Treasurer
 - Cindy Freeman, Financial Secretary
 - Nancy Milizia, Assistant Financial Secretary
 - Clerk of Session, Ellen Best
 - Elder Commissioners to Presbytery - Elder Jody Day and Clerk Ellen Best

May 2021 be filled with blessings for all of you,

Ellen Best

Clerk of Session

Deacons Update

A Deacon, in The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA), is described as:

G-2.0201 Deacon Defined

“The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. . . .”

I believe that all of you have been Deacons of Christ, especially during this year of anxiety. I’ve heard from many people, that are not part of the 2020 deacon board, say they called someone or spoke to someone they normally wouldn’t have called or contacted. **Thank you!**

We’d all like to do more for our fellow neighbors, family and friends. Think about that one phone call you made that brightened someone’s day or helped that someone through a tough time. You are sharing Christ’s Love in that moment of time, and the impact will ripple in time.

Carolyn Pollock and I left the board of deacons at the end of 2020. You’ll be in great hands in 2021 with Anne Reed and Betsy Hinkley (splitting a term), Mark Sundman, Janice Stever and Linda Cummings. I thank you for allowing me to be your Deacon, and I plan on continuing that spirit of being a deacon for the rest of my life.

God’s Love be with you always,
Nancy Milizia

Matthew 20:28 (ESV)

“ . . . even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The Deacons mourn the passing of Crystal Connor on 12/30/2020. Little did we know that when she went to her doctor appointment, just before Christmas, that she was very ill at that time. We weep for her twin Ellen, who lost her best friend and sister. I will miss her sense of humor and her bright smile. She was eager to always help JCPC from being a liturgist to selling tickets at our Spaghetti dinners.

Crystal started serving JCPC in official capacity as a Junior Deacon years ago. She and Ellen would put together Christmas and Birthday packages with lots of jokes and fun things to read. I always looked forward to the packages. My heart is breaking for the loss of my friend, my sister in Christ, and one of my “daughters.” Fly high my young friend. It is a blessing to have known you.

Revelation 21:4

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (ESV)

Nancy Milizia

Friends, Here is some news about Cameron Community Ministries that we are currently supporting with our donations of breakfast food items for the weekday program for school-aged children as they participate in distance learning.



PRAYER PROFILE: CAMERON COMMUNITY MINISTRIES, Rochester N.Y.

Our prayer profiles have centered on congregations but this profile marks a new dimension in our prayers—the programs and agencies supported by the Presbytery mission budget—a commitment to mission that saves lives!

Cameron Community Ministries History

It's been all about resurrection from the very start. In the early 1990's the Lyell Avenue Baptist Church on Rochester's west side had to close and the Baptist Association entered into prayerful conversation with the Presbytery about how this building could be used for new forms of ministry, not centered on Sunday worship, but on weekday community mission. And so Cameron Community Ministries was

born with many, many prayers for success in a challenging neighborhood. The prayers are still needed!

Cameron Today

More than 25 years later the original vision has grown to become a national model of community service and transformation. There are a variety of successful programs, too many to cover in just one page, but what Cameron is most known for is daily free lunches and work with neighborhood children. Many of our Presbyterian congregations have taken an active role in Cameron, donating needed goods, serving as volunteers, board members, and staff. Please pray for more volunteers to find Cameron!

Great Need

Jennifer Muniga, Cameron's executive director, describes the successes and challenges currently being experienced as Christmas approaches. The cancellation of in-school learning in Rochester has given Cameron a fresh purpose, opening its building five days each week to school-aged children for a safe, positive, caring learning environment with highly capable teaching volunteers. Children are also fed during their eight-hour day. It is Jennifer's prayer that this care for children will continue to grow in 2021.

Going Forward

A new five-year plan is developing. Caring for basic needs will be matched by preventive advocacy work to change the conditions that lead to poverty and powerlessness in the surrounding community. A project for children in 2021 features a "Freedom School" model that builds on themes of equity and inclusion, a project made possible by support from the Children's Defense Fund. This new effort is the answer to many prayers.

Challenges

None of this is easy. So as much as the vision soars in spite of COVID crisis, the challenges become more stubborn. Keeping the doors open for children requires the introduction of health protocols, improved building security and more staff/volunteers. Moving from a four-hour daily children's program to eight hours is very expensive. Cameron leadership is very skilled at solving serious problems and facing major challenges, but they sure do welcome our prayers (and they wouldn't turn down additional support, either!).

Volunteers

How about the daily lunch program that serves meals to 100-200 people seven days of the week? Well, it's all take-out at the door for the time being, and Manuel in the

kitchen helps guide it all. Pray for him and all of the volunteers who every day live into the Bible story of the hungry crowd miraculously fed.

Resurrection is all about hope, and that is something we can keep praying for at Cameron Community Ministries!

Cameron Community Ministries
48 Cameron Street, Rochester, NY 14606
Jennifer Muniga, Executive Director
585-254-2697

web site: cameronministries.org

Thanks to Rev. Jim Renfrew, Relationships Working Group for preparing this profile.



