

## Associate Pastor's Annual Report

In life I cling to two truths: God loves us and things change.

Sure enough, this past fall we said farewell to our beloved long-term pastor, Rev. Paul Lent. While we are saddened by this loss, we have the opportunity to reclaim who we are as a congregation. We are reminded that we need to step up to make things happen. We are reminded that we need to write down policies and procedures to help the people who will come after us. Historically, we have been a “pastor-driven” church and now we can work toward being a people-driven church.

There continue to be transitions in staffing and leadership. We have been navigating our first year with a new treasurer, Ryan Travelpiece, after many years of tireless work from Lou Biskup. We continue to interview for a new church secretary after the gift of a long-term secretary in Cheryl Haight.

We have been blessed to have Diane Wassick as our accompanist on the piano and the organ, as well as her tireless fill-in work in the office since Cheryl's departure. Montana Smith has been a delightful blessing to our church bringing new energy and enthusiasm to our choir and our music ministry. Our new sexton, Sean Date, has been cleaning our facility and making it sparkle. While so many groups in the community use our space, it is a gift to have someone who is meticulous and caring for the facility with an eagle eye. Our parish nurse, Bonnie Biskup, continues to care for people in the congregation who are in crisis or in transition.

We are fortunate that our Board of Elders (the Session) takes their responsibilities seriously. They guide our church family, making decisions about the welfare of the congregation, the facilities, and all of our ministries. Our Clerk of Session, Sue Conrad, keeps our books in order and she also helps to build the bridge between our congregation and the Hudson River Presbytery. We continue our hunt for an interim senior pastor and look forward to seeing what ministries will grow and unfold before us.

As the associate pastor here at Freedom Plains United I feel blessed to work with so many compassionate and driven individuals. May we continue to serve God together by following Christ's example in all we say and do.

Peace,



Rev. Heather M. Finck