

RAQUETTE LAKE CHAPEL



NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

RAQUETTE LAKE, NEW YORK

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES FOR NOVEMBER

November 1 (All Saints Day) –
Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-
10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew
5:1-12 (“*The Beatitudes*”)

November 8 – Joshua 24:1-3a,
14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1
Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew
25:1-13

November 15 – Judges 4:1-7;
Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-
11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 (Christ the King) –
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm
100; Ephesians 1:15-23;
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29 (First Sunday of
Advent) -- Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm
80:1-7, 16-18; 1 Corinthians 1:3-
9; Mark 13:24-37

**Yes! The start of the Church New
Year and the beginning of
Christmas preparation starts on
the last Sunday of November.**



CHAPEL NEWS



Services this Summer: We had a successful, though subdued, summer worship season, mindful of COVID-19, with the help of many Chapel members cleaning (before and after services), greeting (and screening) worshippers, and supplying and distributing masks and hand sanitizer. The picture shows how the bulletins were distributed with “social distancing” before people arrived. We avoided as much touching of surfaces in the Chapel as possible. Many thanks for those helping hands! Also, thanks go out to the guest preachers this summer: Rev. Dr. Stephanie Sauv , Mr. Steve Vance, and Rev. Dennis Dewey. Also, thank you to Elizabeth for her work on the website, despite a move and her business work.



Chapel Improvements: A reminder of the great work that went on this year around the Chapel. Tom, deserving huge thanks, worked on the storm drain, the church signs, trimmed trees, repaired the Chapel front door, and located keys for the Chapel. And I’m sure I forgot something here! Captain Dean put large boulders at the end of the parking area to prevent (any more) snow mobile riders from “going over the edge” so to speak. Additionally, the light bulbs in the cross were changed out to low intensity (heat) bulbs and the wiring as redone: thank you Randy!

Chapel Trust: Chapel members discussed what steps are needed to set up a “perpetual care” trust for the Chapel. Stay tuned for updates!

SUNDAY BLAST REFLECTION FOR NOVEMBER 1: THE BEATITUDES CONTINUED

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." (Matt 5:5)

Words have powerful connotations, and it does us well to be aware of what connotations ... and prejudices ... are stirred within us when we hear certain words. "Meek" is a good example.

Looking at the Greek version of this verse we find the word πραεῖς – meek – which is simply defined as *mild* or *gentle*. When I hear "meek" I do not always have positive feelings. If you have worked in a large company or corporate environment, the last word you want to see on your annual review is "meek." In this context meek may mean unassertive, too quiet, does not take the lead in meetings, or talk enough, and maybe even timid, afraid, and weak. Reading Matt 5:5 like this, we will miss the point by a mile!

Biblical meekness is a quiet confidence in exercising God's strength under God's control, the practice of humility and God-knowledge. This is how we should understand "*the meek who are blessed.*" We must give up our egotistic notions that we alone are responsible for the strengths, or money, or reputation we may have, lest we harmfully build on the backs of others. I recall hearing this in my corporate days: "How do you become a tall tree in the forest? By cutting down the trees around you." (So much for teamwork!)

The truth is ... everything belongs to God and nothing belongs to us. Everything we are and have is a gift from God. True meekness is to live in self-surrender to God, free from our ego sense of "me" and "mine." If we do so, "We can all become tall trees in the forest with God's help." Matt 5:5 is a superb statement about a right relationship with God and our brothers and sisters. May it be so. Amen!

TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS...

Randy's rapid healing from his injury; Wayne's quick and successful recovery from surgery; pray for the soul of John S. who died on Friday and comfort for his wife and daughter; thankfulness for Chris's progress receiving chemo; continued prayers for Cindy who is facing cancer treatments; for a friend who has been diagnosed with stage four cancer and her family; thankfulness for Lita's avoidance of serious injury. *Hear our prayers O Lord!*



AND FINALLY, A PRAYER FOR ELECTION DAY...

God of mercy, throughout this election season, we are casting our votes in a world filled with uncertainty, distrust, and fear. Forgive us for those times when distrust of the other has brought words of anger out of our mouths, when uncertainty of opposing views has caused us to put hurt into the world. Be with us as we vote to bring Your love, compassion, and welcome to all people, as we vote to bring Your justice, healing, and mercy into the world, and as we cast our ballots for election outcomes that leave none of Your people behind. May Your love and forgiveness sustain us. Amen. [from the United Church of Christ, with modifications]