

# January 2019

The biblical Magi, also referred to as the (Three) Wise Men or (Three) Kings, were, in the Gospel of Matthew and Christian tradition, distinguished foreigners who visited Jesus after his birth, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They are regular figures in traditional accounts of the nativity celebrations of Christmas and are an important part of Christian tradition. Matthew is the only of the four canonical gospels to mention the Magi. Matthew reports that they came "from the east" to worship the "king of the Jews". The gospel never mentions the number of Magi, but most western Christian denominations have traditionally assumed them to have been three in number, based on the statement that they brought three gifts. In Eastern Christianity, especially the Syriac churches, the Magi often number twelve. Their identification as kings in later Christian writings is probably linked to Psalm 72:11, "May all kings fall down before him".



## The Vine



January 2019

First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan

Rev. Paul E. Malles, Pastor

211 Main Street, P.O. Box 639, Penn Yan, NY 14527

Telephone 315-536-8235

[www.pennyanpresbyterian.org](http://www.pennyanpresbyterian.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 AM – Noon



### Coming Events



<b>January 1</b>		<b>Happy New Year!!!!</b>
<b>January 2</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b> <b>Council of Churches meeting</b>
<b>January 5</b>	<b>8:00 AM – 9:00 AM</b> <b>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	<b>Men's Breakfast at Wagner Restaurant</b> <b>Men's Bible Study</b>
<b>January 7</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>De-decorate church</b>
<b>January 8</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Trustee's meeting</b>
<b>January 9</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM</b> <b>6:15 PM – 7:15 PM</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b> <b>Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>Hattie Hardman Committee meeting</b> <b>Choir rehearsal</b>
<b>January 13</b>		<b>2 Cents a Meal</b> <b>Deacon's meeting following service</b> <b>Hattie Hardman congregational luncheon following service</b>
<b>January 16</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM</b> <b>6:15 PM – 7:15 PM</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b> <b>Bell Choir rehearsal</b> <b>Session meeting</b>
<b>January 20</b>		<b>Presbyterian Women's meeting after service</b>



## Coming Events (continued)



<b>January 23</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
	<b>6:15 PM – 7:15 PM</b>	<b>Bell Choir rehearsal</b>
<b>January 27</b>		<b>Congregational Annual meeting</b>
<b>January 30</b>	<b>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
	<b>6:15 PM – 7:15 PM</b>	<b>Bell Choir rehearsal</b>

# Pastor's Ponderings

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## Giving Our Best

When Thanksgiving was over we ate leftover turkey for a long time. After Christmas, we ate leftover ham for days. Don't get me wrong, I like leftovers. Some food is better the next day, like stew and lasagna. However, eventually, at some point, over a long period of time, we all get tired of eating leftovers.

When God led the Israelites in the wilderness during the Exodus, God told people not to eat any leftover manna. God provided people with just enough food for the day. Unfortunately, the Israelites let their worries take over and they decided to eat the day old manna anyway. The manna was spoiled and they became ill.

The lessons learned are that when God tells us to do something it is for our own good and that we can trust God to supply us with whatever we need one day at a time. God gives us the strength to get through the day. Lamentations 3:22-23 tells us "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

In the New Testament, after Jesus fed 5,000 people there were 12 baskets full of leftover fish and bread. After a boy brought Jesus his five loaves and two fish, Jesus blessed what was given. After all the people were fed, there were enough leftovers to fill twelve baskets.

We do not know exactly what the disciples did with all the leftovers. They probably used them to feed other people.

Sometimes God blesses us with more than we need. When we live each day with gratitude and generosity, we can make a big impact on other people's lives.

The Bible also talks about how God wants our first fruits. God wants the best quality. We might ask ourselves, 'Am I giving God my leftovers or am I giving God and my family my very best?'

As we enter 2019, let's put God first. Let's give God the best quality of our time and devotion not just what is left of our time and energy.

See you in church,



Pastor Paul



## Sunday Scriptures for January



January 6	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Matthew 2: 1-12
January 13	Isaiah 43: 1-7	Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
January 20	Psalms 36: 5-10	1 Corinthians 12: 1-11
January 27	Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Cor. 12: 12-31a



## Ushers and Greeters for January



	Ushers	Greeters
January 6	Mike and Deb Snyder	Rob and Rachel Anderson
January 13	Mary Foster, Daisy Heller	<b>Need Volunteers</b>
January 20	<b>Need Volunteers</b>	Char Gillespie, Bernie Spanneut
January 27	<b>Need Volunteers</b>	<b>Need Volunteers</b>

The Deacons thank everyone for serving as ushers and greeters. If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please let the office know so the correct names appear in the bulletin.

Since there are only two ushers named for each Sunday, the greeters need to help with passing the offering plates. We appreciate your willingness to participate in the service.

To save the cost of postage, the church office will not be mailing the usher and greeter schedule and duties to individuals. A copy of the duties can also be found on the church website. The schedule and duties are available from the church office upon request.



## Nursery and Communion Help for January



	Nursery	Communion
January 6	Rebeccalynn	Robyn Ballard, Bob and Jean Constantine
January 13	Rebeccalynn	----
January 20	Rebeccalynn	----
January 27	Rebeccalynn	----



## Bible Studies



During January, the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Class speaks of:

January 2 - Modeling God's Love, Matthew 25:31-46

January 9 - Hold Fast to god's Love, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5, 2 John 4-11

January 16- Submit to God in Love, James 4:1-10

January 23 - Submit to God in Christ, Philippians 1:12-21

January 30 - Devote All to Christ, Philippians 2:1-11

If you would like to host a Bible Study in your home, please let the office know at 536-8235. Your hospitality is appreciated. Otherwise, please join us in the Pastor's Study at 10:00 AM – everyone is welcome.



## Prayer Line



Charlotte Gillespie  
Judy Wilbert

315-536-7185  
607-292-6958

Nancy Burt

315-536-8286

Please keep the following in your prayers: Judy Darling, Jay Fadden, June Gnagy, Sue Goodrich, David Gridley, Marilyn Malles, Alexander Martin, Bev Pinckney, Martha Rouin, Joe Simpson, Deb Snyder, Mike Snyder, Jennifer Stollery, Mary Tennes, Joan Wiley.



## Keuka Food Pantry



Non-perishable goods such as pasta, pasta sauces, peanut butter, cereals, canned vegetables, and fruits are always needed. Thank you to everyone for contribution to this program to help feed the hungry in our area and other areas. Helpers are always welcomed. Please have your contributions here at the church, in the box in the entry hall. Hours of operation for the Hope Center Keuka Food Pantry are Monday, 9AM-2PM, Tuesday, 11AM-4PM and Thursday, 10AM-2PM – clients can visit the pantry for your monthly distribution on a day/time that works best for them.



## Let's Celebrate



The following have birthdays and anniversaries in January. Feel free to cut this portion out and pray for those whose birthdays and anniversaries are listed below:

Debra Gates	January 1	Jack Snow	January 18
Otto Anderson	January 6	Eric Baxter	January 22
Lynn Fitch	January 6	Jack Tashchian	January 22
Klaas Martens	January 6	Marilyn Malles	January 24
Tim Hansen	January 7	Laura (Gillespie) Corey	January 24
Bill Turner	January 15	Rachel Anderson	January 25
Stephanie VanDelinder	January 16	Harrison Fitch	January 26
Idelle Dillon	January 17	Narina Schultz	January 26
Janice Ogden	January 17	Randy Ryder	January 29
Renee Burt	January 18	Ed Seus	January 30
Larry Edgington	January 18	Martha Lattin	January 31

### Congratulations To All!

Have we missed your birthday or anniversary? If so, we are very sorry – please let us know by filling out the form below and bringing it to the Church Office!

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Church /Local News



### News from Session

**Electronic statements:** With the computer input of our giving, the church is posed to send statements electronically by email – this will help decrease our spending for postage. If you currently do not receive your quarterly statement by email and wish to receive it through email, please contact Linda Bracht at [firstprespy211@yahoo.com](mailto:firstprespy211@yahoo.com). Otherwise, the church office will distribute computer-generated quarterly statements during service for the first two Sundays after each quarter; those not distributed will then be mailed.

**Penn Yan Area Council of Churches:** The minutes from the Penn Yan Area Council of Churches will be posted in the office hallway.

### News from Trustees

**Sound system training:** Wouldn't you like to learn about the church sound system??!!! Jon Burt will be doing training on the system so we can have others available when help is needed. Please see Jon if you are interested.

**Help on the church bus:** The Trustees are looking for volunteers to help during the transportation of disabled church goers to their churches. At least 2 volunteers are needed each Sunday of our defined month. The volunteers assist with the church goers getting on and off the

bus at their residence and their desired church – you are not responsible for driving the bus!! Please see Jon Burt – a sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

### **News from the Presbyterian Women**

**Miracle Cloths:** The Presbyterian Women are selling streak-free microfiber Miracle Cloths as a fundraiser – \$5.00 for each cloth. The cloth fiber is a special yarn that is strong and is virtually lint-free - it does not damage any surface. The fibers grab and hold dirt, dust and grime - tough on dirt and gentle on surface - these cloths are GREAT for cleaning windows and almost anything else. Please see Sandy Carlson.

**Christmas Tea:** On Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, we gathered for a wonderful Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea. A HUGE 'thank you' to Janice Ogden for your reading, and to all who helped with setup and the delicious food. This was as always such a wonderful time for fellowship and relaxing with a good meal.

**Valentines:** The Presbyterian Women are continuing the tradition of sending valentines to our young people in college and in the military. The project began many years ago when boxes of homemade cookies "from home" were sent to them. Unfortunately, the postage became too expensive. Recently, we've sent \$15 Walmart gift cards. If you would like to contribute, please give your donation to Carol Worden on or before February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **News from the Worship and Music Committee**

Worship and Music Committee is wishing everyone a Happy New Year. With the busy holiday season behind us, it is time to focus on the New Year ahead of us. Please note below a few of the things that we will be working on in the following months.

**Organist:** Our search for an organist is continuing. Once again thank you to Idelle for helping us through this transition. Advent and Christmas music was just beautiful and loved by all.

**Communion:** Thank you to everyone who has served communion in the past. We will be calling and looking for people to serve for this year. The grape juice and bread are provided including gluten free bread. Please prayerfully consider saying yes when asked to serve communion for next year. The full list will be on the bulletin board and each month people serving are listed in the bulletin. If you need to change with someone please take a look there.

**Choir:** If you would like to join the choir they are always looking for new voices to join them. Rehearsals are on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, and then each Sunday morning at 9:00 AM in the choir room.

**Layreaders:** Pastor Paul has all of the scriptures chosen through December so that you do have time to practice the readings in advance. Please note that the readings for each Sunday of the month are noted in the Vine under "Sunday Scriptures". If you would like to take part in a worship service and read the scripture on Sunday morning, please sign up on the bulletin board.

### **News from Outreach**

**Christmas Joy Offering:** Thank you to all who gave to our Christmas Joy special offering. The special offering supports past, present and future leaders - we do so because church leaders

greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want future leaders for the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity, and we want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need. For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

**Superbowl Subs:** As a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity of Yates County, the Board of Missions of the First Baptist Church will be preparing subs for super Bowl Sunday on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please watch for details this month in the bulletin!!!!

### **News from Church Life**

**Supper Club:** Instead of a Supper Club in January, the Hattie Hardman committee is having a potluck luncheon on Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> to tell you about the groups that the church supported through the Hattie Hardman Tithe Committee in 2018!!!

### **Hattie Hartman Tithe Committee**

So here we are with a fresh start on a new year. The Hattie Hardman Tithe Committee has already started to develop plans for new programs during 2019. In 2018 our focus was to support organizations that worked to break the cycle of poverty here in our community and other parts of the world. In 2019 we hope to extend that program to include an opportunity for Christian Education and shared fellowship for all youth within this community. This is a long-term program and will take time to get off the ground and we will keep you updated in these newsletters as events happen.

This committee would like to let the church family know what has been accomplished in 2018. On January 13, 2019, following the worship service, there will be a potluck luncheon. During this luncheon you will hear about the groups supported by our church through the Hattie Hardman Tithe Committee. Please plan to join us.

In closing, I would like to thank the church for its confidence and support to this committee. We look forward to serving this church and community from the special gifts God has provided.

Peace,

Robert Constantine, Chairperson

### **News from the Higher Education Gifts Committee**

The Edward L. Scherer Higher Education Gift fund is available for all members of the church who are going on for higher education. These gifts are given out twice a year, in September and in January. If you want to apply, you need to find an application form on the table in the back of the sanctuary, fill it out with as much information as possible, and mail it to Char Gillespie, 2888 Sherman Hollow, Penn Yan, NY 14527 or call at 315-536-7185 or email the application to: [charlottegillespie41@gmail.com](mailto:charlottegillespie41@gmail.com). The committee especially needs to know whether you are a full time or part time student, how many credit hours you will be taking if applicable, your major, and when you hope to complete your education. Later in the year you will be asked to provide the committee with a copy of your official registration for courses for the upcoming semester. An application needs to be filled out each year you are in school. You may also contact any member of the committee: Chairman - Charlotte Gillespie; Student Coordinator -

Judith Wilbert. The students receiving higher ed gifts for the 2018-2019 school year are Joshua Baxter, Keegan Baxter, Anna Detar, Abbey Duncan, Megan Fenton, Elizabeth Martens, Alexandra Rouin, Geoffrey Rouin, and Lin Dickinson.

In the 23 years that the gift fund has been used, the church has distributed \$451,791 – thank you so much to the higher ed committee and the Investment Committee for their support of our church members.

### **News from the Deacons**

**Opening:** We have 4 openings on the Board of Deacons – if you are interested or want to find out more information, please contact any one of our Deacons.

### **2019 Stewardship Campaign: “Blessings of Stewardship”**

The current total amount pledged is \$119,911. We are pleased to continue to offer the choice of using an automated electronic procedure for pledged offerings. If you wish to take advantage of this method, please contact Linda Bracht, our church Treasurer and team member. She will need your bank account and routing numbers, the amount and frequency you desire for your offering. Of course, the usual method of presenting offerings continues to be available.

We make no follow-up visits for completion of cards so we encourage your attendance and participation in our Stewardship events.

### **Joyful Noise Memorial Bell Choir**

The Joyful Noise Memorial Bell Choir has joined the chime and bell choir of the Methodist Church. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:15 PM -7:15 PM alternating between our church and the Methodist Church. We are planning to play on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month (but if the Buffalo Bills are playing at home on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, then we will play on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday!!!). If you know someone or if you are interested in playing with us, please join us on Wednesday evening. We are so fortunate to have handbells and we want to continue making Joyful Noise with them.

### **Christmas Mitten Tree**

Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas mitten tree this year - this is a VERY important mission for our church as it helps so many of our school-age children. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Christmas Flowers**

Thank you to all who donated Christmas flowers to our church this year – the sanctuary looked so beautiful and festive!!!! Your donation really makes the spirit of Christmas come alive.

### **Commissioner to Presbytery Report**

**November 27, 2018**

**Respectfully Submitted - Rob Anderson, MD**

Presbytery has met twice since our last session meeting. The October 23 meeting was a special meeting, where the presbytery reviewed the proposed strategy and structure of the Presbytery. I will bring documents to review, but the entire documents are long. The new strategy is meant to focus on our mission and vision, and the structure should support that. It balances the needs of administration and mission, and reduces the number of nominated/elected

positions, which should be helpful. It combines the functions of the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, as well as the Property Committee and Personnel into the Operations Committee. The Nominations Committee will be rolled into the Committee on Representation. There will be new Committees on Vitality, Leader Care, and Mission and Witness, to meet those needs. The Vitality and Leader Care committees should remove some of the burdens on the expanded Committee on Ministry. We had small table discussions to discuss these proposals, and some large group discussion. There is some uncertainty as to how exactly this will work, and there is a plan to have General Council review after a year to try to optimize things.

Our next meeting was November 17, in Bath. Administrative commissions were reviewed. A new Sexual Misconduct Policy was approved. I have brought a copy and would suggest Personnel review it, because this would be ideal for adoption, as we still need to act on this. A candidate for ministry was examined and approved; Benjamin Masters will be ordained and installed in Hector and Lodi shortly. We were updated on the PDA grant in Lodi. Gifts can still be made to support PDA in this presbytery. An update on Camp Whitman was provided. The capital campaign has been expanded, because a generous donor is offering to match \$250,000 if it can be raised. A presentation was given on PDA Disaster Preparation Training, and Linda Werts and Virginia Champlin have been trained to help congregations examine this. It may be something to consider. Preparations are being made for a search team for the next Presbytery Leader, as our Transitional Leader will be finishing in the summer.

The next meeting will be in January. This is traditionally elder necrology, but there will be at least a few items of business.

### **Name Tags**

Is your name tag up-to-date, or do you need a name tag??? If so, please drop a note in the collection plate, or see an usher or greeter, or tell someone in the church office!!!

### **Men's Bible Study**

The Men's Bible Study typically meets at 9:00 AM on the first Saturday morning of each month in the church office.

### **Yates Christmas Program**

Thank you again to all who donated and helped with the Yates Christmas Program distribution this year – we served 249 families that included 522 adults and 595 children. What a wonderful mission for our community!!!

### **'Paul's Place'**

“Paul's Place”, the Respite Care Program initiated by the Living Well, will welcome its first group to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Penn Yan, on Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM. Thereafter, the program will be held the third Thursday of each month at St. Paul's. This program is geared to serve people living and dealing with Dementia or early stage Alzheimer's. If someone you know, or care for, could benefit from this program, please contact Kim Lyons at the Living Well at (315) 536-0838 for information and arrangements to attend.

## Sunday Hospitality

### *Helping With Hospitality*

Sunday morning is for many the core of our congregational life, a special time of the week when we gather to reflect and contemplate, celebrate, and revere life's mysteries and things of ultimate concerns. During this time, we are spending with each other and getting involved in each other's lives, deep fellowship is experienced. The relationships are the glue that hold the church together.

Sustaining each service is a group of volunteers who perform hospitality duties to make the service comfortable and pleasing for our congregation.

Many hands make light work. Everyone is encouraged to participate. As a congregation, we all share the responsibility of welcoming each other and hosting our guests. Newcomers are also invited to participate. Helping with hospitality is a great way to get to know other newcomers and longtime members and feel more a part of the church family.

Each week it takes about seven volunteers and two additional volunteers are needed monthly to support our Sunday Service. When everyone volunteers a few times during the church year, every task can be comfortably covered.

*Ushers (2)* - Each Sunday one usher welcomes people at the church entrance; one distributes bulletins in the aisle. Ushers help collect offerings, light candles, restock pew racks, ring church bell, manage microphone during announcements and joys/concerns, etc.

*Greeters (2)* - Greeters welcome people as they enter the sanctuary, encourage people to wear name tags, help with collection of offering, host Coffee Hour and chooses to make it as simple or as complex as wants (the quality of fellowship is more important than quality of the food).

*Nursery* - Volunteer provides adult supervision in the nursery after the Youth Message until church is over. The sermon can be heard in the nursery.

*Lay Reader* - Volunteer reads the Scriptures assigned by the pastor at the podium.

*Communion Server* - Volunteer helps serve Communion, usually the first Sunday of the month.

*Birthday Cake Maker* - Volunteer provides cake/cupcakes for the Coffee Hour the second Sunday of the month.

### *How Do I Sign Up?*

The easiest way to sign-up to volunteer as a Greeter, Usher, Lay Reader, helper in the nursery, server of Communion, birthday cake baker, etc. is to sign your name in a blank space on the scheduling sheet that is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. A complete list of duties for each task is also posted there. If you have not yet had the opportunity to volunteer at one of these tasks, feel free to ask for a coach.

It is suggested that each person volunteer for greeter and usher two times per year, once during January - June and once each July - December.

## **Sign Me Up! -- The Blessing of Greeting**

One of the foundations of any vibrant church community is fellowship. This is played out weekly in our church in the gathering before and after the service. The opportunity to greet our brothers and sisters in Christ is one that the Deacons would love to see you be blessed by. You will have the perfect opportunity to put new faces and names together, check in on old friends, and be the friendly face that welcomes a guest.

Providing snacks for the fellowship time after church can be a bit daunting, or maybe just a hassle. If hospitality happens to be a gift of yours and you look forward to baking and all the rest-have at it! If having to provide food is something that usually deters you from greeting, please know that the refreshments are the last thing you should worry about! There is no need to cook or even buy more than you feel led to or are able. We have simple tastes-and there is almost always something in the freezer that can be defrosted. Also, there are friends ready to give a coffee maker tutorial if needed.

The most important part of greeting is just that-greeting. Welcome your church family to a morning of worship and fellowship! Please keep this in mind when you are called upon to greet, and if you would like to volunteer, please let the deacons know!

### **Literacy Volunteers of Ontario-Yates**

Do you know an adult who can't read? Someone who would like to read better or earn a high school equivalency diploma? A non-English speaker who would like to communicate better or earn U.S. citizenship? Literacy Volunteers of Ontario-Yates can help. We also welcome new tutors and now have online tutor training available. For more information, please call us at (585) 396-1686 in Ontario County or (315) 536-6799 in Yates County.

### **Nursery Help**

Thank you to our Personnel Committee for continuing the staffing of our nursery with Rebeccalynn. Please stop in to say hello if you have not met her yet!!!

### **Walking Can Be Fun!!!**

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9 AM – 10 AM, we have an exercise group in Crosier Hall. It started with a group that used to go to Curves, then they were at the Owl's Nest, but the flooding stopped them. The group requested use of Crosier Hall until they can find another home. All are welcome – the group walks in place to a video which can be from 2-3 miles but is very low impact. This good exercise program is free but the walkers give a donation into a bucket – about once a month, they put names of local charitable organizations in a hat and choose one to give the donated money. Please come and join the fun!!!!

### **Per Capita**

**What is Per Capita?** In essence, per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that is paid to the Presbytery of Geneva, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Just as a train cannot move without an engine, our church councils require a power source to enable them to provide basic services which support our mutual mission as the Body of Christ. Per capita covers the ecclesiastical expenses of the denomination: the coordination and evaluation of mission, and the performance of ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions. Per capita is an opportunity for all members of the Presbyterian church to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the organizational costs of the larger church.

**What does the Book of Order say about Per Capita?** “Each council above the session shall prepare a budget annually for its operating expenses, including administrative personnel, and may fund it with a per capita apportionment among the particular churches within its bounds. Presbyteries are responsible for raising their own funds and for the timely transmission of per capita funds to their respective synods and to General Assembly. Presbyteries may direct per

capita apportionments to the sessions within their bounds but in no case, shall the authority of the session to direct its benevolences be comprised.” (G-3.0106)

**How is per capita paid to the Synod and General Assembly in the Presbytery of Geneva?** Different denominations have different ways of collecting revenue. Some receive a “head tax” of more than \$50 per member. Others receive a certain percentage of a congregation’s receipts (up to 25%). In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), per capita is an obligation of the Presbytery. The Presbytery of Geneva affirms the interdependent nature of our church by allocating funds in the annual operating budget for Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly per capita regardless of income from the churches.

**What are the consequences if a Church does not contribute to the Presbytery?** The majority of congregations in the Presbytery generously contribute funds every year. When particular churches do not contribute, a greater burden of responsibility is placed on sister churches in the Presbytery to fund our mutual mission including our partnership with Synod and General Assembly. Per capita establishes a minimum level of financial participation in the vital work of our connectional church as the Body of Christ, strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians. It is a moral obligation we share with one another. Some sessions encourage each member to contribute per capita beyond regular giving to the church. For more information about per capita: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita/frequently-asked-questions/>

The Presbytery of Geneva is grateful for your congregation’s partnership in mission and ministry!

### **Have you considered electronic giving?**

Several of our members have chosen this newer way of giving – how about you? If you wish to make church contributions automatically via electronic transfer, please request an authorization form from Linda Bracht (315-279-1545 or [pjb29@cornell.edu](mailto:pjb29@cornell.edu)).

## **Presbytery of Geneva Camp Whitman**



**Camp Whitman is hiring:** Camp Whitman is looking for a Maintenance Technician, Experienced Lifeguard and Kitchen Assistant – please see the April 2018 newsletter for more information but interested inquiries should email [director@campwhitman.org](mailto:director@campwhitman.org). The camp has an Amazon wishlist at

[https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/16L3FFK1Q2AMZ/ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_cp\\_ep\\_ws\\_QVdbBb7F55EJF](https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/16L3FFK1Q2AMZ/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_QVdbBb7F55EJF)

## **Presbytery of Geneva**

The Nominating Committee seeks your suggestions for presbytery committee positions. All suggestions will be gratefully received and reviewed by the Nominating Committee. You may even suggest yourself for a position. Special consideration will be given for persons in churches with members not currently serving on committees, and for persons who may increase Presbytery’s diversity.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 informs us, “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by Baptism, and marked as Christ’s own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling; to be disciples and servants of our Lord. Within the community of the church, some people are called to particular service.

In an effort to make our Presbytery stronger, we need all the gifts of the people in the Presbytery, which includes Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, and parishioners of 60 churches in the Presbytery of Geneva. We are asking you to provide names of people to serve on the presbytery committees. Please give us a little information about the person you are suggesting, including some of the gifts you feel they possess. This will enable us to do our work as a committee to discern where best to ask people to serve.

Please send your list of names to Elder Phoebe Bakes, Chair of Nominating. You can email her at [phbbaker@gmail.com](mailto:phbbaker@gmail.com) or send a letter to Phoebe Baker, 3695 Bay View, Penn Yan, NY 14527. If the Nominating Committee does not hear from you, we will be calling you to ask for your suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

The Nominating Committee – Elder Phoebe Baker, Elder Larry Bates, Sylvia Dorschel, the Rev. James Gerling, the Rev. Cynthia Huling Hummel, the Rev. Cheryl Peeples, Elder Paul Salisbury

**Committee on Ministry:** The Committee on Ministry is having a Small Church Network Gathering on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM at the Junius Presbyterian Church in Waterloo, NY. The topic is ‘Peace in the Kitchen’ – they will be exploring parking lot discussions, building maintenance issues, finances/endowment/fundraising, mission funding, coffee hour food, worship format and music.

**Congregational Training for Disaster Preparedness: Are you ready?** – the Presbyterian Women is partnering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) to promote disaster preparedness in local congregations. Virginia Champlin (Presbyterian Church of Geneva) and Linda Werts (Park Presbyterian Church in Newark) have received specialized training and are available to work with your congregation. You can contact them at [danvirginia@aol.com](mailto:danvirginia@aol.com) or [lwerts@aol.com](mailto:lwerts@aol.com). PDA also offers resources to assist congregations at this link <https://pda.pcua.org/page/disaster-preparedness/>.

**Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2019:** The Presbytery needs a registrar in order to send a delegation from the Presbytery of Geneva. Office Administrator, Alicia Alvarez can provide the clerical support but we need a leader to shepherd this process. There is also a lot of support available through the excellent leadership of National Registrar, Molly Atkinson. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to provide this leadership on behalf of the youth of our Church. The reality is that without a registrar, the Presbytery cannot send a delegation. Contact [leader@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:leader@presbyteryofgeneva.org).

If you are interested in learning about what is happening at the Presbytery of Geneva, you are welcome to go on their website at [www.presbyteryofgeneva.org](http://www.presbyteryofgeneva.org). Click on ‘Meeting Info’ then enter the username ‘directory’ and the password ‘fingerlakes’.

### **Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Geneva:**

For news of the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Geneva, go to the presbytery website, then 'Presbyterian Women', and 'The Link' at the bottom of the page. Also, take a look at the Quarterly News – download the resource at [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org); select 'about PW', then select 'Quarterly Newsletter'.

### **From the Moderator's Letters:**

**Contact the Moderator?** While you can always communicate with me through the Presbytery office, you may also contact me directly. Phone contact: (607) 583-7975 h (best choice); (607) 725-0785 c; [moderator@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:moderator@presbyteryofgeneva.org). Peace and blessings, Dick

**Help Wanted** - Quarter-time Administrative Assistant position available at the First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY. Annual salary is \$7000. Applicant must have strong PC, MS Office, and internet skills. Ability to maintain confidentiality and work with people are key to this position. Send cover letter and resume to the attention of Karen Rhodes, First Presbyterian Church, 520 N Decatur, Watkins Glen, NY, 14891.

**Message from Family Counseling Ministries** - The Family Counseling Ministry of the Susquehanna Association of the United Church of Christ wants to remind our church members that mental health is important for everyone. We ask you to prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to this 40-year old ministry. You, and/or your congregation, can do so by making your check out to: *Family Counseling Ministry* then send to: Phebe A. Gustafson, Business Manager, 201 Rachel Carson Way, Ithaca, NY 14850: Thank you.

**Travel Communion Set Available** - A retired pastor has offered a travel communion set to a church that might be in need of one. If you know of a church that could use such a resource, contact Alan Schenck at [schenck@rochester.rr.com](mailto:schenck@rochester.rr.com)

**Got Four Wheels and a Motor?** - Stony Point Conference Center lost its transport vehicle in a recent crash (no one hurt but the Toyota)! If you have a vehicle to donate in good mechanical condition (newer or older), contact Rick at (845) 608-4056 by text or phone or by email at [rickuffordchase@gmail.com](mailto:rickuffordchase@gmail.com).

**Hurricane Relief - Monetary Help:** You can write a check to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance directly or through your home church. Write the PDA or donate online, be sure to include your church's PIN. PDA channels 95% of all cash received directly to those affected by disasters. Grants are determined through PDA teams in consultation with presbytery teams and local PCUSA churches and their networks. Grants have been used to assist church reconstruction, and some churches have simply used grants to assist those who need food or clothing, or even those who have lost church jobs. And for the long-haul PDA is best known for regional home repair needs-housing, supervising, and resourcing volunteer work teams from across the US.

### **PCUSA – General Assembly news**

If you are interested in learning about what is happening at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), you are welcome to go on their website at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org). Click on 'News & Announcements' then 'General Assembly News'.

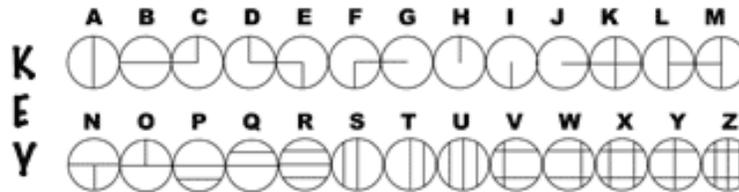
# Kids Corner

BibleWise

## The Wise Men

The wise men's journey Matthew 3:7-11 (ASV)

Use the key to complete the verses below about the three wise men.



7. Then Herod privily called the Wise-men, and learned of them exactly what time the  
appeared. 8. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search out  
exactly concerning the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word, that I also may  
come and him. 9. And they, having heard the king, went their  
way; and lo, the star, which they saw in the went before them, till it came and  
stood over where the young child was. 10. And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceed-  
ing great . 11. And they came into the house and saw the young child with  
Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshipped him; and opening their treasures they offered  
unto him , gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12. And being warned of  
in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own  
country another way.

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## January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
			9AM Exercise		9AM Exercise	8AM Men's Bkfast
		<b>Happy New Year</b>	10AM Bible Study	10AM PathStone		9AM Men's Bible Study
			7PM Council of Churches	12-8:30PM WIC		
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
9 Choir rehearsal; 10:00 Worship; Sunday school	9AM Exercise 10AM decorate 5:30PM Daisy Scouts	10:15-3:15 IAH 7PM Trustees mtg	9AM Exercise 10AM Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir 7PM HH mtg 7PM Choir rehear	10AM PathStone 10AM carpet clean 3:30-5 Girls Club	9AM Exercise	
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
9 Choir rehearsal; 10:00 Worship; Sunday school 2¢ meal; birthdays HH congreg lunch	9AM Exercise	10:15-3:15 IAH	9AM Exercise 10AM Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir 7PM Session mtg	8-4:30PM WIC 10AM ARC worship 10AM PathStone 3:30-5 Girls Club	9AM Exercise	
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
9 Choir rehearsal; 10:00 Worship; Sunday school PW mtg.	9AM Exercise 5:30PM Daisy Scouts	10:15-3:15 IAH	9AM Exercise 10AM Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir	10AM PathStone 3:30-5 Girls Club	9AM Exercise	
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>9</b>
9 Choir rehearsal; 10:00 Worship; Sunday school Annual congreg mtg	9AM Exercise	10:15-3:15 IAH	9AM Exercise 10AM Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir	10AM PathStone 3:30-5 Girls Club		

First Presbyterian Church  
211 Main Street, PO Box 639  
Penn Yan, NY 14527

# January 2019

