

April 2017

When April arrives our hearts are usually full of thoughts of renewal and fresh beginnings. These are the days when the sun is shining... it may bring us April showers but the warm showers are refreshing and invigorating because we know the sunshine will return soon.

April is named for the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite. The name for the month of April originally came for *Aprilis* which means to open. The name *Aprilis* is very appropriate because in so many places the trees and flowers begin to bloom and go on to flower during the month of April.
<https://www.thoughtco.com/april-fun-facts-3456079/>



The Vine



April 2017

First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan

Rev. Paul E. Malles, Pastor

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

Telephone 315-536-8235

www.pennyanpresbyterian.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 AM – Noon



Coming Events



April 1	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast at Wagner Restaurant
	9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
April 4	6:00 PM	Supper Club
	7:00 PM	Trustee meeting
April 5	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
April 6	12:00 PM	Lenten Luncheon
April 9	10:30 AM	Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast
		One Great Hour of Sharing
April 13	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday service and dinner
April 14	7:00 PM	Good Friday service
April 16	7:00 AM	Easter Sunrise service, Indian Pines Park
April 19	7:00 PM	Session Meeting
April 23	11:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Celebrate Service, Celebrate Yates

Pastor's Ponderings

Easter's Blessings

For me, the most inspiring Christian celebration is Easter. As Easter approaches, let's consider the transforming significance of the amazing miracle of the Resurrection.

Jesus was seen alive by those who knew beyond any doubt that he died on the cross. Eye witnesses were available for questioning and investigation by people for at least a generation after the events were reported. A belief in the miracle of Jesus Christ coming back to life is both reasonable and plausible.

In 1 Corinthians Chapter 15, the Apostle Paul describes Jesus' resurrection. "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me."

I think the most important evidence that Jesus Christ came back to life is the transformation in the lives of the witnesses. The disciples went from being cowards, who fled in fear and abandoned Jesus into the hands of his enemies, to become brave apostles who publically proclaimed their faith even at the risk of their own death. There had to be a compelling reason for their complete turnaround.

Easter is more than a mere historical curiosity. Easter influences our lives today. What God does for Jesus Christ, God does not do for Jesus alone. Through Easter, we too share in the resurrection of the Lord. Death was not the end of the story for Jesus nor will it be the end of our story.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26)

What God did for the disciples, God also does for us. We too can live boldly and courageously. Easter means we are empowered to live our lives in a new way. Because the tomb is empty, life is completely different. Hope is always alive.

Easter is more than a day. Easter is a way of improving our lives through the resurrection of hope.

See you in church,



Pastor Paul



Sunday Scriptures for April



April 2	Ezekiel 37:1-14	John 11:1-45
April 9	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Matthew 21:1-11
April 16	Isaiah 49:1-7	John 1:29-42
April 23	Psalm 16	John 20:19-31
April 30	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Luke 24:13-35



Ushers and Greeters for April



Ushers

April 2	Karen Miles and Volunteer
April 9	Janice Ogden and Volunteer
April 16	Steve Matteson and Volunteer
April 23	Callie and Jordan Hopkins
April 30	Pam and Larry Ayers

Greeters

Phyllis Alderman and Volunteer
Linda Malles and Volunteer
Rachel and Alan Doan
Need Volunteers
Beth Curtiss and Katie Hamm

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 April

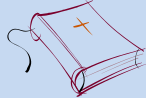


Nursery

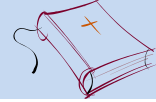
April 2	Need volunteer
April 9	Need volunteer
April 16	Need volunteer
April 23	Need volunteer
April 30	Need volunteer

Communion

Linda Malles, Janice Ogden, Idelle Dillon



Bible Studies



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

- April 5 - God as our Shepherd, Psalm 23
- April 12 - God's Saving Love in Christ, John 3
- April 19 - God's Love as Victory Over Death, John 19:38-42
- April 26 - God's Reconciling Love, Romans 5:6-11, Romans 8:31-39

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: Art Alderman, Nellie Beecher, Ray Davison, Toni Gable, Connie Gibson, June Gnagy, Gene Spanneut, Jennifer Stollery, Bill West, and Joan Wiley.



Food For The Needy



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, by Tuesday, April 25th for distribution on Friday, April 28th. Thank you!

Also, the mobile food pantry will be available on Saturday, April 8th.



Let's Celebrate



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

Mike Ballard	April 2	Steve Matteson	April 10
Jon Burt	April 2	Kim Hansen	April 13
Peter Jackson	April 3	Hanna and Peter Martens Anniv	April 13
Sandy Learn	April 3	Chris Pallischeck	April 14
Anne Waasdorp	April 4	Paul Malles	April 16
Neena Hansen	April 5	Ruth Giles	April 21
Ada Anderson	April 5	Andrew Baxter	April 22
Sharon Hansen	April 6	Colin Pritchard	April 24
Jim Fairbrother	April 7	Lindsay Hansen	April 30
Kate Ballard	April 8		

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

Announcement from Presbytery Office of the General Assembly, Stated Clerk: January 28, 2017, Stated Clerk opposes order banning refugees' entry into U.S. "...As the top ecclesial officer of the nation's largest Reformed body, I urge the president and his administration to reverse this very harmful decision regarding refugees. Presbyterians are not afraid of this so-called terror threat. We are not afraid because we profess a faith in Jesus, who entered the world a refugee. . . ." Read the full content of the letter at pcusa.org/page/refugee or copies are available in the back of the sanctuary.

From PCUSA – 'We Choose Welcome': "When we welcome refugees, we welcome the refugee Jesus. Warned in a dream, Joseph and Mary took the infant Jesus to Egypt to keep him safe from Herod. At that moment, he and his parents became refugees. Our recent observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day reminds us that our nation's record of welcome is far from perfect. Jewish refugees fleeing persecution were turned away from our shore during that time. On countless occasions since, however, our nation has provided succor for those fleeing persecution, war, and violence. As this is being written, our nation, and we as Presbyterians, face another moment of decision. Will we welcome refugees in Jesus' name or will we go along with policies that would turn away those unable to remain in their homes and forced to seek safety and security in other nations, including our own? This past week, the President signed an executive order that would halt refugee resettlement and would bar refugees from certain (mostly Muslim majority) countries entering the United States. Church World Service reports that the

order suspends the US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for 120 days for all populations, indefinitely bars Syrian refugees from resettlement in the United States and does not allow entry into the country of nationals from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen (this includes refugees and people with Special Immigrant Visas) for the next 90 days. The premise is that this will protect us from terrorists. Presbyterians, along with people of other faiths and people of good will, have responded that we will not give in to fear and we will follow the call of Jesus to welcome. In a January 28, 2017 statement, the Rev. dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) said “We stand ready to welcome our new neighbors, friends and family of all faiths and nations.” Read the statement.” Copies of this article are available in the back of the sanctuary.

From Presbyterian Mission: ‘Presbyterian churches hold out hope in efforts to host and welcome refugees’ – ‘Congregations call ministry a blessing’ – “While the White House and the courts battle over the legality of the travel ban on refugees and travelers from seven countries, Presbyterian churches across the U.S. are still hopeful for a quick resolution. . . .” Read the full article at presbyterianmission.org/story or grab a copy in the back of the sanctuary.

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. The church office will continue to maintain manual record-keeping simultaneous with the computer record-keeping, so you may still request manual statements. The church office has emailed those with known email addresses to ask if you would like your statement emailed – we have had a number responded positively. If you have not seen the email from the church office and would like to receive your statements through email, please contact Linda Bracht at firstprespy211@yahoo.com

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

New Bulletin Board at the street: If you have not noticed, please take a look at our new church bulletin board out at the street. It has been repaired and updated with glass, a new board and new lettering!!!

Spring clean-up: Save the date for our Trustee spring cleanup on Saturday, May 6th – more information to follow!!!

Celebrate Service, Celebrate Yates: For 20 years, Keuka College and the Yates County Chamber of Commerce have collaborated to host *Celebrate Service ... Celebrate Yates* (CSCY), an annual day of community service which has provided hands-on help to dozens of Yates County non-profit agencies, thanks to hundreds of volunteers from the College and local community. With support from local merchants who underwrite costs, CSCY volunteers join hands on one Sunday each April, serving collectively to meet needs of Yates County nonprofits. CSCY began as a community service initiative conceived by Keuka Circle Fellowship Scholar Tracy Swem Morgan '98 and now stands in testament to years of partnership, support, and goodwill. On Sunday April 23rd this year, the partnership between Keuka College and the Yates County Chamber of Commerce comes to life as hundreds of volunteers – not just Keuka students, but local families, children, and senior citizens – join hands to serve non-profits across

the county. As many as 30 different non-profits, including fire departments, churches (including our church), youth camps, libraries, cemeteries, nature trails, sports fields, and more receive have received volunteer labor to rake, repair, paint, dust, mop, and generally clean the non-profit buildings, site or equipment. We will be raking leaves and performing general yard work.

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

Blanket and Tool Sundays: Each year the Presbyterian Women collect donations for the Church World Services “Blankets and Tools Program” around Mother’s Day. This year we will have the collection at church on Sundays April 30th and May 7th. A card and envelope to honor either a mother or father will be given for each \$5 donation. This amount, \$5, supports the cost of a blanket or a tool which can be given to help someone in need. The churchworldservice.org web site reports some of the many places blankets, tools, health kits and other supplies are needed. The U.S., Syria, Serbia, and numerous countries in Africa are just a few of the locations where supplies are sent. Your gifts transform the lives of mothers, fathers, and children struggling to build a better life. And we get transformed in the process... hearts get bigger, lives are richer, and we are more connected to our world.

Chicken BBQ: Mark your calendars – the Presbyterian Women are having their annual chicken BBQ on Saturday, April 29th in the parking lot of the Lyon’s Bank in Penn Yan, starting at 10:30 AM. This fund raiser is always fun to work on and contributes to the fund raising efforts of the women. Details will follow as brownies will be needed and a work schedule for volunteers will be posted!! YUM!!!!

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.

News from the Worship and Music Committee

Gluten-free Communion elements: We are happy to announce that we have gluten-free elements for Communion, starting with our Communion in February on the 7th. Both plates contain these elements so feel free to get in either line when Communion is performed by intinction.

Layreaders: We are in need of layreaders for our Sunday morning services – please sign-up on the sheet on the church bulletin board. Please note that the readings for each Sunday of the month are noted under ‘Sunday Scriptures’.

Communion List for 2017: We are in the process of setting up the communion list for 2017. If you are interested in serving and have been ordained in any Presbyterian Church please let Jean Constantine know (585-451-8741 or ladyseneca@aol.com). Also, if you have a date you would like to serve that would be helpful. Once the list is generated you will receive a copy and if you need to change your date you will be easily able to do that. Bread and grape juice are provided. We need 3 people each month to help Pastor Paul serve. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help.

News from the Christian Education Committee

Chair person: Thank you so much to Rachel Dillon for volunteering to be the chair person for Christian Education!!!!

News from the Outreach

Alternative Spring Break: Outreach is supporting the spiritual and religious development of Keuka College students by making a gift to support the Alternative Spring Break trip to Costa Rica. This is an opportunity for the students to learn about other cultures and themselves, to develop leadership skills and to grow spiritually, as they wrestle with injustices they see. In the past, in Costa Rica, they have taught English, sang songs, played soccer, dodge ball, volleyball and basketball with boys (ages 8-18) in an orphanage; painted a house and a school; attended a recovery meeting; drank freshly harvested coconut 'milk' with the men at a farm for drug addiction rehabilitation; visited with senior citizens in a retirement community; attended worship service in Spanish, zip-lined through the forest canopy and swam in the hot springs. Alternative Spring Break reinforces the values of service and social responsibility. By interacting with the people of Costa Rica, spending time with two incredible missionaries – Ralph and Mary (Curtis) Miller, Penn Yan Academy and Keuka College graduate, and also with one another, students' lives are changed.

One Great Hour of Sharing: We will be celebrating One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday, April 9th. Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, you can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working with communities to overcome oppression – a few examples of the impact of your gifts:

- 220,000 people received food, water, shelter, and medical care in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquakes through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- over 308,000 people in over 30 countries now have increased food security and livelihoods through international development work through the Presbyterian Hunger Program
- more than 10,000 children and their families in five bateyes in the Dominican Republic have access to clean water, helping to prevent water-related diseases through Self-Development of People.

Outreach will also be offering the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, which is a unique way to make a difference in the world. Every gift, large or small, expands our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world.

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 Linda Jackson, 364 Rt. 54 East Lake Road, Penn Yan, NY 14527 or email the application to: jackson.linda1959@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 - Linda Jackson and Judith Wilbert. The students receiving higher ed gifts for the 2016-2017 school year are Joshua Baxter, Keegan Baxter, Abbey Duncan, Megan Fenton, Amanda Pereira, Alexandra Rouin, Geoffrey Rouin and Derek Strickland.

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

Usher/Greets List for 2017: The Deacons are in the process of setting up the usher-greeter list for 2017. If you are interested in helping, please see Linda Malles. Once the list is generated you will receive a copy along with the usher and greeter duties. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help.

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

Wanted: The Deacons are looking for a person(s) from our church family who would be willing to volunteer to organize the pews for Sunday Worship. This monthly task might require about one hour of time (at person's convenience) to check hymnals, pew Bibles, Red Music Books, Partners in Worship pads/pens, pew offering envelopes, book marks, etc. Pencils may need to be sharpened. Old information/trash may need to be removed. All materials that are needed to replenish the pew racks are stored in the marble-top buffet in the lounge area behind the sanctuary. If you have the time to volunteer, please contact the church office.

News from Church Life

Supper Club: We had a delicious chili crock-pot cook-off on Thursday, February 16th – congratulations to Karen Montgomery on winning the best chili!!!!!!

Our March Supper Club has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 4th. The speaker is from the Yates County Health, talking about Radon and Health. Radon is a carcinogen and very prevalent in this area. The speaker will discuss how to test for it and what can be done to get rid of it – free kits will be available to use in your home. Please bring a friend or two, your own place setting, and a dish to pass.

2017 Stewardship Campaign: “Reaching in – Reaching out”

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued strong support of our Stewardship Program. As we recognize that the sharing of our stewardship gifts lasts through the year as the Reaching In and Reaching Out lists continues here, the committee can provide an update to this portion of the program.

With great thanks the committee can report that, at this time with ~65 cards returned, our total amount pledged is \$132,228. Of course, cards may be returned at any time to the church office or in the offering plate at your convenience.

With our campaign title, here are a few of the 'Reaching In' and 'Reaching Out' items listed by Robyn and Char:

'Reaching In'

Playing the organ
Tending the garden
Donating items for the rummage sale
Helping to set up and clean up
Making bread for first-time visitors

'Reaching Out'

Historic Preservation Board
Penn Yan Area Council of Churches
Yates Christmas Program
Yates County Food Program
Yates County Backpack Program

Your Stewardship Team:

Pastor Paul Malles
Phoebe Baker
Phil Bracht
Robert Gillespie
Jennifer Rouin

the Rev. Anne Waasdorp
Linda Bracht
Charlotte Gillespie
Marcia Kneeland
Sonja Simpson

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Hanna and Peter Martens on the renewal of their marriage vows on Saturday, March 11th – best wishes to the happy couple from your church family.

Easter Flowers

It's time to order flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. Please use the form in the bulletin along with your check (made out to First Presbyterian Church, marked 'flower') for the plant or plants you wish to have in the church, and later take with you for your own enjoyment. Orders must be in the office no later than April 9th. Plants will be picked up by time for Easter Sunday. Please indicate who the plants are given by and in memory or honor of. Plant choices are:

6" lily - \$7.99

4½" hydrangea (strawberry or blueberry/cream) - \$8.99

6" hydrangea (strawberry or blueberry/cream) - \$19.99

10" hydrangea (strawberry or blueberry/cream) - \$24.99

6" mum - \$8.99

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. We usually meet for about an hour. We pray, read, and discuss how we can apply our faith in daily living. We study the Bible through the book, *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian D. McLaren.

Summer Mission Trip

The youth will be participating jointly with Kirkwood Presbyterian Church on a summer mission trip again in 2017. This year we will be staying local and working with Camp Whitman. Camp Director Lea Kone has agreed to add a second "mission camp" week July 16-21 to accommodate the schedule of our group. We will be working with her to find projects in Penn Yan, Dundee, and surrounding areas that the group can tackle. Youth will be doing fundraising in coming months to help underwrite camp cost (\$175/youth) and to purchase some of the supplies needed

for the projects. It is especially exciting that we will be able to help members of our extended community this year. We also look forward to sharing the beauty of our region with the volunteers from Virginia. More details will be shared as we finalize all of our plans.

Soup Sundays

To build fellowship, and as one of their fundraising efforts, the youth and families will be hosting Soup Sundays on the first Sunday of the month in March and March 26th. Congregation members are encouraged to stay after church to enjoy soup, bread, desserts, and conversation. During these cold winter months it is a wonderful way to extend our time together. Please bring extra glass jars for sharing left-over soup with shut-ins. A sign-up to contribute items will be posted on the church bulletin board by the front doors. For more information please contact Jen Rouin (757-968-6880). We are very grateful for your continued support of our youth and their endeavors!

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.

Lenten Lunches

The theme for the 2017 Lenten Luncheons is ‘The Blessed Beatitudes’ (Matthew 5:1-12). The lunches begin at noon at the First Baptist Church on Main Street, Penn Yan. The cost is \$7.00 per person. Meals are being provided through the Wagner Restaurant again this year with area churches serving and providing the desserts. The following is a schedule of the lunches

April 6: **“Mourners”** by Pastor Sandi Perl
Scalloped Potatoes with Ham, California blend veggies, roll and fruit cup
Penn Yan UMC and Benton UMC serving

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!

Reconnecting with Planet Earth

This spring and summer, Jack Wilbert will be working on a garden in the church back yard – please stay tune for further information!!!!

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

We are working on setting up a nursery schedule in advance. Thank you to everyone who has signed up for a Sunday. We have filled every Sunday through the end of the year (excluding

Christmas Sunday). We will be looking for people to help again starting in January. If you are not on the list yet and are willing to help, please contact Rachel Anderson at 315-481-9623 or Jean Constantine at 585-451-8741 or email Jean at ladyseneca@aol.com.

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

The Presbytery of Geneva has announced that for the first time in many years, they are needing to raise the Per Capita apportionment to \$50.00.

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).

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 pbbaker@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 Peoples, Elder Paul Salisbury

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. 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; select 'about PW', then select 'Quarterly Newsletter'.

From the Moderator's Letters:

Organist Available - If you are looking for a substitute (or full time) organist, you might want to contact Mark Brown from Lodi on the east side of Seneca Lake. Mark has just returned to his home town after spending the past 40 years teaching music in public schools as well as at the higher ed level. He also has extensive experience as a church organist. Contact info: (845) 399-4094 (cell); (607) 582-6466; knodish1@mac.com

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. 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

Spring Mission Team to West Virginia - Preparations are now ready to assemble the next mission work team to Ronceverte, West Virginia the week of April 23 – 29, 2017. The work trip will involve working on flood-damaged structures as determined by the WV Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps. A fee of \$250 is payable by each participant to "Presbytery of Geneva" by March 30th. For more details contact trip coordinator Paul Salisbury at (315) 331-0442 or at psalisb1@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](tel:8456084056) by text or phone or by email at rickuffordchase@gmail.com.

Young Adult Volunteer Applications Are Available - The application process for the 2017-18 YAV year began October 1 and continues to be available. Please share this with young adults you know who are interested in applying or who would benefit from a faith-based year of service. Contact Blake Collins at blake.collins@pcusa.org or go to the program website at www.youngadultvolunteers.org

The Disaster preparedness training is offered April 4-5, 2017 by Presbyterian Women at Vander Camp.

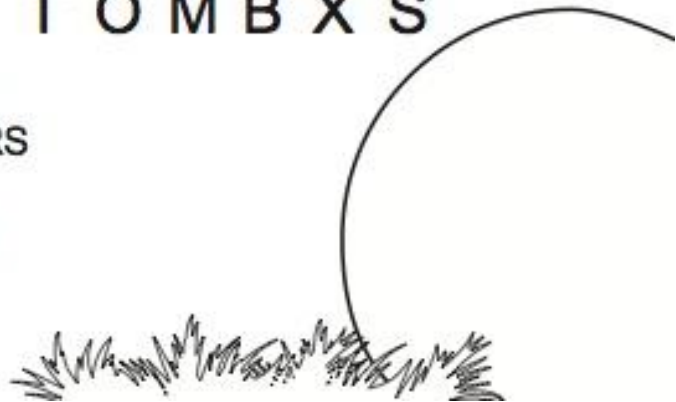
PCUSA – General Assembly news

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. Click on ‘News & Announcements’ then ‘General Assembly News’.

EASTER WORD SEARCH

S U E X I W R K Y B C
I A C I D B X V U R S
B D V E J K T N O R E
J N P I B V N S E T G
M E J H O Y S W E Q L
R Y M E V R O K V X S
N G C D I L S T N A U
C C L S F A E G G S S
I S E H B J A U D W E
D N V Y Y A D N U S J
D O S W T T O M B X S

RISEN	SUNDAY
CROSS	FLOWERS
TOMB	EGGS
JESUS	BASKET
SAVIOR	BUNNY



April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8AM Men's Bkfast 9AM Men's Bible Study
2 10:30 Worship; Communion Sunday school Soup Sunday	3	4 6PM Super Club 7PM Trustee mtg	5 10AM Bible Study 7PM Choir Rehear	6 12PM Lenten Luncheon 3-4:30PM Girls Club	7	8
Palm Sunday 9 10:30 Worship; Sunday school 2¢ meal; birthdays Pancake Break'f OGHS	10	11	12 10AM Bible Study 7PM Session mtg	Maundy Thurs. 13 3-4:30PM Girls Club 6 PM dinner/serv	Good Friday 14 7 PM service	15
Easter 16 7 AM Sunrise serv	17	18	19 10AM Bible Study	20 3-4:30PM Girls Club	21	22
23 10:30 Worship; Sunday school 11-4 Celebrate service/Yates	24	25	26 10AM Bible Study	27 3-4:30PM Girls Club	28	29
30 10:30 Worship; Sunday school				3-4:30PM Girls Club		

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

April 2017

