

April 2020

Lord... give me the gift of faith to be renewed and shared with others each day. Teach me to live this moment only, looking neither to the past with regret, nor the future with apprehension. Let love be my aim and my life a prayer.

Roseann Alexander-Isham



The Vine



April 2020

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9 AM – Noon



Coming Events



April 5

Palm Sunday

Special Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing

April 9

Maundy Thursday

April 10

Good Friday

April 12

Easter Sunday

Special Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing

April 30

6:00 PM

Supper Club

Pastor's Ponderings

Holy Week for 2020

This year will mark the first time in our congregation's history that we will not be gathering in person to celebrate Holy Week. Even when the church burned down years ago, St. Mark's Episcopal congregation welcomed us to worship in their church. We are living in unusual times.

We are keeping our social distances for each other's health and safety. However, we are connecting on Sunday mornings via email and social media. We will continue to post a written worship service and special music. The Deacons are also working on ways to stay in touch through personal phone calls.

If you need any assistance or if you know of someone who could use some help, please let me know. If you have prayer concerns or joys that you would especially like lifted up in prayer, please let me know those as well.

We will celebrate Easter this year, but in a different way. Unfortunately, there will be no Easter Sunrise Service or our traditional service. However, the meaning of Easter is the same this year as it has been and will be for all of eternity.

On Easter we give thanks that through Jesus Christ, we 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 courageously and with peace. Easter means we are empowered to live our lives with hope in all circumstances. Because the tomb is empty, life is completely different. Hope is always alive. Good defeats evil.

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

Stay connected in Christ,



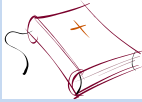
Pastor Paul



Sunday Scriptures for April



April 5	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	Mathew 21:1-11
April 12	Jeremiah 31:1-6	John 20:1-18
April 19	Psalms 16	John 20:19-31
April 26	Psalms 116: 1-4, 12-19	Luke 24:13-35



Bible Studies



During April, the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Classes have been canceled until further notice.



Prayer Line



Charlotte Gillespie	315-536-7185	Nancy Burt	315-536-8286
Judy Wilbert	607-292-6958		

Please keep the following in your prayers: Larry Ayers, Jay Fadden, Sue Goodrich, Pat Johnson, Marilyn Malles, James Rohr, Jennifer Stollery, and Joan Wiley. And especially our healthcare workers, first responders, police, and firemen; and our store clerks and military.



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 typically 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. Please call ahead to ensure they are not on pause!!



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	Beth and Carl Dickinson Anniv.	April 28
Kate Ballard	April 8	Lindsay Hansen	April 30

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. 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

Renovations: We are still working on renovations to our church – not sure if you had a chance to enjoy Crosier Hall since it was painted, but take my word for it, it looks GREAT!!! We are now working on painting the ceiling since nothing is currently happening in the hall!!!

News from the Presbyterian Women

Grandma's Kitchen: Grandma's Kitchen serves warm, home-cooked meals, served with a smile. It was held on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week from 2:20-3 PM in the Penn Yan Academy Cafeteria. 40-50% of Penn Yan Academy students rely on the school for 2 of their 3 daily meals. The goal is at least 15 churches would be involved. This was initiated by the Penn

Yan National Honor Society – leadership, character, scholarship and service. Tuesday, March 5th was our church’s second date to assist with this community project – we served ham and cheese sliders with veggies and cookies – we got so many ‘thank you’ from the students! Thank you to all who helped bake and serve.

April 25th, we still have a contract with Gale Wyn for Chicken BBQ at the Lyons Bank - at this time we have orders for 300 dinners (which will be tweaked that week). Bernie will chair this event – we will be looking for workers and once again bakers, this time brownies. Gale Wyn is now providing compostable containers; we have paper bags left from last year for the brownies - we are doing our part for the environment. Please note that this is a **TENTATIVE** date as all this may change the closer we get to April 25th – we will keep you updated!!!

May 14th / May 15th: Our Spring Rummage sale is still scheduled, **TENTATIVELY** for May 15th, with a set up date May 14th. Keep that in mind as you Spring clean. Sandy will chair this event. We will keep you updated on this too as the dates get closer.

June 9th we are booked for our Spring picnic at the lodge at Keuka Lake State Park – really, really hope this happens!!! Carol Worden and Mary Foster are setting up for the picnic – more details to follow.

Chicken BBQ at Oak Hill – is scheduled for July 18th. Char will chair our summer event.

September:

- **September 8th** we will clean the kitchen.
- Joy will host our Fall Picnic at her cottage late in the month – date to be determined.

December 8th is the date for our Advent Evening with chairs Jean and Char.

Celebration of life chairs remain the same – the list is on the kitchen bulletin board. Committee chairs remain the same.

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 hope to have the collection at church on Sunday, May 10th. 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.

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

As we have the current 'pause' in our church services, we will stay in touch for when we resume regular worship services. In the meanwhile, we hope you get comfort from Pastor Paul's online church service and accompanying music.

Communion: Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve Communion for 2020. The list will be posted in the bulletin each week and a copy is on the bulletin board.

Choir: Rehearsals on the first Wednesday of each month are canceled until further notice.

News from Outreach



In Isaiah 58, the author is addressing a people who have returned to Jerusalem, where the Temple—God's house—was in shambles. I imagine it was a heartbreaking scene. And in that rubble, the prophet challenges the people not to rebuild the building or to restore their religious rituals, but to care for the hungry, the weak and the vulnerable—the prophet called the people to become the house of God. We are called to become, as Isaiah promised long ago, “repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in”.

Together, we become the household of God.

During this time of crisis, with the COVID-19 pandemic threatening, we are reminded that the most vulnerable in our midst suffer first, most and longest. One Great Hour of Sharing has, for over 70 years, supported the most vulnerable among us. Because of our support, the Church is able to deepen its commitment to serve. In the days ahead, staff of Self-Development of People, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be working with presbyteries to identify and support essential congregational ministries, especially in anti-poverty work. The Church's response to the present crisis will begin with the most at-risk communities across the country and around the world, as well as those facing spikes of racism in response to this disease.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain—be it physical, emotional, or spiritual—and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat.

During these uncertain times, we depend on our Church, faith, family and God's grace to see us through. Please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. We are the Church, together.

Let us pray: Draw all people together, gracious God, and make us your house. Let our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing create a home and a wholeness for people in need, especially those suffering from the impacts of the current crisis, so that the whole human family will know your love. Amen.

News from Church Life

Supper Club: Our next **TENTATIVE** Supper Club will be on Thursday, April 30th at 6 PM – we had initially scheduled Eric Detar to speak about his student's mission trip to Puerto Rico but unfortunately his trip was just canceled – so we are working on something else – so stay tuned.

For May, we have scheduled Lea Kone, the Director for Camp Whitman to talk to us about the news from the camp!! This has again been tentatively scheduled for May 21st. Please remember to bring a dish to pass, a friend, and your own table service.

News from Christian Ed

Confirmation Classes: All classes have been canceled until further notice.

Hattie Hartman Tithe Committee

The Hattie Hardman Tithe Committee has been supporting the on-going redevelopment of Camp Whitman since 2018. This support began with a grant to support the evaluation of the Camp to determine if it could be capable of supporting itself and be used by other groups beyond the summer camp, and if so, what needed to be completed to make this transition a success.

Based on the evaluation, a capital fund campaign was started to raise \$250,000.00 for the improvements within the camp buildings and lodges. This program was challenged by an anonymous supporter such that they would match every dollar collected up to the \$250,000.00 dollars, bringing the total campaign value to \$500,000.00. Again, HHTC was a contributor to this program. The campaign is closing in on the \$250,000.00, for a total of \$500,000.00, and is anticipated to be completed by the start of summer camp.

For the year 2020 the HHTC has been in contact with Lea Kohn to discuss the needs of the camp. She has asked that we support the addition of two staff members that would be part time. The first position is a Volunteer Coordinator to enhance the existing volunteer programs and seek to expand those programs. The second position is an Intern that would assist in the year-round promotion of the camp and program development. The funds required to cover these two positions is a total of \$9,720.00. The committee and Session have approved this award. Please join us in celebrating the continued development of our camp.

Peace,

Hattie Hardman Tithe Committee

Jen Rouin, Sandy Carlson, Karen Montgomery, Phoebe Parker
Peter Martens, Larry Edgington, 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. 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 2019-2020 school year are Keegan Baxter, Anna Detar, Lin Dickinson, Elizabeth Martens, and Alex Rouin.

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 and Hospitality list for 2020: Even though our services have been canceled until further notice, we still have our usher/hospitality list which shall be active, hopefully sooner rather than later!!!

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.

2020 Stewardship Campaign: “Share the Gift”

Our Stewardship Campaign theme for 2020 is ‘Share the Gift’. Our kick-off was on Sunday, October 13th when we celebrated with brownie sundaes!!! On that Sunday and the following two Sundays we had ‘minutes for mission’ as members shared the meaning of this form of giving in their lives.

On Consecration Sunday, October 27th, we had a time set aside for completion of pledge cards - this was when all members and attendees determined their commitment to our church and its mission. As in past years, this is a voluntary process carried out confidentially. Following service, we had a brunch with breakfast casseroles.

We are pleased to continue to offer the choice of using an automated electronic procedure for pledged offerings. If you wish to take 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.

Lenten Luncheons

The community Lenten luncheons at the Baptist Church have all been canceled but please continue to consider this year’s theme especially with everything our community is going through - **Modeling the Character of Christ**”.

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!!!

Joyful Noise Memorial Bell Choir

The Joyful Noise Memorial Bell Choir has joined the chime and bell choir of the Methodist Church. We usually rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:15 PM -7:15 PM alternating between our church and the Methodist Church; we typically play on the 3rd Sunday of each month (but if the Buffalo Bills are playing at home on the 3rd Sunday, then we will play on the 4th Sunday!!!) – all is also on pause until further notice. 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.

Men’s Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study which typically meets at 9:00 AM on the first Saturday morning of each month in the church office, is also on pause until further notice.

Church Play Date

Our church children's play dates have been canceled until further notice – we will keep you updated!!! When they start up again, if you are interested in more information, please contact Linda Malles, Rachel Anderson or Hanna Martens.

'Paul's Place'

"Paul's Place", the Respite Care Program initiated by the Living Well, has been canceled until further notice. This program was 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.

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 and Sierra. Please stop in to say hello if you have not met them yet when our services resume!!!

Walking Can Be Fun!!!

The walking classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9 AM – 10 AM have been canceled until further notice – we will keep you informed when we resume!!!

Per Capita

Our Per Capita for 2020 is \$50 – if you give electronically, please tell Linda Bracht what is the amount and when you would like the church to take the per capita – she does not take it automatically.

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).

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. The camp has an Amazon wishlist at

https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/16L3FFK1Q2AMZ/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_QVdbBb7F55EJF

Camp Whitman Capital Campaign: Help us meet our \$250,000 match – ways to give (1) checks may be written to ‘Presbytery of Geneva’ with ‘Camp Whitman Capital Campaign’ in the memo line, mailed to 2472 Route 54A, Penn Yan, NY 14527; (2) donate online at www.campwhitman.org/donate; (3) make a gift of stock at www.presbyterianfoundation.org/make-a-contribution and designate the gift to Presbytery of Geneva and add “Camp Whitman Capital Campaign” in the notes.

Presbytery of Geneva
Letter of Encouragement – March 29, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm told that these letters have been somewhat helpful, so I'm writing another one. By now I'm sure that we're all very aware of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that it's significantly impacting life here in New York State. As of yesterday afternoon, there are over 59,500 cases in New York State, and over 200 in Monroe County. Tompkins County has 52 cases, and Wayne, Steuben, and Ontario Counties each have over a dozen cases. We are seeing cases in our presbytery. I live in Yates County, the last county to have an original case, but our first case is here, and cases are impacting communities throughout our area. Many of us are also watching as New York City is still having a dramatic increase in cases, and other cities Upstate are seeing a rise in cases. These numbers don't reflect the true impact, because testing limitations are still a problem. Social distancing has taken hold, which is good, but difficult for many of us. Events are being cancelled, and friends and families are visiting digitally.

For many of us, this can be difficult. In my outpatient family medicine practice, last week virtually all of my appointments were telephone or video visits, a major change. I'm seeing and hearing of many people with anxiety about the virus or the changes in their lives it's requiring. Businesses are closed, and financial stressors are a concern. Families are juggling home schooling and working from home. Obviously, there are many thousands dealing with this virus, but for those of us not directly dealing with it, these changes and stressors can cause understandable anxiety.

I would like to note that we are learning more about this virus. There are treatments that are being proposed, but many of them don't have much evidence yet. I do want to encourage people to continue washing hands, and not to try to get medications such as hydroxychloroquine unless it's a medication taken for a known condition. Already there have been inappropriate shortages and at least one death from inappropriate use of similar substances. I do think that we will continue to learn more about this virus, and I'm confident that a vaccine will be developed. It will simply take time. The social distancing and isolation protocols that are being taken are buying all of us time, until these longer lasting prevention methods can be developed.

I would like to encourage good self-care methods during this period. Communicate clearly with family. Make sure to spend time on the phone or through video apps to stay in touch with loved ones. It is wise to keep up to date on some news, but I recommend avoiding the 24 hour news cycle from major networks, which tend to raise anxiety to try to raise ratings. Make time for solitary exercise outside (maintaining social distancing protocols). Exercise promotes both physical and emotional health. Do things you can that help you to feel positive. Prayer and practice of our faith can be very helpful, and setting aside time for worship when you're able is critically important. We are amazed by the creativity of our congregations responding to the Pause. We may not be able to meet in-person, but there are many ways in which we can engage with each other and with our faith during these extraordinary times. The Committee on Leader Care is developing a list of these opportunities and encourage you to share it with your own community. There is an Index of Ministry Resources (<http://www.presbyteryofgeneva.org/Ministry%20Resources/>) - be sure to add what's happening in your congregation, and try a few out.

With Gov. Cuomo's PAUSE order, we're unable to have corporate worship. I and other leaders from General Council advise following the order for public health. There is much discussion about when social distancing measures will abate. In New York State, it seems unlikely to occur before April 15, but beyond that, things are uncertain and will depend on how

the progression of the virus locally and nationally continues. When the time comes that the PAUSE order is discontinued, the leadership of the presbytery will review the situation and advise about whether resuming corporate worship is appropriate. Looking at current models of COVID spread, this could be well into May or even early June. We urge everyone to comply with the PAUSE to protect our most vulnerable community members. This will obviously significantly change the nature of Holy Week, and of Easter. However, the meaning of those days is unchanged. We will remember the Passion of Christ, our Savior, including his last supper, arrest, imprisonment, and death. We will then celebrate the miracle of his resurrection, to the glory of God. We can trust that our faith can guide us, even during these difficult times.

The leadership of the presbytery has been carefully monitoring the situation and digitally meeting regularly to address needs. Committees are working together to meet the needs of the presbytery. With the necessary cancellation of the March stated meeting of the presbytery, there are a few items that will require business, and we will be calling for a special called meeting of the presbytery on April 14 at 10 A.M. This will be an electronic meeting, which will be a first for us. Materials, information, an agenda, and logistics will follow within the next week.

I urge all of you to continue praying. Pray for the patients and families suffering with the coronavirus. Pray for the doctors, nurses, and other health care workers on the front lines, fighting this invisible foe. Please also pray for the support persons, such as the people keeping areas clean, providing meals, or doing the other things necessary to keep those front line workers supplied. We pray for all our leaders, that they would make wise decisions to protect life and health. Pray for those I mentioned suffering from anxiety, depression, and loneliness. Let us pray for our pastors and leaders as they shepherd us under different circumstances than expected, and in a difficult time. Pray for each other.

I refer again to a favorite hymn (God of Grace and God of Glory): Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage, For the living of these days.

For the Living of These Days,
Rob Anderson MD, Chair, General Council

Members of the Presbytery Leadership Team
Rev. Glenn Kennedy, Moderator
Elder Virginia Champlain, Vice Moderator
Elder Rob Anderson, Chair of General Council
Rev. Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk
Elder Tom Bailey, Treasurer
Elder Susan Orr, Presbytery Leader

March 21, 2020 letter from our Presbytery Council Chair

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm writing with another update on COVID-19. Undoubtedly, you have been hearing a lot about the spread of this virus. As of yesterday, in NYS, there have been over 7,000 cases. There are now 32 cases in Monroe County, with 3 in Ontario County (confirmed), 7 in Tompkins County, and 1 in Wayne County. Some counties in our area don't have any confirmed cases, but it's clearly starting in the area. Many are aware of the aggressive social distancing measures taken by the state. Most recently, Gov. Cuomo has essentially stopped all non-essential business starting at 8 P.M. tomorrow night. Obviously, this has led to a great deal of concern about how we can all be faithful in this time.

The first question in many cases would be worship. In-person communal worship is essentially prohibited, and is certainly not advisable in any case. Different faith communities are addressing this in different ways. In my congregation, we're receiving worship materials that we can perform at home. Many pastors have broadcast on Facebook Live or similar. Last week, I actually watched an old friend lead remote worship from Wisconsin, which was unique and meaningful. I encourage each of you to consider the options. We at presbytery would like to know what congregations are doing. If your congregation isn't currently able to do any of these activities, I'm hopeful that you'll be able to join in with other worshipping communities. We can support and build up each other in these times.

From the medical side, there are many changes. In my own practice, I'll be seeing many of my patients via telemedicine. Telephone calls will also be increased. We're trying to avoid in person visits unless truly necessary to avoid unintentional spread. Local and regional hospitals are preparing for a possible surge in hospitalized patients. There are concerns about shortages of personal protective equipment and ventilators. Many health care professionals are preparing to be active in hospitals if necessary, but there is understandable anxiety about the potential difficult situations in the coming days and weeks. Personally, I was feeling very discouraged last week when so many social and sporting events were cancelled. This week, through preparation and family time, I think acceptance is progressing, and I'm trusting our professionalism to guide us through this time. We need support through these times. I do encourage everyone to be in prayer for the health care professionals who are on the front lines now, and those of us who will be in reserve for this very challenging time.

For many others, there are financial and personal concerns. Many workers will not be having income. Food insecurity may increase. Aid organizations are still concerned essential services, and may be a way for people to help. For congregations, the presbytery understands that there may be difficulties. Please contact the Committee on Vitality for extreme financial hardship. I do encourage people to look to support and equip congregations and leaders to be Christ in the Finger Lakes and the World into electronic giving and other options. A good resource from presbytery is our COVID-19 Updates and Resources folder on the website.

I'd like to encourage everyone not working in these essential services to stay socially distanced. The newly enacted law will help, but the timeframe is uncertain. Many were hoping for a short-term period, but many medical experts are indicating that we may need to prepare for several months of significant measures to slow the spread and prevent the surge in the hospitals as much as possible. Being diligent will be important. Let us be strong in our faith, and caring to each other in this time.

I ask once again for your prayers for my friends and colleagues working near and far to combat this illness.

Grace and Peace to All of You,
Rob Anderson MD Chair, General Council

March 21, 2020 Presbytery Leadership Team letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Geneva Presbytery,

Geneva Presbytery's Leadership Team wants you to know that we stand with you as we all venture further into wild, uncharted territory. The New York "On Pause" law going into effect Sunday evening continues to affect all aspects of our daily life.

Still, in the midst of much uncertainty and genuine anxiety, we also reaffirm the central truth of our faith: that Christ is still present among us, offering peace even in the midst of the political, economic, and societal chaos that currently surrounds us.

The Leadership Team met via Zoom conference yesterday and is working hard behind the scenes to offer as much support for our Presbytery members, church leaders, and congregations as possible.

Specifically, there are several ways we wish to offer assistance:

1. During the period when physical gatherings for worship are impossible, there are some congregations that are already equipped to provide creative online alternatives. We are in the process of gathering a list of such virtual services that other congregations may wish to experience as a means of affirming our faith and unity. [Note: The request for information was sent to clergy and clerks on Thursday around noon on behalf of the Committee on Leader Care. Please respond to that email, or let us know if you did not receive it by contacting leadercare@presbyteryofgeneva.org .]

2. The Committee on Leader Care can resource church leaders and congregations that need assistance in implementing various forms of virtual meeting forums (for worship, meetings, decision-making, etc.)

3. The Leadership Team is in the process of creating an electronic meeting policy that will provide a way for the Presbytery and its various entities to meet and make decisions while in-person meetings are impossible. This policy can serve as a template for your own congregations' needs as an electronic meeting policy must be in place in order for Session and congregational meetings to be decent and in order virtually. This will be distributed to all congregations, clergy and clerks as soon as it is available.

4. The Leadership Team also recognizes that nearly all congregations will be experiencing increased financial challenges. Recognizing the potential financial impact on our church workers, we encourage all congregations to continue to employ and pay its workers as they are able. We urge all congregations, where possible, to look closely at ways to limit expenses and to consider the need to tap the congregation's investment funds, if any, to supplement current income. We Lives to support and equip congregations and leaders to be Christ in the Finger Lakes and the World understand that some congregations have no investment funds to fall back on and, even if they do, some congregations may still find themselves in financial need beyond what their own resources can provide. Know that the Presbytery will do all in its power to assist congregations facing this type of financial hardship. There are emergency resources available through the Board of Pensions, and resources available to set-up on-line giving platforms. The Presbytery has assistance money available through Small Church grants. We will do our best to assist churches experiencing extreme financial hardship, regardless of size. Please feel free to contact the Committee on Vitality with specific financial requests at vitality@presbyteryofgeneva.org .

5. While some resources are being sent regularly from the Presbytery office, we are gathering them – and many more – in a COVID-19 Updates & Resources folder on the website. We encourage you to check here frequently.

The Presbytery of Geneva's Leadership Team strongly affirms that we are all in this together. We will continue to hold all of our congregations in our thoughts and earnest prayers, but also do our best to provide practical assistance for whatever sorts of particular special needs may arise during this time of special stress. Please let us know if you have a particular concern or need by contacting Susan Orr at leader@presbyteryofgeneva.org .

We also request your prayers for wisdom, strength, and discernment on behalf of the Leadership Team and all Presbytery entities as we continue to do our best to function and serve on behalf of all of you.

In the hope and love of Christ our Savior,
The Presbytery of Geneva Leadership Team

Dr. Rob Anderson, Chair of General Council
Rev. Glenn Kennedy, Presbytery Moderator
Elder Virginia Champlin, Presbytery Vice-Moderator
Elder Tom Bailey, Presbytery Treasurer
Rev. Amy Loving Austin, Presbytery Stated Clerk
Elder Susan Orr, Presbytery Leader

With special thanks to the following Leadership Team guests:
Commissioned Pastor Stephen Beals (Chair, Committee on Vitality)
Rev. Ellen Donnan (Chair, Committee on Ministry)
Rev. Bruce Incze (Chair, Committee on Leader Care)

Geneva Presbytery's Leadership Team

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’.

Kid's Corner

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 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			No exercise, Bible study, or choir rehearsal until further notice	No PathStone, WIC, or Girls Club until further notice	No exercise until further notice	No men's Bkfast Or Men's Bible study until further notice
Palm Sunday 5	6	7	8	9	Good Friday 10	11
No worship or Deacon's mtg until further notice	No exercise until further notice	No Trustees mtg until further notice	No exercise, Bible study, or HH mtg until further notice	Maundy Thurs. No PathStone, or Girls Club until further notice	No exercise until further notice	
Easter 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
No worship or Girls Scouts until further notice	No exercise until further notice		No exercise, Bible study, or Session until further notice	No PathStone, WIC, or Girls Club until further notice	No exercise until further notice	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
No worship or until further notice	No exercise until further notice		No exercise or Bible study	No PathStone, or Girls Club until further notice	No exercise until further notice	
26	27	28	29	30		
No worship or until further notice	No exercise until further notice		No exercise or Bible study	6PM Supper Club (tentative)		

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

April 2020

