

December 2016

The tea-bag was an accidental invention. This occurred in 1908 when tea merchant Thomas Sullivan distributed his tea samples in small, silken bags. His customers, not understanding that these were samples, dunked them and suddenly Sullivan was swamped with orders for his 'tea bags'!

<http://www.thefactsite.com/2011/07/top-100-random-funny-facts.html>



The Vine



December 2016

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



December 1	4:00 PM	Yates Christmas Program Volunteer meeting
December 2	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Starshine
December 3	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast at Wagner Restaurant
	9:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
December 5 and 6	9:00 AM	Yates Christmas Program setup
December 6	6:00 PM	Trustee meeting
December 7	9:00 PM – 3 PM	Yates Christmas Program distribution
December 7	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
December 8	9:00 PM – 1 PM	Yates Christmas Program distribution
December 13	6:30 PM	PW – A Christmas Gathering
December 14	7:00 PM	Session Meeting
December 15	6:00 PM	Pastor Paul and Linda's Open House
December 16		Keuka Comfort Care Cookie Walk setup
December 17	10:00 AM	Keuka Comfort Care Annual Cookie Walk
December 24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 25	10:30 AM	Christmas Service – Merry Christmas

Pastor's Ponderings

The Most Important Gifts

Christmas celebrates how the long awaited Messiah comes to earth offering us peace on earth and goodwill to all. Christmas is about God coming to us as a human child.

Unfortunately, commercialism can get us off track from the deeper significance of Christmas. A lot of energy revolves around shopping and less around the spiritual meaning of the season.

Do we really need to buy all kinds of stuff for people at Christmas? Many people already have enough stuff. Often, we give gifts that people don't need and will probably never use. An article in the Wall Street Journal cited that only 20% of the clothes in the average person's closet are worn on a regular basis.

Jesus Christ is the most satisfying gift any of us could ever receive. Think of all the gifts God gives us. First we are blessed with joy. Jesus shares with us in John 15:11, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." Jesus gives us a lasting joy that no possession can match.

Additionally, in John 14:27, Jesus assures us, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

We can share the wonderful gift of Christ's peace by extending kindness and compassion to others. This Christmas think of gifts you can give people that don't have to be purchased. Your friendship, your prayers, your encouragement, and your hospitality, offered in the spirit of Christ's own love are the most rewarding gifts for both you and the receiver.

Think also about the gifts you can give Jesus this Christmas. We can give Jesus our praise and our good works as stated in Hebrews 11:15-16, "Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Another important gift we can give to others and to God is our time. As Christmas approaches, let us all make time for the people and the things that matter most.

See you in church,



Pastor Paul



Sunday Scriptures for December



December 4 Isaiah 11:1-10
 December 11 Isaiah 35:1-10
 December 18 Isaiah 7:10-16
 December 25 Isaiah 62:6-12

Matthew 3:1-12
 Matthew 11:2-11
 Matthew 1:18-25
 John 1:1-14



Ushers and Greeters for December



Ushers

December 4 Jim Matzat and Alan Doan
 December 11 Janice Ogden and Margaret Dilgard
 December 18 Larry Edgington and Steve Matteson
 December 25 **Need volunteers**

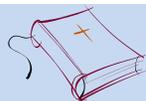
Greeters

Anne Waasdorp and Beth Curtiss
Need volunteers
 The Whyman Family
 Linda Malles

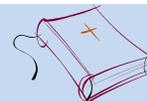
The Deacons thank everyone for serving as ushers and greeters. If you cannot serve on the date assigned, please let the office know so the correct names appear in the bulletin.

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. Instead, the Vine for February will include the usher and greeter schedule for the year, and the duties of each. 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.



Bible Studies



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

December 7 The Affirmation of the Promise, Luke 1:39-56
 December 14 The Forerunner of the Savior, Luke 1:1-23, 57-66
 December 21 The Savior Has Been Born, Luke 2:1-21
 December 28 Praising God the Creator, Psalm 33:1-9

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, Ray Davison, Toni Gable, Connie Gibson, Jim Matzat, the family of Gary Montgomery, Ruth Soles, 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, December 20th for distribution on Friday, December 23rd. Thank you!



Let's Celebrate



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

Susan Baxter	December 3	Cathryn Gonzalez	December 24
Linda Bracht	December 3	Phoebe Baker	December 26
Brady Mills	December 6	Ben Ballard	December 27
Phil Bracht	December 11	Natalio Gonzalez	December 27
Rhonda Matteson	December 12	Kaitlyn Hamm	December 27
Bob VanDeliner	December 13	Ray Marshall	December 28
Maeve Beecher	December 14	Marvin Pallischeck	December 29
Phyllis Alderman	December 19	Stuart Porter	December 30
Carole Whittaker	December 20	Robyn Ballard	December 31
Carol Crain	December 24		

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. 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

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.

Trustee's Christmas Party: The Trustee's Christmas party will be held on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 PM. It will be hosted by Phil and Linda Bracht at their rental property at 77 Charles Street in Dresden.

News from the Presbyterian Women

Fall Rummage Sale: Thank you to all who donated and volunteered at our annual Fall Rummage Sale - we made \$1,430.

A Christmas Gathering: Let's get together December 13th at 6:30 PM in Crosier Hall to enjoy an evening of sharing, fellowship and song. The more the merrier so if you have friends or relatives you would like to enjoy the evening with, please bring them along. To help us enjoy the evening desserts, teas, coffees and hot chocolate will be provided. If you would like to bring a dessert along with you it would be greatly appreciated. A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board, but all are welcome even if you don't get a chance to sign up.

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.

Christmas Eve Service: On Saturday, December 24th, at 7:00 PM, we will be having a Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Christmas Service: On Sunday morning, December 25th we will have our regular Sunday service at 10:30 AM. Merry Christmas to all!!

News from the Outreach Committee

We will have a Christmas Joy special offering on December 18th. The theme this year is ‘The Wondrous Gift is Given’. The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the “wondrous gift” of God with us. Jesus arrived in a humble stable in small and insignificant Bethlehem, to lead and teach in truth and love, and bring about God’s salvation to the world. What a “wondrous gift” indeed! This was a gift so profound that the only response was the bringing of more gifts; the Magi arrived with gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor the Christ child.

Devoted and caring leaders have led many of us in the way of Christ. They have been church workers equipping us to respond to the grace we have known in Jesus Christ, and they have been God’s gifts among us. As we celebrate Christ’s coming, and think of the profound impact these individuals have had on us, the Christmas Joy Offering provides a way for us to offer a gift in response. Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will raise up leaders from small places that are too often overlooked by the church. The historically Presbyterian racial ethnic schools were founded to educate emerging leaders from underrepresented groups so leadership in the church would better reflect the diversity of God’s people.

Half of the Christmas Joy Offering supports the continued ministry of educating and forming Christian leaders. The other half of the Offering honors those leaders who serve and have served us well. Through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, current and retired church workers who experience need because of tragedy, health concerns, or financial hardship can receive assistance from the church they have served so well.

In gratitude to God for the wondrous gift of Jesus, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) invites congregations to join this celebration of God’s presence with us by supporting those in need of help and hope.

News from the Christian Education Committee

Chair person needed: Christian Education is in great need of a chair person and possibly another teacher – if you are interested or want to find out more information, please contact Char.

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.

News from the Deacons

Deacons Red Wagon Campaign: Thank you to all who donated food, money and their time for the Deacons Red Wagon campaign – we feed 16 families and assisted a veteran and his son this season – what a wonderful way to celebrate our thanks by helping those in our community.

Christmas Mitten Tree: For the Christmas mitten tree this year, the Deacon's are asking for donations of sweatpants for children, sizes S (4-6) through L (14-16), preferably with elastic openings. Also insulated and waterproof gloves are needed. This is a VERY important mission for the Deacons as it helps so many of our school-age children – please be as generous as you can!! Thank you for your continued support of all Deacons' activities.

2016 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 ~58 cards returned, our total amount pledged is \$125,433. 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’

Staying after church for fellowship
Being an usher
Being a greeter
Washing dishes
Sharing instrumental and vocal music

‘Reaching Out’

NAMI Support Group
Parkinson Support Group
PEO
Quilter’s group
Brain Injury Support Group

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

Passing to God’s Heavenly Kingdom

It is with sadness that we share that Gary Montgomery passed away November 2. Gary was widely respected and loved in the auto racing community. He was also greatly appreciated for his service to the community as a Yates County Legislator and to the church as a former member of Session and the Geneva Presbytery's Budget and Finance Committee. Gary led a life of service and devotion. Cards of condolences may be sent to Karen Montgomery, 1076 Esperanza Dr. Keuka Park, NY 14478.

Men’s Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study typically meets at 9:00 AM on the first Saturday morning 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. We are now studying part 2, Alive in the Adventure of Jesus.

Blue Christmas Service

There will be a Blue Christmas Worship Service, a sacred worship service for those who are grieving or in pain, or just want to support a friend, on Thursday, December 8th at 7:00pm at the Dundee Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 31 Main St, Dundee, NY. For more information, contact the church at 607-243-8514.

Christmas Open House

Pastor Paul and Linda Malles are hosting a Christmas Open House Party on Thursday, December 15th at 6:00 PM, at 219 East Main Street. There will be refreshments and everyone is welcome, children and adults. Pastor Paul has called the North Pole to confirm that Santa Claus will be attending the party!!!

Christmas Flowers

We will have available this year poinsettias in colors of red, white, pink, and variegated; sizes range in price for \$3.99 (4”), \$5.99(6”) and \$14.99 (8”). We will also have 4.5” (\$16.99) and 6.5” (\$24.99) shooting star hydrangea available. Please indicate a first and second choice in color. Please sign-up by Sunday, December 18th. Contact Sandy if you have any questions.

Turkey Hunger Walk

On Sunday, November 8th the Turkey Hunger Walk was hosted which supports the purchase of meats for the Yates Food Program. A BIG thank you to everyone who donated and who walked – we raised \$5,631 - \$1,000 over 2015!!! What an AWESOME supportive community we have!!!!

Book Discussion Group

A book study is being held Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM, focusing on the book, *Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian*, by Paul Knitter. Please see information about the book below. If you, too, would like to be a part of the book study, please contact Robyn Ballard.

Being a Christian isn't easy. Sustaining belief without any doubts for one's entire life is a very rare accomplishment. Indeed, many would say that examining one's faith at least once is a central part of the Christian condition. In this landmark work, esteemed theologian Paul F. Knitter explains the unique path that he took to overcome his doubts, becoming a stronger Christian in the process.

Honest and unflinching, 'Without Buddha I Could not be a Christian' narrates each spiritual dilemma that Knitter has struggled with and explains how a Buddhist worldview has allowed him to resolve each one. From the 'petitioning' nature of Christian prayer to how Christianity views life after death, Knitter argues that a Buddhist standpoint can help inspire a more person-centered conception of Christianity, where individual religious experience comes first, and liturgy and tradition second. Moving and revolutionary, this edition comes with a new postscript in which Professor Knitter reflects on and re-evaluates his position as a double-belonger.

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

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.

December 4 - Rachel Doan

December 11 - Judy Wilbert

December 18 - Sue Irwin

9th Annual Holiday Cookie Walk

The 9th Annual Holiday Cookie walk will be held at the Penn Yan Presbyterian Church on December 17th (Cookie drop off will take place the day before). The event doors will open at 10 AM.

Bakers: What we're looking for –

- 6 dozen of your very best, fanciest, most Martha Stewart-esqe Holiday cookies (or about 5 pounds, or 3-4 batches)
- We need all of your cookies to be the same type/variety (not an assortment)
- Old-fashioned favorites
- Your most-requested recipe, perhaps?
- Sophisticated or Whimsical
- Traditional, Ethnic, or Hard-To-Find
- They don't have to be Christmas cookies... any Winter Holiday will do!

We have LOTS of ideas and LOTS of really great recipes, so let us know if you need either. If you'd rather just make dough, please do so! And we'll make sure the cookies are baked and finished to completion! If you'd rather not bake, but just want to decorate, you're more than welcome! Let us know! Contact: Maureen Wise (315) 536-1690 or email cookie@keukacomfortcarehome.org

Yates Christmas Program

The Yates Christmas Program volunteer meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1st at 4 PM, at our church. Distribution at the Armory is Wednesday, December 7th and Thursday, December 8th by appointment only; distribution at our church is from Wednesday, December 7th from 9 AM-3 PM and Thursday, December 8th from 9 AM-1 PM with shopping open to anyone starting at 12 PM. Setup at our church is scheduled for Monday, December 5th and Tuesday, December 6th starting at 9 AM. All help is gratefully appreciated.

The Yates Christmas Program is looking for a person to organize volunteers from our church to ring the bell at the donation collection 'house' on either Friday or Saturday in December at Tops. It would involve a 4-6 hour shift – as the organizer, you can decide how many people would participate and how long each person would work. If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Clouser at 315-536-8689.

Starshine

Starshine will be held on December 2nd from 5-9 PM. The event will return to Main Street this year and will certainly be a great community celebration! Activities begin at 5PM along the

historic shopping district of downtown Penn Yan. Main Street is closed to vehicular traffic from 4PM–9PM and the entire two blocks of downtown become a holiday wonderland. So come and start out your holiday with an eventful night!

Annual Lessons and Carols

The Keuka Cluster Presbytery of Geneva congregations of Bath, Hammondsport, Howard, Penn Yan and Pulteney invites you, your family and friends to their first Annual Lessons and Carols at the Howard Union Presbyterian Church (3609 County Route 70A, Hornell, NY 14843) on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 3:00 PM. This is an exciting time together with Chancel Choirs, singing, praising and fellowship

Xmas????

Every year during Advent, we generally see a sign reading “Merry Xmas”! Some Christians have been offended by the word *Xmas*. They say the letter X should not be substituted for Christ as though it were a modern insult to our Lord. However, it really is not. Xmas has ancient origins. The letter X in Greek – the original language of the New Testament – is the first letter of the word *Xristos*, which translated into English is the word Christ. So X is simply an abbreviation for the word Christ. And the letters *mas* are an abbreviation of the word mass. Therefore, *Xmas* really means *Christ mass* or *Christ worship*.

‘Take Steps to Avoid Caregiver Burnout’

By Barton Goldsmith

If you have ever been the caretaker of a loved one, or even if you are a professional in the field, it is a tough job, and you have to learn a few tricks to give the other person and yourself the care you both deserve.

I am currently the caretaker for a loved one in hospice. It is pretty much a 24/7 job, but right now I can be there for her and I am going to embrace every moment we have together. But the truth is I am tired.

Daily morning runs to the doctor for injections, trying to find something she will eat, cleaning up after her. I have become numb to most of it. Being woken at all hours has turned into just napping any chance I get. Getting up before 6:00AM is not why I became a writer.

One of the ways I give myself a mini vacation is to imagine being in the south of France, drinking champagne, and laughing. The pressure of watching a loved one die and taking on the task of caring for that individual really means that you are giving up at least part of, if not most of, your life. You now come second, and any seasoned caregiver will tell you to put your own oxygen mask on first, but when it comes to a loved one, that rule can be overlooked.

One thing that helps is being around other positive people, doing simple fun things like having dinner. I enjoy that kind of energy and get nurtured through it. What works best for me is when other people come by and hang out, so I don’t have to leave my loved one, and they can also say hello and bring her a little love and good energy. Times like these make the process of being a caregiver much easier.

There will be times when it feels like it is too much. You may even have thoughts that you’d wish the person you are caring for would just pass peacefully, and then you feel guilty. This happens because you are overwhelmed and perhaps approaching burnout. Now is when it is really important to take care of yourself, so you can continue taking care of the one who needs you.

There are support groups for caregivers. Call your local hospital and ask if they can recommend any in your area. The Internet can also be very helpful. You can keep a journal to

get your feelings out. You can post on Facebook or blog to release some of your stress, and getting positive feedback will help keep you strong.

Remember that you are doing an amazing thing here. You have given up much of your life to care for a person who is almost ready to leave. This is a gift to both of you, but it is one that takes a lot of energy, so brace yourself and find ways to get the support you need to keep going.

This is not an easy process; there are tears and laughter and a wild ride with someone who may be bedridden. But the gift you are giving will come back to you. By caring for another, you are being your best self, and the other person is getting the help he or she deserves. It is all good. Just remember to take care of yourself.

Do you know???

In a closet in the church office, there are wonderfully old, old Bibles and related books. Do you have any background information about them??? If you do, we would be so excited to learn about them!!!

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 which 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 pbbbaker@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

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 30. 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

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’.

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	1	2	3
				3-4:30PM Girls Club		8AM Men's Bkfast 9AM Men's Bible Study
				4PM YCP Vol.mtg	5-9PM Starshine	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	9AM YCP setup	9AM YCP setup	9-3 YCP	9-1 YCP		
10:30 Worship; Sunday school		6PM Trustee mtg	10AM Bible Study 7PM Choir Rehear	3-4:30PM Girls Club		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 Worship; Sunday school 2¢ meal; birthdays		6:30 PM PW – A Christmas Gathering	10AM Bible Study 7PM Session mtg	3-4:30PM Girls Club 6PM Paul/Linda Open House		10AM Cookie Walk
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 Worship; Sunday school			10AM Bible Study			7PM Christmas Eve service
Christmas 25	26	27	28	29	30	New Year's 31
10:30 Worship; Sunday school			10AM Bible Study			Eve

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

December 2016



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND