

December 2018

Advent is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas as well as the return of Jesus at the second coming. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming". Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives. "Since the time of Bernard of Clairvaux (d.1153) Christians have spoken of the three comings of Christ: in the flesh in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time." The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming.



The Vine



December 2018

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



December 1	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Men's Breakfast at Wagner Restaurant
	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	5:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Starshine
December 2	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Worship
December 3	9:00 AM	Yates Christmas Program setup
December 4	9:00 AM	Yates Christmas Program setup
	6:00 PM	Trustees meeting
December 5		No Bible Study
	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Yates Christmas Program distribution
	6:15 PM – 7:15 PM	Bell Choir rehearsal
	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
December 6	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Yates Christmas Program distribution
December 9	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Worship; 2¢ a Meal; Birthdays
December 11	6:00 PM	Presbyterian Women Christmas Tea
December 12	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Bible Study
	6:15 PM – 7:15 PM	Bell Choir rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Hattie Hardman Committee meeting



Coming Events (continued)



December 14	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Keuka Comfort Care Cookie Walk setup
December 15	10:00 AM	Keuka Comfort Care Cookie Walk
December 16	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Worship
	11:15 AM	Deacons meeting after worship
December 19	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Bible Study
	6:15 PM – 7:15 PM	Bell Choir rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Session
December 20	10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	ARC Worship
December 23	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Worship
December 24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve service
December 25		Christmas
December 26		No Bible Study
	6:15 PM – 7:15 PM	Bell Choir rehearsal
December 30	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal
	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Worship

Pastor's Ponderings

Jesus Had a Heart for Seniors

Getting older is the one thing we are all doing together. Census studies show that older people will outnumber children for the first time in U.S. history. By 2020, baby boomers will be older than 65. This will result in 1 in every 5 citizens being of retirement age. Also, by 2020, there will be three and-a-half working age adults for every retired person. By 2060, that ratio will drop to merely two-and-a-half working age adults for every person of retirement age.

Pensions will be especially impacted by the sharp increase in the aging population. The trend is happening worldwide. The Research Council of Norway stated that Africa is the only country where there will be more children than senior citizens.

Bob Hope said, "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

Have you ever thought of how Jesus had a heart for seniors? I will be speaking on the radio on WFLR about this very topic on December 11 at 8:15 a.m.

Spending time with senior citizens was an important part of Jesus' youth. Jesus grew up going to the temple where he discussed Scriptures with the older leaders in the synagogues.

Moses and Elijah appeared at Jesus' Transfiguration. Jesus respected these leaders from the Old Testament. He honored these seniors and the contributions they had made for God's kingdom.

One of the clearest examples of Jesus having a heart for seniors is when he healed Peter's mother in law. While she was lying in bed with a fever, Jesus touched her hand. Her fever left immediately. At once she got up and served Jesus and the others who were in the house.

Peter's mother in law got up and got moving. She was determined to be active and productive. That is what Jesus does for all of us no matter what our age. Jesus gives us a productive purpose. Exodus 9:16 states, "But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

See you in church,



Pastor Paul



Sunday Scriptures for December



December 2	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Luke 21:25-36
December 9	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 3:1-6
December 16	Zephaniah 3:143-20	Luke 3:7-18
December 23	Micah 5:2-5a	Luke 1:39-45
December 30	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Luke 2:41-52



Ushers and Greeters for December



	Ushers	Greeters
December 2	Carol and Bob Worden	Judy and Jack Wilbert
December 9	Jean and Bob Constantine	Hanna and Peter Martens
December 16	Need Volunteers	Rachel and Alan Doan
December 23	Need Volunteers	Rachel and Rob Anderson
December 30	Rachel and Alan Doan	Beth and Carl Dickinson

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 December



	Nursery	Communion
December 2	Rebeccalynn	Robyn Ballard, Jean and Bob Constantine
December 9	Rebeccalynn	----
December 16	Rebeccalynn	----
December 23	Rebeccalynn	----
December 30	Rebeccalynn	



Bible Studies



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

December 5 - **No Bible Study**

December 12 - Choose to Love and Serve God, Joshua 24

December 19 - Love and Worship God, Psalm 103:1-22

December 26 – **No Bible Study**

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



Prayer Line



Charlotte Gillespie
Judy Wilbert

315-536-7185
607-292-6958

Nancy Burt

315-536-8286

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



Keuka Food Pantry



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

Letter from Daisy

The Keuka Food Pantry has been located in the Hope Center (formerly the VFW) since September 2017. These new facilities have enabled the Pantry to be open three days a week under the direction of two staff members and many dedicated volunteers. It is supported by Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc.

The Pantry is a source of supplemental food for many families and individuals who live with food insecurity. The increased access, from only once a month, and the opportunity to visit with expanded days and hours has resulted in more utilization of the Pantry. A monthly distribution to shut-ins is part of the volunteer contribution. In July 2018, over 1024 individuals received food. Included in this number were 300 families. This food is important to the Yates County community.

Our church, through the Hattie Hardman Fund, will soon be helping support a portion of the administrative costs. This is a five-year commitment.

In addition, we also support the Pantry with donations of food. The wooden box at the back of our sanctuary is emptied monthly and food is delivered. All donations are welcomed. When asked what food is especially needed, the reply is canned fruits and vegetables. An enhanced focus is on healthy eating, so low salt or sugar foods are encouraged.

The Pantry shelves are not only stocked by food donations. Much food is also purchased from FoodLink, Aldi's, and other stores. Cash gifts are appreciated too. Checks may be made payable to: Pro Action-Keuka Food Pantry and mailed to: 417 Liberty Street, Suite #1116, Penn Yan, NY 14527.

The Pro Action newsletter states "Whatever you contribute, you can be sure that it is going directly to those in need. Many Thanks!"



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
Phil Bracht	December 11	Ben Ballard	December 27
Bob VanDeliner	December 13	Natalio Gonzalez	December 27
Maeve Beecher	December 14	Ray Marshall	December 28
Phyllis Alderman	December 19	Marvin Pallischeck	December 29
Carole Whittaker	December 20	Robyn Ballard	December 31

Congratulations To All!

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

Name _____



Church /Local News



News from Session

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

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

News from Trustees

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

Help on the church bus: The Trustees are looking for volunteers to help during the transportation of disabled church goers to their churches. At least 2 volunteers are needed each Sunday of our defined month. The volunteers assist with the church goers getting on and off the bus at their residence and their desired church – you are not responsible for driving the bus!! Please see Jon Burt – a sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

News from the Presbyterian Women

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

Christmas Tea: On Tuesday, December 11th at 6 PM we will be gathering at the church for our wonderful Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea. Please mark your calendars for an enjoyable evening out.

News from the Worship and Music Committee

Hard to believe Thanksgiving is behind us and Christmas is right around the corner. Throughout November we have learned we have so many things to be thankful for. It has been a great joy to have had Connie Gibson as our organist for many years and she will be sadly missed as her last Sunday with us was November 18th. Looking forward to Advent we are very happy to have Idelle Dillon step in to play the organ while we search for a new organist. Thank you Idelle for helping out, it is greatly appreciated.

Holiday planning ahead: Advent starts on December 2nd. Thank you to everyone who is going to be an advent reader and candle lighter throughout the season. Our Christmas Eve service will be Monday, December 24th at 7:00.

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

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

Layreaders: Pastor Paul has all of the scriptures chosen through December so that you do have time to practice the readings in advance. Please note that the readings for each Sunday of the

month are noted in the Vine under “Sunday Scriptures”. If you would like to take part in a worship service and read the scripture on Sunday morning, please sign up on the bulletin board.

News from Outreach

We will have a Christmas Joy special offering on December 23rd. The theme this year is ‘THE PERFECT GIFT’. In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth of love that our words cannot. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God. As important as gifts to loved ones are, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) gives throughout the year through the Christmas Joy Offering, drawing us back to the manger and God’s perfect gift to us. During this Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want future leaders for the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to reflect the wideness of God’s intended diversity, and we want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need. For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

News from Church Life

Supper Club: We will not have a Supper Club in December, but hang on for January – we have something special in the works!!!!

Hattie Hartman Tithe Committee

We hope you all have had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. As the Christmas holiday season moves in, this committee is still hard at work to support local community groups that work to serve those in need both locally and beyond. Many of these groups have been brought to our attention by members of this church. We thank you for your public service to this community.

In January, there will be a presentation by the committee on the groups sponsored during 2018 and the long-term funding for programs initiated. Please plan to join us. Have a wonderful Christmas Holiday and enjoy the special gifts it truly brings.

As we close out this year’s newsletter, I would like to thank the team members on this committee for their support: Jen Rouin, Sandy Carlson, Karen Montgomery, Phoebe Parker, Peter Martens, Larry Edgington, Pastor Paul and a special thanks to Linda Bracht for tracking the funds and distribution of grant checks. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Now, let’s continue God’s work in 2019.

Peace,

Robert Constantine, Chairperson

News from the Higher Education Gifts Committee

The Edward L. Scherer Higher Education Gift fund is available for all members of the church who are going on for higher education. These gifts are given out twice a year, in September and

in January. If you want to apply, you need to find an application form on the table in the back of the sanctuary, fill it out with as much information as possible, and mail it to Char Gillespie, 2888 Sherman Hollow, Penn Yan, NY 14527 or call at 315-536-7185 or email the application to: charlottegillespie41@gmail.com. The committee especially needs to know whether you are a full time or part time student, how many credit hours you will be taking if applicable, your major, and when you hope to complete your education. Later in the year you will be asked to provide the committee with a copy of your official registration for courses for the upcoming semester. An application needs to be filled out each year you are in school. You may also contact any member of the committee: Chairman - Charlotte Gillespie; Student Coordinator - Judith Wilbert. The students receiving higher ed gifts for the 2018-2019 school year are Joshua Baxter, Keegan Baxter, Anna Detar, Abbey Duncan, Megan Fenton, Elizabeth Martens, Alexandra Rouin, Geoffrey Rouin, and Lin Dickinson.

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

News from the Deacons

Deacons Red Wagon Campaign: Thank you to all who donated food, money and their time for the Deacons Red Wagon campaign – we feed 14 families – what a wonderful way to celebrate our thanks by helping those in our community.

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

2019 Stewardship Campaign: “Blessings of Stewardship”

The current total amount pledged is \$111,416. We are pleased to continue to offer the choice of using an automated electronic procedure for pledged offerings. If you wish to take advantage of this method, please contact Linda Bracht, our church Treasurer and team member. She will need your bank account and routing numbers, the amount and frequency you desire for your offering. Of course, the usual method of presenting offerings continues to be available.

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

Joyful Noise Memorial Bell Choir

The Joyful Noise Memorial Bell Choir has joined the chime and bell choir of the Methodist Church. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:15 PM -7:15 PM alternating between our church and the Methodist Church. We are planning to play on the 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!!!). If you know someone or if you are interested in playing with us, please join us on Wednesday evening. We are so fortunate to have handbells and we want to continue making Joyful Noise with them.

Christmas Mitten Tree

For the Christmas mitten tree this year, we are asking for donations of sweatpants (sizes S (4-6) through L (14-16), preferably with elastic openings), undies, socks, and hats and gloves/mittens (insulated and waterproof) for children. This is a VERY important mission for our church as it

helps so many of our school-age children – please be as generous as you can!! Thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Flowers

It is time to order flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Please complete a form, found in the Sunday bulletin or get one from the church office, and submit it along with cash or a check (made out to First Presbyterian Church, with ‘Flowers’ in the memo area). Your plant(s) will be displayed in the church through the Christmas Eve service on Monday, December 24th. After the service, please take them with you to enjoy. Orders MUST be in the office no later than December 16th. We are offering red poinsettias in a 6” pot for \$5.99, in an 8” pot for \$14.99 and in a 10” pot for \$16.99, and a 7” pot of tricolor poinsettias (one red, white and pink) for \$8.99. Plants will be delivered to the church by December 21st. If you wish to honor someone, please fill in that information on the form for inclusion in the Christmas Eve church bulletin.

Starshine

Starshine will be held on Saturday, December 1st from 5-9 PM. Main Street is closed just after dark (starting about 4 PM) and the area is transformed into a giant party. Activity stretches from Chapel Street to the Main Street bridge. Music is a traditional part of the festival and several groups will contribute songs of the season. For more than 20 years, the Miss Penn Yan program has been part of the StarShine. Horse-drawn wagon rides will be available through the evening. So, come and start your holiday with an eventful night!

Commissioner to Presbytery Report

November 27, 2018

Respectfully Submitted - Rob Anderson, MD

Presbytery has met twice since our last session meeting. The October 23 meeting was a special meeting, where the presbytery reviewed the proposed strategy and structure of the Presbytery. I will bring documents to review, but the entire documents are long. The new strategy is meant to focus on our mission and vision, and the structure should support that. It balances the needs of administration and mission, and reduces the number of nominated/elected positions, which should be helpful. It combines the functions of the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, as well as the Property Committee and Personnel into the Operations Committee. The Nominations Committee will be rolled into the Committee on Representation. There will be new Committees on Vitality, Leader Care, and Mission and Witness, to meet those needs. The Vitality and Leader Care committees should remove some of the burdens on the expanded Committee on Ministry. We had small table discussions to discuss these proposals, and some large group discussion. There is some uncertainty as to how exactly this will work, and there is a plan to have General Council review after a year to try to optimize things.

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

Werts and Virginia Champlin have been trained to help congregations examine this. It may be something to consider. Preparations are being made for a search team for the next Presbytery Leader, as our Transitional Leader will be finishing in the summer.

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

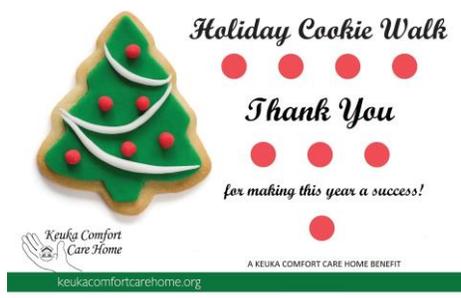
Name Tags

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

Men's Bible Study

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

11th Annual Holiday Cookie Walk



The 11th Annual Holiday Cookie walk will be held at the Penn Yan Presbyterian Church on December 15th (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 2-3 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 distribution at the Armory is Wednesday, December 6th and Thursday, December 7th by appointment only; distribution at our church is on Wednesday, December 5th from 9 AM-3 PM and Thursday, December 6th from 9 AM-1 PM with shopping

open to anyone starting at 12 PM. Setup at our church is scheduled for Monday, December 3rd and Tuesday, December 4th starting at 9 AM. All help is gratefully appreciated.

‘Paul’s Place’

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

Sunday Hospitality

Helping With Hospitality

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How Do I Sign Up?

The easiest way to sign-up to volunteer as a Greeter, Usher, Lay Reader, helper in the nursery, server of Communion, birthday cake baker, etc. is to sign your name in a blank space on the scheduling sheet that is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. A complete list of duties

for each task is also posted there. If you have not yet had the opportunity to volunteer at one of these tasks, feel free to ask for a coach.

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

Sign Me Up! -- The Blessing of Greeting

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

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

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

Literacy Volunteers of Ontario-Yates

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

Nursery Help

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

Walking Can Be Fun!!!

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

Per Capita

What is Per Capita? In essence, per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that is paid to the Presbytery of Geneva, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Just as a train cannot move without an engine, our church councils require a power source to enable them to provide basic services which

support our mutual mission as the Body of Christ. Per capita covers the ecclesiastical expenses of the denomination: the coordination and evaluation of mission, and the performance of ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions. Per capita is an opportunity for all members of the Presbyterian church to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the organizational costs of the larger church.

What does the Book of Order say about Per Capita? “Each council above the session shall prepare a budget annually for its operating expenses, including administrative personnel, and may fund it with a per capita apportionment among the particular churches within its bounds. Presbyteries are responsible for raising their own funds and for the timely transmission of per capita funds to their respective synods and to General Assembly. Presbyteries may direct per capita apportionments to the sessions within their bounds but in no case, shall the authority of the session to direct its benevolences be comprised.” (G-3.0106)

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

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

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

Have you considered electronic giving?

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

**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

Presbytery of Geneva

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

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

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

Please send your list of names to Elder Phoebe Bakes, Chair of Nominating. You can email her at phbbaker@gmail.com 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

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

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

Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2019: The Presbytery needs a registrar in order to send a delegation from the Presbytery of Geneva. Office Administrator, Alicia Alvarez can provide the clerical support but we need a leader to shepherd this process. There is also a lot of support available through the excellent leadership of National Registrar, Molly Atkinson. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to provide this leadership on behalf of the youth of our

Church. The reality is that without a registrar, the Presbytery cannot send a delegation. Contact leader@presbyteryofgeneva.org.

Local Presbytery Church events:

Shortsville Presbyterian Church Holiday Vendor and Craft Show, Saturday, December 1st, 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM. 59 West Main Street, Shortsville.

Hector Presbyterian Church and Lodi Presbyterian Church invite you to the installation and ordination of Benjamin Masters on December 2nd at 1:00 PM at the Lodi Historical Society, 8943 Main Street, Lodi

Advent Community Concert and Carol Sing at the West Fayette Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 2nd at 3:00 PM.

Holiday Lights & Music Celebration at the First United Presbyterian Church of Sodus – shows at 6, 6:45 and 7:30 PM on December 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 28 and 29.

An Evening of Festive Organ Music and Carols on Friday, December 14th at 7:00 PM at the United Church, 11 Gibson Street, Canandaigua.

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca is having a seminar on wheel – A History of Slavery and Racial Injustice on February 16-23 – traveling by bus, the seminar will visit historic sites on the way to Montgomery, Alabama where the National memorial for Peace and Justice is visited.

You are invited to join the West Virginia Mission Work Team on March 31-April 6 – contact Paul Salisbury.

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley presents Congregational Learning Day on Saturday, February 9 from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM at the Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport.

Spread the Word – Young Adult Volunteer applications are open for 2019-2020.

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

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.

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

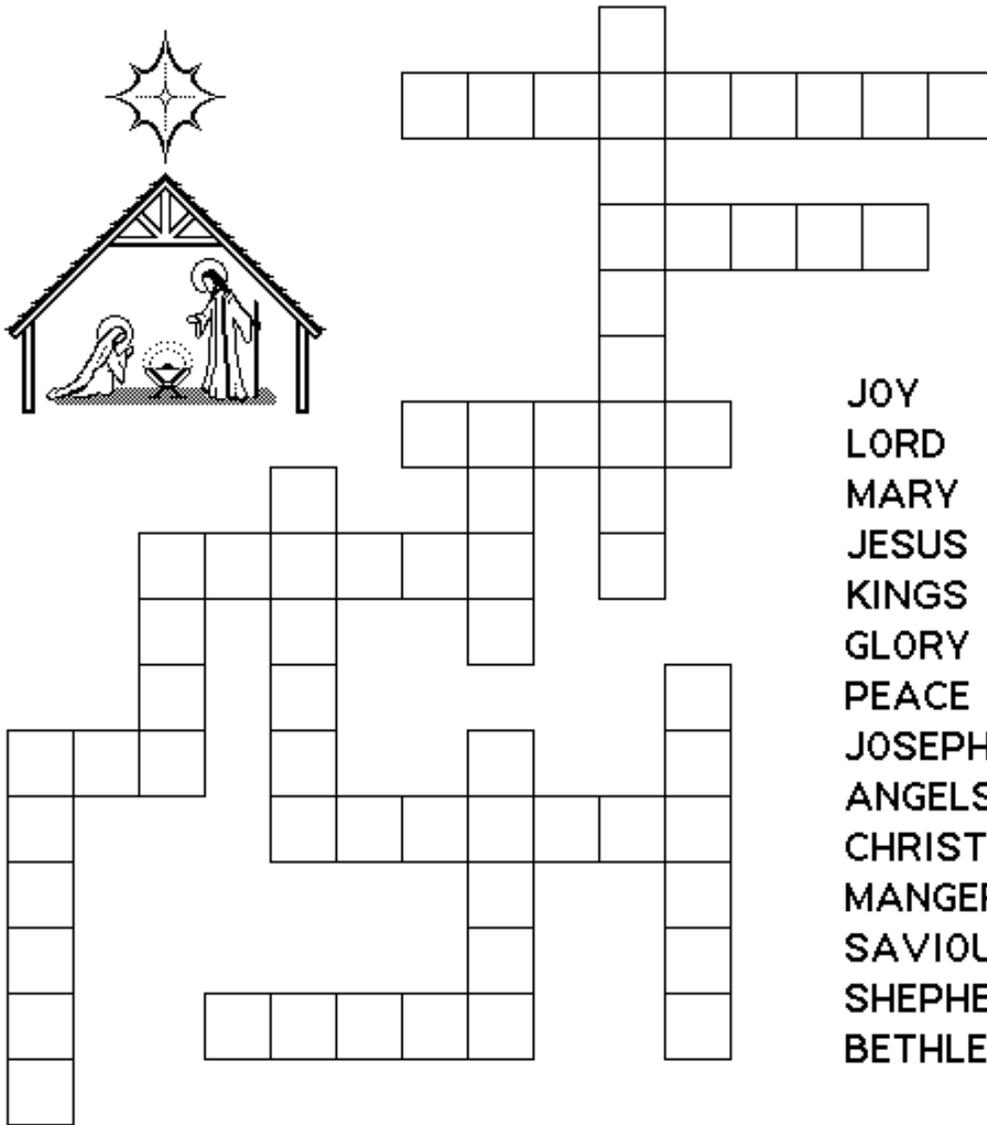
PCUSA – General Assembly news

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

Kids Corner

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.



December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						8AM Men's Bkfast
						9AM Men's Bible Study
						5PM Starshine
Advent 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Choir rehearsal; 10:00 Worship; Sunday school	9AM YCP setup 5:30PM Daisy Scouts	9AM YCP setup 10:15-3:15 IAH 6PM Trustees mtg	9AM YCP distrib. No Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir 7PM Choir rehear	9AM YCP distrib. 10AM PathStone 3:30-5 Girls Club	9AM Exercise	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9 Choir rehearsal; 10:00 Worship; Sunday school 2¢ meal; birthdays	9AM Exercise PEO cookie exch.	10:15-3:15 IAH 6PM PW Tea	9AM Exercise 10AM Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir 7PM HH mtg	10AM PathStone 3:30-5 Girls Club	9AM Exercise 10AM KCCH Cookie Walk setup	10AM KCCH Cookie Walk
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9 Choir rehearsal; 10:00 Worship; Sunday school Deacon mtg.	9AM Exercise 5:30PM Daisy Scouts	10:15-3:15 IAH 12:30 St Mike's Carolers lunch	9AM Exercise 10AM Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir 7PM Session	8-4 WIC 10AM ARC Worship 10AM PathStone 3:30-5 Girls Club	9AM Exercise	
23	24	Christmas 25	26	27	28	29
9 Choir rehearsal; 10:00 Worship; Sunday school	9AM Exercise 7PM Christmas Eve service		9AM Exercise No Bible Study 6:15 Bell Choir	10AM PathStone 3:30-5 Girls Club	9AM Exercise	
30	31					
9 Choir rehearsal; 10:00 Worship; Sunday school	9AM Exercise					

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

December 2018

