

Agape Harvest

**First United
Presbyterian
Church of Pine
Plains**

3039 Church Street
(to visit)

P. O. Box 313
(for mailing)

Pine Plains, NY 12567
Tel: (518) 398-7117

*To **know** the love of
Christ; to **show** the
love of Christ; and to
grow in the love of
Christ.*

All are welcome
to join us at our
weekly Sunday
worship service at
11:00 a.m.

Pastoral Care:

Pastor Ryan can be reached for *urgent and emergency* needs on his personal mobile phone 24/7, (518) 261-0834. For non-urgent calls, please leave a message on the church office phone: (518) 398-7117, which is checked as few as seven times/week and not every day.

Hudson River
Presbytery:
www.hudrivpres.org

I think it would be fair to say that most of us have a favorite hymn. There are many great hymns to choose from, and whether it's a golden oldie from long ago, or something more recent, our religious experience has been enriched by hymns. I have a lot of favorites, but if I had to choose one above all of the others, it would probably be, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" by Martin Luther (#275 in our Hymnal).

My introduction to this hymn goes back to my childhood, when I would regularly watch the clay-animated TV show, "Davey and Goliath". I didn't know it at the time, but this show was produced by the Lutheran Church and had a decidedly religious message, with storylines that centered around some kind of moral dilemma. Being a kid, I liked the characters, a boy (Davey) and his talking dog (Goliath); I knew those names were from the Bible, but even though I was being preached to it never felt overtly religious to me.

However, what I especially loved was the theme music that played at the beginning and end of each episode, and it stuck with me. I always just thought of it as the Davey and Goliath theme. Imagine my surprise when I found out years later it was a real hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God". There are certainly worse things in life than having one of our most cherished Protestant hymns introduced to an audience of impressionable children by using it as the theme of a cartoon about a boy and a talking dog. Actually, I'm grateful for that early exposure.

Martin Luther, the Great Reformer, once wrote: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits...A person who...does not regard music as a marvelous creation of God...does not deserve to be called a human being; he should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs." Strong words!!

Luther was born in 1483 in a part of Germany known for its music and grew up listening to his mother sing. He became a musician himself, joining a boys' choir that sang at weddings and funerals, and playing the flute (what we would call the recorder).

We don't usually think of music being an important part of the Protestant Reformation, but it was. Luther is credited with the revival of congregational singing by working with musicians to create new music for the German church to be sung in the vernacular instead of Latin.

Often, he borrowed popular secular melodies for his hymns. Occasionally a tune brought criticism because of its close association with bars and taverns, and then he would say he was, "compelled to let the devil have it back again." Our hymnbook notes that Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns (something those of us who participated in the Lenten Bible Study on Psalms should understand).

Luther's most famous hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", is a paraphrase of Psalm 46; Luther himself called it Psalm 46. It reflects his awareness of our intense struggles with Satan, and he would often resort to singing it when faced with difficulty or great danger. It has been called the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation" for the effect it had on increasing the support for the Reformers' cause.

As an adult, the first time I finally sang it, I felt its power, and I still do to this day.

Dyan Wapnick

Pastor's Letter, Worship	2
Session Update	3

Calendar, Stewardship	4	Christian Ed., Nutrition Corner	6
Mission	5	Prayers	8

Pastor's Letter

They come together in these days: spring and its warmth bringing new life; the celebration of the Easter season bringing new life in its eternal ways; and gains in public health as folks become vaccinated. Think of a kind of temporary apocalypse where that little seedling of the oak tree, normally having to wait only a few months for the cold and low sunlight to lift so it can begin its growth, had to wait through a winter that did not end. All the promise of March quickly changed for it. While it wished to spring forth from where it had been buried by snow and leaf litter, it could not. Limited was its life for more than a year, and it is still not known when and how fully the return will come. Yet, after the unexpected, endless dormancy and the second time of a frozen land, we are seeing around us bright, green shoots popping from the ground. Life cycles returning to the familiar, beloved now more than before, respected in their beauty and necessity anew.

Pascha [or Easter] is the central event, the time of transformation, of becoming a resurrected people, God's new people. We celebrate our transformation as a new people! When Christ rose from the grave, death and all other "principalities and powers" that seek to entomb God's will and God's people were **forever defeated**. Easter is not simply the miracle of a dead person raised from the grave, but a celebration of power that can shatter death in order that people can freely serve the God of life. In the resurrection of Christ, God's awesome purposes were on display, revealing a radically new world of peace and harmony and equality and mutuality.

In this 50-day season of Easter, we glimpse a new landscape — the age to come — and experience a sense of holy awe. The shape of the age to come reveals a new people of God, a new humanity. We are called to new life for God and for neighbors. As representatives of the new humanity we walk in newness of life.

So as we watch the oak tree and all its plant and creature siblings spring forth in new life, let us see our new life coming and partner with God in bringing it forth. Keeping the good of the past as those things are good to keep, and welcoming in the new and the better that is already coming. It is true every day that we are Easter people. It is true every year that the Easter season gives us an opportunity for newness. It is helped that Easter matches the spring season in our hemisphere and life cycle. Let us celebrate all that is to be celebrated! Let us change what we can that would diminish our celebration if left unchecked. Let us look to Easter seasons in the future where even more fullness will be ours, with God's help and through God's grace.

In peace,

Pastor Ryan



Worship

Sunday Worship at **11:00 am** (indoors and adapted for COVID safety)

Notes on Current, Adapted Worship

We are back in the church sanctuary. We are taking extra precautions now that we are worshipping indoors, with open windows, fans etc., so we advise that if you do join us to dress warmly with heavy coat, hat, gloves etc. and to bring a small blanket or coverlet for warmth. There are two lap quilts in the back of church for warmth if needed. *If you come, please:* Bring a mask to wear. **We have disposable masks available as well.**

If you need to stay away from the gathering, we understand as we miss you. Worship service video streams at facebook.com/groups/firstunitedpineplains Video is available there forever, to watch at any time. If you need another way to worship with us while you stay away from the gatherings, please ask Pastor Ryan. Perhaps a DVD you may play at home? Just ask.

TONIGHT - ONLINE ONLY - **Apr. 1 @ 7pm - Maundy Thursday worship**

Communion is included in this worship. Prepare what you have as the bread and the fruit of the vine to join this part of the service.

ONLINE ONLY - Apr. 2 @ 7pm - Good Friday worship**Apr. 4th Easter**

6:30am - Easter Sunrise worship @ cemetery located *about* 360 Winchell Mountain Road Millerton, NY 12546. Planned as a brief service of worship, bring a chair if you need (or ask that one be brought for you), many will stand the whole of the service. This is as COVID-safe a gathering as possible, please make this your Easter Sunday worship if you are not ready to worship in-person in our sanctuary. Please note: Uneven ground. If you ask, we will adjust our place of worship to be closer to your parking spot.

11am - Easter Sunday - Communion will be offered. Some prefer to bring their own elements for extra COVID safety. For others, pastor will safely prepare elements for you.

ONLINE ONLY - Apr. 26 @ 7pm - Daily Prayer/Evening Vespers for the Easter Season

Note: ONLINE ONLY events remain available forever if you wish to view at a later time. All online events are available at [Facebook.com/groups/firstunitedpineplains](https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstunitedpineplains). Please note and tell your people: No Facebook account is needed to access these videos, and all videos may be made available in multiple formats if this method does not work for anyone. Please ask Pastor Ryan.

Session Update

- Visitors from Presbytery led us in an “End-of-First-Year” with a new pastor conversation that was helpful and affirming
- Leaders of Willow Roots, a Pine Plains service organization, came to update us on their future and ask our help. We generally pledge our help and are discerning specific requests.
- Invited Church of the Regeneration to join us in worship while their sanctuary is closed briefly for renovations. It is not yet known if or how often they will join us.
- Explored plans to resume livestreaming of worship services and events following degradation in our internet signal that led us to delayed sharing of video
- Made plans for the eight days of Palm Sunday-Easter Sunday
- Voted to resume fundraising meals with Chicken BBQ returning to its traditional Memorial Day date

SESSION: Jeanne Valentine-Chase, Nathaniel Chase, Samantha Chase, Scott Chase, Deb Jackson, Jim Jackson, Doug Hart (Clerk), Ryan Orton, Jim Petrie, and Dyan Wapnick.

DEACONS: Roberta Cerniglia, Lynne Clinch, Dora Hage, Carol Hart, and Pam Meccariello.

Our next Session meeting will be on **Monday April 26 at 7:00 pm.** There will be ONLINE ONLY worship service prior to the meeting – all are welcome. Click or type to join: [Facebook.com/groups/firstunitedpineplains](https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstunitedpineplains).

Calendar

April 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Palm Sunday 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	29	30 7 pm - 8 pm Lenten Bible Study on Psalms (online only)	31	April 1 Maundy Thursday 7 pm - 8 pm Maundy Thursday Worship - Online Only	2 Good Friday 7 pm - 8 pm Good Friday Worship - Online Only	3 Holy Saturday
4 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	5 Easter Monday	6	7	8	9	10
11 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	26 7 pm - 9 pm Session Meeting and Worship (Zoom)	27	28	29	30	1

Stewardship

From Scott Chase (Ruling Elder/Treasurer) - "We still need your financial support. As we go through this time we continue to pay our employees, provide funds for mission work, and maintain our buildings. Your support is greatly appreciated and critical to helping us serve our church family and the broader world community. You may mail checks to **First United Presbyterian Church PO Box 313, Pine Plains, NY 12567**. If you need another way to give, please write me schase560@yahoo.com or call (518) 398-5247. Thank you for all you do."

We also offer online giving with Venmo!

1. Log into the Venmo app on your phone or tablet
2. Click "Pay or Request" -- the big blue button at the bottom
3. In the "Add Recipients" box type **@FUPCPP** (stands for First United Presbyterian Church Pine Plains)
4. Select "FirstUnitedPresbyterianChurch Pine Plains" if it doesn't populate automatically
5. Enter how much money you would like to donate
6. Add "what it's for" -- you can do this in emojis which is fun!
7. Click "Pay" on the bottom right-hand side
8. Select your payment method
9. Click "Pay" -- the big green button at the bottom
10. You're all set!

Mission

Food Assistance



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Willow Roots: Willow Roots is a non-profit community-based food pantry on South Main Street (**new address**) that compliments the Pine Plains Food Locker based at the Methodist Church. Willow Roots began several years ago by Lisa and Nelson Zayas as a way to receive excess produce donated by local farmers and gardeners and distribute to residents who experience food insecurity from around the Tri-state area. Willow Roots doesn't accept state or federal aid and relies exclusively on donations. They currently service 40+ households.

Pine Plains Food Locker:

The monthly drive item for April is dish liquid.
Toiletries are always welcomed.
Please send \$ donations to the
Pine Plains Food Locker
2852 Church Street Pine Plains, NY 12567

COVID-19 Financial Grants

Did you or someone you know find themselves ineligible for one or more COVID-19 Federal stimulus payments, yet are in need of financial help? Some Episcopalians have come together to offer alternative cash grants to those who were not eligible because of immigration status or otherwise. Please call Pastor Ryan to begin the process if one of these grants would be of help.

Opioid Use Disorder Services

Do you have questions about opioid use? Do you want more information for yourself or a loved one? Do you want to know more about medication-assisted treatment (MAT)?

Call Deborah Hagan at (845)745-1745 to learn about services and programs in your neighborhood.

Visit us in our Mobile Health Center Van

Location: Church of the Regeneration Parish House, 18 Pine Street
Dates: Monthly on 2nd and 4th Mondays from 4-8pm and 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 11am-3pm

Other programs we offer include:

- Narcan Training,
- HIV and Hepatitis-C services, including Pre-Exposure medications (PreP)
- Sexual-transmitted illness information
- Hygiene products and snacks
- Fentanyl test strips

For more info, visit SunRiver.org

Immigration Assistance: Grace Immigrant Outreach (GIO)

Eliza Petrie - Caseworker
845-407-1068

Office Hours
Thursdays, 3 PM - 7 PM
Episcopal Church of The Regeneration

GIO assists immigrants in need of finding medical care, legal counsel, translating, educational opportunities, public assistance, and transportation to job interviews and doctors' appointments, among many other services. They support and collaborate with Rural and Migrant Ministry, Inc., which seeks to overcome some of the prejudices and poverty facing the immigrant population in rural Dutchess County.

Christian Education

The Methodist Church continues their offering of Sunday School at-home to *any* who would enjoy. You may find the video lessons at <http://bit.ly/sundayschoolathome>

To begin receiving the beautiful, fun, accompanying craft packet deliveries for free, please call First United Methodist Pastor Nathan Badore at 518-398-5521.



By Lynne Clinch

Desserts....Yum

Time does seem to fly by! Easter is upon us. Restrictions during this pandemic have lessened. We can now have small family gatherings. Truly a time to celebrate this special day. Meals have been planned and everyone knows what to bring to share. Often forgotten is the dessert until the last minute. After a big meal something on the lighter side is indicated in my opinion anyway....

So what shall it be? Something special that's for sure. If you have an ice cream freezer it would be fun to make your own homemade ice cream. If not than something like this recipe might just do. It can be started in the morning and be ready by afternoon.

Dole Whip

10 large servings

- 2 (20 ounce) cans crushed pineapple, drained
- 1/3 c. sugar
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 2 T. lime juice
- 1 ½ c. heavy whipping cream

Put all in blender except the whipping cream and blend until mostly smooth. Freeze until slushy consistency. This is usually 1 to 2 hours. Stir the cream into this mixture until evenly incorporated. Return to freezer until firm. I think I'd whip the cream and fold into the slushy mixture then return to freezer. I'd serve in the smaller footed serving dish (compote dish) with plate under it with 2 or 3 butter cookies. Buy the Danish butter cookies that come in a tin. Dip half of each cookie in melted chocolate then place on parchment covered cookie sheets to dry. Dust with sprinkles if desired.

The following is a recipe I put aside to try when something different and special is indicated. As I read the recipe it became apparent that it was rich and decadent and only need a small serving. For that reason it is served in shot glass or perhaps a cordial glass. Intriguing isn't it? Maybe add a dollop of whip cream too.

Cocoa Powder Chocolate Mousse

12 servings

- 1 c. heavy whipping cream
- 4 T. unsweetened cocoa powder
- 4 T. powdered sugar
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- Pinch of salt

Combine all ingredients in large bowl and beat with electric mixer until stiff peaks form. Carefully spoon into shot or cordial glasses or small compote glass after the serving size has been determined. Easiest is to pipe mousse into the glass either using a baggie or pipping bag.

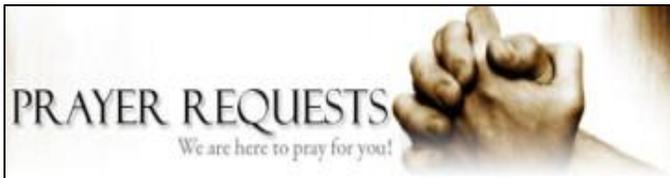
These are only 2 suggestions to complete that family meal of ham or turkey or lamb. But they are not the only options. There are always cakes of all kinds and shapes, pies of all flavors including slab pies for feeding a crowd. Fresh fruit and cookies are always good too. Whatever the dessert of choice enjoy! It truly will be a special occasion this year.

Tips and Hacks

Been a while since I gave any tips or hacks so thought I'd make up for lost time.

- Peel a head or couple of heads of garlic and run the cloves through the food processor until minced. Scoop the minced garlic in tablespoon or teaspoon full portions on a parchment lined cookie sheet. Freeze until solid then place in baggies and return to freezer.
- Same can be done for ginger too.
- Buy that big bag of lemons or limes or even oranges and juice them. Pour juice into ice cube trays and freeze. Once frozen remove and put in baggies. Ready to use when needed.
- Wine can be frozen also. Standard ice cube trays hold 2 Tbs. liquid. Use muffin tins too which hold ½ cup liquid. Once frozen put in baggies.
- Stocks/broths can be frozen in same manner OR once cool pour into a baggie in premeasured portions, seal and lay flat on cookie sheet to freeze. Make sure you label portion size. Then stack flat when frozen.
- Finely chop up fresh herbs and put in ice cube tray. Pour thin layer of oil over top and freeze. Once frozen put in baggies.
- Onions can be caramelized and frozen in either ice cube trays, muffin tins or thin layers in baggie. Don't forget to label.
- Slice or dice onions and green peppers then place in single layer on cookie sheet. Freeze and once frozen put in baggies. Especially helpful when you have an abundance of produce from gardens or sales in super markets or farm stands. Works well for fresh fruits like strawberries and blueberries too. I've done this successfully I might add.
- Make your own mire poix or trinity as you take advantage of bulk buying or abundance of summer produce. Mire poix is diced onions, carrots and celery. Trinity is diced onions, celery and peppers. The portions are twice as much onions as the other 2 veggies. In other words, 2 to 1. It is best to sauté first about 10 minutes, cool then freeze in baggies flat. Excellent head start to making soups, stews or sauces.
- Need heavy cream for a recipe and you don't have any? Make your own. For 1 cup heavy cream take 2/3 cup whole milk and 1/3 cup butter and heat in small sauce pan until butter is melted. Now ready to use BUT can not be used for whipped cream, only in cooked items.

If you find an interesting recipe or have a favorite you want to share send along. I'm always looking... Until next time Happy Cooking...



To add to these prayers, Pastor Ryan is always glad to pray with you (518-398-7117 to find the best ways). If you wish to directly add to the list, please e-mail dyanwapnick@optimum.net

The family and friends of Margaret Faulkner (Ryan Orton), Deb Phillips (Linda's cousin), Danny Larkin, Patti Ladoceour, Kay Koch, Clifford Goldsmith, Lee Hauser, Elder Ben Sung who passed away from COVID, Charlie Place, essential workers who have died while serving during COVID lockdown, and our congregation. Pray too, for our congregation, all our children, our loved ones, and all of those who have lost loved ones in the past year, and our pastor.

Clifford Thorpe, Eliza Petrie, Jerrod Dorozynski (Lynne Clinch), Rev. Becky Branton (Pastor Ryan's friend), Patty Hall (Linda), Judy Parlman, Margo Jackson, Carol Foley (Regeneration Church), Marva Blackmar, Irene Dieter (Ancramdale Church), Adalyn Forgey and her family (Carol Hart), Bridget and Aylee, Mort Jackson, Brian & Jessica Weglinski & family, Laurena Mesnard, Teresa Maleonski (Marva), Craig Shelley, Joe (Susan), Melissa McKinney, Phyllis Shanks, Barbara Gurbel, Randy Burns (Dyan), Jim Fabrizio, Kyleigh Cummings, Millie Sheldon, Bobby Wendover, Victoria Hull (Dot), Carey (Amanda Zick), Ron & Cathy Osofsky, Rich Cummings (waiting on kidney), Caeden Boyce (Cindy and Roberta) small child with leukemia, Anthony Silva, Emo #4 (Rosanne's son-in-law's aunt), Lynn (Linda Wendover's sister), Antonio Gonzalez (Dyan), Melissa and Anthony, Gene Jernigan, Chun Ok Blackie (Jim and Margo Jackson's sister-in-law), Caitlin Edge (Deb), Joann Amelio, Debra Rose, Marge (Laurie), Marjorie Bright, Judy MacMorran (Barbara Gurbel's daughter), Debbie (Laurie), Brittany.

Geer Nursing Home - Linda Bartolomeo
The Manor at Woodside - Helen Travis, Rod Davis
Noble Horizons - Lek McNeill, RuthAnn Pulver, Charlie Napoli

In the military or Reserves: Pierre Mesnard, Spencer Johnson (Iraq), Patrick Brooks, Garrett Pendleton (South Korea), Lewis and Denzel Jackson (Keith Jackson's sons), Garrett Cummings, Daniele Casazza, Kyle Moskowitz, Matt Cade, Zach McDonnell - Reserves, John Cort, Mark Hall, Jacob Coons, Danny Hoysradt, Brian Montross, Eric Wiltsie (Tom and Renee Strudwick's nephew), TroiHunter Cookingham (Basic Training, Fort Sill). *And all those who have served in our military.*



Hudson River Presbytery Prayer Calendar 2021

As a Presbytery family, we hold each other in prayer – all of us sisters and brothers in Christ. We invite you to lift up prayers for our churches, our staff, and our ministry partnerships, including them in your pastoral prayers each week, and in your church bulletins. The Church is all of us - made one in Christ.

April 4 ~ Easter

Hillburn, Brook
Hortonville, For Faith Parish
One Great Hour of Sharing

April 11 ~ Second Sunday of Easter

Theological Institutions
Special Offerings (PC)USA

April 18~Third Sunday of Easter

Deborah Milcarek, General Presbyter
Irvington

April 25 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

Jeffersonville, First
Peru Partnership and Rev. Jed Koball
Christine Lazarus, Office Assistant, Journal Clerk, Presbytery

Share a Blessing!

Next Issue: May 2021

Submission deadline: May 25, 2021

Send submissions to:

dyanwapnick@optimum.net