



Agape Harvest

First United Presbyterian Church of Pine Plains

3039 Church Street,
P. O. Box 313,
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.
- Church School and childcare are available during the worship service.
- Join us for the warmth of coffee hours and fellowship following most weekly worship services.
- Pastor Carol's office hours are by appointment. Please call her at (518) 697-0025 (home), (845) 235-3569 (cell) or (518) 398-7117 (church office).

From Your Pastor:

Dear Friends,

You may remember the story about the great sculptor Michelangelo. It was said that he attracted a large group of spectators as he worked. One child in particular was fascinated by the sight of chips flying and the sound of mallet on chisel as the master shaped a large block of white marble. Unable to contain her curiosity, the little girl inquired, "What are you making?" Pausing, he replied, "There is an angel in there and I must set it free."



There is a new creation in Christ within each one of us and God is working to set that new creation free in us. Like Michelangelo with the marble, there are parts of our lives that need to be chipped away so that the new being, Christ within us, can shine forth. Sometimes this molding and shaping can be painful because we have to let go of old habits and learn to take up new ones, but the transformation is always worth it. St. Paul talks about this change in his letter to the Galatians. He reminds us to chip away hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, factions, envy, drunkenness and the like. Instead we are called to show forth the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5).

This new life in Christ is not always easy, but with the help of the Holy Spirit and the encouragement of each other, what a joy, what a blessing these gifts of the Holy Spirit are, not only to us, but to others and the world. They are the true gifts of Christmas reminding us of St. Paul's words "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

*Love,
Carol*

www.pineplainspresbyterianchurch.com

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Upcoming Events

* Events, dates & times subject to change

Christmas Pageant: There will be Saturday rehearsals at 1:30 pm. The pageant will be performed on **Sunday, Dec. 21**. It will be a traditional nativity pageant and was written by Sunday School teacher Brendan Kilpatrick, who has delighted us in the past with the pageants that he has written.

Christmas Eve Service: Our beautiful Christmas Eve service this year will be at 10:00 pm. Please join us as Nan Herow and the Choir lead us in the singing of your favorite Christmas carols.

December 2015 Calendar

Thurs. 11, 18: Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

Thurs. 11: Women's Association Meeting @ noon with Christmas luncheon.

Mon. 15: Council of Churches Meeting @ 12:00 pm at the Church of the Regeneration

We are organizing a Youth Group. Please see Pastor Carol if you would like to participate.



Please call the church office at 398-7117 when we are having inclement weather to find out if church services are cancelled.

NEWSLETTER E-MAIL MAILING LIST

In an effort to reduce costs of distributing the newsletter and preserving the environment, we will be distributing the newsletter via e-mail instead of postal mail to those who are interested. If you would like to join our e-mail mailing list, please send a note to Dyan Wapnick at wapnickfamily@fairpoint.net.

Hudson River Presbytery News

This month, churches will again receive the **Christmas Joy Offering**, through which caring Presbyterians help to lift up those who've devoted their lives in service to the Church: church workers and their families in need, through the [Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions](#), and students of Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Conference for Rural and Migrant Women

The first weekend in December, Kathy Bartles and Laurie Meccariello-Buchal, with support from our Church Women's Association, attended this conference in Binghamton. There were about 200 women from the Hudson Valley and central New York, some with their children, coming together around common issues. There were keynote speakers and workshops on topics such as saving the rural environment, staying fit with yoga, expressing yourself in writing, making your voice heard in the school district and many others. Laurie and Kathy attended a variety of these. The finale was a drumming circle led by Ubaka Hill, a very talented woman from the Bronx.

There were several groups there who had received sponsorship from the Self Development of Peoples Fund that Presbytery supports, and Pastor Carol is the chair of the Committee which reviews the applications.

It was very enlightening to meet many women, Hispanic, South American and immigrants from other countries who struggle every day with making a living and raising their families. In one workshop Laurie and Kathy and 2 others were the only non-Spanish speaking participants, so they needed a translator. Every activity was translated into English and Spanish.

Laurie and Kathy came back with several ideas for ways to reach out to immigrants in our community. We will be bringing some of these forward in the future.

Many thanks to the Women's Association for their support,
Kathy Bartles/Laurie Meccariello-Buchal

Servants' Calendar



Liturgist Schedule Dec 2014 – Jan 2015

December 14	December 21	December 28		
Carol Hart	John Hart	Doug Hart		
January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25	
Linda Bartolomeo	Jim Petrie	Dyan Wapnick	Margo Jackson	

SESSION : Next Session Meeting: Tuesday Jan. 6 @ 7:00 pm

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month.

Session: Kathy Bartles, Ed Casazza, Scott Chase, Bob Clinch, Doug Hart, Brendan Kilpatrick, Melanie Lindmark, Dyan Wapnick and Linda Wendover.

Treasurer: Scott Chase

Clerk of Session: Kathy Bartles

Moderator: Pastor Carol Miller

DEACONS : Harriet A'Brial, John Bilski, Bob Couse, Marva Blackmar, Lynne Clinch, John Hart, Jim Jackson and Erik Lindmark.

Deacon Schedule: 1st Sunday: Jim Jackson; 2nd Sunday: John Hart; 3rd Sunday: Lynne Clinch; 4th Sunday: Erik Lindmark; Alternate: Marva Blackmar.

Stewardship

Please return your pledge cards. They can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. If you did not receive a pledge card and would like to pledge, blank pledge cards are available at the end of each pew.



Donations for the Holidays

We will have our **Mitten Tree** again this year, to benefit the women and children at the Grace Smith House shelter in Millerton
Please bring mittens, hats, scarves, socks, etc.
in womens and childrens sizes to the church
by Sunday December 21



This year we can help the **Adopt a Family Project**
which serves all the Pine Plains School District
by bringing new, unwrapped toys
for boys or girls up to age 16
to the church by Sunday, December 14

or

with cash donations sent to:
Adopt a family c/o Stacey Moore
PO BOX 880
Millerton, NY 12546

Nutrition Corner

Lynne Clinch

Thinking about Holiday Treats

It's holiday time and we once again we're thinking about sweet treats. Instead of giving you more cookie recipes I thought I'd do the dessert treat. First one is a very good and easy to do cheesecake recipe. I actually made this for Thanksgiving this year. It is good but a small portion is all you need since it is 'rich.'

Swirled Spiced Pumpkin Cheesecake

Using 9 inch spring form pan make desired crust and chill.

For the filling:

3 pkg (8 oz each) cream cheese	1 cup canned pumpkin
1 cup brown sugar	1 tsp. cinnamon
$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sour cream	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. ground ginger
2 tsp. vanilla	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. cloves
3 eggs, slightly beaten	$\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. nutmeg

In large bowl beat cream cheese, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of the sugar, sour cream and vanilla. Add eggs and mix until blended. In another bowl add remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ c. sugar, pumpkin and all the spices and mix thoroughly. Stir in 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups cream cheese mixture and mix. Pour 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. plain mixture over bottom crust. Add 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ c. pumpkin mixture and repeat until all is layered. Take knife and run through filling to swirl. Bake in water bath in 350 degree oven, 45-50 min., turn oven off and leave door closed for 15-20 min. Remove, take out of water bath and cool on wire rack. Chill in refrigerator overnight. Remove ring, cut and serve.

Now doesn't that sound good? It says holiday and company pleasing. Great thing to bring to a house party or end your dinner party. Just add whipped cream or a berry sauce and be ready to accept the praise. A simple berry sauce is as easy as taking a jelly, heating so it melts and drizzle on a dessert plate. Can add frozen fruit especially at this time of the year to heated jelly and enjoy....

This next dessert can be made 3 ways. To make it lighter or reduce the calories try one or more of the suggestions at the end. Very easy to do using semi homemade items....Initial recipe is as follows:

Chocolate Delight Trifle

Make devil's food cake per package instructions and bake in 9x13 pan. When cooled completely, cut into cubes (about walnut size). Meanwhile make 3 packages of instant chocolate pudding mix according to directions and set aside. Taking 1 pint (2 cups) whipping cream and 2 T. sugar whip until stiff. Take a trifle bowl and begin layering the cake, pudding and cream. Add chopped nuts to each layer. You should have 3 layers ending with the cream and nuts. Take chocolate syrup and drizzle the top. Depending on serving size can feed up to 15 people.

Now to lighten it up use a prepared pound or angel food cake. You may only have enough for 2 layers. In that case use only 2 packages of pudding. Change the pudding to sugar free or fat free and use 2% or fat free milk. Afraid of whipped cream then use the prepared whipped topping and eliminate the sugar. They make the topping in light and fat free varieties now. Fruit can be substituted for pudding as well. A crunched up candy bar such a Heath Bar or crushed up peppermint candy cane can be used in place of the nuts. Can sprinkle this only on the top if desired. Have fun making and remember to make it your own.

This is my last article before the New Year. The next one will be written in Florida. Nice to have an available computer! Let me be the first to wish you Happy Holidays! - Lynne



Prayer Requests

During the coming week, please remember the following people in your daily prayers: the Giordano family, the families of John Orlandi, Mary Deuel, Camille Valcourt, Dr. Donald Webster, Mary "Mel" Moser (wife of Bobby), our Pastor, our congregation, all our children, our loved ones, and all of those who have lost loved ones in the past year.

At home: Joanne Keeler, Waldy MacPherson, Dorothy Hadley (Marge Chase), Vinnie Maserelli (Linda Wendover), Marion Doyle, the Mathew family (Margo), Kelsey Hart (Doug's daughter-in-law), Andrew (Nan), Richard (Dyan), John (Nan), Tom Strudwick Sr, Barbara Strudwick, Roy Watson, June Emerson (Linda Wendover), Dave Dennis (Laura Clark), Gil (Nan's brother), Emily Jackson, Brittany, Christine Neubert, Katherine King, Raj (John Bilski), Pam Meccariello, John Westfall, Bob Stickle (Erik Lindmark), Karen & Abigail (Brendan), Steven, Diane, and Allen Dam (Bob Clinch), Debbie Kinney, the family of John Falcone, Kyleigh Cummings, Tracey Bowser (Jannet Watson), Robert (Linda Wendover's grandson), Vinnie Parlman, Mary and Tom Briggs, Paul Molloy (Carl Bartles' friend), Nan, Victoria, and Marie Herow, Dustin Hale, George Frenzel (Delores Dickinson's brother), Phairah Dickinson, Brad and Eli Dickinson, Harriet A'Brial, Bridget and Zack McDonnell, David Jones (Linda Wesley's brother), Ann Cramer (Ruth Smith's aunt), Scott, Kate, and Ella (Cathy Fitzpatrick), Jerry and Betty Chestney, Fanny Place, Martha Baldwin, Ryan Hawk (Dawn Robinson's son), Maryanne (Harriet A'Brial), Lottye Kate (Barbara Gurbel's great-granddaughter), Kay Phillips (Ruth Smith's aunt), Cathy Fitzpatrick, April Leonard, Laura Clark and the Clark family, and Bill Boyles.

At Noble Horizons: Rev. Herb Day

At Geer Village: Dorothy Miller and Phyllis Ronner. (77 South Canaan Rd., Canaan, Ct. 06018)

At Sharon Health Care Center: Kathryn Mergendahl.

At Avalon: Gail Smith (1629 Rte. 376, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590)

At The Pines: Muriel Swart (2405 15th Street, Troy, NY 12180)

In the military: Garrett Cummings, Daniele Casazza, Kyle Moskowitz, Brian Coons, Tyler Larsen (Louise Coons' great grandson), Sarah Anderson, Matt Cade, Zach McDonnell, John Cort, Mark Hall, Jacob Coons, Danny Hoysradt, Brian Montross, Nathaniel Chase (Reserves; Marge's grandson), Dylan Humbert (Troj and Cole's brother), Eric Wiltsie (Tom and Renee Strudwick's nephew).

And all those who have served in our military.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

The monthly drive item for December is cereal. Leave in the narthex. Please send \$ donations to the **Pine Plains Food Locker P.O. Box 587 Pine Plains, NY 12567.**

Share a Blessing!

Next issue:

January 2015

Submission deadline:

December 30, 2014

Send submissions to:

wapnickfamily@fairpoint.net