



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,

Bill Crowder notes that in the 19th century, ships were often recklessly overloaded, resulting in those ships going down and crews being lost at sea. In 1875, to remedy this negligent practice, British politician, Samuel Plimsoll led the charge for legislation to create a line on the side of a ship to show if it was carrying too much cargo. That "load line" became known as the Plimsoll Line, and it continues to mark the hulls of ships today.

Sometimes, like those ships, our lives can seem overloaded with fears, struggles, and heartaches. We can even feel that we are in danger of going under. In those times, however, it is reassuring to remember that we have a remarkable resource. We have a Heavenly Father who stands ready to help us carry that load. The apostle Peter said, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6-7).

He is capable of handling the cares that overwhelm us. Though the testing of life may feel like a burden too heavy to bear, we can have full assurance that our Heavenly Father loves us deeply and knows our load limits.

Heavenly Father, I sometimes feel as if I can't go on. I am tired, I am weak, and I am worn. Thank You that You know my load limits better than I do. And that, in Your strength, I can find the enablement to endure.

Thanks to Bill Crowder, Our Daily Bread

The peace of Christ be with you,
Carol

www.pineplainspresbyterianchurch.com

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Upcoming Events, Notices, and Thanks

* Events dates & times subject to change

December 2015 (all meetings in the Fellowship Hall unless stated otherwise)

Tue. 1: Session Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Thurs. 10: Women's Association Meeting @ 1:00 pm

Thurs. 3, 10, & 17: Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

Sun. 20: Christmas Pageant during the worship service.

Mon. 21: Council of Churches Meeting @ 12:00 pm at the Methodist Church

Thurs. 24: Christmas Eve service at 10:00 pm.

The Bereavement Group will not be meeting until January.

Looking Ahead to 2016

January 17: Ecumenical Service of Prayer for Christian Unity at our church at 4:00 pm.

January 24: Service of Celebration for the ministry of the United Amenia Presbyterian Church at United Amenia Church at 3:00 pm. This is the closing service for the congregation.



Thank you to Bobby Lee Couse for mowing the lawn during the summer.

Thanks also to Bruce Pecorella for sealcoating the driveway and parking lot.

Annual Turkey Dinner



Our annual turkey dinner was held on Saturday Nov. 7, and it was a smashing success. We had a lot of positive feedback which is always welcome! We sold a total of 178 dinners: 84 eat in and 94 take out. Our intake prior to expenses was \$3,129.00. This was our second year with just one sitting along with take-outs, and this has proven to be successful although we are still learning the food quantities we need to purchase for the lesser number of tickets. Thank you especially to Carol Hart for taking over the job of selling tickets from Shirley MacPherson and thank you to Shirley for being our ticket lady for so many years. Thank you to Marva Blackmar for chairing the dining room, and for all of the volunteers who helped by either purchasing items, baking, preparing, working in the kitchen or serving that night, cleaning up, and to those who made dollar donations to offset the expenses. We could not have done it without any of you!

Thank you,
Jeanne and Dyan

Attention Senior Citizen Church Members:

Girl Scout Troop 10173 located in Pine Plains would love to be pen pals with you! If you are interested in receiving letters from one of our girls, there will be a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall over the next few weeks where you can leave your name and mailing address.



Thanks so much!

Jen Blackburn

Troop 10173

Retirement of Nan Herow

On Friday Nov. 6, we were very saddened to receive the retirement notice of our organist and choir director, Nan Herow. Nan served here for 10 years sharing her beautiful voice and all her musical talents. She was especially gifted in her work with children and VBS. We thank God for her and for her service to God and to this church over these 10 years. She is and will be in our prayers in the days and weeks to come.

A Word from Presbytery

Focus Your Mission One of the signs of a vital congregation is having a focused mission. This means that instead of individual members supporting their various "pet projects" around the church and community, everyone focuses their time, resources, and energy on the same ministry. This ministry becomes the clear reason for the church's existence-how God calls it to serve the community in a particular way, addressing the particular needs of particular people. This focused mission becomes the congregation's common direction, answering the "why" behind all church programs, activities, and expenditures.

Many of our churches don't have a focused mission. In addition, they have no idea who their neighbors are in the community, nor what their needs might be. Hint: if there are children and schools in your community there are definitely needs there; you just have to ask around to find out what the biggest unmet needs are. Here's an idea: **Why not consider claiming 2016 as the year your church discerns its focused ministry related to children and education?**

Since the 221st General Assembly in Detroit (2014), momentum has been building in our denomination around a church-wide initiative called *Educate a Child, Transform the World*. This initiative calls on Presbyterians to work with partners in the U.S. and worldwide to improve the quality of education for one million children by 2020. This builds on our strong Reformed heritage and Presbyterian history of educational mission and advocacy, as well as our support of access to public education. On the national level, this initiative will place particular emphasis on strengthening early childhood education and reducing the dropout rate of adolescents.

How can our congregation start discerning the focused educational mission into which God is calling us? This will be explored over the next few months in Agape Harvest. Please stay tuned.

Servants' Calendar



Liturgist Schedule Dec. '15 – Jan. '16

December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27	
Dyan Wapnick	Carol Hart	Dyan Wapnick	Margo Jackson	
January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Scott Chase	Carol Hart	John Hart	Doug Hart	Linda Bartolomeo

Communion: January – Dyan Wapnick.

Session Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month. **Next Session Meeting: Tuesday 1/5/16 @ 7 pm**

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

Treasurer: Scott Chase

Clerk of Session: Kathy Bartles

Moderator: Pastor Carol Miller

DEACONS : Marva Blackmar, Lynne Clinch, John Hart, and Jim Jackson.

Deacon Schedule:

- 1st Sunday: Jim Jackson
- 2nd Sunday: John Hart
- 3rd Sunday: Marva Blackmar
- 4th and 5th Sunday: open

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



and so at age 75, Abraham receives word from the "boss" that retirement will be delayed. **Genesis 21-4**



by Lynne Clinch

Cookies, Cakes, and Sweets

This is the best time of the year! It starts with Thanksgiving with wonderful cooking smells coming from the kitchen. From there it progresses to baking smells, wonderful baking smells of sweet treats as Christmas approaches. Eating habits change as we consume calories. As always moderation is the name of the game. There is no

reason, unless on special diets, that we cannot enjoy the sweets of the season.

So, as promised, this is the holiday addition of Nutrition Corner. I know there are some family favorites made at this time of year. I'd like to pass on two of those from our congregation. Betty Chestney handed me a recipe this morning at church and said it was Jerry's favorite. She said it was easy and delish....

Easy Pudding Cookies

Bake in 350° oven 10-12 minutes – Yield 3 ½ dozen

1 C. butter or margarine, softened
 1 C. packed brown sugar
 1 pkg. instant chocolate pudding
 2 eggs

2 C. flour
 1 tsp. Baking Soda
 6 oz. pkg. white chocolate chips
 nuts optional

Beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add dry pudding and eggs and mix well. Gradually add flour and soda beating well. Stir in chips and nuts if using. Drop by tablespoon full onto cookie sheets 2" apart. Bake until edges are lightly browned. Cool on sheets then remove to wire rack or brown paper bags to cool completely. Enjoy!

When I read this recipe and thought what a unique idea to use pudding mix. I've done cookies with cake mix before with success. It's a very easy process ---- cake mix (any flavor) ½ cup oil and 2 eggs. Mix until dough comes together, drop by teaspoonful onto cookie sheet. Bake and enjoy. I always add a flavoring to the mix. (ie: lemon to lemon cake and vanilla to all others). The little personal touches come when you roll the dough in sugar prior to baking. For instance confectioners or granulated sugar and chocolate dough. Adding chocolate chips, oatmeal or nuts to white or yellow dough mix prior to baking. Of course, frosting the cookie when cool and adding sprinkles brings holidays to mind. Kids love helping with this too. Each cake mix usually makes 2-3 dozen cookies. Let me give you a 'loaded' cookie treat.

Monster Cookies

Bake in 350° oven 14-15 minutes

1 Box yellow cake mix	1 egg
½ C. brown sugar	2 C. quick cooking oats
¾ C. soft butter	½ C. M&Ms
½ C. peanut butter	½ C. semi-sweet chocolate chips
2 Tb. Water	(or chips of any flavor)

Combine all ingredients adding oats and candy/chips after dough is mixed well. Drop by teaspoonful onto cookie sheet. Cool on sheets at least 1 minute before moving.

One thing to remember with any baking of cookies is that darker colored pans cook faster and brown more quickly than lighter pans. Turning your oven temperature down by 25 degrees will help with proper baking. Also if you do make cake mix cookies they are softer in the center and not a crisp cookie. They can easily be over baked so follow the directions. Check on line for more recipes if you're interested in making any of these type cookies.

I received this cake recipe from Dorothy Whitaker along with the story behind it. Obviously this means a lot to her and I'm including it word for word.

On December 24, 1940, my mother Bessie Marriott Whitaker, decided to establish a family tradition when my eldest sister, Betty, was six months old on Christmas. Mom found a recipe for a walnut cake. This cake is only made for our Christmas Eve birthday party. After attending church, friends would come home with us for our party. After singing Happy Birthday Baby Jesus, the youngest member would have the honor of blowing out the single candle. Also, part of our tradition is to make extra cakes to give to new people we met over the year, or new neighbors, members of our church etc. in hopes that they would continue the tradition the following year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BABY JESUS BIRTHDAY CAKE

Pre-heat the oven to 375. Well grease and flour a Bundt cake pan. Set aside.

DRY INGREDIENTS: Mix well and set aside

2 ¾ C flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 ½ tsp salt
1C chopped walnuts

In a mixing bowl cream together

1 ¾ C sugar
1C. Crisco (I use butter flavor)

Add 4 eggs separately. Continue mixing until the batter is light and frothy.

ADD ALL AT ONCE:

¾ C. room temp. Milk
2 tsp. vanilla extract
ALL DRY INGREDIENTS

Mix slowly and do not overbeat.

Put into cake pan. Place on the center of the center rack. Cook for about 50 minutes. Cook longer if the spring test near the center fails. Dark Bundt pans cook sooner. Cool, decorate and enjoy the cake. I use cream cheese frosting and decorate as if it were a wreath with candied cherries bunched like holly berries, accenting with citron as leaves. Enjoy!! God Bless You.

Enjoy your holidays and keep sending me recipes to share with others.

Stewardship

Here are some excerpts from “What do Presbyterians believe about stewardship” by Robert Bohl.

It has been said that no two Presbyterian congregations are alike, but we do share some common characteristics. One of these is that we do poorly in the area of stewardship. One of the basic reasons most churches have such poor stewardship is that they think stewardship is fund-raising. It is how you pay for the church's budget; it is the awful code word church officers and pastors use for money. Stewardship for many churches is what they do only one Sunday a year, usually in November. When church leaders and pastors make stewardship a taboo subject, poor stewardship results.

Where there is a vibrant, exciting church, that congregation has made stewardship a spiritual matter. For those Presbyterians stewardship has to do with how they live and their daily commitments to Jesus Christ as their Lord. I once heard a pastor say, "When you give only your money, you give very little; it is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

*“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.”—Winston Churchill*





At home: Mary Douglass, Nan and Marie Herow, Cathy Fitzpatrick, Marge Chase, Caren Bunce, Don Bartles, Debbie Pomeroy, Debra Rose, Elaine Hage, Steven Dam (Connie Coons), the family of Georges St.Laurent, Samantha Chestney, Laura and George Dennis, Jolene Forgey, Trudie Wilson, Marge (Laurie), Marianne Groeling, the family of Lizzie Burger, Marjorie Bright, Jason Craddock, Laurie Meccariello, Tammy (Nan), Lisa Spear, Karen Lane (Marva), Bridget and Zack McDonnell, Judy MacMorran (Barbara Gurbel's daughter), Hal Flatau, Caitlin Edge (Deb Jackson), Debbie (Laurie), Dan (Melanie), Pete and Helen Robinson, Betty McGhee, Shirley and Waldy MacPherson, Mary Lou Jenson, the Mathew family (Margo), Andrew (Nan), Richard (Dyan), John (Nan), Barbara Strudwick, June Emerson (Linda W.), Dave Dennis (Laura Clark), Gil (Nan's brother), Brittany, John Westfall, Bob Stickle (Erik Lindmark), Karen & Abigail (Brendan), Debbie Kinney, the family of John Falcone and prayers for forgiveness, Kyleigh Cummings, Tracey Bowser (Janet Watson), Robert (Linda Wendover's grandson), Mary and Tom Briggs, Paul Molloy (Carl Bartles' friend), Dustin Hale, George Frenzel (Delores Dickinson's brother), Phairah Dickinson, Scott, Kate, and Ella (Cathy Fitzpatrick), Jerry and Betty Chestney, Ryan Hawk (Dawn Robinson's son), Lottye Kate (Barbara Gurbel's great-granddaughter), April Leonard, Laura Clark and the Clark family, and Bill Boyles.

Hartford Hospital: Mary Peckette

Albany Medical Center: Chris Eastwood

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: Marion Doyle, Vinny Masarelli.

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

In the military or Reserves: Garrett Cummings, Daniele Casazza, Kyle Moskowitz, Brian Coons, Matt Cade, Zach McDonnell - Reserves, 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.



Pine Plains Food Locker: December

**The monthly drive items for December is cereal.
Toiletries are always welcomed.
Please send \$ donations to the Pine Plains Food Locker
P.O. Box 587 Pine Plains, NY 12567**

Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Share a Blessing!

Next issue:
January 2016

Submission deadline:
December 25, 2015

Send submissions to:
dyanwapnick@optimum.net