

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

The Saints in the Church Triumphant

In worship Nov. 1, as will be our annual
tradition on All Saints' Sunday, we named
and prayed for those amongst us who have
died. Here on the ones who were asked to be
listed. Please keep praying and keep note of
any who you wish to honor in this way in
worship November 7, 2021.

- Maria Andyusky
- Bob
- "Pop" William Reid Blackie, Jr
- Dot Brown
- Kathy Burgess
- Don Cerniglia
- Clyde & Marjorie Chase
- June Clemens
- Frances Margot Day
- Donald & Ruth
- John Dore
- Perry Estes
- Josh Edwards
- Bessie Marriott Whitaker Ferris
- Dr. Richard Ferris
- Nancy Barrett Gallagher
- Eileen Gilmartin
- Bob Glozier
- Irene Grady
- Joan Gyurits
- Margaret Hage
- Peter Shaheen Hage
- Ruth & Thad Harris
- Tom Hackett
- Kenneth Hinsch, Sr.
- Irving "Sonny" Jackson
- Rosalind "Babe" Jackson
- Jay & Helen Keller
- Bob Kelly
- Stanley Kilmer
- Lorraine Klein
- Janet & Joan Krombar
- Josephine Krombar
- Robert Krombar
- John & Sue Larkin

- Beulah & Eugene Marriott
- Max
- Don Nelson
- Oliver Orton
- John & Rose Orton
- Otto
- Anne Parramore
- Ronald Irving Potter, Sr.
- K.C. Ptomey
- Robin Rayfield
- William Reid
- Jacquelyn Osbourne Salvador
- Edna Scudder
- Elizabeth Smith
- Muriel Swart
- Martha Thompson
- Richard & Virginia Valentine
- Lydia VanNess
- Alice Washington
- John Webber
- John Wendover
- Henry Whitaker
- Ken & Nettie Whitaker
- Loren Whitaker Sr.
- Loren Whitaker Jr.
- Norma & Wallace Kilmer
- Lloyd Woodcock Sr.
- Lloyd Woodcock Jr.

HELLO PRINT SUBSCRIBER:

If you receive this newsletter by U.S. Mail, we are glad. We are conducting a semi-regular survey to make sure our postage expenses are well-spent. If you wish to continue to receive a mailed, paper copy, please just let us know. You may e-mail dyanwapnick@optimum.net or call Pastor Ryan at (518) 398-7117 to indicate any of the following: A. You wish to keep getting the mailed copy (we are so glad to send to any who need it in this format), B. you wish to switch to e-mail receipt to help with church efficiency, or C. you wish to be removed from all lists. About February, if we haven't heard you are enjoying the paper version, we may stop sending it until you indicate you'd like to resume. Thank you!

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Pastor's Report

A Letter for Christmas 2020

Dear Church,

This season is one where our strongest traditions lie, as a nation and at least in the modern practice of Christianity. I wish to know so much more from you historians, amateur and formal, about what years past have been in Pine Plains and as this church. Without full knowledge, I know you young ones don't remember 1918, so I feel confident that in March, this indeed became a year like no other. So here, in this season, there will be quite a juxtaposition. The grief of the changed times that included Easter, summer festivals, harvest time events, travel delayed, time away from loved ones, and the many days concerned for health and experiencing death will surely linger. If it has not already, my hope is that while we know the losses and the hardship of 2020, that the marking of the birth of Jesus the Christ will bring joy! It has every reason to make us feel joy, and Christmas joy will have a welcome place of urgent need this year. By the time you read this, we have been together (some in the sanctuary, some via the internet) for one of four Advent Sundays. We await three more, then we break in with Christmas Eve worship at 7pm on that night! The twelve days of Christmas will follow, and we should not skip over a one of them, especially in these times! We'll mark Twelfth Night, January 5th (put on your calendar a hold for a Zoom event 7pm on January 4th) and Epiphany in Sunday worship Jan. 9th (the actual day is always Jan. 6).

My prayers include:

that we will have a fullest time of Advent preparations;

so that in readiness joy will come when the news of Christmas arrives anew, unto us a child is born who will lead us and heal the world;

that good traditions will be brilliant even with the changes brought by this year's virus;

that you will have nourishment that warms;

that you will write, make phone calls, and video calls that stretch to include those who might not make the list in a "normal" year;

that any loneliness that is amongst you, you will reach out and be well received. You are most welcome to begin with me.

God loves you and I love you;

that travels will be safe;

that we all keep the good health we have and improve on it, and the many amongst us who need healing of all kinds will find it swiftly and fully;

that we worship God well and often, praying and seeking.

A good Advent, then a merry Christmas, then a very good 2021, I pray for each of you. Be in good touch.

In peace,

Pastor Ryan

Worship

Every Sunday at **11:00 a.m.** (indoors now, 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.

If you need to stay away from the gathering, we understand as we miss you. Worship service video streams at [facebook.com/groups/firstunitedpineplains](https://www.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.

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22 @ 7pm - Zoom Book Study for Advent - ONLINE ONLY

"Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes" by Cynthia M. Campbell. Here is one place the book can be obtained:
<https://bit.ly/AdventStudy2020>

Those comfortable with electronic readers may choose an e-book version to have it sooner. Please let me know if you need help obtaining the book or access in the Zoom sessions. There is no specific reading "assignment" yet known for the sessions. Even if you cannot attend all, I know you will be welcome for any.

Choose either the full computer/smartphone experience by clicking this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87219199368?pwd=TDRTeWYxeVRJYkQxMi95WDNpVXYyQT09>

OR, if you need, just the phone call method:

Dial (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 872 1919 9368

Passcode: 335549

Dec. 6th @ 11am - Second Sunday of Advent worship with Holy Communion

Choose to bring your own picnic of bread and drink if you attend in-person, or there will be elements safely provided. Have bread and drink ready if you worship with us online.

Dec. 16 @ 7pm or anytime thereafter - Worship for Wholeness and Healing

ONLINE ONLY - Facebook.com/groups/firstunitedpineplains

This service is designed to bring comfort to those who are finding struggle, are mourning, or otherwise need to worship in a way that acknowledges the full range of human emotion. Video will be available forever.

Dec. 21 @ 7pm or anytime thereafter - Longest Night Worship

ONLINE ONLY - Facebook.com/groups/firstunitedpineplains

This service opens our Session meeting and marks the longest night of the year as a most appropriate time to pray with and for the hungry and those without shelter.

Dec. 24 @ 7pm - Christmas Eve Worship

A heart-felt **thank you** from Jeanne and Dyan to everyone who worked on the grab 'n go turkey dinner. We sold 180 tickets @ \$15.00 which gave us \$2700, plus donations of \$121.00 for a total of \$2,821.00, before expenses. In addition, we were able to provide 4 high school students with community service credits.



The next dinner will be the Corned Beef dinner in March: stay tuned for more information!

Also, thank you to Carol and John Hart for decorating the sanctuary for the Advent season.

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!

Session Update

Our Session work since the last, published update includes:

- Adopted a Conflict of Interest policy for Session votes, not because there was any actual or predicted need, but as a best practice
- Discussed 2021 church budget, with final vote expected December 21st
- Changed Sexton to hourly (\$15 per) position which is expected to increase his annual compensation
- Made a slight increase of Secretary hourly pay to \$15/hour
- Paid a one-time bonus of \$150 each to Sexton and Secretary as a small recognition of the excellence of their service and the changes brought by COVID these recent months
- Explored a plan for auditing of church finances as required
- Adopted a plan to offer church as a meeting space to potential first-time users from the community
- Reviewed COVID safety plan for building use with no present changes
- Discussed energy conservation and property needs when building is unoccupied

Pastor Ryan moderates the Session and is glad to go more in-depth on the work of your elected leaders past and future. Minutes of the Session meeting are available for review upon request.

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 December 21 at 7:00 pm. There will be a Remote, daily prayer worship service prior to the meeting – all are welcome – meets via Zoom call and internet video.

Calendar

December 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 First Sunday of Advent 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Inside)	30	December 1 7 pm - 8 pm Book Study for Advent (Zoom)	2	3	4	5
6 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Inside)	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception 7 pm - 8 pm Book Study for Advent (Zoom)	9	10 12 pm - 2 pm Women's Assoc. Mtg. (Inside)	11	12
13 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Inside)	14	15 7 pm - 8 pm Book Study for Advent (Zoom)	16 7 pm - 8 pm Worship for Wholeness and Healing (Online)	17	18 10:30 am - 11:30 am Council of Churches Mtg. (Presbyterian Church)	19 Virtual Christmas Concert (Online)
20 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Inside)	21 7 pm - 8:30 pm Longest Night Worship (Online) followed by Session Mtg. (Zoom)	22 7 pm - 8 pm Book Study for Advent (Zoom)	23	24 Christmas Eve 7 pm - 8 pm Christmas Eve Service (Inside)	25 Christmas	26
27 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Inside)	28	29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2

Announcements/Coming Events

From the Organist's Bench

By Ryan Orton

COVID has certainly thrown everyone and everything for a loop! This includes our Annual Christmas Concert. With so much cancelled or postponed indefinitely, I absolutely did not want to see this happen to the Concert. Everyone needs something to look forward to, and I know the Concert is one of the highlights of the Christmas season for our Church and community.

Following thoughtful discussion with the Session, it was decided to have a Virtual Christmas Concert for 2020. Our annual performers agreed enthusiastically to be part of our recording (cancelling the Concert wasn't an option for them, either!), and Jim Petrie graciously volunteered to record all performances and put it together in a video. Recordings have begun with each group/performer having their own time slot to record at the Church while maintaining social distancing protocols. My goal is to have the video completed and posted on both the Church's Facebook page and YouTube page by Saturday, December 19th, the original date of this year's Christmas Concert. I hope you enjoy the performances and that this brings some light and holiday spirit to you this Christmas!

Women's Assoc.

We are going back to our normal schedule which is the second Thursday of the month. December 10th at 12:00 pm will be our next meeting. All women are invited. Bring your lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided.

Mission

Willow Roots

Run by Nelson and Lisa Zayas from their home on North Main Street with the help of many volunteers.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Pine Plains Food Locker:

The monthly drive items for December is cereal.

Toiletries are always welcomed.

Please send \$ donations to the Pine Plains Food Locker

2852 Church Street Pine Plains, NY 12567

The Food Locker took our left-over bread from the turkey dinner. We gave Willow Roots 2 frozen turkeys that had been donated to us, plus the leftover stuffing, potatoes, and gravy, which they said they were able to distribute to 11 families.

This year's **Adopt-a-Family fundraiser** is looking to raise \$45,000 for 300 children, \$150 per child (13 and under), who attend schools in the Webutuck and PPCSD school systems.

This year, because of COVID-19, individual gifts will not be distributed. Instead, families will be able to choose gift cards from an array of participating local businesses such as Freshtown, Tractor Supply, Oblong Jr, CVS, Dollar Store and others, where they will be able to redeem their cards to buy clothing, toys, food, and the like. No Amazon or Visa type gift cards will be used. That means all funds raised will support local business and go back into the local economy. The deadline for contributions goes up to and after Christmas.

Checks should be made out to Adopt-a-Family and mailed in care of:

Moore & More Printing
PO Box 880
Millerton, NY 12546

All funds will be held by the Berkshire Taconic Community Fund until the gift cards are distributed.



C.R.O.P. Walk 2020

On October 18th in worship and online, we collected the annual C.R.O.P. Walk donations that benefit the feeding programs of Church World Service. If this year's changes in how we are able to worship caused you to miss the joy of this giving, please know we'd be glad to process donations any time. Designate a check or envelope with cash in the offering plate, mail a check to P.O. Box 313 Pine Plains, NY 12567, or use our online giving platform Venmo (use FUPCPP). In any case, mark in the appropriate spot "CROP" so that Treasurer Scott Chase knows to send to CWS.

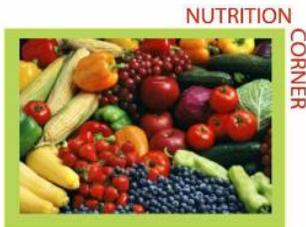
Donations for our **Annual Mitten Tree** will be collected throughout the Christmas Season with donations being split between The Community Food Locker and Willow Roots. Mittens, gloves, socks, scarves and hats for children, teens, women, or men are appreciated.

There will be a small tree in the sanctuary and items may be placed under the tree. If you're unable to shop/knit/crochet and prefer to make a monetary donation, you may leave a check at church or mail a check made payable to:

First United Presbyterian Church
PO Box 313,
Pine Plains 12567

or send via Venmo @FUPCPP. Please designate "Mitten Tree" in the subject line.

Thanks so much for your support of this annual Christmas event!



Lynne Clinch

December is Cookie Time

We have finally reached the end of 2020! Time to celebrate Christmas season with cookies. This year is obviously different than other years, but some things never change. I admit I'm one of those people who stocked up on flour, sugar and other baking supplies this past summer. Actually, it's nothing that I wouldn't ordinarily do anyway. Sooooooo, hopefully I'm all set to go. I think in previous newsletters I've spoken of my game plan; make a list of cookies to make. Follow up with checking of supplies and compose a shopping list. Each shopping trip check off as you purchase ingredients. When the time comes you're all set to bake.

As you sort through your to do list, eliminate what doesn't make the final cut and omit it. There are a few. I usually start with 12 plus recipes I would like to make and pare down to 6 or 8. It's a lot of work not to mention the calories! Anyway, time to get that *Mise en place* ready. Thought I'd throw that French term out there. It means getting everything you need for the recipe out and measured and ready to go. I usually divide the list into 2 day's work. I make the dough all up taking 2 days. Then refrigerate and bake within the next few days. Any frosting decorating is left for the end and done in 1 day. Just love those Christmas movies that show it done like magic and in the matter of an hour or so. Those cookies have to be really cooled to frost. Fun thing to do with grandchildren but expect to have extensive clean up duty. Been there, done that but wouldn't change for anything!

I've tried over the years to include a new cookie each year. Some have been successful but most have been one time wonders. No repeat requests, not memorable or on any "keep it list". I had hoped to share several of your favs but had not received any recipes at time of this writing. So you have to put up with a few I'm thinking about making outside my normal, must have and please make and when are you baking list! Got to love those grandchildren!

Ice Box Pecan

1 c. unsalted butter
 ½ c. sugar
 ¼ c. brown sugar
 1 ½ tsp. vanilla
 2 ½ c. flour
 ½ tsp salt
 ¾ c. mini semisweet chocolate chips
 1/3 c. finely chopped pecans

Cream the butter and both sugars for 5 minutes. Add the vanilla and mix well. Add the dry ingredients and mix until combined. Add the chips and nuts and stir. Put half the dough onto plastic wrap and form into log. Repeat with remaining dough. This will be crumbly and that's fine. Refrigerate at least 2 hours. Can also be made ahead of time and frozen. After chilled slice log into ½ inch pieces and bake in 350 degree oven for 14 minutes. Can use sharp knife or dental floss to slice. If it cracks use fingers to press back together. This is a shortbread cookie which has no eggs.

Yields 2 – 2½ dozen

Bulldog Brittle

½ box graham crackers (about 28 squares)
 1 stick butter
 1 c. brown sugar
 1 tsp vanilla
 ½ tsp salt
 1 c. chopped pecans or nut of choice
 Line a cookie sheet with sides with foil (10 x 15)

Cover with the graham crackers. In saucepan melt butter and add the sugar. Bring to boil and boil for 2 minutes. Take off heat and add the vanilla and salt. Pour over top of graham's carefully since this is hot. Sprinkle with the nuts. Bake in 350 degree oven for 12 minutes. Add 2 min. if you want it crunchier. Cool completely and break apart. This is another version of crack that's made with saltines. Saw this on a kids' cooking show. The judges went crazy over it and when they asked the girl who made it, said the recipe came from the old ladies at her church. She asked how old these ladies were and she said 50. Enough said.....

I know I will not be making the dozens of cookies as I've done in the past due to COVID. No giving as gifts etc. But the grandkids look forward to them every year. So I'll be baking them. And on that note will wish all a happy holiday season. Stay safe and we all know it has got to be a better New Year. Until then 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

During the coming month, please remember the following people in your daily prayers: The family and friends of those who have died: Mary Jo Glozier, George Dennis, Arlene Brower, Murial Swart, Tom Daly (PPCC), Stacey Wilson (mother of Sam Chase's friend), Dale Thorton, essential workers who have died while serving during COVID lockdown. Pray too, for our congregation, all our children, our loved ones, all of those who have lost loved ones in the past year, and our pastor.

At home: Margo Jackson, Mary Anne Mackey-Wisor (Dyan's friend, undergoing medical tests), Pat (Dora's friend who has COVID), Carol Foley (Regeneration Church), Marva Blackmar (recovering from surgery), Jeff Davis (Dyan's cousin), Irene Dieter (Ancramdale Church), Danny Larkin (Alcyce Larkin's husband), Deb Phillips, Adalyn Forgey and her family (Carol Hart), Kelly Wilkie (Pastor Ryan's sister), Bridget and Aylee, Mort Jackson, Brian & Jessica Weglinski & family, Laurena Mesnard, Teresa Maleonski (Marva), Craig Shelley, Joe (Susan), Pastor Laurie's Mom, Melissa McKinney, Phyllis Shanks, Barbara Gurbel, Randy Burns (Dyan), Jim Fabrizio, Kyleigh Cummings, Judy Parlman, Millie Sheldon, Pastor Laurie, 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), Elaine Hage, Joann Amelio, Debra Rose, Marge (Laurie), Marjorie Bright, Judy MacMorran (Barbara Gurbel's daughter), Debbie (Laurie), Brittany.

At Geer Nursing Home: Linda Bartolomeo

At The Manor at Woodside: Helen Travis and Rod Davis

At Noble Horizons: Lek McNeill, RuthAnn Pulver, Charlie Napoli

At Sharon Hospital: Eleanor Pulver

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 2020

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.

December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent

Thompson Ridge, Hopewell

Wappingers Falls, First

PC(USA) Washington Office

December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent

Washingtonville, First

Wassaic, South Amenia

Commissioned Ruling Elders

December 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent

White Plains

Yonkers, Bryn Mawr

The Stony Point Center and its staff

December 27 - First Sunday of Christmas

Yonkers, Good Shepherd

Yonkers, South

Rural and Migrant Ministry

December 30 - First Sunday after Christmas

Yorktown Heights, First

Peru Partnership and Rev. Jed Koball

Share a Blessing!

Next Issue: January 2021

Submission deadline: Dec. 25, 2020

Send submissions to:
dyanwapnick@optimum.net