



Agape Harvest

From Your Pastor:



Dear Friends,

Over the years the season of Lent, which begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 10th, has been a most meaningful time spiritually. During times that I was not serving as a pastor, Lent was a very intentional time of getting back in the habit of the spiritual disciplines of study, giving and prayer. For the last couple of years, Dyan Wapnick, who also works at St. James Episcopal Church in Hyde Park, has provided us with copies of their Lenten devotional book which is composed of devotions written by their members. We also have a special devotional pamphlet prepared by the Presbyterian Church entitled "Be Holy" that will be distributed Sunday, February 7th.

In 2017, we are hoping to put together our own devotional book for the Lenten season. Creating a Lenten booklet of our spiritual journeys, our struggles and our joys, is a wonderful way of coming closer to God and one another.

No matter what spiritual disciplines we are called to enter into during this season such as prayer, fasting, study, or special giving, Lent gives us the reminder to engage in some activity or activities that help us draw closer to God and one another in faith and love. Among the blessings of this season are that the disciplines can become a regular part of our lives.

This year we will once again have an Ash Wednesday service with ashes and Holy Communion at 7:30 pm. May this season of Lent be a time of deepening faith, renewal and reflection for us all.

With love in Christ,
Carol

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).

www.pineplainspresbyterianchurch.com

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Upcoming Events, Notices

* Events dates & times subject to change

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

Ash Wednesday service Feb. 10 at 7:30 pm.

Thurs. 11: Women's Association Meeting @ 1:00 pm

Thurs. 18 & 25: Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

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

Looking Ahead: Our annual **corned beef dinner** will be on Saturday, March 12.

One Great Hour of Sharing

This is the time of year when we begin the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign, the most participated-in Offering in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Started in 1949 as an hour-long radio appeal (hence the name), One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is an ecumenical effort with up to 29 participating denominations, aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. Today, projects supported by OGHS are underway in over 100 countries world-wide.

Around the world, people lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to OGHS serves to help change the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32% of funds raised), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%), and the Self-Development of People (32%). From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

You will be receiving bulletin inserts over the coming weeks which will talk more about this special offering and how it is used. Please give generously.

Stewardship

Dear Friends,

I will always give thanks for a friend who shared her commitment of giving to God's work here on earth. We were in the same class in Divinity School studying for the ministry. Somehow the subject of giving came up and I said "oh, I'm a scholarship student and I don't have anything to give." To which she promptly replied "I give ten percent of my scholarship money to the church." You could have knocked me over with a feather. And yet through the years, even in the most difficult financial times, we have found that when we kept that giving a priority, literally the Lord provided and continues to provide.

In the 8th chapter of 2 Corinthians, St. Paul writes about the generosity of the Macedonian Christians. He says "Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." (2 Corinthians 8:3)

We demonstrate our trust and commitment to God in many ways. As we make our financial commitments to God's work in this new year may we pray for his guidance and direction in love and faith.

With love in Christ,
Carol

Editor's Note: Pledge cards are available at the end of each pew. A pledge is any amount you feel you can contribute. It is strictly confidential and is only a goal for your continued support of our church. *Thank you.*

Per capita Apportionment. *The per capita apportionment covers the ecclesiastical expenses of the denomination—the judicial, legislative, and related functions of the Church, in other words, the organizational costs of administering the church's government as opposed to "mission" expenditures. In the Presbyterian Church (USA), per capita is a religious and moral commitment made by individuals and particular churches. It establishes a minimum level of financial participation in the vital work of our connectional church as the Body of Christ. The per capita apportionment is based on the membership number reported by each church in their prior year's annual report to the General Assembly. Our church has to pay this regardless of whether our individual members contribute by paying their portion.*

The per capita for each member in 2016 is \$31.50. Please use the blue envelope which is available at the end of each pew, and place it in the offering plate.

Servants' Calendar



Liturgist Schedule Feb. – March 2016

February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28	
Dyan Wapnick	Jim Petrie	Margo Jackson	Scott Chase	
March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27	
Carol Hart	John Hart	Doug Hart	Linda Bartolomeo	

Communion: March – Linda Wendover

Session Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month. **Next Session Meeting: Wednesday 3/2/16 @ 7 pm**

Session: Ed Casazza, Jeanne V. Chase, Bob Clinch, Doug Hart, Jim Jackson, Dyan Wapnick, and Linda Wendover.

Treasurer: Scott Chase

Clerk of Session: Kathy Bartles

Moderator: Pastor Carol Miller

DEACONS : Marva Blackmar, Dora Hage, Carol Hart, and John Hart.

Deacon Schedule: new schedule not available at press time.

1st Sunday:

2nd Sunday: John Hart

3rd Sunday: Marva Blackmar

4th and 5th Sunday:

The ordination and installation service for new elders and deacons will be on Sunday Feb. 21.



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

Presbytery News

The new Interim General Presbyter of Hudson River Presbytery is **The Rev. Gavin D. Meek**. The Rev. Dr. Susan R. Andrews retired after 9 years as our General Presbyter in 2015.

Rev. Meek was raised in Indiana and comes to Hudson River Presbytery with a wealth of experience as an interim pastor and working on various committees within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

What is the job of an interim general presbyter, you ask?

- Provide full-time interim leadership for a presbytery during the time in between installed General Presbyters.
- Address any issues or conflicts existing within the presbytery.
- Establish short term goals to accomplish during the interim period.
- To assist the presbytery “as it identifies its purpose, and articulates and implements its mission and vision.”
- To prepare the presbytery for the arrival of the next installed General Presbyter.
- To assist the Transition Team and presbytery in the process of transition.

Resources on Just Immigration and Refugee Assistance

Though the vast majority of people living in the United States have immigrant ancestry, the nation’s immigrant policy has at times failed to welcome strangers who come seeking religious, political, and economic freedom. At the recent meeting of Hudson River Presbytery, a workshop was presented which Kathy Bartles attended, which presented resources for churches on how to deal with this very topical subject. Some of the websites where you can read up on this are offered here:

<https://sojo.net/join/campaigns/immigration>

<https://sojo.net/resources/welcoming-stranger-newsletter>

<https://sojo.net/node/216822>

<http://onward.sojo.net>

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/>

<http://pda.pcusa.org/page/refugee/>

Ted Talks:

http://www.ted.com/talks/antonio_guterres_refugees_have_the_right_to_be_protected

http://www.ted.com/talks/melissa_fleming_a_boat_carrying_500_refugees_sunk_at_sea_the_story_of_two_survivors

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. The forty days of Lent excludes Sundays because Sunday is the day of the resurrection and therefore a little Easter, a day of celebration. The days leading up to the start of Lent in some countries is "Carnival", a time to indulge before the fasting and repentance of the Lenten season. The day before Ash Wednesday is called Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday") or in some denominations, Shrove Tuesday; pancakes or other rich foods are often consumed.

We use ashes on Ash Wednesday because in Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

Where do the ashes come from? On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little oil. It's symbolic.

TOP TEN THINGS YOU CAN TRY FOR THE LENTEN SEASON:

- 10. Try an electronic fast.** Give up TV, Facebook, texting, tweeting, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week. (Or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray.
- 9. Start a prayer rhythm.** Each day of Lent, go to The Upper Room's prayer wall and pray for another person.
- 8. Go deeper into the Bible.**
- 7. Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.)**
- 6. Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee.** Give the money you save to help folks in a different part of the world who are in crisis.
- 5. Create a daily quiet time.** Spend 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer. [Read a daily devotional for the season of Lent.](#) See how it can help you add spiritual practice to your daily life beyond Lent.
- 4. Cultivate a life of gratitude.** Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way.
- 3. Participate in a Lent Photo-a-Day practice** and pray each day with your camera in your hand
- 2. Volunteer one hour or more each week** with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home, prison ministry.
- 1. Pray for others you see** as you walk as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work

Adapted From The Upper Room, Lent 101

NUTRITION

CORNER



By Lynne Clinch

Snacks for Super Bowl or Daytona 500

It's that time of year again! The snow is falling and you are cozy and comfy and ready to watch the Super Bowl or the 500 race. No sit down dinner this day. Game plan is just snacks. Diet is forgotten. Balanced meal is forgotten. Just a menu of your most favorite snacks waits. Cheese and crackers, chips and dip, maybe shrimp or wings and an antipasti platter or maybe a veggie tray are all already. Now for something else hot and different. Saw a recipe or two that looked interesting so thought I'd pass along.

Calzone Pinwheels

1 tube crescent rolls, open and pinch together 2 triangles to make rectangle
 Pizza or marinara sauce

Mix together: ½ c. mozzarella cheese (shredded), ricotta cheese and pepperoni diced; ¼ c. parmesan cheese, chopped mushrooms and green pepper; 2 T. chopped onion, 1 tsp. Italian seasoning and ¼ tsp. salt.

Spread the filling equally on the 4 rectangles. Starting with the short side roll up, jelly roll style. Cut each roll into 4 equal pieces and place on cookie sheet. Bake at 375 for 12-15 minutes. Makes 16 pinwheels. Dip into a warmed sauce.

What's nice about this recipe is you can make the filling to your preference. Add sausage or spinach or olives or ham or bacon and the list goes on....

Hot Spinach and Artichoke Dip

Put all the following ingredients into a mixing bowl and combine:

- 1 c. rough chopped artichokes, canned or frozen (drain well)
- 1 c. chopped fresh spinach, frozen ok but must be defrosted and well drained (use tea towel to wring out well)
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- ½ c. chopped onion
- ½ c. sour cream
- 4 oz. softened cream cheese
- 2 T. milk
- 1 c. shredded mozzarella
- ½ c. parmesan cheese
- ½ tsp. garlic salt
- ¼ tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

Place mixture in an 8x8 square pan or pie dish. Bake for 30 minutes in 400 degree oven. Sprinkle with more mozzarella if desired and return to oven until melted. Serve with a variety of chips, pretzels, crackers or veggies. And guess what? I've already got some of that already with my core menu. Who knew things would work so well! Now all I need is a sweet. Can make this the day before and finish completely or finish the morning of the big day. I personally feel it depends on the filling. There are many options so take your pick....

Jelly Roll

5 eggs separated	1/3 c. cornstarch
1 tsp. vanilla	1/3 c. flour
½ tsp salt	confectioners' sugar
1/3 c. granulated sugar	jelly, jam or another filling

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Prepare a jelly roll pan 10x15 inch or cookie sheet. Grease pan and line with parchment paper. Grease the paper and lightly flour. Beat the egg yolks and vanilla until color lightens and set aside. Beat the whites with the salt until soft peaks. Gradually add the sugar and beat until stiff but not dry. Spoon the whites over the yolks, add the cornstarch and flour on top of the whites. Fold gently until blended. Spread in the prepared pan. It will be thin batter. Bake 12 minutes. Open flat a clean kitchen towel and dust liberally with confectioners' sugar. When cake is removed from the oven, loosen the sides and turn immediately onto towel. Remove the paper lining and roll up with the towel from the long side. (The towel is rolled along with the cake.) Let cool completely. Carefully unroll and fill to the edges with your filling. Roll the cake again but without the towel. Dust with confectioners' sugar. Cut and serve and enjoy.

Filling ideas aside from any flavor jelly or jam include puddings, frosting, ice cream, fruit fillings, mousse and whipped cream fillings. It's best to refrigerate before serving.

Now you're set for game day. Start it with lunch of chili. You have Jim Jackson's family fav recipe using ground meat. But if trying to be healthy and are using ground chicken or turkey try not adding any salt to the meat but a couple of tablespoons of soy sauce to meat after browning. Continue cooking until moisture in pot is gone. The soy adds tons of flavor. Make sure the chili is of the red kind using tomatoes. One final tip. Try using 1 tsp. cocoa powder, which deepens both the color and flavor. Even picky eaters will come back for seconds.

As always, if you have any recipes to share send them along. See you all in April.



Submitted by Helen Robinson:

Linda S. Law-Saunders, Family and Consumer Sciences Educator of Cornell Cooperative Extension Washington County, was honored in November at the National Extension Association for Family & Consumer Sciences 2015 session. She received the 4th place National and 1st place Region Community Partnership Award at the conference held Nov. 3-5, 2015 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. In receiving this award, Law-Saunders was recognized for bringing financial education access to families and increasing participation rates at the workshops.

Linda is the granddaughter of Fanny Place. Her father Rowelin Law served on the session at our church for many years.



At home: Mike Cookingham, Suzanne Bartolomeo, Joanne Gelb (Dorothy Whitaker), Betty McGhee, Lynne Schlude (Linda Wendover's sister), Deb and Albert Cahill, Ruth Hart, Rod Davis, Mary Douglass, Nan and Marie Herow, Cathy Fitzpatrick, Marge Chase, Caren Bunce, Don Bartles, Debbie Pomeroy, Debra Rose, Elaine Hage, Steven Dam, the family of Georges St. Laurent, Samantha Chestney, Laura and George Dennis, Trudie Wilson, Marge (Laurie), Marianne Groeling, the family of Lizzie Burger, Marjorie Bright, 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, Shirley and Waldy MacPherson, Mary Lou Jenson, Andrew (Nan), Richard (Dyan), John (Nan), Barbara Strudwick, June Emerson (Linda W.), Dave Dennis (Laura Clark), Gil (Nan's brother), Brittany, Bob Stickle (Erik Lindmark), Karen & Abigail (Brendan), Debbie Kinney, the family of John Falcone and prayers for forgiveness, Kyleigh Cummings, Tracey Bowser (Jannet 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), Lotty Kate (Barbara Gurbel's great-granddaughter), April Leonard, Laura Clark and the Clark family, and Bill Boyles.

Albany Medical Center: Chris Eastwood

At Noble Horizons: Rev. Herb Day, Mary Pechette

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.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Pine Plains Food Locker :

The monthly drive item for February is toilet paper.

Toiletries are always welcomed.

**Please send \$ donations to the Pine Plains Food Locker (note new address)
2852 Church Street Pine Plains, NY 12567**

The Pine Plains Council of Churches is looking for a volunteer to help Sandy Tower with the Crop Walk in October.

Share a Blessing!

Next issue:
March 2016

Submission deadline:
February 25, 2016

Send submissions to:
dyanwapnick@optimum.net