



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:



In the summer of 1861, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's wife, Frances, died tragically in a fire. That first Christmas without her, he wrote in his diary, "How inexpressibly sad are the holidays." The next year was no better, as he recorded, "'A merry Christmas,' say the children, but that is no more for me."

In 1863, as the Civil War was dragging on, Longfellow's son joined the army against his father's wishes and was critically wounded. On Christmas Day that year, as church bells announced the arrival of another painful Christmas, Longfellow picked up his pen and began to write, *"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."*

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar
carols play,
And wild and sweet, the words repeat of peace on earth
goodwill to men.*

*I thought how, as the day had come, the belfries of all
Christendom
Has rolled along the unbroken song of peace on earth
goodwill to men.*

*And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on
earth," I said;
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on
earth, good will to men."*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not
dead, nor doth He sleep;
Till, ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved
from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth,
good will to men. Amen.*

The poem begins pleasantly, lyrically, but then takes a dark turn. But then from the depths of that bleak Christmas Day, Longfellow heard the irrepressible sound of hope. And he wrote another stanza.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: *"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep! The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men!"* It was a message of faith and trust.

These words were written more than 150 years ago but how relevant they are to this very day. May God's peace and good will reign in our hearts as we go forward in faith and love this New Year.

With love in Christ,
Carol

Excerpts from Tim Gustafson, *Our Daily Bread*

www.pineplainspresbyterianchurch.com

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Upcoming Events, Notices, and Thanks

* Events dates & times subject to change

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

Thurs. 14: Women's Association Meeting @ 1:00 pm

Thurs. 14, & 21: Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

Mon. 18: Council of Churches Meeting @ 12:00 pm at the Methodist Church

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

Sunday 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.

Sunday 31: Annual Meeting with covered dish luncheon following the service.

Looking Ahead: Session Meeting Tuesday Feb. 2.

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 10.



Sunday School News Flash!!

Ronnie Brenner-Walsh has offered to be our new Sunday School teacher.

Christmas Pageant



Thanks to Jen Chase and the Sunday School children who presented a wonderful pageant for us on December 20.

Mission – Prison Ministry

In America today there is a growing recognition on both sides of the aisle that there are problems with our criminal justice system, which has led to the US having the highest rate of incarceration in the world. There is a growing wave of recognition that we can't just lock people up and throw away the key; and a growing call for compassion and second chances.

When people are in prison they need opportunities for training, education and therapy, rehabilitation. Once they leave prison they need assistance with housing, employment, and life skills. Therapeutic and rehabilitative programs are a proven method of helping people turn away from a life of crime, and the rehabilitation of the incarcerated not only leads to reductions in crime but also reduces costs. Recidivism in New York State has dropped from 60% to 43% as a result of progressive programming in education, vocation, and the arts.

The Hudson River Prison Partnership works to provide second chances by:

- Corresponding to people in prison
- Volunteering with prison rehab programs
- Leading Bible or book study groups
- Becoming a service chaplain
- Becoming a certified mentor for people going through re-entry
- Establishing re-entry programs
- Follow the national dialogue around mass incarceration and criminal justice reform

The Session recently voted for our church to donate \$200 towards this worthwhile cause.

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 will be available at the end of each pew in a couple of weeks, and place it in the offering plate.*

Servants' Calendar



Liturgist Schedule Jan. – Feb. 2016

January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Carol Hart	Scott Chase	John Hart	Doug Hart	Linda Bartolomeo
February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28	
Jim Petrie	Dyan Wapnick	Margo Jackson	Scott Chase	

Communion: February – Scott Chase

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

Note: we will be voting on the slate of new officers at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 31.

Please have your annual committee reports in to Dyan (dyanwapnick@optimum.net) as soon as possible but no later than Monday Jan. 25.



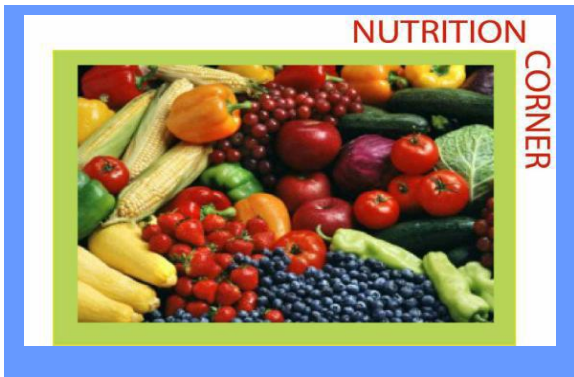
Please call the church office at 398-7117 when we are having inclement weather to find out if church services are cancelled.

Humor: Kids Can Drive You Nuts...

Oh, I know, kids can drive you nuts sometimes. A kindergarten teacher was helping one of her students put his boots on. He asked for help and she could see why. With her pulling and him pushing, the boots still didn't want to go on. By the time the second boot was on, she had worked up a sweat. She almost whimpered when the little boy said, "Teacher, they're on the wrong feet." She looked and, sure enough, they were. It wasn't any easier pulling the boots off than it was putting them on. She managed to keep her cool as together they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the right feet. He then announced, "These aren't my boots." She bit her tongue rather than get right in his face and scream, "Why didn't you say so?" like she wanted to. Once again she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off. He then said, "They're my brother's boots. My Mom made me wear them." She didn't know if she should laugh or cry. She mustered up the grace to wrestle the boots on his feet again. She said, "Now, where are your mittens?" He said, "I stuffed them in my boots . . ."

The Legacy of Determination

A pastor looked over the assembled members for his Thursday afternoon confirmation class. Only one teenager was there for the class that should have been filled with fifteen youths. Only one young girl was there to benefit from the pastor's knowledge and preparation. Only she had prepared her assignment from the week before. The lone member of the class was a thirteen year-old girl. Her mother had left her job as a waitress in order to pick her daughter up at school and have her at the class on time. Her mother had told the pastor at the beginning of the series of confirmation classes, "I did not have the benefit of a church when I was growing up. I am determined that things will go better for my daughter than they went for me." Her mother was definitely determined. Determination was her middle name. She would move any mountain in order to ensure that her daughter participated in all church activities. At first the pastor considered canceling the class. After all, only one student was present. But the determination and dedication of the mother and her daughter moved him. He went ahead with the class. After all, the mother's dedication ought to be rewarded with at least this much response from the church. Ten years later, when the pastor returned to that church, a beautiful young woman came up and introduced herself to him. She was a new teacher, specializing in children with learning disabilities. She was also an officer in the church, a leader of the young adults' group. Then the pastor remembered: She was the lone little girl in the confirmation class that Thursday afternoon ten years ago. She was the fruit of her mother's determination that her daughter would receive a blessing from the church.



by *Lynne Clinch*

Post-Holiday Thoughts

Here it is again, another year has begun. The holidays have now passed. Decorations are packed up for another year and that one question is being asked by everyone. "What's your New Year's Resolution?"

Well.....isn't it to lose weight or change your eating

habits to eat healthier? Be honest we all know this is the most spoken or unspoken resolution around. This resolve lasts 2-3 weeks then falls to the side. Just remember, if this is your resolution then be realistic about it and not make goals that are not obtainable. Slow and easy is the rule. Exercise has to be included too. Simple changes are all it takes. Good luck...

On that note skipping ahead, I've mentally made up my bucket list of foods/recipes I want to try. I started while here in Florida when I made a cookie recipe from an Amish Cookbook I bought on my way here. It's called Yummy Cookies. (Recipe to follow). Bob really liked them but then again I never meet a cookie he didn't like. Another thing I'd like to try is cooking Branzino, (a seabass), and I might just do that while here too. If so, I'll let you know how it turns out. Modern technology is amazing. My smart phone sends me recipes daily. Of course I subscribed to them. I've tried several recipes and others have given me ideas. I found The Taste of Home site to be very useful. Great ideas for snacks while watching the NFL playoffs and Super Bowl not to mention The Daytona 500 in February. I'll let you do the research yourself but my advice is to keep the snack simple and use what ingredients you have on hand. No use buying something you will only use once. For example; if the recipe calls for buttermilk make your own. Using whole milk and adding 1 tsp. white vinegar to it, let sit for 5 minutes then continue with the recipe. Our food budgets don't include wastefulness these days. Just check for substitutes before making unnecessary purchases.

My new cookbook, called *Cooking with the Horse and Buggy People*, is one of a series of books with roots in Amish Country in Ohio. It has authentic recipes submitted by Amish Families. It's not unusual to see more than one person attached to the recipe. Most have the same last names so I'd assume they were family recipes. Anyway, I tried this cookie recipe called Yummy Chocolate Chip Cookies. Had no idea how many it would make since it never said. It's not uncommon to see info missing from these recipes so they must be read thoroughly. Baking times temps and yield is often just a guess on your part. I will say that I do write next to the recipe this info so I'll know in the future. Anyway, here's the recipe as written:

Cream together: 1 C. white sugar, 1 C. brown sugar, 1 C.* oleo, 2 eggs

Sift together: 2 C. flour, 1 t. baking soda, ½ t. salt, ½ t. baking powder

Mix with first part and add: 1 t. vanilla, 2C. Oatmeal, 1C. Chocolate chips. 1 C. nuts.

Drop by spoonful on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 minutes.

*I used butter but could mix 1 stick and ½ cup shortening.

I also tried the recipe with dried cranberries and they were good. (Just eliminated the chips.) Could also add raisins if desired and leave out the chips too. This makes 5 dozen. I also found I needed to rotate the pans halfway through the baking time.

Up for a challenge? Here is another recipe to try. I've made no changes so it's as written too:

Buttermilk Cookies

3-4 C. buttermilk

4 C. white sugar

4 C. brown sugar

3 C. butter or lard

12 eggs, beaten

8 t. baking soda

8 t. baking powder

2 t. salt

1 t. vanilla

14-16 C. flour

Cream sugars and butter, add remaining ingredients. Add enough flour to make dough firm enough to be dipped or rolled. Bake 375 degrees. That is it...

If you choose to accept this challenge let me know how it turns out and I'll pass the missing info along.

Enough of my ramblings. As always submit your recipes to share. Let me wish you all a very Happy New Year and many more to come. See you all in a couple of months.



At home: 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 (Connie Coons), 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, 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 (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), 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 (Troii 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 items for January is tuna.

Toiletries are always welcomed.

Please send \$ donations to the Pine Plains Food Locker

P.O. Box 587 Pine Plains, NY 12567

Share a Blessing!

Next issue:
February 2016

Submission deadline:
January 25, 2016

Send submissions to:
dyanwapnick@optimum.net