

# 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.

Pastoral Care :

Jan Brooks (845) 214-7402. For non-urgent calls, please leave a msg. on the church office phone: (518) 398-7117.

Hudson River Presbytery:  
[www.hudrivpres.org](http://www.hudrivpres.org)

*"Do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9*

On the first day of a new year many of us wish each other a "Happy New Year!" But as we begin a new year, we need more than a hopeful greeting from the people around us. We need to listen to what God told Joshua



about 3,400 years ago. As Joshua was about to lead God's people into the promised land, he had reason to be afraid. He had an enormous task ahead of him, and he was well aware of the dangers that he and the people would soon be facing. He needed God's encouragement. A new year brings lots of questions: Will our health hold? Will our marriage last? Will I be able to hang on to my job? Will I get into the right school? Will I live to see the end of this year? Will the economy improve? Will there be a terrorist attack or some natural disaster that takes me or my loved ones? The Creator of the universe comes to us and says, "Don't be afraid; don't be discouraged." What happens in this coming year is not left to chance. God is in charge, and he promises to stay close: "The LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Many years later, the Lord Jesus made the same promise when he said, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). That's the reason we can wish each other a "Happy New Year!"

**Prayer**

Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of a new year and for your promise to stay with us. We ask for your guidance and wisdom each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

--- *Arthur Schoonveld*

Upcoming Events, Notices  
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[www.pineplainsprebyterianchurch.com](http://www.pineplainsprebyterianchurch.com)



## *Upcoming Events, Notices*

\* Events dates & times subject to change

**Women's Association Mtg.** - Thursday Jan. 9 at 1 pm.

**Council of Churches Mtg.** – Friday Jan. 17 at 10:30 am at the Methodist Church.

**Notice: we need a Council of Churches liaison – someone to represent our church at the Council of Churches meetings.** The Council of Churches meets at 10:30 am. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at the Methodist Church. Please let someone on the session know if you are interested in undertaking this important mission.

**January Session Mtg.** – Monday Jan. 27 at 7:30 pm.

**Unity Prayer Service** sponsored by the PP Council of Churches at the Methodist Church on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00.

**Our Annual Meeting and Covered Dish luncheon** will be Sunday, February 2, 2020 after worship. Please have your committee reports submitted to Dyan at [dyanwapnick@optimum.net](mailto:dyanwapnick@optimum.net) by January 24. Thanks!

### *Many Thanks*

Many thanks to all of our members and friends who brought refreshments for our wonderful Christmas concert. We saved the leftovers and they were donated as part of the desserts at the free community Christmas dinner sponsored by Willow Roots and hosted by the Stissing house. Additionally, many desserts were made for the dinner by members of our church and other churches and the Pine Plains Garden Club.

The dinner was held on Christmas day and sixty-five people were served. It was a great success.

The Garden Club meets at our church and also made the evergreen swags for all the churches and public buildings in the community. They packed 27 tins of homemade goodies for shut-ins from our church and others in the community.

Thanks for all your support for our mission projects.  
Kathy Bartles

*Editor -- Thank you to Kathy for all the work she does for our mission and outreach programs.*

# Servants' Calendar

## Liturgist Schedule for January-February 2020

<b>January 5</b>	<b>January 12</b>	<b>January 19</b>	<b>January 26</b>	
Dyan Wapnick	Margo Jackson	Jim Petrie	Roberta Cerniglia	
<b>February 2</b>	<b>February 9</b>	<b>February 16</b>	<b>February 23</b>	
Carol Hart	John Hart	Scott Chase	Doug Hart	

**SESSION:** Kathy Bartles, Jeanne Valentine-Chase, Nathaniel Chase, Samantha Chase, Scott Chase, Jim Jackson, Doug Hart, Ryan Orton, and Dyan Wapnick.

**January Communion is Jan. 5:** Jeanne Valentine-Chase

**Next Session Mtg:** Monday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 pm.

**Moderator:** Pastor Ryan Larkin.

**DEACONS:** Roberta Cerniglia, Lynne Clinch, Dora Hage, Carol Hart, and Pam Meccariello.

**Deacon Schedule:**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Pam Meccariello

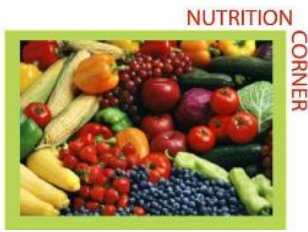
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Carol Hart

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Lynne Clinch (Jim Jackson will cover February)

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Dora Hage

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Roberta Cerniglia

January 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 11 am - 12 pm Church Service and Sunday School	30	31	January 1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship	6 Epiphany	7	8	9 1 pm - 2 pm Women's Assoc. Mtg.	10	11
12 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship	13	14	15	16	17 10:30 am - 11:30 am Council of Churches Mtg. (Methodist Church)	18
19 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship 4 pm - 5 pm Unity Prayer Service (Methodist Church)	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23	24	25
26 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship	27 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Session Mtg.	28	29	30	31	1

*Lynne Clinch*

## New Year, New You

I'll be honest here! Had not the slightest idea what issues I was going to address at the beginning of the new year. So I went to the church's web site and reviewed every January newsletter article I've written since the beginning. I discovered I've covered ALL the usual topics related to weight loss, changing eating habits and everything else in between. That leaves me nothing new. But wait there must be something and right you are.

For as long as the Woman's Association has been doing foods at the rummage sale or Christmas Bazaar events there has always been something that everyone says....that's good! I want the recipe. So once again we have to thank Susan Newland for forwarding her husband, Russ's recipe for Shrimp Jambalaya. Russ adapted this recipe from Todd-Michael St. Pierre. For the church's version he did not use the shrimp. However one could easily add cubed chicken, sausage and any variety of fish you wish. As I always say, make it your own.

### Sassy Shrimp Jambalaya

Serves 4 to 6

3 T. oil or butter  
 1 medium onion chopped  
 ½ c. red bell pepper  
 ¾ c. chopped celery  
 2 cloves garlic, minced  
 1 16oz can stewed tomatoes  
 ¾ c. tomato paste  
 1 tsp. Tabasco  
 1 ½ c. cooked shrimp, deveined  
 1 ½ c. cubed ham  
 ½ c. green onion tops  
 2 c. cooked rice

Heat oil in heavy saucepan. Cook onion, celery, garlic and pepper until wilted. Add tomatoes and tomato paste. Season to taste with salt, pepper and cayenne, stirring well. Cover and bring to boil. Reduce heat and cook for 20 minutes. Add shrimp, ham, onion tops and rice and cook until hot. Serve and wait for the compliments for they will come. Add green salad and/or perhaps side dish of okra sprinkled with vinegar and you are set. This dish is very good as a leftover too. I also see no reason it can't be made in a crockpot cooking for 4-5 hours then adding the shrimp etc. to heat through. Think about New Year's Day or football playoffs.

### Tips

- Need to halve a recipe that calls for an odd number of eggs? Solution: beat the 1 egg needed to be split, measure and use ½ half in mix. Save the remainder for scrambled eggs in the morning or freeze for later use.
- Out of eggs. Can replace 1 egg with any of the following. ¼ cup of applesauce, oil or mashed banana.
- Coat chocolate chips in flour to prevent them from sinking to the bottom.
- Put bread slices on the cut ends of a sliced cake to keep it fresh.
- Use a hair dryer (carefully) to run across the icing on a cake to give it a glossy finish.
- Make edible cookie bowls for ice cream. Simply use cookie packet, any flavor, and press into muffin tin. Bake, cool for a few minutes and remove from tin. Great for children's party.
- Add a few instant potato flakes to soups and sauces that are too thin. It's a great thickener.



**Hacks**

- Need chocolate syrup fast and you forgot to buy it. Well make your own for pennies and you know what's in it. Try this copycat recipe for Hershey Chocolate Syrup.  $\frac{3}{4}$  c. cocoa powder,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  c. water,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  c. sugar,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tsp vanilla and dash of salt. Put everything except vanilla in heavy saucepan. Bring to boil and maintain that boil for 1-2 min. stirring constantly. Remove from heat adding the vanilla. It will be thin and watery. Be patient. Allow to cool and as it does it will thicken to the syrup consistency you are looking for. This makes 2 cups and will keep in refrigerator for several weeks. Store in mason jar.
- Instead of paying up to 5 dollars for bread dipping spices make your own and store in dark place like your cabinet. Take out as needed. No need to worry about burning the bread for dinner any longer. This hack comes from Carraba's and is delicious. Everything is 1 tsp...take crushed red pepper, black pepper, oregano, rosemary, basil, parsley, granulated garlic, salt. Mix together and store. Double or triple if desired. When ready to use, mince 1 tsp. fresh garlic and mix into  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Tablespoons of spice mix. Put on plate and pour  $\frac{1}{4}$  c. olive oil over and begin dipping.

As always if you have a recipe to share please forward to me. And as always happy cooking!

Look who's saying *Hello* from sunny Florida --- the Williams girls, Ari and Leezy, daughters of Andy Williams and Arlette Vidal-Williams....How they have grown!!

***The Christmas Pageant***

Our Christmas pageant was held on Sunday, Dec. 22 during the worship service. Thank you to Jen Chase for organizing and directing our pageant this year!

## Report of Pastoral Search Committee

We understand that there has been much interest in the activities of the Pastoral Search Committee this past year. By design much of our activities were kept confidential. However, in the interest of transparency and open communication, we hope this will summarize our behind the scenes work and explain why this process has taken as long as it has.

This process has been long and much more complicated than we realized at the outset. First, we recognized the need for feedback from the congregation to help guide us in the process. That is why we started out with our survey and we send our thanks to all who participated. If anyone is interested in a summary of the survey results, please let either Doug Hart or Amanda Zick know. **If there is enough interest, we can also submit the survey summary for next month's newsletter.**

From there, we discussed the particulars of the position and the search process with the Hudson River Presbytery. We decided that we would be looking for a part time (30 hours/week) Pastor and we would hire someone as a Stated Supply Pastor for a Designated Term of 1 Year. This is the same arrangement that we had with Pastor Carol. Based on discussion with Rev. Martin of the Presbytery, we decided to pursue a national search rather than strictly local to try and give us the largest pool of candidates to choose from, and to find someone that we felt best suited to guide us during this time of transition. Next, we worked with the Session to draft a salary and benefits proposal. We also reached out several times to the Ancramdale church both directly and through Rev. Martin from the Presbytery to see if they wanted to join us in the process and partner together to find a new Pastor. Without a response from them, we pushed forward on our own.

We spent quite a bit of time compiling our Ministry information form, using the survey results to guide our answers to the Presbytery's questions. This is what was used as the "job posting" in the Church Leadership Connection system. Once posted, we were referred 20 candidates that matched what we were looking for. We reviewed them all and narrowed it down to 8, and then to 3 who we eventually interviewed and called their references. All the reference check calls were recorded so every member of the committee could listen and consider the candidates thoughtfully. The challenge at this point was deciding who we felt was best positioned to meet the needs expressed in the survey and who we thought could help us lead the church into the future. This was a difficult decision and not one that anyone on the committee took lightly. In the end we decided to recommend Rev. J. Ryan Larkin to the session for approval.

### **Below is a rough timeline of how this past year has played out:**

#### **Dec 2018 – Jan 2019**

- Pastoral Search Committee formed, initial meeting
- Brainstormed, created, and distributed survey to the congregation

#### **Feb 2019 – Mar 2019**

- Collected and summarized survey results
- Reviewed initial steps and process with Rev. Martin McGeachy of Hudson River Presbytery
- Completed draft of Ministry Information Form (MIF) based on survey results, sent to Session and Presbytery to sign off on

#### **Apr 2019 – Jun 2019**

- Updated and finalized MIF based on feedback from Session and Presbytery
- Uploaded final MIF online to Church Leadership Connection System

- Reviewed Personal Information Forms (which are much more detailed than a simple resume) that were referred to us from Presbytery based on our MIF posting
- Total of 20 candidates reviewed
- Narrowed it down to 8 who were contacted and encouraged to review our MIF and apply for the position.

**Sep 2019 – Oct 2019**

- Narrowed it down further to 3 candidates who were interviewed, reference checked, etc.

**Nov 2019 – Dec 2019**

- Coordinated and attended a “Neutral Pulpit” with final candidate to meet in person and hear a worship service conducted at Smithfield Presbyterian Church in Amenia
- Final candidate recommended to Session for vote
- Final candidate background checked and interviewed with Presbytery for clearance.
- Final selection announced to Congregation on Dec. 22, 2019.

*Editor – Thank you to our Search Committee for their dedication and hard work over the past year.*

**Welcome our new Pastor: J. Ryan Larkin, who will be joining us in worship on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020.**

Hello Church!

I was told some of you are interested in a preview of the mysterious one who will soon join you (Jan. 26 in worship). I am not a fan of speaking of myself, yet this does give me a first chance to point you toward the mountain of gratitude deserved by your elected Pastor Nominating Committee. What generous, thoughtful, capable, and hospitable people they are to me. I assure you I would say the same if God had not called us to be together. Many have asked me about the place I am going, and because of their loving work, I mostly highlight the beauty and hospitality I have begun to know in and through Pine Plains.

Now, if I am to give you a few words of my backstory, I ask you to take it as a model for the ways you will tell me your own stories. We must make this an exchange, as I am so much more interested in you. I got my start as a Presbyterian, with the children's ministries, youth groups, and worship of First Presbyterian in Greer, SC helping to teach me through high school, then differently in my years living farther from them. I studied in the living history museum that is Charleston, SC (College of Charleston). I found a people that made up a restaurant company after a move to Tampa, FL. They took me from the most entry-level to allow me to direct the marketing of one of their restaurant chains. I use these marketing lessons very often, especially as one who communicates on behalf of God's church. I was later called, in great surprise, away from that vocational trajectory to this path towards ministry as a pastor. I studied at Austin Presbyterian Seminary (TX), learning and serving along the way in a Central TX hospital and churches of Central CA and Eastern NC.

My favorite name to be called is Uncle. For 16 years now, I have had my Eli and almost nine years ago Ella joined us. They taught me some of what children need to know in order to feel loved. I am very glad when I get to know children, pointing them to God's love and assuring them they have my love and help, too. That extends to all stages of life, including some extra special times when I got to know folks through ministries serving students of every stage of formal education.

I have been asking questions of a great cloud of witnesses I call friends and mentors. I have been daydreaming about all we can do together as the church. I need you to start making new paths, as always, to join in our work together. The world needs God and God's people active in peace-making and justice-making. I know you already are active in these ways. I am coming near, to help create worship and learning that empowers, and equip you saints for all that God is calling us to be and do. I am full of joy and full of hope. I pray you have joy and hope and that we can keep finding more together. Invite some folks to come introduce themselves to me and the rest of your church, as soon as January 26th. I am praying with and for you all on this journey. Please always pray with and for me. Please help me find lots of space for you to share your stories.

In peace,  
Pastor Ryan



During the coming week, please remember the following people in your daily prayers: the family and friends of Cecelia Bartolomeo, our supply pastors, our congregation, all our children, our loved ones, and all of those who have lost loved ones in the past year.

**At home:** Randy Burns (Dyan), Jim Fabrizio, Kyleigh Cummings, Peggy Hart, Bobette Costello (friend of Carol and John), Sarah Pagan (Lynne's niece), Mort Jackson, David Blackmar, Judy Parliman, Donald Cerniglia, Millie Sheldon, Pastor Laurie, Bobby Wendover, Peter and Kathryn Sweeney (Troj & Cole's grandmother), Victoria Hull (Dot), Carey (Amanda Zick), Ron & Cathy Osofsky, Rich Cummings (waiting on kidney), Stephanie Barkin (Cindy and Roberta), Lorraine Clarke, 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, Daniel Hegarty III, Bridget and Aylee, Arlene Brower, Chun Ok Blackie (Jim and Margo Jackson's sister-in-law), Caitlin Edge (Deb), Elaine Hage, Joann Amelio, Debra Rose, Marge (Laurie), Marjorie Bright, Karen Lane (Marva), Judy MacMorran (Barbara Gurbel's daughter), Debbie (Laurie), Brittany.

**At Geer Nursing Home:** Linda Bartolomeo

**At Thompson House:** George Dennis

**At The Manor at Woodside:** Helen Travis and Rod Davis

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

**At The Eddy Memorial Geriatric Center (Rm. 23A, Burdett Ave., Troy, NY 12180):** Muriel Swart

**At the Baptist Home:** Mary Jo Glozier

**In the military or Reserves:** Pierre Mesnard, Spencer Johnson (Iraq), Jason Craddock (Afghanistan), Patrick Brooks, Garrett Pendleton (South Korea), Keith Jackson (Saudi Arabia), 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).

*And all those who have served in our military.*



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

## Pine Plains Food Locker:

**The monthly drive item for January is canned tuna.**

**Toiletries are always welcomed.**

**Please send \$ donations to the Pine Plains Food Locker**

**2852 Church Street Pine Plains, NY 12567**

## Share a Blessing!

Next issue:

**February 2020**

Submission deadline:

**January 25, 2020**

Send submissions to:

[dyanwapnick@optimum.net](mailto:dyanwapnick@optimum.net)