

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

It seemed almost unfeasible a year ago that we would be where we are today, many of us now able to resume something of our normal daily lives thanks to the miracle of modern medicine and the hard work of scientists and local pharmacists and volunteers, like our own pharmacist, Nasir Mahmood. Yet, here we are, praise God, and not due to just one vaccine, but several, all developed in record time.

By the time this newsletter goes to print it will be after Memorial Day, but it is still worthy of reflecting on this important day even though it has already passed.

Memorial Day is an American national holiday observed on the last Monday in May where we honor the men and women who died while serving in our armed forces, mostly in combat. It officially began as Decoration Day in 1868, started by an organization of Union veterans who wanted to set aside May 30 as a day to decorate the graves of the Civil War dead with flowers. However, local ceremonies had been going on as early as 1866 in cities in both the north and the south, with many calling it Memorial Day. After WWI, the observance was changed to include honoring the fallen from all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day became an official federal holiday (some still call it Decoration Day), and at that time it was moved to the last Monday in May, however, some southern states observe their own Confederate Memorial Day on different days.

There is a connection between my first paragraph and the honoring of the war dead. You see, before advances in medicine and sanitation practices, many soldiers died from disease, sometimes more than had died in combat. They are the “other” war dead.

A Civil War soldier's chances of not surviving the war were about one in four, and disease was the biggest killer. Among the Federal dead, roughly three out of five died of disease. Many diseases were caused by the horrid filth in the army camp itself. During the Spanish-American War, 3,000 American lives were lost, of which 90% were from infectious disease. [Little Nine Partners Historical Society of Pine Plains] In WWI, the 1918 flu pandemic killed 45,000 American troops worldwide, almost as many as died in combat. According to one website, since the Revolutionary War ended, 646,596 American troops have died in battle and more than 539,000 died from other, non-combat related causes, mostly disease.

Those statistics are mind-boggling to us today, and yet after the past year, perhaps we can relate to those times not so long ago when many diseases had no cure, when no one knew about viruses and bacteria or how diseases were transmitted, and when going off to war could mean fighting a different kind of enemy, one that was invisible but just as deadly (sometimes more so).

So, while we honor those who died from injuries sustained in combat on Memorial Day, let us not forget those “other” war dead who also made the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country. They deserve our remembrances as well.

Dyan Wapnick

Pastor's letter

We need you in worship every Sunday that it is good for you to be near enough and come to be with us. I said it even just a month ago, yet I need you to believe me. The people gathered for worship, make the worship. It is an illusion that the pastor writes the worship service and sermon, so he does it all. Remember those who lead worship by music, the organist, the choir, the ones who sing from the pews, and the special musicians. Even when not obvious, even when only singing in the crowd, everyone's presence makes the worship of God good. To any new person who comes amongst us, it is very important that the church in its attendance fullness be presented. There are a few pioneers who will come into a sparsely populated house and decide to stay for the future, but there are others who won't stay unless they are one in a greater number. We want to be present for the grace of the visits of ones who need our smile, our words of welcome, and our making of worship when they come, whether they be 80 year members or first-time attendees.

Some may wonder, is it that I endorse every decision the church leaders make if I attend? Do I show an endorsement of the pastor if I come around, such that he may stay forever? One may think as the sun first hits their face on a Sunday morning: *I want the church to be much more perfect, then I will come or come more often.* These approaches do not have permission in the Holy Scriptures. We who follow Christ need to show up to make a community somewhere, and these days First United is a good place to participate in God's church. We will have out our figurative (and maybe a few literal) hammers out this summer building for that season when the different rhythms of school break and summer travel transition to bring us all back come September, we pray. If you need something while we build all that is new and next, please start by talking with Pastor Ryan. If something is impacting your joy in coming around your church and inviting others to make it theirs, too, this is another matter for talks with the pastor. Everyone is requested to have a specific time of conversation with the pastor sometime before summer is out. Schedule those times in homes, on walks, in comfy chairs, over snacks, etc. by writing PastorRyanFirstUnited@gmail.com or calling church main phone 518.398.7117

In peace,

Pastor Ryan



Worship

Sunday Worship at **11:00 am** (indoors and adapted for COVID safety)

Notes on Current, Adapted Worship

We are worshipping in the church sanctuary. We are taking extra precautions now that we are worshipping indoors, with open windows, social distancing, fans etc. *If you come, please:* Bring a mask to wear if you are not fully vaccinated. **We have disposable masks available.**

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.

June 13th @ 11am – We will worship at the church, but be out in our backyard as we were in last year’s warm months. Please bring a chair (or you may grab any from inside the church or ask that one be brought out for you) and plan to join us in the beautiful backyard of our church. This will be the first of four “Seconds Outside!” outdoor worship services on the second Sunday of each month.

Session Update

- Approved plan for Pastor’s Continuing Education for Feb./Mar. 2022
- Received report of 2020 financial audit conducted by Jim Petrie, with many thanks to both him and Treasurer Scott Chase for excellent work. All is well in the report. These are now due annually, the 2021 audit reported by May 2022 Session meeting.
- Voted to allow our mission partner Willow Roots to use our building for two of their programs, upon their successfully satisfying our basic safety and good sharing contingencies. Use will be revocable anytime if there is a need, and building use partnership will be reviewed before first offer expires Dec. 31.

SESSION: Doug Hart (Clerk), Jeanne Valentine-Chase, Samantha Chase, Scott Chase, Deb Jackson, Jim Jackson, Ryan Orton, Jim Petrie, and Dyan Wapnick.

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

Stewardship

Online giving with Venmo!

1. Log into the Venmo app on your phone or tablet
2. Click "Pay or Request" -- the big blue button at the bottom
3. In the "Add Recipients" box type @FUPCPP (stands for First United Presbyterian Church Pine Plains)
4. Select "FirstUnitedPresbyterianChurch Pine Plains" if it doesn't populate automatically
5. Enter how much money you would like to donate
6. Add "what it's for" -- you can do this in emojis which is fun!
7. Click "Pay" on the bottom right-hand side
8. Select your payment method
9. Click "Pay" -- the big green button at the bottom
10. You're all set!



Council of Churches: the next meeting of the Council will be **Friday, Jun. 18th.** Please pray on the possibility of **representing our church** on this council (along with Pastor Ryan), including the additional possibility of serving as secretary for the Council.

Please pray for our graduates.

June 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Trinity Sunday	31 Memorial Day	June 1	2	3 Corpus Christi	4	5
6 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church - Outside Worship)	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	28	29	30	1	2	3

Mission

Food Assistance



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Willow Roots: Willow Roots is a non-profit community-based food pantry on South Main Street that compliments the Pine Plains Food Locker based at the Methodist Church. Willow Roots began several years ago by Lisa and Nelson Zayas as a way to receive excess produce donated by local farmers and gardeners and distribute to residents who experience food insecurity from around the Tri-state area. Willow Roots doesn't accept state or federal aid and relies exclusively on donations. They currently service 40+ households.

Pine Plains Food Locker:

The monthly drive item for June is crackers
Toiletries are always welcomed.
Please send \$ donations to the
Pine Plains Food Locker
2852 Church Street Pine Plains, NY 12567



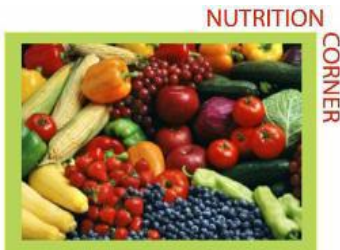
**Thanks
for Your
Support!**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Memorial Day Chicken BBQ by either buying tickets or helping with the dinner, or both! The weather held and everything ran really smoothly. We took in, before expenses, over \$6000, and **we were able to donate several surplus dinners to Willow Roots, which were distributed to local families.**

Christian Education

The Methodist Church continues their offering of Sunday School at-home to *any* who would enjoy. You may find the video lessons at <http://bit.ly/sundayschoolathome>. To begin receiving the beautiful, fun, accompanying craft packet deliveries for free, please call First United Methodist Pastor Nathan Badore at 518-398-5521.

Summer Sides



By Lynne Clinch

It's finally here! Summer time BBQs and we can have gatherings! Can things get any better than that? The only things I can think of are burgers or chicken on the grill. And then there are steak and spare ribs and dogs and don't forget kebabs. The list goes on. The side dishes are where you can think outside the box and have fun. Are you going to a BBQ party? Asked to bring a salad? No problem. Asked to bring dessert? No problem.

Want to do something else besides the usual potato or macaroni salad. Well I have a few recipes you might want to consider. The first is a blistered cherry tomato salad. It's easy and quick to do and will be a hit wherever you take it, including on the home dinner table with burgers. Simply melt 2 tsp. butter in fry pan. Add 1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes, 1 tsp. dried basil and sprinkle with ½ tsp. sugar. Cook for about 30 seconds then season with salt and pepper and cook for about another 30 seconds until the tomatoes just start to blister but not burst. Put in pretty dish. This will serve 4 but it can obviously be doubled or tripled. This dish can be served hot, warm, room temp. or cold. Think about using fresh basil and adding garlic to change the flavor. Also swap out the butter for olive oil.

Persian-Style Tomato Avocado Salad

Serves 4 but easily doubled/tripled

4 ripe tomatoes diced
 2 Hass avocados, diced
 1 clove garlic
 3 T. Minced onion, red or vidalia would be delicious
 6 sprigs of cilantro chopped (don't like use parsley)
 2 T. fresh lime juice
 Salt and pepper to taste
 1 lime sliced into rounds, optional

Combine the tomatoes, avocados, garlic, onion, cilantro in a large bowl. Sprinkle with lime juice. Season with salt and pepper. Garnish with lime rounds if desired. Consider changing it up by decreasing the tomatoes to 2 and adding 1 chopped green pepper. And/or adding sliced strawberries and toasted pecans.

Refreshing watermelon and Cucumber Salad

Serves 10

1 small red onion halved and thinly sliced into half moons
 2 T. lime juice (Or more to taste)
 2 T. olive oil
 1 seedless watermelon cut into bite size pieces
 3 baby cucumbers cubed
 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
 ½ cup mint leaves, sliced thinly (basil would work too)

Marinate onion and lime juice at least 10 minutes then add the oil. In large bowl toss the watermelon, cucumbers and feta cheese mixing well. Pour onion/oil mixture over the top and combine. Add the mint and toss again.

Summer desserts can be a fun way to end the meal. My suggestion is to keep it light since most people have snacked prior to the meal, then ate and don't want a heavy dessert. I found a no bake bar cookie that looked interesting, was easy and put on my to try recipe list.

Chocolate Peanut Butter Bar

Make 64 squares

1 c. granulated sugar	2 pkg vanilla instant pudding mix
1 c. corn syrup	¼ c. milk
2 c. creamy peanut butter	1 12 oz. pkg semisweet chocolate chips
3 c. cornflakes	½ c. butter
3 c. crisp rice cereal	
¾ c. butter	
4 c. powdered sugar	

Line a 15x10x1 pan with foil or parchment paper making sure it comes over the top so bars can be lifted out. Combine the sugar and corn syrup in sauce pan on stove. Stir until it begins to boil then stir for 1 more minute. Remove from heat and add the peanut butter stirring until melted. Stir in both cereals until coated. Press into the bottom of the pan. In another sauce pan melt the $\frac{3}{4}$ c. butter. Add the powdered sugar, pudding mixes and milk. Spread pudding mix over cereal layer and set aside. In small sauce pan and over low heat combine the $\frac{1}{2}$ c. butter and chocolate chips. Stir until melted. Spread frosting over the pudding layer, cover and chill for 1 hour or until set. Lift out of pan and cut into 64 bars. Stand back and wait for the praise. Although this recipe has many steps it's very easy and no need to heat the kitchen up either. The nice thing is it can be made a day or two ahead of the BBQ and kept in air tight container in the fridge.

Got a recipe to share, pass it along. Until then, happy cooking....



Some familiar faces from First United Presbyterian Church in the Memorial Day parade: Allan Blackmar, Walden MacPherson, Mike Kemp, Ken Blackmar, and Bob Clinch. Photos by Erin Curnin.



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

The family and friends of Don Spohr, Ursula Foster, Helen Travis, Jeannette Bartles (Don and Kathy's mother), Margaret Faulkner, Deb Phillips (Linda's cousin), Danny Larkin, Patti Ladoceour, Kay Koch, Clifford Goldsmith, Lee Hauser, Elder Ben Sung who passed away from COVID, Charlie Place, essential workers who have died while serving during COVID lockdown, and our congregation. Pray too, for our congregation, all our children, our loved ones, and all of those who have lost loved ones in the past year, and our pastor.

Shirley MacPherson, Millie Hinsch (Dora's mother), Ola Yannetta (Linda Wendover's aunt), Mark (Cindy Glozier's brother), Judy Parliman, Liane McGhee (Jim and Margo Jackson), Clifford Thorpe, Eliza Petrie, Jerrod Dorozynski (Lynne Clinch), Rev. Becky Branton (Pastor Ryan's friend), Patty Hall (Linda), Margo Jackson, Carol Foley (Regeneration Church), Marva Blackmar, Irene Dieter (Ancramdale Church), Adalyn Forgey and her family (Carol Hart), Bridget and Aylee, Mort Jackson, Brian & Jessica Weglinski & family, Laurena Mesnard, Teresa Maleonski (Marva), Craig Shelley, Joe (Susan), Melissa McKinney, Phyllis Shanks, Barbara Gurbel, Randy Burns (Dyan), Jim Fabrizio, Kyleigh Cummings, Millie Sheldon, 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), Joann Amelio, Debra Rose, Marge (Laurie), Marjorie Bright, Judy MacMorran (Barbara Gurbel's daughter), Debbie (Laurie), Brittany.

Geer Nursing Home - Linda Bartolomeo

The Manor at Woodside - Rod Davis

Noble Horizons - Lek McNeill, RuthAnn Pulver, Charlie Napoli

Meadows – Ron Parliman

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 (Fort Campbell, KY).

And all those who have served in our military.

Share a Blessing!

Next Issue: July-August 2021

Submission deadline: June 25, 2021

Send submissions to:

dyanwapnick@optimum.net