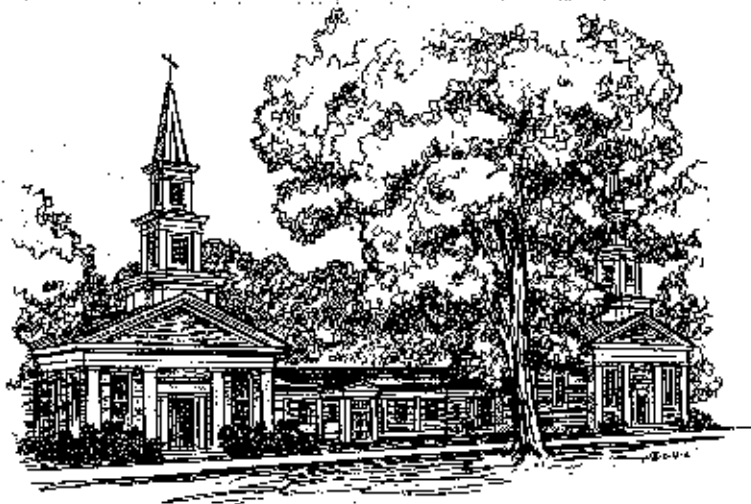


# Twin Churches



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOLLAND PATENT, NEW YORK

## FROM THE PASTOR

So...now that the baby's born, now that Christmas is over, now that it's a new year, now what? I believe the birth of Jesus changes things here and now, not just then. If it doesn't, then Christmas really is all about presents and food and parties and a sentimental old story. So...what's next? If we believe the light of Christ has come into the darkness, we will want to let that light shine, right? But sometimes shedding light on darkness is uncomfortable. Cockroaches run when the lights are turned on. Lies are revealed when light shines on them. In fact, we live in a time when someone can repeat a lie over and over and over again to the point that people start to believe it. But we need the truth - both politically and spiritually. The truth will set us free, but first it might make us miserable. We live in a time when we can block people we disagree with, we can make sure we are only exposed to stories that make us feel good about what we want to believe. Unfortunately, the truth is unpopular a lot. And a good fairy tale beats a harsh truth every time.

So how do we connect our faith in the One called the Light of the World with what's going on around us? We can follow Jesus. We can listen to his words and pay attention to his actions; which of course

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FROM THE PASTOR continued

means actually reading the Gospels. We who follow Jesus, we who call ourselves Christian - we are called to be different.

- Susan Poole Solomon

ACTS OF KINDNESS LUNCHEON

On Thursday, January 11, an Acts of Kindness Luncheon will be held in the church house dining room at Noon. We will share inspirational stories of Acts of Kindness which have affected our lives and share ideas for sharing acts of kindness. Bring a sandwich if you wish, beverage, soup and dessert will be provided. Come and join us for warm fellowship on a cold winter day. All are welcome and please bring a friend.

\* \* \* \*

ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, following worship in the church house dining room. Since we like the idea of keeping things simple these last few years, we will again serve sandwiches, chips, pickels, etc., and desserts. If you would be willing to make something please let Janet Lanning know by Sunday, January 21st. You can call or text her at 315-941-7409, or e-mail jlasce@me.com, or see her in person at worship. The Fellowship Committee will provide beverages. Thank you for your help.

CALL OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian church of Holland Patent, New York, will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018, following the morning worship service, with a luncheon in the church house dining room. Discussion and appropriate action will be taken on the following:

1. To receive financial and committee reports for 2017.
2. The election of nominee to the Nominating Committee, member-at-large.
3. The election of nominee for Church Treasurer.
4. The receiving of the 2018 Church Budget.
5. To transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

By Order of the Session  
Janet Lanning, Session Clerk

## MISSION MOMENTS

Unbelievable! Another year has gone by and now we enter into 2018. The Mission Committee doesn't stop thinking ahead. Here are two events we are sponsoring which we hope many of you will be able to attend and enjoy.

On January 11 we will again have our Acts of Kindness gathering. We will meet together at Noon for a simple meal and time of fellowship. There is no formal program but rather we will share with each other ways to be kind to others and ways others have been kind to us. Often we overlook these special moments. In a world where there is so much hate it is good for us to remember that goodness in many people still exists. So let us come together for this relaxed time with each other after the busy Christmas season. Women, men, children of all ages are welcome.

On February 4, the first Sunday of the month after worship service, we will have our annual "Super Bowl" lunch. Several kinds of fantastic soups will be served. If you haven't attended in the past you're in for a treat! YUM!! Save the date on your new 2018 calendar now and plan to attend. Bring canned goods for donations for Foothills.

Happy New Year and the Blessings of Christ be with us.

- Janet Stengel, Chairperson

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## PER CAPITA - 2018

Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly for ecclestatistical purposes. The apportionment is based on church membership. The amount varies with the needs of the presbytery, synod and the General Assembly, and is a regular expense payable by each church. The amount to be paid this year per communicant member is \$39.42. There is a blue envelope marked Per Capita Apportionment provided in the offering envelope box. Thank you.

## SOUP ER BOWL TO BENEFIT FRGM FOOD PANTRY

Sunday, February 4, 2018, Following Worship. Soup, crackers, dessert and beverages will be provided. Please come and support FRGM by bringing a donation of food or monetary gift for the food pantry. As always, all are welcome including a guest.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On December 17, having not enough children for a pageant, our very creative teachers came up with one in which the whole congregation could participate. Most did. It was an interesting and fun experience. But having so few children does not bode well for the long term health of our church. Prayers for this situation are needed.

Sunday, January 21 - Christian Education meeting.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES

*"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the time of king Herod, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him.'"*  
Matthew 2:1-2 (NIV Translation)

It is still the season of Christmas until January 6 which is Epiphany, the Twelfth Day, the day on which we celebrate the arrival of the Magi. In much of Europe, including Italy, Christmas Day is celebrated by going to church and a special family meal. Until January 6 people visit friends and relatives, but gifts are not exchanged until Epiphany.

Epiphany, a Greek word, means "appearance." A star reportedly appeared in the sky. Magi appeared at the home of Mary and Joseph. Modern skeptics like to question the accuracy of Biblical stories. There is no hard and fast proof, of course, but in this case there is some historical possibility. At around the time of Jesus birth there was in the middle East a common expectation of the rising of a new king from among the Jewish people who would rule the known world. This is attested in the works of such ancient writers as Suetonius, Tacitus and Josephus.

There were also three astronomical occurrences that would explain the star. During 11 BC Haley's Comet was visible, in 7 BC Saturn and Jupiter were in conjunction creating an extra bright display, and from 5-2 BC Sirius was rising with exceptional brightness on the first day of the Egyptian month of Messori, meaning "The Birth of a Prince" in a part of the sky that astrologers associated with Israel.

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES continued:

What is most significant about the story however, is what the Magi did. Being astrologers they easily recognized any of these events so they prepared proper gifts for a king and set off on an arduous journey to deliver them. They protected the newborn king by attending to their dream and not returning to Herod. They worshiped the infant. What can we modern Christians do today?

Shalom, Cathy

BITS & PIECES: Born December 29 to Mary Vannicola and Sven Smith, a boy, 6 lbs. 12 ozs., Gabriel Vincenzo Vannicola, in Houston, TX. He is Vince and Cathy's 15th grandchild.

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### "THE WISE MAY BRING THEIR LEARNING"

The wise may bring their learning, the rich may bring their wealth,  
And some may bring their greatness, and some bring strength and health;  
We, too, would bring our treasures to offer to the King;  
We have no wealth or learning; what shall we children bring?  
  
We'll bring him hearts that love him; we'll bring him thankful praise,  
And young souls meekly striving to walk in holy ways;  
And these shall be the treasures we offer to the King,  
And these are gifts that even the poorest child may bring.  
  
We'll bring the little duties we have to do each day;  
We'll try our best to please him, at home, at school, at play;  
And better are these treasures to offer to our King;  
Than richest gifts without them—yet these a child may bring.

- Anonymous

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ADVICE FROM A PUMPKIN: Be well-rounded. Get plenty of sunshine.  
Give thanks for life's bounty. Have a thick skin.  
Keep growing. Be outstanding in your field.  
Think big!

- Ilan Shamir

## CHURCHES PRAYER CYCLE

To help us be intentional in holding each other in prayer, we ask you to remember the following churches, committees and ministries:

- January 7 - Augusta-Vernon Center  
Presbyterian Church,  
Augusta
- January 14 - First Presbyterian  
Church, Boonville
- January 21 - The Presbyterian Homes  
& Services, New Hart-  
ford
- January 28 - First Presbyterian  
Church, Cherry Valley

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## FRESH START

Here's a mixture of fun and serious thoughts about the fresh start we receive with each new year of life in Christ:

- "The best angle from which to approach any problem is the try-angle." - Author Unknown
- "Great ideas need landing gear as well as wings." - C. D. Jackson
- "God gives us dreams a size too big so that we can grow into them." - Author Unknown
- "Life is full of obstacle illusions." - Grant Frazier
- "Four steps to achievement: Plan purposefully. Prepare prayerfully. Proceed positively. Pursue persistently." - William Arthur Ward
- "Nothing is impossible with God." - Luke 1:37, NIV



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Mickey Howard  
3 Jim Allen  
6 Meg Sargent  
Brenda & Paul Castle A  
9 Beverly Seifried  
Bob & Arlene Wozna A  
12 A. J. Bosman  
Rich Mueller  
13 Kathy Lemieux  
15 Lisa Burnham  
Sarah (Clemmons) Palmer  
17 Mark Neidzielski  
18 Christopher Wall  
20 Evelyn Clark  
24 Abbie Gorczynski  
Ruth Walker  
Karl Werbovetz  
26 Walter Hagues  
Tom Kraft  
27 Doris Scalise  
28 Jessica Meade  
31 Patrick Phillips  
Bob Wozna

## - FEBRUARY -

- 1 Jon Dziekan  
3 Marlene Koenig  
7 Ken Allen

Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word.

- Goran Persson

BITS &

The Christmas Joy Offering received on December 24th totaled \$910.00.

PIECES

The total received for the gift of oranges in the Foothills Rural Community Ministry Christmas baskets was \$240.00. A sincere thank you to all who contributed.

The Deacons appreciated all of the cookies and candy that members contributed to our church family. Thank you all.

On Sunday, January 21, there will be an Octoberfeast review and planning meeting in the meeting room after worship.

John Clark underwent hand surgery.

Laurie LeBuis is home after shoulder surgery.

Dwight Putnam underwent knee surgery after Christmas.

Bob Wozna had pneumonia and is now recovered.

When using the church buildings it would be appreciated if you would re-check to see that all lights are turned off when leaving. Thank you.

Scott Wozna recently retired from the Army after 26 years of military service. He and his wife are undecided where they will settle.

If you have empty printer ink cartridges and would be willing to donate them to Foothills, please leave them outside the Foothills office door. The empties can be turned into Staples for a \$2.00 credit per empty cartridge. The credit given to Foothills helps to pay for office supplies.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Elizabeth Condrey-Pitlyk and Lawson Condrey on the death of their grandmother, Doris Condrey Eanes of Poquoson, VA, in November.

Also to Kerkira Stockton whose grandfather Bruce Stockton of Atlanta, GA, passed away in December.

And, to Allen and Susan Solomon on the death of Allen's mother, Evelyn Solomon, of Hampton, VA, on December 22.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a pledge for 2018.

## Sunday Schedule

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

7 Dziekan  
14 C. Heburn  
Putnam  
21 R. & J. Gates  
28 Annual Meeting -  
Luncheon

### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

Crackers, any type

### PRAYER CHAIN:

Call Peggy Curtacci  
at 315-865-7498 with  
any prayer requests

### SPECIAL JANUARY

#### DATES:

Monday, January 1,  
New Year's Day  
Saturday, January 6,  
Epiphany of the Lord  
Sunday, January 7,  
Baptism of the Lord  
Monday, January 15 -  
Martin Luther King J  
Birthday Observance  
Thursday - Thursday,  
January 18-25 - Week  
of Prayer for Chris-  
tian Unity



First Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 303  
Holland Patent, NY 13354



RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED

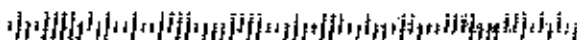
Church E-mail Address:

HPPres@dreamscape.com

Church Web Site:

www.twinchurches.com

Deadline for February Twin  
Churches is January 26th



REVEREND KIRK A. HUDSON, 1929-2017

The Reverend Kirk A. Hudson passed away on December 2nd in his home in New Hartford. He graduated from Princeton Seminary and was ordained as a Presbyterian Minister, later graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with a PhD. He served in several churches in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Michigan coming to New Hartford Presbyterian as Interim Pastor and finishing at First Presbyterian Church, Utica.

In 1992 Kirk and Father Fred Daley were instrumental in starting the Hope House, where he served on the Board for many years. When the Holland Patent First Presbyterian Church observed their 200th Anniversary celebration on December 12, 1999, Kirk was our guest preacher. A Memorial Service was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Utica, on December 6th.

**Reverend Susan Poole Solomon, Pastor**

Victoria Stockton-Allen, Director of Music

Church Office Phone: 315-865-5754

Sunday School 8:45 AM - Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM

Nursery for children under 6 years of age available during 10 AM service.