

Twin Churches



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOLLAND PATENT, NEW YORK

FROM THE PASTOR

I know that for some people "medium" is their go-to for all meats - burgers, steak, pork (apologies to my vegetarian or vegan readers). But "Medium Church" - not so much. I prefer my church Well Done. Not perfect, but well done. Here are some distinctions of a well-done church:

Authenticity - People genuinely care about each other more than about appearances.

Curiosity - People want to learn more - about God, about neighbors, about themselves. Not just getting smarter, but acting on what we have learned together.

It's About God - You can feel it.

There is Laughter - It's funny (not humiliating) when mistakes are made from the pulpit or in the Church House. No shaming. No blaming.

Hospitality is Genuine and Circle is Wide - This may be rare. We who think we are friendly talk only to our friends. Some people who look different, who are new, don't experience our hospitality.

- continued

FROM THE PASTOR continued:

It's easy to make a medium steak into a well-done steak, but it's not easy to shift a medium church into a well-done church because the issue is DNA rather than temperature. Both take time. It happens only by focusing on God and figuring out who God is calling us to be as The Church.

Let's be well-done.

- Susan Poole Solomon

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday, February 4: Meeting to discuss nursery care and "Junior Church" options. We welcome anyone who has ideas to come!

February 14: Ash Wednesday

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LENTEN STUDY

Have you ever seen paintings of Jesus' last days and his resurrection? Janet Stengel will be leading a study looking at the scriptures in the Gospels, hear some readings and view slides of famous paintings.

The study will be held on four Sundays during Lent - February 18th and 25th and March 4th and 11th - after coffee hour. On March 18th for those who are interested, we will car pool to Munson-Williams-Proctor Art Institute to view paintings in person.

Bring your Bible to each class. You don't need to come to every class to participate. Come when you can. This will be a very interesting way to experience Lent. Everyone is welcome.

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Doug Churcher is now a resident of St. Luke's Home.

Sandy MacLean fell in his home recently but was not hospitalized.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Mable Converse on the death of her sister-in-law, Isabelle Walters, Rome, who passed away January 2, Isabelle was the twin sister of Jack Converse.



Also, to Rusty and Jaime Worden on the death of Rusty's mom, Marie Worden, Remsen, who passed away on January 4.

WINTER FUN! (we hope)

Plans are underway for Saturday, February 10, 2018, for some winter fun. We are hoping to have enough snow for a Snowshoe/X-Country ski event, followed by dinner. What we know for certain is that we will meet around 2 PM, possibly at Egypt Road, followed by dinner at Garramone's Restaurant in Forestport, around 5-5:30 PM. We will be ordering from the menu. You don't need to come out to play in the snow in order to come to dinner! You just need to let Janet Lanning, (315-733-1111), or Susan Solomon, (315-733-1111), or Karen VanGorder, (315-733-1111), know by February 8th if you're coming to Garramone's. If Mother Nature doesn't cooperate, we will make other plans. The dinner is a definite go!

Please join us on February 10th!

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MISSION MOMENTS

It seems like Christmas was just yesterday. Here it is February already. As I look around I see how much I have been blessed with, family, good friends, my church family and far too many possessions.

Yet I know that during these often dark, gloomy and cold days of winter many people have so little. The gift baskets of food, clothing and toys have ended after the holidays. Heating bills are high, at the gas stations the prices have risen and food costs a great deal.

What am I to do now? What are we all to do for those who have such need? The Mission Committee continues to meet each month and give wherever we can to agencies and special requests. We all can help by continuing to support special offerings, collections for Foothills and Tabitha. If you'd like to make a special donation you can send that directed to the concern of your choice or speak with one of the Mission Committee members.

The Bible teaches us to love and care for our neighbors. Thanks so much for your help. And continue praying for all in need.

- Janet Stengel, Chairperson

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A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities.

- William Arthur Ward

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES

"God has arranged it so that all races of humanity of the earth come from one blood."
Acts 17:26

Is This A Bonhoeffer Moment?

This question on the front cover of the February 2018 issue of Soujourners magazine leads us to a nine page discussion of the question and Bonhoeffer's theology. I share some of his ideas with you this month.

"Bonhoeffer's earliest theology, found in his dissertation, posits the idea that the ongoing incarnation of Christ happens in community; the church is 'Christ existing as community.' Not only does this idea contain the notion that social interaction is the point of departure for understanding Christian faithfulness, it means when I encounter another, I encounter Christ, and that other places an ethical demand on me."

Bonhoeffer's 1930-31 fellowship to Union Theological Seminary in New York City and his experiences with the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem raised his social and racial sensitivities. Back in Germany, co-authoring a Lutheran catechism, he declared "Ethnic pride to be a sin." "...Bonhoeffer argues that God became human so that humans could become truly human, and humane."

"In Bonhoeffer's case, acting on behalf of the neighbor took the form of protecting his Jewish neighbors from suffering and dying and concentration camps. And that required him to work, conspiratorily, toward a regime change, as a double agent and traitor to the state. But this work would not have been necessary if Christians had seen the evil of white nationalism and anti-semitism as antithetical to their faith. Nazis gained power with Christian support."....

"Bonhoeffer's life and work and death require the church to ask these questions. In the midst of this current political maelstrom, do you individually or collectively want to be a perpetrator, bystander, or resister? Everything is at stake."

Prayerfully, Cathy

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Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe? Expediency asks the question: Is it politic? Vanity asks the question: Is it popular? But conscience asks the question: Is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, or politic, nor popular—but one must take it simply because it is right.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

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:

- February 4 - Stone Presbyterian Church, Clinton
February 11 - First Presbyterian Church, Cooperstown
February 18 - The Committee on Ministry, of the Presbytery of Utica
February 25 - United Lutheran Presbyterian Parish, Dolgeville

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MARGARET HUGHES SIEGENTHALER

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Margaret Siegenthaler who passed away on January 13. Margaret had the distinction of being our oldest member in age, turning 101 next month - 2 days after St. David's Day. Having joined our church on April 8, 1928, at the age of 11, she was also our oldest member in membership - 89 years, 9 months, 5 days. Margaret was a faithful member of our church, and was in our first special Pentecost service Susan held in 2010, recognizing the 17 members at that time who had more than 50 years as a member. She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, John and Joyce, and daughter-in-law Patti, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Her son David passed away in 2009. A Memorial Service was held on January 19 from the church, the Reverend Susan Solomon officiating.

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jon Dziekan
- 3 Marlene Koenig
- 7 Ken allen
- 8 Everson Clark
Mary Vannicola
- 9 Paul Sears
- 13 Larry Beasley
Laura (Kalk) Gurdo
- 14 Jim Moseman
- 15 Cathy Vannicola
- 17 Kathryn Evans
Jim Marconi
- 18 Jim Vannicola
- 19 Sarah DePalma
- 21 David Dunn
Ted Koenig
Allen Solomon
- 26 Joshua Dziekan
- 28 Linda Bamford
Heidi Taubert

- MARCH -

- 2 Megan Hinge
- 3 Ebony Finn
- 4 Geri Gates
Paul Mueller
John Niedzielski

Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.

- Matthew 5:6



Sunday Schedule

FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

- 4 Erway
11 D & K Heburn
18 Mueller
25 T & S Finn

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

Peanut Butter

PRAYER CHAIN:

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

SPECIAL FEBRUARY DATES:

African-American
History Month
Sunday, February 11,
Transfiguration of
our Lord
Wednesday, February
14, Ash Wednesday
and Valentine's Da
Sunday, February 18,
First Sunday in Le
Monday, February 19,
Presidents' Day
Sunday, February 25,
Second Sunday in
Lent



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 March Twin
Churches is February 25



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent was held on Sunday, January 28, following morning worship, in the church house dining room.

The 2018 Budget of \$166,374 was received and annual reports for 2017 were reviewed. Karen VanGorder was elected to the 2018 Nominating Committee, as member-at-large from the congregation. Kathy Lemieux was re-elected as Church Treasurer, completing 24 years.

Special thanks go to Janet Lanning, Session Clerk, and Todd Finn who retired as Elders. Joanne Gates and Muriel Werhovetz also retired as Deacons. Deacon Artis Finn succeeded herself for 3 more years. The Session voted to reduce the size of the Board of Deacons to eight members in November. We thank them all for their caring and dedication.

We welcome Elders Shawn DePalma and Carol Heburn and Deacon Kathy Harvey who were ordained and installed during worship on January 21, 2018.

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