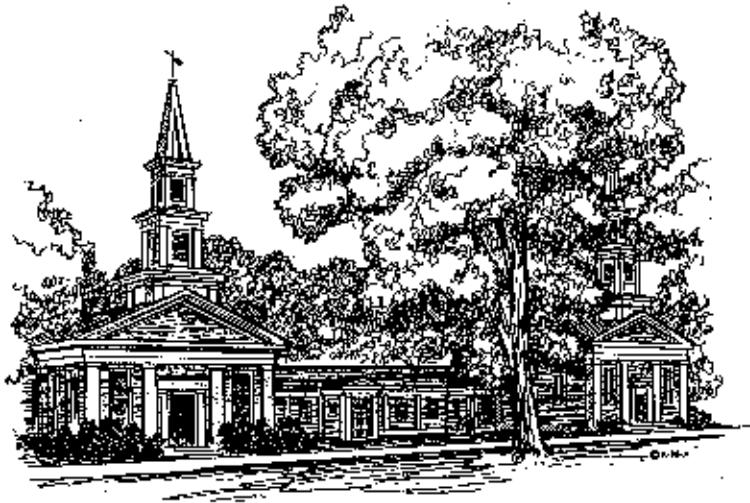


APRIL - 2018

# Twin Churches



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOLLAND PATENT, NEW YORK

## FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this we are in the middle of Holy Week. Last Sunday the Sunday School class participated in a Passover meal, and I washed the children's hands - it was their way to try to understand Jesus' washing the disciples' feet. One of the children was really disappointed that he wasn't going to get his feet washed. Most of us would feel queasy about having anyone wash our feet, even if we have prettied them up. Foot washing seems especially frowned upon in neat and tidy Protestant congregations. Many years ago when I served a church in Appalachia, there were non-denominational, very conservative churches who did have foot washing services, but never us Presbyterians!

How do we come clean on Good Friday and admit our complicity in evil and darkness if we are not able to reveal our own feet on Thursday? Many of us have bony, callused, lumpy, cracked and nasty feet. Some of us are ashamed of our feet. We don't want anyone to see them. This is the week that we remember that the human Jesus died a hideous and terrifying death because of fear and injustice by powerful people. We are complicit and we must confess it. And maybe we need to wash each other's feet and allow God to wash away the ignorance and evil in each of us.

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But as you read this it is Eastertide. So, remember that resurrection is about Jesus rising from the grave and it's about us reaching out to others so that they might rise up to live with the dignity and respect that Jesus never go. Jesus died for us. Jesus died for them, as well.

- Susan Poole Solomon

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday, April 8: Christian Education Committee meeting.

In order to be living up to our congregation's publicly advertised promise of available Nursery Care, we need a group of people who would commit to being alert to those Sundays when we actually have young children in worship and would step up after the children's sermon and take them out. We could made a formal schedule, even though most weeks the assigned person would not be needed. If you are interested, either speak to Cathy V. or show up for our meeting!

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## 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:

- April 1 - The Micah Committee, of the Presbytery of Utica
- April 8 - First Presbyterian Church, Ilion
- April 15 - Church of the Lakes, Inlet
- April 22 - First United Presbyterian Church, Little Falls
- April 29 - First Presbyterian church, Lowville

\* \* \*

Not long ago I stopped by a local playground to watch a Little League baseball game. To get myself up to speed, I asked one of the youngsters what the score was.

"We're behind 16 to nothing," he answered.

"I must say you don't seem discouraged," I said.  
Why is that?"

"Discouraged?" said the boy. "why should we be discouraged? We haven't even been up to bat yet."

- Unknown

## STEBENSTOCK VIII

On April 21, 2018, at 7:00 PM in the Steuben Town Hall at Steuben Corners, First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent will host "Steubenstock VIII." Featuring a bounty of local and international groups and individual performers the musical gamut will run from bluegrass, country, pop standards, contemporary, Irish and blues...hosted by Joe Rowlands and the ever popular, ever handsome, ever amusing Cletus Pasternak. Admission for this musical extravaganza is only \$8. Proceeds to benefit the Capital Fund of the First Presbyterian Church of Holland Patent. "Steubenstock VIII" t-shirts--a sure collector's item--will also be on sale. The evening will be a loving tribute to the memory of our good friend and founder of Steubenstock, John Brett.

Some of the featured performers include:

- The Beasleys
- Cincinnati Creek
- Donna and Mike (Donna Mucks, Mike Woolheater)
- Dan Evans and Pate Ruben, with Mike Plehn
- Alexis Loomis
- Rattlin' Bog
- The Thumpwhackers
- Wildflower
- Remsen Social Club



AROUND THE WORLD WITH CLETUS!!! Take a picture of yourself in a Steubenstock T-shirt in exotic locations and post them on the Steubenstock Facebook page! [www.facebook.com/Steubenstock/](http://www.facebook.com/Steubenstock/)

Refreshments and home baked goods will be available throughout the evening and we will need volunteers to provide baked goods. If you would be willing to bake, Heidi Taubert, deacon, will be the contact person. Cookies, brownies or baked goods that don't need to be served on a plate are a few suggestions. Call Heidi at 315-865-7498 (her mom's telephone number) if you have questions or need more information.

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### EVERY SUNDAY IS A LITTLE EASTER

Beginning with the first Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection has been the focus of Christian worship. Because the early disciples were Jews they would have observed the Sabbath on Saturday. However, the first day of the week became the day for Christian worship. It was known as the Lord's Day, the day of Resurrection. Our weekly Sunday worship is a celebration of Jesus' resurrected presence with us—a little Easter each week.

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## AUCTION!!

Our Time and Talents Auction is scheduled for the last Sunday in April! It will take place after worship in the church house on April 29. As this article is being written, we have just begun the signing-up period to donate items. We hope to have our usual number of around 50 for items to be auctioned.

Please remember that this is a big fundraiser for our church. In 2014 we made over \$6,000.00, and our last auction, in 2016, brought in a little over \$3,700.00.

Ken Hoover has graciously agreed to keep the auction list up-dated on the church's website. We hope all of you can find something(s) that you wish to bid on! If you're unable to be present on April 29th, please send your bid by proxy with someone who will be there. Yes, we need items - but we also need plenty of bidders to help make this successful.

Call or text Janet Lanning at 315-941-7409 to add items, or sign-up online at [www.twinchurches.com](http://www.twinchurches.com).

Since a light lunch is provided we also need donations of sandwiches and finger-food desserts. Let Janet know if you can contribute.

We hope that many of you will join us on April 29, and that you'll want to bid, too. Come for fun, fellowship, and fundraising!

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## FOLLOWING GOD'S LEAD

Jazz musician Thomas Dorsey traveled an unlikely road to become the "father of black gospel music." At age 11, he dropped out of school to be a vaudeville performer and blues pianist. While Dorsey recovered from a nervous breakdown at age 21, his mother urged him to serve the Lord with his talents. It took several years, but the musician committed to composing spiritual songs - rejected by many mainstream churches as "the devil's music."

In 1932, after Dorsey's wife and infant son died during childbirth, he channeled his grief into the piano, writing "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." Known to be a favorite song of Martin Luther King Jr., it ends with these lyrics: "Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home."

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"Love is a friendship set to music."

## REMEMBERING OUR PAST

December 16, 1876 - Annual meeting postponed for 3 days because of poor weather and poor attendance.

May 22, 1884 - Trustee meeting - discussion about new roof for church - shingles or a tin roof? Tin roof agreed to. Cost: \$160.

February 9, 1927 - The matter of publishing a church paper or bulletin was discussed, but session decided that the expense was not justified at the present time.

January 1, 1980 - John Walega resigned as custodian on December 1, 1979. The Session has been conducting interviews. Merton and Margaret Kraft, and Everson Evelyn Clark have been doing the janitorial duties until the position is filled.

February 1, 1980 - Peter Rose has been hired as custodian as of the first of the year. He and his family live on Whittaker Road.

January 15, 1984 - Board of Deacons re-activated, set at 6, as a result of the re-union PCUSA.

August 8, 1999 - "Pies In The Park" were started as a new fund raiser earning \$200.00

July, 2002 - Old bathrooms in church house dining room were removed.



# April

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Connor Dorsino
- 2 Doug Churcher
- 4 Kate Vannicola  
Jaime Worden  
Douglas Wynne
- 5 Shelley Wall
- 7 Janet Stengel
- 9 Carol Beasley
- 10 Joshua Clemmons
- 13 Padric Moore
- 14 Kimberly Dunn  
Sally Preston  
Sandy & Pat MacLean A
- 17 Brynne Moore-Stark
- 20 Adam Dittl
- 24 Olivia Bochniak  
Shari Hagues  
Sally Steffen
- 26 Barb Field
- 27 Kim & David Dunn A  
Debbie & Joe Rowlands A
- 28 Nancy Hinge

## - MAY -

- 1 Jason Niedzielski
- 3 Reese Finn  
Stuart Gates  
Madden Meade
- 4 Susan Solomon



Foothills Rural Community Ministry has been awarded a grant of \$1,500 from the Stewarts Holiday Match Grant Program. These funds will be used to support its Back to School Pack Program and its Christmas Basket Program, supporting children in the Holland Patent and Remsen school districts.

James Fitzgerald - Taylor's husband and Liam and Mallory's father - has been deployed to Saudi Arabia for 7 months by the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Your prayers are asked for:

- Dorothy Buley, who received good news from her tests.
- Harry Finn, who is recuperating at home after gall bladder surgery.
- Gail Brett's mom, Elaine Hompesch, North Carolina, who underwent hip surgery.
- John Clark, who is doing well after his treatments.
- Marlene Koenig, who had breast surgery in March and is now home.
- Shirley Ransom, who is confined to her home and is receiving Hospice care.
- Shirley Renninger, who has undergone several skin surgeries.
- Arlene Wozna and Carol Beasley, who are both recuperating from foot surgery.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Dale and Marcia Jones and family on the death of Dale's brother, Robert Dicker of New Hartford, who passed away February 26, 2018.

RETIREMENT OF PETE ROSE - After 38 years as our custodian, Peter Rose has retired. Pete was originally from Suffern, NY, and moved to Holland Patent because of his job at the Marcy State Hospital, now called Mid-state Correctional Facility. Pete started his job at the church on January 1, 1980, and his wife Anna joined him in 2013. He also records songs that he writes on Country-Gospel Americana Music. You can listen to him on WGLU LP, 106-1 FM, Christian Resources Radio, Wednesdays from 10 AM - Noon. The first Tuesday of the month he interviews local guests. Pete and Anna are the parents of Paul, of Rochester, Amanda, of Syracuse, and Amy, of Rome, and have 7 grand-children. Good luck and best wishes, Pete and Anna, from your friends at the First Presbyterian Church in Holland Patent.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES

"Martha said to Jesus 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that god will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and every one who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the son of God, the one coming into the world.'" John 11:21-27

I find this an interesting dialogue. Martha is angry enough to immediately confront Jesus about his late arrival on the scene - too late to prevent Lazarus' death. When Jesus questions her about her beliefs her answers seem a little hedgy. I wonder how any one of us would have responded.

After Jesus raised Lazarus, we are told that many Jews believed, but many others turned against Jesus. I wonder about those who claimed belief. How strong was their new faith? How long did it last?

Even after having witnessed Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension the disciples laid low for 50 days until they received the Holy Spirit. Then Christianity took off to become a major world-wide religion.

The survivors of the Florida school shooting were angry and determined enough to ignite a massive world-wide resistance to gun violence. It remains to be seen how long they can retain that momentum. Hopefully they can change our culture of violence.

It also remains to be seen how long we of the Christian churches can retain, or better yet, revive our momentum. Let's use these 50 days before Pentecost to assess the strength and effect of our personal and congregational faith.

Prayerfully, Shalom, Cathy

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### FAILURE...BUT NOT QUITE:

Beethoven handled the violin awkwardly and preferred playing his own compositions instead of improving his technique. His teacher called him hopeless as a composer.

## Sunday Schedule

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

- 1 Easter -  
Volunteers
- 8 Brown, Wozna
- 15 Churcher  
Stengel
- 22 Vannicola
- 29 Moseman -  
Time & Talent  
Auction

### PRAYER CHAIN:

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

### SPECIAL APRIL DATES

Easter Sunday,  
April 1  
Thursday, April 12,  
Holocaust Remem-  
brance Day  
Sunday, April 22,  
Earth Day



## MISSION MOMENTS

This April the Mission Committee is springing into Spring. On April 29th, before and after the Time and Talent Auction, we are going to have a bake sale. This part of the fun afternoon will help to collect funds for youth going to the Delaware Work Project. Some of these hard working youth really need our help in order to go. So get out your cookie sheets and cake pans and bake up a spring storm of your favorite treats!

On May 6th we will again have a speaker at coffee hour. Plan to stay after worship and hear all about the AYA Project. More information is in this month's Twins as well as during our church announcements.

Looking ahead to the summer, we're going to have an all church yard sale on the church lawn. This will take place on a Saturday when the summer Farmer's Market is in the town park. The proceeds will go to the steeple fund. So start gathering up your donations. If you'd like to volunteer, and I know you will, to set up tables, put stuff out and sell the priceless treasures, see Janet Stengel.

Thanks to Muriel Werbovets who is now putting information about our worship services and activities in the Utica OD. This is one way of letting our neighbors know our church is here and well in Holland Patent. But don't forget that the best way to let people know about us is to tell them and invite them to church.

Happy Easter, Janet

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### AYA PROJECT INC.

On May 6th, the Mission Committee will be hosting organizers of the AYA Project. Please join us for a presentation during coffee hour following worship. We first learned of AYA through Kathy Lemieux's cousin Cindy Heburn Hermann whose daughters started the AYA Project. Their story is below.

OUR STORY: Aya Project Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and education of rural communities in the Ivory Coast. We will accomplish this goal through short term mission trips and programs that work with local agencies in the Ivory Coast, empowering communities to sustain and improve the health and education of their people. Aya Project and its partner organizations are committed to providing assistance to those in need regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion or political affiliation.

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## AYA Project - July 2018 Water Filter Project

Last year during our mobile medical clinic we saw over 1250 children, most had some infection and many were malnourished, having vitamin deficiencies. This July we hope thru your support we can start to combat this problem head on!

We want to bring bucket water filters to the villages. With our combined efforts of treating the parasitic infections and providing vitamin supplementation and now treating the source of the infection, we hope to see more improvements in the health of the families in the villages.

Our goal is to bring 100 filters to the villages this year!

The filters will be hand distributed by our July 2018 Mission Team! Help us reach our goal by sponsoring a filter! Your \$15.00 donation will go directly to the purchase of bucket filter for a family in the village. This filter will provide a family in need with safe drinking water for years.

## AYA Project - Birthing Kits

The birthing kit addresses the 7 cleans needed for a safe delivery to help prevent infection risks for mother and babies!

1. A plastic sheet, for birthing area, one-meter (approximately one-yard) square piece of heavy-gauge plastic 4 mil thick
2. Examination gloves, for clean hands
3. Soap, for clean hands
4. Cord, for clean ties for the umbilical cord
5. Single-edge razor blade to cut the umbilical cord
6. Gauze to wipe secretions
7. 2 Receiving Blankets - 30" x 30" or 32" x 32" size, to warm the baby

## How To Help!

- Donate Receiving Blankets!
- Help Us Assemble Kits.
- Help Us Pay To Ship The Kits To The Ivory Coast.  
Each Kit Costs \$1.20 To Ship. 50 Lbs. Of Supplies Is \$180.00.
- Spread The Word About Our Projects.
- Donate.

## AYA Project - DAYS FOR GIRLS HEALTH EDUCATION AND MENSTRUATION KITS

AYA Project is very excited to be distributing menstruation kits and teach health education to girls in the Ivory Coast. AYA Project will

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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 May Twin  
Churches is April 25th

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partner with local Ivoirian female volunteers to deliver kits to girls that are in need during our July 2018 mission trip. Our team will be teaching health education and empower these girls to have control over their periods and their lives. AYA project believes that everyday a girl can stay in school helps grow and strengthen the community that she lives in. Our goal is to reach 200 girls! We are very lucky to have the support of the Days for Girls volunteer groups across the country that make these kits that we are privileged to bring to the Ivory Coast. Please help us reach our goal of 200 kits by sponsoring a kit. Your \$6.00 donation will help AYA Project get a kit to a girl in need. Please visit a Day For Girls Website to learn about the amazing work and hope that this organization has brought all around the world. <https://www.daysforgirls.org/>

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**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