

MAY - 2018

Twin Churches



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOLLAND PATENT, NEW YORK

FROM THE PASTOR

The storyteller/professor Brene Brown says, "Belonging is being accepted for you. Fitting in is being accepted for being like everyone else. It's not the belonging that comes with just joining a group... It's a practice that requires us to be vulnerable, get uncomfortable, and learn how to be present with people without sacrificing who we are." Most of our 21st century culture doesn't really care about belonging to church anymore. But some do join in hopes of truly belonging to a community of people who love us no matter what and who remind us that God loves us no matter what. That's who I hope we are. That's how I hope you feel - that you belong, and not just fit in. Basically, we tend to be an isolated people in terms of truly belonging. Although we might have hundreds of social media friends; how many of us have three people we could call in the middle of the night to come over because we are a wreck?

We deserve to belong because of who we are - not in spite of who we are. But it takes work and vulnerability to become who God made us to be. The best kind of church is a spiritual community that not only

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FROM THE PASTOR continued:

allows people to be the people God created us to be, but encourages people to be the people God created us to be. God created us to serve God by serving one another. God created us to honor God by honoring one another.

I want to be a part of that kind of church.

- Susan Poole Solomon

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday, May 6: Christian Education committee meeting.

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MISSION MOMENTS

On Sunday, May 6, the Mission Committee will be hosting organizers of the AYA Project. Please join us for a presentation during coffee hour, following worship. AYA Project Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and education of rural communities in the Ivory Coast. See last month's Twin Churches for history of the AYA Project, and please join us.

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:

- May 6 - The Use of Special Offerings of the PC(USA) (One Good Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy, Pentecost, Peacemaking)
- May 13 - Forest Presbyterian Church, Lyons Falls
- May 20 - North Gage Presbyterian Church, Utica
- May 27 - New Hartford Presbyterian Church, New Hartford

Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things.

- A. J. Gordon



REPORT ON FAMINE 2018

On the evening of Good Friday, 19 youth and 7 leaders gathered at Stittville United Methodist church for our 13th 30-Hour Famine - a great turn out considering it was Easter weekend. Our time of fasting actually seemed quite appropriate in the lead up to Easter Sunday. Five churches were represented in our group, HP Presbyterian, Stittville and Floyd Methodist, St. David's Episcopal and Redeeming Love Fellowship. Leaders were Sarah and Shawn DePalma, Taylor and Susan Mills, and college freshman Christy Rowlands and Amber Nunes.

After some opening activities and an interactive poverty simulation we joined the church's Good Friday service experiencing seven passion stations similar to the Stations of the Cross. The evening continued with team activities such as shelter construction and relays interspersed with informational videos showing those our fundraising supports. Our evening ended in the sanctuary with Sarah leading a time of reflection. Only lit with candles, the sanctuary grew darker and darker as candles were slowly extinguished, representing children who die each day due to malnutrition and disease.

On Saturday we split up for service projects within our churches. In the afternoon four teams headed out in vehicles for our annual scavenger hunt. In addition to collecting items and performing silly tasks, students asked for food donations for the food pantry and collected money to add to their fundraising. At 4pm Rev. Cindy Makarchuk led a time of reflection and communion to break our time of fasting before we shared in a delicious meal prepared by Donna Mills.

Many thanks to Stittville Methodist, Pastor Cindy and volunteers there, Wendy Whitney, Sue Niedzielski and Vicky Allen for leading service projects at our church, Joe Rowlands, Kym Johnson, Debbie Landman, and Lisa Wilcox for being scavenger hunt drivers, our AMAZING 30 Hour LEADERS, the student participants who gave up the comforts of food and home to serve in this unique way, and finally to all in our church family who continue to support this event so generously with your monetary donations. We raised a whopping \$3,701 bringing our 13-year total to \$42,800! I am humbled and grateful each and every year for your support of this worthwhile cause. - Carol Beasley



THANKS, MOM!

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice." The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.

Sunday Schedule

FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

6 Koenig, Racha
13 J. & V. Allen
Brett, Broad-
bent
20 Volunteers
27 No Coffee Hour

PRAYER CHAIN:

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

SPECIAL MAY DATES:

Thursday, May 3,
National Day of
Prayer
Thursday, May 10,
Ascension
Sunday, May 13,
Mother's Day
Sunday, May 20,
Pentecost
Sunday, May 27,
Trinity Sunday
Monday, May 28,
Memorial Day



WELCOME!

We're glad you're here

If that sounds familiar, then you have attended church in the past month. The new Welcome Banner has been hung on the wall in the Narthex, and greets all who come through our doors. Thank you, Joe Rowlands, for installing it.

Heidi Taubert has been hired as the new custodian for the church.

A big "Thank You" to all who helped with the Fellowship Hour on Easter Sunday. We will also need volunteers on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th.

The total of our One Great Hour of Sharing offering, received on Easter Sunday, was \$551.00.

Preliminary figures for Steubenstock VIII, our Capital Improvement Fund raiser, held on April 21, is \$1,585.50.

Our summer collection of personal toiletries for our sisters at Emmaus House, will be delivered in early June. Please leave yours on the cupboard in the church house kitchen or give to Gaby McGhee. Thanks to you who have left some already. Deadline is Sunday, June 3rd.

Spring Festival of Song in the Welsh tradition, sponsored by St. David's Society, will be held on Sunday, May 6 at 3 PM in the New Hartford Presbyterian Church, 45 Genesee Street, New Hartford. Conductor will be Iwan Edwards, organist James Hanosh, and pianist Jeanne Jones. Special music will be provided by soloist Margaret McAvaney. Following the singing, a "te bach" (afternoon tea) will be held in the social hall. All are welcome to attend.

On Friday, May 11 at Unity Hall at 7 PM, Holly McGhee will hold a reading and book signing. Holly is a New York Times best selling children's author, and Don and Gaby's daughter. All are welcome.

Matt Harter graduated from Onondaga Community College with a degree in Fire Science. He has moved to Goose Creek, SC, where he has been hired as a fire fighter. Matt is the son of Todd & Stacy Harter and grandson of Norma Harter.

Bill Smith, Floyd, is a patient in the Vereran's Hospital, Syracuse.

Ruth Clark will be having knee surgery.





On Sunday, May 6, we will conclude our Time and Talent/Silent Auction sale following worship in the church house. All are welcome.

Remember to save your cans and bottles to help defray the expenses for youth attending the Delaware Work Camp. You can turn them in at DeSantis Deli and Meat Market, 8196 State Route 12, Barneveld. If you choose to go on Tuesdays, they pay a 7¢ return.

Several dishes are on the window sill in the church house kitchen that have been left from lunches and suppers. Take a look and if your name is on it - take it home.

NOTE OF THANKS -

To All Our Friends at Church,

Anna and I would like to thank all of you for the monetary gift we received upon our retirement as custodians. We also want to thank Susan for the kindness she showed us these past several years. We made many friends over the 38 years at your church, and we will not soon forget you. Thank you all.

*In Christ,
Pete & Anna Rose.*

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Shirley Ransom, who passed away on Good Friday, March 30. Shirley joined our church on March 18, 1979. She was treasurer of Presbyterian Women from 1989 - 2015, and during our Octoberfeast fund raisers could be found helping out in the SERRV room, now called Fair Trade Craft Sales. We were fortunate to have her as a member with her musical talent who shared it with Evelyn and later Vicky, on numerous occasions for the worship service, playing duets. She is survived by a son Tim, daughter Cathy MacKay and 7 grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held on Sunday, April 22, from the church, the Reverend Susan Solomon officiating.

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The power of Pentecost - Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost they found it easy to do hard things. - A.J. Gordon

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES

GOD IS NEAR

[God] made from one the whole human race to dwell on the entire surface of the earth, and he fixed the ordered seasons and the boundaries of their regions, so that people might seek God, even perhaps grope for him and find him, though indeed he is not far from any one of us. Acts 17:26-27

This passage presents a challenge for me. I find solace in knowing that God is not hiding behind some heavenly curtain like a wizard. God dwells near us, according to St. Paul, no doubt in a most obvious place. This is where the challenge comes in.

I have to stop looking out there and recognize the Spirit of God dwelling within me. I find this puzzling and difficult. To believe we are united in the divine action of God in the world means we have a big responsibility. God created the human race from "one" not to be divided by regional boundaries or by the color of our skin, our religious beliefs or even our gender. When I am groping for God, do I search within and believe he is near? When I seek God with my heart, do I see my neighbor as "one" in the Spirit of God?

Deborah Meister

In "Living Faith" devotional booklet.

Shalom, Cathy

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ASSURANCE OF THE ASCENSION

After the Resurrection, the risen Lord instructed his followers not to leave Jerusalem. It was there, Jesus said, that they would receive "the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4, NRSV). What was that promise? It was that they would be baptized not with water but with the Holy Spirit. Shortly after that utterance, Jesus was "lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (v. 9). The Ascension reminds us that even though Jesus isn't physically present on earth, as the living Christ, he is as near as we allow him to be. Jesus' Ascension offers us the assurance that God is now available to all people all the time. He lives as a guiding, loving Spirit in our midst.

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BIRTHDAYS

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ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jason Niedzielski
- 3 Reese Finn
Stuart Gates
Madden Meade
- 4 Susan Solomon
- 6 Dick Gates
- 7 Matt Curtacci
- 11 Josh Dittl
- 12 Shawn DePalma
- 13 April Bliss
- 14 Carol Moseman
- 16 Anne & Elizabeth Condrey-
Pitlyk A
- 18 Todd & Pam Finn A
- 19 Vicky Allen
Michelle Brown
- 20 Patty & Rich Aubry A 40
- 25 Mallory Fitzgerald
Brett & Sheila Saunders A
- 26 Allison Bliss
Ken & Betsy Allen A 45
- 27 Gail Putnam
- 28 Tyler Jones
Alexandra Wynne
Ken & Nancy Schoff A

- JUNE -

- 1 Brenda Castle
- 3 Sally & John Preston A
- 4 Janet Lanning
- 5 Matthew Harter

JUST FOR FUN!

- Every calendar's days are numbered.
- A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- If you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done.
- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- The worker who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

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"If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?"

- Anonymous

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 June Twin
Churches is May 26th.

IN GOOD HANDS

As Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure, they were full of questions - "Where are you going? How will we know the way there? Would you please just show us the Father?" - and not very satisfied with his answers. So Jesus promised to send them "another Helper" (John 14:16, ESV). And we can almost hear them protesting, like kids bemoaning a favorite coach's retirement or church members grieving a beloved pastor's call to serve elsewhere: "Oh, great. Someone new for us to get to know. It won't be the same. It won't be *you*." Except...the word *another* has two forms in Greek: "another just like this one" and "another, different version." And when the author of John translated Jesus' Aramaic into Greek, the first definition was the accurate one. Jesus was assuring his disciples they'd be in good hands, at peace and secure because the new Helper - the Holy Spirit - would be another just like him.

- Based on *Fearless*, by Max Lucado

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