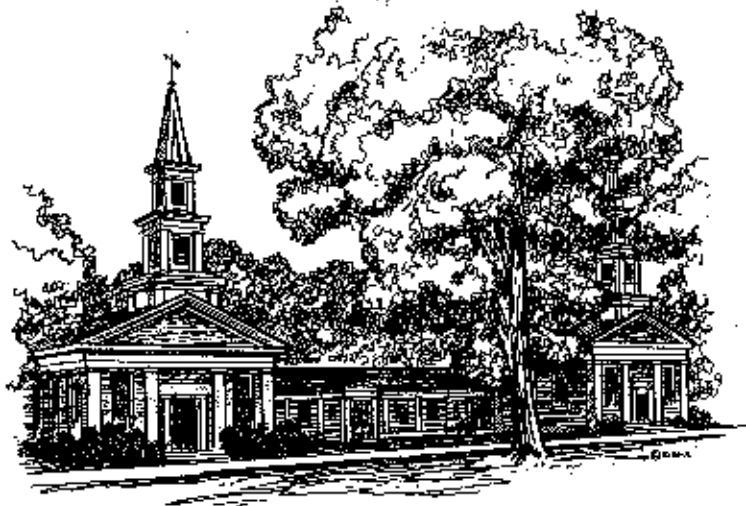


SEPTEMBER - 2018

Twin Churches



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOLLAND PATENT, NEW YORK

FROM THE PASTOR

We are a denomination of small churches, many of which are located in rural areas. There are all sorts of statistics you can find to document these truths. There are even congregations where it is literally two or three gathered on any given Sunday. There are Presbyterian churches where there is always someone related to someone else on the Session because it would be impossible to have a Session otherwise. Like the saints of Galatia, Corinth and Philippi, many of these congregations think of themselves as family (sound familiar - also literally true), meet for worship and Sunday School and give offerings to help the needy.

Like the saints of Galatia, Corinth and Philippi, the saints of our congregation are being used by God to witness to the world what it means to love one another as Christ loves us. I know churches of every size have their challenges - and their dysfunctions - but I want to lift up the gift that a small congregation can be and has been to me. I was raised in a large church, but have served several kinds of small churches. Small town, big city and smaller town.

We are a denomination of small churches - some people might say that some of them are in the middle of nowhere. I would say that this

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FROM THE PASTOR continued:

one here that I have been blessed to know stands on holy ground. We are a small church, and not unlike the communities at Galatia and Corinth and Philippi, we gathered Christians are the saints through whom God is working to bear witness to the world what it means to be the Body of Christ.

- Susan Poole Solomon

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday, September 16 - Welcome back to Sunday School! Classes resume at 8:45 to 9:45 AM.

Since there are often several preschool children in church, Heidi Taubert will be offering a class for them in the last room on the right as you walk toward the sanctuary.

The 16th of September will also be the Peace Pole celebration in the park.

Since we usually have some young children in worship, we are looking for volunteers to take turns at providing nursery care during the sermon and a co-ordinator to schedule these volunteers! Speak to Cathy Vannicola if you wish to help.

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GOLF OUTING

We are planning a golf outing at the Glass Hill Golf Course on Sunday, September 30, at 2:00 PM. Details to follow.

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- ANNOUNCEMENT -

The Northern Community Pop Warner is planning a Road Race fundraiser on Sunday, September 30 which will begin and end in the Village Park. Some local roads will be closed to traffic from 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM for the race. The roads in Holland Patent include Park Ave., Depot St., sections of Powell, Glass Factory, Whitaker and Fox Roads and Park Place. Church Street in front of the church will not be closed, but will need to be accessed from 365. Church Street will be available for parking for the church service.

OCTOBERFEAST IS APPROACHING!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 20 - 2018's Octobeffeast. The Fellowship Committee and any other interested church members will meet on Sunday, September 9, following worship to discuss plans. Sign-up sheets will be out in mid-September.

Sunday Schedule

FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

- 2 Lemonade In The Park
- 9 Lemonade In The Park
- 16 Hinge, McGhee
- 23 N. Lemieux
H. Taubert
J. Worden
- 30 Aubry
Grenier
Howard

PRAYER CHAIN:

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

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER DATES:

- Monday, September
3, Labor Day
- Sunday, September
9, National
Grandparents Day
- Tuesday, September
11, Patriot Day
- Friday, September
21, International
Day of Peace
- Saturday, September
22, First Day of
Autumn

A special meeting was held last January to determine whether the traditional date of the third Saturday in October should be changed for this year. A family wedding is (understandably) taking away at least six key personnel, and we were concerned about having enough people to staff the kitchen, dining room, Country Store, Attic Treasures, Silent Auction, and SERRV. The group last January decided to keep the date. So, for all of you who will be available that weekend, we really need you! One thing that we discussed is that we should try to reach out to more members, including those who may not be in church on a regular basis and aren't seeing the sign-up sheets. We plan to make phone calls asking for any type of help, especially with donations of pies or squash. While it's true that we normally end up with enough pies and squash for the dinner, many of us are making 4 or more pies and multiple quarts of squash as well as working at church most of Saturday.

In 2017 we made a record-making profit of over \$7,600.00. (We also ran out of squash, stuffing, take-out containers, and lettuce). We can do it again this year with everyone's help! Thank-you for any contributions you're able to offer. (Our Tom Turkey basket will be out with the sign-up sheets on Sunday mornings).

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ATTIC TREASURES SALE

In order to have a manageable and profitable sale this year on October 20, please keep in mind:

- DO NOT DONATE:
- rusted items such as cookware
 - electronics or small appliances that don't work
 - large pieces of furniture
 - clothing
 - heavy items such as exercise equipment that have to be carried upstairs

Tables should be set up in the basement sometime in September. There will be labels designating where like items may be placed. We welcome your clean, working, and usable items!

*If you have dropped off items over the summer, please come back once the tables are set up to unpack them and move them to the appropriate area. We don't have volunteers available to do the unpacking. Thanks!





Our AYA family is bringing the church a gift from the Ivory Coast on **Sunday, September 23**. We'd like to be able to give them a box full of shoes. Gently used shoes, in good condition in all sizes are needed. A box is available in the Narthex for the next several weeks. Please help make this a great success. As we approach the start of school, it's a great time to sort out shoes, and donate those in good condition that you no longer wear. The "Heburn" family sincerely appreciates your support of our Oswego family and Team AYA.

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FOOTHILLS RURAL COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEWS

We are again collecting school supplies to distribute to children whose families have a difficult time buying the supplies that are requested. The following is a list of some of the requested items: pens & pencils, erasers, loose-leaf filler paper, 3 ring binders, composition notebooks, tab dividers, small scissors, glue stocks, 1 subject notebooks, index cards, pencil cases or bags, highlighters. If you do not want to shop you can still help by making a monetary donation designated for the "Back to School" project, and we will do the shopping for you. Supplies may be delivered to the FRCM Office at the church. Thank you for your support of this project.

FOOTHILLS FOOD PANTRY is in need of plastic bags to pack the clients food items in when they shop. Many of the clients do bring their own bags but often the food that is given out is greater than the number of bags we give. We double bag the plastic bags so that the canned goods do not break through, therefore needing more bags than usual. Children's books are also needed as we have a book table for children and adults where they can take these items for free. Thank you.

FINDING OUR RANGE

While visiting a church, Robert Neff learned a lesson about the body of Christ. As he listened to a tenor's faltering voice, he noticed worshipers pulling out hymnals to locate the soloist's song. "By the second verse, the congregation had joined the soloist in the hymn," Neff says. "By the third verse, the tenor was beginning to find the range. By the fourth verse, it was beautiful. And on the fifth verse, the congregation was absolutely silent, and the tenor sang the most beautiful solo of his life."



The new Coffee Fellowship Hour Schedule for 2018-19 is included in this issue of Twin Churches. Please make a note of your Sunday Fellowship Hour returns on September 16th with Nancy Hinge and the McGhees as hosts.

Pies in the Park netted \$446.00. Thank you to all who provided pies and helped out.

Belated congratulations to Peggy and Jim Curtacci on their 50th wedding anniversary, celebrated August 4th with their family.

Susan will be on vacation August 29 - September 10. The Reverend Naomi Kelly will lead our Communion Service on September 2nd. Janet Stengel will lead us on September 9th.

To all my friends in the church,

I would like to thank everyone for their calls, cards and letters after a week in the hospital and 3 weeks of rehab. I am finally back in Stittville and really appreciate all the caring. Thank you.

Janet Stengel

Scott Woznia was involved in a motorcycle accident and suffered a broken pelvis.

Meg Sargent is now a resident of the Presbyterian Home, New Hartford.

Doug Churcher, Everson Clark and Sandy MacLean are all residents of the St. Luke's Home, New Hartford.

A private graveside service was held in the Holland Patent Cemetery for Ursula Walker, of Holland Patent, the Reverend Susan Solomon officiating, on Saturday, August 25. Ursula passed away July 31st.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Dorothy Wynne, Acacia Village whose husband Leonard passed away August 10. They have been long time friends of our congregation and visited many times, especially our St. David's Day celebration in March.

Our Christian sympathy is also extended to Anne Pitlyk and Elizabeth Condrey on the death of Anne's mother, Janna Pitlyk, mother-in-law of Elizabeth.

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We also extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Milton Smith, a former member of our church, who passed away August 23rd. Milt and Gail live in Gainesville, GA. He was an Elder and also chaired the Pastoral Search Committee when the Reverend John Preston was called to be our pastor in 1974.

Our Christian sympathy is also extended to the family of Nancy Golly, who passed away in Florida on August 10th. Nancy joined our church on March 18, 1979, and served on the Board of Deacons and Session, and was a member of the Mission Committee. After her retirement as a teacher in Holland Patent, she and Russ spent the winters in Florida and joined NOMADS - Mission Active in Divine Service - traveling all over the southern states helping to improve living conditions of many churches and homes. From 2005 through 2007 she contributed during the winter months to the Twin Churches articles on their latest travels. Nancy is survived by 2 sons, Michael and Clayton Haley, and 3 grand children. Her Memorial Service was held in the church on August 20, the Reverend Susan Solomon officiating. Interment followed at White Chapel Memorial Gardens, Dewitt, NY.

Also, our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Ted Koenig, Holland Patent, who passed away August 28. Ted joined our church on November 30, 1986. Always ready to help us out with fund raisers, odd jobs and repairs, he will be missed. He is survived by his wife Marlene, son Eric, 2 daughters Lori and Sherry, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. A graveside service will be held in the Holland Patent Cemetery on Saturday, September 1.

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REMEMBERING OUR JOURNEY

Presbyterian Women—In an effort to reach all women of our church, an Evening Circle of the Presbyterian Women was started in September of 1954. 29 ladies met at the first meeting at the home of Mrs. Melville Sears. The first co-chairmen were Marian Axt and Mary Alice Hughes; Secretary was Mrs. Kathryn Bushnell, and Treasurer was Mrs. Emma Green.

The Women's Missionary Society already was meeting in the afternoons. Seven public dinners were held.

"The happiest people don't have the best of everything,
they just make the best of everything." — Unknown

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"
Psalm 122:1

My earliest memories of worship were at the Richmond Avenue Church of Christ in Buffalo, NY. It was an imposing romanesque sandstone structure directly across the street from our house. The sanctuary seemed (probably was) enormous and dimly lighted by lights very high up. Sunlight filtered in through the stained glass windows. Behind the center of the chancel a tall archway opened into the baptistry with a mural of Jesus baptism. The pastor preached from a very tall pulpit raised high above the congregation. I loved the organ music and the hymns. I loved the overall ambiance of the place that fairly shouted out "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) even though I didn't know the verse at the time.

What are your earliest memories of worship? How do they relate to your adult understanding? Do you share those memories with your children and grandchildren? Give it a try!

Shalom, Cathy

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The following article is from the Pastor Father Vin Long of The Parish Community of St. Leo & St. Ann, printed in their August 18-19 Sunday bulletin.

In her book **Hope Will Find You**, Naomi Levy tells of the wisdom she has learned from her daughter Noa, who struggles with a debilitating degenerative disease.

One morning in early September, little Noa woke up with a terrible bout of ataxia, the inability to keep her balance. Noa was teetering like someone who was severely drunk. Her mother wanted to keep her home from school, but Noa, just in her second week in second grade, would not hear of it. Noa told her mother, "If I pray for a while I'll be OK." So Noa picked herself up, held on to the wall, made her way to her room, stood before the mirror, and starting singing her morning prayers in Hebrew. Her mother Naomi remembers:

"She sang with great joy and purity. I was watching from a distance, not wanting to disturb her or make her self-conscious. A serenity started to flow through her body. I could see it. Her mood changed, her posture changed, her expression changed. When she was done singing, she walked straight up to me with strength and steadiness and said, 'I'm ready for school now.' And she was. Prayer could do that for her."

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Hope Will Find You continued:

We tend to approach prayer as either trying to wrest what we need from an unwilling God or the reciting of formulas that express our religious identity. But prayer is to recognize God's love in our lives, to find our bearings in the life of God. Little Noa understands that: her morning prayer helps her focus on God's presence in her every struggle of her day. Just as Jesus withdraws to the mountain at the beginning of today's Gospel, we, too, need sacred time where and when we can withdraw to listen to the voice of God in the quiet of our hearts, to know the joy of doing simple, humble things for others. Jesus invites us to find spaces for prayer and make quiet time in our days in order to re-center our lives in the reality of God's love, to hear again God's voice calling us to lives of joyful gratitude and meaningful service.

A LEGACY OF FAITH

National Grandparents Day became an official observance in 1978, thanks largely to the lobbying efforts of Marian McQuade, a West Virginian who had 15 children and 43 grandchildren during 60 years of marriage.

The purpose of National Grandparents Day, celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day, is threefold: to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children and to help children become aware of strength, information and guidance older people can offer.

Grandparents - and, in this mobile society, surrogate grandparents - also serve as examples of how to endure challenges with God's help. Elders describe how God remains present, faithful and steadfast throughout the years. As Psalm 145:4 (NIV) says, "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

* * *

WHY GOD WATCHES

An English bishop recalled a childhood visit to an elderly woman, who showed him a framed text that read "Thou God seest Me."

The woman told him "When you're older, people will tell you that God is always watching you to see when you do wrong, in order to punish you. I don't want you to think of it that way. Instead, take the text home and remember all your life that God loves you so much he can't take his eyes off you."



September

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Laura Howard
- 4 Patty Aubry
Mable Converse
- 5 Eric Koenig
Taylor & James Fitzgerald A
- 7 Karen & Rich Mueller A
- 8 Vincent Vannicola
- 9 Debbie Dittl
Karen Mueller
Michael Werbovetz
- 11 Beth Marconi
- 13 Kevin Allen
Susan Baum
Aaron Finn
Kathy Harvey
- 17 Kurt Harvey
Jennifer & Mike Dorsino A
- 18 Laurie Ives
- 19 Sonja Mueller
- 23 Lynne Howard
Marshall Marconi
- 24 Andrew Gorczynski
Debbie Rowlands
- 27 Chris Kelly
- 29 David Erway
- 30 Liam Fitzgerald
Kerkira Stockton
Stuart & Geri Gates A

- OCTOBER -

- 1 Julie Baum
Shirley Renninger
- 2 Kathryn Baldwin
- 5 David & Kathy Heburn A
Susan & Allen Solomon A

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:

- September 2 - Three Steeples
United Church,
Paris
- September 9 - South Trenton
Presbyterian
Church, South
Trenton
- September 16 - First Presby-
terian Church,
Springfield
- September 23 - Bethany Presby-
terian Church,
Utica
- September 30 - First Presby-
terian Church,
Utica

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ATTENTION ALL SONG BIRDS!

Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 6 at 7 PM in the church. Anyone who likes to sing is invited to join us. We offer on-the-job training with satisfaction guaranteed. Rehearsals are also held on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM. The Choir will resume singing on Sunday, September 9th.



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 October Twin
Churches is September 25th

1/1/01

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
PEACE COMMEMORATION

The ninth annual celebration of the International Day of Peace in Holland Patent will take place at 11:30 AM on Sunday, September 16th in the Church House. This year's theme is "Peace Among Neighbors" in memory of the television program "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood" and Fred Rogers' legacy to children. All are welcome for light refreshments, followed by song, story, prayer, and a talk by Sheriff Rob Maciol on the role of peace-keeping in Oneida County. If weather permits participants will proceed to the peace pole in the village park for music and sharing. All are invited.

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