

JANUARY - 2019

Twin Churches



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOLLAND PATENT, NEW YORK

FROM THE PASTOR

A Prayer for the New Year

Loving God, we long to be made new, we are desperate to leave the past behind us, but you have brought us this far and you have promised to continue. Stories and experiences shape us, so do not teach us to turn our backs on what has been but to listen for what may be. Teach us not to start over in fear, but to wade in every water and to walk through every wilderness with the patience of hearts that trust you. Teach us not cynicism but curiosity, so that our souls might sing gratitude and our tongues speak the truth of your love and glory, for as long as we have breath to give.

You are the beginning and the end, so to you we bring our prayers and our whole lives. Amen.

- Susan Poole Solomon

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On December 16th we again invited the whole congregation to participate in the Christmas pageant. Classes were cancelled for the holiday week-ends.

Sunday School will resume on January 6th - Epiphany - as we recall the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. We hope you have all been blessed by our holiday worship and time spent celebrating with family and friends. Janet Stengel will be leading an adult class at 9 AM.

Sunday, January 13: Christian Education Committee meeting after church.

ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 27, 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, pickles, etc., and desserts. If you would be willing to make something please let Janet Lanning know by Sunday, January 20th. You can call or text her at 315-941-7409, or e-mail jlasc@me.com, or see her in person at worship. The Fellowship Committee will provide beverages. Thank you for your help.

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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 27, 2019, 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 2018.
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 2019 Budget.
5. To transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

By Order of the Session
Janet Lanning, Session Clerk

PER CAPITA - 2019

Every church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly for ecclesiastical 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 in the presbytery. The amount to be paid this year per communicant member is \$41.14. There is a blue envelope marked Per Capita Apportionment provided in the offering envelope box. Thank you.

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NEW PEW BIBLES

The new pew Bibles have been donated and were dedicated during worship on December 2nd. The Session is offering the opportunity for individuals to purchase personalized dedication book-plates for insertion placement into the new Bibles. Dedication bookplates can be purchased for \$5 each and can be "in memory of" or "in honor of" a loved one or friend. Envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex for this purpose.

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PRAYING FOR UNITY

Every January, the Christian church worldwide marks the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This ecumenical "octave," or eight-day observance, lasts from January 18 (the Feast of St. Peter) to January 25 (the Feast of St. Paul).

The week is based on Jesus' prayer to his heavenly Father in John 17:21 that his followers "may all be one...so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (ESV). Jesus knew that if Christians were fiercely divided, people outside the faith wouldn't want to learn more about him.

The theme for the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from Deuteronomy 16:20 (NRSV): "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue."

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"True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of Justice."

- Martin Luther King Jr.



BITS
& PIECES

The total received for the gifts of oranges in the Foothills Rural Community Ministry Christmas baskets was \$293.00. A sincere thank you to all who contributed.

Thank you also to all who donated cookies and candies for the shut-ins and friends of our church. The Deacons packed and delivered them on December 9th.

Thank you to Bob and Karen VanGorder for coordinating the Advent decorations in the sanctuary.

Foothills Rural Community Ministry Annual Meeting will be held in the church house dining room on Sunday, January 27, 5-8 PM.

Janet Broadbent had knee surgery and is recuperating at home.

The Fellowship Committee will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 13th, following worship and the special congregational meeting, to discuss plans for Octoberfeast 2019. Even though it's early, there are several concerns we would like to address.

January

BIRTHDAYS
&
ANNIVERSARIES

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

- FEBRUARY -

- 1 Jon Dziekan
- 3 Marlène Koenig
- 7 Ken Allen

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES

'Remain in the Light'

Whoever loves his brother remains in the light, and there is nothing in him to cause a fall. Whoever hates his brother is in darkness;...because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

1 John 2:10-11

This passage makes me think of the immigrant/refugee crisis in our country and around the world. It is a complicated and difficult issue. But amid the clashing debates are real people seeking a peaceful place to live and work. Many are fleeing wars, discrimination, corruption and failing economies. Entire ethnic and religious groups have been targeted for criticism, accused of being criminals, terrorists or leaving their home countries to exploit a friendly welfare system. We as Christians should have a deeper understanding of this issue. The Holy Family had to flee to Egypt. Both the Old and New Testament are filled with the plight of the refugee, the stranger in a strange land. Pope Francis has called for more compassion in dealing with those who seek shelter beyond their homeland. Jesus asks us to remain in the light and not let the darkness blind us to this crisis.

- Paul Pennick

We need to remember that we are all descendants of immigrants if we live in the "New World," (America). Even the "Native Americans" are descendants of people who walked across the Bering Sea from Asia during the ice age!

Shalom, Cathy

S S S

CHURCH DICTIONARY

- Amen:** The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.
- Bulletin:** Information read only during the sermon; proof that you attended church.
- Choir:** A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.
- Hymn:** A song of praise, usually sung in a key three octaves higher than the congregation can sing.
- Pew:** A medieval torture device still found in some old line churches.
- Procession:** The ceremonial formation at the beginning of many church services, consisting of choir, acolytes, clergy and late worshipers looking for seats.
- Recessional:** Same as above going the other direction and led by worshipers trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.

First Presbyterian Church
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Holland Patent, NY 13354

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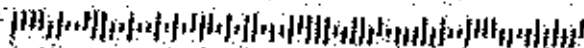
Church E-mail Address:

HPPres@dreamscape.com

Church Web Site:

www.twinchurches.com

Deadline for February Twin
Churches is January 27th.



MORE BITS

& PIECES

A special congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 13, following worship to action recommendations of the church's Nominating Committee to elect Elders and Deacons. The Call will be printed in the Sunday bulletin on January 6th.

The Deacons will meet on Tuesday, January 22nd at the home of Patty Aubry at 6:30 PM.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Joseph and Deborah Rowlands on the death of Joe's brother, John W. Rowlands, of Floyd, who passed away on November 28, 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 5 years of age available during 10 AM service