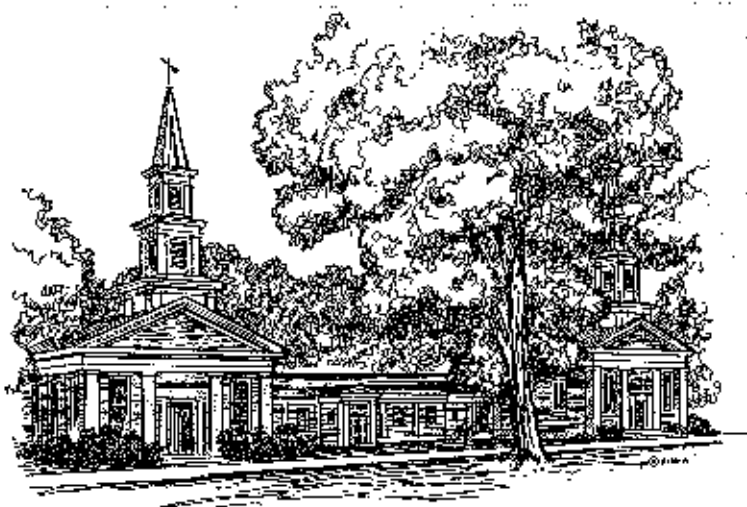


OCTOBER - 2017

Twin Churches



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOLLAND PARKWAY, NEW YORK

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Living a balanced life is important for our health and well-being, and that is as true for our spiritual lives as it is for our physical and mental health. Worship, study, service, and fellowship are four avenues of faithful living and growth that are important for the church as a whole—and you as an individual. Worship is the key activity for Christians. We are created to be in relationship with God through prayer and music and hearing God's Word. Worship is the central time and place for our offerings of praise and confession, thanksgiving and intercession. Presbyterians have always believed that study is important. The Bible is a rich field of challenge and comfort and insight and we can never master all of it's meaning. It is also important for us to apply our Christian perspective to a study of contemporary issues and concerns.

Our call to discipleship involves a call to service. Love of neighbor is more than just a mental activity. It also involves giving of our time and energy. Our work of love includes such things as

FROM THE PASTOR continued:

serving meals to the hungry, praying for others, teaching Sunday School, providing transportation for those who don't drive, serving coffee after church, helping with the upkeep of the church building—the list is endless. And to be part of a church community is also to have fun together, to talk to one another, to share joys and concerns in fellowship.

As a new program year begins take time to look at your life and see how you include these four elements in your spiritual journey. Where might you need to increase your participation? Where do your strengths lie? Look into the opportunities here at HPPC to worship, study, serve and connect with others.

We are called to love God and one another. May God be with you as we seek to lead lives of faithful and joyful discipleship.

Yours in Christ,

Janet

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday, October 8th - Christian Education Committee meeting.

Sunday School resumed on September 17th with rather sparse attendance. We hope things pick up in the next few weeks. Please keep this important program in your prayers!

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DISCUSSION ON THE BRIEF

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND APOSTLES' CREED

Each Sunday during worship we are asked to stand and together affirm our faith using words that come from the *Presbyterian Book of Confessions*. The documents contained in this book offer us guidance as we seek to understand and live out our faith. Too often they are just words we speak without really thinking about their meaning. Immediately following worship on October 15th and November 5th Janet Hoover will lead us in discussing two of these documents and the insights they offer us as individuals and the church: Brief Statement of Faith - October 15th, Apostles' Creed - November 5th.

OCTOBERFEAST

Saturday, October 21, 2017

We are preparing for Octoberfeast #36! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we truly need the help of all of you to make it successful. We had a good organizational meeting on September 24 and many great ideas were shared.

There are 2 things that we want to highlight from our meeting:

*We need help on Friday evening to prepare for the dinner. We wash, chop, and prepare all the vegetables for our famous salad bar. If anyone would rather take the vegetables home to prepare, feel free to do so. We'll start at 6 PM in the kitchen - please help out even if it's only for an hour. Bring your own tools or knives if you prefer.

*Try not to bring your Attic Treasures items too close to October 21. The last 2 years were much better and the sale ran much more smoothly.

Sign-up sheets will still be available during Coffee Hour on October 8 and 15. You can also call or text Janet Lanning at 941-7409, or e-mail her at jlasc@me.com.

We are all members of the Advertising Committee. Enclosed in this issue of Twin Churches is an Octoberfeast flyer. Please post it at your workplace, a local business, or in a side window of your vehicle.

You can also help by contributing money to help buy turkeys and groceries for the dinner. The Tom Turkey basket will be out with the sign-up sheets on Sunday mornings.

We need many people to work shifts in various places - kitchen, dining room, Attic Treasures, Silent Auction room, Country Store, and Hot Dog Stand. As always, we need donations of cooked squash and pies for the dinner, and baked goods or other items for the Country Store.

In previous years, Octoberfeast has brought in between \$5,000 to \$6,000 for our beautiful church! It's vital that all of us work together to make this year's event equally successful. And remember....we always have a lot of fun during this week-end working hard together! Thank-you for your time, your generosity and enthusiasm, and your commitment to our church.

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"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." - Henry Ford



We would like to thank the 16 Stone Brewpub and Banquet Hall - Eric & wife Jenn, Adam, and Dave & wife Mary Constable - who held a Chicken Bar-B-Q for a Save the Steeples fundraiser on Sunday, September 24 to benefit our Steeple Fund. Also a big 'Thank You' to Nina Lemieux who worked all day with them. They raised \$1,205.30! It is deeply appreciated.

Lawson Condrey and Kalie Dunn were married September 23rd in Maine.

The Foothill's Thrift Shop and Food Pantry will be closed on Saturday, October 21, due to Octoberfeast. The Farmer's Market will close for the season on October 7th. The Food Pantry will be open on Wednesday, October 4, from 4-6 PM. Thrift Shop and Food Pantry will both be open on Saturday, October 7 and 14, and Thursday, October 26, from 9 AM - 1 PM.

Contact information while Susan is on Sabbatical leave: The Reverend Dr. Janet Hoover, cell phone number 315-723-9400 or e-mail purplmstry@aol.com.

Get-well wishes and prayers are asked for the following:

Patty and Rich Aubry's grandsons, who are having kidney stone problems.

Jeff and Debbie Dittl's nephew, Grant Dittl, who was injured in the swimming pool.

Artis Finn, who had successful kidney stone removal.

Laura Grenier, who had back surgery and is now home.

Karen Mueller, who is having health problems and is home.

Marilyn Racha, who is now home, recuperating and undergoing physical therapy.

Shirley Renninger, who is hospitalized at St. Elizabeth's.

Allen Solomon, who had a heart attack and underwent heart catheterization.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to Lynne and Mickey Howard and family on the death of Lynne's mother, Glenda Gingrich, Liverpool, who passed away September 7, 2017.

Mary Preston has a new address - 253 Melbourne Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2726. Judy Walker also has a new address - 1548 Bay Point Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23454-1407.

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Our Christian Sympathy is also extended to Tina and Jon Dziekan and family on the death of Tina's mother, Lorraine Drumgold, who passed away September 18th. Lorraine joined our church on September 30, 1996. She was ordained as a Deacon on January 11, 1998, and served for several terms. She was also a member of Presbyterian Women and helped out whenever and wherever she was needed - especially Octoberfeast time. A Memorial Service was held on Monday, September 25th in the church, the Reverend Dr. Janet Hoover officiating.

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REFORMATION MILESTONE: CELEBRATION AND REPENTANCE

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his "95 Theses" — on a church door in Germany. This wasn't an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ ("the priesthood of all believers"), so there's no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose - Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others - and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults "with the best of them"; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: "In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years."

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"The Reformer is always right about what's wrong. However, he's often wrong about what is right."

- G. K. Chesterton

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100:4-5

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

The sixth chapter of the book of Ezra describes the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem after the Jewish people returned from their exile in Babylon. We read that when the work was complete all the people celebrated the dedication of the restored temple with joy. They had missed not having their appropriate place of worship!

During the rebuilding, the Book of the Law was found. After 70 years without worship space or access to the written law, Nehemiah, Chapter 8, tells us that all the people old enough to understand assembled and sat all day as the whole Book of the Law was read to them, with breaks when the Levites went out and explained to the people what they had just heard. They had tried to maintain the faith all had just heard. They had tried to maintain the faith all those years, but now they realized that they had not kept it perfectly. Nehemiah told them not to mourn their failures, but to go and prepare a great feast and celebrate this holy day of new beginning!

It took strong people with a strong sense of community and faith to hold a core group of believers together and return as a group after so many years! Their faith was relevant to them. Even then they found out they needed a refresher course in the tenets and practice of that faith! Thus, Christian Education is foundational to our children's understanding and growth in our faith. We adults also need to keep learning!

Last month I asked us to consider whether and how the church is relevant in society. This month I would challenge all of us to ponder whether and how the church and faith are relevant in our personal lives!

Shalom, Cathy

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"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

- Aldous Huxley

Sunday Schedule

FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

- 1 Aubry, Howard
- 8 Hoover, Thayer
- 15 Beasley, Castle
- 22 Coffee & Doughnuts
- 29 Werbovetz

PRAYER CHAIN:

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

SPECIAL OCTOBER DATES:

- Sunday, October 1,
World Communion
Sunday
- Sunday, October 29,
Reformation Sunday
- Tuesday, October 31,
Reformation Day,
500th Anniversary



OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Julie Baum
Shirley Renninger
- 2 Kathryn Baldwin
- 5 David & Kathy Heburn A
Allen & Susan Solomon A
- 7 Grayson Marconi
- 8 Richard & Laura Gurdo A
- 9 Rich Aubry
Dan Seifried
- 10 Jessica & Ryan Meade A
- 14 Carol Allen
Milt Smith
- 15 Hannah Bochniak
- 18 Gaby & Don McGhee A
- 20 Ken Hoover
- 21 Shawn Lemieux
- 22 Ben Phillips
- 24 Janet Hoover
- 25 Allan Stirling
- 27 Lorie Phillips
Mary Preston
- 28 Pat Bliss
Evelyn & Everson Clark A
- 30 Russ Golly

- NOVEMBER -

- 1 Jeff Dittl
Benett Marconi
- 4 Dale Jones
- 6 Cindy Rye

REMEMBERING OUR PAST

100 Years Ago - 1917

The church was without a pastor as the Reverend Brockie had moved to Hope Presbyterian in Watertown.

75 Years Ago - 1942

Reverend Frank Twitchell was presented by the committee to become pastor. He served until 1947.

50 Years Ago - 1967

Christian Education Building dedicated, September 24.

25 Years Ago - 1992

New carpet installed in the Meeting Room. Foothills Rural Community Ministry took over Food Bank and constructed shelves in Christian Education basement.

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DO SOMETHING

God wants our work to be meaningful and satisfying. No matter what we do, it should provide a reason to get up each day and use the talents God has given us. As Benjamin Franklin said, "The man who achieves makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest mistake of all: doing nothing."

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 November Twin
Churches is October 27th

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:

- October 1 - First Presbyterian Church, Utica
 - October 8 - Three Voices: Cochran Memorial, Oneida Castle;
Mount Vernon, Vernon; and
First Presbyterian church, Verona
 - October 15 - Helath Care Chaplain Ministry: Bassett Medical
Center: Reverend Betsy Jay,
Hospice & Palliative Care:
Reverend Ruth Kuo,
Presbyterian Home: Reverend Tom Lornez
 - October 22 - Presbyterian Women, in the Presbytery of Utica
 - October 29 - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program (PDA),
PC(USA)
-

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