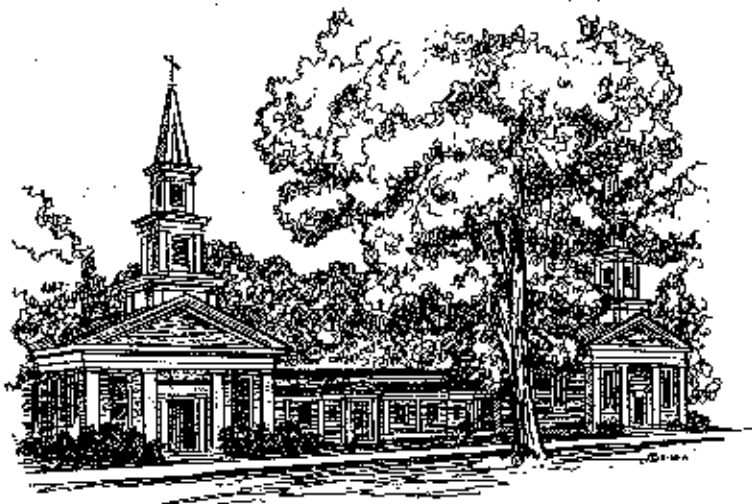


# Twin Churches



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOLLAND PATENT, NEW YORK

## FROM THE PASTOR

Last month I had the honor of hearing another sermon by our former intern, Tamara Razzano - she had to preach for two committees of the Presbytery as part of her journey towards ordination to the ministry. We rejoice that her ordination will be Sunday, August 27 at 3:00 pm at the Presbyterian Church in Cooperstown. Her sermon was titled, "Hidden in Plain Sight." She talked about the church as "hidden in plain sight," in that it's clear to everyone that the church is here - everyone can see the building and know that it is a church - but it isn't necessarily clear that we ARE the church, followers of Jesus Christ and his disciples in the world. We so often stay hidden in plain sight. Although sometimes it can be difficult, I believe we ought to speak up for what we believe in and defend those who are less advantaged than we are. It's a value that I at least attempted to pass along to my children, based in my Christian faith and understanding of God's preferential option for the poor, the oppressed and all who are marginalized.

Just the other night in Portland, Oregon, two people who spoke up and tried to intervene were murdered; another was stabbed. As a man directed racial and religious slurs to two teenage girls on the com-

- continued

FROM THE PASTOR continued:

muter train, good Samaritans stepped up to defend the girls, and were sacrificed. Would we be that brave and faithful?

What a world. God help us.

- Susan Poole Solomon

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday, June 4: Pentecost  
Children's Day rehearsal

Sunday, June 11: Children's Day. Following worship, including the childrens' pageant, join us, hopefully in the park for a covered dish picnic sponsored by the Fellowship committee! (See below)

Thank you for all prayers for our program!

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CHILDREN'S DAY LUNCH/PICNIC

Please join us for lunch following the Children's Day Service on June 11, 2017. It may be held outdoors in the park if the weather is beautiful. We ask that you bring a dish to share - a casserole, salad, or dessert. The Fellowship Committee will provide beverages. We hope to see many of you there!

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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:

- June 4 - Niccolls Memorial Presbyterian Church, Old Forge
- June 11 - The Lay Academy of the Presbytery of Utica
- June 18 - First Presbyterian Church, Oneida
- June 25 - The General Assembly, PC(USA)

- - -

Of all the days that's in the week  
I dearly love hnt one day.  
And that's the day that comes betwixt  
A Saturday and Monday.

- Henry Carey

# NEW HARTFORD HANNAFORD'S HAS CHOSEN TO SUPPORT Foothills FOOD PANTRY

Each month the Hannaford's Supermarket in New Hartford designates a nonprofit agency to benefit from the sale of their reusable grocery bags. They donate \$.25 from each bag sold to the agency they choose for the month. During the month of June Foothills Rural Food Pantry will benefit from this program. Purchasing these reusable bags will not only help the environment but will now also help Foothills with its mission to help those in need. Foothills provides food to an average of 160 families per month. It is a challenge to keep a flow of resources to meet this level of need. Foothills wants to thank Hannaford's for choosing us for the month of June.



BIRTHDAYS

# JUNE

&

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Brenda Castle
- 3 Sally & John Preston A
- 4 Janet Lanning
- 5 Matthew Harter
- 9 Kameron Lanahan
- 10 Peggy Curtacchi
- 16 Rachel Bruder  
Wesley Moseman
- 17 Gail Brett  
Lois Caldwell
- 19 Janet & Harley Lanning A
- 21 Pam Finn  
Carolyn Niedzielski  
Dwight Putnam  
Vicky & Jim Allen A
- 23 Elise Gates  
Clayton Haley
- 24 Artis & Harry Finn A
- 25 Betsy Allen
- 26 Hilary Kraft  
Nina Lemieux
- 27 Alexis Saunders
- 30 Nancy & Russ Golly A



BIRTHDAYS

# JULY

&

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jennifer Dorsino
- 4 Anna Beasley
- 5 Cale Hoffman  
Jill Wynne  
Marcia & Dale Jones A
- 9 Mike Haley  
Stephanie & Troy Finn A  
Cindy Rye & Bob Murphy A
- 10 Tanya & David Erway A
- 11 Seth Kraft
- 14 Mara Erway  
Katie Wall  
Muriel Werbovets
- 15 Tina Dziekan
- 16 Thomas Wynne

"Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths."

- ETTY HILLESUM



**BITS &  
PIECES**

**Up-date on our Fund Raisers:**

The 30-Hour Famine for World Vision, held on March 31 and April 1, ended with a total of \$3,345.31. To date, after 12 years of participating in the famine, we have collected \$39,100.40!

The Steubenstock VII Capital Improvement Fund raiser, held on April 29, totaled \$1,757.00.

The total received on Mother's Day, May 14, Church World Service Blanket Sunday, was \$175.00

Shawn Lemieux now lives at 1 Broadway, Apt. 238, Menands, NY 12204.

Congratulations: To Sally Preston, who received the Community Service Award at a joint Lion and Rotary meeting at the Holland Patent Legion.

To Connor Dorsino's first place finish at SkillsUSA State Regional competition in Graphic Design, representing Oriskany School.

To Dustin Dorsino, who was inducted into 3 Honor Societies at Niagara University. Both boys are sons of Jennifer and Michael Dorsino, and grandsons of Mary Alice Hughes.

BAPTISM - The Sacrament of Baptism was administered during worship on Sunday, May 28, to Brenda (Terry) Castle. Brenda's mom is currently in the hospital. Her husband Paul's grandfather passed away. They live in the Harrisville, NY, area in northern New York State.

Mable Converse had knee surgery in May and is now going through re-hab at the Sitrin Medical Center in New Hartford.

Susan will be on vacation June 12 - 19.

Prayer Chain - Call Peggy Curtacci, 315-865-7498, with any prayer requests or e-mail pcurtacci.1947@gmail.com.

The Trenton Farmer's Market will open on Saturday, June 17, for the summer from 9 am to 1 pm. It is located on the Village Green in Holland Patent.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - A Memorial Service for Wanda Goodrow was held on Friday, May 19, in the church, the Reverend Susan Poole Solomon officiating. Interment was in the Holland Patent Cemetery.



# TELLING OUR STORY

## History of the Twin Churches

At an Annual Meeting of the church in January, 1954, the Reverend Bertram Humphries and an Editorial Board that was elected at the Annual Meeting wrote the front page and introduced the concept of the Twin Churches:

"The Board met on January 22 and reaffirmed the objectives set forth for this church paper when it was born; namely to reach and enter the home of every Protestant family in our area who is not known to be affiliated with any other church, and to these readers to serve as a means of making our church and its people their friends."

The Board consisted of F. Stanley Roberts, Mrs. Frances Hasenauer, Mel Sears, Ralph Arend and Joe Ryerson.

In 1955 Evelyn Jones was hired as church secretary and was already preparing the Sunday bulletins for the First Presbyterian Church in Holland Patent and the Remsen Federated Church. At that time, the Twin Churches were being printed by The Letter Shop in Prospect, as needed, and did not come out every month. The church secretary started printing the Twin Churches in 1962 on a monthly basis, combining July and August, as the church was closed for the month of August.

The Reverend Humphries had found an old 1904 mimeograph machine in the church attic. He had it refurbished and ink was still available. Bert replaced the Editorial Board and assembled the newspaper each month, giving it to the secretary to print, address and mail.

F. Stanley Roberts still contributed the front page material, writing on "COCU" - Conference on Church Union - for many issues. Guest editorials were printed after Bert passed away by the Reverends Dean Jean-Blanc, Joel Tibbetts and Ed Townsend. Elders Wanda Goodrow and Milt Smith also contributed, bringing readers up-to-date on the Search Committees.

The Reverend Jesse Corum's first front page was November 1971, "A Busy Christian's Prayer." The Reverend John Preston's first Twin Churches front page was December 1974, on "Advent." The Reverend Susan Solomon's first front page was January 1996, "Introducing Our New Pastor."

In 1962 the church purchased a new mimeograph machine, still using ink and stencils, but electric. In 1992 a used copier from the Utica Presbytery office was given to us and the machine was then located in the Christian Education building instead of the secretary's home.

## TELLING OUR STORY continued:

The newsletter has always contained the happening's of the church, joys and concerns, up-coming and past events, births, illnesses, weddings, baptisms and deaths in the church family. Bits & Pieces was started in 1978 after being called "Newsie Notes," "Personal Notes," and "News Notes."

Margaret Kraft, Lynne Howard and Carol Beasley have all had a hand in publishing the newsletter in past years. Addressing the Twin Churches was by hand, written out, no zip code in the beginning and done by the secretary's grandmother. Then a marvelous invention was made that labels could be typed once and 5 copies were made. However, they had to be glued on. Now labels are made on a printer, self-adhesive, and in zip code order.

Today we send 206-210 copies each month to 27 states, including New York, under Bulk Mail Permit #2, the same permit number the Reverend Humphries applied for in 1954.

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## FOOTHILLS SUMMER FOOD BAG PROGRAM

In July and August the food pantry provides a special bag of food items for children from the ages of 4-18 who attend school. This helps those families who are eligible for free school lunches but do not get any food items from the school in July and August to help feed their families. This will be the third year we have provided the summer bags. The program is a big hit with the children as well as the parents being appreciative of the extra food for summer. This year we are going to include along with the food a small baggie with tooth brush and tooth paste. We have 250 tooth brushes but still need 150 small tooth paste. If you are able to contribute this item please leave it in the Foothills office or the food pantry.

+ + +

## THE POWER OF PENTECOST

Pentecost started as a Jewish festival commemorating God's giving the Law to the Israelites 50 days after they escaped from slavery in Egypt. In Christian churches, Pentecost was once as important as Christmas and Easter. Today, congregations still observe it in special ways, using the color red to symbolize the Holy Spirit's power. Worship services sometimes include hymns, prayers and Scriptures in various tongues. To simulate the original Pentecost experience, congregations may say the Lord's Prayer in several languages at once.

## Sunday Schedule

### FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

- 4 Aiello
- Bochniak
- 11 Picnic
- 18 Lemonade In The Park
- 25 Lemonade In The Park

### SPECIAL JUNE DATES:

- Sunday, June 4,  
Pentecost
- Sunday, June 11,  
Trinity Sunday
- Wednesday, June 14,  
Flag Day
- Sunday, June 18,  
Father's Day
- Tuesday, June 20,  
First Day of  
Summer



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES

*Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.*

1 Peter 13-18

Shalom, Cathy

Peter's advice on how to evangelize is pretty low key. Notice that he isn't advocating collaring strangers on the street to ask them if they have been saved! St. Francis of Assisi famously advised, "Preach always; if necessary use words." Both St. Peter and St. Francis assume that there is something in the Christian life style that will attract outsiders and lead them to ask questions.

I think of a friend whose Protestant mother, when she married a Roman Catholic, made the then obligatory promise to raise their children in the Catholic Church. The mother did so faithfully including taking them to mass and enrolling them in parochial school. Years later the home health care aid called my friend instructing her to be home from work at a specific time. Worried she entered her mother's room to find her parish priest in the room. The elderly woman had directed the aid to make arrangements for the priest to come to confirm her in the Catholic Church. When the startled daughter asked her mother why, the answer was: "I want what you have!"

"In a displaced persons camp in Iraq two brothers, one Christian, one Moslem huddled in close quarters in their tent each night studying their respective scriptures. One day, Samir mentioned to an Islamic leader in camp that he prayed for everyone who was suffering, including Christians. The leader berated him saying, 'A good Muslim doesn't pray for Christians.' This bothered Samir, and he told his brother about it. Faris then showed him in the Bible where Jesus said that we should pray for even our enemies. Persuaded of the truth of Jesus, Samir then placed his faith in Christ too." (From the Dec. 2016 issue of Voice of the Martyrs magazine.) Faris knew his scripture well enough to quickly find the passage his brother needed!

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 July/August  
Twin Churches is July 9th



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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR FAMILIES continued:

Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus by Nabeel Qureshi (copies available in our narthex lending library) is the autobiography of a young American's youthful questioning of certain aspects of his faith. In college a friend, David, introduced him to a group of Christian friends who over several years gently and lovingly helped him find answers to his questions and the courage to make the frightening leap of faith. Every faith journey is different, whether returning to a lapsed practice, learning one never received in childhood, or making a radical change, always patient, supportive, sensitive friends are a vital part of the equation!

Shalom (or Salim), Cathy

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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