



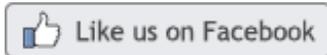
"Equipping Our Churches to Fulfill the Great Commission"



"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
P.O. Box 6010
Syracuse, NY 13217
(315) 632-5698
www.cayugasyracuse.org



March 1, 2017

Dear Friends of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery,

Welcome to this week's edition of our e-letter, *Presbytery Matters*. Our goal is to highlight things going on throughout the Church: within our Presbytery, in our congregations, as well as in the Synod of the Northeast and across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We hope that these are things that will be helpful, informative, challenging, encouraging, supportive. In other words, we hope that these things will matter. Your input is valued, and your comments are always welcomed!

Lent Begins



From the *Book of Common Worship*...

Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty

and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

Joys and Concerns around the Presbytery

In our prayers together this week...

- Pray for safe travels home for our Korean partners who have been visiting in our Presbytery the past few days. And please give thanks for great conversations that were had.
- Give thanks for the healthy birth yesterday of Brooks William Harrison in Hartford, CT. Brooks is the grandson of Mark and Brenda Harrison, and the son of Joshua and Kerri Harrison.
- Please pray for the family of Ernie Leal. Ernie passed away February 26. (From Robinson Memorial - Elmwood Church)



In the cycle of prayer for our Presbytery, please pray for these congregations, faith communities, and individuals: Port Byron Federated; First, Scipioville; Sennett Federated Church; First, Skaneateles.

If you'd like to share a particular joy or concern with the Presbytery, please contact Steve Plank at statedclerk@cayugasyracuse.org.

Presbytery book-read

Reading *Flipped* as part of Your Lenten Spiritual Practice...

Just a reminder that there are two opportunities during Lent to join discussion groups reading *Flipped*, our Presbytery-Wide Book Reading. Soon there will also be opportunities to virtually discuss the reading.

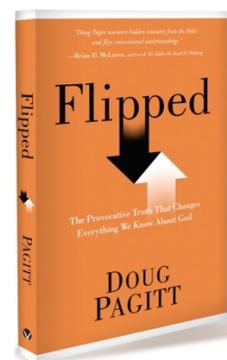
Both in person groups during Lent meet on Wednesday evenings:

Wednesday evenings March 8-April 12 at 6:30 pm

Isaiah's Table, 620 West Genesee Street Syracuse, 315-447-7065

Wednesday evenings March 8 - April 5 at 7:30 pm

Onondaga Hill PC, 4797 Makyes Road, Syracuse, 315-492-2692



Around the Presbytery

Collegiate CHOIR

2017 CONCERT TOUR

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 15**

7:30 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
97 East Genesee Street
Skaneateles, New York

150 ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
YEARS SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Celebrating Our Past—Inspiring Your Future



This concert is one of ten appearances the Choir will make during its 2017 spring concert tour. The tour itinerary includes performances in Indiana, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, Ohio, and Illinois. This year's tour program includes literature from the Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic and Contemporary eras.

The Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir has established a long history of excellence through its on-campus performances, annual tours and recordings. It is composed of student musicians representing the School of Music and other areas of the University, and is dedicated to the performance of the finest sacred and secular choral music spanning six centuries and a variety of languages. Students in the choir are selected by audition and maintain a rigorous rehearsal schedule in preparation for their concert tour and other engagements throughout the year.

You always may keep abreast on happenings in and around the Presbytery by checking the Presbytery events calendar (<http://cayugasyracuse.org/calendars>) and the church events calendar (<http://cayugasyracuse.org/calendars/church-events>).

Around the Synod of the Northeast



From the Synod...

A central responsibility of a Synod is to support the work of its member presbyteries. A little over a year ago we gathered our first Presbytery Convention. The response from our presbyteries was both positive and encouraging. The intention of a Presbytery Convention is to create an atmosphere where the leaders of neighboring presbyteries might explore opportunities to support and partner with one another. The Convention will begin with lunch at noon on Friday, March 3rd and conclude with lunch on Saturday March 4th. The Convention will be held at the Desmond Americana Hotel in Albany New York.

Our thought is that it would best serve this process to have presbytery moderators attend and ask each moderator to select who will participate with them or in their place if they are unable to join us. A guiding principle of our New Way Forward is that every presbytery functions differently and should make its own decisions based on those unique characteristics. Your Synod will cover the costs of meals and lodging for the first three participants attending from each presbytery. We would ask that you send no more than four persons so we might keep this group to a manageable size.

The convention will be moderated by members of the Synod's Leadership Team and will include brief updates from each participating presbytery, conversation about common challenges, needs and aspirations. We will create an environment where neighboring presbyteries can talk with one another in smaller regional groups as a significant part of our time together, as well as encouraging other groupings for discussions around shared issues and concerns.

We are grateful that our Presbytery will be represented at this Convention by our Moderator, Shawn Reyburn, Vice-Moderator, Rita Hooper, and Leadership Team chairperson, Linda Russell. We'll look forward to hearing about the conversations there after they return home.

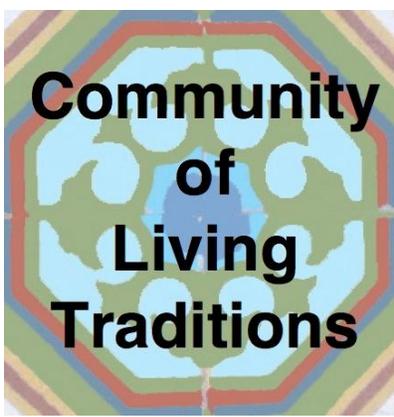
Around the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Did you know...

Stony Point Center is home to the Community of Living Traditions, a multifaith intentional community dedicated to the practice and study of hospitality, nonviolence and justice. Practicing Hospitality

We begin with practicing the hospitality of our Muslim, Jewish and Christian faith traditions, as we host the Center's guest groups. In its deepest sense, hospitality means "welcoming the other, welcoming the stranger," whether that comes in the form of another human being, a group, an idea, or a critique. It is this fundamental openness to learning about, understanding, and potentially being changed by the other, that is the foundational practice which leads to collaborative, effective efforts to nurture peace, nonviolence and social justice.



The Rev. Steven W. Plank, Stated Clerk/Communicator
| statedclerk@cayugasyracuse.org | <http://www.cayugasyracuse.org> |
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