



"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
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October 27, 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!

Joys and Concerns around the Presbytery

In our prayers together this week...

- Give thanks for a new Interim Pastor that will be serving the First United Church of Fulton. The Council extended an offer to the Rev. William Harrel, an American Baptist Pastor, and he will begin his ministry in Fulton on December 3.
- Pray for Jim and Vivian Hughes. Jim, a retired member of our Presbytery, had a stroke just over two months ago. He is



now home, receiving regular occupational therapy visits each week. Vivian is now able to be back at church and singing in the choir.

In the cycle of prayer for our Presbytery, please pray for these congregations, faith communities, and individuals: Amboy Belle Isle; First, Auburn; Westminster, Auburn; United Ministry of Aurora; First, Baldwinsville.

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

Presbytery gathering preview

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse is this next Saturday, November 4, 2017. Our host faith community is the Whitelaw Presbyterian Church. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the meeting will convene at 9:00. This beautiful, rural church is located at 3085 Whitelaw Rd W, Canastota, NY 13032.

Childcare is available for this meeting by reservation. RSVP to the church at (315) 697-8072 by Monday, October 30, for childcare.

No internet connection will be available at this meeting, so please be sure to either download the papers to your electronic device or print them out and bring them with you to the meeting. All of the papers for the meeting are available [here](#) on our website.

The offering during worship will support a food drive for two families in Puerto Rico who are related to Canastota residents.

Lunch will be served at the church. The cost will be \$7.00.

Please send name(s) of your elder commissioner(s) to revbolivar@skanpresby.org by October 30 so that nametags can be prepared.

A number of special things are happening at this gathering. Among other things...

Issues involving the United States and the Korean peninsula continue to grab media headlines and our PC(USA) mission co-workers from South Korea are coming to Central New York to talk about their ministries in these challenging times. Rev. Kurt Esslinger and Hyeyoung Lee will share the story of their ministry with PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteers assigned to Korea, with migrant women and women peace activists around Korea, and with the National Council of Churches of Korea which maintains a relationship with the Korean Christian Federation of North Korea. Kurt and Hyeyoung are excellent interpreters of current events in Korea as well as the history of Korea, particularly concerning the role the US played, and continues to play, in that history. They will be sharing some of their stories with us during the morning worship service.

Also participating in the worship service will be the Bell Choir from the Whitelaw church, as well as the vocal choir from the Korean Church of Syracuse.

Elder Donna Chapman, pastoral leader of the Whitelaw congregation, will be recommissioned to continue her ministry there as their Commissioned Lay Pastor.

The upcoming retirement of the Stated Clerk/Communicator, the Rev. Steve Plank, will be acted upon, and the Presbytery will have a chance to hear from the new Stated Clerk nominee, elder Larry Beasley. Anticipating a positive vote to elect Larry as the Stated

Clerk, he will begin his ministry here on January 1.

We will have the opportunity to learn more about the importance of our denomination's Theological Education Fund. The Theological Education Fund is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s best hope of ensuring the church of Christ is prepared to serve long into the future. The fund is housed at the Presbyterian Foundation and is the sole source of denomination-wide funding for seminaries from the PC(USA). The Rev. Patrick and Jenna Heery will be sharing their passion for and our commitment to this important fund.

A first reading of a proposal for restructuring the Presbytery will be presented and discussed. In preparation for some Café Conversations about this after lunch, Presbytery attendees will be asked to reflect on these questions:

- What is the purpose of Presbytery?
- What do we, as individuals or faith communities, need or want to have from a Presbytery Communicator?
- What might we, as individuals or faith communities, need or want to have from Networkers?
- In what ways could we benefit from a Communicator and from Networkers?

The proposed budget for 2018 will be presented for discussion and adoption. The Presbytery also will be hearing the proposal for Minimum Terms of Call for 2018 for our faith communities and pastoral leaders.

Presbytery gatherings are important opportunities to do business together, to worship together around Word and Sacrament, to learn together, and to connect with our sisters and brothers from around the Presbytery.

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