



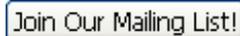
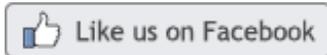
"Equipping Our Churches to Fulfill the Great Commission"



*"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  
5811 Heritage Landing Dr., 2nd Floor  
East Syracuse, NY 13057  
(315) 632-5698  
[www.cayugasyracuse.org](http://www.cayugasyracuse.org)



December 6, 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!



## Transition changes continue

If you haven't done so already, please remember to **note the change in the Presbytery's address**. We no longer will be using a general Post Office box. Instead, with thanks to the Synod of the Northeast for their cooperation in this, all mail to the Presbytery (general mail, as well as financial matters) should be sent to:

Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse  
5811 Heritage Landing Drive, 2nd Floor  
East Syracuse, NY 13057

We also are using a **new phone system**. Thanks to hard work by elder Linda Russell, our Leadership Team chairperson, Verizon has arranged to let us keep our current phone number (315.632.5698). However, now you will be able to contact specific people within the Presbytery to more readily ask a question, share a thought, or get other information. When you dial our phone number, you now have the option of having your call directed to the Leadership Team chairperson, the Stated Clerk, the Presbytery Moderator, or the Moderator of the Ministry Work Group (COM). In addition to saving a considerable sum on our phone bill, this will more readily serve the needs of people contacting our Presbytery.

The Rev. Patrick Heery will be assuming temporary responsibility for **publishing *Presbytery Matters***, this e-letter, until the Presbytery makes a determination about plans for communications. His contact email will begin appearing in these mailings by the end of this month. That way you will know where to send information you would like communicated, as well as prayer requests you'd like to pass along. Our thanks to Patrick for helping us during this transition time!

## Joys and Concerns around the Presbytery

In our prayers together this week...

- Pray for our Presbytery vice-moderator, Rita Hooper, and her family. Her brother-in-law, Dick Hooper, died a few weeks ago.
- Pray for Linda Russell, our Leadership Team chairperson. Her aunt, Irene Reuter, died on November 27 at the age of 104, and the funeral service is this Friday.
- Pray for the people of South Sudan. (See related story in this issue of our e-letter.)



In the cycle of prayer for our Presbytery, please pray for these congregations, faith communities, and individuals: United Church of Fayetteville; First United Church of Fulton; God's Vision Christian Church, Hannibal; Jamesville Community Church; First, King Ferry.

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

## Other Voices from the Presbytery

From the Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Skaneateles...



On Tuesday, a week ago (11/28/2017) at 5:30 in the morning a group of 30 armed youth from the Murle Tribe attacked the unarmed people in the Dinka Villages of Duk Payuel and Duk Pajut in South Sudan.

In South Sudan there are predominantly three tribes: the Dinka, the Murle, and the Nuer. Within minutes 44 people were dead, another 15 had received gunshot wounds, and another 63 mothers and children were taken as slaves.

For the first time, in the 10+ years of the John Dau Foundation providing Health care and Nutrition services to over 500,000 people in 12 Sites, 4 members of the JDF Staff were killed and 3 staff members were critically wounded.

At this point, the village of DP has been evacuated, the wounded and their families taken to Military hospital, and we pray to God in mourning for the nurse, the lab technician, the data clerk, the cleaning woman, the ambulance driver, the patients, the neighbors and sojourners, who were brutally victimized. This senseless violence would have happened regardless, but there is nowhere more vital for a humanitarian hospital to serve.

## Around the Presbytery

### Don't Forget

Remember the special reception in recognition of the retirement of the Rev. Steve Plank, our Stated Clerk/Communicator. See the poster for details. Hope to see you there! (Although the poster to the right asks for an RSVP, this really is not necessary. Just show up if/as you are able!)

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse Leadership Team invites you to a

# RETIREMENT RECEPTION

*in honor of Steve Plank*

**WHEN:** December 17<sup>th</sup> • 2 pm ~ 4 pm

**WHERE:** Park Central Presbyterian Church  
Gathering Hall  
504 East Fayette St., Syracuse NY 13202

**Food • Beverages • Desserts**  
*provided by the Leadership Team*

Please RSVP Linda Russell by December 11<sup>th</sup> at (315) 252-5795 • [lsruss@aol.com](mailto:lsruss@aol.com)



### January Spiritual Retreat

Soul Space  
For Pastors, Lay Leaders and Worship Planners  
January 8, 2018  
1pm-7pm  
Liverpool Presbyterian Church

### The Invitation:

Hey pastoral leader, have you ever had a moment when Advent just finished and you haven't even caught your breath yet, and now you need to start planning for Lent? It hits you like a ton of bricks! We are here for you!

Come away for a day to debrief from Advent and to start preparing spiritually (and practically) for Lent. The first part of the day will be centered around personal reflection (spiritually catching our breath). The second part will be collaborating and planning for the

Lenten season by sharing themes and specific ideas with others. A light dinner will be provided 6pm. Worship teams are highly encouraged to come and work together to make specific plans for the season of Lent in your particular context.

Pastoral Leaders arrive at 1pm  
Worship Planners come at 5pm  
Dinner at 6:00pm

The Rev. Mary Anderson will be the leader for this time of planning and spiritual renewal.

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 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Every year during this time, we turn our eyes toward Bethlehem and anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ. Through him we receive the indescribable gift of God's grace. This year, we take time during the Advent and Christmas season to consider the gratitude we feel. It's out of this gratitude that we turn to support church leaders who dedicate their lives in service to Christ and the church. It's out of youthful wonder that students at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges look forward to a life of faith, worship, and Christian leadership.

With Christ at the center this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.

Funds from the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and their families, and to qualifying retired church workers and their families.

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for racial ethnic students built on a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School, two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as Stillman College, where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we can share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families.

Please give generously:

- Through your congregation
- Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10
- Go to [www.presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy)

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