



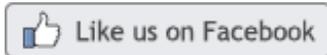
"Equipping Our Churches to Fulfill the Great Commission"



"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
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(315) 632-5698
www.cayugasyracuse.org



March 15, 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!

Mission Stories



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

**UCF IS CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
(CWS) DROP OFF SITE
APRIL 24-APRIL 28, 2017**

Please note times:
April 24-26, 28 10:00 am - 12:00 pm:
April 27: 5:00 pm-7:00 pm

Drop Off Location:

United Church of Fayetteville
310 E. Genesee St.
Fayetteville, NY 13066
315.637.3186
office@theucf.org

CWS has a long history of responding to disasters, both widespread and local. For many years, we have supported their work through CROP Walk, blanket drives and kit preparations. This year we will serve as a community/country-wide drop off site for hygiene, school and clean up kits. This saves shipping cost for donors. Take this great opportunity for Lenten/Easter collections to serve neighbors in need.

Church World Service Drop Off Kit Descriptions

Hygiene Kits (Value \$15.00, Processing Fee \$2.00)

One hand towel measuring approximately 15x28 to 16x32 (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)

One washcloth

One wide-tooth comb removed from the package

One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package

One bath-size bar of soap in the wrapper

One toothbrush in the package

Ten standard size Band-Aids

Please do not enclose money, toothpaste or other extra items inside the kits!

School Kits (Value \$15.00, Processing Fee \$2.00)

One pair blunt scissors, rounded tip only, removed from package

Three 70 -count bound notebooks, or notebooks totaling 200 -210 pages (no loose leaf or filler paper)

One 30 centimeter, 12 inch ruler

One hand-held eraser (no pencil cap erasers)

Six new unsharpened pencils with erasers, removed from package

One box 24 crayons

One 12x14 to 14x17 finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with handles, solid color or kid-friendly, no logos, reusable shopping bags or back packs

Please do not enclose money, or extra items inside the kits!

Bucket Kit for emergency clean up following flood, fire, storm. (Value \$75.00 Processing Fee, \$3.00)

One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)

Four scouring pads

Seven sponges, including one large

One scrub brush

Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)

One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent

One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap

One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)

One package of 48-50 clothespins

Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.

Five dust masks

Two pairs non-surgical latex gloves

One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather

24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton

One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new - all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened.

Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

Please do not enclose money, or extra items inside the kits!

Joys and Concerns around the Presbytery



In our prayers together this week...

• Pray for the families and friends of two people in the Robinson Memorial - Elmwood Churches who died recently: Robert Bedegain and Eric Johnson.

In the cycle of prayer for our Presbytery, please pray for these congregations, faith communities, and individuals: Taunton, Syracuse; Westminster, Syracuse; First, Weedsport; Whitelaw.

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

Reflections on *Flipped* for the Presbytery Book-Read

By Sam Dance...

On a recent Wednesday evening, eighteen of us gathered at Onondaga Hill Presbyterian Church to discuss the early chapters of Doug Pagitt's book, *Flipped*. Focusing first on the central theme that "In God we live, move, and exist" (Acts 17:28), our conversation wrestled with the semantics of "Do we exist in God?" or "Does God exist in us?" And is there a difference? As you might imagine the discussion was spirited, thoughtful, and stimulating.

Pagitt suggests that a "flip demands that we seriously reconsider what we've always assumed to be true." (page 21) He further suggests that "Jesus presents the Flip as change, conversion, growth, development." (page 19)

Pagitt delves into one of the most troubling stories of the Old Testament, the one where God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son as a test of his faith. How can a loving God be so cruel, we may ask. Pagitt asserts that in fact Abraham undergoes a major "flip" and that understanding this flip will allow us to see this story in a completely new light that will deepen our faith. I will keep you guessing as to the nature of Abraham's flip (Chapter 5) but suffice it to say Pagitt's premise is certain to stimulate your thinking, raise more questions, and promote a healthy exchange of ideas.

By the way, we would love to have you join us at OHPC on Wednesday evenings through April 5. Light refreshments will be available!

Around the Presbytery

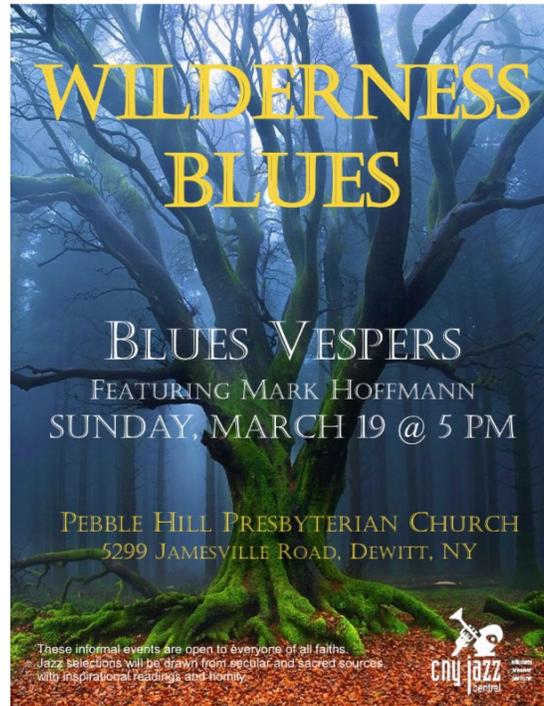
Special Presbytery-Congregation Worship service this Sunday

Please remember that there will be a special service of worship this Sunday, March 19, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Chittenango (118 Arch Street).

This service is the culmination of the careful, prayerful discernment process in which the congregation and the Presbytery have been engaged in following the Gracious Dismissal

Policy. The focus is for this to be a service of worship and reaffirmation to shared fellowship and ministry. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The next Vespers Service at Pebble Hill



Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Amboy Belle Isle United Church (6190 Airport Road, Syracuse, NY 13209) will be having a CHICKEN & BISCUIT Dinner Saturday, April 1st. Serving begins at 4:30 PM, and take-outs are available. Adults are \$9.00, ages 5 - 12 are \$5.00, and under age 5 eat free.



Don't forget the **benefit concert** for the Samaritan Center. The concert will be given by artist Carrie Newcomer, and will be held at Park Central Church in Syracuse on Saturday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. You may order

tickets [here](#).

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.)



Celebrating PC(USA) Beginnings

Roots of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) run deepest in Philadelphia. This year, the Board of Pensions joins the Synod of the Trinity, Presbytery of Philadelphia, and Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) in joyfully celebrating our birth as a church community in America.

The Board is marking 300 years of caring for church workers, which began in 1717 with establishment of the Fund for Pious Uses in Philadelphia. Leading worship at the Board's Board of Directors meeting March 10 was the Reverend Ruth Santana-Grace, Executive Presbyter of the presbytery, celebrating its own 300th birthday.

It has also been 300 years since the synod first met, in Philadelphia as well. And PHS, in the city's Society Hill section, is cheering the return to its rear garden of six Alexander Stirling Calder statues of early Presbyterian leaders, including Francis Makemie, the first moderator of the first presbytery in the America colonies; it first met in 1706, in Philadelphia. PHS plans a celebration in the city where our church community began and where hope for our next 300 years flourishes.

The Rev. Steven W. Plank, Stated Clerk/Communicator
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