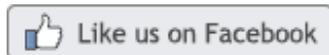




Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
P.O. Box 6010
Syracuse, NY 13217
(315) 632-5698
www.cayugasyracuse.org



March 8, 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!

The Presbyterian Church and Immigration Issues

Going back to at least 1984, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has expressed concern for the plight of immigrant peoples in the United States, has advocated for compassionate care of immigrants and their families, and has encouraged actions to change immigration policies in the United States.

The locale in which the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse exists has a long history of demonstrated commitment to issues related to providing sanctuary to those in need...

- At least two of our congregations were involved in the Underground Railroad.



From Central Florida
Presbytery

- The city of Syracuse was the site for the famous "Jerry Rescue," in which the citizens brazenly defied the federal government's Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.
- Auburn is the home of Harriet Tubman, whose house and surrounding area have been designated as the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park.

To find out more about the General Assembly's and our Synod's resources in this vitally important area, you may find several resources on our website [here](#).

Joys and Concerns around the Presbytery



In our prayers together this week...

In the cycle of prayer for our Presbytery, please pray for these congregations, faith communities, and individuals: Isaiah's Table, Syracuse; Korean Church of Syracuse; Park Central, Syracuse; Robinson Memorial - Elmwood, Syracuse; South Valley, Syracuse.

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

Yes, it's that time again...

Spring forward

Don't forget to set
clocks ahead
one hour
at 2 a.m.
Sunday.

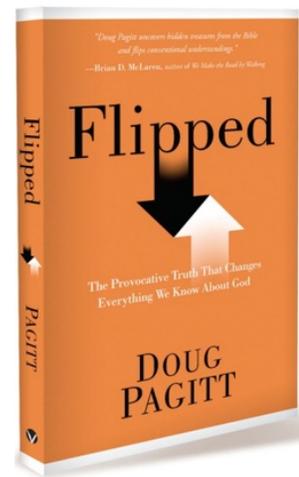


AP

Different folks around the Presbytery will be offering some of their reflections on the Presbytery's Book-Read of *Flipped*, by Doug Pagitt. This is in preparation for Pagitt's presence with us in our Presbytery on May 20. Here is the first of these reflections...

From Steve Plank, Stated Clerk/Communicator of the Presbytery:

I have a confession to begin. I've not yet finished the book. But I'm intrigued by what I've read so far. Pagitt's premise is based on a predominant paradigm of the teachings of Jesus: "You have heard that it was said...but I say to you..." In other words, Jesus takes familiar stories and teachings and biblical passages and, in essence, flips them around in surprising ways so that people can listen with new ears, see with new eyes, understand with new hearts.



The key biblical verse that Pagitt uses to encourage our journey into being *Flipped* is found in St. Paul's speech to the Athenians. In this speech, the Apostle writes about our relationship with God, and says that "In (God) we live, and move, and have our being." (Acts. 17:28a)

Then Pagitt throws down the gauntlet. Instead of reflecting and meditating on what it means to think that, in Christ, God lives *in us*, what if we were to begin to realize that ***we live in God?*** Instead of visualizing what it means for Christ to live within my heart as my Lord and Savior, how would it be different if I began to visualize myself as living within the expansive heart of Almighty God? As I've lived with that image for the past few weeks, it has dawned on me that this really is a VERY different way of viewing my relationship with God. I'm excited to see what the rest of the book leads me to envision and consider!

Around the Presbytery

On Death and Dying

Westminster Presbyterian Church is offering a series of sermons and educational forums on the topic of "Death and Dying, and What Comes After" during Sunday mornings in Lent. Westminster's worship services are at 9:30am, followed by an Education Hour from 10:45-11:45am, at 17 William St, Auburn.

Providing Comfort to Hurting People

When friends or family experience a life-changing event-such as the death of a spouse, cancer diagnosis, layoff from work, or divorce-do you feel able to provide comfort and support? Join the deacons of Park Central Presbyterian Church in Syracuse on Saturday, March 18, for an interactive workshop about providing comfort to hurting people, in a distinctly Christian way. The Rev. Andrew McTyre will lead us, using a well-regarded curriculum developed by the United Church of Christ, combining listening skills with scripture, prayer, and discernment. The workshop will be held on the 3rd floor of the Parish House from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, with light refreshments available at 9:30 am. There is no cost to attend, and lunch is provided. If you feel called to participate, please sign up in the Fayette Street entrance by Thursday, March 16. Contact Anita Wagner at aswagner56@gmail.com with questions.

Opportunities for Book-Read discussion groups

Don't forget that Isaiah's Table and Onondaga Hill Presbyterian Church are opening their Wednesday evening discussion groups for anyone interested in sharing thoughts about the Presbytery's Book-Read of *Flipped*, by Doug Pagitt. Both worshipping communities will hold these groups on Wednesdays... Isaiah's Table at 6:30, and Onondaga Hill Church at 7:30.

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.)



At the 2012 General Assembly (GA), PC(USA) leaders encouraged Presbyterians to create 1,001 new worshiping communities (NWCs) between 2012 and 2022. Since then, across the PC(USA), 409 new and varied forms of church have been raised up by leaders seeking to ignite discipleship and transformation. Of these, 348 (85%) are currently active. These new worshiping communities have the potential to help the PC(USA) shift from an inward-focused, membership-maintenance model of church to a more outward-focused, creative, and disciple-making model. We are grateful for the existence in our midst of Isaiah's Table, one of the ongoing, active New Worshiping Communities.

Research Services, a division of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, has just compiled a final report to the Church from surveys done on the New Worshiping Communities effort. The report is based on responses from 77 presbyteries (45%) and 15 synods (94%). This report compares responses from two waves of the 1001 NWC Survey of Presbytery Leaders (2014 and 2016). The goals of this research have been to learn about: (1) familiarity with and presence of NWCs within presbyteries, (2) congregational support and oversight of NWCs, (3) presbytery oversight and support of NWCs, and (4) presbytery knowledge of 1001 NWC resources.

The General Assembly webpage that gives the background for that report, as well as having a link to download the final report, can be found [here](#).

The Rev. Steven W. Plank, Stated Clerk/Communicator
| statedclerk@cayugasyracuse.org | <http://www.cayugasyracuse.org> |
P.O. Box 6010
Syracuse, NY 13217-6010
(315) 632-5698

"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

Copyright © 2017. All Rights Reserved.