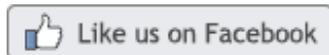




Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse  
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Join Our Mailing List!

July 28, 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



Flag of Haiti

The Haiti Mission & Ministry Team is a collaboration of Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church, United Church of Fayetteville and Park Central Presbyterian Church. The work of the Haiti M & M has also recently been supported by Marcellus Presbyterian Church and Skaneateles Presbyterian Church. Since 2009, the Haiti M & M has been working with our Haitian partners in the areas of education, health and nutrition.

FEED is a French acronym for "Foundation for the Development of Underprivileged Children". It is a non-profit grassroots organization made up of people from the community of Paulette, Haiti. By partnering with FEED, we work with Haitians to find solutions to some of the challenges faced in Haiti. Our partnership is founded on being in relationship with the Haitians as we work together in God's story of Justice.

The October 2017 Mission trip will be a hands-on opportunity to be in relationship with our Haitian partners as we listen, visit, learn and collaborate with them to help Haitians change Haiti. There will be an opportunity to visit the adult literacy center, the two Primary Schools, the FEED Headquarters and the village of Paulette. We will work on building our relationship by listening and speaking to the school principals, the teachers and the members of the FEED team.

When is it? Monday, October 23 to Friday, October 27, 2017

What will it cost? An open heart, a willing spirit, and \$1,100. (This includes transportation to and from Haiti and all transportation, meals and lodging while in Haiti.)

Interested? Questions? Contact Georgette Schmidt at [gschmidt@twcny.rr.com](mailto:gschmidt@twcny.rr.com) or phone 315-446-1176 Deadline to sign-up for the trip is August 15th.

## Joys and Concerns around the Presbytery

In our prayers together this week...

- Pray for the Rev. Earl Eastman and his family. Rev. Eastman was pastor at the Skaneateles church from 1970-1993. Earle's son Keith took his life on July 17, 2017. Memorial services of the Resurrection were held on Thursday, July 20 at the Geigle Funeral Home in Harrisburg, PA.
- Pray for all those involved in mission trips this summer.



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

**Pals be Goosin'**  
submitted by Becky Wind



In early July, three members of Isaiah's Table's affiliated young adult group, PALs, made the 12 hour road trip to Hot Springs, NC for the Wild Goose Festival. It was well worth the long drive! PALs stands for People At Lydia's - a reference to Acts 16, where Lydia opened her house up for the followers of Jesus to stay, eat and talk about spirituality - which is essentially what we do on a weekly basis.

When we arrived at the Goose, we first had to pick a spot to pitch our tent. As people arrived, there ended up being about 4-6 tents per campsite. Strangers quickly became friendly neighbors. The next three days consisted of 45 minute workshop sessions from 8am-6pm. The sessions took place in 7 tent locations, so at any given time, there were at least 7 different options to attend. Some speakers we heard included Nadia Bolz-Weber, Brian McLaren, Doug Pagitt, Diana Butler-Bass, Jim Wallis, Rev. Dr. William Barber, and Frank Schaffer. In the evenings, activities included live concerts at the mainstage, beer and hymns in the pub tent, and a nightly silent disco.

I feel Wild Goose has opened my mind and my soul. Wild Goose aims to be a transformative experience through sharing stories grounded in faith. Listening to a variety of people who have perspectives different than my white, middle-class, female experience talk about what it means to be a person of faith in other parts of our country broke me open to see how much more I really have to learn. I thought I understood my white privilege, but I realize I haven't truly taken that knowledge to heart. As our society continues to become more and more media and electronic based, it is important as a Christian to treat everyone we meet as a unique and beautiful creation of God. I can't wait for Wild Goose next year!

## Around the Presbytery

### Blessing of the Animals



Westminster Church will have some fun with a Presbyterian-style "blessing of the pets" on Sunday, August 6, during the worship service starting at 9:30 am. The Blessing of the Animals will recognize the special bond we share with animal friends and companions, and will be blended into the morning worship on the church's front lawn at 17 William Street in downtown Auburn. All God's creatures (two footed, four footed, no-footed, paws, claws, talons, or other) are welcome (on leashes or in carriers, please). For information, call 315-253-3331.

### Blessings in a Backpack

Tee up with Robinson Elmwood Church and Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church to support Blessings in a Backpack.

When: Sunday, August 13

Time: 1pm Shotgun Start - Dinner to follow

Where: Foxfire at Village Green

Fee: \$100 per golfer

Registration deadline: August 6

Email [Steve Mattice](mailto:Steve.Mattice) for registration information.

All proceeds after expenses go directly to Blessings in a Backpack to support our mission

of feeding hungry students at Delaware school in Syracuse.

### Interfaith Dinner Dialogues in Syracuse

InterFaith Works' Dinner Dialogues will be held on Thursday, Sept. 14, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at various host residences in and around Syracuse. Gathering over a meal and discussing questions posed by a facilitator, diverse individuals offer their personal thoughts about faith and spirituality. A facilitator guides and moderates the dialogue, so participants feel comfortable sharing.

Dialogue hosts provide a simple vegetarian dinner for their guests. Eating together is a symbolic act of tolerance, respect and understanding, as well as an outward expression of unity among those with varied beliefs and religious traditions. Participation is free. Join us as we share, listen and learn how we as a community are united together.



For more information about hosting, facilitating or attending, contact Daryl Files at 315-449-3552, ext. 208, or email [dfiles@interfaithworkscny.org](mailto:dfiles@interfaithworkscny.org).

### August 15 meeting papers

Papers and reports for the August 15 Presbytery meeting are posted on our website: [here](#). The meeting will begin with registration at 4:00 p.m., and it will be hosted by Robinson Elmwood United Church. Hope to see you there!

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>).

## World Cafe at Presbytery on August 15

Friends -

*Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda!* Reformed and always Reforming is a motto that we, as Presbyterians live into. While this does not mean "new is better". It means who we are, and who we are intended to be.

On August 15th, the Presbytery will gather, together, in fellowship, worship and praise! I am inviting you to join in the Presbytery World Café prior to the main events of the evening. As our Presbytery is discerning our vision for tomorrow, we are interested in your vision of how you view the Presbytery, and are we living up to what God is requiring of us.

I encourage you to pray over Acts 11: 1-18 prior to our time together. We, not "them", WE are the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse - a proud tradition of believers and followers. While we honor our heritage in Central New York and, our footprints that we continue to make in the world that God has created, we are at a season, once again, that we seek out how we are doing God's work of equipping our churches to fulfill the great commission.

The Presbytery World Café is an exciting time for fellowship, discussion and to listen for God's voice. They are fun (really), and the conversations spark more conversations, and so on. We will meet for about 45 minutes in the Fellowship Hall at Robinson Elmwood United Church on Tuesday, August 15th at 4:15pm. This is one of many more times that we will gather through our process. We will share our conversations and thoughts with everyone as we go.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions. The Vision for the Future workgroup meets monthly, and we welcome anyone to attend. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to text or call me at 315-403-2960 or [ddebrucker@gmail.com](mailto:ddebrucker@gmail.com)

Peace and blessings,  
Dan DeBrucker-Cota

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

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