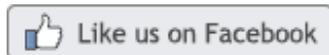




Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
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Join Our Mailing List!

July 12, 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



Ten years ago, the First Presbyterian Church of Skaneateles founded the John Dau Foundation in honor of the Lost Boys who were relocated here during the Sudanese unrest.

John Dau himself has a truly spectacular story, surviving the horrors of war as a boy in Sudan and leading thousands of his fellow children in a years-long quest for a true safe haven. In 2001, he emigrated to the United States, settling in Syracuse and ultimately

earning his bachelor's degree from SU. He was the subject of the film *God Grew Tired of Us*, which earned numerous awards at the Sundance Film Festival in 2006.

The John Dau Foundation's primary objective is the treatment and prevention of diseases that are menacing issues to the people of South Sudan. Malnutrition, cholera, HIV, and a host of other issues are all problems that the Foundation aims to fight. So far, the struggle has been effective, with the Duk Lost Boys Clinic, opened in 2007, providing care and treatment to thousands in need.

Today, even with the foundation serving over 190,000 people with famine relief, the church continues to contribute. Reverend Craig Lindsey has been at the forefront from square one - under his guidance, the church began sponsoring Sudanese refugees back in 2001, a group that happened to include John Dau. In 2005, as the war died down, he answered the call for someone to help the Lost Boys reunite with their families, traveling to Sudan himself and helping to build a clinic. The nearest doctor was 70 miles away, making the clinic a true necessity. Children and adults alike were dying of preventable diseases, the impetus for what became today's full-blown relief effort, ranging from eye care to maternity necessities to immunizations. The reduced stability in 2013 was no deterrent, with care centers springing up in refugee camps even as the main clinic became inaccessible. Today, these crucial medical care facilities address the most desperate of needs, saving children so malnourished that death is as little as 24 hours away without treatment.

This is a group doing pure good for others from right here in CNY. Helping is not expensive - saving the life of a child dying of malnutrition can cost only \$150. On Thursday July 13th, at 5:30 at the Lodge at Welch Allyn in Skaneateles all are welcome to attend the fundraiser to help the cause. Entry is \$75 per person, \$30 for children and free to those six and under.

Unlike most fundraising dinners, this one features a subsistence diet. The whole point is to alleviate hunger for those in need almost unimaginable to Americans, and so the menu consists of beans, rice, and kale: simple food for us, but a feast for the South Sudanese the event seeks to help.

To read more, and to listen to a video interview of the Rev. Craig Lindsey about the work of the John Dau Foundation, [click here](#).

Send any mission stories from your congregation that you would like to share to Steve Plank: statedclerk@cayugasyracuse.org.

Joys and Concerns around the Presbytery

In our prayers together this week...

- Pray for the Rev. Pam Gnagy (Marcellus), who fell last week and broke her wrist.
- Elder Dan DeBrucker (Robinson-Elmwood) and his husband, Brian Cota. Brian's cousin was killed early this week in a tragic accident on I-81.



In the cycle of prayer for our Presbytery, please pray for these congregations, faith communities, and individuals: First, Cazenovia; First, Chittenango; United Church of Collamer; Pebble Hill, DeWitt; First United Church of East Syracuse.

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

Other Voices from the Presbytery

From Charlie Brown, Mission Chair (among many other "hats" he wears) at Robinson-Elmwood Church...

Robinson-Elmwood has started using two different credit card applications to accept donations and/or purchase tickets to dinners, etc.

For accepting credit cards for donations we have partnered with VANCO via PowerChurch. They are seamlessly integrated. Take a look at our web site at www.robinsonmem.org and click on the donations button on the right side of the screen. It takes you to the donations page set up on our site and connects to VANCO. The person who manages the application can select which funds are available to donate to and the contributions are directed to the proper fund account in PowerChurch, all in the background. It is not difficult to set up and the cost is pretty reasonable. Robinson-Elmwood has seen a significant leveling-off of donations where we used to experience peaks and valleys during summer or holidays. Since we implemented VANCO our monthly revenue stream is very steady. While we can't absolutely credit VANCO for this, the timing is certainly there. If folks are interested in this their web-site is <http://vancopayments.com>. PowerChurch is not needed to use the service.

We have also implemented utilization of the Square Reader credit card reader. <https://squareup.com> It's as simple as signing up with SquareUp, purchasing a reader for less than \$30 and put it to use. They have made it very easy to sign up and use. The reader is a small, square device that plugs into an iPhone, iPad or Android phone or tablet. We selected this company because their fees are very small with no monthly minimum, perfect for occasional users like churches. Our first use was for our chicken BBQ and we accepted approximately 20% of our ticket sales via credit card. In two instances we would have had to turn folks away if we couldn't accept credit cards. We are very happy with the implementation.

If you'd like to talk with Charlie about how they implemented these two processes, you may call him at (315) 378-8124 or email him at cbrown154@me.com.

Around the Presbytery



From an article in the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, and published online...

"A police camera hung off the utility pole at the corner of Park and Turtle streets on Syracuse's North Side. 'It's not unusual to find prostitutes on the steps of the church there,' says Bonnie Fuller.

"The neighborhood struggles with poverty and drugs, too. Instead of retreating behind the church doors, the Westminster Presbyterian Church decided to go out into the neighborhood and ask how its members can help.

"A bit like Lucy from the *Peanuts* comic, some church members set up a tent with a shingle every Thursday and wait for people to walk by. 'Pop-up Prayers, Anytime Anywhere,' the sign reads."

To read the complete article, just [click here](#).

Mission Co-Workers coming to Auburn

You are invited to meet Charles and Melissa Johnson, two PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers (the new and improved term for what used to be called "missionaries") who work in Zambia. Charles and Melissa are elders whose focus is sustainable agriculture and health education, especially for women and children. They are in the United States for a few months to share their stories with churches, and we are lucky that they are visiting CNY in July! Westminster (Auburn) and First Presbyterian (Auburn) churches are co-hosting their presentation, along with a potluck picnic, on Saturday, July 22, at First Presbyterian Church, 112 South St, from 5-8pm. Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear about God's work in Zambia through these two committed Presbyterians. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/charles-and-melissa-johnson/>

Presbyterian Women: Save-the-Date

Save the Date: September 13 - 14, 2017
UTICA/CAYUGA-SYRACUSE
Presbyterian Women's Retreat at Vanderkamp!
"Experience Your Faith Through Art!"

Our leader will be Cynthia Virkler Courtney, Forest Hill, MD, formerly a Vanderkamper from Lowville. Cynthia is a Graphic Designer who will show us how to experience our faith through art. Make plans to attend.

More information and registration forms will be coming soon. The cost will be \$70. Please pass this information along to anyone who might be interested in attending. The more the merrier. Spread the word!

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.)

We are a people who believe that God migrated to the person Jesus, who then became a refugee in Egypt. Beginning with Adam and Eve, the world's first immigrants, the Bible is replete with stories of our faith ancestors being called and sent to lands unknown. The story of our faith is told through the lens of immigration and immigrants but we often miss the implication this has on our spiritual practices and faith tradition.

The Presbyterian Church's Office of Immigration Issues has provided resources to help worship planners and individuals incorporate these stories, as well as the biblical mandates to love the stranger and work for justice for the oppressed, into everyday worship and prayer. For information and resources about this, please [click here](#).



OFFICE OF
IMMIGRATION ISSUES

The Office of Immigration Issues welcomes your contribution to our effort to gather worship materials that lift up the immigrant experience. If you have materials to offer, please

contact Teresa Waggener at teresa.waggener@pcusa.org or 502-569-5007.

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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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