



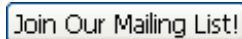
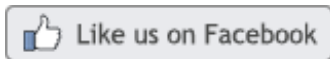
"Equipping Our Churches to Fulfill the Great Commission"



"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

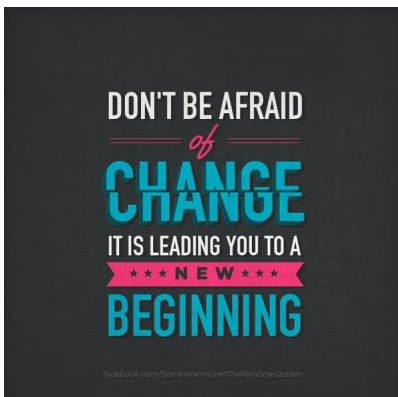


November 17, 2017

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 Is Beginnng



With the pending retirement of Steve Plank, our Stated Clerk/Communicator for the past four-plus years, there are some changes that are being put in place. Some of them include the following...

The **Presbytery's mailing address** has been changed, effective immediately. All mail, whether general or financial, now should be sent to 5811 Heritage Landing Drive, 2nd floor, East Syracuse, NY 13057. Synod staff graciously have agreed to collect mail and put it in the room where our Presbytery file cabinets are kept. Someone from the

Presbytery then will collect the mail on a regular basis and process it accordingly. Financial mail will immediately be picked up by our Presbytery's bookkeeper, Paula Lamberson.

The **Presbytery phone number** will remain the same: (315) 632-5698. However, on or around December 5, people calling the Presbytery will have the opportunity to connect to, or leave voicemails for, the chairperson of the Leadership Team, the Stated Clerk, the Presbytery Moderator, and the chairperson of the Ministry Work Group (or C.O.M.).

The **newly-elected Stated Clerk**, elder Larry Beasley, will assume office on January 1. Due to holiday schedules and unused vacation time this year, the last day of work for our current Stated Clerk/Communicator, the Rev. Steve Plank, will be December 15. During that brief interim time, any of the people listed above may be reached through the Presbytery's phone number.

Joys and Concerns around the Presbytery

In our prayers together this week...

- Pray for all those affected by the shooting and murders on Sunday, November 5, at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas.
- Continue to pray for those affected by this fall's hurricanes, and especially residents and workers in Puerto Rico.



Note from Westminster Church in Auburn about the church shooting... "One of our new worshipers, Giselle, has a close friend who had 10 family members killed in the shooting, almost her entire family. One of them was six-months-pregnant. Giselle has returned to Texas to be with her friend. She asks that we pray for Ron and Ruth, who face a tragedy few of us can fathom. Let us also pray for Giselle as she provides comfort and wrestles with her own heartbreak. Finally, let us all take time to consider what we (individually and as a church of Christ's peace) can do to prevent future acts of gun violence."

In the cycle of prayer for our Presbytery, please pray for these congregations, faith communities, and individuals: Northminster, North Syracuse; Onondaga Hill; Faith United Church of Oswego; Presbyterian Church of Otisco; New Hope, Parish.

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

Retirement Reception

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

RETIREMENT RECEPTION

in honor of Steve Plank

WHEN: December 17th • 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 11th at (315) 252-5795 • lsruss@aol.com



Other Voices from the Presbytery

Friends -

Greetings from the Presbyterian Network to End Homelessness!

I am asking that you consider signing on, as Faith Leaders, to the "Bring It Home: Better Funding For Better Care" campaign.

This campaign is a coalition of mental health advocates, supportive housing providers, consumers of mental health services, families and now faith leaders who are calling on the state to adequately fund community based housing programs in an effort to avoid a financial crisis. We greatly appreciate the support that the faith community can provide! There will be plenty of opportunities over the coming months for active participation, but this is the first step! Be a part of the change. Take action, be counted, and join the campaign! Elders, Deacons and Clergy are welcome, and encouraged to sign. This campaign will make many housing opportunities possible in our community, and across New York State.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) for the Sign-on form.

Please share this with your congregations and contacts.

Peace and blessings,

Daniel DeBrucker - Cota
National Organizer | Presbyterian Network to End Homelessness
WWW.ONEROOFSYRACUSE.COM



Kirkin' Of the Tartans

The First Presbyterian Church in Skaneateles is hosting this year's "Kirkin' Of the Tartans" worship service this Sunday, November 19, at 4:00 p.m. Scottish attire is welcome, even encouraged! The church is located at 97 East Genesee Street in Skaneateles.

Two Things from Robinson Elmwood United Church

First: Robinson Elmwood United Church will hold its annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale Tuesday 11/21 from 11am to 5pm and Wednesday 11/22 from 10am until sold out! Pies include pumpkin, pecan, apple, and whatever other flavors Dave Forrest decides to bake up. Pies are only \$12.00 each. Specialty pies may cost extra. Contact us at 315-468-2509 for more information.

Second: Free to any church or group in need: a customizable sign and letters (see attached photo). This sign and the letters for it came to Robinson Elmwood many years ago, and we do not have a use for it. Please contact us at 315-468-2509 or office@robinsonmem.org if you or your organization could give it a good home.



New Worshipping Communities Workgroup

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse New Worshipping Communities Workgroup (NWCW) welcomes you to join us on Tuesday, November 21st, 7pm at Isaiah's Table. The NWCW will meet every-other Tuesday evening at 7pm to explore God's mission within our Presbytery.

Why New Worship Communities?

There is no better way to participate in the mission of God than to plant new indigenous churches. Tim Keller, has said, "All of our existing churches were at one point created and planted by people responding to the mission of God in the world. Planting Churches has always been the best evangelistic strategy and remains so in the 21st century. 60-80% of people who join new churches were previously un-churched or de-churched whereas 80% of people who join stablished churches come from letters of transfer (Lyle Schaller, in McGavran and Hunter, Church Growth. Strategies that Work, p. 100).

The planting of new worship communities will require fresh and innovative strategies and partnerships within our presbytery. Join us as we explore God's call to examine how the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse can come alongside the work of God in our midst.

For more information, contact the co-chairs:

Elder Nancy Wind (Isaiah's Table) 315-391-1824, nawind86@gmail.com.

Elder/Dan DeBrucker-Cota (Robinson Elmwood) 315-403-2960 ddebrucker@gmail.com.

ALSO: Save The Date! Friday, February 9th - New Worship Community Retreat! More details to follow.

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.)



In the 2nd letter to the Corinthians, Paul offers a mini sermon on the results of generosity. First Paul grounds us in God's generosity, reminding us that God is both source and amplification of our generosity. The gifts we give are from God and they are multiplied and increased as we give. Giving has a compounding effect, enriching the life of the giver "in every way". It results in impact to the giver, who receive the ministry made possible by the gift, overflows in thanksgiving to God, and to the whole church as it inspires and testifies to the gracious work of God through Christ. It is that grace, then, that is described by Paul as "incredible", and that grace that is made known when we give.

Participating in the Christmas Joy Offering lives out this truth. We give because God has freely given. We give to support the needs of our church leaders, past, present and future and God amplifies and extends those gift through the ministry of those who benefit. Those gifts of ministry extend and amplify as well, even as they "overflow" in thanksgiving to God, while the entirety of the impact bears witness to the whole church of God's grace, a truly incredible gift. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

- The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions
- Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges
- Racial Ethnic Leadership Development

The work of the Offering is compounding generosity, with unending expansion and ceaseless increase.

Want to find out more information, including interpretive resources about this special offering of the Presbyterian Church? Simply [click here](#).

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