Presbyterian News



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Pianist/Organist Barbara Schwartz

Church Secretary
John Merritt

Treasurer Tom Donegan

Financial Secretary
Pat Thorpe

Clerk of Session
Pat Thorpe

Custodian Jennawade Skellham



Februuary 3

Communion

Birthday Bash

<u>February 4</u>

Committee Meetings

February 9

Prom Dress Gíveaway

February 10

Appreciation Party for Linda

February 13

Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering

February 18

Deacons Meeting

February 19

March Newsletter Deasdline

February 25

Session Meeting

A NOTE FROM THE STUDY

So – Presidents and Valentines and Ash Wednesday are on our minds as we tumble into February. Several years ago, Martha and I spent Presidents' Day in Washington DC and spent the day visiting monuments to all our Presidents. We started at Mt. Vernon and from there went to Arlington, pausing at the JFK memorial and eventually ended the day seeing Lincoln sitting in his chair, the weight of a torn nation on his mind. I recommend that you add "spending a Presidents' Day visiting with our former Presidents" to your bucket list.

Now, I wonder, "Is it possible to join together Valentine thinking with US Presidents?" For this I have had to do a little digging. I know, you are probably asking, "What does that have to do with our faith?" Well, I just thought that since love is such a prominent New Testament word and love is something Jesus commands us to do, that it wouldn't hurt to pause and consider some obscure observations, and so we've been on a hunt of sorts. So here are some Presidential-Valentine thoughts.

6. John Tyler: Though his decision to annex Texas led to the Mexican-American War, Tyler had a poet's sensibilities. After his first wife died early in his presidency, he courted a much younger Julia Gardiner with verse. He contemplated giving love a second chance:

"Shall I again that Harp unstring, Which long hath been a useless thing, Unheard in Lady's bower?"

Tyler and Gardiner were married in 1844, in the first wedding for a sitting US President.

- 5. Woodrow Wilson: A fine Presbyterian Sunday School Teacher, elder, and President of Princeton. He wasn't just stiffly obsessed with the League of Nations. He wrote hundreds of beautiful letters to his first wife, Ellen Louise Axson, who died while he was in office. Then he fell hard for Washington widow Edith Galt. "My pride and joy and gratitude that you should love me with such a perfect love are beyond all expression," he wrote her. They married in 1915.
- 4. Andrew Jackson: Old Hickory fought 13 duels, many (at least nominally) over perceived insults to the honor of his wife, Rachel. "May the angelic hosts that rewards and protects virtue and innocence ... be with you until I return," he wrote her in 1813. Tragically, Rachel died two weeks before Jackson was elected president.
- 3. Harry Truman: This plain-spoken fellow relied heavily on support from his wife, Bess. They exchanged handwritten letters for 50 years. On July 29, 1945, he wrote her from German, where he was attending the Potsdam Conference: "It made me terribly home sick when I talked with you yesterday morning.... I spent the day after the call trying to think up reasons why I should bust up the Conference and go home."

- 2. Ronald Reagan: Reagan wrote his beloved Nancy constantly, with special notes for anniversaries. On March 4, 1983, he wrote, "I more than love you, I'm not whole without you."
- 1. John Adams: Adams and his wife, Abigail, were famously close. They exchanged thousands of serious, teasing, and loving missives. "Miss Adorable," Adams once wrote her, "I hereby order you to give [me], as many kisses, and as many hours of your company ... as [I] shall please to demand and charge them to my account."

I read in The Style section of the *Huffington Post* that the Obamas didn't make a special deal out of Valentine's Day because it is so close to her birthday. They celebrated it at Camp David a time or two and in their first year in the White House, they went home to Chicago and enjoyed a quiet dinner at Table 52, a traditional Southern restaurant owned by Art Smith, the former chef of Obama pal Oprah Winfrey.

I have no clue how our current President and his wife will be spending Valentine's Day. Those are the more intimate things that tend to come out much later in literature and news reports.

Have you not wondered like others why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day? When trying to create an image of romance, the last thing on most minds is a short, chubby toddler coming at you with a weapon. "I think men who have a pierced ear are better prepared for marriage. They've experienced pain and bought jewelry," says Rita Rudner.

Women have told me that sometimes they wish that their loved ones would love them in a way that they really want to be loved. "Flowers are nice, but cleaning up the bathroom would be good, too." Paul E. Miller, in his book Love Walked A mong Us: Learning to Love Like Jesus alludes to this when he writes: "You're late getting out of work, so you call ahead and ask your husband to start the laundry, your son to do his homework and your daughter to throw the casserole in the oven. When you walk in the door, your husband is plopped on the sofa, watching TV, and the laundry basket is sitting where you left it; your son is glued to the computer as his bookbag sits in the corner, unopened; and your daughter is on the phone as the frozen casserole sits on the counter. No one looks up as you come in. You want to scream. Love is the farthest thing from your mind. You think, 'When is someone going to love me and anticipate my needs?"

Perhaps the hardest part of love is not, "How do I love?"; it's wanting to love in the first place, and then having the energy to do it. It takes energy to love, energy that we don't often seem to have. Maybe that is why it is so incredible to believe for all the creating that God did, God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, so that whoever believes in him would not perish but might have eternal life. Now that is love that is deep.

Bruce

SAVE THE DATE

AVE THE DATE
inter Gathering for all women of the Presbya.m. at Rome First Presbyterian with a Pote Rev. Sam Pendergrast and he will be sharing
S. Southern border.
Call Jan Whiting at The Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering for all women of the Presbytery is on February 13at 9:30 a.m. at Rome First Presbyterian with a Potluck lunch. The speaker will be Rev. Sam Pendergrast and he will be sharing his experiences along the U.S. Southern border.

Call Jan Whiting at

363-4392 for details.



Cabaret Night!!!



First Presbyterian's Third Annual Cabaret Night.....

> When? Friday March 15th from 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Who? You!!!!

Share your talent, be it Magic, Poetry, Singing, Dancing, Comedy...or if you know someone with a great act. Join us for a night of Entertainment and fun. There will be refreshments and delicious desserts to choose from.

Please contact Perry Tooker if you would like to perform. Please contact Cindy Bonville or Pam West if you have a dessert you would like to share. If you would like to help decorate, call Kathy Bruno or Carol Musgrove. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and at the door.

All proceeds go to the deacon's scholarship fund.





Don't forget the special offering on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3rd. It is collected by the youth after the worship service at the exit locations.

This Souper Bowl donation will go to the local food pantries to help feed the poor. If you want to contribute to the Souper Bowl and you won't be here on February 3rd, you can put your donation in a yellow envelope (found in the pews) and put Souper Bowl on the outside.

Baby bottles filled with change – that's The Baby Bottle Campaign

It's a simple idea that provides thousands of dollars to save lives.

Each year the money raised from the Campaign helps support those facing unplanned pregnancies and their babies through the ministry of Care Net.

It's easy. Pick up a baby bottle from the table in the auditorium. Fill it up with change (or dollars too!) and bring it back to the church.

Coffee Servers

You will be receiving soon (February) a list of Coffee Servers for the year 2019.

As many of you know, coffee and cookies are served following our Sunday services. Members are asked to be a part of this event once a year as a time for fellowship and getting to know each other better.

The Fellowship Committee prepares this list and is thankful for your participation and service to your church. You will be reminded two weeks in advance of your time. If you are unable to serve at that time, it would help the committee if you could switch with a friend. **PLEASE**, mark your calendar upon receiving the list.



Stephanie Gwilt - Our new Choir director! She has been teaching in the Oneida school district for many years. She brings her unique gifts and talents to our music program.

Barbara Schwartz - Our new Organist! Is a substitute teacher from the Central Square School District and was Choir Director for the Baptist Church in Camden.



WHO ARE THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN?

The Presbyterian Women's organization of our church is a mission group, all women of the church may be members and are welcome to attend our meetings. We meet monthly except during the summer. Our main purpose is mission but through our service together we are thankful for the friendship, love and understanding that we are able to share with each other. The Presbyterian Women usually have their meeting on the third Tuesday of the month.

Second Hand Rose takes consignments on women's and children's clothing and small household items in new to nearly condition. new Hours are Wed. -Sat. 11 AM - 3 PM. Consignments are taken from 11 -2 each day. Phone: 366-9900

The next meeting of the Presbytery of Utica will be held March 26th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Rome,

NY..

MISSIONS

Christmas Joy

Dur Mission Committee would like to the tother thank everyone for their generosity.

Blanket Drive

Our church raised \$293 for the Blanket
Drive. Our Mission Committee would
again like to thank everyone for their
generosity.

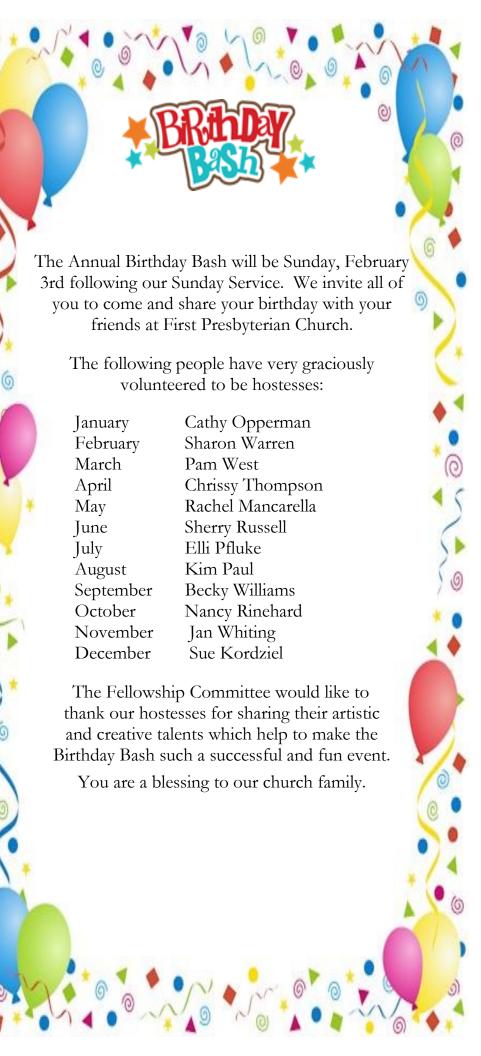
Souper Bowl

Don't forget to bring extra change for the Souper Bowl collection on February 3rd to help feed the poor in our community.

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Vanderkamp News







DINNERS FOR EIGHT

Share the joy of Dinners for Eight!

Once again, the Christian Fellowship Committee will be organizing the opportunity for people to get together in the warmth of a home for an evening of enjoyable dinner,

relaxation and just plain fun!

There is no planned program so you may leave whenever you wish. You can sign up as a couple or as a single.

Singles may bring a friend.

When all the names are in, they will be divided into groups of eight with one volunteer as a host or hostess. That host will contact the other seven people to arrange a date and time, and decide on the menu. Each couple or single will be asked to bring either an appetizer, main dish, salad or dessert.

Our last Dinners for Eight was a great success, we had over 80 people participate! We'd love to have twice as many people this time.

The sign-up sheets will be available in the bulletin starting January 15th and lasting for 3 weeks.

The deadline for sign-ups is January 29th.

Fill out the sheet and put it in the collection plate.

If you have any questions, please call Jan Whiting (363-4392) or the church office (363-7590).



LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS

For the month of January, 2019

Robert Archer Dawn Kimball (Donna Ausman's sister)

Abby Bartell Jean Kowalik
Alan Baur Florence LaRock
Bryce Bechtel (friend of Zach Thompson) Eloise Latino

Darlene Burke Mary Ellen Lemon Bob Butler Maribeth Matthews

Marty Canning Jason Maycock (Sandy Glynn's brother)

Terry Clark (friend of Melissa Smith)

Glade Cook Jr. (nephew of Warrens)

Nancy DeMassa

Dave Meeker Sr.

Marian Meyers

Jeanne Miller

Mary Lou DeRuby Larry Moorehouse (Bill Butler)

Peggy Eastman Tom Panasci

Jeannine Fariel Rich Snyder (Jennifer Colvin's neighbor)

John Ferguson Harold Thompson

Jillian Felt Betty Thorpe (Jim's aunt)

Linda Gaut

TJ Gaut

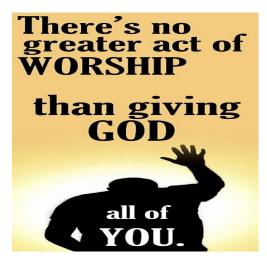
Christopher Wuest

Becky Grasso Bill and Dolores Young

Phyllis Harvey
Michael Hayes (friend of Melissa Smith)
Michelle
Sarah Hrim (Georgia Fox's sister)
Nathan
Jamie Hubbard
Patrick
Wendy Holtz
Vicky
Vic and Millie Johnson
Angelia

Horace Keller

Thank you for your prayers. If you know of anyone who is sick, in the hospital, or in need of our prayers, PLEASE call the Church Office, 363-7590 or Jan Whiting, Prayer Chain, 363-4392.





SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS:

Rob Arnold, Sharon Fuller, Joshua Carrier

FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:

Louis Ducey (Jenn Motts uncle)

SPECIAL CONCERNS:

- Alex Dearmore and Isaac Colvin who will be studying abroad.

- Refugees, Christian martyrs and others at risk from ISIS.

MISSION EMPHASIS:

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry



Pray for those who are serving overseas; Colin Whitcombe; the U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan, and our Police/Fire Safety personnel.

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS: Pray for those who are stationed in non-combat zones: Mark Sia, Zane Mechalke, Peter Thompson, Howard Bantle, Nicholas Young, Philip Messina, Ryan Geer, Matthew Winchell, John Goodwill, Jeff Carpenter, Errol Crossman, Corey Reed, Michael McMahon, Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Nate Borchardt.

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2019 CLASS OF 2020

Doug Lippert
Carol Miller
Kim Paul
Dave Schellhase
Trish Vrooman
Barb Arnold

Frank Kordziel Judy Sweet Becky Williams Randy Bonville

CLASS OF 2021

Bill Butler Lucille Merriman Pat Thorpe

CLASS OF 2019

Cindy Bonville Lynn Morey Ginny Pendleton Perry Tooker IV Pam West Stephanie Thompson

CLASS OF 2020

John Merritt Deborah Owens Jan Whiting

CLASS OF 2021

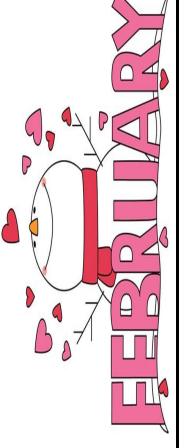
Andy Froass



The annual prom dress giveaway will be taking place on Saturday Feb 9th from 9 am until noon. If anyone is interested in helping with setting up on Thursday the 7th or with helping the morning of the giveaway, please see Becky Williams or Kristin Tooker.

History of the prom dress giveaway. In 2009, Karin Musgrove and Becky Williams were at a local pizza place when a story came up about a prom dress giveaway in Hamilton. They decided to take the idea to the outreach committee and see if anything could come of it. Several people jumped on board with the idea. An article was put in the paper requesting donations and the response from the community was overwhelming!! In this, the 11th year since the giveaway started, over 300 dresses are available to choose from and new ones coming in regularly. The first year, we only met the needs of a few girls but each year, as word has gotten out about the giveaway and the quality of the dresses, numbers have increased. Last year, we gave away over 50 dresses and we hope to increase that number even more this year!! There is an event page on Facebook that we ask everyone to share. It is not limited by location!! Last year, a woman who had 2 foster daughters, who were juniors, in Herkimer heard the event on Big Frog 104. She came and was in tears over the beautiful dresses they were able to leave with and she told us they would not have otherwise been able to afford the prom. This is a wonderful ministry that truly shows the love of Jesus Christ through others giving of what they have and no longer need. The day of the giveaway is one of the most rewarding days of the year for those that get to witness the pure happiness these girls display.





Sat	2	9 PROM DRESS GIVEAWAY	16	23	
Fri	l 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	8 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	15 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	22 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	
Thu		7 3 pm. The Connection	14 3 pm. The Connection	21 3 pm. The Connection	28 3 pm. The Connection
Wed		9	13 10 am Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering	20	27
Tue		5	12	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26
Mon		4 7 p.m. Committee Meetings	II	18 OFFICE CLOSED 7 p.m. Deacons Meeting	25 7 p.m. Session
Sun		3 8:45 a.m Bible Study 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Communion Souper Bowl of Caring Birthday Bash	10 8:45 a.m Bible Study 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Party for Linda 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	17 8:45 a.m Bible Study 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	24 8:45 a.m Bible Study

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 304 Broad Street Oneida, NY 13421

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 19th

