

# Presbyterian News



EDITION

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## CHURCH STAFF

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Choir Director  
Stephanie Gwilt

Pianist/Organist  
Barbara Schwartz

Church Secretary  
John Merritt

Treasurer  
Tom Donegan

Financial Secretary  
Pat Thorpe

Clerk of Session  
Pat Thorpe

Custodian  
Jennawade Skellham



## February 3

*Communion*

*Birthday Bash*

## February 4

*Committee Meetings*

## February 9

*Prom Dress Giveaway*

## 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 Among 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

The Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering for all women of the Presbytery is on February 13 at 9:30 a.m. at Rome First Presbyterian with a Pot-luck 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.



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.



*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.*



## 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.

# Greetings

**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.



### Presbyterian Women

*Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community*

## 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 new condition. 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

*Our Mission Committee would like to 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.*

## Vanderkamp News



New Entry doors at  
Vanderkamp; Donated by  
the PW at First  
Presbyterian



The Annual Birthday Bash will be Sunday, February 3rd following our Sunday Service. We invite all of you to come and share your birthday with your friends at First Presbyterian Church.

The following people have very graciously volunteered to be hostesses:

January	Cathy Opperman
February	Sharon Warren
March	Pam West
April	Chrissy Thompson
May	Rachel Mancarella
June	Sherry Russell
July	Elli Pfluke
August	Kim Paul
September	Becky Williams
October	Nancy Rinehard
November	Jan Whiting
December	Sue Kordziel

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank our hostesses for sharing their artistic and creative talents which help to make the Birthday Bash such a successful and fun event.

You are a blessing to our church family.



## *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)	Dave Meeker Sr.
Glade Cook Jr. (nephew of Warrens)	Marian Meyers
Nancy DeMassa	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	Beverly Vineall
TJ Gaut	Christopher Wuest
Becky Grasso	Bill and Dolores Young
Phyllis Harvey	Jerry
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.**

**There's no  
greater act of  
WORSHIP**

**than giving  
GOD**



**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**

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

**CLASS OF 2020**

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.





# FEBRUARY

2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	2	
3 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Communion Souper Bowl of Caring Birthday Bash	4 7 p.m. Committee Meetings	5	6	7 3 pm. The Connection	8 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	9 PROM DRESS GIVEAWAY
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	11	12	13 10 am Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering	14 3 pm. The Connection	15 11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	16
17 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Bible Study	18 OFFICE CLOSED 7 p.m. Deacons Meeting	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20	21	22	23
24 8:45 a.m. - Bible Study	25 7 p.m. Session	26	27	28 3 pm. The Connection	11 a.m. Ladies Bible Study	

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
304 Broad Street  
Oneida, NY 13421

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY  
NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 19th**

