

# Agape Harvest

## First United Presbyterian Church of Pine Plains

3039 Church Street  
(to visit)  
P. O. Box 313  
(for mailing)  
Pine Plains, NY 12567  
Tel: (518) 398-7117

*To **know** the love of  
Christ; to **show** the  
love of Christ; and to  
**grow** in the love of  
Christ.*

All are welcome to  
join us at our  
weekly Sunday  
worship service at  
11:00 a.m.

### Pastoral Care:

Pastor Ryan can be  
reached for *urgent and  
emergency* needs on  
his personal mobile  
phone 24/7, (518) 261-  
0834. For non-urgent  
calls, please leave a  
message on the church  
office phone: (518)  
398-7117, which is  
checked as few as  
seven times/week and  
not every day.

Hudson River  
Presbytery:  
[www.hudrivpres.org](http://www.hudrivpres.org)

Perhaps you experienced a significant delay with the U.S. postal service like I did over the recent holidays. I received a Christmas package at the end of January that had been sent the middle of December. Or maybe you've had letters lost in the mail at one time or another. Here is a meditation from *Our Daily Bread* by James Banks on prayer, which thankfully is in God's hands.

## God Hears Everything

1 Kings 18:25–27, 30-38

“One of the longest-recorded postal delays in history lasted eighty-nine years. In 2008 a homeowner in the UK received an invitation to a party originally mailed in 1919 to a former resident of her address. The note was placed in her mailbox via the Royal Mail, but the reason behind its long delay remains a mystery.

“Even the best human efforts at communication sometimes let us down, but Scripture makes clear that God never fails to hear His faithful people. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah demonstrated the striking contrast between the pagan god Baal and Jehovah God. In a showdown to demonstrate who the true God was, after Baal's prophets had prayed for hours, Elijah taunted them: ‘Shout louder! . . . Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened’ (v. 27). Then Elijah prayed for Jehovah to answer so that His people might return to faith, and God's power was clearly displayed.

“While our prayers may not always be answered as immediately as Elijah's was, we can be assured that God hears them (Psalm 34:17). The Bible reminds us that He treasures our prayers so much that He keeps them before Him in “golden bowls,” like precious incense (Revelation 5:8). God will answer every prayer in His own perfect wisdom and way. There are no lost letters in heaven.”

*Dyan Wapnick*

### HELLO PRINT SUBSCRIBER:

If you receive this newsletter by U.S. Mail, we are glad. We are conducting a semi-regular survey to make sure our postage expenses are well-spent. If you wish to continue to receive a mailed, paper copy, please just let us know. You may e-mail [dyanwapnick@optimum.net](mailto:dyanwapnick@optimum.net) or call Pastor Ryan at (518) 398-7117 to indicate any of the following: A. You wish to keep getting the mailed copy (we are so glad to send to any who need it in this format), B. you wish to switch to e-mail receipt to help with church efficiency, or C. you wish to be removed from all lists. About the end of February, if we haven't heard you are enjoying the paper version, we may stop sending it until you indicate you'd like to resume. Thank you!

## *Worship*

**Sunday Worship at 11:00 am (indoors and adapted for COVID safety)**

### *Notes on Current, Adapted Worship*

We are back in the church sanctuary. We are taking extra precautions now that we are worshipping indoors, with open windows, fans etc., so we advise that if you do join us to dress warmly with heavy coat, hat, gloves etc. and to bring a small blanket or coverlet for warmth. There are two lap quilts in the back of church for warmth if needed. *If you come, please:* Bring a mask to wear.

If you need to stay away from the gathering, we understand as we miss you. Worship service video streams at [facebook.com/groups/firstunitedpineplains](https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstunitedpineplains) Video is available there forever, to watch at any time. If you need another way to worship with us while you stay away from the gatherings, please ask Pastor Ryan. Perhaps a DVD you may play at home? Just ask.

**Ash Wednesday worship ONLINE ONLY - Feb. 17 @ 7pm**

**Daily Prayer/Evening Vespers for Lent ONLINE ONLY - Feb. 22 @ 7pm** - This brief, Monday worship begins our Session meeting and all are invited. On Zoom - click to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9552836871>

## *Announcements/Coming Events*

### **Lenten Bible Study:**

**ONLINE ONLY - Feb. 16 @ 7pm - Bible Study on Psalms** (continues same time weekly on Feb. 23, Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30).

### **A Note from Guest Columnists Cindy and Roberta**

The Bible is an endless source of spiritual and intellectual growth and that experience is only enhanced when you can study it with a group of caring and thoughtful Christians, especially during this time of social isolation. Our Advent Zoom study brought joy, laughter, and some deep thinking into our home during the Christmas season. We grappled with the varied approaches of the Bible's four gospels in leading up to the birth of Christ. We got a chance to inspect our faith, hear different perspectives on the Christmas story and faith in general and meet new Presbyterian friends from the Hudson Valley. It was a welcomed break from nightly television and we felt as if we were having a happy little book club party once a week with smart and kind soulmates. We look forward to our next chance to study the Bible with others using Zoom. It was fun and informative and supportive during these difficult times. We hope others from our church will try it.

Cindy Glozier  
Roberta Cerniglia

If you will join this study, here's the info:

We will again use Zoom platform (internet video or phone call only options). The first meeting will be **Feb. 16 at 7pm, and continue every Tuesday at 7pm**, ending Mar. 30. Please come even if you cannot make every session. It would be useful to you to have this book while you prepare and join us each week.

Click here for one option of where to buy **the book**: <http://bit.ly/lentstudy21>

OR search by title “Discovering the Psalms: Passion, Promise & Praise RESOURCE BOOK” ISBN-13: 978-1882236176

If you need help finding and/or paying for the book so you may join us, write Pastor Ryan ([pastorryanfirstunited@gmail.com](mailto:pastorryanfirstunited@gmail.com)) or call (518-398-7117).

On Feb. 16th at 7pm, click to join our Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86270110857?pwd=ZjR4NCs2OE4xc2pVUjlaNUIJWFNCUT09>

OR

if you need to come by calling us on the telephone instead of using a computer, ask Pastor Ryan for those steps.

If you would like a printed copy of the Annual Meeting that was sent on via email, please let Dyan know. [dyanwapnick@optimum.net](mailto:dyanwapnick@optimum.net).

## Treasurer

Scott Chase has done an outstanding job in the many years he has been our Treasurer, and the Session thought he might be long overdue for a little break. Therefore, we are wondering if anyone is interested in taking on this important task. The Treasurer does not need to be a member of Session. Please let Dyan or Pastor Ryan know. It requires a couple of hours a week.

## *Session Update*

- Voted to care for those not attending public events by postponing indefinitely the Annual Meeting for 2021. There is no urgent business for that meeting. It will occur as soon as conditions have changed, and on a Sunday in 2021.
- 2021 Budget approved (this is a Session action, not voted on by the whole congregation, details will be fully shared with all and questions are welcome)
- Scott Chase continues as Treasurer, while we still seek volunteer to take over that role (please indicate your willingness to Pastor Ryan)
- Authorized Jim Jackson to seek repairs to a leak in the Pastor's Study roof
- Updates from Council of Churches included news of the funding for the return of an addiction counselor available to the community weekly. The first date and location is to be determined
- The Church of the Regeneration is providing the immigrant/migrant community a social worker when COVID restrictions lift
- Corned Beef Dinner cancelled for 2021 due to virus safety concerns
- Women's Association decided they will not hold Spring Sale

**SESSION:** Jeanne Valentine-Chase, Nathaniel Chase, Samantha Chase, Scott Chase, Deb Jackson, Jim Jackson, Doug Hart (Clerk), Ryan Orton, Jim Petrie, and Dyan Wapnick.

**DEACONS:** Roberta Cerniglia, Lynne Clinch, Dora Hage, Carol Hart, and Pam Meccariello.

*Our next Session meeting will be on **Monday February 22 at 7:00 pm**. There will be a Remote, daily prayer worship service prior to the meeting – all are welcome – meets via Zoom call.*

# Calendar

February 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	February 1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 Valentine's Day 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	15 Presidents' Day	16 7 pm - 8 pm Lenten Bible Study on Psalms (online only)	17 Ash Wednesday 7 pm - 8 pm Ash Wednesday Service (online only)	18	19	20
21 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	22 7 pm - 8 pm Evening Vespers for Lent followed by Session Meeting (online only)	23 7 pm - 8 pm Lenten Bible Study on Psalms (online only)	24	25	26	27
28 11 am - 12 pm Sunday Worship (Church)	1	2 7 pm - 8 pm Lenten Bible Study on Psalms (online only)	3	4	5	6

## Stewardship

**From Scott Chase (Ruling Elder/Treasurer)** - "We still need your financial support. As we go through this time we continue to pay our employees, provide funds for mission work, and maintain our buildings. Your support is greatly appreciated and critical to helping us serve our church family and the broader world community. You may mail checks to **First United Presbyterian Church PO Box 313, Pine Plains, NY 12567**. If you need another way to give, please write me [schase560@yahoo.com](mailto:schase560@yahoo.com) or call (518) 398-5247. Thank you for all you do.

*We also offer online giving with Venmo!*

1. Log into the Venmo app on your phone or tablet
2. Click "Pay or Request" -- the big blue button at the bottom
3. In the "Add Recipients" box type @FUPCPP (stands for First United Presbyterian Church Pine Plains)
4. Select "FirstUnitedPresbyterianChurch Pine Plains" if it doesn't populate automatically
5. Enter how much money you would like to donate
6. Add "what it's for" -- you can do this in emojis which is fun!
7. Click "Pay" on the bottom right-hand side
8. Select your payment method
9. Click "Pay" -- the big green button at the bottom
10. You're all set!

## Mission

**Willow Roots** - Run by Nelson and Lisa Zayas from their home on North Main Street with the help of many volunteers.



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

### **Pine Plains Food Locker:**

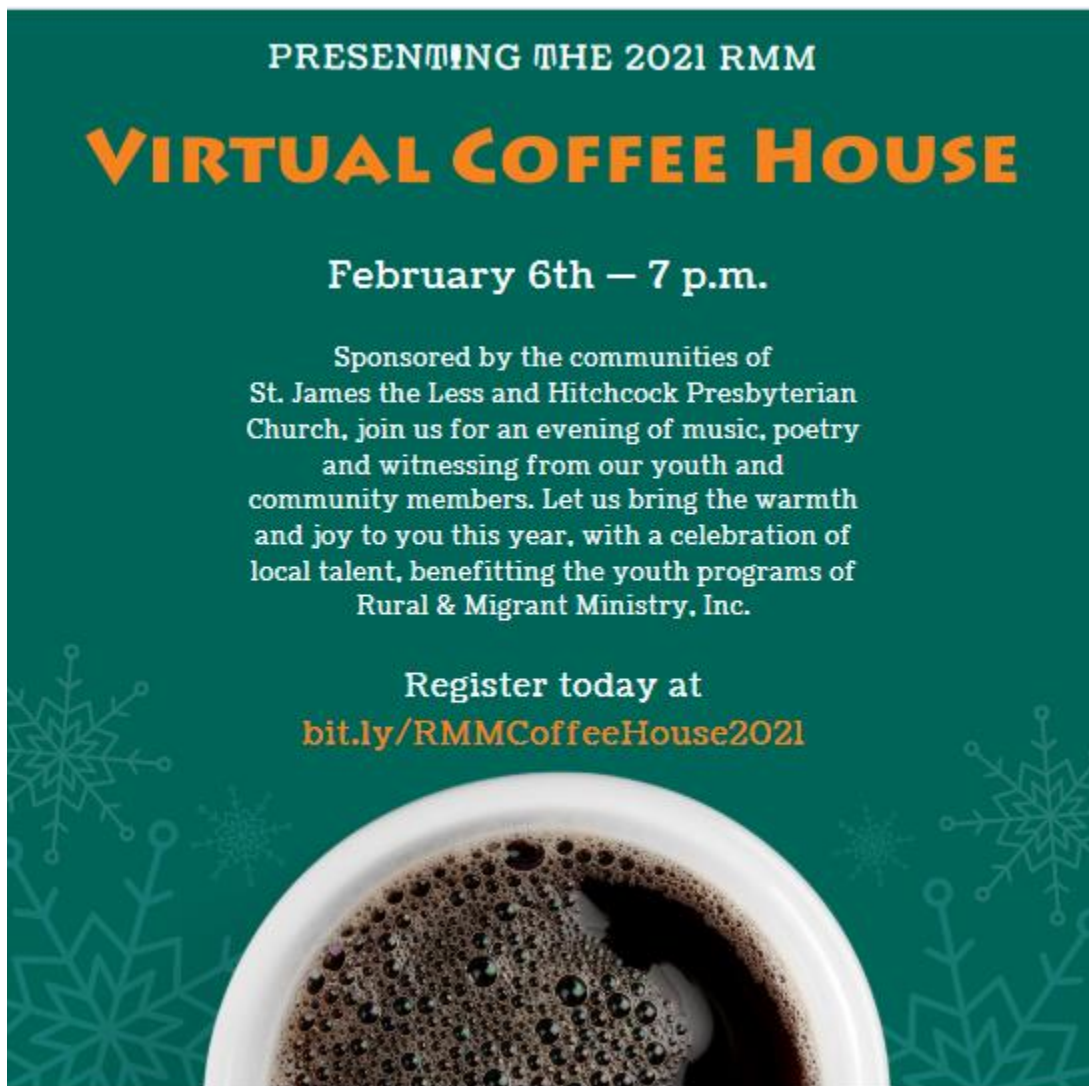
The monthly drive item for February is toilet paper  
Toiletries are always welcomed.

Please send \$ donations to the Pine Plains Food Locker  
2852 Church Street Pine Plains, NY 12567

## Presbyterian News

Get a **free subscription** to *Presbyterians Today* magazine for yourself or group subscriptions for your congregation or friends. Sign up now: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/#tab-1>

Rural Migrant Ministry invites you to their Virtual Coffee House. Registration [here](#).



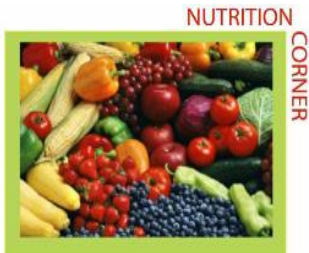
PRESENTING THE 2021 RMM

# VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUSE

February 6th – 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the communities of St. James the Less and Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, join us for an evening of music, poetry and witnessing from our youth and community members. Let us bring the warmth and joy to you this year, with a celebration of local talent, benefitting the youth programs of Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc.

Register today at  
[bit.ly/RMMCoffeeHouse2021](https://bit.ly/RMMCoffeeHouse2021)



*Lynne Clinch*

## Soups

“The weather outside is frightful” so let’s warm up! I love a good homemade soup. I love making them! They are super-fast, easy to do, and absolutely delicious. They are economical, excellent use of leftovers in the fridge and can be used for any meal of the day. Think of a shakshula for breakfast. I know that’s not what one typically thinks of when making a soup so we’ll move on towards lunch and dinner. A good hearty soup could easily be transformed into dinner meal by adding crusty bread or garlic toast and/or adding side salad. Top off with simple dessert of jello or pudding. Adding a cup of soup to a sandwich makes an excellent lunch. I remember last year when the world was different I had a luncheon for the ladies of the condo. It was a simple soup and tea sandwich meal with grape salad. I added cream puffs for dessert and had iced tea or lemonade to drink. How simple was that? Of course I used my good dinnerware of paper and disposable silverware. Have to work with what’s available in the condo.

Right now I have Italian Wedding Soup in the crockpot and it smells delicious. Let me tell you how I did this.... I diced up 3 carrots and medium size onion, a good cup of each plus added about ½ cup thinly sliced celery. I softened on stove top before putting into crockpot holding 6 cups of lower sodium broth. Then added about ½ tsp granulated garlic and about 1 tsp Italian seasoning mix and let it go for several hours. I had meatballs leftover so quartered 5 or 6 of them and added a good ½ cup orzo and its cooking away. Just before serving I’ll add a good handful or maybe 2 (depending on how it looks) of fresh baby spinach. Can use frozen chopped spinach but I have fresh. Adjust seasonings if needed. Now it’s ready to go. As you note, all measurements are guesstimates since I don’t measure when making soups. The broth is accurate since I bought the carton containing 1 and ½ quarts! Now you know my secrets....

A good hearty pasta fagioli soup or lentil soup or sausage and kale soup or even a Mediterranean white bean soup and not to forget a cioppino soup would make a wonderful dinner for a winter evening. Let’s not forget the upcoming Super Bowl! Instead of chili make soup.

But I want to share a cream soup recipe that both my sister and I love. In fact, I always have it made for her when she flies in to visit here in Florida. It’s so good but filling and not heavy after late flight. This is my version of it.

### Broccoli Cheese Soup

Put about 2 T. each of olive oil and butter into soup pot. Chop 1 medium onion and coarsely chop a large head of broccoli. Then shred a large carrot or 2 small ones into soup pot. Soften the veggies maybe 5 minutes then cover with reduced sodium chicken broth, bring to boil and lower temp to simmer. Cook until soft and easy to mash. This takes anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes. I always cook it for 60 minutes.

Of course season as you go with salt and pepper. I only add some pepper no salt. Let cool and transfer to blender blending until smooth. Return to pot. Add approximately 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese and enough milk to make it the consistency you want and creamy, anywhere from ½ to 1 cup. I have used ½ and ½ for this. If you need to reheat try not to boil and keep temperature down. Your soup pot clean-up will be easier.

On personal note would like all to know we feel very safe where we are located. We've used take outs a few times but I generally cook all the meals. The grocery stores all socially distance and on very rare occasions have seen someone without a mask. People in this building are aware and obey all guidelines suggested by CDC. No one here has contacted Covid. Some movie theaters are open but we have not gone nor have I been in any other store except the super market. Hope all of you are just as safe and are following all recommendations. Bob will be home early February and I'll see you in April.

If you have any good soup recipes to share send along and I'll include in next issue. Until then happy cooking...



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randomstoryteller.com

#### Lent: Mining the Richest Vein

In a sanctuary laid bare  
Through forty days of non-feasting,  
I yearn to look up below,  
Upon humble sovereignty:  
A field of Purple Gems,  
Where a thousand dwarf iris tongues  
Sing, spattered with plum speckles,  
Pure white broad strokes,  
And licks of yellow flame;  
Their leaves of grass,  
Spring's earliest lawn,  
Raise a groundswell rapture—  
A green amen.



To add to these prayers, Pastor Ryan is always glad to pray with you (518-398-7117 to find the best ways). If you wish to directly add to the list, please e-mail [dyanwapnick@optimum.net](mailto:dyanwapnick@optimum.net)

During the coming month, please remember the following people in your daily prayers: The family and friends of Clifford Goldsmith, Lee Hauser, Elder Ben Sung who passed away from COVID, Charlie Place, essential workers who have died while serving during COVID lockdown, and our congregation. Pray too, for our congregation, all our children, our loved ones, and all of those who have lost loved ones in the past year, and our pastor.

**At home:** Rev. Becky Branton (Pastor Ryan's friend), Patty Hall (Linda), Judy Parlman, Don Bartles, Margo Jackson, Carol Foley (Regeneration Church), Marva Blackmar, Irene Dieter (Ancramdale Church), Danny Larkin (Alcyce Larkin's husband), Deb Phillips, Adalyn Forgey and her family (Carol Hart), Kelly Wilkie (Pastor Ryan's sister), Bridget and Aylee, Mort Jackson, Brian & Jessica Weglinski & family, Laurena Mesnard, Teresa Maleonski (Marva), Craig Shelley, Joe (Susan), Melissa McKinney, Phyllis Shanks, Barbara Gurbel, Randy Burns (Dyan), Jim Fabrizio, Kyleigh Cummings, Millie Sheldon, Bobby Wendover, Victoria Hull (Dot), Carey (Amanda Zick), Ron & Cathy Osofsky, Rich Cummings (waiting on kidney), Caeden Boyce (Cindy and Roberta) small child with leukemia, Anthony Silva, Emo #4 (Rosanne's son-in-law's aunt), Lynn (Linda Wendover's sister), Antonio Gonzalez (Dyan), Melissa and Anthony, Gene Jernigan, Chun Ok Blackie (Jim and Margo Jackson's sister-in-law), Caitlin Edge (Deb), Joann Amelio, Debra Rose, Marge (Laurie), Marjorie Bright, Judy MacMorran (Barbara Gurbel's daughter), Debbie (Laurie), Brittany.

At Geer Nursing Home: Linda Bartolomeo

At The Manor at Woodside: Helen Travis and Rod Davis

At Noble Horizons: Lek McNeill, RuthAnn Pulver, Charlie Napoli

At Sharon Healthcare Center: Dot Whitaker

**In the military or Reserves:** Pierre Mesnard, Spencer Johnson (Iraq), Patrick Brooks, Garrett Pendleton (South Korea), Lewis and Denzel Jackson (Keith Jackson's sons), Garrett Cummings, Daniele Casazza, Kyle Moskowitz, Matt Cade, Zach McDonnell - Reserves, John Cort, Mark Hall, Jacob Coons, Danny Hoysradt, Brian Montross, Eric Wiltsie (Tom and Renee Strudwick's nephew), TroiHunter Cookingham (Basic Training, Fort Sill). *And all those who have served in our military.*



## Hudson River Presbytery Prayer Calendar 2021

*As a Presbytery family, we hold each other in prayer – all of us sisters and brothers in Christ. We invite you to lift up prayers for our churches, our staff, and our ministry partnerships, including them in your pastoral prayers each week, and in your church bulletins. The Church is all of us - made one in Christ.*

### February 7 ~ Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Carmel, Gilead

Souper Bowl of Caring

Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies

### February 14 ~ Transfiguration of the Lord

Chester, First

Cold Spring, First of Philipstown

Health Awareness and Day of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

### February 21 ~ First Sunday in Lent

Congers

PresbyBuild

Universal Day of Prayer for Students

### February 28 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

Cornwall-on-Hudson

Emily Monk, Finance Manager, Presbytery

Camp and Conference Ministries

## Share a Blessing!

Next Issue: March 2021

Submission deadline: Feb. 25, 2021

Send submissions to:

[dyanwapnick@optimum.net](mailto:dyanwapnick@optimum.net)