

The First Presbyterian Church (FPC) of Oneonta has a strong history of outreach and mission to the local community through its grant program. FPC currently gives annually to thirteen local organizations that provide food, shelter and clothing as well as medical care to the most vulnerable in our community. Among the organizations it generously supports are Salvation Army, Family Service Association, Habitat for Humanity and Fox Hospital Chaplaincy.

Along with this important outreach program, FPC has a mission outreach project in Jamaica supporting a local orphanage. Our partnership with Pringle Home in Jamaica spans 25 years and has been a strong mission project for FPC. Along with Jamaica, FPC supports a program in Afghanistan called the Afghan Child Project that provides empowerment to Afghan women and children, as well as the Silliman Water Project, based at Silliman University in Dumaguete, Philippines that provides clean drinking water to communities in need, and in the aftermath of natural disasters such as typhoons.

One Thursday a month, volunteers from our congregation serve at the Lord's Table, a local feeding program. Volunteers prepare and serve a meal to individuals and families in need of food.

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A Calendar of Prayer for our Presbytery

September

- 3 Stamford, Dale Francis, Interim Pastor
- 10 Oneonta 1st Mark Montfort, Pastor
- 17 East Guilford United Patty Wolff, Pastor
- 24 Otego Doug Horne, Temporary Supply

Prayers:

UPDATE: - Memorial Celebration for Joseph Renton will be on Sunday, Sept. 24th, 3:00 PM at the Bainbridge Presbyterian Church. - Prayers for Barbara Renton and family as they deal with the loss of her husband Joe Renton.

Please contact Committee on Ministry co-chairs, Marsha Muller and Janet Adair Hansen if you have a pastoral care concern or need.

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Other News

Saturday September 16, 2017 Stated Presbytery Assembly Notice

To the Church Commissioners, Council Elders and Committee Chairs, Commissioned Lay Pastors, and Minister Members of Presbytery:

On Saturday September 16 the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley will be hosted by the Nineveh Presbyterian Church, phone (607) 693-1919, The church on State Route 7 Nineveh NY 13813 Parking is on both sides of the church.

Registration is from 8:30 - 9:30 am, with worship at 9:00 a.m. and the business meeting call to order at 9:40. Complimentary beverages and refreshments will be available during registration. Business will finish before lunch. Lunch is available for \$7. The Lunch menu will include deli platters, potato salad, macaroni salad and a small salad bar, with cake for dessert and beverages.

Our Assembly offerings this year are normally divided evenly between the PC(USA) special offerings and local ministry needs, but for this meeting, it will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and a designation to be announced at the meeting. Checks should be made to "Nineveh Presbyterian Church".

In addition to each pastor and lay pastor attending, each church is expected to send a ruling elder commissioner to presbytery assembly. If the regular ruling elder delegate cannot attend, an alternate should go instead. Please email requests for excused absence to: statedclerk@susvalpresby.org

On September 8 reports and papers for the presbytery assembly meeting will begin to be posted and can be accessed online at: www.susvalpresby.org then click Login. You may need to have the presbytery user name and password to be able to open the files

Once logged in the papers are at <http://www.susvalpresby.org/events-listing/assembly> and click the link for the September 16, 2017 meeting near the top of the page.

Please print or save your papers to your computer in advance as only limited Internet will be available at the church.

Rev. Dr. James F. Martin, Stated Clerk

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Give today to help Presbyterian

Disaster Assistance bring hope & healing to Texas families impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is in touch with presbyteries affected areas of Texas to offer assistance. We are standing by with resources and National Response Team members ready to deploy upon invitation and when it is safe to do so.

For those who wish to support PDA's emergency response and recovery efforts, gifts can be designated to [DR000169-Harvey](https://www.dr000169-harvey.org). We need your help. Please give generously.

If you prefer to mail a check, you may send it to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

PO Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700

You may also call us Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST), at 1-800-872-3283 and donate by phone. For updates, please go to pda.pcusa.org.

Please join us in praying for courage for those who are suffering; wisdom and diligence among agencies and individuals assessing damage and directing relief efforts; and for generosity to flow

as powerfully as rivers and streams, as we respond to the deep human needs left in the wake of the storm.

Rev. Dr. Laurie Ann Kraus
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

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Update Your Employer Agreement by October 13



Watch This 90-Second Video for an Overview of Submitting **Your** Employer Agreement

Prefer the movie version to reading the book? Watch [Selecting 2018 Benefits: Building Your Employer Agreement](#) for a quick summary of submitting your Employer Agreement. In just 90 seconds, learn the three easy steps to take to review and submit your Employer Agreement for 2018.

The **Employer Agreement** on Benefits Connect is open **now** and costs for 2018 coverage are available.

Between now and **October 13**, you should log on to Benefits Connect to review, update, and submit your Employer Agreement for 2018. Once submitted, the Agreement determines the coverage available for employees to elect during annual enrollment **October 30-November 17, 2017**, through Benefits Connect.

Resources

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Roundtable on The Immigrant Crisis in Our Communities

On **Sunday, September 17 at noon**, the First Presbyterian Church of Cooperstown (at the intersection of Elm and Pioneer streets) will host a **roundtable on The Immigrant Crisis in Our Communities**. This is the first in a series of planned roundtables exploring issues related to economic justice. Refreshments will be available.

Faith Gay will moderate a panel of nationally-recognized experts on immigration law who will provide in-depth answers about the legal status and needs of immigrants in New York State. The discussion will include a candid analysis of the policy concerns associated with immigration, and will focus on practical ways our community can respond to those in crisis. **The discussion will be held in the Sanctuary.**

The panelists are: **Barbara Brenner**, a partner in one of Albany's best-known immigration practices. **Lenni Benson**, professor at New York Law School and founder of The Safe Passage project, which represents children in immigration proceedings. **Beth Lyon**, professor at Cornell Law School and founder of the Farmworker Legal Assistance Clinic at Cornell.

We hope you can join us. Please direct any questions to faithgay@quinnemanuel.com.

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Upcoming events at Binghamton United

Against All Odds: Bob Herbert's documentary "Against All Odds: The Fight for a Black Middle Class" explains how structural racism hindered the growth of the black middle class. Join us in considering how to tear down barriers to equality.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1418305144904215>

Waking Up White: The memoir "Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving explores the author's experience of attempting to fight racism while slowly coming to understand how her own white privilege reduced her effectiveness. Join us as we consider strategies to consciously acknowledge privilege while working to tear down barricades to equality. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1964262207196433>

Women of Faith Book Club:- 4th Tuesday of each month, starting September 26 The Faith Club tells the story of three women, from three faith backgrounds, who decide to learn about each other's faith to teach their children. Their lives are transformed in the process.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1147264042074848>

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Church Treasurer Seminar-Saturday, September 23, 2017, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

For directions click the following link: [Double Tree Inn](#)

Healthy churches know how to wisely and sensibly handle money. Join Family Life as [Melanie French](#), CPA, teaches a basic course on money management for church and ministry treasurers. This seminar will be held at The Double Tree in Binghamton, NY. It will be an informative, fun event with lots of time for questions. Melanie will cover:

- Treasurer fundamentals (offering & contributions, donor statements, agency transactions, paying expenses, bank accounts, , classifying workers , and 1099 reporting)
- How to pay your pastor correctly - five components of compensation (salary, housing, expense reimbursements, fringe benefits and employment taxes)
- A Question & Answer period

The cost to attend is \$25 - pre-registration is required. [Register online](#) or call Family Life at 800-927-9083. Deadline to register is September 22 at Noon.

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***Come to the Table* for Friday September 22 to Saturday September 23 at Stony Point Retreat Center.**

KEYNOTE AND WORSHIP LEADER: Cláudio Carvalhaes

Theologian, liturgist and artist, [Associate Professor of Worship](#) at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York.

WORKSHOP TRACKS

To engage and learn about the topics of *Come to the Table*, we have organized workshops around tracks. In doing so, you will be able to choose to focus on one track in different workshops, or "shop around" different topics in different workshops. Each track will have three different workshop offerings. Below are workshop track descriptions. We will share greater detail on individual workshops very soon!

- **Anti-Racism Training**
- **Who Is my Neighbor?**
- **Building the Table**

- **Ecotheology**
- **Mission and Resilience**
- **Worship**
- **Being Northeast Presbyterians**

For more information please click on the link <http://www.synodne.org/CTTT>

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Director of Music Ministry - Union Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

Job Title and Position Summary:

Director of Music Ministry, a part-time position, beginning in the fall of 2017. This person will coordinate the music ministry of Union Presbyterian Church and lead the Chancel Choir in providing choral music during services of worship.

Union Presbyterian Church (<http://upcendicott.org/>) is a congregation of 157 active members, an inclusive, welcoming community of Christian faith. We are an open-minded congregation in the Reformed tradition. Our goal is to love and serve God by loving and serving God's people. You will see us at worship... the centerpiece of our week, our joyful gathering to give thanks and praise to God each Sunday. You will see us at play...enthusiastic, sometimes hilarious fellowship activities that remind us to be grateful for one another's presence. You will see us at service... as God has so generously given to us, so we give back to our church, to the community, and to the whole world. You will see that we are many ages, many backgrounds, and a diverse patchwork quilt of a congregation!

For more information please click here: [Director of Music Ministry](#)

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URGENT ACTION NEEDED NOW: Tell Congress to Enact the Dream Act of 2017 and Protect Immigrant Youth!

President Trump has announced an end to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, turning our nation's back on undocumented immigrant youth who are valued members of our communities. The consequences of repealing DACA are immediate, devastating, and profound. No new DACA applications filed after yesterday will be considered, and current DACA recipients will see their protection revoked starting in six months. DACA has protected nearly 800,000 immigrant youth from deportation and allowed them to work, attend school, and raise a family. DACA's termination puts these lives at risk, threatens the sanctity of family unity, and jeopardizes our communities and economy. We need to make our voices heard today and call on our elected leaders to do everything in their power to support a clean passage of The Dream Act of 2017 and protect immigrant youth!

On yesterday, Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson made [this](#) powerful statement, in which he said:

"The PC(USA), as a national church, supports the presence and contributions of immigrants in the United States. We advocate for just immigration reform. We advocate for just immigration enforcement that intentionally considers the hardship of family separation and the sincere expressed determination in building family and community in the United States. Dreamers and DACA recipients have done just that. They often know this country more than the one they left behind. They have made friends; they have studied in schools; they have, after years of

contemplating a future clouded by the threat of deportation, begun to fully dream about their future."

You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall not abuse any widow or orphan.

- Exodus 22:21-22

As Presbyterians, we recognize that these texts instruct the people of God on how to treat the "alien," sometimes alternately translated "foreigner" or "immigrant." Indeed in today's vocabulary, these passages are clearly instructions on how we must treat immigrants and refugees in our midst. The challenge is not simply to investigate the linguistic derivation of this term, but to recognize that each of these groups – aliens, widows, orphans – represents otherness in the society. ***The clear implications of the texts are that no one (outcasts or otherwise) should be abused or be treated as second-class citizens. Nor should they be bereft of the assistance of the whole community in breaking the chains of oppression that bind them.***

CALL CONGRESS TODAY!

Representatives: 1-888-496-3502

Senators: 1-888-410-0619

*Please call your 1 Representative and then your 2 Senators

Sample Script to Representative/Senators: *"I'm your constituent from [City, State]. I support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and strongly oppose President's Trump's announcement to end it. DACA has provided nearly 800,000 immigrant youth the opportunity to work, raise a family, and pursue their dreams. I urge you to support a clean passage of the Dream Act of 2017 (S.1615/H.R.3440) and do everything in your power to protect immigrant youth."*

Please also tweet your [Senators/Representatives](#) and [@realDonaldTrump](#). [Click here](#) for social media graphics. Sample social media posts:

- Faith communities call on [SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE] to pass #DreamAct! Immigrant youth are #HereToStay #Faith4DACA
- Over 5 yrs DACA has provided work permits to undocumented youth +invigorated our communities #HereToStay #DreamAct #Faith4DACA
- My faith community stands with DACAdocumented immigrant neighbors & call on [SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE] to pass #DreamAct #HereToStay #Faith4DACA
- Faith communities urge [SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE] to pass #DreamAct & protect 800,000 immigrant youth #HereToStay #Faith4DACA
- Ave hourly wages rose by 69% after DACA=more tax revenue for cities, states, & U.S. <https://www.americanprogress.org/?p=437956> #HereToStay #Faith4DACA #DreamAct
- 16% of DACA recipients bought houses, 5% started businesses <https://www.americanprogress.org/?p=437956> #HereToStay #Faith4DACA #DreamAct
- At least 72% of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies employ DACA beneficiaries <https://www.americanprogress.org/?p=437956> #HereToStay #Faith4DACA #DreamAct

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