

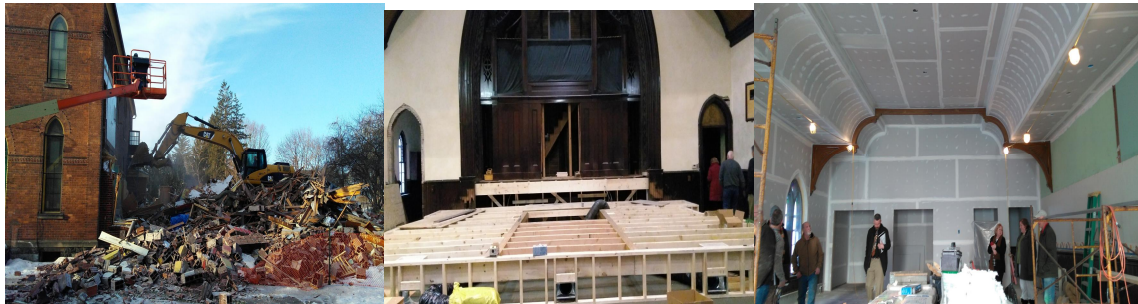
The Valley United Presbyterian Church has continued to make progress in the process of combining the three legacy congregations – a process that started in 2013.

During the past year we have completed our study of our church buildings and reached the decision to renovate the Waverly location to serve our congregation. After obtaining the approval of both Susquehanna and Lackawanna Presbyteries, we have demolished the back half of the Waverly building, started renovation on the remaining building and are in the process of putting the Athens location up for sale. As soon as the weather breaks construction will commence on the ‘new’ part for Waverly, a building to house the Social Hall and Christian Education. A ‘mid construction’ tour was offered to the congregation on 19 February; it was well attended and has excited the congregation about our new home.

We have not stopped our work and support of local and distance missions throughout this process. This includes hosting free will meals, working in the community to feed needy families and supporting mission work in several foreign countries.

The Session has commenced, under Pastor Sharan’s leadership, a Strategic Planning process that will focus our efforts and guide us as we proceed on our faith journey. One of the many outcomes of this will be to reach a decision on which Presbytery we will finally call home – a decision that will be hard for us because of the great support we have received from both as we have walked this journey.

Once our building is complete we look forward to hosting a joint meeting of the two Presbyteries so our entire extended family of faith can help us celebrate what it has meant for three to become one.



**A Calendar of Prayer for our Presbytery
March**

- 5 Worcester 1st Lynn Shepard, Stated Supply Pastor
- 12 Ministers at Large: Cheryl Ann Elfond, Robert Heinle, Barbara Schwartz
- 19 Valley United, Sharan Knoell Rosso, Pastor
- 26 Cortland Christ Community Janet Adair Hansen, Pastor

Prayers:

Please contact Committee on Ministry co-chairs, Pat Raube if you have a pastoral care concern or need.

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Other News

"I'm late for a very important date!!" (White Rabbit, *Alice in Wonderland* aka Stated Clerk)

Saturday March 18, 2017 Stated Presbytery Assembly Notice

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

On Saturday March 18 the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley will be hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Oneonta, phone (607) 432-4286, facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Oneonta-219491214731749/>. The church is at 296 Main Street in Oneonta. A good map is at <https://www.pcusa.org/congregations/5725/> other maps may take you to the former soviet republic of Georgia. Parking is behind the church and on streets.

Registration is from 8:30 - 9:30 am, with worship at 9:00 a.m. and the business meeting call to order at 9:30. Business will finish before lunch with two events following the lunchtime. Lunch is available for \$7. The pre-meeting refreshments with registration will be in the fellowship hall.

Morning Coffee/Registration time 8:00- 9:00 :

Donut holes and small muffins, Variety of Fresh Fruit, Beverages Reg. Coffee, Decaf coffee, Hot Tea, Juices, Ice Water

Lunch 12:00- 1:00:

Homemade Minestrone Soup (Vegetarian), Variety of Deli Roll Sandwiches:Egg Salad, Sliced Ham & Cheese, Sliced Turkey & Cheese, Potato Chips, Assorted Cookies and Brownies Beverages Reg. Coffee, Decaf coffee, Hot Tea, Juices, Ice Water

Our Assembly offerings this year are divided evenly between the PC(USA) special offerings and local ministry needs. This will be for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and the local designation is to a school backpack and food program. Checks should be made to "First 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 March 11 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 (initially the page will be open to the public since this notice is late). Not all reports have been received by the posting deadline, due to a very crammed Cabinet and Committee on Ministry schedule. You will need to check back for late reports and White Rabbits.

Once logged in the papers are at <http://www.susvalpresby.org/events-listing/assembly> and click the link for the March 18, 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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Stated Clerk Position

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Stated Clerk Jim Martin has indicated his desire to retire in the fall of 2017. The Nominating Committee is seeking potential candidates to fill this position.

Here are the qualifications for the position:

1. A Teaching Elder or Ruling Elder member of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
2. An understanding and commitment to the faith and work of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

3. A working knowledge of the Book of Order and of parliamentary procedure (Robert's Rules of Order)
4. Able to maintain proper boundaries of confidentiality
5. An eye for detail and completion of required work in a timely manner
6. Computer literacy

See the Position Description for more details and the duties of the Stated Clerk.

We are open to the possibility of two people sharing the responsibilities of Stated Clerk. One would be Stated Clerk, the other being Assistant Stated Clerk.

Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you -- or someone you know -- to serve the wider church in this ministry.

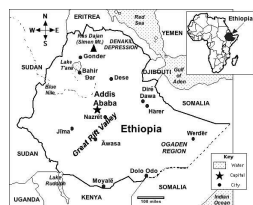
We are asking potential candidates to submit a brief statement as to why she or he is interested in this position (or a shared position) and what gifts you have to offer as a Stated Clerk (or Assistant Stated Clerk).

Please send letters of interest by Wednesday, March 15, 2017 to:
 Rev. Garrett Vittorio Schindler, P.O. Box 26, Bovina Center, NY 13740
 Or to bovinaupchurch@gmail.com

Selected candidates will be invited to shadow Stated Clerk Jim Martin to learn more about the position from April through early fall of 2017.

In God's service,
 Rev. Garrett Vittorio Schindler
 Chair, Nominating Committee

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John and Gwen Haspel

March 16th thru the 19th Come and hear the story of forgiveness and reconciliation first hand from John and Gwen Haspel. The Haspel's were missionaries in Ethiopia working with the Suri Boole people of the Southwestern Bethel Synod of EEMCY.

The Haspels will be arriving on March 16th in the late morning

March 17th in evening Dinner at Oneonta Red Door Church

- Please join us in welcoming John & Gwen Haspel to Oneonta for a light supper at 6:00 PM on Friday, March 17, 2017. We will meet in the social hall of First United Presbyterian Church (the "Red Door" Church) at the corner of Main Street & Walling Avenue, Oneonta. Please enter the Walling Avenue door (across from Friendly's). Our small parking lot is reserved for handicapped parking (enter back office door to use elevator).

Light Supper: Soup and dessert will be provided. If you would like to bring a dish to pass to enhance the meal, feel free to do so.

For more info. or to RSVP (se we know how much soup to make), please contact Carol in the Church Office at 607-432-7520 (Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12 Noon) or reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com or Nadine at 607-432-6680.

March 18th Presbytery Meeting Oneonta Brown Door Church

March 19th Northminster Church Endwell 10:00

March 19th Owego Presbyterian Church 12:00 Lunch

This is a program you do not want to miss and you will never forget

There is still time to schedule your event with the Haspels,

Just contact Peg Corwin: 607-621-3778

or Junietta Brooks: 607-759-4108 of the Ethiopian Partnership Missions Team

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[Read the Spring 2017 Issue](#)

In This Issue

[Experience Apportionment](#)

[Disability Benefits Increase](#)

[Year-End Investment Report](#)

[Sustainable Investment](#)

[Enterprise Risk Assessment](#)

[Board of Directors Leadership](#)

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Benefits Connections

Benefits Connections are one-day gatherings for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) employers on benefits. For the Pittsburgh event, registration opens February 15. For all other events, registration opens March 1.

Pittsburgh, Tuesday March 28

Newark, Thursday April 20

Baltimore/Washington April 27

Who Should Attend?

People who drive benefits decisions and manage benefits, including but not limited to

- business administrators;
- office managers;
- clerks of session;
- personnel committee chairs;
- pastors; and
- Committee on Ministry (COM) members.

Registration is open to anyone who would like to attend.

Why Attend?

During this one-day seminar, you'll have the opportunity to learn about the theological values that shape the Benefits Plan, ask questions during a Q-and-A with Board of Pensions leadership and staff, and enjoy fellowship with other benefit decision-makers.

You will participate in

- worship;
- plenary sessions and topical workshops;

- a networking lunch; and
 - a panel discussion with your peers.
- You'll leave with a better understanding of the plan, newly established peer relationships, and new strategies for being the best employer you can be.

Connect in an Area Near

You! <http://www.pensions.org/membersandemployers/midcouncils/benefitsconnections/pages/default.aspx>

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Let a friend or colleague know that you care by sending them an e-mail with them information on GW's Quit for Life smoking cessation program.

Online Smoking Programs:

Freedom From Smoking

Ready to quit smoking? The American Lung Association is here to help. Learn more about why and how to stop

Become Anex

A quit smoking program that helps you re-learn your life without cigarettes. Before you actually stop smoking, we'll show you how to deal with the very things that trip up so many people when they try to quit smoking. So you'll be more prepared to quit and stay quit.

SmokeFree.gov

Smokefree.gov is intended to help you or someone you care about quit smoking. Different people need different resources as they try to quit. Smokefree.gov allows you to choose the help that best fits your needs.

Quit Smoking Community

The Quit Smoking community wants to help people quit smoking through a combination of information and community support.

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Washington Report to Presbyterians -- Take Action for South Sudan!

The United Nations and the Government of South Sudan have declared a state of famine in several parts of the fledgling country. A formal famine declaration means people have already started dying of hunger.

[United Nations agencies](#) working on the ground in South Sudan say that the situation is “the worst hunger catastrophe” since fighting erupted more than three years ago. It is estimated that

by July nearly 5.5 million people – almost half the population of South Sudan - will face life threatening hunger.

[According to the UNICEF Representative in South Sudan](#), more than one million children are currently estimated to be acutely malnourished across South Sudan, and over a quarter of a million children are already severely malnourished. If aid does not reach these children soon, many of them will die. The UN has appealed to the international community for \$1.6 billion in additional funds to cope with the crisis. Please contact your members of congress and the administration and urge them to ensure that the funding request for famine relief for South Sudan is met.

Click [here](#) to send a message to congress and the administration!

The famine in South Sudan is a direct result of the civil war and is a man made famine. The multi-sided conflict with the collapse of rule-of-law and destruction and looting in large portions of the country has produced this food crisis. The US State department recently issued a [statement](#) on the famine saying that, “This crisis is man-made, the direct consequence of a conflict prolonged by South Sudanese leaders who are unwilling to put aside political ambitions for the good of their people.”

In order to reduce the threat of famine, the international community must do more to bring political stability to the war-torn country. Please urge your members of congress and the administration to work with the international community to put [increased pressure](#) on the armed actors to halt the conflict, provide humanitarian access, and bring stability back to South Sudan. The longer the conflict drags on, the harder it will be to stop.

Click [here](#) to send a message for South Sudan today!

If you would like to give funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and its work in South Sudan please click [here](#). Funds will go toward humanitarian assistance and/or trauma care for families affected by the conflict and civil strife.

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Collaboration on Supportive and Affordable Housing for Faith Communities

Dear Colleagues,

The New York State Council of Churches cordially invites you to attend a collaboration designed to help congregations build and/or advocate for supportive and affordable housing. The event will be held on **Thursday, March 30 in New York City from 8:30 to 12** at the West End Collegiate Church at 245 West 77th Street (at West End Avenue).

We are pleased to be working with Collegiate Churches of New York, Enterprise Partners, the Presbytery of New York and the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing on this project. This is an opportunity to engage top experts in the field in exploring how we can best use the resources we have been given to expand the mission of the church while helping so many people who struggle to find affordable housing.

[Click here for a flyer](#) which we urge you to circulate. If you can attend the collaboration please RSVP to Libby Tatum ltatum@collegiatechurch.org. If you have questions, you can contact either Peter Cook at 508-380-8289 or Pcook@nyscoc.org or Marc Greenberg, Executive Director of the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing at 917-913-0098 or marc@iahh.org.

Thanks for your interest and consideration.
In faith,
Peter Cook
Executive Director

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We're Expanding our Team!

Are you well organized? Experienced in Microsoft Office and Google+? Energetic and able to work in a fast-paced, quickly changing environment? Able to work with many different kinds of people. Passionate about building a world where there's a place for everyone and no one is in need?

We are looking for a new team member to act as administrative assistant to our pastoral staff at United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton. If you have the skills, we'd like to talk to you. The position is 25 hours/week, includes insurance benefits, and starts at \$15.00/hour- compensation commensurate with experience.

You need not be Christian to apply! Send a resume and cover letter to staffsearch@upcbgm.org or call Marilyn at 607-722-4219 between 10:00am & noon.

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain
Senior pastor, United Presbyterian Church of Binghamton

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