

CONNECTIONS

Newsletter of the Marcellus First Presbyterian Church
Main & North Streets, Marcellus, NY 13108

September 2015

Join the **CHOIR**

A fun and rewarding way to contribute to our church's ministry

Not necessary to be an expert music reader



Rehearsals: Thursdays from 7:30 – 8:30 PM beginning September 10 and Sundays before church at 9:30

Questions? contact Alan Beyel 673-9635 or
abeyel1@twcny.rr.com



Fifty Years of Service-- Plus!

What were **you** doing 50 years ago? For Vicky Clark, the answer is: playing the organ at our church. Because of a few brief interruptions in her service over the decades, even Vicky isn't certain of the total number of years she has played, but we'll round it off and call it a half century even though the actual number is a little higher!

We're planning a celebration to honor Vicky during morning Worship on September 20th. There will be special music, a few moments for recognition, and a reception to follow. Plan to attend!!



Fall Schedule

Our Community Ecumenical Picnic and Communion Service will be Sunday, September 13, 2015 at 10:00 am in the Marcellus Town Park with St. John's Episcopal Church, Marcellus United Methodist Church and the First Presbyterian Church celebrating together. Some from St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church will be joining us for the picnic.

Our regular fall schedule begins back at church on September 20 with the service at 10:00 am. Church School will follow.

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Food Pantry Hours:
Tuesday 11AM-12PM
and 7-8 PM

Gnagy Gnotes

Over the course of this summer there have been a number of “Getting To Know You” sessions. Fellowship and Outreach organized small groups to gather to give me the opportunity to get to know you better – and vice versa! I have really enjoyed these sessions. It has been a pleasure to share stories – and delicious food! – and have the opportunity to become better acquainted. Here are a few things that really stand out for me:



Stories: I loved hearing so many stories during our conversations! Stories about individuals, families, relationships, and stories about the church. I think my favorite thing about all the stories is that, in every group, we all learned something new about one another – even those who have been members for some time.

Call: A common theme was the story of call. Many of you have heard parts of my own call story, including my call to ministry and my call to serve as your pastor. What excited me was hearing how so many of you felt called to this church, just as surely as I have. The Spirit has called us all here, and is actively blowing among us!

Commitment: I loved hearing how much you love this church, and how deeply you feel called to serve God in the church, in the community and beyond.

This real sense of paying attention to the needs of the church and the community, and a willingness to try new things as circumstances change, is one of the things I have loved about this church from the very beginning. As we kick off the fall season, I look forward to walking alongside you, seeking to discern God’s will in this time and place, as we restart familiar activities, begin some new ones, and explore how we will continue to live as God’s people.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Pam

Getting to Know You ... is an ongoing process, as we all grow and change in our lives. I have really enjoyed meeting with so many of you. I also know others were not able to attend one of these sessions, for a variety of reasons. I would welcome the opportunity to continue getting to know you, individually, as families, small groups, etc. We can meet in the office, in your home, or for coffee or a meal somewhere else – just get in contact with me and we’ll work something out. You can contact me at church, or in these ways:

Home phone: (315) 673-4575

Cell phone: (315) 956-3829 **NOTE: This is a new number!!

Email: pastorpam.mfpc@gmail.com

Mailbox: I now have a mailbox in the machine room labeled “Pastor Pam”

Send me a friend request on Facebook! I respect your privacy and know that some people would not be comfortable with this, so I will not send friend requests to you. But if you’d like to, send me a friend request and I would be happy to stay in touch with you that way!

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 8 pm AA Mtg 8 pm Al Anon Mtg	3 10:30 am Coffee hour at First Cup Café	4	5 8 am Men's Devotions 9 am Zumba 1pm Memorial Service for Betty Kenyon
6— <i>Communion</i> 9:30 am Worship	7— <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	8 10 am – Noon Open Office Hours 7 pm Mission Interpretation Mtg. 7 pm Parents to Parents	9 11:30 am P.W. Luncheon 8 pm AA Mtg 8 pm Al Anon Mtg	10 10:30 am Coffee hour at First Cup Café 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12 8 am Men's Devotions 9 am Zumba 10-11:30 am Seeking Wisdom
13 10:00 am Ecumenical worship in the Park with communion	14 7 pm Board of Deacons Mtg 7 pm Fellowship & Outreach Mtg	15 10 am – Noon Open Office Hours 7 pm Parents to Parents	16 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm AA Mtg 8 pm Al Anon Mtg	17 10:30 am Coffee hour at First Cup Café	18	19 8 am Men's Devotions 9 am Zumba
20 10:00 am Worship with recognition for Victoria Clark 10:30 am Church School 12:15 pm Samaritan Center	21 7 pm Building & Grounds Mtg	22 10 am – Noon Open Office Hours 5:30 pm Finance Mtg 7 pm Parents to Parents	23 8 pm AA Mtg 8 pm Al Anon Mtg	24 10:30 am Coffee hour at First Cup Café 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	25	26 8 am Men's Devotions 9 am Zumba
27 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am Church School	28 7 pm Session Meeting	29 10 am – Noon Open Office Hours 7 pm Parents to Parents	30 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm AA Mtg 8 pm Al Anon Mtg			

Caring Ministry

Communion To Shut-Ins



The Deacons coordinate the offering of the Sacrament of Holy Communion to the homebound on Sundays that we celebrate the Sacrament in worship.

The next opportunity for them to deliver Communion will be on Sept 6. If you are homebound and would like to receive Communion, please call the Church Office, 673-2201, or Debbie Swankey, Moderator of the Deacons, at 673-1403

CONNECTIONS

Connections is published the first of each month by the Marcellus First Presbyterian Church.

Deadline for materials is the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Submit materials and address changes to Church Office.

Marcellus First Presbyterian Church

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Marcellus, NY 13108

Phone: 315-673-2201

e-mail: office@marcelluspc.com

website:

www.marcelluspresbyterian.com

Summer Hours

(Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Worship: 9:30 AM

Nursery Care Provided

No Church School

Views expressed are those of the authors and not official positions of the Session, unless noted.

Food Pantry Hours

Tuesdays

11 am - 12 noon & 7 - 8 pm

IN OUR PRAYERS...

...Lynn Rice
 ...Carmen Costa
 ...Family and friends of Betty Kenyon
 ...Jan Linderman
 ...Toby Casler
 ...Bud Flitcroft
 ...Phyllis Budell
 ...Joanne Cramer
 ...Jean Reichard
 ...Roger Hakes
 ...Mike Caster
 ...Our Armed forces worldwide
 ...Our friends & loved ones in need
 ...Peace

HAPPY ANNIVERSERY...

Jack and Carolyn Rice	09/02
Garth & Gerry Snyder	09/06
Bob & June Laird	09/06
Bert & Shirley Gooden	09/07
Alan Beyel & Sue Bird	09/10
Brian & Deb Abbott	09/10
Tom & Hala O'Neil	09/11
Bud & Peg Flitcroft	09/11
Phillip & Karen Winters	09/14
Mike and Nicki Burke	09/25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Robin Winoski	09/02
Meghan Barner	09/05
Howard Carey	09/06
Bill Higgins	09/06
Rosalyn Michels	09/09
Helen Stevens	09/11
Jane Horyl	09/14
Martha Cole	09/15
Jim Seeley	09/15
Mary DeSantis	09/16
Nicki Arnett-Burke	09/19
Kai Hayden	09/19
Marion Smith	09/20
Gabriella Hakes	09/20
Margaret Johnstone	09/22
Matt Higgins	09/22
Philip Winters	09/29
Dean DeSantis	09/29

Worship Attendance

August 2	114
August 9	83
August 16	101
August 23	118
August 30	105

Korean Partnership

We have the opportunity to participate in a delegation from Pyongyang Presbytery in South Korea September 29 through October 5, 2015. There are three ways we can be involved:

We have invited one of the Korean pastors to lead worship and share the Lord's Supper with us on World Communion Sunday, October 4. Please join us with a truly Worldwide Communion celebration!

The team organizing this visit is looking for places for six men to stay. They are looking for people willing to host one or more people one or more of the nights from Tuesday, September 29 through Sunday, October 4.

The group will be travelling around the area during the visit, so they could use help with transportation.

MARCELLUS ECUMENICAL KICKOFF SUNDAY

(service for Episcopalians, Methodists, and Presbyterians)

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 AT 10:00 AM THROUGH LUNCH

MARCELLUS PARK - UPPER ENTRANCE

ANNEX PAVILLION (upper entrance, first pavilion)

(RAIN LOCATION - SHINAMAN HALL AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)

Our Roman Catholic Friends are welcomed to join us for the meal

Hot dogs, rolls, and drinks are provided

Please bring: a dish to pass with serving utensil, place settings, and lawn chairs.

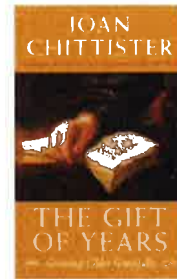


Upcoming Events

SEEKING WISDOM

a group for people (but not restricted to) ages 55 and older
Led by Dr. Ginny Smith

For the past two years a group of people from MFPC and other congregations has been meeting monthly on a Saturday morning to share life experiences. This past year they have been using Joan Chittister's book, The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully. The conversation has been inspiring and the support for one another life giving. Since there are more topics to cover in Joan's book, the group will continue to meet in 2015-2016 to discuss her book; however, the group has decided on a new name - *Seeking Wisdom*.



When asked what "seeking wisdom" means to them, members of the group responded with the following: understanding, openness, always learning, hunger/desire, aware that we don't know it all, journey, process, and being open to the Holy Spirit's leading and guidance. There is a deep humility in these responses that recognizes that, no matter what our age and stage in life, God expects us to continue learning, growing, and seeking wisdom that only comes from deepening our relationship with our Creator. Simply put, this is the purpose of this group, a purpose that is at the heart of each person's life journey.

In Psalm 51 verse 6 we read: "You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart." Please consider the importance of seeking wisdom in your own life, of taking the time to reflect on how you can connect more deeply with God and discover the True Self that has been God's gift all along. Come and be a part of the conversation with God and others that will not only benefit your own spiritual life, but the spiritual life of Christ's Church as well.

SEEKING WISDOM will be meeting on **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015, in the Fireplace Room from 10:00 - 11:30 AM**. For those who plan ahead, future dates are October 10, November 14, December 12, 2015 and January 16, February 13, March 12, April 9, May 14, and June 11, 2016. Please bring a copy of Joan's book. Ginny can help you get one if you need assistance. The topics to be covered on September 12 are *Wisdom, The Present, and Legacy*.

SAMARITAN CENTER

Our next opportunity to serve the folks at the beautiful new Samaritan Center will be on **Sunday, September 20, 2015**. We will be making the meal AT THE CENTER, bringing our own food and supplies and cooking right there in the expansive brand new kitchen.

We will need **2-3 volunteers** who would be willing to leave for the Center with us between 9 and 9:30 a.m. to start preparing the meal (You will miss worship!). In addition, we will need **16 more volunteers** to come at 12:15 p.m. and **16 cakes** in 9" by 13" **DISPOSABLE** pans to be brought to the church Saturday or Sunday a.m. before worship.

We will be passing around the clipboard for cake sign ups as well as early and regular volunteers in the next few weeks. If you haven't seen this extraordinary new facility, now is your chance!! If you know now that you will be able to volunteer on the 20th, please email me as soon as possible at jnswickett@aol.com. Because of the date's close proximity to the end of summer and Labor Day, it would help us to determine if we have the required number of volunteers.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this church mission.

Nina Wickett

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Upcoming Events



The Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held this year on **October 3, 2015** at Long Branch Park starting at 9:00 am.

We are forming a team, "**Jim's Angels**". If anyone is interested in walking or donating please contact me at 673-1160. Thank You

Jamie Johnston

SAVE THE DATES...

Habitat Chicken BBQ

Date to be
determined



CROP Walk

October 18, 2015
12:45 pm
In Shinaman Hall



Harvest Dinner

November 7, 2015
4-7 pm
In Shinaman Hall



Our New Organist

Tom Witkowski lives in Syracuse, is a graduate of OCC, and attended Syracuse University. He accompanies the Syracuse Community Choir and has served as pianist for several area churches, including the Citadel at the Syracuse Salvation Army and more recently All-Saints Church. Tom is an active performer in the Syracuse music scene. Lately he has been playing trombone and trumpet and writing horn arrangements for "The Fabulous Ripcords".

Tom began his formal music education in the Syracuse City school district in the fourth grade on the trombone. His teacher, Victor Mallia, also encouraged his efforts to learn the piano and music theory. This was continued as he transitioned from Huntington School to Eastwood Middle School doubling on both instruments. Subsequently, at Henninger High School, Fred Straub gave him a lot of support as well in Concert Band and Jazz groups. Tom studied piano with Dr. Kevin Moore at OCC and maintained trombone lessons that began during high school with William Harris (principal trombone of Syracuse Symphony). Tom studied Afro-Cuban piano with Chucho Valdes in Canada in 1996. He has performed with The New York Voices and the Salt City Jazz Collective, George Reed, Bernie Upson, Gene "Duke of Earl" Chandler, Freddy "Boom Boom" Cannon, Dunes and the Del-Tunes, the late Pete Seeger, former Journey drummer Steve Smith, and trumpet with Hector Tricoche. He teaches private lessons and arranges and writes music for all kinds of projects: Syracuse Community Choir, Turnip Stampede, Mike Powell (KaPow), and Jamie Notarthomas.

Christian Education

2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium!!!

It's hard to believe that it's already been almost three years since the last Presbyterian Youth Triennium, but it's coming again this summer! It will be held at Purdue University from July 19-23. The theme for the 2016 event is "GO!" and is all about going out into the world to make disciples. As you will read on the PYT website:



This theme is as much about when they leave the Triennium as it is about the event itself. From the first worship service we will explore what happens AFTER the Triennium.

- "Going" is not busy work.
- "Going" is not escape.
- "Going is not running away."
- GOING has the most impact when the process of going involves thoughtful and communal self reflection.
- GOING is enabled by God's counsel, authority given to Jesus and shared with Jesus' disciples.
- GOING is risky.
- GOING is often a process.
- But sometimes GOING is quick.
- Like the shepherds we refuse to let our fear hold us back or stop us from being present with Jesus.
- The biblical stories of "GOING" we will be exploring demonstrate the process of GOING. In each situation there is a NO moment or posture, a TURNING POINT (we are calling it a Turning Place) and a GO moment.
- We are human. This means that our GOING is not perfect, or always carefully choreographed and sometimes there is failure, sin or a problem.
- GO is a command. Go is a directive.
- To go with GOD is to embark on a "worthy adventure."

The PYT Youth Ministry Framework evolved from the following perspective...

"An important part of the dissatisfaction of today's young people with the mainline churches stems from the absence of a spiritually challenging and world-shaping vision that meets their hunger for the chance to participate in what Stanley Hauerwas has termed "a worthy adventure." Instead, our efforts have focused on devising strategies for keeping young people in the church because it is a place where they will be safe from the terrors of the streets or the seductions of the shopping mall. Our hopes for them are modest and reasonable. For the most part, they mirror the expectations we have for ourselves. We ask no more than that they grow up to be "good" people—decent, law abiding, successful in their jobs and happy in their marriages. To this end, we program activities which are certainly wholesome, sometimes edifying, and almost always fun. Conscientious youth ministers work hard to find ways to involve youth in worthwhile service projects, and often such projects—which yield concrete results to which we can point with pride—are very successful. Of course, some youth do remain in the church, and most of these do turn out to be "good" people. But many more do not. They leave the church because it asks nothing significant of them. They leave the church because it is spiritually innocuous."

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Christian Education

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Rick Osmer – “Challenges to Youth Ministry” (article published in Affirmation journal, 1989).

Participants include students entering their freshman year of high school through graduated seniors. They must be at least 14 years of age and no more than 20 years of age as of July 19, 2016. Adult advisors must be 21 years of age as of that date. The cost will be \$505 per person and includes housing, meals and program costs. Transportation is typically covered by the local Presbyteries and our church typically subsidizes a portion of the cost to participate for each student. Senior High Youth group leaders will work with senior high students to assist with fundraising efforts throughout the year to help offset additional costs. If you or your child are interested in participating and have concerns about the financial costs associated, please contact Allison Ray or Pamela Gnagy to confidentially share your concerns and we will make every attempt to ensure that your young person has the opportunity to attend. Our participating youth will be part of and travel with our local Presbytery delegation and will be expected to attend meetings throughout the coming months to get to know each other and participate in activities that will prepare them for the PYT experience. We are hopeful that all eligible high school youth from MFPC will plan to attend. It is a moving experience and one that our past participants have expressed again and again that they were glad to have been a part of.

Visit <http://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org> for more information, and connect with their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Triennium/timeline> to receive updates and information as it

Christian Educations Programs Resume 9/20

Our regular Sunday school and youth group programs will start up again on Sunday, September 20th, when our service returns to the Presbyterian Church. The nursery will be staffed each Sunday morning and any young children (infancy though Pre-K) are invited to spend time during the service playing with Gladys Nelson and other volunteers in the nursery play room downstairs at the rear of the sanctuary. Children are more than welcome to stay in the sanctuary, but if they grow restless and would prefer to be able to move and explore, the nursery playroom is available.

Our elementary school age classes will be held immediately following the children’s sermon. Children will be excused and can walk down the stairs at the back of the sanctuary and just past the nursery into their classroom. Children in grades K-4 will have a lesson and activity and are excused at the conclusion of the church service.

The middle school youth group, Acts of Random Kindness (ARK), will meet immediately following the sermon in the youth room downstairs. This group includes young people in grades 5-8 and will be led by Brian Ray and Nicki Arnett-Burke. Meetings will involve lessons and discussions relevant to the members and will wrap up at the end of the church service.

Senior High Youth will be meeting immediately after the sermon in the Fireside Room every Sunday. Regular meetings will be led by Allison Ray and Brian Gates and will conclude at the end of the church service. A schedule of additional monthly activities will be provided in late-September.

All of the youth in the church will also participate in volunteer activities as a large group, and will have opportunities to get together for mission projects, parties, and other seasonal events throughout the year. Those will be publicized in advance. A calendar of events will be distributed in the next few weeks. Can’t wait to see everyone!

Christian Education



Sunday School Registration

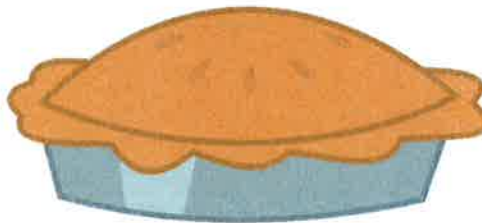
We're looking forward to seeing all of the young people on September 13th at the service in the park, after what we hope has been a wonderful summer! If you have a child or children who will be participating in the

Christian Education program this year (from nursery school all the way up through our Senior High Youth Group), you will need to fill out a registration form for them so that we have current contact and health information on file in the CE office. Allison Ray will have those forms at the church service in the park and can collect forms then. If you won't be at the picnic, you are welcome to take a blank registration form from the bulletin board outside of the Christian Education office when you are at the church and slide it in the mailbox on the door there. If you'd like a registration form to be e-mailed to you as an attachment, please let me know and I will send one right along! We can't wait to reconnect with our young people and have lots of fun together this year.

Second Annual Apple Pie Sale

Our young people at church will once again be coordinating an apple pie sale this fall in order to raise funds to support their activities and replenish our youth activity fund. Just as we did last year, we will head to Navarino Orchard to pick apples, bring them back to the church and assemble baked and unbaked pies that will be available for purchase after service.

A firm date for our second annual apple pie sale will be set shortly and advertised during church in early September. Plan to buy a couple of pies—one to enjoy right away, and another to freeze and use over the holidays—and support our youth programs! We sold out and got rave reviews last year, so there's no doubt the pies will be a hit again this year!



Christian Education Committee Seeking Members

Are you curious about our Christian Education programming? Wondering how we develop our programs and decide on mission projects or youth activities throughout the year? Would you like to share your ideas about how we can increase youth engagement in the church or draw in more youth from the community? We'd LOVE to have you join our conversations and decision-making team on the Christian Education Committee! Our current members are Allison Ray, Nicki Arnett-Burke, Lisa Gates, Lisa Baker, Jamie Johnston, Geneva Hayden and Deb Abbott. We have a lot of fun and are an energetic group of people excited about connecting our youth with each other, with the church, and with our local and global community. If you'd like to join us, we meet on the first Sunday of each month in the Christian Education office, immediately following the service. Just let Allison Ray know that you're interested in checking out the committee. Grab some coffee and snacks in Shinaman Hall and head to the office to see what we're up to!

Christian Education

Calling All Interested Teachers and Nursery Volunteers



We are blessed to have so many capable and willing volunteers in our congregation who donate their time and energy to the education of our church youth. We are always looking for interested individuals who might want to be a nursery volunteer or teach elementary Sunday school lessons. Whether you have volunteered in these capacities before or it is something new you feel called to do, I would love to hear from you. Gladys Nelson will be coordinating the volunteer schedule for the nursery play room, and I will work with elementary Sunday school teachers to provide curriculum and any necessary training, and establish a rotating teaching schedule that works for all volunteers involved. Please contact me via email at allison_m_ray@hotmail.com or at 833-9394 with any questions or to sign up to volunteer. It is a very rewarding experience and such a pleasure to work with the kids in our church. Please consider helping out if you can!

Little Free Library Update

We haven't forgotten about our Little Free Library installation....summer has just brought more than its fair share of distractions and activities that have slowed it down a bit! Brian Gates has taken care of waterproofing the library box and we are finalizing its specific location through discussions with MFPC's Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Village Board and the Marcellus Rotary Club (who are interested in installing another library box somewhere in the village of Marcellus). We anticipate that it will be installed along the Main Street side of the church, providing easy access for those folks walking through the center of town by the traffic light or waiting for the bus at the intersection. It will be on church property but easily visible and accessible to passersby so that they can take and return books at their leisure. Keep your eyes on that corner of the church, as you'll see our colorful addition there within the next few weeks!



Presbyterian Women

P. W. will meet on September 9th at 11:30 am in the Fireside room. Please bring your own sandwich and your own table setting. The dessert and beverage will be provided.



Jackie Davies

MARCELLUS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P O Box 147
Marcellus, NY 13108

Address Service Requested

***The next newsletter deadline in
October 20th .***

***Please call Sue at 673-2201
or email scramer@marcelluspc.com***

Please use P.O. Box 147 when corresponding with the Church

Building & Grounds Committee

We have been going all out this year. Some of the things that have been done or are in the works are: replacing our phone system; replacing our lights with LEDs, which will save a considerable amount of money, paying for itself in less than three years; repaired, sealed and striped the parking lot; took out the non-working (and unneeded) water softener; had a very productive spring cleanup day; repaired the downstairs women's bathroom floor and several smaller jobs.

We could really use some help in landscaping work. Some good soul has planted some flowers to give a little more beauty to our church grounds. Others have weeded or edged flower beds. But have you noticed that weeds keep coming back? It has been suggested that individuals might take responsibility for maintaining a section of the grounds. Perhaps you could take the area around two, three or four trees in front of the church, or half of the bed in front of Shinaman Hall and someone else would do the other half. Perhaps you would like to suggest another idea for which you would take responsibility. If this interests you, please contact B & G chair Charlie Smith at 673-2476 or deaconcharlie@hotmail.com.

**Please look out for the date of
our Fall Church Work Day. Date
has not yet been determined.**



**CHURCH
WORKDAY**