

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF TROY, NY

## PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear friends,

I expect your new pastor is going to disappoint you. In fact, I am 98% sure she or he will. And I write this even before the Pastor Nominating Committee indicates it has a candidate to present to you for election as your next pastor.

Here is the other side of the equation. I am also 98% sure you will disappoint your new pastor.

My intent in making these "grinchy" assertions is to remind us of the often subtle expectations we place upon one another within the church family. At times, in interviews with potential administrative assistants, the comment is made that she or he will have 130 "bosses." While offered with a tinge of humor, it is also a lesson for interviewees who may not be familiar with the dynamics of the congregation as a community of 130 individual members. The relationship between pastor and a congregation involves an even more complex set of expectations.

Within our own families and friendships, we also experience such a mutuality of expectations. Parents set expectations of behavior for their children, while children have expectations of their parents as well. We sometimes joke a teen's expectation is for a parent is for him or her to be like their friend's "perfect" parent. Different families have different understandings of when, if ever, parents end the parental role and move into an adult relationship with their grown children. Differing expectations are often at the heart of sibling relationships when it comes to decisions about the care of aging parents. When a family expands to include "in-laws," each adds to the mix her or his own expectations of how a family "should" be. A real difficulty with expectations comes when they are unspoken, as if someone should "just know."

In my years of interim ministry, I have heard stories of both disappointments with and joys about former pastors of the particular congregations. Most often these involve the pastor's skills in preaching, pastoral care, or administration, or simply, friendliness, and how expectations were or were not met in one of these areas. In one congregation, I soon recognized a former pastor, who had died

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## CONTACT US

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Troy, NY 12180

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship is at 10 am  
(in July and August, worship begins at 9:30 am, with some Sundays being at another church – please check church calendar for details)

suddenly twenty years prior, was still being revered as the dearly beloved, "perfect" pastor. This had not served the next pastor well, and at one point I suggested that "even though your mother may have made the best lasagna, and there is nothing that can take that away, you really don't need to keep reminding your spouse or partner of it."

Expectations focused on a pastor's gifts and skills are tricky, because they often are lodged in the hope someone will be a recreation of a past memory, or a fulfillment of a future dream. It is a set-up for disappointment. One can hear this in phrases such as, "He preaches in a different style than our former pastor." "She would always take care of that for us." "He should have brought new growth by now." "She doesn't seem to understand the urgency."

Pastors also bring expectations, some based on materials provided by, or conversations with a Pastor Nominating Committee, but others carried from a previous congregation. I myself realize I may too often use the phrase, "In a former congregation, ...", and while my intent is to offer an example, I understand it can be heard to imply you should do or be like that church.

Regarding expectations, I would offer the following. First, when we have an expectation of someone, whether a family member or a pastor, it needs to be shared with her or him directly. It can then be mutually determined if the expectation is fair. Second, if an agreed upon expectation is not met, tell the person one on one. Do not share it with someone else and use that person to forward on your concern. Jesus said it this way in Matthew 18: *If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone.*

In a very real sense, I believe there is but one real expectation a congregation and pastor should have for each other: integrity. In fact, is that not what we expect of one another in the church, that we will be fully truthful and honest in our relationship with one another. The fact is, pastors and church members alike are growing disciples, with varied gifts, seeking to serve Christ faithfully within a particular church family. Family life is rarely perfect, and sometimes downright tough, but particularly if we focus less on our expectations for others, it can be really fun and joyful!

With Christ's peace,

*Rick*

## OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Church Office is open Monday - Thursday 9:30 to 1:30; the office is closed on Fridays and Holidays.

## OUR MISSION

Together  
We worship God through Christ and explore all dimensions of life in the Spirit.

We demonstrate God's inclusive love as we work or peace and justice.

We serve God in the world  
As we seek to heal wounds and care for God's creation.

## OUR INCLUSIVE MINISTRY

We invite all people of every background, condition and orientation into the full fellowship, ministry and mission of God's Good News in Jesus Christ.

All who join the church are extended the full privileges of Membership, are challenged to lead lives of Christian discipleship and are eligible to be considered for church office.

## CHURCH STAFF

Rick Otty, Interim Pastor

Maury Castro,  
Minister of Music

Leslie Kelley,  
Faith Education Director

Carlie D'Anunzio,  
Financial Analyst

Virginia Manning,  
Administrative Assistant

Shirley Hinkamp,  
Copy Editor

## SCRIPTURE READINGS & THEMES

**June 2** – (9th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Communion) – 10:00 a.m.

**Texts:** I Kings 18:20-39; Psalm 96; Galatians 1:1-12; Luke 7:1-10

**Theme:** God Stories We Tell – The amazing account of a sacrifice set afire by Israel's God in I Kings, and Jesus' healing of a centurion's slave from a distance invite us to consider what God stories we are telling in our lives, for at its heart, faith is lodged in story.

**June 9** – (10th Sunday in Ordinary Time) – 10:00 a.m.

**Texts:** I Kings 17:8-24; Psalm 146; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17

**Theme:** Two Widows, Two Sons, To Life – In our I Kings and Gospel readings, two widows with a gravely ill and dead son are encountered by the prophet Elijah and Jesus. When their health is restored, life is restored for the widows as well.

**June 16** – (11th Sunday in Ordinary Time) – 10:00 a.m.

**Texts:** I Kings 21:1-21a; Psalm 5:1-8; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36-8:3

**Theme:** Do You See This Woman? Jesus asks this question when an uninvited guest to a dinner shows him a hospitality his host has not offered. The question is more than an eye test for glasses. The story of Naboth's vineyard in I Kings also challenges us to examine our lenses of power and privilege.

**June 23** – (12th Sunday in Ordinary Time) – 10:00 a.m.

**Texts:** I Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

**Theme:** Left At the Gate – A depressed Elijah parks himself under a broom tree. Jesus steps off a boat only to be met by a demon possessed man. The church is the haven of welcome for the depressed, the possessed, because, as Paul teaches that in Jesus, the human boundaries of separation are gone.

**June 30** – (13th Sunday in Ordinary Time) – 10:00 a.m.

**Texts:** II Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

**Theme:** Preparing to Take Leave – Elijah is about to depart this earth and leave his mantle to Elisha. Jesus makes the turn that will begin his final journey to Jerusalem. Coupled with Paul's fruits of the spirit encouragement to the Galatians, the texts guide our consideration of leave taking and following.

**BIBLE STUDY:** A Bible Study, led by Rick Otty, is held Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. All are invited to attend. The group is a mixture of "regulars" and those who come sporadically. The group usually meets for a little over an hour to read and discuss the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday.

(NOTE: There will be NO Bible Study in July or August.)

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### THE SESSION

The Reverend Rick Otty  
Moderator

### 2013

David Lanoue  
Dan Rogers  
Trudi Wyburn  
Sue Steele

### 2014

Jennifer Nelson  
Florie Parmelee  
Peggy Savchik

### 2015

Pat Carlson  
Rachel Dotson  
Peg Drew  
Bonnie Kerr

### THE BOARD OF DEACONS

### 2013

Shirley Bowes  
Steven Paul Bowes II  
Dana Parker  
Shirley Street

### 2014

Martha Juenger  
Marsha Mintz-Botsford  
Pat Rudebush  
Kerry Welcome

### 2015

Carol Harrington  
Shirley Hincamp  
Don Lutz  
Claudia Schwenderman

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

### **SUMMER WORSHIP (in July, August, and September 1) begins at 9:30 AM**

Sunday, July 7 – Joint worship at Cornerstone Community Church in Lansingburgh  
[NO worship at First United]

Sunday, July 14 – Joint worship at Cornerstone Community Church in Lansingburgh  
[NO worship at First United]

Sunday, July 21 - Joint worship at First United with Cornerstone Community Church

Sunday, July 28 – Joint worship at First United with Cornerstone Community Church

### **Faith Ed. For Children**

**June 2** - Children will meet after the Children's Message to rehearse presentation for June 9 skit during worship.

**June 9–** Recognition Sunday, children will present a skit for the "Bees and Trees" mission project through Heifer International. Bibles will be presented to third grade students – Charlie Welcome, Dele Loucks-Best and Aubrey Loucks-Best. We will also be recognizing our graduating seniors – Corinne Curtis and Nathan Parmelee

### **Faith Ed. For Adults**

**June 2:** Rick Otty will be leading a class discussion of the interim issues the Session has been discussing this year, regarding church facilities, finances, and how they might affect FUPC's mission and staffing. Many of these issues are not new, but lingering. You may want to reread Rick's pastoral letter in the May newsletter in preparation for this sharing time.

**June 9–** see children's section

**June 9 – Fellowship Time:** Join us for a "Bee"utiful Fellowship time, after worship, raising money for the "Bees and Trees" mission project. We will have sweet treats for you to enjoy while your donation will go to help people in need through Heifer International.

## CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Nathan Parmelee's Eagle Scout Court of Honor**

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest rank available to Boy Scouts.

Nathan Parmelee has completed all requirements and will celebrate this achievement, with his friend Daniel Shiffer, on Saturday, June 29, 2013, 3:00 p.m. at First United Presbyterian Church.

All are welcome. Please RSVP to the Parmelee family by Thursday, June 20.

283-0014 or [Nabiflo@aol.com](mailto:Nabiflo@aol.com)

### **Meeting Kodzo Sikunu:**

The May 12 program after worship with Kodzo Sikunu was very well received. Kodzo spoke devotedly about his wife and 4 children in Togo and showed beautiful photos of them. He also spoke about his trust in God and his hope that his family will be reunited someday soon. Trudi, Rachel, and Rebecca spoke briefly about the immigration process plus what will be needed once Kodzo's family arrive in the U.S.

There are three pieces that need to be put into place before his family can immigrate: **1)** He needs a joint sponsor to sign an Affidavit of Support for the visa process to move forward. **2)** Our committee is drawing up a covenant to be signed by anyone who is willing to give backup financial support to the joint sponsor in the case of catastrophic need by Kodzo's family. Thank you to those who listed their names on May 12. The covenant can be signed once we have a joint sponsor. **3)** Our committee is also taking names of those willing to help the family with clothing, food, furniture, transportation etc. once they arrive.

Please consider what you can do and how you are willing to help welcome this family. If you are interested or have questions, contact one of the following Church and Society (Mission) Committee members: Pat Carlson, Rachel Dotson, Rebecca Rector, Margaret Stoner, Trudi Wybourn

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### **Troy Children's Chorus Missional Moment**

On Friday, May 10, TCC gave a concert for the New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children Annual Conference at the Albany Marriott. This is the state organization that oversees adoptions and foster care families. This conference is an equipping event for parents and caregivers.

Having never sung for this organization before, we did not know what to expect. As it turned out, our concert took place at the end of a long day of seminars and discussion groups, with challenging, emotional discussions taking place. We could see this on the faces of our audience members as we began the concert. Our first song, "Give Us Hope," was exactly what this group needed that evening. The choristers rose to the challenge and we could just feel the atmosphere in the room lighten and open up. The chorus went on to deliver a spirited concert, which was enthusiastically received. TCC made a difference that day!

### **Troy Children's Chorus in Concert: Sing the World!**

Saturday, June 1, 4:00 pm. Spring Concert featuring Christopher Trombley, baritone; Steve Weisse, trumpet; Amanda Dame and Jacquelyn Wright, piccolos. Free. Free childcare available.  
[www.troychildrenschorus.org](http://www.troychildrenschorus.org)

### **Capitol Opera Albany presents Donizetti's *Il campanello di notte***

Saturday, June 8, 2:00 and 7:30 pm. Featuring Andrea Howland, Krstin Moye, Monifa Harris, Karen Hayden, Kurt Melges, and Jeffrey Carlson. Directed by Stephanie Thurm. Accompanied by pianist Maria Elmer. Donations only (suggested: \$10/individual; \$15/couple; \$20/family). Fellowship Hall.  
[www.capopera.com](http://www.capopera.com)

### **Festival Celebration Choir: A Journey Through the Church Year**

Sunday, June 9, 2:30 pm. Concert held at St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church, 23 Crumitie Rd. in Loudonville. Featuring soloist Christopher Trombley, this walk through the church year starts with Advent, proceeds through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, etc.! Featuring a variety of the finest sacred choral music. Directed by Maury A. Castro, accompanied by Andrew Krystopolski.  
[www.festivalcelebrationchoir.org](http://www.festivalcelebrationchoir.org)

### **Americana: Social and Sing-along**

Friday, June 14, 6:00 pm. Don't miss an evening of strawberry shortcake, singing, skits, and wholesome fun in celebration of all things American! Admission fee of \$5, with opportunity to purchase food, including hot dogs, popcorn, etc. Free childcare available.

### **The Bell Choir is Back!**

Back by popular demand, the bell choir will play again for the first time in a while for the worship service on June 16.

### **Young People's Chorus of Erie**

Tuesday, June 25, 7:00 pm. The Young People's Chorus of Erie, conducted by Gabrielle Dietrich, will present a concert in collaboration with Troy Children's Chorus. Don't miss it! Free with donations accepted.  
[www.ypcerie.org](http://www.ypcerie.org)

**Dedicate an Anthem** - Congregants are invited to donate \$25 toward the purchase of new choral music, and the church will match that \$25 in order to purchase a new anthem (each anthem in our library costs about \$50). The donor may dedicate the anthem to the person(s) or event of their choice, and when that anthem is sung in church, this will be recognized. To participate in this ongoing program, please contact Maury A. Castro.

## Earth Day is Every Day

## The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof...

In an "Open Café" around small tables we journeyed from the Land to the Earth as our home, and a new consciousness that in 200 years we have built our societies on easily accessible and therefore cheap fossil fuels. With the burning of these fossil fuels we are now confronted with dramatic and increasingly hostile changes in climate, economies and equities among peoples and all living things. How do we find opportunity in chaos to live in hope and joy, to re-create our dependencies on fossil fuels into new ways of living and engaging? Here are results of our work:



4.21.13 Ad Ed Hosted by Margaret & Howard Stoner

## FAITH EDUCATION

**Vacation Bible School** – Join us July 15-18, 6-8pm as we learn more about “God’s Amazing Gift of Bee’s and Trees.” Crafts, games, music and Bible connections! Hope to see you there. To register please contact Leslie Kelly [leslie@unitedprestroy.org](mailto:leslie@unitedprestroy.org) or by phone 272-2771, x18

### Camping Opportunities

It's not too early to begin thinking about summer camping opportunities. Information is available online for Skye Farm Camp at [www.skyefarmcamp.org](http://www.skyefarmcamp.org), and Holmes Presbyterian Camp [www.HolmesCamp.org](http://www.HolmesCamp.org). Skye Farm will hold an Open House on Saturday, June 29 from 1-4pm where you can meet staff and tour the camp.

## SESSION NOTES

### Stated Session Meeting – Tuesday, May 28, 2013

- Elders, led by Rick Otty, discussed what needs to be decided and accomplished prior to the arrival of a new pastor, particularly related to facilities, finances and staffing. The Faith Education time on June 2 will be a time for the congregation to hear of these discussions.
- Authorized Facilities, Finance, and Stewardship Committee (FaFinStew) to seek quotes for commercial appraisal of entire church facilities
- Authorized FaFinStew to determine an opinion of probable cost for repair of church roofs.
- Heard that FaFinStew is contacting persons to re-establishing an Endowment/Investment Committee
- Approved proceeding with hallway carpeting project at an estimate of \$5500, with 40% recycled carpeting, using monies already contributed
- Approved renewal of new contract with K&L Construction for property management and housekeeping, as negotiated by FaFinStew.
- Elected Bonnie Kerr as Commissioner to the June 7-8 meeting of Albany Presbytery at Silver Bay, with Laura Rogers as alternate if needed.
- More Light Ministries reported that PRIDE parade will be June 9
- A food fair will be held June 9 after worship; presentation of Bibles to third-graders and recognition of graduating seniors will be during worship
- Heard report from the May meeting of Albany Presbytery
- Re-Energize Mission group reported Martha Juenger has agreed to be Kodzo Sikunu's joint sponsor, in his efforts to bring his family to America.
- Approved report of the Albany Presbytery Triennial Visit Team, which visited the Session in October 2012
- Next meeting of Session will be Monday, June 24 at 6:30 pm

## PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE NOTES

The PNC continues to meet weekly to discern a candidate being called to First United. We are using all our available resources, including the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for the process of reading pastor information forms and interviewing. We look forward to the day when we make a report to the congregation. Meanwhile we are grateful for your prayers for the process, the candidates, and us.



## IN THE LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

### June Birthdays

2	Michael Schwendeman Barbara Duggan
6	Charlotte Glennie John Husson Phong Thach
8	Charlotte June Burgess
14	Michael Warman, Jr.
17	Diana Loeffel
22	Hazel H. Farrel
23	Bob Harrington
26	Garrett Hamlin
27	Shirley Bowes John Eadie Earl Turner, Jr.



## LOCAL EVENTS

### PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2013 WASHINGTON PARK, ALBANY

This is **YOUR** invitation to participate in Albany's Pride Parade on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Presbyterian Rainbow again is sponsoring a group from Albany Presbytery's Welcoming Churches.

Each Welcoming Church is identified by name with a large sign. We need many volunteers to carry the signs as a way to witness our welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in our community. The Parade begins at noon and takes about 30 minutes. Plan to be at First Presbyterian Church of Albany at State and Willett Streets (across from Washington Park) no later than 11:45 am. You may come earlier, beginning at 9:30, to help decorate the vehicles and locate your church's sign. First Presbyterian Church also extends a warm welcome for any who wish to worship there, either at 8:30 or 10:45 am.

Walking along the parade route is both a fun and uplifting experience. You will be amazed to receive enthusiastic cheers and thanks from the bystanders who gather to watch. A great post-parade activity is the festival in the Park. Presbyterian Rainbow staffs a table with information about our churches. If your church has printed materials for display, please bring some with you for our table.

If you are interested or have questions, you can email me at [tdiggory@skidmore.edu](mailto:tdiggory@skidmore.edu). We look forward to participating with you!

Terry Diggory, Co-ordinator  
*on behalf of Presbyterian Rainbow*

**BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY LIBRARY** will be having its' Garden Day, Saturday June 8- 9am - 1pm Rain or Shine! Many perennials, arts & crafts vendors, raffle and bake sale!

In July, 2014, a **Women's Retreat in Guatemala** for the woman of the Albany Presbytery and MAM Presbyterians is being planned. July 23-26 with a few days before and after. Exact dates will be available soon- for more information, please e-mail Kathy Gorman-Coombs with questions: [revkgc@aol.com](mailto:revkgc@aol.com)