

January 30th, 2014:

General Council Clips

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the General Council met this past Tuesday for the month of January.
- Ruling Elder Dick Schied shared with the Council the progress on the grant application that will be going to Synod for one of our partners in ministry, the Rural Migrant Ministry (RMM) Program.
- Rev. Jim Yao reported on the Budget and Finance Committee. He reported that the committee has determined that money remaining at the presbytery in the dedicated account for Study Leave will be returned to the churches from where it was sent. The committee also decided that an audit will be done by Hevron and Hevron of the 2013 books.
- Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao reported for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and it was moved and carried to recommend that Matthew Derrenbacher (Sodus) become an Inquirer under care of the Presbytery of Geneva.
- The March meeting information was discussed and work to finalize the agenda will take place at the next Council meeting. We will let you know when the agenda and supplemental materials are available for our March 18th meeting in Bath.
- General Council is also reviewing six General Assembly overtures to bring to the entire Presbytery to vote to determine if the Presbytery would like to concur on these overtures. This conversation will continue at our next meeting. We will also be posting these online after the next Council meeting for members to read over.
- The Council's next meeting will be on February 11, 2014 starting at 9:30a.m.

Definition of Marriage Study Started Yesterday

The second series of the PC(USA) definition of marriage study series started in Corning yesterday. There were 8 (not including Presbytery staff) participants in our first session. Thank you so much to everyone that attended. If you are able to make both or one of the other sessions of this series, we would be happy to have you join our discussion. Bring a bagged lunch and we will provide the study materials. Thank you to Corning for being amazing hosts! Please see attached flier for more details.

Spreading Peace Two Knitting Needles At A Time

The creations of the First Presbyterian Elmira Peace Pod were dedicated at their worship last week. There were over 60 items they have made - scarves, hats, peace pals, baby kits, baby blankets. Some items will stay in Elmira, going to the local safe house and a local school. Some will be sent to Knitting4Peace in Denver and then sent to places around the world. May each recipient feel love and be wrapped in peace. God bless each recipient. Awesome job First Presbyterian in Elmira! For more information on Knitting4Peace, visit: <http://www.knitting4peace.org/>

Fusion on Fire Update

Fusion on Fire (1001 New Worshiping Community – #1360) has worshiped in Lake Street Presbyterian Church six Saturday evenings during Advent and Christmas season. The average attendance has been 125 worshippers of all ages, socioeconomic groups, races and religious backgrounds. The high attendance was 185 and low was 65. We are very pleased with the attendance considering the winter conditions on weekends in Elmira.

Rhonda Returns From The Holy Land

As several of you know, Rhonda Everdyke was chosen to be a PPF participant for 2014. The two weeks that this 28 person delegation spent in the Holy Land in January was an amazing and informative experience. She is working to putting together all of the information into different presentations and ways to share with our community and congregations. She would love to schedule a coffee hour time, minute for mission, or presentation for your church at your congregation's convenience. Please let her know if there is an interest and a time that works best. Rhonda wants to thank you for your support for being on this trip and a part of this delegation.

Here is the link to her delegation's blog: <http://peacedelegation.wordpress.com/>

Seneca Falls Approved for 1001 Worshiping Communities Funding

The First Presbyterian Church in Seneca Falls recently received a \$7500 from GA as part of the 1001 New Worshiping Communities Seed Grant. Congratulations! The New Worshiping community is called S². S² worshippers are new to Seneca Falls Presbyterian Church. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ and mostly an un-churched population of the community, battling their own demons by seeking the scriptural message, joyful music, and nourishing communion that the service offers. We meet every Wednesday at 5:30pm-6pm, followed by a community dinner (agape meal). The message each Wednesday evening is simple and relevant to their daily lives.

There is an evident focus on social justice (injustice) to which they can each one relate. The message is bi-directional in dialogue – it's conversational. The new worshiping community (NWC) members are queued with a topic and invited to share their own experience and hope. Simple praise music integrally tied to the scripture and message aid in understanding and continued spiritual development. The service is typically 30 minutes in length followed by the communion of a shared meal. It is informal, unassuming, and contains seven segments:

- I. Call to Worship
- II. Praise Songs (2 or 3)
- III. Scripture and Illumination
- IV. Message and Dialogue
- V. Song of Commitment
- VI. Unison Prayer
- VII. Closing Song

VIII. Benediction

Winter Intern is Wrapping Up and A New Spring Intern Starts

Megan Russo also finishing up her time as our Winter intern from Keuka College is working on the Alternative Giving Catalog for Camp Whitman's 60th Anniversary for 2014's holiday season. She is also taking the lead on securing all of the logistics for the Pizza Hut Camp Whitman fundraising that will take place Camp Whitman Sunday and the following Monday and Tuesday evenings. She assisted with our graphics for our E-Valentines campaign.

Amber Heins has started with us for the Spring semester as our semester long intern. She will be helping with several Camp and Presbytery projects, including setting up a Camp Whitman history online archive in recognition of our 60th Anniversary.

Princeton Seminary Certificate Program Graduate And Opportunity

Over the past year, Rhonda has been a student at Princeton Seminary for their first online certificate program. The certificate was specifically titled, Certificate of Ministry and Theology. She traveled to Princeton, NJ last weekend for a wonderful, yet cold, graduation ceremony. There were 130 participants from around the country that got to meet face to face for the first time. It was a joyous occasion. She highly recommends this program for individuals and for congregations to take part in. Churches can apply as a group and she heard wonderful testimony from the church cohorts who greatly enjoyed the experience to take part in their studies as a congregation or bible study group. They are accepting applications for 2015's program. She is happy to share more about this program and for more information, please look to: <http://ptsem.edu/certificate/>.

Camp Whitman Updates

- We hired several people for Camp Whitman's summer staff over the past month. We are currently still looking to hire five more counselors and one prep cook/dishwasher. All other positions hope to be filled with interviews that have been set up for the next couple of weeks. Thank you so much for passing along our information and job opportunities.
- The Graded and Pine 2014 Season brochures have all been sent out. Hopefully you received them at your churches last week. Please let us know if you need any more materials.
- We have now finished the online registration pieces that needed to be completed for parents and caretakers to register online. We have worked to get this online program to be more robust and to help with several aspects of camp during the summer. Thank you so much to Karen for her support in this project!
- 60th Anniversary planning continues and is in full force. Please let me know if you are interested in getting involved! Please remember to save some dates of our year-long celebration. If you need another Save the Date flier, I am happy to provide them to you!

- Look for an email tomorrow with information about the “Share the Love of Camp Whitman” Campaign!

Climate Justice Lecture Series in Ithaca

The First Presbyterian Church Ithaca NY ecumenical lecture series with the Climate Justice Inquiry to Action Group will lead a March 2nd "preach in" with First Baptist Church of Ithaca, please find more information

at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/528830653890708/?previousaction=join&source=1>

LOGOS Event In Canandaigua

Saturday, March 8 the United Church of Canandaigua is hosting a LOGOS Encounter, a training for those working with children and youth. LOGOS is a midweek program in a 4 part format~ Bible Study, Rec/Play, Worship, and Family Time (Dinner) ~ whose focus is on building Christian relationships. Rev. Fred Magley started our LOGOS program (we call it Youth Club) in 1966!

Please see the attached information and/or feel free to contact Cathy Bush from The United Church in Canandaigua, NY 14424 at [\(585\) 394-0503](tel:5853940503).

Opportunity from Guide One

Several churches have already talked to Matthew from Guide One Insurance and were able to get more information about church insurance options. Guide One is offering a special discounts for being affiliated with Presbytery of Geneva. Guide One sent postcards to our member churches this past week. If you are interested in contacting Matthew his information is below:

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