

No lead article this week.

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

### **February**

3 Hancock

10 Hobart

17 Honorably retired pastors: Earl Arnold, Doug Beattie, Leonard Bjorkman, Sharon Dittman, Barry Downing, Linda Hendrian, Janet Adair Hansen, Marie King, Arthur Kopp, John Mahler, Jim Martin, Dean Miller, Maxine Pardee, Allen Presby, Barbara Renton, Elwin Sire, Alfred Sunderwirth, Ronald Thomas, Spencer VanGulick, Delbert Wemple, Carol Wilson

24 Clergy in specialized ministry or service beyond the jurisdiction of the church: Roger DeNoyelles, Doug Horne, Peter Kwon, Taryn Mattice, Michael Spezio, Art Suggs

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### **Prayers:**

Please contact Committee on Ministry co-chairs, Marsha Muller and Lisa Ruth Mays if you have a pastoral care concern or need.

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### **Other News**

#### **Upcoming Presbytery Assembly February 9th, 2019**

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

On Saturday, February 9, 2019, the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley will be hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City. The church is located 2 Main Street, Johnson City, NY 13790 -

Registration is from 8:30 - 9:30 AM, with worship at beginning at 9:00 AM. and the business meeting call to order following worship. Complimentary beverages and refreshments will be available during registration.

Lunch is available for \$7. Childcare will also be available upon request (please notify [pmc@susvalpresby.org](mailto:pmc@susvalpresby.org) no later than 3 days before the Assembly).

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](mailto:statedclerk@susvalpresby.org).

On or about February 3rd, reports and papers for the presbytery assembly meeting will begin to be posted and can be accessed online at: [www.susvalpresby.org/](http://www.susvalpresby.org/). You will need to have the presbytery user name and password and be logged in to be able to open the files.

Once logged in the papers are at [www.susvalpresby.org/events-listing/assembly](http://www.susvalpresby.org/events-listing/assembly). Click the link for the February 9 Assembly 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.

NOTE: Document numbers not linked indicate that the document has not been received by the Stated Clerk at this time

\*Daycare will be provided

Chris Burger and Rebecca Kindig , Co-Stated Clerks

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### **Are You The Person God is Calling to on the Mission & Ministries Commission (M&MC) of the Synod of the Northeast?**

Our Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley has the opportunity for representation on the Mission & Ministries Commission of the Synod of the Northeast. This Commission is responsible for planning, oversight, and governance of the Synod and acts on behalf of the Synod Assembly between Stated Meetings. Both Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders will be considered. The term is two (2) years. Our Presbytery is asked to submit up to three (3) nominees to the Synod leadership.

If YOU are willing to be considered, or if you have someone you would like to recommend, please tell us by filling out the [Recommendation Form](#) and sending it by Thursday, February 28, 2019 to: David H. Johnson, United Presbyterian Church, 25 Church St., Cortland, NY 13045 OR via email to [pastordave@unitedpresbyterian.net](mailto:pastordave@unitedpresbyterian.net)

The meeting dates for the Commission are:  
2019: May 3-4; September 27-28; November 8-9 (Come to the Table event)  
2020: January 31-Feb. 1; May 1-2; September 25-26; November 6-7 (Synod Assembly)

Thanks,  
Dave  
David H. Johnson, Pastor  
United Presbyterian Church  
25 Church St.  
Cortland, NY 13045

Office Phone: (607) 756-5689  
Cell: (315) 256-3161

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### **Hoping Together**

Friends in Christ, I'm recommending an extraordinary opportunity for congregations, pastors, lay pastors and preachers to engage with a committed group of Czech Christians, both clergy and laity, who belong to the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren and with the Presbyterian congregations in the USA who partner with some of the Czech congregations.

Please see the attached letter and [registration form](#). Feel free to email me with questions (therentons1@gmailcom) or talk to me after the next Presbytery Assembly on Feb. 9th.

(Rev. Dr.) Barbara Renton  
Current Treasurer of the Czech Mission Network and a founding member back in 1985 (remember the Cold War?)

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### **MICAH – Moving In Congregations Acting in Hope**

MICAH is a faith based organization that has been working for the last two years to build relationships between white churches and churches of color. The group has held a number of training activities in the Cortland area and meetings with Binghamton Mayor Rich David.

They are going to hold a prayer service at First Congregational Church, 30 Main St. Binghamton on Sunday, February 24, at 4:00 pm. (Inclement weather date March 3.) The prayer service will be multi-racial and ecumenical. Beyond prayers for racial unity, the service will include the Dorothy Cotton Singers, liturgical dancers, a bell choir, words from black clergy, and Rev. Gary Smith Director of MICAH. The keynote speaker is activist Aloja Airewele. After the service there will be a fellowship hour (with finger foods) in the social hall. All are welcome!

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The St. John's Bible Event - February 12-14, 2019  
Tuesday  
12:30 PM Interfaith lunch for clergy  
6:30 -8:00 PM Public lecture on the art of Creation, the Psalms, and Ezekiel's Valley of the Dry Bones  
Wednesday Retreat Day of Immersion  
Morning -Prayer and Presentation

Afternoon -Visio Divina  
Evening Closing vespers worship

Thursday  
5:00 PM Public lecture at the University  
More information about:  
<http://www.saintjohnsbible.org/>  
More about local arrangements:  
UPC Binghamton 607 722-4219  
42 Chenango Street  
Binghamton, NY 13901

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**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRESBYTERY'S LAY PREACHING COURSE**

After the Presbytery Assembly, Feb. 9th, at Johnson City, I will be available for questions and suggestions. We will need about five-six persons to enroll in order to start the new class. You can also reach me through email: [therentons1@gmail.com](mailto:therentons1@gmail.com)

(Rev. Dr.) Barbara Renton  
Chair, Committee on Lay Preaching

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**2019 Standard Mileage Rates**

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2019 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2019, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 58 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3.5 cents from the rate for 2018
- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, up 2 cents from the rate for 2018, and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

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