

**A “MISSION EXTRAVAGANZA” AT CORTLAND UNITED!**

What is a “Mission Extravaganza”? It is a celebration of the important work of the many agencies that serve the people of the Cortland community.

On Sunday, September 30, 2018, the congregation of the United Presbyterian Church of Cortland gathered in worship to recognize five Cortland agencies with which we have had a special connection. We recognized the Cortland County Council of Churches, Catholic Charities, Helping Hands/Caring Heart, Loaves & Fishes, and the YWCA’s Aid to Victims of Violence. Representatives of each agency were present to speak during the special service, receive a monetary “extra mile” gift, and host a display table at a soup and bread meal following the service.

During the special service that focused on Christ’s call to serve, the members and guests were provided a brochure that summarized the mission projects of the congregation over the last six years. Over fifty-eight projects were included. Listed were missions of the PCUSA, a variety of international ecumenical missions, and many local and regional missions. Monetary and in-kind support was noted. The brochure recognized that during the past six years the congregation contributed over \$109,000 to missions and collected over 21,400 food items for local food pantries. The church building hosts AA meetings, the Boy Scouts, quilters, Helping Hands/Caring Heart, and countless special programs and concerts for the community.

The Mission Extravaganza was organized by the congregation’s Contact & Mission Committee under the leadership of Elder Tom Corey and Pastor David Johnson.



The Rev. Rachel Ditch, Executive Director  
The Cortland County Council of Churches

=====

**A Calendar of Prayer for our Presbytery**

**November**

- 5 Johnson City 1st Robert Peak, Pastor  
Binghamton John Hus
- 12 Cortland United David Johnson, Pastor
- 19 Bovina Center United Garrett Vittorio Schindler, Pastor

=====  
**Prayers:**

Sad news: Mark Hampton, the oldest son of Rev. Dr. Barbara Renton died of cancer on Monday, Nov. 5th at Wilson Hospital. Barbara has arranged calling hours at the Bainbridge Presbyterian Church from 10:00 - noon on Saturday, Nov. 10th. Cards and notes of condolence can be sent to her home: 2891 State Highway 7, Bainbridge, NY 13733 or to her email address: [therentons1@gmail.com](mailto:therentons1@gmail.com).

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

=====  
**Other News**

**Presbytery Assembly Notice**

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

On Saturday, November 17, 2018 the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Assembly will be hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Delhi, 4 Clinton St., Delhi, NY 13753. Phone (607) 746-2155.

Registration is from 8:30 - 9:30 am, with worship at 9:00 a.m. and the business meeting call to order after worship. Complimentary beverages and refreshments will be available during registration. Lunch is available for \$7.

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 November 10th , 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) then click Login. You may need to have the presbytery user name and password to be able to open the files

Once logged in the papers are at <http://www.susvalpresby.org/events-listing/assembly> and click the link for the November 17th, 2018 meeting near the top of the page.

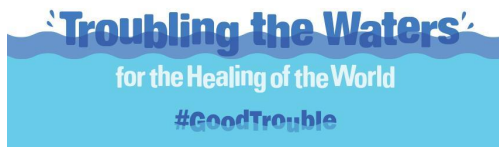
Please print or save your papers to your computer in advance as only limited (if any) internet will be available at the church.

Chris Burger and Rebecca Kindig , Co-Stated Clerks

=====  
**Conklin Presbyterian Church**

Conklin Presbyterian Church is looking for a new Church Treasurer. It is a paid position averaging 4 hours a week, For more information contact Dana Wolfe at 607-206-6738 or by email [djwolfe002@aol.com](mailto:djwolfe002@aol.com).

=====



Save the Dates!

Compassion Peace and Justice Training Day

April 5th and

Ecumenical Advocacy Days

April 5th-8th

In 2019, we gather at a time in which people of faith and conscience are again called to stand in the prophetic stream of those who have come before us, those who were not afraid to stir up #GoodTrouble for the sake of God's kingdom.

The history of engaging in #GoodTrouble is embedded in our faith tradition and our history as a nation and in the world. In the Bible, we read stories of the midwives who resisted Pharaoh and preserved the lives of Hebrew baby boys. We see Moses challenging the authority of Pharaoh, and Jesus overturn tables run by money changers. Throughout our U.S. history, Native peoples resisted land theft and cultural assimilation by European settlers through many forms of resistance. Colonists resisted England's imperial overreach and enslaved Africans resisted captivity both physically and spiritually. That spiritual resistance was especially pronounced in spirituals sung by those dehumanized by slavery. "Wade in the Water," and other spirituals were messages of lament, hope and courage. They also included instructions on how to get to freedom. Years later, leaders such as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and John Lewis drew on these same spirituals for inspiration as they stirred up #GoodTrouble in their time.

Today, we are deeply *troubled* by what we see in the world. The 2019 Ecumenical Advocacy Days Conference will draw on #GoodTrouble pioneers from the Civil Rights era as well as inspiration from young leaders to learn from the past, share best practices, and encourage one another for the work ahead. Through worship, educational and training workshops, and advocacy, we will beckon the Spirit to "Trouble the Waters" as depicted in John 5:1-9, calling on God to bring healing to our nation and world. Join us as we envision and train for new ways to stir up #GoodTrouble for the healing of all God's children.

**Stayed tuned - more information on registration and speakers coming soon!**

=====  
**First Presbyterian Union Church of Owego** has 45 Junior Choir robes to give away. These have been hanging in a closet for many years! Interested?



Contact Jo Ann Gray, [joanngray@stny.rr.com](mailto:joanngray@stny.rr.com) or call 607-687-5076

=====  
**NEW CLASS FORMING LAY PREACHERS TO BE COMMISSIONED TO SERVE IN THE PRESBYTERY OF SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY**

If you are curious about who is preaching from the Word of God in the Presbytery...

If you feel you have something more to say from your own experience...

If you wonder where our small churches will find worship leaders who speak to their concerns...

IT COULD BE THAT GOD, THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, IS CALLING YOU TO SHARE YOUR OWN FAITH UNDERSTANDING IN A WAY THAT CONNECTS WITH OTHERS.

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley has a training program that will enable you to speak your faith in Jesus Christ to others so that it makes sense. You don't have to go to a seminary or training school. The presbytery's ministers and elders of long training and experience stand ready to help you to help others in their lives and faith journeys. We have a 26-year tradition of lay preachers that is unmatched by any other presbytery.

Curious? Want to know more, like

How much does it cost?

How much time does it require?

There will be a gathering on Dec 1st at 12 noon (hopefully at Sky Lake, near Sanford, NY) that will offer more information and hopefully answer all your questions.

***Please give us a sense that you might want to inquire and will be at the gathering.***

**(Rev.Dr.) Barbara A. Renton (honorably retired) [therentons1@gmail.com](mailto:therentons1@gmail.com)**  
**or call: 607-967-4819.**

=====