

# THE GENEVA LINK



Newsletter for  
**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**  
in the Presbytery of Geneva  
**Summer/Fall 2017**

---



## *Message from Your Moderator . . .*

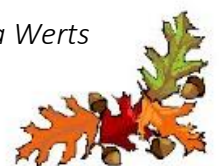
Even as a "retired" teacher I still experience the exhilaration of September and the fall with its sense of new beginnings. Congregations celebrate a "Rally Day" when, after summer recess and vacations, we return to our churches with the anticipation of a new church year of Sunday School, PW groups and abundant opportunities for mission, ministry and fellowship.

PW is no exception. I have the sense that a year ended with the very successful June Fundraiser at Billsboro Winery supporting Virginia Champlin on her Global Exchange to Indonesia. The evening was enjoyed by some fifty attending and provided a little over \$1,000 towards the cost of the Exchange. It couldn't have happened without many of you! A shout-out of thank-yous to the PW groups and individuals who donated raffle items, the Coordinating Team members who worked the event, Billsboro for the lovely venue, and the Geneva restaurants who donated the food.

We've taken a recess of sorts over the summer and are now preparing to reunite ourselves at the 2017 Fall Gathering being graciously hosted this time by the women of the United Presbyterian Church of Hornell on **Saturday, September 9th**. I hope you'll find your presence with us as we gather for fellowship, worship and a purposeful day. I am personally delighted with our chosen theme and speaker. I look forward to **Lauren Lamb** introducing all to the Family Promise initiative to help homeless families regain sustainable housing. I serve on the Wayne County Family Promise Board and was astounded by statistics showing that during the 2016-17 school year there were approximately 273 school age homeless children. The National Organization tells us there are usually near the same number of preschool children. Certainly a call to action for Presbyterian Women to reach out to help. Please join us on September 9th to learn more about the work being done in Wayne and Ontario Counties. You will find the flyer with all details on the last page of this newsletter.

*Blessings & love,*

*Linda Werts*





## Your Presbytery of Geneva

### PW Coordinating Team:

#### **Moderator**

Linda Werts [lwerts@aol.com](mailto:lwerts@aol.com) 315-447-0276

#### **Vice-Moderator** (position open)

#### **Secretary & Newsletter Editor**

Mary Cree [marycree@hotmail.com](mailto:marycree@hotmail.com) 585-330-5501

#### **Treasurer**

J. Lou Tarr [jajltarr@verizon.net](mailto:jajltarr@verizon.net) 585-944-8252

#### **Treasurer Understudy**

Deb Compher [debcompher@gmail.com](mailto:debcompher@gmail.com) 315-573-8937

#### **Together in Service**

Lois Carter [carterlois@hotmail.com](mailto:carterlois@hotmail.com) 607-546-2048

#### **Horizons Representative**

Virginia Champlin [danvirginiac@aol.com](mailto:danvirginiac@aol.com) 585-526-5841

#### **Celebration Giving**

Deb Compher [debcompher@gmail.com](mailto:debcompher@gmail.com) 315-573-8937

#### **Historian**

Joann Braun [texasyellowrose14512@yahoo.com](mailto:texasyellowrose14512@yahoo.com)  
585-374-5193

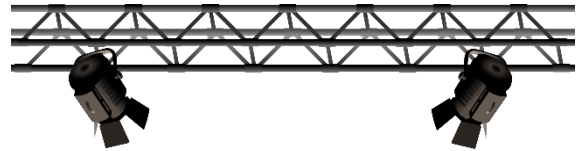
#### **At Large Member(s)**

Carol Limner [cmljfl@hotmail.com](mailto:cmljfl@hotmail.com) 607-869-5228

Pam Postle [lppostle@aol.com](mailto:lppostle@aol.com) 607-229-5514

Lisa Sanford [314sanford@gmail.com](mailto:314sanford@gmail.com) 607-698-9969

Josephine Barnard [bennbarn@wildblue.net](mailto:bennbarn@wildblue.net) 607-382-5001



### *A spotlight on Presbyterian*

*Women who are using their talents, gifts and creativity to make a difference in the lives of others*

This month I shine a light on  
**Jeanette Reed from Hornell  
United Presbyterian.**

At last May's Spring Gathering Jeanette brought her display of "Peace Pals" and other knitted projects. At the end of the day she picked up some skeins of yarn to try her hand at crocheting "Mary's Necklaces," to raise money for the Living Waters for World water plant in Limones, Mexico. I have since provided her with enough yarn to raise nearly \$300, and Hornell's women must be wearing many of the necklaces!

Jeanette will be a team member, translator and leader of the health and spiritual education program when the team, organized by Park Church, travels to Mexico in February. Just recently she has committed herself to training at Clean Water U and will join other members in the October sessions.

Using her hands, her heart, her education and linguistic skills, she is making a difference for many around the world.

*Submitted by Linda Werts*

*please  
join us*

### **Next Coordinating Team Meeting:**

**Saturday, 10/28/17, 10:00AM**

**First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses  
69 East Main St, Trumansburg, NY.**

*Any questions about what the CT Team does?*

*Contact any team member (above)! We'd love to get to know  
you and have you join us!*

## From our Treasurer . . .

Each year In November we send out a letter and **PW Mission Pledge** form (“card”) to all the churches in Geneva Presbytery who have active Presbyterian Women groups (similar to pledging in your church’s Stewardship campaign) and to women in the congregations having no active PW. Those who do not have active groups may send a pledge individually or from their congregation. In November I will again send the pledge request for 2018 to everyone. NO MONEY is required with this pledge—only a COMMITMENT you feel you will be able to fulfill NEXT YEAR.



The PW Mission Pledge helps fund the mission work of the Presbyterian Church USA and largely finances the operating budgets of Presbyterian Women at the church-wide, synod, presbytery and congregation levels. Contributions to the Mission Pledge support the church’s evangelism, church planning, education and justice & peace work, as well as ministry to children, youth, older adults, new immigrants, rural, urban and suburban populations across the United States and around the world.

The largest beneficiary of the PW Mission Pledge is the denomination. Without the mission pledge, the church’s ministry in the world would shrink. For Presbyterian Women, the mission pledge makes possible programs, resources, scholarships, events and much more.

Please watch for my letter and prayerfully consider how your PW group, your congregation or you as an individual can help fund our PW Mission in 2018, creating and nurturing mission partnerships, training leaders in new directions and making faithful connections via the PW/Horizons Bible Study. Your pledge will also support the common operating expenses for PW managing a national nonprofit organization with a global impact.

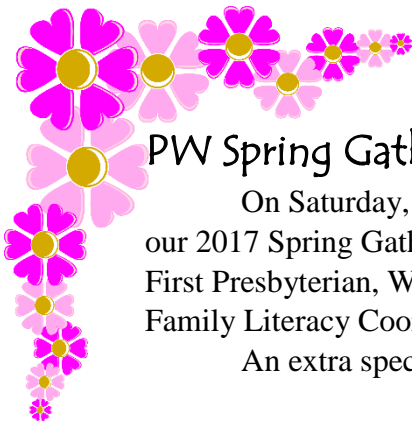
Please send all 2018 pledge forms or cards to me:

**Jessica L. Tarr, 0505 Waterloo-Geneva Road, Waterloo, New York 13165.**

**Any questions, please call me 315-789-1252.**

We will be grateful for all support. Blessings to you, *Lou*

**To donate online with a credit card or bank account, go to [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org) , select the “blue” DONATE button, scroll down to “Give to a Specific Ministry” and type “Mission Pledge” in the search window. Select the “yellow” Give button. Individuals or groups may donate this way.**



## PW Spring Gathering Update . . .

On Saturday, May 5, we gathered at Ovid Federated Church in Ovid for our 2017 Spring Gathering. Many thanks to our worship leader Rev. Sarah West, First Presbyterian, Waterloo and our guest speaker, Derek Poole, Educator & Family Literacy Coordinator for Literacy Volunteers of Wayne County.

An extra special thanks to the ladies in Ovid for their warm hospitality!



## ***This and That:***

- Upcoming Geneva **Presbytery meetings** are **Tuesday, September 26, 2017 Waterloo Pres. Church** and **Saturday, November 18, 2017 Geneva Pres. Church**. Confirm with the Presbytery office time & location. (315-536-7753 or email [kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org)).
- For submissions to the **Spring 2018 Geneva Link**, or corrections to the 2017 Directory, please email [marycree@hotmail.com](mailto:marycree@hotmail.com). The next *Link & Directory* will be published in March 2018.
- Observe **Orange Day** on the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month, as part of the international campaign to end violence against women and girls. **Raise awareness!** Wear orange on the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month and say NO to violence against women and girls!
- To order the 2017–2018 PW/Horizons Bible Study “Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews” by Melissa Bane Sevier, call Presbyterian Distribution Service—800/524-2612. You may also go online to order ([www.pcusa.org/store](http://www.pcusa.org/store)). \$10.00+shipping.
- Do we have your **email address** to send you the next *Link* digitally? You will get the *The Link* faster and PW will save the postage! E-mail [marycree@hotmail.com](mailto:marycree@hotmail.com) with “my address for The Link” in the subject header. (Of course, if you don’t use email, we will still mail you a copy.)
- **Pray** for our “adopted” Mission Co-Worker, Rev. Jo Ella Holman and the people of the Caribbean—Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica. [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/jo-ella-holman/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/jo-ella-holman/)
- **Devotions & Prayers** suggested for daily meditation & prayer: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotions/>
- Read today’s **Mission Yearbook** story about mission and ministry: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/>
- **Montreat Conference Center**, serving the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), gets its name from a contraction of “mountain retreat”. It is annually visited by over 35,000 people seeking physical and spiritual renewal in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina, near Asheville, NC. For more information, call 800-572-2257 or go to: [www.montreat.org](http://www.montreat.org) for a schedule of conferences.



Make plans to attend this thought-provoking, faith-building, international fellowship of Presbyterian Women! Held once every three years, PW’s Churchwide Gathering is an opportunity for Presbyterian women from across the country (and around the world!) to gather for worship, education, community-building, fun and renewal. Participants will enjoy workshops, tours, forums, large group sessions with inspiring speakers and worship. PW’s triennial Business Meeting—where budget, leadership and programmatic emphases will be decided—takes place in conjunction with the Gathering.

Registration is \$425 and opens on **January 15, 2018**. (Hotel, travel, and some meals are additional cost.) The registration booklet will mail with the November/ December 2017 issue of *Horizons* magazine or contact our PW Moderator Linda Werts for more information. *If you are unable to attend, consider sponsoring someone or contributing to a Presbytery PW or local PW scholarship fund.*

### **PW Synod of the Northeast Gathering UNWRAPPING GIFTS**

**October 13-14, 2017 3pm Friday-3pm Saturday  
Stony Point Center**

*Having Gifts that differ according to the grace that is given,  
let us use them... Romans 12:6*

*With workshops, hands-on projects, keynote motivational  
speaker, discussion and reflection time.*

Download registration form from PWSNE website or email for more information. Register before Sept 15 for early registration discount. Deadline to register Sept 30, 2017. \$165, registration & double occupancy.

Registrar: Jane MacDonald ([jkmac3536@gmail.com](mailto:jkmac3536@gmail.com))  
35 Hillside Ave Newton, NJ 07860-1927





## CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

### **CWS Kits Will Be Collected at Fall Gathering September 9**

**Important note! Please box and label your kits with your name, church, the number of, and the name of kits contained in the box. Bring your school or hygiene kits to the Fall Gathering, Sept 9, at United Presbyterian, Hornell. Please also bring \$2 per kit to cover shipping. Thanks!**

#### **To assemble a School Kit you will need:**

*(All items must be new)*

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
  - Three 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (**no loose-leaf or filler paper**)
  - One 12" ruler
  - One hand-held pencil sharpener
  - One large eraser
  - Six new pencils with erasers
  - One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
  - One 12"x14" to 14"x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles.
- (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)



#### **To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:**

*(All items must be new)*

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
  - One washcloth
  - One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
  - One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package
  - One bath-size bar of soap in the wrapper
  - One toothbrush in the package
  - Ten standard size Band-Aids
- All items** need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do NOT add any extra items or toothpaste. An extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its final journey.

→ **A donation of \$2 for each kit for shipping is also requested and appreciated**—that money is to be given or sent to Treasurer Lou Tarr so your group can receive credit for the donation.

→ See the Church World Service web site [www.cwsglobal.org](http://www.cwsglobal.org) for more information.

→ **Questions?? Contact Lois Carter 607-742-0301 or [carterlois@hotmail.com](mailto:carterlois@hotmail.com)**



*Come learn about homelessness in our communities and how Family Promise is making a difference. Our Fall Gathering (Sept 9) speaker, Lauren Lamb from*

**Ontario County Family Promise, will tell us about this national non-profit, ecumenical movement.**

Rochester and Buffalo already have these programs, where the community works together to provide temporary housing and meals in host churches to homeless families. Families are mentored to help find jobs and affordable housing. Volunteers teach financial literacy, help children with homework, and form meaningful relationships with people who need our assistance to become self-sufficient. The national organization, in operation since 1988, advocates for public policies that alleviate poverty and promote the economic stability of low-income families. **Family Promise Stated vision** is "a nation in which every family has a home, a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future." Come learn about this exciting volunteer program coming to Ontario and Wayne Counties and the part you may play in its success!

# Building Bridges of Understanding



The 2017 Global Exchange will take a group of U.S. Presbyterian women to Indonesia, September 12–29, 2017. Guided by Romans 1:12 (. . . so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine), participants will learn how to live respectfully in a multi-faith culture and encourage and accompany one another as together they seek a more peaceful and just world.

This fact-finding, relationship-building trip will include one woman from each synod, who, for the two years following the exchange, will share what she experienced with her synod. The January/February 2018 issue of *Horizons* will detail the trip and Indonesian women will complete the "exchange" part of the trip by attending the 2018 PW Gathering!

Our heartfelt wishes for a safe, faith-building and inspiring trip to

Virginia Champlin of the Geneva Presbytery, our past Moderator

and our Synod of the Northeast representative and delegate

on the 2017 Global Exchange "Building Bridges of Understanding"

to Indonesia, September 12–29, 2017.

Our joyful prayers go with you! God bless and Godspeed!



***The Thank Offering is part of PW's Creative Ministries and is received in the fall each year.***

Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering is received annually in the fall. This offering gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives. Gifts from Presbyterian Women have made possible hundreds of projects, addressing issues such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence and women's concerns. At least 40 percent of this offering supports health ministries throughout the world. The remaining 60 percent funds new creative ideas for mission.

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion,*

*for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

***Bring your individual gift or your PW's Thank Offering to the Fall Gathering for dedication.***



*Have you HEARD all the good things happening in our Geneva Presbytery?*

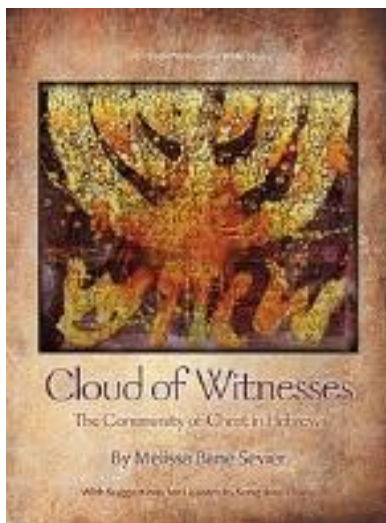
- **The Rock Stream & Lakemont Ladies Aid Society** supports a “Compassion Child,” Sugely Guerrero, in Peru. Sugely was nine when they first were introduced to her--now she is 19. Women in the churches take turns writing to her. They send extra money for gifts at Christmas and birthdays. They report that it has been fun to see her grow and develop into a lovely teenager. A teen in the church also writes to her and they have developed a nice friendship. Sugely plans to go to college. See [www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com).
- The “Peace Pod” at **Elmira First Presbyterian Church** continue to support Knitting4Peace ([knitting4peace.org](http://knitting4peace.org)) with sleeping mats, lap and baby quilts, mittens, hats, scarves & Peace Pals. During the summer, the Peace Pod hosted a table at the Elmira Farmers’ Market. As they knitted, items were displayed & the public learned about this worthwhile mission.
- **Hector Presbyterian Church** has been recognized as a Certified Earth Care Congregation by PC(USA). The process of becoming an Earth Care Congregation involved an extensive audit of all the earth care activities in four areas of the church’s programs: facilities, worship, education, and community outreach. During the year they sponsored a speaker series, open to the public. Three programs were presented on environmental issues. On Earth Day in April church members helped clean up a portion of Route 414 with the local Lion’s Club and worked with the children potting plants to be used around the church. In August the church hosted an Earth Care Fair and Ice Cream Social. The Fair featured local exhibitors who had accepted an invitation to share their interest and expertise in a variety of earth-friendly activities and programs. **The First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca** is also a Certified Earth Care Congregation.
- **Geneva PW** assembles “Kitchen Kits”, which are distributed at the Food Pantry & Community Lunch Program. They also sponsor a SERRV Shop, open Saturdays 10 am-12:30 pm. The shop supports fair trade artisans around the world. ([www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org))
- The Ovid Community Thrift Shop has been a mission of the **Ovid Federated Church** since 1972, when five dedicated ladies identified a need to help others in the community. The thrift shop is located in a building behind the church. Open Mon.& Fri. 10am–4pm, Thurs. 5-8pm, & Sat. 9am-noon.
- The Shared Table at **Ontario Center Presbyterian Church** is a free community meal offered the last Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:00pm. The church also has a Garden Project. The last three years the garden has provided good crops of potatoes to share with the community.

***Email what’s happening in your PW group or at your church to [marycree@hotmail.com](mailto:marycree@hotmail.com) (with “Link” in the subject line) by February 27, and we’ll print it in the Winter/Spring The Geneva Link newsletter!***

***(A big thanks to Lois Carter for gathering all this good news to share!)***



## 2017–2018 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews



In nine lessons, author Melissa Bane Sevier explores major themes found in Hebrews, relates these themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and ties them together with the overarching motif of community. The community for which the letter was written interacts with all communities of which we are a part, as we bring these groups with us wherever we go. This “great cloud of witnesses” (Heb. 12:1) strengthens and encourages us as we “run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith” (Heb. 12:1b–2). The study is also available in audio and large print formats!

### **How do I get a copy of the Bible Study?**

Subscribers of *Horizons* magazine received the Bible Study, mailed out March 15. If you wish to purchase the study separately, it is available for \$10 (plus \$5.25 shipping) from the PC(USA) store online: [www.pcusa.org/store](http://www.pcusa.org/store). Or call toll-free 800-524-2612.

To subscribe to *Horizons* or to check on your subscription, call toll-free 866-802-3635 or visit [www.pcusa.org/horizons](http://www.pcusa.org/horizons).



### **Feasting on Abundance:**

### **When the World Says There Isn't Enough**

Sept 22–23, 2017, STONY POINT CENTER, NY

Our synod community gathers annually. On the even years we gather as our Synod Assembly. On the odd years we gather at Come to the Table — our coming together to learn about ministry innovation and missional opportunities being developed by Presbyterians throughout our region.

Theological Underpinnings: What does it mean to be faithful to Jesus Christ in a time of upheaval? How do we engage enemies and evil — within us and outside of us — and still celebrate the God of goodness and light? How do we live into our calling in the local places where God has led us to ministry and as the wider Synod community? How do we proclaim and live the Gospel of Life Abundant?

These questions we will explore through the lens of *Feasting on Abundance: When the World Says There Isn't Enough*. Come and join your Synod community at Come to the Table!

To register for this event, visit <http://www.synodne.org/cttt>. \$75 covers room & meals. Registration deadline is 9/7/2017. Questions? Call our Synod of the Northeast at (315) 446-5990 or email at [info@synodne.org](mailto:info@synodne.org).



# *From Virginia, thoughts on the Global Exchange . . . .*



Do they use utensils to eat? Do they use toilet paper? Will you need to wear an hijab? Does the water going down the drain go clockwise or counterclockwise (because we will be on the other side of the equator)? These are the questions that my granddaughters have been asking me about my upcoming trip to Indonesia for the Global Exchange.

Yes, I do have my own questions. I am full of excitement and wonder that I have been chosen to represent the Presbyterian Women of the Northeast. I am just awed that I am following in the footsteps of such a legacy of women that have gone on previous Global Exchanges: Maggie Lewis (Caribbean); Lucy Janjigian & Jenny Lee (India); Jenny Lee & Ruth Aimee-Belonni-Rosario (Eastern Europe); Dotsie Shaw & Alpha Brown (Africa); Roberta Mansfield (Brazil). All of these women came back with some wonderful memories and relationships. I just hope that I can live up to their reputations.

"Building Bridges of Understanding" ... so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine (Romans 1:12) is the theme of this year's Global Exchange to Indonesia, September 12-29. Building bridges of understanding, as Sisters of Christ we will learn how to live respectfully in a multi-faith culture and encourage and accompany one another as together we seek a more peaceful and just world. We will hear the joys and pain that our sisters there experience, and to share faith stories and ministries with one another.

Christianity is a minority religion in Indonesia. One of our events will be attending a panel discussion at a Christian Center with women that represent some of the religions: Muslim, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. We will learn how all of these and many other religions co-exist.

We will be on the Island of Java visiting four different locations: Jakarta, Solo (Surakarta), Yagakarta and Bali. In Jakarta, we will be staying at a Church Guest House.

Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta, PCUSA Mission Co-Workers deployed to Indonesia are eagerly awaiting our arrival and are anxious to share their work and ministry with us. We will be learning more about their aiding the local folk with their entrepreneurs and also about batik, a method of cloth dyeing.

Attending this year's Global Exchange will be 12 Synod Representatives, the Churchwide Moderator Carol Winkler, Churchwide Staff Kathy Reeves and Laura Lee. This will be Kathy's last Global Exchange as she will be retiring the following September. Laura Lee is the art director for the Horizons Bible Study, Horizons Magazine and all other PW publications.

I am so grateful for all the generous donations given to Synod Global Exchange account to make the next GX possible. Like I said in the beginning, the funds were there for me to attend, but the expectations were that we raise the money to replenish the account to afford the next person to attend. There have been so many individual personal donations, Presbytery PW donations, Geneva area restaurants & Billsboro Winery for hosting a fundraising evening. Each and every donation has been so appreciated. The Geneva PW Coordinating Team, churches, & Moderator Linda Werts have been so generous with their donations and time, as well.



I look forward to sharing with everyone my findings upon my return. I ask you all to keep our delegation in your prayers. Next year, some of the women from Indonesia will come to visit us to share their stories and attend the Churchwide Gathering in Louisville, August 2018.

~~Virginia Champlin, Synod of the Northeast Representative



Presbyterian Women of the Geneva Presbytery

## 2017 Fall Gathering

# "Home is Where YOUR Heart Is"



Saturday, September 9 • 9:00am-1:15pm

United Presbyterian Church, 150 Main Street, Hornell, NY

Church Phone: 607-324-0755

***(Drop off/parking Church St. entrance. Add'l parking in municipal lot across Church St.)***

9:00am	Registration (\$1.00 donation) & morning refreshments
9:30am	Worship led by Rev. Katherine B. Griffis, Hornell, NY
10:45am	Message by Lauren Lamb, Ontario County Family Promise
11:15am	Show & Tell: Housing Missions around the Presbytery
Noon	Bring a Bagged Lunch—Beverage & Dessert Provided
1:15pm	Closing

***Please bring:***

- ***CWS Kits & \$2.00 per kit for shipping (Info: [cwskits.org](http://cwskits.org))***
- ***PW 2017 Thank Offering***
- ***Housing Info to Share during Show & Tell time***
- ***Bagged Lunch***

To register for Gathering please contact Linda Werts (315-331-6999) or email [lwerts@aol.com](mailto:lwerts@aol.com). Pre-registration is appreciated by September 1!