

COMMUNITY LIFE

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The January Mission Fund will support the **Tulungen Indonesian Library**. See page 4 for details.



Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9AM - 2PM

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 11AM

Children's Time During Worship
Fellowship Hour at 12PM

Robinson Elmwood United Church [Presbyterian Church (USA)]

Thanks for your service, past and present.

Changes in Financial Leadership

We have been blessed as a congregation to have long term stability with very capable financial leadership. Last January Elder Craig Smith notified the Finance Committee and Session of his plans to “retire” as Treasurer at the end of 2017. This change comes with all of our gratitude for the excellent work he has done and prayers that he will have time for some Sabbath refreshment and space on his calendar for new enjoyments.

We are very excited and blessed that Elder Charlie Brown has stepped forward to serve as Church Treasurer and is expected to be appointed as such by Session at their meeting on January 16. His knowledge of PowerChurch (*computer software used for our financial transactions and records*) is an added blessing.

Jayson Dusse has been faithfully serving as our Assistant Treasurer in

addition to coordinating all of our recent renovation and many ongoing property issues *and* serving as Treasurer

and Board Member for Syracuse Home Care. Again we are most fortunate and blessed that Elder Betty Green is beginning service as our Assistant Treasurer pending Session's appointment on January 16. Betty was a small business owner for many years in the computer training field and brings many gifts to this position.

This change will allow Jayson to concentrate more fully on Property issues and fill the gap created when Dick Ferrence resigned as Property Chair many months ago.



Annual Reports Due Jan 12

Annual Reports from all boards, committees, church organizations, etc. are **due in the church office no later than Sunday, January 12**. Send to: robinsonelmwood@gmail.com. Thank you so much for helping us to get our work done in a timely fashion.





STAFF

Rev. Dr. Janice Lee Fitzgerald
Interim Pastor
 Pastor.Robinsonmem@gmail.com

Elizabeth L Martin
Office Administrator
 RobinsonElmwood@gmail.com

Mary Sugar
Music Director

Morton Davis
Minister of Music, Emeritus

OFFICERS

Dave Valenza
Corporation President

Mary Browne & Cindy Clift
Co-Clerks of Session

Charlie Brown
Treasurer

Betty Green
Assistant Treasurer

Tim Jones
Payroll Treasurer

Michelle Biggs
Financial Secretary

Charlotte Goodison
Memorial Secretary

Meetings and Activities

Weekly Meetings & Activities

Sunday	Worship Fellowship	Sanctuary Fellowship Hall	11:00 AM 12:00 PM
Monday	Bible Study	All-Purpose Room	1:30 PM
Wednesday	Quilting PNC	Quilting Room Adult Lounge	1:00 PM 7:00 PM
Thursday	Choir	Sanctuary	7:15 PM

January Meetings & Activities

01/01	<i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	<i>New Year's Day</i>	
01/03	Deacons	All-Purpose Room	7:00 PM
01/08	Dave's Cookin' Finance	Fellowship Hall Adult Lounge	12:00 PM 6:30 PM
01/09	Congregational Life Worship & Music	Adult Lounge Adult Lounge	1:30 PM 7:00 PM
01/14	BP Checks	All-Purpose Room	12:00 PM
01/15	<i>OFFICE CLOSED</i>	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	
01/16	Session	Adult Lounge	6:30 PM
01/22	Dave's Cookin'	Fellowship Hall	12:00 PM
01/28	<i>Annual Meeting</i> BP Checks	<i>Sanctuary During Worship</i> All-Purpose Room	 12:00 PM
01/30	Officer Training	Adult Lounge	6:30 PM

Leaders for Worship

January 7: Celebration of Epiphany

Liturgist: C Goodison
Trustees: S Siemoens, C Brown **Ushers:** J Dulmage, N Falcone
Communion Servers: TBD x5

January 14

Liturgist: J Brown
Trustees: T Jones, D Nielsen **Ushers:** J Monnell, L Miller

January 21

Liturgist: D Bratt
Trustees: J Novado, M Browne **Ushers:** A McIndoe, M Sapka

January 28: Annual Meeting

Liturgist: J Monnell
Trustees: D Valenza, J Brown **Ushers:** J Dulmage, S Britt

Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Robinson Elmwood United Church has been called for **Sunday, January 28, 2018 during the end of the 11:00am Worship Service** for the purpose of hearing reports, electing Elders and Deacons, hearing reports, receiving the 2018 Budget approved by Session, and any other business that might rightfully come before the meeting.



Congregational MEETING

A couple of things to note:

1. We are striving to make a draft of the Annual Report available on Sunday, January 21 for your pre-reading. You are encouraged to read it ahead of time and to contact the Interim Pastor or a member of Session ahead of the meeting if you have questions that it would be helpful for us to be aware of.
2. Newly elected Elders and Deacons will be ordained on February 4 during worship when we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
3. There will not be discussion or approval of Terms of Call for the Pastor at the Annual Meeting because, unlike our Installed Pastors who are called by the congregation, an Interim Pastor is hired by the Session – and Janice's one-year contract was previously renewed by Session and runs through November 26, 2018.

Session Highlights

It has been suggested that we add Session Highlights more regularly. Session did not meet in December given all of the extra meetings that were held in recent months.

Topics of discussion at the November Session meeting included:

- Approval of a new comprehensive Personnel Policy Manual
- Approval of updates to our church Confidentiality Policy (which will be signed by all church staff and officers)
- Approval of a new Conflict of Interest Policy (the person who did our audit this year alerted us



that this is now a requirement in NYS for all not-for-profit corporations)

- Heard the many ways that the arrival of Fairmount Community Church to reside here at 126 South Terry Road is working well and providing energy and opportunities for collaboration for both congregations



ROBINSON ELMWOOD UNITED CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (USA)

It's Official. As of January 1, 2018 we are legally, financially and in every other way ROBINSON ELMWOOD UNITED CHURCH. Praise be to God – and thank you to all of you who have worked so hard to become one family and to attend to all of the conversations and details and hard work that have been needed to accomplish this.

Please, from henceforth, **WRITE CHECKS ONLY TO: ROBINSON ELMWOOD UNITED CHURCH.** The bank accounts for Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church and Elmwood Presbyterian Church no longer exist – and checks made out to either of them cannot be cashed or deposited.

- Approved transfer of \$750 from the “Emergency Room Assistance” fund set up several years ago but which has not been needed or used to the Deacon's Discretionary Account where it can be used as emergency needs arise for individuals in our church and wider community.



MINUTE FOR MISSION

JANUARY FUND

The January Fund will support the **Tulungen Indonesian Library project**. This ongoing project builds and furnishes libraries in Indonesia, including books and computers. Watch a video about it here: <https://youtu.be/lBZqWbkd7hY>

COMMUNION FUND

Isaiah's Table benefits from non-perishable food items and communion donations on the first Sunday of every month. They run a busy food pantry and have a close Presbyterian worship community—on Saturdays with a meal!

Remember: bring a bag; grab a bag!

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Blessings in a Backpack is a national campaign to assist with feeding needy school children on the weekends. Our local program through Bellevue Heights UMC is partnered with the Delaware School on South Geddes St. Just \$100 will feed a child on the weekends for the entire school year, but any donation is gladly accepted. You can also help pack the food delivered to the school!

Minute for Mission

The Mission Committee will keep the congregation updated on our mission work, and to offer *opportunities for anyone to pitch in and help those who are homeless, hungry or in need*. The Mission Committee is seeking balance in providing hands-on or monetary assistance to local and non-local missions. We are a fired-up, dynamic committee and hold meetings each month. We welcome new members anytime!

Your Generosity Made This Possible

Once again members of Robinson Elmwood stepped forward with financial support (including free will offerings at the Duggan Christmas concert in our sanctuary) to make a special Christmas Dinner possible for the orphanage in Uganda and other children served by LECAU.



The grateful email we received made it clear how important this was in a time when food has been scarce. "Leftovers" were bundled for the children living in families to take home to share with their families.



Your Generosity Made This Possible Too!

The front of the sanctuary was overflowing with filled orange grocery bags for Isaiah's Table on the first Sunday of December. **Please don't forget to fill a bag and bring it in each first Sunday when we celebrate Communion** (or any time it is convenient for you). Just leave your filled bag which Doug Nielsen will transport to Isaiah's Table and take an empty bag to fill for the next month.



Also during Advent members of Robinson Elmwood and Fairmount congregations filled 5 laundry baskets to overflowing with warm socks for men and women which are being distributed by Isaiah's Table; over 120 rolls of paper towels for Sarah's Guest House; 3 laundry baskets bursting

with bottles of shampoo, conditioner and shower gel for Exodus 3 Ministries; and 2 laundry baskets filled with diaper wipes plus several large boxes of diapers for the CNY Diaper Bank. So many lives were touched with Christ's love this Christmas season. It's truly amazing what can happen when we each contribute a little.

Community Outreach

Robinson Elmwood is proud to be a member of the Westvale, Fairmount, Geddes, Solvay, and Camillus neighborhoods. While anyone is welcome to drop in to our regular worship on Sundays at 11:00, we recognize that people go to different churches or even choose not to go at all.

The following programs are open to anyone regardless if you attend services here (or anywhere) regularly. Stop in for one of our lunches and make a few new friends, or take up quilting if you're looking for a new hobby. *All are welcome.*

Elmwood Quilters Have New Home

On December 3, the Elmwood Quilter's proudly held an Open House during our Greening of the Church Celebration at their new location. Under the supervision of Jayson Dusse and Kathy Salsbury, the former 'small' dance studio off Fellowship Hall was repaired, painted and new carpeting put in place to give the Quilters the larger work space they needed to do their important ministry of caring. There is now not only room for hand quilters to work around a larger table, but also ample space for four sewing machine stations, a large cutting table, an ironing board, bookshelves for reference books, a closet to store fabric, and space for storage of batting and other notions.

The Quilter's move made it possible to update their former room (next to the restrooms across from the center entrance door to the church) for use



for other purposes. It is already being used by our Monday Bible Study group so that participants can avoid the stairs up to the Adult Lounge, by a small community mental health support group, and by committees when another group is already in the Adult Lounge.

DAVE'S COOKIN'

Hungry for a good lunch? Join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall! Only \$6.00 for each meal. Lunch starts at 12:00 Noon. Please call the office at 315-468-2509 to sign-up so we have enough food!

Next Luncheons:

January 8—*Liz is working on a program.*

January 22—*Liz is working on a program*

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Do you know your levels? We have a team of nurses who will provide blood pressure checks on the second and fourth Sunday each month at 12:00PM in our All Purpose Room (to the right from the center door).

Next Checks: January 14 & 28

ELMWOOD QUILTERS

Want to try something new? The Elmwood Quilters meet every **Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm** in the Quilting Room. Anyone interested in quilting is welcome! They'll teach you if you want to learn.



126 South Terry Road,
Syracuse, NY 13219
care@syracusehomecare.org

Syracuse Home Care Has You Covered

At Syracuse Home Care, we believe in keeping communities together. We're here to be the helping hands that let you stay in your home. We're the staff to help you get your house clean and organized.

Call Us At (315) 430-7481

To find out how we can help you or your loved-ones with such services as:

- ✓ Running Errands
 - ✓ Laundry
 - ✓ Transportation to appointments
 - ✓ Meal Preparation
 - ✓ House Cleaning
 - ✓ Companionship
- ...and so much more!**

We Are Asked to Pay for You to Be on Our Membership Roll

Money doesn't fall out of trees – no matter how much we wish that it did. Our denomination, the Presbyterian Church, USA – which includes the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse and the Synod of the Northeast and the General Assembly and its offices - doesn't have a money tree to keep it running on its own – no matter how much we think that it should.

And so each church is asked to send a Per Capita payment for each teen and adult on the membership roll each year to support the work of the Presbytery of Geneva, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly Offices. **For 2018, the we are asked to send just under \$37 per teen and adult member to make the work of the larger church possible –** a not insignificant part of our budget.

What do we get out of the wider church? For starters, a Ministry Work Group that sent Ginny Smith to organize and guide our Transition Team when Tracie was moving toward retirement and an Interim Pastor would be needed; liaisons from the Presbytery (The Revs. Ginny Smith and Laurie Anson) who have oriented and are working with and guiding our PNC as they move through the process to identify our next Installed Pastor and will conduct

reference checks with other Presbyteries for those pastor candidates our PNC wants to consider most carefully; a Stated Clerk who assisted on the Presbytery level with the process of uniting Robinson Memorial and Elmwood Churches; a Presbytery Communicator who did the needed work on the Presbytery's website for people looking for Elmwood to be able to find them here at 126 South Terry Rd.; General Assembly Offices who compiled and made available the Pastor Search reference book for our PNC; the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly assisting with doing the denominational recognition of our new Robinson Elmwood United Church including providing a new PIN number and ensuring that we are properly listed for us to have not-for-profit 503(c) status under the Presbyterian Church (USA) umbrella.

Our Presbytery is involved on our behalf and with our support in many area mission programs. Our Synod of the Northeast is a driver behind training and supporting leaders to lead churches through and into this new world we live in. On a national level, the Presbyterian Church (USA) is affiliated with seminaries that train our pastors, provide Sunday School curricula and resources, and make



possible missionary work around the globe and disaster relief through Presbyterian Disaster Services.

If each member who is able gave an extra gift of \$37 (or as much as they could) for their own Per Capita payment, we would have several thousand more dollars available in the church budget for music ministry, mission involvement, building maintenance, and the new pastor search.

You may either place Per Capita donations in the envelope labeled "Initial Offering" in the front of your offering envelope OR label your check "Per Capita 2018". Thank you so much.



Per Capita Highlights

Cost per Member: \$37.00 (rounded up)

How to Pay: Use the "Initial Offering" envelope and/or write on the check memo: "Per Capita"

What We Get: We get a lot of benefits from our Per Capita:

- ✓ A Ministry Work Group to help in transitions
- ✓ Liaisons from the Presbytery to help our PNC
- ✓ Training new leaders to lead new worshipping communities
- ✓ Assistance with our special offerings (envelopes, flyers, etc.)



BIRTHDAYS

- 01/04 Betty Waters
- 01/08 Jenny Jerome
- 01/11 Laurie Alfieri
- 01/13 Kelly O'Donnell
- 01/16 Dick Bratt
- 01/17 Don Reeve
- 01/17 Pat Reeve
- 01/21 Carol Olson
- 01/24 Andrew Biggs
- 01/25 Dick Ference
- 01/26 Turissa Campbell
- 01/26 Ben Martin
- 01/26 David Valenza
- 01/27 Sally Cooper
- 01/31 Donna Chapman

Special Thanks

- ♥ **Luke and PJ Alfieri**, supported by **Grandpa Jim Hughes** who did an excellent job as liturgists reading “’Twas the Evening of Christmas” for our un-pageant at the 6:00pm Family Worship Service on Christmas Eve.
- ♥ **Joe Browne** (a barefoot Shepherd), **Fran Hunter** (an overworked Innkeeper’s Wife), **Janet Brown** (Mary’s well-traveled older sister) and **Mary Browne** (Mary’s mother) who did such incredible work bringing their characters to life as these “visitors from Bethlehem” gave us some insight on Mary and Joseph’s Advent journey – and provided focus for all of the gifts brought for community mission sites.
- ♥ **Mary Sugar and each and every member of our choir** who provided thought-provoking, beautiful and glorious music throughout Advent, for our Longest Night service on December 21 and on Christmas Eve.
- ♥ **Everyone who “greened” the church and sang Christmas Carols to encourage the workers on December 7.** This was a great second act in a day that brought Robinson Elmwood and Fairmount churches together for a joint worship service around the Lord’s Table, got the sanctuary beautifully decorated with meaningful decorations from both churches and culminated in a very tasty soup lunch provided by the members of Congregational Life where much laughter, conversation and fellowship was to be had among members of both congregations.
- ♥ **James and Justin Biggs and Jayson Dusse** who cleaned up and painted our new “All Purpose Room” (the former Elmwood Quilter’s Room) and to **Liz Martin and Sue Miller**, Office Administrators for Robinson Elmwood and Fairmount who did a bit of decorating and arranged for some amenities. This room is available for meetings when the Adult Lounge is being used and is being used weekly by our Adult Bible Study and a community mental health support group.
- ♥ **Charlie and Janet Brown** who once again arranged for Dan Duggan and Peggy Lynn to be with us to provide an awesome Christmas Concert on Saturday evening December 7.



Thanks for the Cards!

Caleb would like to thank everyone for the cards and birthday wishes!

It really made his birthday much more special. Thanks to Martha and Maddy for the photo.

Prayers for Those in Need...

...of Strength & Healing

Fred Banks
Michelle Bigg's Aunt (recovery)
Michelle Bigg's Uncle (cancer)
Helen Campolito
Jesse Chatfield
Carmella Christini (Alice Hanning's friend)
Dick Cole (Joan Cole's son)
Joan Cole
Robert Cooper (Mary Ellen Brzozowski's brother)
Millie Cornue
Kathy Davis
Dan DeBrucker-Cota (recovering from surgery)
Raymond Demperio (friend of Charlotte Tooley & Gary Shirley)- was in a car accident.
Carol Drake (Peggy O'Brien's Daughter)
Kathy Eisele (Judy Lincoln's friend)
Tony Eisele (Judy Lincoln's friend)
Annie Laurie Ference
Beryl Hammarstrom
Jack Heins (from the Pipe Band)
Dan Hooge
Janice Horn (Turissa's Sister)
Bill and Linda Jansson
Jimmy (Allie Brink's friend)
Ed Jones (Fran's uncle)
Ruth Melchior
Judy Lincoln (recovering from a fall)
The PNC (as they search for a new pastor)
Jack & Martha Parry (Liz's grandparents)
John Petrangelo (in Van Duyn-friend of Marge Sapka)
Darlene Pyer
Pat Reeve
Stephanie Rybak
Lynn Morgan Schuster (friend of Kathy Salisbury)
Sheryl (Barb Bratt's niece)
Jim Smith (Dorene Smith's son)
Charlotte Tooley
Rita Valenza
Barb Wachob (recovering)
Kathy Weeks (Anne Halpin's best friend's mother)

Nancy Wilson
Jean Yale
Maureen Young

...of Comfort

(those who have lost loved ones)

The Family and Friends of Jack Smolan (Dave Valenza's friend) who passed away December 27
The Family of Jean Seton (Elmwood Member) who passed away December 17
The Family of H.G. Edwards (Tracie Martin's Father) who passed Away November 17
The Family of Dorothy Freeborn who passed away October 5

...of Safekeeping

Matthew Cupp (in US Navy)

...of Encouragement

(those away at school)

James Biggs
Morgan Glielmi
Jacob Jones
Sarah Jones
Nick Paganelli
Maddy Smith
Holden White

Caleb Smith
 126 Brookley Road
 Rome, NY 13441
 calebsmith503@aol.com

(please contact us if you want your address published for cards)

...of Support

(those in assisted living facilities)

Chet and Leota Amond
 100 Flume Rd, Apt 255
 Manlius, NY 13104-2492
 (315) 254-3371

Jane Baker
 The Highlands at Pittsford
 100 Hahnemann Trail, Apt 247
 Pittsford, NY 14534

Frances Casscles
 Loretto Heritage Bldg.
 750 E Brighton Ave
 Syracuse, NY 13205

Ruth Cleveland
 8090 Shore Drive
 Alder Creek, NY 13301
 (315) 254-1630

Sally Cooper
 Heather Heights #204
 160 W Jefferson Rd
 Pittsford, NY 14534;
 (585) 586-4397

Joan Howland
 Iroquois Nursing Home
 4600 Southwood Heights Dr.
 Jamesville, NY 13078

Howard Mathewson
 Loretto
 700 E Brighton Ave
 Syracuse, NY 13205

Ron Paxson
 The Grand Nursing Home
 331 Russell St
 Chittenango, NY 13037

Carolyn Quinlan
 Park Terrace at Radisson
 2981 Town Center Rd
 Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Doreen Smith
 7251 Janus Park Dr. Apt. 104
 Liverpool, NY 13088
 (315) 488-8775

Prayer List Additions and Removals

Please contact the office to add or remove someone from the prayer list. (315) 468-2509 or RobinsonElmwood@gmail.com

Robinson Elmwood United Church
126 South Terry Road
Syracuse, NY 13201
RobinsonElmwood@gmail.com
www.RobinsonMem.org
315-468-2509

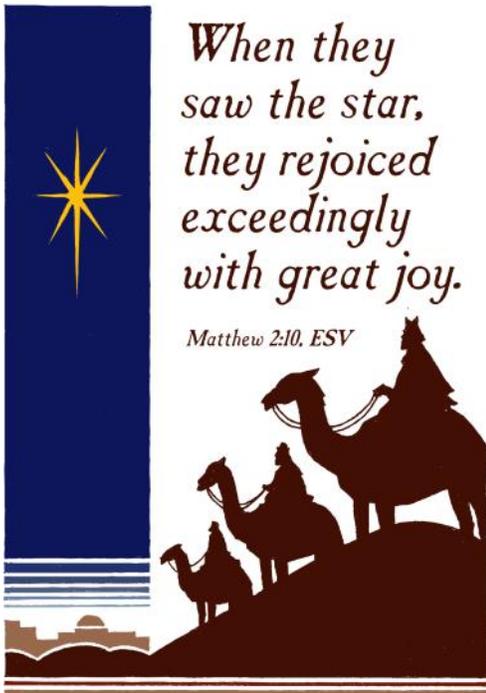
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Session UPDATE

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COMMUNITY LIFE



Worship Services

Worship gives us the opportunity to see a new star: the new vision, new challenge, new opportunity through God's eyes. Worship also gives us, then, then opportunity to rejoice about what God is doing in our lives with great joy. *Who might you invite to worship with us this month?*

- | | | |
|------------|---------|--|
| January 7 | 11:00am | Celebration of Epiphany
Matthew 2: 1-12
<i>Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</i> |
| January 14 | 11:00am | Jonah 2
<i>"Get Real, Jonah"</i> |
| January 21 | 11:00am | Jonah 4
<i>"Does Your Anger Profit You?"</i> |
| January 28 | 11:00am | Annual Meeting of the Congregation
<i>as Part of Worship</i> |