

ROBINSON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY LIFE

Vol. 12 - Issue 07 - July 2017



ROBINSON MEMORIAL & ELMWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES UNITED IN MINISTRY

126 South Terry Road
Syracuse, NY 13219

(315) 468-2509

www.robinsonmem.org
office @robinsonmem.org

CHURCH SUMMER HOURS

Mon—Thu 9AM-4PM

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATIONS SUNDAY JULY 23

ROBINSON ELMWOOD UNITED CHURCH



In the process of preparing the paperwork to submit to the New York State Supreme Court, we discovered that some of the legal terminology we used when voting to join Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church and Elmwood Presbyterian Church together was not quite correct. And so our Sessions met together in May and

again June to iron out the revised wording which will again need the approval of the congregations.

Thus a **Special Meeting of the Congregation of Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church has been called for Sunday, July 23 at the end of the morning worship service** for the sole purpose of acting on a new resolution for uniting with Elmwood Presbyterian Church.

And, a **Special Meeting of the Congregation of Elmwood Presbyterian Church has been called for Sunday, July 23 at the end of the morning worship service** for the sole purpose of acting on a new resolution for uniting with Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday..... 10:30AM
Children's' Time..... During
Worship
Fellowship Hour ... 11:30AM

IN THIS ISSUE

Staff & Officers.....	2
Hosting the Presbytery	2
July Worship.....	3
Mission/Vision Statement	3
July 23 Meeting (con't)	4
Pastoral Search.....	5
Birthdays.....	5
Mission News & Funds.....	6
Worship News	7
Hymn Sing.....	8
Community Outreach.....	8
Syracuse Home Care.....	8
Calendar	9
Sharing Thanks	10
Graduation Reminder.....	10
Prayers	11
Church Dates.....	12

(Continued on page 4)



PRESBYTERY NEWS

**WE ARE HOSTING PRESBYTERY
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15**

ROBINSON MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Janice Lee Fitzgerald
Interim Pastor
pastor.robinsonmem@gmail.com

Liz Martin
Church Administrator
office@robinsonmem.org

Mary Sugar
Music Director

Morton Davis
Minister of Music, Emeritus

OFFICERS

Dave Valenza
Corporation President

Mary Browne & Cindy Clift
Co-Clerks of Session

Craig Smith
Treasurer

Jayson Dusse
Assistant Treasurer

Tim Jones
Payroll Treasurer

Michelle Biggs
Financial Secretary

Charlotte Goodison
Memorial Secretary

We are delighted to have been invited to host a **regular meeting of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse on Tuesday, August 15.**

Pastors and Elders from each church in the Presbytery will begin arriving just after 3:00pm for registration. Worship will begin at 4:00pm in the sanctuary. We will serve supper in the Fellowship Hall and then the business part of the meeting will begin in the sanctuary at 7:00pm.



While only elected commissioners can vote (Elder Diana Jones will be our Elder Commissioner for this meeting), anyone is welcome to attend the meeting and experience a Presbytery meeting first hand.

We will need a lot of volunteers to help:

- ◆ With setting up for, serving, and cleaning up after supper (*see Kathy Salsbury to volunteer*)
- ◆ provide child care (*see Jane Monnell to volunteer*)
- ◆ usher and run the lifts (*see Joan Dulmage to volunteer*)
- ◆ outside to direct traffic and parking before the meeting (*see Dave Valenza or Charlie Brown to volunteer*)

More details will be in the August newsletter. But please, save the date and prevent our leaders from biting their fingernails wondering if there will be enough volunteers available by volunteering now.

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JULY WORSHIP

WORSHIP SERVICES & SERMONS

It's great to be alive and a great time to worship God together. Have you thought about who you will invite to worship with us this month?

July 2 **1 Kings 17:1-24**
 "When You're at the End of Your Rope"
 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper by Intinction

July 9 **1 Kings 18: 20-45**
 "Singing God's Song"
 Special Music by SENTINEL

July 16 **1 Kings 19:1-18**
 "A Still Small Voice"

July 23 **1 Kings 21: 1-29a**
 "I See Nothing"
 Special Meeting of Robinson AND Elmwood
 Congregations at the End of Worship

July 30 **2 Kings 2:1-17**
 "Lets Do Talk About It"

NEW MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

*created by members of both Robinson and Elmwood
Congregations on June 11, 2017*

We are a congregation worshipping a loving and forgiving God who blesses us abundantly. We commit to being an open, welcoming, serving congregation where faith and life come together.

Our mission is to support spiritual growth, provide for basic needs and set an example by living Christ's teaching. We open our minds, hearts and hands to care for all God's people.

With a rich Christian heritage, we embrace our future with love, hope and vision.

LEADERS FOR WORSHIP

July 2
Communion: M Smith
 & TBD x 4
Liturgist: Dave Valenza
Trustees: D Valenza
 & M Browne
Ushers: J Dulmage
 & N Falcone

July 9
Liturgist: Janet Brown
Trustees: S Siemoens
 & J Brown
Ushers: J Monnell & L Miller

July 16
Liturgist: Fran Hunter
Trustees: J Novado
 & D Nielsen
Ushers: A McIndoe & M Sapka

July 23
Liturgist: Dick Bratt
Trustees: K Salsbury
 & B Green
Ushers: J Dulmage & S Britt

July 30
Liturgist: Mary Browne
Trustees: T Jones & M Browne
Ushers: D & P Reeve





MERGER UPDATE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Adjustments to the resolutions unanimously approved by both congregations in January are:

- ⇒ We had used the word “merger” when we talked about uniting our two congregations. It turns out that “merger” as used in religious and not-for-profit law means that one congregation would cease to exist and would blend into the one that remained – which was not what we have been working toward in uniting our two congregations into “a new entity.” The appropriate legal word for what we want to do is “consolidate” or “consolidation” – which means that we join together as that new entity. The revised documents use the word “consolidation” where legally required and the word “uniting” reflecting our theological vision elsewhere in the documents.
- ⇒ While we have wanted to get all of the legal approvals for our uniting completed as soon as possible, all of the extra work – and possibly confusion – from closing all accounts from both Robinson and Elmwood and starting new united ones in the middle of the year, having to issue two W-2 tax forms to each employee for this year, closing down all of our PowerChurch financial records and starting new ones mid-year became clear. Thus the revised agreements ask the New York State Supreme Court to approve the Consolidation effective January 1, 2018. Thus, all separate accounts and financial systems will end on December 31, 2017 and new ones for our united church begin on New Year’s Day.
- ⇒ Having had time to work with it a bit, it also became clear that the name “Robinson Memorial and Elmwood Presbyterian Churches United in Ministry” has way too many words, which was why in the original document there was provision to use just “Robinson Memorial” for business purposes. We also now realize that there are way too many words in that name to fit on our front lawn sign and way too many words to ask everyone to write on any checks they may write to the united church – and we would like

our legal and business names to be one and the same. And so the Sessions asked the committee from both churches that worked through 2016 to bring us officially together to reconvene and reconsider what our new official name will be. They brought several possibilities to a May meeting with both Sessions present - a number of those names were still thought to be too long. The Sessions agreed that it was important to maintain both “Robinson” and “Elmwood”. Some Robinson Session members wondered if “Memorial” was especially important to those of our members who were part of our first naming. The Sessions decided that they would consult with several of the Robinson charter and long term members to get their input which was unanimous: “Robinson” was especially important, “Memorial” was not. The Sessions met together again in June and spent a lot of time that evening discussing possible names and how it might feel to church members and to people in the community if the name read one way or another. The goals were to (1) preserve both “Robinson” and “Elmwood,” and (2) reflect our history of welcoming in and uniting with other churches in the past as well as our sense that such uniting might continue to happen in the future. Ultimately everyone from both Sessions agreed, that while it might not have been their first personal choice, **the following should be the name of our new united church:**

ROBINSON ELMWOOD UNITED CHURCH

On stationery, signs, etc. we will indicate that we are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Searching for a New Pastor



PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

WE'RE MOVING INTO NEXT PHASE OF OUR NEW PASTOR SEARCH

Thank you to each and every one of you who participated in our Congregational Gatherings. You have done really fine work while having some fun and getting to know a lot more about both the Robinson and Elmwood congregations.

You have written a new Mission/Vision Statement (see page 3) that we have already used in worship as a Reaffirmation of Faith. You have identified historical strengths shared by both congregations that you will continue to build on as a united congregation. You have identified a desire to welcome in younger families, an acknowledgement that you have particular gifts to welcome in folks from other congregations that can no longer maintain their church homes, and a sense of call to keep welcoming in more mature adults coming into our area who are looking for a church family that values all of the wisdom and talents and energy that folks who have lived a lot of years can contribute.

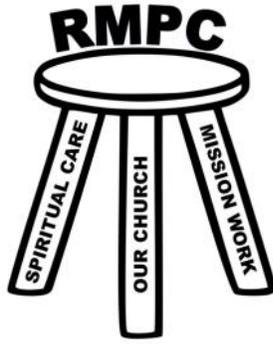
You have identified some things that we should give some attention to now such as: how we reach out to and connect to worship visitors; utilizing new name tags so that not only can visitors get to know us but that we can learn the names of everyone in our uniting congregation; and improving signage inside the building, handicap access to all areas of our building, and making the bathrooms across from the center entrance door handicap accessible.

While we are beginning work on these, the Sessions have committed to four meetings this summer to engage in a spiritual discernment process to put together a slate of nominees to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) who will conduct the new pastor search on our behalf. There will be bulletin inserts inviting you to suggest persons that you feel have particular gifts for this work. We are on the schedule to present the results of our Congregational Study to the Presbytery's Ministry Work Group on September 12. We expect that they will give us the go-ahead for the joint Congregational Meeting to elect the PNC who will then be able to start their work almost immediately.

Please keep the Sessions in prayer, all of our work together in prayer, and the new installed pastor whom God is already preparing to serve with you in prayer.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

07/02 Alice Hannig
07/02 John O'Donnell
07/02 Barbara Needham
07/03 Gerry Edwards
07/04 Mary Alice Stonecipher
07/05 Lise Brown
07/05 Janet Millis
07/05 Dorene Smith
07/07 Judy Lincoln
07/08 Richard Miller
07/09 Jacob Jones
07/10 Marilynn Small
07/12 Mira Fotino
07/12 Mallory Jansson
07/13 Susan Jerome
07/15 Helen Campolito
07/16 Taylor Bratt
07/16 Justin Miller
07/19 John Novado
07/19 Chelsea Harrington
07/19 Craig Smith
07/20 Diamond Breland
07/20 Ron Pyer
07/22 Frances Casscles
07/22 Chuck Reiner
07/27 Kayla Bryant
07/27 John Constantine
07/27 Dave Forrest
07/29 Annie Laurie Ference
07/31 Shirley Kiniry



MINUTE FOR MISSION

“What shall I do with these hands of mine?”

-with permission Dave Gunning, Canadian singer/songwriter

JULY FUNDS

DEACONS/MISSION FUND

Isaiah’s Table is a worship community and food bank. We will be supporting their efforts to feed the hungry.

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!

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 United Methodist Church 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!

MISSION NEWS

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! Call Charlie Brown at 315-378-8124 or send an email to office@robinsonmem.org. Also, check out our web site at www.robinsonmem.org.

MISSION PROGRAMS AND UPDATES

ISAIAH’S TABLE

We will continue to collect non-perishable food items for the folks who participate in Isaiah's Table. Items can be brought in anytime, not just Communion Sundays. Our special goal this month is to provide toilet paper (which isn’t covered under SNAP/food stamps), so help us fill the choir loft with sealed rolls or containers of toilet paper!

A TINY HOME FOR GOOD

Andrew Lunetta, Executive Director and Founder, spoke to us recently. A Tiny Home for Good, Inc. supports those facing homelessness by providing affordable, safe, and dignified homes and fostering strong community partnerships to ensure resident stability.

EDUCATION

We continue to support education in Uganda through generous donations from the Elmwood congregation, the Robinson congregation and individuals who are not members of Robinson, but care deeply about learning for young folks. To date we have been providing funding for the education of a magistrate, a doctor, a nurse, a lawyer and many children at all grade levels.

(Continued on page 7)



WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

NUMBER OF BLUE HYMNALS HAS GROWN

It should be easier to use the Blue Hymnals now that there are more of them in the pews and less sharing is required. Elmwood had purchased a number of Blue Hymnals before coming to abide with us. They have been unpacked and distributed throughout the sanctuary.

The new copies are the same size as the ones which were already in the pews, but have white on the edges of the pages instead of blue. This is because the “new” hymnals were purchased after the publisher made a change to white.

WHY WE SHOULD WEAR NAMETAGS

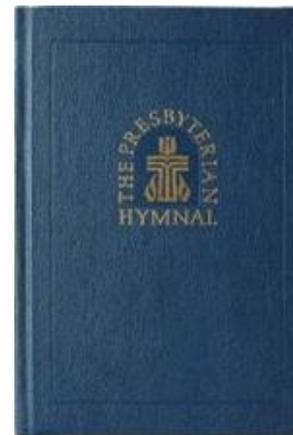
It seems like many of us have known each other for so long, we’ve stopped wearing nametags every Sunday. It’s time to get back in the habit. Here are some reasons for wearing your name-tag:

1. To help visitors learn our names.
2. To help the choir members learn names to go with the faces we see on Sundays.
3. To help the new pastor we will call learn who we are.
4. To remind those of us with failing memories of the names of friends.
5. To identify visitors (no name-tags) so we can welcome them.
6. So people won't think we are visitors.
7. To help us talk comfortably to people from another church background. (How many Robinson folks know all the Elmwood names? How many Elmwood folks know all the Robinson names?)

MISSION PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

HOMELESS CHILDREN

RMEPC recently sent funds to help the orphanage in Kinyameseke, Uganda to help build a new kitchen for cooking food for the 100 orphans that live there. This will reduce their annual fuel costs by 50%.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

UPCOMING MONTHLY DEACON/MISSION FUNDS

July Deacons' Fund –

Isaiah’s Table to support their efforts to feed the hungry.

August Deacons' Fund -

TBD by Deacons

September Deacons' Fund

– refugee resettlement

October Deacons' Fund–

TBD by Deacons

November Deacons' Fund -

will go towards the annual Kinyameseke orphans' Christmas dinner

December Deacon's Fund -

TBD by Deacons





Hymn Sing

WORSHIP EVENT

OLD FASHIONED HYMN SING: SUNDAY AUGUST 13

We are going to have an Old Fashioned Hymn during worship on August 13. We'll sing as many old favorites (whether in one of our hymnals or not) as Janice can fit into the service. BUT, for this to be meaningful and fun, we need to know what your favorite old hymns are.

There is a poster in the front of the sanctuary in front of the pulpit. PLEASE stop and write down one or more favorites that you would most like to sing.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DAVE'S COOKIN'

Join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall! \$6.00 for each program. Lunch starts at 12:00 Noon. Please call the office at 315-468-2509 to sign-up so we have enough food! **Next Luncheons:** July 10 & 24

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 11:30AM. **Next Checks:** July 9 & 23

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!



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JULY 2017



LET US SHARE THANKS...

...FOR VOLUNTEERS AND HELPERS

- ♥ **Ali Brink** for the gift of the weekly scripture devotionals that we find in our worship bulletins each week.
- ♥ **Jayson Dusse** for big awesome lawn sign advertising our Chicken BBQ that received a lot of notice.
- ♥ **Dick Bratt** for managing our corner “sandwich” sign first for the Chicken BBQ and now advertising “Cool Worship – We Have AC.”
- ♥ **Dave Forrest, Kathy Salsbury, members of the Congregational Life Committee, Jayson Dusse and his pit crew** and everyone else in our church family who helped to make this year’s Chicken BBQ a big success. Also special notice to **Betty Green** who spent the entire BBQ at the ticket table with her computer compiling statistics on how many people and who bought tickets, the number of adult vs. child tickets, how many people used credit cards to purchase tickets, etc. This information will be every so helpful as we plan for next year.
- ♥ **Liz Martin** who ran our very own Robinson-Elmwood yard sale on the day of the Chicken BBQ to find new homes for a lot of old and unused items from some of our storage closets –and raised over \$75! And to **Brian DeBrucker-Cota** who helped to move some items slated to be discarded from the Christmas Storage room up to our yard sale.



CHOIR ON SUMMER SABBATICAL

As the choir takes a well deserved summer sabbatical, we would like to express our ongoing appreciation for the dedication and high level of musicianship that **Mary Sugar, Joe Browne, Gary Wilson, Doug Nielsen, Jack Gifford, Dick Bratt, Fran Hunter, Mary Browne, Janet Brown, Nancy Wilson and Gail Nielsen** bring each week as they lead our worship in song. We are indeed blessed!

And, while the choir is on summer sabbatical, we would welcome you to bring your musical talent to a summer worship service. If you would like to volunteer to sing or play an instrument in worship one Sunday this summer, please see Mary Sugar.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS REMINDER

All of our graduation announcements will be printed in **COLOR** in the **August Newsletter**. Please send the name of your graduate, their relation to you, their degree and school, and a **color** photo to the office by **July 15**. Drop them off in the office, or e-mail them to office@robinsonmem.org.



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED...

Please contact the office to add or remove someone from the prayer list.

(315) 468-2509

office@robinsonmem.org

...OF STRENGTH & HEALING

Fred Banks
Michelle Bigg's Aunt (recovery)
Michelle Bigg's Uncle (cancer)
Barb Bratt (shoulder surgery and recovery)
Helen Campolito
Jesse Chatfield
Carmella Christini (Alice Hanning's friend)
Dick Cole (Joan Cole's son)
Joan Cole
Cindy Conway
Robert Cooper (Mary Ellen Brzozowski's brother)
Millie Cornue
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)
Elmwood Session
Dick & Annie Laurie Ference
Judy Lincoln
Beryl Hammarstrom
Jack Heins (from the Pipe Band)
Dan Hooge
Janice Horn (Turissa's Sister)
Bill and Linda Jansson
Jessica (Nancy Wilson's cousin)
Jimmy (Allie Brink's friend)
Tracie Martin (broken shoulder)
Jack Parry (Liz's grandfather)
Martha Parry (Liz's grandmother - Alzheimer's)
John Petrangelo (in Van Duyn-friend of Marge Sapka)
RMPC Session
Stephanie Rybak
Lynn Morgan Schuster (friend of Kathy Salisbury)
Sheryl (Barb Bratt's niece)
Jim Smith (Dorene Smith's son)
Karl & Nancy Smith
Caleb Smith (in his transition)
Maddy Smith (away at college)
Mary Sugar (kidney stone surgery and recovery)

Rita Valenza (recovery from surgery)

Barb Wachob

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 of Janet Stemmler who passed away June 9

The Family of Peter Olson (Carol Olson's brother) who passed away April 28

The Family of Pat Reney (Jane Monnell's friend) who passed away recently.

...OF SAFEKEEPING

Matthew Cupp (in US Navy)

...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

Dorothy Freeborn

St. Camillus
813 Fay Road
Syracuse, NY 13219

Joan Howland

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

Howard Mathewson

Loretto
700 E Brighton Ave
Syracuse, NY 13205

Ron Paxson

5091 Minute Man Lane
Liverpool, NY 13088
(315) 488-6603

Doreen Smith

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

PRAYER THANKS

♥ **Carol Olson** thanks everyone for the prayers after the death of her brother, Peter.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

♥ Happy Anniversary to **Dan and Brian DeBrucker-Cota** on July 19

**ROBINSON MEMORIAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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CHURCH DATES TO REMEMBER

DEACON/MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Isaiah's Table will receive the food items and/or cash you bring in on Communion Sundays. Please leave non-perishable items in the Narthex.

July Deacon's Fund will support **Isaiah's Table** (see pages 6 & 7 for details).

SUMMER HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9AM—4PM

Friday Office Closed

If the center door is locked during these times, ring the doorbell and someone will be right down to let you in.

WEEKLY MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES

Services Sundays (10:30, S)
Fellowship Sundays (11:30, FH)
Quilting Wednesdays (1:00-3:00, QR)

MEETING/ACTIVITY DATES

07/04 Independence Day—Office Closed
07/05 Mission (6:30 at *The Road*)
07/09 Blood Pressure Checks (11:30 QR)
07/10 Dave's Cookin' (12:00, FH)
07/15 *Articles Due for Aug. Newsletter*
07/17 Finance Committee (6:30 AL)
07/18 RM & Elmwood Sessions (6:30 AL)
07/23 Blood Pressure Checks (11:30 QR)
07/24 Dave's Cookin' (12:00, FH)
07/24 RM& Elmwood Sessions (6:30, AL)

SUMMER MEETING HIATUS

The following groups are on hiatus for July and August, and will NOT be meeting.

- ◆ Bible Study
- ◆ Choir
- ◆ Congregational Life
- ◆ Deacons
- ◆ Worship & Music