

“The fruit of life and
the fruit of the
Holy Spirit”

WESTERN SPIRE

FEBRUARY 2026

Happy New Year to you all!

A poet, Diana Kouprina wrote a poem a couple of years ago, entitled, “In celebration of turning forty.”

“Does it even matter
That before the leaves turn color,
I will be forty,
My mind begins to race.
Age is just a number,
As the feeling from within
Is the most telling one of all...

What does it matter?
How many years I walked this earth,
When in the present, I am rooted.
Does it even matter?
That it took almost 40 years
To liberate the broken sacred self
And restore the back
To whom she was born to be.”

If Age 40 brings a mix of emerging confidence from life experiences and still the confusion by an unknown world or an uncertain future, one may assume his/her 60's will be very different, full of confidence and no confusion about yourself, others, and the world. Maybe the biggest concern for someone in his/her 60s is displayed in The Beatles' song, “When I'm Sixty-Four,” where it said, “When I get older, losing my hair, will you still be sending me a valentine greeting and a bottle of wine?” While the questions might be a bit too cute, there is no confusion or lack of confidence. If Diana's poem connects with the Beatles' song, it mirrors how I felt about my sixties back when I was forty.

I am becoming 60 this month and I guess the feelings are exactly the same, except that the number 40 in the poem is 60 in my reality, and 60 in the Beatles is an assumption for my 80's. I still feel that my confidence is unfounded and my confusion about the world is in a persistent state of being unsettled, largely because the world now is quite different from what I have known all my life.

I don't know how many times I am reminded that age is just a number, just like my favorite elderly people in church told me last Sunday, “You're still a kid.” Every time I feel sad about getting older, I remember Ecclesiastes 1:9: “There is nothing new under the sun,” which speaks to me, “Do not think you are the only one who reaches the age? You can handle it. There are cooler ways to embrace your age, aging not only gracefully but also joyfully.”

Then, I read Galatians 5 again to think of the fruit of life and the fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life. In verse 22~23, Paul lists up the nine divine characteristics cultivated by the Holy Spirit in believers: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control. It is not fame, a fat bank account, or the job title that God measures the fruits of our lives but by a transformed heart working in Christ-like character and actions. Simply speaking, the fruit of the Spirit is not so much about me but about how I treat others. Interestingly, Paul doesn't use the word 'fruit' in a plural form (fruits) but in a singular form, which means all nine characteristics are different shades of one fruit (the work of the Holy Spirit).

Among these fruits (now I am using a plural form for my convenience), if there is one fruit I really hope doesn't dwindle as I get older, it is kindness. I may not be able to avoid the symptoms of getting old including the 'been there, done that' mentality because I already find myself making judgments and decisions about others too quickly.

Sometimes I realize that kindness, more than other fruits of the Spirit as I age, requires more energy and intentional effort to make a conscious choice to radiate love and care toward others. That's why it is called a fruit of the Spirit because it is the Spirit who enables me to show kindness. As it seems to be harder to find kind people- especially those who are kind to the marginalized and voiceless in the current socio-political circumstances- so I consider it a matter of spiritual discernment that I must intentionally practice. That's my resolution for my 60th birthday.

Peace of Christ,
Rev. Hodong Hwang

Save the date!

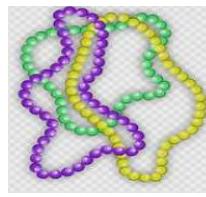
Sunday, February 15, 2026

Fellowship is hosting Coffee Hour with our traditional **Sweets & Treats** on Sunday, February 15th, following the Worship Service.



There is a signup sheet outside Fellowship Hall.

Come one and all and carb out before we enter Lent.



Please bring your favorite confection to share.

The Fellowship Committee will supply beverages.

We hope to see you there! 😊

The Fellowship Committee

The Welcome Ministry Team invites all of you to join us in
praying this scripture through the month of February.

1 Corinthians 16:14

“Do everything in love. “

NIV

Opportunities to Serve

Take what you Need, Leave what you can.
Emergency Food Cupboard



The Cereal Challenge honored Lois Daniels who gave 1,000 boxes of cereal one year.

Missions, either big or small, are overseen by the Mission Team.

You are welcome to assist with any mission project.

You are welcome to give ideas of a mission project for the congregation.

Here are some ways to currently serve:

- Assist with **Weekend Wellness** project by being a packer or delivery person, by donating food items needed for the project.
- Assist with the **Food Pantry** by meeting the families who pick up food, by organizing the shelves, by holding a seat on the Food Pantry Board, or by unloading the delivery trucks.
- Assist with the **Food Pantry** by participating in the **Reverse Advent Calendar** giving personal health items and cleaning supplies that can't be purchased with SNAP.
- Assist the **Good Neighbor Fund** by donating money, by working on a fundraiser, by writing grants for funding.
- Assist with the **Emergency Food Cupboard** by replenishing the shelves, by shopping for food products, by donating food, by shelving the inventory, by participating in a food drive, by buying a food item and putting it in the cupboard.
- Assist with **Summer Lunches** for children at the library by returning coolers to Wayne ARC and picking up coolers with bag lunches.
- Assist in assembling **Hygiene Kits** by purchasing items, by assembling the kits, by delivering the kits to organizations who will distribute.
- Assist **Family Promise** by fixing a Monday Night Meal for the families, by participating in a fundraiser, by baking a pie for Summer Pie Sale, by making a donation to Family Promise.
- Assist **Survivor Advocacy Center** by letting others know of their services, by purchasing hygiene items needed.

Lenten Project

Last year, the church put together Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. The Mission Team has decided to collect items for Hygiene Kits. We will sort the items and make kits and give them to various organizations for their programs.

Social Services need kits for Homeless People who come for help. In addition to hygiene kits, they distribute socks, pajamas, individual cereal and mac and cheese cups.

When we spoke to Kat Dillon from Survivor Advocacy Center, she had a list of hygiene items needed by their clients. The organization could also use individual food items.

Family Promise collects hygiene items to be used by homeless families.

The Food Pantry gives hygiene items to the clients who use the pantry.

Boxes will be set in the front of the church during Lent, February 18 – April 5th. We encourage you to bring in items throughout Lent. We hope you will join us in this project.

Hygiene Items we will collect:

- Toothpaste and Toothbrush
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Soap
- Razor
- Deodorant
- Wet Wipes
- Lotion
- Nail Clippers
- Comb & Brush

Individual food items:

- Mac and Cheese Cups
- Cereal Cups
- Peanut Butter Crackers, etc.

Pajamas of all sizes for children, men, and women.

Socks of all sizes for children, men, and women.

The Survivor Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes

The Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes (VRC) was founded in 1983 as a Rape Crisis agency. Over time, the VRC expanded to provide Domestic/Intimate Partner/Dating Violence, Stalking, Human Trafficking, and Child Abuse services. In 1995, The VRC established a domestic violence shelter, which to this day remains the only DV shelter in Wayne County.

In October 2021, the Board of Directors announced a name change to Survivor Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes (dba) (SACFL). The change was prompted by a shift in the field to use language that highlights the resiliency of survivors, as well as honors the importance of putting power and control back in the hands of those from whom it has been taken. The name change reflects the organization's commitment to a survivor-driven and survivor-led approach to advocacy and support.

SACFL's services focus on crisis intervention and harm reduction and include:

- Domestic Violence Shelter,
- A 24/7 Bilingual Crisis Hotline,
- Counseling,
- Advocacy,
- Information and Referrals,
- Financial Assistance,
- Court Accompaniment,
- Prevention Education, and
- Collaboration with Community Partners to Minimize the Impact of Victimization.

All SACFL services are free, confidential, and voluntary—ensuring survivors can access support without financial barriers. Participation is voluntary, allowing individuals to make informed choices about their care.

Through SACFL's commitment to serving survivors, and guided by our core values of Empathy, Empowerment, Allyship, Dignity, and Equity, we are proud to offer victim services to underserved populations, including non-English speaking immigrant survivors, the aging community, individuals with varying cognitive abilities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, men and boys, and people from diverse religious backgrounds.

SACFL is a designated 501(c)(3) non-profit agency. SACFL relies primarily on competitive grants, private donations, foundation awards, and the support of the United Way to cover operating costs. The agency employs 12 full-time staff members, including three Survivor Advocates, three Bilingual Survivor Advocates, one Mental Health Counselor, one Prevention & Outreach Specialist, one Case Manager, a Chief Program Officer, a Director of Community Relations & Staff Development, and the Executive Director. The organization is overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors, consisting of eight individuals.

In 2024, SACFL staff answered nearly 1,600 hotline calls, served 1,056 clients, and provided 3,318 nights of safe shelter to 55 adults and children. Prevention educators provided programming on healthy relationships, child sexual abuse prevention, and human trafficking prevention to over 1,000 students in the 2023/2024 school year, and over 800 students in the 2024/2025 school year. Agency staff also interacted with over 2,000 community members at various community outreach events.

Despite providing such an impressive number of services with such a small staff—there remain unmet needs in our community. In 2024, we had to refer 35 families to other shelters due to a lack of available beds at our facility. That is over 100 adults and children we were not able to serve in-community. In addition, we had to turn away requests from 6 different schools to provide programming due to our only prevention educator being at capacity.

Gaps in service only motivate the Survivor Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes, and its staff and board, to work harder to provide as many services as possible to as many community members as possible. We continue to collaborate with local non-profits, government organizations, hospitals, law enforcement, and attorneys to create a wide network of services for those in need.

If you are interested in supporting the Survivor Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes, and the work that we do, you can donate online at our website (www.survivoradvocacycenterfl.org), or send a check made payable to "Survivor Advocacy Center of the Finger Lakes" or "SACFL":

c/o Sarah Williams
513 W. Union Street
Suite 102
Newark, NY 14513

Donations of household and personal care items are often needed as well. For a current list of needed items, please call Kat Dillon at (315) 331-1171 x4518 or check out our Amazon Wish List at:

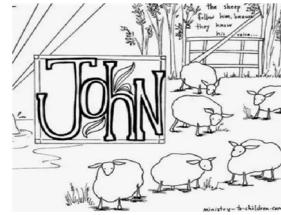
<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/246WYOCWDUYT7>



The Women's Circle gathered in January and had a great discussion around the Book of John. Of the four Gospels, John has a more literary theological and symbolic perspective on the life of Jesus Christ.

We learned that there are three sections to this Gospel starting with the miracles referred to as signs, or indicators of Jesus' saintly presence.

Some of the miracles are unique to this Gospel. Another section of this Book is the Christ hymns which include poetic and metaphoric language indicating Jesus' identity and faith role in the form of "I am" statements. The third section of this Gospel is the Passion narrative, though it is brief, it is mighty. It framed the death as a glorious revelation of God's love and the instruction of the new community.



John is not named directly in the Gospel but is suggested by Biblical historians. What is mentioned is that he is referred by Jesus as "You are my Beloved." Some have said that the author of the book of John was a maverick. He would take on the Jewish leaders. What is known is that the author put a positive perspective on the life and death of Jesus and how it's a celebration of God.

We spoke about how the miracle story connected with us. We also discussed what part of the passion story we carried close to our hearts. Jesus used the "I am" metaphor to claim the divine name of God. At this point, our circle wrote down their own "I am" statement to reflect where they are in their life or faith journey:





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| February 1 | Jim DePoint |
| February 8 | Frank Koeberle |
| February 11 | Patricia Dlugosh |
| February 13 | Daphne Hemmings |
| February 14 | Sylvia Lyon |
| February 21 | Martha Beato |
| February 24 | Edie Chapman |
| February 25 | Janet Manktelow |
| February 25 | Pamela Hughes |
| February 26 | Maxine Babcock |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| February 15 | John Cook & Wilma Redman |
|-------------|--------------------------|

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time!

The team minutes received for February include:

WPC Christian Education Team Minutes January 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Building Faith, Family, and Fellowship. WPC nurtures spiritual growth, joyful fellowship, meaningful community and global involvement: worshiping and serving God with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

Present: Cim McFarlane, Emily Hunt, Jody Pruitt - Guest Randy Kennard

Calendar

January 18- Valentine Card Making (rescheduled to Jan. 11)

February 8 - Scout Sunday

February 22- No Sunday School- February Break

March 1- Easter Card Making and Bulletin Making

March 29- Palm Sunday Parade

April 5- No Sunday School Easter

May 31- Youth Service, Last Day of Sunday School

July 27-31- 2026 VBS

Continuing and New Business

Guest - Randy Kennard - Randy is working on a new website for WPC. She has asked for input from CE on the areas that pertain to us. We went through all the CE pages and a few adjustments were made. Thank You Randy for taking this on and including the CE team.

Emily Session Report - Randy Kennard is designing a new website and is looking for information from committees. Also looking for a new logo to come from the congregation.

Radon Update - Basically no progress. Tried adding fans, outcome was higher readings. Ready to seal the drain. Still many concerns to figure out.

Budget- New 2026 Budget will be \$2450.00 for CE

Sunday School News - Cim shared that programing will resume next week after time off for Christmas Break, Youth Led Service and Valentine Card making for shut-ins and college youth. The cards are complete and ready to send out.

VBS - Cim shared from her and Lisa's last meeting that they had discussed having a four-day program with Friday being a celebration of working together for 20 years. Friday would be designed to have the parents stay. The five-day program Rainforest Falls would be cut to four days and would keep the free lunch. It's still in the discussion stage. The team likes the idea. The program has a really cool Count Down advertisement that can be used on Facebook and the morning announcements.

Scout Sunday - Cim shared after speaking with Nicole Kessler that the Scouts will perform Flag Folding and sing Vespers on February 8. They will also usher. This will be done during Children's Time that Cim will start by introducing them.

Pray Ground Update - Cim spent time sorting through toys that can be used for the pray ground. (She found that many were missing.) She and Rachel (mentor for Pray Ground) will go through to decide which toys will work best. There may be a need to purchase an area rug for safety and to help buffer noise. Ho Dong would like it started by Easter.

Here is the link to article about the Pray ground: <https://graceofav.org/prayground/>

Camp Whitman Board - Cim shared the team will meet Wednesday this week. Members will be inducted and become officially the Board of Directors. Plus, they are fully Incorporated.

Epiphany Service - Incredible Christmas, Incredible Trust Recap - The service was amazingly terrific. A great message was given. Many comments and emails were made praising the service, particularly the Superhero. Well Done Cim and Youth!!!

Little Froggies - Jody has suggested a meeting be called with Gary, Cim, Jody, Teri Miller and/or Melissa Perry, and an impartial person like Janet Manktelow to define space and supplies, toys etc. To our understanding this has not been done yet. Cim is missing toys from the Toddler space that are needed for the Pray ground. Also, tables have been removed and replaced with unusable tables in the Sunday School room and other supplies have been reorganized.

Nursery- is still on hold until the radon is solved. The possibility of using the Sunday School room was discussed. No one has applied for the position. Also having the Pray ground in the sanctuary, there may not be a need for a nursery.

Next meeting: February 10, 2026 at 7:00 in Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully Summittted ~ Jody Pruitt

Deacons Team Meeting Minutes

12/2/2025

Present: Sandy McMenamin, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, Patti Dlugosh & Hodong Hwang

In Support: Linda Pulicini

Meeting opening with lighting of the Christ Candle

- **Old Business:**

1. Approval of September month's minutes *Motion: Sandy M. Second: Patty D.*

2. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance & expense/donation Status– Sandy M. –

| Dec-25 | Deacons Checking Account |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Initial balance | \$1,122.77 |
| Additions | \$ 385.00 |
| Deductions | |
| Ending balance | \$1,507.77 |

- a. Balances
- b. A group gift of \$350 was donated of Deacons – Randy K to write thank you letter
- c. *Comment that donations have gone down since offertory change- We will evaluate offertory income over 6 months to determine if other action is needed to ensure funding for the Deacons.*
- 3. Sharing Correspondence: letters/emails/cards Card from T.G.
- 4. Next Communion – on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th
 - a. Verify that enough Pita, loaf and juice ~ *Thanks Patty*
 - b. *Change set-up for trays and platters to serve 25 each plus choir*
 - c. Assisting in set-up/clean up – Meet Wed. morning at 10am SM, PD, NT / SM & RK eve support
- 5. Review of Prayer List and adjust accordingly of needs S.M.
- 6. Prayers for those in need and beyond
- 7. Visits/ Calls/ cards counts - visits with special meaningful moments of faith

| 2025 | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Month | Visits | Phone Calls | Cards sent and Email outreach | Communion Served | Communion Date |
| January | 15 | 24 | 69 | 49 | 1/12/25 |
| February | 5 | 18 | 56 | 39 | 2/9/25 |
| March | 16 | 16 | 99 | 49 | 3/9/25 |
| April | 22 | 15 | 57 | 73 | 4/20/25 |
| May | 11 | 19 | 50 | 57 | 5/11/25 |
| June | | | 24 | 49 | 6/8/25 |
| July | 18 | 36 | 70 | 46 | 7/13/25 |
| August | 16 | 15 | 57 | 48 | 8/10/25 |
| December | 24 | 15 | 53 | 105 | 12/24/25 |
| Year to Date | 159 | 199 | 685 | 680 | |

18 Lilies delivered
 4 flower deliveries
 21 poinsettias Delivered

8. Special Needs Mailings –

- a. 14 constant names and 10 rotating names from *Rotating list reviewed by RK and PD*
- b. *Generate list of recipiants for Poinsettias to be delivered after Dec 30th at 10am*
- c. Christian Ed. Plans to make 28 cards for Christmas mailing ~ intend to use all names from constant and rotating lists.

• **Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:10** *"This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more extravagant than you could ever imagine. He will do this for you, He will provision and multiply your seed sowing, and the harvest of your generosity will be abundant."* [The Message Bible (MSG)]

- **New Business:**

- o Session Update – pray for toddler time in worship and search for music director
- o Transfer of responsibilities from Sandy Betts to Patty Dlugosh, Sandy B. leaves Deacons at EOY

Meeting closed with prayer.

Next meeting Tuesday 1/6/2026 @ 10am

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

Fellowship Meeting

1-6-2026

Present: Roxanne Dobson, Terry Gendron, Jan Taylor, Ray Marr, Norm Underwood, and Sue Pringle

Excused: Val Gendron

We opened the meeting with prayer at 2:00

The order of business is to determine what activities the team will host in 2026.

- Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 18th. It was agreed to hold Sweets and Treats on Feb. 15th with a Mardi Gras theme. Roxanne will put together a flyer, and Jan will post with a sign-up sheet.
- 5th Sunday Potluck – March 29. This is also Palm Sunday. Fellowship will provide beverages and desserts. We ask that the congregation bring a dish to pass and their own table service.
- A game night is planned for April 18th at 4:30 PM. We ask that participants bring a snack of their choice to share with everyone. The Fellowship team will provide beverages. Roxanne will create a flyer.
- 5th Sunday Potluck - May 31. This will be our Church Picnic with a twist if possible. More details to follow.
- June Ice cream social will be on June 21st, 2026, following worship.
- The 5th Sunday potluck will be held on August 30th following worship. More planning to be done.
- Progressive Dinner will be on Saturday, September 26th. More planning to be done.
- Western Horizons is planned for October 18th, 2026.
- The 5th Sunday potluck will be November 29th. Hanging of the Greens is planned that day.

The team took down the Christmas decorations and closed our meeting at 3:15.

Respectfully submitted. Roxanne Dobson

Mission and Social Concerns Ministry Team Minutes January 8, 2026

Present in Person: Cassie Hughes, Irene Fadden, Ruth Dantz, and Sally Chase

Present on Zoom: Edie Chapman Absent: Rena Haigh

Open with Lighting of the Christ Candle, scripture: John 15:5, reading, and prayer

Visitor from Survivor Advocacy Center – Kathryn

There was much information shared with the Mission Team. Kathryn explained that it began in 1983 as rape crisis and it now is there to serve survivors of a variety of situations. Both men and women and children are provided counseling and other services. There is a shelter for up to 14 people. The Survivor Advocacy Center is seeking to inform many people and groups about services and how to contact – hot line.

What can we do to help in the Survivor Advocacy Center?

- Items for Hygiene
- Amazon and Walmart Wish Lists – on Website under donate
- Individual food cups (mac and cheese, cereal)
- Money
- Legal Support
- Get information out to others
- Pull ups in size 4T, 5T, or 6T

Good Neighbor Fund Update –

Beginning Balance \$3,178.19

Deposits + \$3,560 ----- Canal Town Days & misc. cash

Checks Written - \$ 300 ----- rent for 1 adult, 2 children

Ending Balance \$6,433.19

Weekend Wellness update – Ask Wilma to send \$3,500 to food pantry.

Beginning Balance - \$4,382.89

Deposit in December - 0

Ending Balance - \$4,382.89

Bags delivered in December – 557 bags

Bags delivered 2025-2026 year – 1,744 bags

Summer lunches after ARC weeks? – if not doing, money can go to Food Pantry for Weekend Wellness during Summer.

Pie Sale – Summer of 2026 – Do again for Family Promise. Not only does it raise money, but we also get the opportunity to talk about Family Promise. Worked well with Knucklehead Farms Stand.

Homeless People – many in Wayne County – pajamas, hats, gloves, scarves, hygiene kits. duffle bags, cereal cups, granola bars, water, toilet paper

| Month | Food Cupboard \$200/mon. | Food Pantry \$200/mon. |
|----------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| January | Irene | Ruth |
| February | | |
| March | | |

- Food Cupboard – One bag, One Meal,
- Food Pantry – Has been busy
- Family Promise – meals on Monday – April 20, June 22, Sept 21, Oct 19
- Lenten Giving Calendar – February 18- April 5, no calendar this year.
- Collection of Hygiene Kits – boxes at front of church for contributions. Separate items in separate boxes.

Social Services would use kits for homeless, some items for Survivor Advocacy, remaining items to Family Promise or the Food Pantry.

- OGHS gift – one time donation – April 5 (Easter) or March 29 (Palm Sunday)

Minutes for Mission – 4 from OGHS? Bulletin inserts? – Cassie will discuss with Hodong.

- Cassie agreed to chair the next 2 meetings, February and March. She is considering taking on the chair position and Team agreed to help her as needed if she would serve.
- New Website – screen shots for Mission Team projects – Randy showed the screenshots; Irene has gone through some of them and will continue to note any changes. Then the screenshots and comments will be sent to Team. Randy would like the notes back in very near future so she can have them ready for Feb. 3rd Session meeting.

Website will have one screen with ways individuals can assist the Mission Team. These opportunities will be put into the newsletter and/or onto the bulletin board.

Budget for 2026 – in the budget for January 25th congregational meeting.

5 % taken from endowments in 2026.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Presbytery Mission Support | \$ 2,545.00 |
| Synod & PCUSA Mission Support | \$ 200.00 |
| Food Cupboard | \$ 2,400.00 |
| Food Pantry | \$ 2,400.00 |
| Wayne ARC (Meals on Wheels) | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Clint McCoy Feeding Center in Malawi | \$ 500.00 |
| Healthy Ninos Honduras | \$ 800.00 |
| Family Promise | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Good Neighbor Fund | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Weekend Wellness - Food Pantry | \$ 5,000.00 |
| Survivor Advocacy Center | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Summer Lunches or Food Pantry | <u>\$ 2,000.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 24,845.00 |

Closing prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to live Micah 6:8. “And what does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.” Amen

Respectively Submitted,

Irene Fadden

The stated meeting of the session of Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, New York was called to order by the moderator Reverend HoDong Hwang at 7:00PM in Fellowship Hall. The meeting was opened with prayer and lighting of The Christ Candle.

7 Present: Roxanne Dobson, Irene Fadden, Philip Opdycke, Randy Kennard, Emily Hunt, Courtney Marr, Janet Manktelow

1 Excused: Alicia Lynch

0 Absent

1 Guest: Gary LaBerge

A quorum was present.

Add wedding form to agenda.

•Motion made by Phil Opdycke seconded and carried to approve the agenda with the above addition.

Business of the Church

Radon abatement- Gary LaBerge spoke on what is happening with the radon abatement. They contacted a company in Victor, but they aren't satisfied with their proposal. Gary will take on this project. He will start by putting 2 large fans in basement and taking several readings.

• Motion made by Property Ministry Team and carried to tackle the radon abatement in small steps.

Step 1. Take multiple readings in the basement over several days.

Step 2. Install caps on the holes in the basement floor from an old well. Will install pipes and fans to extract radon from the basement.

Will hire a company to install the pipes that will go up the old chimney.

Toddler time and Daycare-they each will be offered temporary use of a portion of Fellowship Hall while waiting for the radon mitigation to be completed.

Devotion – Emily shared with session.

Clerk's Report

•Motion made by Irene Fadden second and carried to approve Oct. session minutes.

E-Mail vote- •Motion made by Phil Opdycke seconded and carried to approve the wedding of Marietta Koeberle and Brendan Mulchay on Sept. 5, 2026.

Business of Church Continued

Leadership Transition – Jody Pruitt will take over as chair of CE Ministry Team in Jan 2026. Finance and Mission are still looking for someone to fill the chair position.

Session received a request for sponsorship of the Pal Mac choir Madrigal dinner. We opted not to sponsor. We will allow Nella McFarlane to speak to the congregation about supporting the choir.

Wedding forms – the building use forms for weddings need to be updated. The worship ministry team will take this on.

Ministry Team Reports

Worship Ministry Team – the cancer service was well received. Donations to the team are down due to the offering plates not being passed during the service. We will give the congregation a reminder of the need and that the plates are available before and after the service.

Fellowship Ministry Team – the Hanging of the Greens will be Nov 30th during the potluck meal.

Deacons Ministry Team – still reaching out to members of the congregation.

Mission Ministry Team - Checked with the foster cares system and they don't need the duffle bags they had hoped to supply. They suggested working with the homeless instead. Irene will try to get more information on how this could be done.

Finance Ministry Team – pledge cards have been sent out.

CE Ministry Team-Trick and Treat on Main St. was a huge success. Trust will be the theme for the Youth led Epiphany Service in Jan.

Property Ministry Team – written report

Next meeting is December 2, 2025

Irene will do the devotions.

•Motion made by Roxanne dobson seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 8:55PM.

Janet Manktelow
Clerk

Special Meeting of Session
November 9, 2025

A special meeting of the session of Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, New York was called to order by the moderator Reverend HoDong Hwang at 11:30AM with prayer in the church parlors.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss salaries for some staff members.

- Motion made by Philip Opdycke seconded and carried to approve an increase in pay for Kathy Barr, our office assistant. Her pay will be \$16.00 per hour, and she will receive a one-time bonus of \$1,000.00. Also, Val Gendron will be raised to \$9,500 per year.
- Motion made by Finance Ministry Team and approved to give the pastor HoDong Hwang an increase in salary of 2.5% as recommended by Presbytery.
- Motion made by Emily Hunt seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer led by Randy Kennard at 12:00PM.

Worship Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026

Present: Carol, Sue, Joan, Rev. HoDong, and Courtney

Excused: Alicia, Linda, and Sharon

Worship Section on the Website with Randy- I will email the attachment to all members to read over what is written. I asked the team to respond with their thoughts by Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Goals for Worship

After looking at the life of other Presbyterian churches (locally and around our country) and other popular churches I noticed that they have many ways their congregation can stay engaged and connected to their faith and church family during the week. I feel like we offer many wonderful things but many of them are offered during the day. I would like us as a team to think about ways we can reach out with Worship connections with our church family at home during the week or at church. How can we incorporate other teams with this as well?

One idea was to break the year into 4 seasons and have a theme for each season with different activities in Worship and during the work week.

First theme idea:

God's Love Keeps Us Warm Theme for February and March

Possible Activities:

- Lent in a Bag with the theme God's Love Keeps Us Warm
 - This is an at home family kit that is a weekly Lent devotional that we can buy the materials and print out the weekly cards for families to complete together. [Click HERE](#) to read the weekly activities and devotional.
- Chili and blankets
 - Partner with Fellowship? -offer chili/soup potluck with a blanket donation for grace house.
- "Thaw Your Heart:" For a mid-week prayer service 15-20 minutes on Zoom
 - A quick evening prayer service offered through Zoom led by Worship Team members or other congregation members
- "Hot Cocoa & Hymns" Service
 - One Sunday we have a short Sermon with the last half being a Hymn sing
- The "Warmth of the Word" Winter Prayer Event
- **"Love Your Church" Stewardship Notes**
 - Provide Valentine's colored (pink, red, white, purple) paper and ask, "What do you love about our church?" Ask people to share their answers in the service. Collect papers and hang them on display (entrance board).

Lent- February 18

Ash Wednesday Service-We will have a service.

Ash Wednesday "Drive-Thru" Ashes??

New Florist in Palmyra-

- There is a new florist in the old Ford garage on Main Street near Carroll St. Check with the Finance Team for the flower fund amount to see if we can get fresh flowers monthly for our sanctuary with the money before checking with the florist to see if they would be interested in doing this.

Our Prayer Concerns (updated January 21, 2026)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Vern Aldrich (requested by the McFarlanes)
Family & Friends of Esther Deys (requested by Cheryl Deys)
Family & Friends of Josephine Green (requested by Norm Underwood)
Family & Friends of William Wheeler (requested by Michele Fontaine)
Family & Friends of Jacklyn (Russell) Guererri (requested by the Deacons)

Serving in the Armed Forces:

AJ Bliss, Josh Polle

Please pray for those of our congregation with immediate concerns:

Jim Arthurton, Joan Barnard, Jacquie DeBrine, Jonnie Fontaine, Valerie Gendron, Nancy Roets, Jan Semans

Congregation members needing continued prayers:

Joan Dursey, Cim McFarlane, Wilma Redman, Keyna Sloan

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton, David Squier

Others for whom prayers have been requested:

Clare Boesel, Sharon Camp, Sarah Carone, Gary Deys, Mark Fiegl, Barb Gillespie, Nancy Grantling, Nancy Hovermale, Samantha Karpa, Paul McCoy, Rosalie Morell, Kate Pfaff, Tabitha Prinzi, Patty Rogers, Ann Sambroski, Eric Schaefer, Cole Sinatra, Alessio Sotgiu, Jake Taylor, Bill Walton, Delores Welkley, Connie West, Dmitry Wieber, Donna Wirth, Ruth Yeo

May your prayers go out to:

All caregivers; All those affected by natural disasters; All those who have no one to pray for them; All victims of violence, hatred, hunger, and homelessness; Please pray for those that wish to remain anonymous.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Kyle Chapman & Samantha Karpa on the birth of their son Jasper Karpa Chapman on 01/11/26. Proud grandparents are Eric & Edie Chapman and Scott & Stephanie Karpa.

Names will remain on the prayer list for 30 days unless renewal has been requested.

Prayers of Intercession are offered each day by our Deacons. To request prayer for yourself or another, please contact Randy Kennard, chair of Deacons, Sandy McMenamin, or Kathy in the Church office.



FEBRUARY 2026

| SUN. | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THURS. | FRI. | SAT. |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---|------|------|
| 1 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service | 2 | 3 10 am Deacons 1 pm Men's Group 2 pm Fellowship 3:30 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room | 4 1 pm Mission/ Social Concerns | 5 11 am Bible Study 6-8:30 pm FH Seneca Waterways Council | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Communion & Cereal Sunday Camp & Retreat Sunday Scout Sunday 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service | 9 | 10 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room | 11 7 pm FH Boy Scouts | 12 11 am Bible Study | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Transfiguration of the Lord 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service Sweets & Treats | 16 President's Day | 17 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room | 18 Ash Wednesday 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service | 19 No Bible Study | 20 | 21 |
| 22 1st Sunday in Lent No Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service | 23 | 24 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room | 25 | 26 11 am Bible Study | 27 | 28 |



MARCH 2026

| SUN. | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THURS. | FRI. | SAT. |
|--|------|--|--|---|---|------|
| 1 2nd Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service | 2 | 3 10 am Deacons 1 pm Men's Group 2 pm Fellowship 3:30 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room | 4 | 5 11 am Bible Study 6-8:30 pm FH Seneca Waterways Council | 6 World Day of Prayer | 7 |
| 8 Communion & Cereal Sunday Daylight saving time begins 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service | 9 | 10 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room | 11 7 pm FH Boy Scouts | 12 11 am Bible Study | 13 | 14 |
| 15 4th Sunday in Lent Girl Scout Sunday 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service | 16 | 17 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room | 18 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property | 19 11 am Bible Study | 20 Mr. Roger's Day | 21 |
| 22 5th Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service | 23 | 24 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room | 25 | 26 No Bible Study | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Palm/Passion Sunday 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Prayer & Scripture 10 am worship service Palm Sunday Parade Potluck Luncheon | 30 | 31 | | | | |