

FIRST PRESS

April-May 2018

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“Next year in Jerusalem!”

Song sung at the end of Passover

I believe it is time. The last time I was in Jerusalem was a decade ago. The Galilean hills green with spring rain; the ancient city of Jerusalem ever living as the center of the universe; the olives and the fresh bread from street vendors. It doesn't take much to set my mind careening down glorious memories. I love going to Israel. March of 2019 sounds like a good time.

It's cool in late March. You need a light jacket and a small umbrella. Mostly what you need are good walking shoes and a place to store your light jacket and umbrella because you get pretty warm walking the street of Jericho or the seaport of Caesarea.

When I go to holy places, I go now with a sense of awe and wonder. I am in awe of the confluence of time and devotion. When you walk to the church of the “Cock's Crow”, where Peter denied Jesus, you join your heart with penitents of centuries. The steps that lead up to the church built over the place where Jesus was kept as a prisoner, these steps bear the heavy grooves of pilgrims who sought to find freedom in humility. There is a sense of awe that comes over me when I run my hands over the tiny crosses carved in the wall leading to the tomb of St. Helena, the mother of Constantine. I consider my hands are joining with the devotion of Christians of every kind.

My wonder over Israel is found in the “strata.” Strata are the lines of times revealed in an archeological dig. You can see the layer of centuries

like you can count the growth rings of a tree. The digs of Israel lead me to dig deep in my heart. From whence does my hope come? My hope comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Now where does heaven and earth find a more powerful proximity than Galilee and Jerusalem. Each time I have entered the dig of Megiddo and picked up the potshards that lie about, the fragments of three thousand years ago that lie about, each time I pick them up I see my life as both a grain of sand and a piece of the heart of God.

There is a way to walk as a pilgrim. It is called “sauntering.” The etymology of “to saunter” comes from the name given to pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem. They were going to the holy land (san terra); they were “holy landers” *saunterers*.

Learning how to walk as a pilgrim didn't come easy to me. I am far too intent on understanding history than my heart. To walk as a pilgrim is to find the voice of God that comes after you have exhausted all your less than important questions and worries and ideas. If you walk through the places of devotion, with the hope of listening to God, you start to saunter at some point.

I didn't learn the art of sauntering until I had traveled to many holy places. Spain taught me how to walk in Israel. Yet, so did walking the Olympic Mountains, and sitting by the lakeshore in Malawi. In truth, I had been sauntering before I knew I was doing such.

Consider joining the path to Israel next March. On April 22, 29, and May 7 at 8:45 a.m. I will lead a conversation regarding the path. The first conversation will deal with logistics (how do you get there; where do you stay; and how much does it cost?). The second conversation will explore the biblical history - the land of Israel and the time of Jesus. The third will be the Israel of devotion: why do so many people claim Israel as important to them?

If you are just curious about the conversation and don't plan to go, you are most welcome. This is a fascinating topic and place.

“Next year in Jerusalem!”

Rev. Dr. Fred Garry

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From Pastor Casey's Desk...



Wow! Where has the time gone? It felt like only yesterday that we were waving palms and celebrating Easter. While the busyness of the Easter season may feel like it has passed, the opposite is true. We are preparing ourselves for a number of different things that are happening this month and looking forward to the things to come this summer. Since this a shorter newsletter I thought I would take the opportunity to highlight a couple of the things that are going on.

The first thing is our trip to Taize, France... This month the youth group is going to Taize, France. During our stay at Taize we will have the opportunity to work together with youth from around the world. Thousands of individuals each year make the pilgrimage to Taize and walk away with an understanding that their faith is part of a global community. In addition to our stay at Taize we will also be touring historical and Christian sites in Paris. What does it look like to practice faith in a different context? How do people live differently? These are a couple of the questions we will be asking ourselves as we discuss these various topics.

The second thing is that this summer our church will be part of a presbytery program that is partnering with Samaritan Medical Center. Three students from Princeton Theological Seminary will be coming to Northern New York to participate in an internship program that focuses on bi-vocational and small church ministry. While we may not see them very often at First Pres., they will each have the opportunity to preach at our church before they leave for the summer. I'm very excited for how this program pans out and look forward to working with them as well as Rev. Melodie Long and Rev. David Bennett.

The Rev. Casey Carbone

DEACONS DOING GOOD DEEDS

The Deacons host fellowship each and every Sunday after the service. A light snack is available along with coffee, tea and juice. Anyone is welcome to help out. Feel free to sign up for a Sunday to bring something. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall or see Linda McCullough or Maureen (Mo) Gorman.

On Saturday, May 19th there will be an Armed Forces Day Parade that begins at 10:00 a.m. and comes down Washington Street past First Presbyterian Church. The Deacons will have a few chairs set up in the front portico area of the church, for comfortable parade viewing. Hope to see you there.

The Watertown Urban Mission provides help in many ways to those in need. One way is through their **Critical Needs Program**. The Deacons would like to support this program and are asking that the congregation join in and bring items to the church and place them in the baskets in the narthex. Each week the basket of items will be brought forward at the same time as the offering plates. The items will then be delivered to the Mission for distribution. Items that are needed are: bar soap, body wash, tooth paste, toothbrushes, toilet tissue, laundry detergent (liquid or powder), shampoo, deodorant, powder, dish detergent, facial tissue, baby wipes, razors, combs, brushes, feminine products. With spring around the corner, they are in need of cleaning supplies.

The **10th Annual Watertown Urban Mission Auction** will be held April 21st at St. Anthony's Church Bingo Hall, 850 Arsenal Street, Watertown - Preview at 9:00 a.m. and Live Auction at 9:30 a.m. - 100 unique live auction items, designer purse and jewelry sale, silent auction, beautiful themed baskets (WUMBA), 50/50 raffles and food. The Deacons have entered a basket in the WUMBA competition. The theme of the basket is *A day in the 1000 Islands*. People bid on the baskets and the basket that goes for the highest bid wins the trophy. So, make sure you show up and bid on First Pres' basket or whatever your favorite basket is. All proceeds go directly to benefit the programs at Watertown Urban Mission.

The Deacons are busy doing good deeds everyday. They visit the sick and the homebound, and deliver flowers to them after worship on Sundays. They deliver rose bowls to the homebound on their birthdays and once a month they pair up with elders or the pastors to take communion to our homebound.

As you are greeted by the Deacon of the Week on Sunday mornings, shake their hand and say, "Thank you;" and ask, "how can I help?"

ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

2017		2018	
Week	Attendance	Week	Attendance
March 5	116	March 4	142
March 12	104	March 11	130
March 19	123	March 18	119
March 26	<u>129</u>	March 25	<u>154</u>
Total	472		545
Average	118		136

Dollar Dinners

We have had a wonderful couple of months being a part of the Dollar Dinners. FPC hosted 3 dinners, and between dine-in and take-out, we served approximately 800 meals. I would like to thank everyone who helped make this possible. It takes a lot of volunteers and support to make a successful Dollar Dinner, from, cooks, to those who set-up, to silverware wrappers, to servers, to ticket collectors, to cleaners. All of these people are vital for making a Dollar Dinner run smoothly, and I am so thankful to each and every person who spent their evening in this service to others. I would like to give a special shout-out to the Youth Group, who came to each dinner and worked the floor, serving the diners.

Donna Dunkle



April 1	John Stirling	April 10	Malory Green Saki	April 24	John Tinsley
April 3	Arlene Wilson	April 11	Scott Green	April 24	Stephanie Blank Lobisch
April 3	Bob Gorman	April 12	Ireland Martin	April 25	Roger W. White, Jr.
April 3	Bettina Rutigliano	April 13	Michael Green	April 25	Meredith Bonisteel
April 4	Deanna Nelson	April 14	Bunny Gorman	April 27	Peter Salmon
April 5	Peter Thomas	April 17	Amy Ashbridge	April 27	Melissa Elmer
April 5	Benjamin Azah	April 21	Emily Sprague	April 27	Ella Walton
April 6	Maureen Gorman	April 21	David Hodge	April 28	Mariana Hiotis
April 8	Donna Dayger	April 22	Barbara Case	April 29	Frost Haviland
April 8	Brie Thomas	April 23	Lynn Pyke	April 29	Elsa Gleason
April 9	Day Hills	April 23	Richard Pyne	April 29	Ezra Gleason
April 10	Loron Silliman	April 24	Betty Ann Vollrath	April 30	Bob Sturtz
April 10	Charles Kimball	April 24	David Little	April 30	Stewart Wells
May 1	Matt Gorman	May 11	Susan Kitto	May 19	Katja Stevens
May 4	Sarah Sinclair	May 11	Urban Hirschey	May 20	Anne George
May 5	Nathan Bonisteel	May 11	Gerda Barbour	May 20	Connor Way
May 7	Katrina Cox	May 13	David Garry	May 24	Derick Vernyuy
May 7	Ruth Chiumia	May 14	Carole Brown	May 25	Toni Silliman
May 8	William Kandler	May 15	Dave Elmer	May 25	John Pike
May 9	Judy Morley	May 16	Mary Sanford	May 28	Stephanie Green
May 9	Spencer Kettrick	May 16	Marsha Deming	May 29	Ethan Garry
May 9	Yanna Hiotis	May 17	Martha Brown	May 30	Carolyn Osborne
May 9	William Gleason	May 17	Tessa Kettrick	May 31	Marian Hills
May 10	Howard Kelly	May 18	LaRue Jones	May 31	T. Urling Walker, Jr.
May 11	Gini McCreary	May 18	Tucker Wells		

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Every year during the month of May, Presbyterian Women celebrate their mission giving with a special Birthday Offering which began in 1922. The theme for the offering this year is *Welcome to This Place*. There are 3 recipients of our support: two in the United States and one in Honduras. All three places will provide safe housing and provide for the physical and emotional needs of women and children. Presbyterian Women continue to need and are very thankful for your consistent and broad support. Birthday Offering envelopes will be in the pews during the month of May or you may mail your checks mail your checks to First Presbyterian Church, 403 Washington Street. **All checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women with Birthday Offering in the memo line.**



The Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering is happening this year in August in Louisville, Kentucky. There may be a leadership grant available and our own PW has a fund set aside to help with the expenses, should you wish to attend.

Registration is open now and registration booklets are available from Marsha Deming, Anne Van Slyke, or Maureen Gorman. You can register online or by mail.

For more information go to www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/churchwide-gathering/about-the-gathering/.

Presbyterian Women will meet the **1st Thursday** in May (May 3rd) at **12:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall at First Pres. Church. for **lunch** and **discussion on city bus system** They will meet the **3rd Thursday** of the month (May 17th) at Ramada Inn for **breakfast** at **8:30 a.m.**

What the Robin Told

The wind told the grasses, and the grasses told the trees.

The trees told the bushes, and the bushes told the bees.

The bees told the robin, and the robin sang out clear:

WAKE UP! WAKE UP!

SPRING IS HERE!!

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO DURING APRIL AND MAY!

Watertown Musicales presents *Love is in the Air* - Watertown Musica Viva sings songs of love - Sunday, April 22nd, at 3:00 p.m., in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church - free-will offering to benefit Watertown Musicales Scholarship Fund.

Orchestra of Northern New York presents *Stravinsky & Mendelssohn* - Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite* and Mendelssohn's *Symphony No. 4 (Italian)* - Sunday, April 29th, at 3:00 p.m., in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church - order your tickets at www.ONNY.org or by calling 315-267-2277.

Northern Choral Society will hold a fundraiser Lasagna Dinner from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on April 29th, in Fellowship Hall - cost \$12 (eat in or take out). Lasagna will be prepared by the chef from the *Clipper Inn*, and the dinner includes salad, roll, dessert, and beverage.

Sewing Day - Friday, May 11, 2018, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in Room 10 - to work on the "panti project" - bring your sewing machine - instructions and material will be provided.

MELT (Malawi Early Literacy Team) presents *Plant The Seed To Read* event - Saturday, May 19th, from 3:00-5:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall at First Presbyterian Church.

WATERTOWN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY OF NNY WORKING TOGETHER

Last spring, I was asked to join the Presbytery of NNY Mission Committee. Although my plate is quite full with the various mission programs I'm involved with I thought this might be a good fit. A recent meeting with the committee chair, Patti Stephens, proved just that!

Patti reviewed the 2018 mission budget that focuses on two priorities: to help those in need in all parts of the Presbytery of NNY, and to support the people of Malawi, Africa. With the focus on these two priorities we are supporting both home-grown groups and ecumenical partner groups.

Projects developed within the Presbytery of NNY include: *MINC*, *New Worshiping Committee*, ***Women of Grace Widows' Fund***, ***M.E.L.T.***, and ***Mzuzu Nursery***.

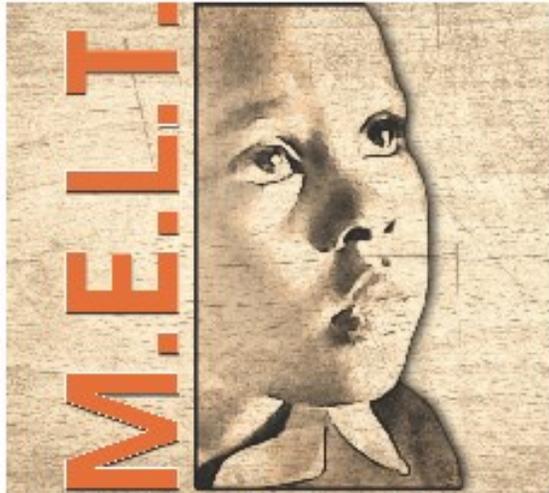
Denomination-wide Programs include: *Mission Co-workers*, and ***Shallow Wells***.

Partner Organizations include: ***Watertown Urban Mission***, *Helping Hands of Potsdam*, *Church & Community*, *Samaritan House*, and *Plattsburgh Cares*.

Many projects near and dear to our hearts here at First Presbyterian Church will receive funds to help make budgets this year! I have put those projects in bold print. It is nice to know that the NNY Presbytery Mission Committee sees and supports our good work.

It is an honor to serve on this committee.

Heather White



Malawi Early Literacy Team
Presents the
**PLANT
THE SEED
TO READ**
Event



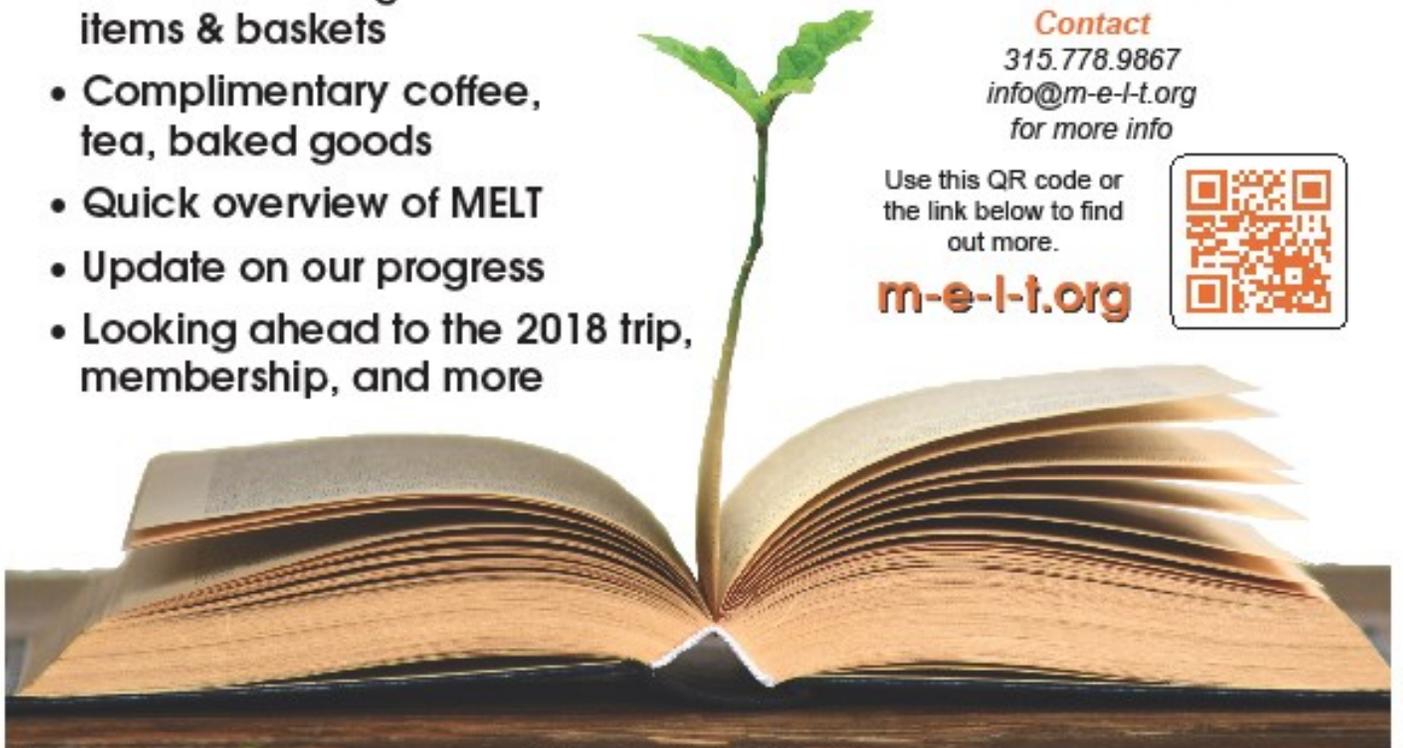
Join us Saturday, May 19th
from 3:00 - 5:00
at the First Presbyterian Church
403 Washington St., Watertown, NY

- **FREE Event**
- **Free will offering accepted**
- **Silent Auction: garden themed items & baskets**
- **Complimentary coffee, tea, baked goods**
- **Quick overview of MELT**
- **Update on our progress**
- **Looking ahead to the 2018 trip, membership, and more**

Contact
315.778.9867
info@m-e-l-t.org
for more info

Use this QR code or
the link below to find
out more.

m-e-l-t.org



An Ecumenical Mission Project of the
Watertown First Presbyterian Church

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SUNDAY WORSHIP AT

10:00 A.M.

(Service is broadcast over
radio station WATN 1240AM)

If you miss a week of worship it is just a click away.
The service and sermon can be found in podcast form;
the text of the sermon is also in text form. Just visit our
website at www.watertownfirstpres.org.

*Spring is Here**Spring is here! Spring is here!**Winter is gone and two flowers appear.**Three little robins begin to sing.**Four bicycle bells begin to ring.**Five children come out and jump the rope.**Spring is here now! I hope, I hope!*

***For everything there is a season, and a time for every
matter under heaven:***

*a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is
planted;
a time to break down; and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather
stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from
embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8