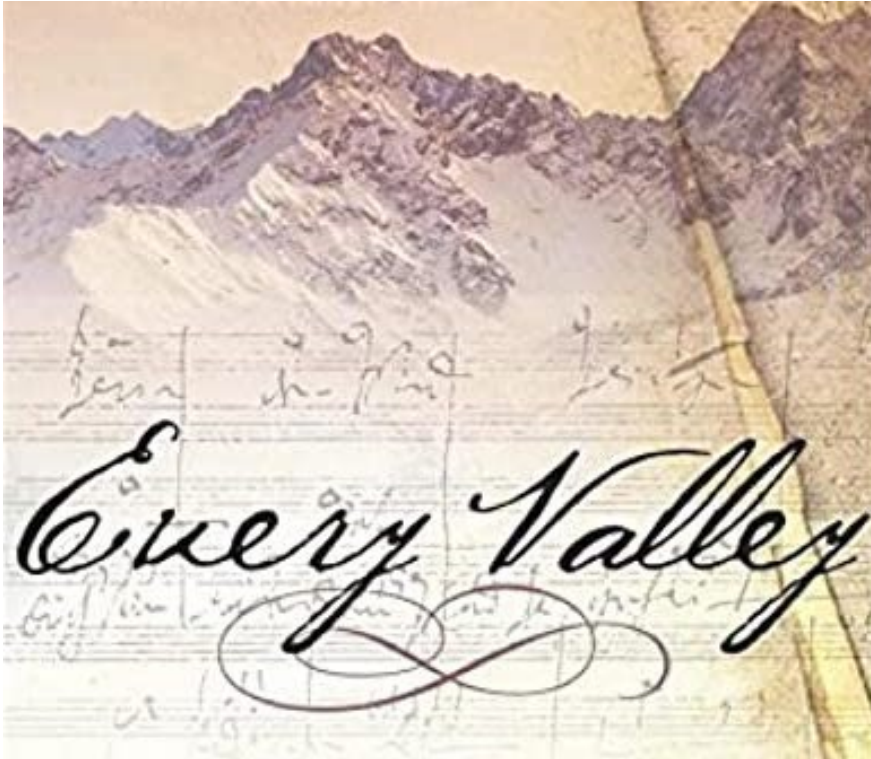




First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

December 4, 2022 + 10:00 a.m.



*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.*

(Isaiah 9:5)

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it! Whether you are visiting First Presbyterian Church for the first time, or are a longtime member or friend, your presence today is a blessing to our community!

Three very important commitments guide our lives together at First Presbyterian Church: *worship*, *mission* and *discipleship*. In worship we commune with God and with one another, sing and pray, and measure our lives according to God's Word. Through mission, both local and international, we live out Jesus' call to 'feed my sheep' and serve the least.' In study, prayer, and community, we develop as life-long disciples of Jesus, working for a more peaceful and just world.

Following worship, please stick around for fellowship time. Enjoy a cup of coffee. Spend time in the sanctuary in prayer. Introduce yourself to me and your fellow worshippers. We're glad you're here!

Pastor Andrew
(410) 916-1673 + andrew.long1085@gmail.com

If you are new here, please fill out the card in the pew and place it in the offering plate, so that we can get to know you better.

Hearing help is available during all worship services - please see an usher for assistance.

Nursery Care is available for children to age 4 during all worship Services. You can find the nursery in the education wing of the building. A restroom and quiet room can be found in the narthex.

If you are in need of prayer, please see our Pastor before or after worship, or write your prayer requests in the green book at the front of the sanctuary (by the flags)

Sunday School for pre-school through grade 6, meets after “Puppet Ministry Presentation” teaching today will be Kelly Thomas.

Gathering Music

“Pastoral Symphony” (from Messiah)

G. F. Handel

Pastor’s Greeting and Words of Welcome

† We Approach God In Worship †

Advent Gathering Song

ADVENT GATHERING SONG

James J. Chepponis

Gently *mp*

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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***Call to Worship** *by Miriam Therese Winter*

We turn to You and Your mercy,
O God of barren places
and friend of the oppressed.

**We stand in need of conversion,
from pain to peace,
from sadness to joy,
from guilt to affirmation.**

Lead us not into isolation,
but deliver us from anger,
for Yours is the kindness,
the patience,
the strength we desire,
now and forever. Amen.

***Opening Hymn (see insert)**

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

***Prayer of the Day**

Confession of Sin

The practice of confession asks us to put away pride and fear in order to truthfully and faithfully examine the condition of our lives. We come before God not as despised sinners but as beloved children, children who have fallen short of the glory of their God. In peace, and in confidence of God’s mercy, let us confess our sins together.

Holy One, Promise Keeper, you have been with us from the beginning and have promised to be with us all the way to the end. As we await the coming of the Messiah, we confess that we have fallen away from you and from one another. Instead of cultivating peace we have stoked war and discord. Instead of building a kingdom of welcome for all we have created spaces of exclusivity. Where we are called to love, we have calculated the cost of that love and been unable to act in boldness and without fear.

Heal us, O Lord, and guide our feet on the path that leads to righteousness. Put away our sin and cleanse us, so that we might serve the One who came at Christmas and promises to come again. Amen.

James J. Chepponis

Gently *mp*

Come, come Emmanuel.

Come, Emmanuel.

Assurance of Pardon

A root of Jesse is rising,
The promised child in whom
The world will be reconciled to God.

Believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Act of Reconciliation

Having been reconciled to God,
let us be reconciled to one another as we say:
The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

A Time With Young Disciples



We Listen for God's Word



Prayer for Illumination

The First Lesson in Song

“For Unto Us A Child Is Born” from G.F. Handel’s Messiah

The Second Lesson

Matthew 3:1-12

The Sermon

“Who, Me?”

Hymn #526

“The Solid Rock”

Affirmation of Faith from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.



We Take God’s Word Into The World



Community Connect

At this time in worship we share information on how you can connect even better with the community at FPC Watertown.

During this time we also share our joys and concerns, as well as any other relevant information to our life together.

The Offering



Donations can be made by either scanning the QR code from the Venmo app or by searching for [@First_Pres_of_Watertown](#).

The Offertory

“O Perfect Love”

Ellen Smith, cello

***The Doxology** to the tune of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above ye heavenly host!

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper

Invitation To The Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving *and The Lord’s Prayer*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to
give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God,
creator and ruler of the universe.

You formed us in your image and
set us in this world to love and serve you.

When we were captives in slavery,
you delivered us to freedom,
and made covenant to be our sovereign God.

When we were stubborn and stiff-necked,
you spoke to us through prophets who
looked for that day when justice shall
triumph and peace shall reign over all the earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son.
You sent him into this world to bring
freedom to the captives of sin, and to
establish justice for the oppressed.
He came among us as one of us,
taking the lot of the poor,
sharing human suffering, dying an unjust death.

**We rejoice that in his dying and rising again,
you set before us the sure promise of new life,
the certain hope of a heavenly home
where we will sit at table with Christ our host.**

Remembering your gracious
acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this
bread and this wine and joyfully
celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.
With thanksgiving we offer our very
selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice,
dedicated to your service.

Gracious God, pour out your
Holy Spirit upon us and upon
these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break and the cup
we bless may be the communion of
the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
that we may be one with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body
of Christ in the world.

Strengthen us, O God,
in the power of your Spirit to bring
good news to the poor and
loose the chains that bind.
Keep us faithful in your service
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your
eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ,
in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

And now as Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray...

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

**Words of Institution
Communion of The People**

“Arioso”

J.S. Bach

John Lindsey, violin

Prayer After Communion

***Closing Hymn #377**

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

***Blessing and Benediction**

Christmas Caroling

#258 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

#251 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Today the **Radio Broadcast** is given in loving memory and tribute for the life of Elouise Nantz Salmon, by her family.

Leading in Worship Today:

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long, preaching

Russ McCullough, Liturgist

Carl Bingle, Organist

Sara Gleason, Director of Music

Chancel Choir

John Lindsey, violin, Agnes McCarthy, violin; Ellen Smith, cello

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

December 6 Margot McGorman

December 10 Lexi Hiotis

Breakfast With Santa!

Saturday, December 10

9:30am-12pm

Join us at 9:30 a.m. on December 10th for Breakfast With Santa pancakes, bacon and sausage, fruit, juice, and hot chocolate.

Santa will read us a great Christmas story and then take a picture with everyone who attends. There will also be Christmas crafts and a Christmas movie!

There is no cost for this exciting morning!

Breakfast
with
Santa



Seating is limited to 60 people so please call the church office today to reserve your spot!

(315) 782-1750



The Session of First Presbyterian Church invites all members and friends of the congregation to a listening and question meeting on December 11th, immediately following worship, in the sanctuary to discuss the restoration of the churches steeple.

All Session members will be in attendance to answer questions and receive your feedback about the project and architects from Bernier & Carr will be on hand to also answer questions.

Please mark this important date on your calendar!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES.

TODAY - Puppet Ministry, Rehearsal, After Worship
- Outreach Committee Meeting, After Worship, Room 6

Tuesday, Dec. 6 - Staff Meeting, 12 Noon, Room 6

Wednesday, Dec. 7 - Men's Breakfast, 8:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Advent Pot Luck and Study, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Dec. 8 - PW Brunch, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Dec. 10 - Breakfast with Santa, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Dec. 11-
- Puppet Ministry Rehearsal, after worship
- Listening and Discussion Session, after worship, Sanctuary



This is an invitation to all the women of the church.

Please join us for our annual

PW Christmas Brunch

We will be gathering on

**Thursday, December 8th, at 10:00 a.m.,
in Fellowship Hall.**

Carl Bingle will be providing a musical program.

Hope to see you then for food, friendship & a French Noel

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Orchestra of NNY Concert - Sunday, December 18th, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.