



# First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + [www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org)

July 31, 2022 + 10:00 a.m.



**STRENGTHENING**

*faith*

# 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](mailto: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).

# A Word About The Current Sermon Series

For the remainder of the summer we'll be taking a closer look at specific questions and topics that you, the community at FPC, have submitted to Pastor Andrew for Sunday sermons. Some of these questions and topics are about the Bible, how it was formed and how it came to be what we read today; some are about forgiveness, heaven and hell, and calling. This sermon series is designed to help strengthen our faith in an increasingly complex world by reminding us of the basics of our faith, the tools we possess as Christians to bring light to a weary world, and to help us answer with confidence and joy why we follow Jesus Christ. You may leave each Sunday service with the answers you are seeking, or you may leave with more questions. Remember the words of our Lord: "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you" (Matthew 7:7).



## Gathering



**Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome**

**Singing In**

**Prelude** "Kum-Bah Ya"

Angela, Melissa, Dave & Gerry Elmer, handbells; Jason Comet, organ

**\*Call to Worship** *from Romans 12*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,  
by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,  
so that you may discern what is the will of God -  
what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**For as in one body we have many members,  
and not all the members have the same function,  
so we, who are many, are one body in Christ,  
and individually we are members one of another.**

**Let us worship God together!**

## **\*Opening Hymn #215**

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

## **\*Prayer of The Day**

### **Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

Confession is about telling the truth even when we don't like what the truth is about. In an age where lies are championed as truth and truth is thought to be relative, let us speak honestly to God and one another of the ways we have fallen short of God's glory. The promise of our faith is that our confession will be met with God's unconditional grace and mercy.

**Holy God, you have spoken to us and to our ancestors from the very beginning of time, calling us into service and compassionate living for the transformation of the world. We confess to you that we have failed to listen. We have allowed voices other than your own to tell us who we are, what we are about, and what matters most in life. We have allowed ourselves to be persuaded away from you, and we have bowed down to idols and false gods through our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have simply not followed the One who calls us to love.**

**Cleanse us, O God, and make us new. Open our ears, hearts, and minds, to hear your voice once again, that we might respond and find new life. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

*a time of silence is kept*

Who is in a position to condemn us?

It is only Christ.

And Christ lived for us, he died for us,

He rose from grace for us, and he prays for us.

In His name,

**We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

## **\*Response**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Angela & Dave Elmer, vocalists

Come Thou fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love  
Here I raise mine Ebenezer  
Hither by Thy help I'm come  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood  
Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let Thy goodness like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above.

### **A Time With Young Disciples**

*Make Waves VBS kids* will be singing two of their favorite songs:  
“Anything at All” and “My Forever Friend”



**We Listen for God**



### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **The Scripture Lessons**

Exodus 3:1-12 and Mark 1:16-20

### **The Sermon**

“Strengthening Faith, Part 3: Calling”

## Commissioning the 2022 MELT Team

### Statement About Mission

#### Commissioning Questions

Will you accept the persons whom you serve right where they are and just as they are? **I will with God's help.**

Will you work in glad cooperation and mutual support with each other, being sensitive and helpful according to the needs presented to you? **I will with God's help.**

Will you conduct yourself in a manner which will demonstrate the love of God for all people? **I will with God's help.**

Will you do this work with joy, energy, intelligence, and imagination? **I will with God's help.**

#### Commissioning Prayer

Let us pray...Almighty God look graciously upon *Heather, Carol, Andy, and Andrew*. Endow them with your spirit, enrich them with your grace, and strengthen them for the work that lies ahead. We commend them to your love and ask that through their work your love might be shown to all that they meet and encounter. We also pray for our partners in Malawi that, working together, relationships might be formed and strengthened, knowledge gained and spread, and lives transformed. Amen.

#### Congregation:

**We rejoice with you as representatives of the Church, and thank God for your dedication and gifts of service. We send you forth with our prayers and our support, and with you, we renew our commitment to God and service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

#### Musical Benediction

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You” arr. Charles Maggs  
Angela, Melissa, Dave, and Gerry Elmer, handbells



## We Respond To God



### 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.*

### 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

“Better Than I”

Dave Elmer, soloist

I thought I did what's right  
I thought I had the answers  
I thought I chose the surest road  
But that road brought me here  
So I put up a fight  
And told you how to help me  
Now just when I have given up  
The truth is coming clear  
You know better than I  
You know the way  
I've let go the need to know why  
For you know better than I  
If this has been a test  
I cannot see the reason  
But maybe knowing I don't know  
Is part of getting through  
I try to do what's best  
And faith has made it easy  
To see the best thing I can do  
Is put my trust in you  
You know better than I  
You know the way

I've let go the need to know why  
For you know better than I  
I saw one cloud and thought it was the sky  
I saw a bird and thought that I could follow  
But it was you who taught that bird to fly  
If I let you reach me will you teach me  
For You know better than I  
You know the way  
I've let go the need to know why  
I'll take what answers you supply  
You know better than I

### **The Doxology**

**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. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer**

#### **\*Closing Hymn #690**

“He Leadeth Me”

#### **\*Blessing and Benediction**

#### **\*Passing The Peace of Christ**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Please safely share some sign of  
Christ's peace with your neighbor.

### **Postlude**

“When Morning Gilds the Skies” with Trumpet Voluntary  
Joseph Bamby & Jeremiah Clarke, arr. Susan Caudill  
Jason Comet, organ

Today's **Radio Broadcast** is dedicated to those who join our  
congregation by way of radio station WATN 1240 AM.