



# First Presbyterian Church

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

November 20, 2022 + 10:00 a.m.



*The hospitality of Abraham and Sarah, Julia Stankova, 2012*

# 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)

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

## **A Word About Today’s Service**

Today we conclude our series, “Blessed To Be A Blessing.” The story of Abraham and Sarah has caused us to think about God’s faithfulness towards us, God’s covenant love for us, and the many ways God calls us to step out in faith. The portion of Abraham and Sarah’s story that we hear today is dramatic as the parents of our faith receive new names and God extends the reach of the covenant to go far beyond Abraham and Sarah and their big family!

Today is also an important day as we dedicate our 2023 Pledge Cards for the coming year of ministry and mission at First Presbyterian. During the service you will be invited to bring your pledge cards forward to be dedicated; if you have already turned in your pledge card, you may indicate that on a pew envelope and then bring that envelope forward if you wish. May God bless us through the giving of our gifts, that we might be a blessing to others!

 **Gathering** 

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

**Singing In**

**Prelude** “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Anna Laura Page

**\*Call to Worship** *from Psalm 145*

I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name for ever and ever.

**Every day I will bless you,  
and praise your name for ever and ever.**

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall laud your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

On the glorious splendour of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,  
and I will declare your greatness.**

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**The Lord is good to all,  
and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

**Let us worship God together!**

**\*Opening Hymn #793**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

**Prayer of the Day**

**Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon**

We come before God not as despised sinners, but as beloved children;  
people of God created in the image of God, not people of animosity,

fear, and greed. Though we have fallen short of God's glory, when we confess our sins, God is faithful and just. With the confidence of children of God, let us humbly confess our sin.

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.**

*a time of silence is kept*

If we have died with Christ,  
we believe that we will also live with him.  
Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin  
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God**

**\*Response "Amen, We Praise Your Name"**

Leader All  
Sing prais - est! A - men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - est!  
Ma - si - thi! A - men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi!

A - men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - est! A - men, a - men.  
A - men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi! A - men, ba - wo.

A - men, a - men. A - men, we praise your name, O God! Sing prais - est!  
A - men, ba - wo. A - men si - a - ku - du - mi - sa! Ma - si - thi!

## Puppet Ministry Presentation



### Prayer for Illumination

**The Scripture Lesson** Genesis 17:1-8, 15-22

### Anthem

“Unending Love” Benjamin Harlan  
Here is love, vast as the ocean, Loving kindness as the flood.  
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom, Shed for us His precious blood.

### Testimony

#### The Sermon

“Blessed To Be a Blessing: A New Name”

#### Special Music

“In His Hands” arr. Kevin McChesney  
Adult Handbells

**Affirmation of Faith** from *The Confession of 1967*

**God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.**

**God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of his dealings with huamnity. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. Amen.**



## 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.*

### 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 and Dedication of 2023 Pledges

“Praise Ye the Lord”

arr. Rebecca Bonam

Michele Bariteau, flute

Almighty and Everlasting God, we give you thanks this day as we gather the pledges of support for your Church in the coming year. We bring them before you with eager anticipation and hope.

**Hear us, O God, as we give You our thanks and praise.**

For those whose lives have been touched by your Spirit, who have increased their commitment,

**We give You thanks and praise.**

For those who are responding to Your creative grace by pledging for the first time,

**We give You thanks and praise..**

For those whose lives are in transition or turmoil and who feel they cannot pledge, but who continue to be a vital part of our community,

**We give You thanks and praise  
and we pray for calm in their lives.**

For committee workers who have labored in this effort to enable your people to make a pledge of support for your church,

**We give You thanks and praise.**

That each one of us, and your whole Church,  
would become more faithful to the call of service in Jesus Christ,  
**We ask your continuing guidance and care.**

That these pledges may emerge as real gifts, thereby enabling the  
mission and ministry of Jesus Christ to move forward through this  
congregation and the Church Universal,

**In the name of Jesus Christ,  
we commit ourselves to this action. Amen and Amen.**

**\*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 #562**

“Be Thou My Vision”

**\*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**

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

This morning the **Radio Ministry** is given in memory of Kenneth S. and  
Frances H. Barden, by their families.

The rosebud on the lectern this morning is in recognition of the birth of:

**Oliver James Edwards**

born November 8, 2022

to Caitlin Archibald and Brandon Edwards

Kathryn Ann Kolton and Paul Archibald are proud grandparents.