



First Presbyterian Church

Watertown, NY + www.watertownfirstpres.org

September 10, 2023 + 10:00 a.m.



Passover, Karin Foreman, undated

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 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 "Young Disciples Time."

Gathering Music

“Be Thou My Vision”

“Jesus Shall Reign”

“We Come as Guests Invited”

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist

Irish tune, arr. Jason Payne

Hatton/ arr. Anna Laura Page

Steuerlein/ arr. Emma Lou Diemer

Malan/ arr. Jeff Perks



Gathering



Pastor's Greeting *and* Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Praise Him! Praise Him!”

arr. Humphrey Turner

*Call to Worship *from Psalm 149*

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

**Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.**

Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

**For the Lord takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with victory.**

Let the faithful exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their couches.
**Let the high praises of God be in their throats
and two-edged swords in their hands,
to execute vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
to bind their kings with fetters and
their nobles with chains of iron,
to execute on them the judgment decreed.**

This is glory for all his faithful ones.
Praise the Lord!

Let us worship God together!

***Opening Hymn #12**

“Praise Him! Praise Him!”

***Prayer of the Day**

Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

Amid the countless things that humanity cannot fully comprehend about God, there stands this: God so loves us as to bathe us with grace and feed us with mercy and forgive us our sins. Confident in the love of God, let us pray together.

Lord God, while we were still captives to sin, you died for our salvation. Yet we still worship the false gods of the world, forgetting that you are Lord. Loving worldly wealth, we have not loved you with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Trusting worldly strength, we have not trusted your word nor followed the Word-made-flesh. Forgiving by worldly norms, we have not shown mercy to others as you have shown mercy to us.

Forgive us yet again, O Lord. Create in us clean hearts and restore right spirits within us, that we might sing your praise and serve your holy name today and always. We pray in Christ’s name.

a time of silence is kept

Amen.

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:

Who is in a position to condemn?

**Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us;
Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Response *Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

A Time With Young Disciples



We Listen For God



Prayer for Illumination

Anthem

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

John Ness Beck

Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and Bring us to believe:
we are ourselves accepted
and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all - not just for some,
to love them as we find them
or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness
and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,

**new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us, make us one!**

The First Scripture Lesson

Exodus 12:1-14

The Second Scripture Lesson

Matthew 18:15-20

The Sermon

The Down and Dirty of Community

***Hymn #403**

“Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation”

***Affirmation of Faith** *Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of
the body; and the life everlasting. 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

“I Believe”

Drake, Graham, Shiri & Stillman

*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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All-knowing God, you know our needs before we name them in prayer. All-caring God, you care enough to hear our prayers anyway, knowing that all we truly need is your love. All-loving God, hear now these prayers that name our needs and praises.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Your people need health. We pray for anyone who is undergoing surgery this week or who is in recovery. We pray for anyone who is suffering from addiction of any kind, that they might find help and peace, and that those who care for them would do so with compassion. We pray for your healing to reach and touch every need.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Your people need peace. We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and in all places torn apart by war. We lift up to you the conflicts in Sudan, Israel and Palestine, and in places close to us here at home: send your peace and bring your justice.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Your people need hope. Bring hope to those who are jobless, face prejudice or bigotry, are affected by broken or abusive relationships, or are in any kind of despair.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Your people need blessing, and you bless us so richly. Your whole creation needs your powerful presence, and we know that you are near. All-powerful God, the need is so great; we rejoice that you are greater.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Hear us now as we pray to you in the name of Jesus Christ, as he taught us:

**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.**

Congregational Meeting

*For the purpose of hearing and acting on recommendations from the
Congregational Nominating Committee*

***Closing Hymn (see insert)**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

***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 neighbors.

Postlude

“Rondeau”

Henry Purcell

Nominating Committee Slate of Officers

SESSION:

October 2024 Class:

Linya Bell
Bob Brown
Kim Collins
Donna Dayger
Don Klug

DEACONS:

Liz Bonisteel
Becky Brown
Katrina Cox
Cherie Danforth
Pat Guldenpfennig
JoAnn Tousant

October 2025 Class:

Doug Danforth
Melissa Elmer
Sara Gleason
Jonathan White

October 2026 Class:

Michele Bariteau
David Elmer*
Bob Gorman
Bill O'Connor
Matt Willaman*

*Second term

Today's **Radio Broadcast** is a gift to the Glory of God from the congregation of First Presbyterian Church.

Leading in Worship Today:

Rev. Dr. Andrew Philip Long, preaching
Don Klug, Liturgist
Carl Bingle, Organist
Sara Gleason, Director of Music
The FPC Choir
Dave Elmer, Soloist

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

September 10 Michael Shanahan II
September 13 Cynthia Ahlheim
September 13 Elizabeth Rudd
September 16 Sean Gorman

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRES.

Today, Sept. 10th, 10:00 a.m. - Worship with Congregational Meeting,
Rev. Long, preaching
- Sunday School begins
- Fellowship after Worship in Fellowship Hall.
- Outreach Committee Meeting, 11:30 .a.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 12th - Staff Meeting, 12 noon

Wednesday, Sept. 13th – Facilities Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- Personnel Committee Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- Malawi Pot Luck Celebration, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 14th - Worship & Music Committee Meeting,
5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- Music Rehearsals, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Next Sunday, September 17th, 10:00 a.m. - Worship
- Fellowship after Worship in Fellowship Hall.
- Pastor's Study, 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

TODAY is the first day of Sunday school. So far we have 5 teachers and 3 helpers. We could use 1 more teacher and 2 more helpers. Helpers don't need to prepare any lessons you would be assisting the teacher. Please see Kim Collins or Michele Elmer.

TODAY: Join us in Fellowship Hall after church to help us kick off the Sunday school season with root beer floats!

Lego Update: We would like to begin teaching a Lego lesson 1 week a month beginning in Oct. This lesson gives kids a hands on approach to the bible. To do this we need your help. Do you have any unused Lego pieces lying around your house you would be willing to donate? There is a box at the entrance of fellowship hall.

We pray for those undergoing health difficulties:

Barbara, Jennifer, Elise, John, Alice, Dorothy, Pat, Bob, Sue, Barbara, Sherrie, Amy, Jamie, William, Fred M., Josh L., Shirley, Carole, Anne, Allen

We pray for those who are unable to join us in-person:

Linda, Shane, Ed, Millie, Gerda, Annie

We pray for our mission partners:

Tyler, Rochelle, and Mphatso, Grace, Sam, and Ruth, Isaiah, MELT, The Women of Grace, NNY Presbytery, Synod of The Northeast, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

We pray for our local and national leaders:

Watertown's Mayor and City Council, The U.S. President and Congress, The New York Governor & State Legislature.

We pray for those serving our nation:

The Wright Family, those in conflict in Ukraine



We continue to pray for a happy, healthy, and transformative year for all of our congregation, children and educators during this school year! We love and are praying for you!