



FIRST PRESS

January 2022 Volume 28, Issue 1



*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers [and sisters],
To make music in the heart.
- Howard Thurman*

I know that Christmas 'officially' ended a few weeks ago, but I'm still holding on to the season. We've taken most of our Christmas decorations down at home, but the two trees in our front yard are still bedecked with bright lights. We may leave them up through the winter months because, truthfully, who doesn't need more light this time of year? We may also leave them up as a reminder that the work of Christmas is still very much ahead of us.

By now I hope that I'm starting to sound like a broken record when I say that First Presbyterian Church is a community of believers who understand the call of Christmas and discipleship: to find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, release the prisoner, rebuild the nations, bring peace among all people, and make music! You showed up in a big, big way after the devastating tornadoes in the Midwest by making contributions to Presbyterian Disaster Relief. You showed up in a big, big way in donating coats, gloves, boots, and hats for our cold neighbors (every week the rack has to be emptied to make room for more donations). You showed up in big, big ways to worship God through Advent and especially on Christmas Eve. Even as I write this the church building is abuzz. Deacons are making Code Blue Kits filled with necessities for those who are unsheltered in the cold. The music team is diving into new repertoire to enhance our praise of God. The Facilities team is making sure the place we call Home is safe, warm, and clean. Alive. Vibrant. Faithful. This is First Presbyterian Church.

This mid-January newsletter serves as a reminder to us all that the church does not go into hibernation after Christmas, as much as we might enjoy such a rest. The church - your church - continues to be an important presence in Watertown and in the world, proclaiming the love of God in word and deed, and doing the work of Christmas as best as we know how. A more complete newsletter will arrive in your mailbox shortly into February that will share information about Lent, Easter, and the many spring activities that are ahead for us as a community.

Until then, please remember that there is a place for you in the many ministries of the church, and I invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be active in this congregation. And, as always, my prayers are with you.

Andrew



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NURSERY STAFF

ALEESHA GILL
NURSERY STAFF

GAIL PARSONS
PARISH ASSOCIATE

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY
9:00-4:00
FRIDAYS
9:00-2:00

PASTOR ANDREW'S
OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY:
SABBATH DAY OFF AND
OUT OF OFFICE
TUES., WED., THUR.
IN OFFICE 9:30-4:00
FRIDAY:
STUDY DAY OFF CAMPUS,
SERMON PREPARATION,
HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME
VISITS



In January/February

Charismatic Church meets every Sunday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Multi Ethnic Community meets every Sunday from 12:15-3:15 in the chapel & FH

Al-anon meets every Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

First Watertown Group meets every Saturday at 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Staff Meetings - Tuesday, January 4, 11, 18, 25 at 12 Noon
There will be NO Administration Meeting (Staff and Committee Chairs) in January.

Men's Breakfast - Wednesday, January 5th and Wednesday, February 2nd, at
7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Deacons Meeting - Thursday, February 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

Worship & Music Committee Meeting - Thursday, February 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Session Meeting - Thursday, February 17th at 5:00 p.m. in FH

Deadline for Annual Reports - Friday, January 21, 2022

INFORMATION SESSION

**Sunday, January 16, 2022, after Worship in Fellowship Hall
To discuss FPC offering a meal to the church and wider community.**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

January 17, 2022

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday, February 13th, after worship in Fellowship Hall

Pastor Andrew and his family will be away from Watertown January 18-28, 2022 for the funeral services of Vivian Burgoon in Sherman, TX; they will also be working to settle Vivian's affairs at the time. This leave was approved by Session on December 16 and is a combination of bereavement time and vacation allowed in Pastor Andrew's call.

During this time, Pastor Libby Moses of Stone Presbyterian Church will be on-call for pastoral emergencies. Please call FPC's church office (315-782-1750) if you have a need and you will be connected with Pastor Moses.

The Rev. David Bennett, Resource Presbyter for the Presbytery of Northern New York, will preach and lead worship on January 23.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On December 9, 2021, approximately 32 women from First Pres, Stone and Theresa Presbyterian churches joined together for a lovely Christmas brunch. We were blessed with an informative and beautiful musical program provided by Rev. Andrew Long. Many thanks to you, Andrew, and to all the planners, decorators, cooks, and people who set up and cleaned up.

We have received some feedback from a few of the women who attended and, so far, most respondents would like to meet Thursdays, during the day, once a month, and are willing to move the location from meeting to meeting. There are forms to fill out in Fellowship Hall should you like to share your ideas for the future of the Presbyterian Women in Jefferson County. The option for evening meetings and other days is still on the table; as we grow in membership we might branch off into sub groups. The sky is the limit. We need your input and willing participation.

You may not be aware that the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team has been dissolved and there is no longer leadership on the Presbytery level. Thus, we are trying to decide on a path forward that will include all the Presbyterian churches in the county. This will include a name change, among other things. What do you think of Presbyterian Women of Jefferson County? Or Jeff. Co. PW? Or PW United? We hope to hear more of your prayerful consideration on this matter.

Thank you.

Maureen Gorman
(current treasurer of PW)

~~ CODE BLUE ~~

This morning there is a wind chill factor of -24! You and I can keep snugly warm and safe in our homes, without worry. There are, however, many in our community who do not have such a luxury. You might not think that there is a homeless problem in our area; I assure you there is, and it is not a trivial matter.

The Watertown Urban Mission has launched a Code Blue initiative to aid the homeless during these days of extremely cold winter weather. The Deacons of First Pres have donated 60 kits towards this initiative, designed to make a temporary stay in a motel more comfortable. We put together 60 duffel bags with 60 sleeping bags and 60 hygiene kits. We have also gathered hats, water bottles, snacks, flashlights, socks, puzzle books and pens. There are some items that the Mission could still use: travel size pillows, men's underwear, more snacks with a long pantry life, more small flashlights, and water bottles. Your donation of any of these items would be greatly appreciated.

You may have seen that our sharing line is up at the entrance to our parking lot and items seem to disappear over night! Thank you once again for all the donations of mittens, scarves, and hats. We have also been able to donate coats to the library's coat drive and to the Rock free store. Again, thanks to your donations.

Praying for a future where such actions will not need to be taken, a world where everyone can stay snugly warm and safe.

Maureen Gorman

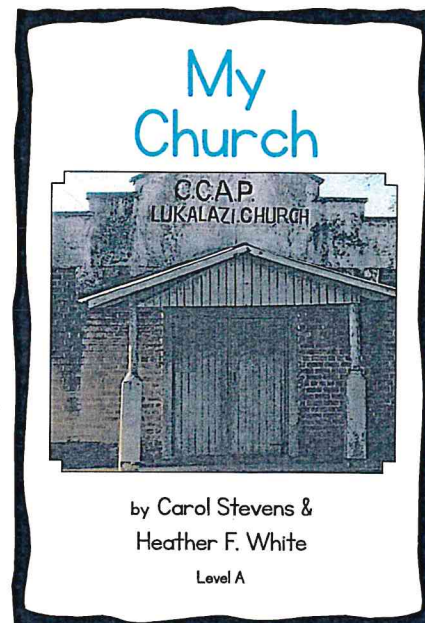
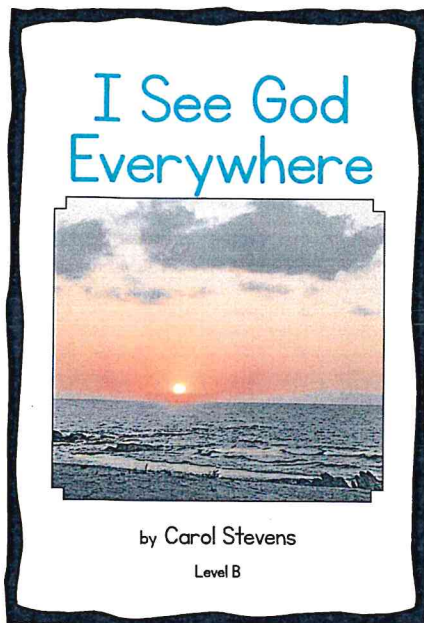
Church Book Series

Two titles in the Church Book series were recently published with 500 copies of each! These books will ship to Malawi to be added to the M.E.L.T. Central Library. This library serves many primary schools in the Northern Region with the MELT1 Mobile Library.

Asbury United Methodist Church sponsored **I See God Everywhere** with support from the mission committee, the congregation, and the Sunday School. Our thanks to Asbury!

Various Presbyterian churches came together to sponsor **My Church**. Participating are Watertown First Presbyterian VBS, Sunday School, and congregation, Sackets Harbor Deacons & Fellowship groups, Hammond Presbyterian, Scottish Presbyterian, and First Presbyterian Church of Saranac Lake. We are humbled by the support of these churches- thank you.

Heather White



THE ROCK CLOSET

(located on State Street behind First Baptist Church)

The Rock Closet is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-2. Donations are accepted during those hours. Items accepted and needed are men's jeans, t-shirts, socks, men's, women's and children's winter coats, hats and gloves. Also needed are blankets, sheets and towels, and small appliances. Items also available at the closet are toys and books, baby and children's clothing and dishes and kitchen items. Everything is given away at no cost. All are welcome to come and browse.



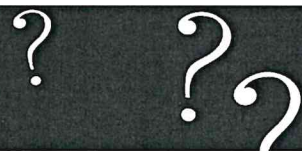
January 2 Liam MacDonald
January 3 Eric Green
January 5 John Jeffries
January 5 Jane Schweitzer
January 6 Marcia Bulger
January 8 Phil Sprague
January 9 Dawson Allen
January 10 Sherri Bergman
January 12 Emily Russo
January 21 Michael Gillette
January 22 Aimee Whelpley
January 25 Annika Jantzi
January 25 Blessed Enow
January 26 Audrey Schweitzer
January 27 Peter Schmitt
January 31 Tom Walker, Sr.
January 31 Laurel Pike



February 1 Nalanie Simpson
February 2 Robert J. Brown
February 2 Janneane Gerot
February 2 Lauren Sinclair
February 3 Barbara White Butts
February 5 Joe Slabchuck
February 8 Louise Jeffries
February 9 Harold Johnson II
February 9 Kurt Riordan
February 10 Paul W. Brown
February 12 Kathryn Ann Kolton
February 13 Valerie VERNYUY
February 15 Deanna Piiparinen
February 16 Josh Garry
February 16 Clayton Lee
February 18 William Conde III
February 18 Ralph Green, Jr.
February 18 Dacia Van Eenenaam
February 19 Cherie Danforth
February 23 Jeremy Gerot
February 27 Linda McCullough
February 27 Maksim Klug
February 28 Percy Pike



Bible Quiz



Complete this proverb: "Like snow
in _____ or rain in harvest, so honor
is not fitting for a fool."

- A. springtime
- B. summer
- C. seedtime
- D. autumn



FOR ANSWER: See Proverbs 26:1

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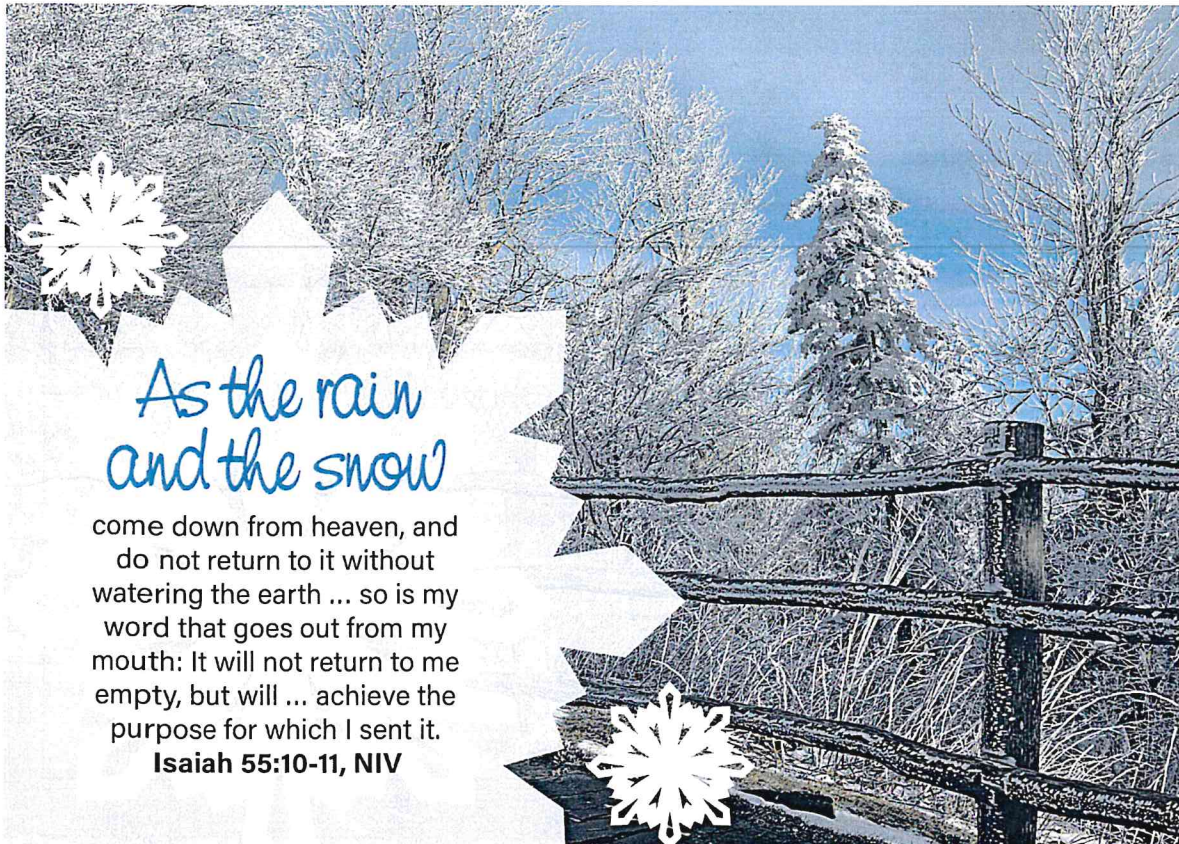
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Join us for
**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT
10:00 A.M.**

Listen on your radio
WATN 1240AM or
watch the service live from
www.watertownfirstpres.org
or
www.facebook.com/watertownfpc

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



*As the rain
and the snow*

come down from heaven, and
do not return to it without
watering the earth ... so is my
word that goes out from my
mouth: It will not return to me
empty, but will ... achieve the
purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11, NIV