

FIRST PRESS

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*There is a quiet light that shines in every heart.
 It draws no attention to itself, though it is always secretly there.
 It is what illuminates our minds to see beauty,
 our desire to seek possibility, and our heart to love life.
 Without this subtle quickening our days would be empty and wearisome,
 and no horizon would ever awaken our longing.
 Our passion for life is quietly sustained from somewhere in us
 that is wedded to the energy and excitement of life.
 This shy inner light is what enables us to recognize and receive
 our very presence here as blessing.
 We enter the world as strangers who all at once become heirs
 to a harvest of memory, spirit, and dreams that has long preceded us
 and will now enfold, nourish, and sustain us.
 The gift of the world is our first blessing.*

~ John O'Donohue



Church Musik

*Sweetest of sweets, I thank you: when displeasure
 Did through my body wound my mind,
 You took me thence, and in your house of pleasure
 A dainty lodging me assigned.*

*Now I in you without a body move,
 Rising and falling with your wings:
 We both together sweetly live and love,
 Yet say sometimes, "God help poor Kings".*

*Comfort, I'll die; for if you post from me
 Sure I shall do so, and much more:
 But if I travel in your company,
 You know the way to heaven's door.*

~ George Herbert

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There is a quiet light that shines in every heart.

We each have a treasury. Our heart holds moments when the light of God illumined us. We find it birth and death; we are illumined in graduation and retirement. Moments of splendor can cause us to see life with the light of God; moments of hardship can foster the same.

One of the most beautiful moments I can recall, a moment bathed in God's light, was in our hospital just before midnight. The emergency room called to see if I would come and pray for a dying man. When I came to the bedside, there was a man who had lived a hard life. He could not have been more than sixty, yet the haggard lines of his face, his scraggly beard, his long, matted hair spoke of a greater age, the sum of poor choices.

I asked his sister to tell me about her dying brother. From her heart the light of God came forth. She spoke of his childhood and his life. After each offering, she stroked his head like a mother would wash her hand over a newborn. In her words and tenderness, the hard life, the haggard lines, the darkness about his eyes disappeared. Her love illumined him. In the light I saw a young boy.

This is the "shy, quiet light" of love that illumines all things, brings all things of beauty before our eyes. I have seen many things in this light. Art, sunsets, people, the depth of winter: each has been illumined for me to see. They are my treasures; they are moments I keep with me and consider when "up" becomes "down" and "nobody is right." I trust you too have such a treasury.

While we all have these treasures and we can bring them to mind, it is hard to abide in this light. Sometimes we flee to a treasured memory, the illumination of the good and beautiful, so we can hold on for a moment longer, remain silent, offer the other cheek. We flee and then retreat. Living in the eternal light of beauty is a great challenge. Seeing beauty for a moment is a gift; living in the gift each day can feel impossible.

I love Sunday mornings for the persistent light. So often I have seen the world changed by the quiet, shy light of beauty given by God as we worship. The hymns sweep me up and carry me to a place of tenderness; the soloist's song pulls back the heavy curtains of fear and lets the light in. I feel blessed by your words of "and also with you." In the scriptures and prayers and stories I hear voices that draw me to this light and say, "look again at creation." Is this not the light we see in the moment of baptism? Have you not felt the love of God when hearing, "the body of Christ broken for you?" Who hasn't lingered to hear the organ so not to leave the light just yet?

What if we were to seek our Sunday worship as moments where we abide in light? I remember hearing Al Elmer play the violin for the first time. I followed him to the light. I remember the exploding hearts of the Malawian choir filling our sanctuary: and there was light. I remember too many funerals; yet, I find great strength in the light I keep. The moments of beauty are a gift. What if the gift, though, has a purpose?

To worship each week, to keep the habit of the Sabbath rest, to find the familiar pew: the purpose is to bring us closer and closer to abiding in beauty. In worship we gain the ability to live with the gift, the quiet, shy light that illumines us.

Rev. Dr. Fred Garry

"My father's mansion's many rooms. have room for all of His children, If we do but share in His love, and see that all are free."

~ "My Father's Mansion's Many Rooms," Pete Seeger

I came across this gem of a song while searching through my extensive collection of American folk music. Pete Seeger has had a tremendous influence on my passion for American and global folk music as these songs often tell stories of hardships, joys, and everything in between. Sometimes they touch on subjects we'd rather not talk about, you know what those topics are, and these folk songs are often able to offer a musical commentary ranging from our lives, our politics, and our religion.

It typically turns me off when I see articles or stories that try and label artists or other public figures in an attempt to put them in a box. I don't know everything about Pete Seeger's life and faith, I don't know if he was a practicing Christian, or if he even believed in God in the traditional orthodox sense. What I do know is that through his music Pete Seeger offered the gift of music that transcended the power of words that are simply spoken.

If you haven't listened to my "My Father's Mansion's Many Rooms," I recommend that you stop reading and go listen to it right now. For me this song raises a lot of questions for how we can better become the church that Christ calls us to be. And since our church actually has "many rooms," how might we share God's love, and see that all are free, in a way that is faithful to our mission here in Watertown and the gifts that we have to offer?

Sometimes it means that we have to let go... Letting go of those things that keep us tied to the past, past emotions, past reputations, past hopes and dreams. In letting go we may find that we have opened up more of those rooms and in turn discover a multitude of ways in which we may share Christ's love. Of course Pete Seeger is singing about the heavenly home, but in many ways he is also singing about the ways that we here on earth can be better caretakers of one another.

It is when we become part of a community that we are able to get to know Jesus in a very real way. It's when we build relationships that we get to see how Christ is at work in the world. It's when we spend time in personal meditation or worshipping with others that we can hopefully see how Christ's love sustains and nurtures us. It is then that we are able to share Christ's love and feel what it is like to be on the receiving end as well.

Go and listen to "My Father's Mansion's Many Rooms," and imagine the ways in which we can share Christ's love in ways that are both spiritual, emotional, and physical.

Rev. Casey Carbone

My Father's Mansion's Many Rooms

*My father's mansion's many rooms
Have room for all of His children
As long as we do share His love
And see that all are free.*

*And see that all are free to grow
And see that all are free to know
And free to open or to close
The door of their own room.*

*What is a room without a door
Which sometimes locks or stands ajar?
What is a room without a wall
To keep out sight and sound from all?*

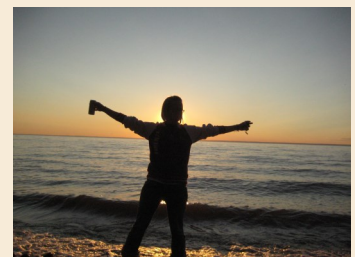
*And dwellers in each room should have
The right to choose their own design
And color schemes to suit their own
Though differing from mine.*

*Yes and each door has its own design
To suit the owner's state of mind
And those who'd want them all the same
Don't understand, the human game.*

*My father's mansion's many rooms
Have room for all of His children
If we do but share in His love
And see that all are free.*

*The choice is ours to share this earth
With all its many joys abound
Or to continue as we have
And burn God's mansion down*

~ Songwriter: Peter Seeger
© The Bicycle Music Company



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

TIME TO GIVE THANKS!

Autumn is here and it's time for the annual Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering. This gives us all an opportunity to express our gratitude for the special blessings in our lives. Your gifts make possible projects addressing issues such as agricultural development, child care, community organization, criminal justice, elder care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence, and women's concerns, to name just a few!

This year PW will collect throughout the month of October.
Watch for the special **Thank Offering envelopes** in the pews.
Please make your checks payable to **PW of First Pres. Church**,
with "Thank Offering" in the memo line.

Your unwavering generosity is greatly appreciated!

PW Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, October 4th
at 12:30 p.m. (Spaghetti)

PW Breakfast at Ramada Inn
Thursday, October 18th
at 8:00 a.m.

*Today be thankful and think how rich you are.
Your family is priceless, your time is gold and
Your health is wealth.*

~ author unknown

NEWS FROM WATERTOWN URBAN MISSION

The **Food Pantry** helped 581 families in August 2018. That equates to 1,497 people and 22,455 meals! Your contributions of peanut butter, jam, snack pack puddings, non-frozen juice concentrate, canned meats, can openers, and condiments would be greatly appreciated.

The **Critical Needs Program** helped 885 people in August with prescriptions, gas, furniture, clothing, formula and diapers. They are always in need of deodorant, toothpaste, toilet tissue, Kleenex, laundry and dish soap and razors.

Meals on Wheels is serving 65 individuals at present. Donna White, Meals on Wheels Coordinator, is continuing to look for volunteers. Please call her at 315-782-8440, ext. 231, if you are interested in helping out.

Wheels to Work has helped 43 households with 17 vehicles and 58 repairs. The program has spent an estimated \$94,000 as of September 6th.

With your help, *The Mission* has been busy!

DATES TO REMEMBER IN OCTOBER:

Thursday, October 4th, 5:00 p.m. - Deacons Meeting, Room 10
Monday, October 8th - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - NO Men's Breakfast
Wednesday, October 10th, 8:30 a.m. - Facilities Committee, Room 14
Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study, Room 10 - *Women in the Bible*
Sunday, October 14th, 11:30 a.m. - Outreach Committee, Room 10
Thursday, October 18th, 5:00 p.m. - Session Meeting, Room 10
Sunday, October 28th - Kirkin of the Tartan during 10:15 service
Sunday, October 28th, 3:00 p.m. - Orchestra of NNY Concert, Sanctuary
Every Sunday - Adult Christian Education Classes at 8:30 & 11:30 a.m.



SITTING WITH GOD

A few years ago, I began to focus on prayer - how to pray, when to pray and where to pray. Some of you would say, "That's easy - it is about talking to God, anytime and anywhere. This was always the way I saw prayer. At some point that all changed for me. I began to see prayer as something bigger than that. I was given a daily devotional by a friend. Suddenly Scripture took on a whole new meaning. Focusing on one reading each day helped me to see how it applied to my life and my relationship with God. I soon realized that I needed to set aside time for this. As morning is my favorite time of the day, I set my alarm 15 minutes earlier than I usually got up. I began doing a 10-minute yoga meditation I have on a DVD. I would follow that with prayer. Following my prayer time I would read my devotional. I have never been very good at meditation. I seem to have way too many thoughts in my head, and I never seem to be able to clear all those thoughts for very long. My prayers are similar. They come out in a jumbo. As time went by I began to look forward to my daily devotional. After each daily devotional I would sit back in my recliner and reflect on how it applied to me and my journey. Each day brought more joy and I became more relaxed. It started feeling like I was sitting with a friend, pouring out my thoughts and feelings while they sat and listened; but no words were spoken. Now each morning as I just let my thoughts go, there is an overwhelming feeling of support, encouragement and love that comes back to me. How lucky we all are that we have a friend who is with us always and is willing to sit with us anytime and anywhere, and just listen!

Sue Beaman



TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Since 2005 our church has partnered with the Presbyterian Church of Central Africa to share our love of Christ.

Each September we ask for your benevolence to aid in providing a clean water drinking source to those unfortunate not to have the basic life necessity of a clean water source. Each year you accept the challenge. THANKYOU!!

Annually a team of US volunteers associated with Marian Medical Mission, a Presbyterian USA organization, travels to Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia to help install hundreds of clean drinking water wells. The 2018 Shallow Well MMM Team will deploy to Central Africa and will begin the overwhelming task on Sept. 15th to deliver the materials and the support necessary to respond to Tom Logan's (MMM CEO) challenge of 2,900 installed wells. These wells will offer clean water to 400,000 people for the first time in their lives.

These volunteers will deliver the well parts, greet the villagers and ask God to bless each well. They will team with Malawian villages to complete the well installation. The MMM Africans will decide where the wells are to be built, organize the village committees, make the galvanized steel pumps and the PVC foot valves and plungers, build the wells and maintain the wells afterwards. It is a total team effort. Our US volunteer teams will also document and verify each of the wells built and to ensure each village knows their well is special. The wells are Christ's love shared with them. We outside of Africa continue to share the story and help raise the funds needed. We are part of the team. The story includes us. All of us together make a difference.

We ask that you prayerfully consider a donation in any amount to support **SHALLOW WELLS** this fall.

Checks may be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, Watertown
and sent to 403 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Please note "Shallow Wells" on your memo line.



With your donation, you may expect to receive a thank you letter acknowledging your gift sometime in January 2019. Donors of at least \$400, will receive a card that includes a picture of the shallow well and the villagers.

On behalf of First Presbyterian Church, Marion Medical Mission, myself, Waring Blackburn and Ken Reed, former Shallow Well Volunteers, we thank you for your consideration.

Don Klug, FPC-MMM Volunteer 2007-8
Ken Reed, FPC-MMM Volunteer 2007-9
Waring Blackburn, FPC-MMM Volunteer 2009

ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

<u>2017</u>		<u>2018</u>	
<u>Week</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
September 3	77	September 2	102
September 10	131	September 9	126
September 17	109	September 16	114
September 24	<u>109</u>	September 23	<u>98</u>
Total	426		440
Average	106		110

DOLLAR DINNERS began several years ago as a way to help out our community when the cold weather set in and heating bills took over the food budget. Churches and organizations began to cook and serve meals, which our community could come in and enjoy for a dollar. For those not wanting to dine in meals can be made up for take out.

Here at First Presbyterian Church we will cook and serve three meals this winter season:

January 13, 2019, February 10, 2019, and March 10, 2019. Dollar Dinners at First Pres. are served from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our community in a fun way. You can sign up to set up tables, prepare food, help cook, prepare take outs, prepare the plates, service to the customers eating in, and of course clean up!

Donna Dunkle

M.E.L.T. News

Important M.E.L.T. Dates:

September 26th at 6:00 p.m. – Potluck Dinner at First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall

September 27th at 7:00 a.m. – Watertown Sunrise Rotary at Hilton Garden Inn

October 4th at 12:30 p.m. – PW Luncheon at First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall

Please contact us to speak to your:
Book Club, Civic organization, family or friends.

M.E.L.T. newsletter will be in the mail on **September 27th**
Please contact us at m-e-l-t.org if you wish to receive one!

Our next major project is publishing, delivering, and teacher training in the use of *Fluency Readers*. These readers will provide teachers with a wide variety of book kits to choose from when the MELT1 Book Mobile visits their school.

Please contact us at m-e-l-t.org, or

heatherwhite4@gmail.com to sponsor a book title today!

You may have a dedication page in your sponsored book!

A great way to acknowledge a loved one.

Books waiting to be sponsored:

I like Me!

Colours

I Can Count

The Path



October 1	Robert Kimball	October 18	Jonathan White
October 2	Patti Bailey	October 19	Dori Barnard
October 2	Michele Elmer	October 20	Linya Bell
October 3	Sarah Hayes	October 20	Steven Adams
October 3	Jane Gwinn	October 20	Peter Pike, Jr.
October 5	Ann Sudduth	October 22	Merle Tousant
October 7	John Johnson, Jr.	October 22	Donna O'Neil
October 7	Linda Thompson	October 22	Kaden Lee
October 8	Kim Collins	October 24	Linda Flanagan
October 8	Placid Anye Tangye	October 25	David Van Eenenaam, Sr.
October 10	Ashley Pike	October 26	Kristopher Stevens
October 12	Jennifer Whitenack	October 30	Kristin Paroubek
October 15	Russ McCullough		

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SUNDAY WORSHIP AT

10:00 A.M. or

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WATN 1240AM or

watch the service live from
our website

www.watertownfirstpres.org

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

LEAVES

How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.
At other times they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning, through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to the earth below
To wait, like children for the snow.

~ Author Unknown