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Good News

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca

315 N. Cayuga Street • Ithaca, NY, 14850 • 607-272-2800 • Rev. Kirianne Weaver, Senior Pastor • Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver, Pastoral Supply

Need to Submit an Article? Please send it to the office: office@firstpresithaca.org by the due date. We print and mail the Good News on a monthly basis. Email subscriptions also available.

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Organist: Ian Woods • Chancel Choir Director: Dr. David Neal

Business Manager: Kate Hubbs • Office Administrator: Linda Sharpe,

Building Superintendent: Joe Bocchiaro

Nursery Attendant: Abigail Gordon

Worship Schedule: October 2022

Sunday, October 2, 10am: World Communion Sunday

We will also commission the mission trip traveling to New Bern, North Carolina!

Scripture: Lamentations 3: 19-26
2 Timothy 1: 1-14

Message: "Don't Stop Believin'."

Sunday, October 9, 10am:

Scripture: 2Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15
Luke 17: 11-19

Message: "Living Outcast."

Sunday, October 16, 10am:

Scripture: Psalm 121
Luke 18: 1-8

Message: "An Immediate Justice."

Sunday, October 23, 10am:

Scripture: Joel 2: 23-32
Luke 18: 9-14

Message: "Confidence People."

Sunday, October 30, 10am:

Reformation Sunday!

Scripture: To be announced.

Message:

... Watch the bulletin and webpage for information about Halloween programming and the Organ Spooktacular!

Dear Friends,

October is a month when winter first cracks the glaze of summer's virility. All nature starts scampering a little more, and we as philosophical beings face our fears in the tradition of Halloween, and remember the many who have gone the way of death before us in the celebration of All Saints Day. Time is passing; the new school year's routines are becoming habits; and our life-tales are being written in our deeds.

So much is happening in our church beneath the surface. Search committees are hard at work, plans for important repairs and renovations are being made, a new directory tool is coming, and while the Stewardship committee gathers to pray for our church's future giving, Session is working on putting forth a vision for the coming years. There are many things you will read about in these pages, but there is more taking place than can be spelled out. God is active here!

This activity is good for us. We are still coming out of what has been essentially a societal depression; we have all lost some of our stamina in the stricture and lull of Covid. Slowly, I think we are calling each other out – helping one another unlock the front door and enjoy the rush of the fall wind, recapturing the energy of gathering in good company in a cozy and warm place. We need each other, at times like this. We inspire one another mutually, as we remember the joys of togetherness and exercise our love of life shared.

What's Inside:

- WMSL Clerical Stole Display
- New Membership Class
- Welcome to our New Staff Members
- The "POOR JOE" Column
- The Saints Among Us
- Business of the Church

This is one clear message from God's word to us: we are made to love one another. "Woe to those who add house to house and join field to field, until no space is left and you live alone!" Isaiah cries. "I will sing for the one I love; a song about his vineyard. My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside."

When Jesus asked us to drink the fruit of the vine as a symbol of our communion, we should remember that grapes grow in clusters. They won't ripen, in fact, if they don't touch; they must grow close to one another, or they will never sweeten. They share their nourishment; they partake together of the sun's energy and influence.

We are meant to grow in connection like this. When we take communion – as we will for World Communion Sunday, which celebration is coming up on October 2 – we will remember that we mature and sweeten, too, when we are close enough to touch, proximate enough to befriend, near enough to love our neighbor.

Be well,
pray often,
and do it all in love.

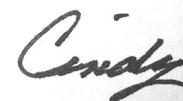
From Pastor Cindy

On my way home I often drive by a stretch of hay fields which are cut and baled a couple times each summer. One day the grass is tall, and by the end of the next, the fields have been cut and the grass is drying and waiting to be baled. Then a couple days later there are acres dotted with large round hay bales. It is a lovely sight, and each time I see it, I think, "Tomorrow morning just as the sun is coming up and the shadows cast by the hay bales are as deep as the early morning colors, I will come and take a picture of this glorious scene." Of course, I don't get to it before the bales are collected.

This summer the field was cut and baled several weeks ago. Unlike in past years, the bales remain in the field, giving me plenty of mornings to take that picture, but I haven't. In fact, when I drive by the fields, I no longer think, "How beautiful," but instead note, "Gee, they haven't collected the bales yet." The beauty of the vista doesn't even cross my mind, and it has become just another familiar scene I pass on my way home.

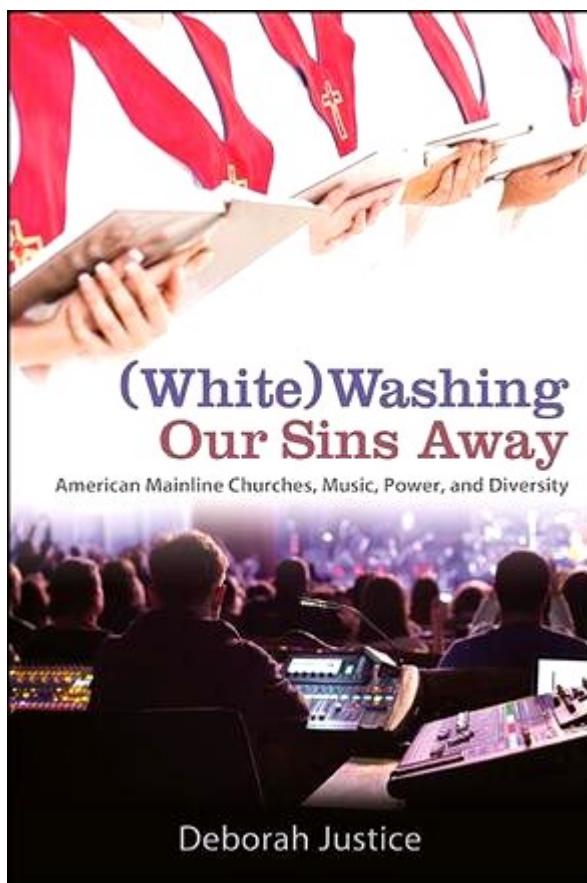
In these COVID-affected days, when we are all a bit tired and kindness seems harder to come by, I wonder if our weariness makes it easy to look right past the awe-inspiring bits of creation surrounding us. If the Grand Canyon were in our backyard, I fear we would have come to think of it only as, "Oh, that nuisance? It's just a graveyard for our frisbees whenever we play catch." Should you find yourself going through the day and noticing only life's annoyances, may I suggest you use that as a sign to stop, focus on something outside of your own thoughts, and give a second look at something you no longer notice—the big dipper in the night sky, a child's braces-filled smile, hay bales waiting to be collected. The wonder and beauty of God's creation is all around us if we but make the effort to notice it.

With a smile,


Adult Education

October 2:

We will continue the discussion of Deborah Justice's new book, (White) Washing Our Sins Away: American Mainline Churches, Music, Power and Diversity.



October 9:

Rev. Quinn Caldwell, new leader of the Protestant Ministry at Cornell, will lead a discussion of his hopes and plans for the program there.

October 16, 23, and 30:

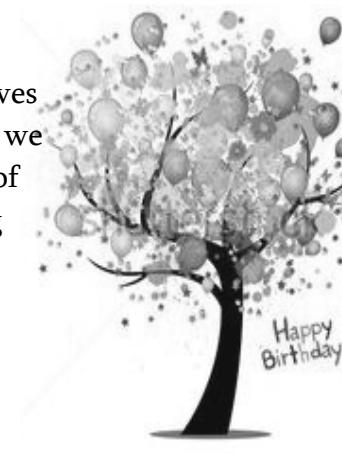
There are good things in the works—watch the Sunday bulletin for announcements.

Announcements and Reminders**Financial snapshot:**

Thank you tremendously to everyone who gives to keep our church moving forward! In 2022 we passed a deficit budget, projecting a shortfall of over \$40,000. However, we have been saving throughout the year and currently stand as follows:

Total expected pledges to date: **\$204,909**
Pledges received to date: **\$200,338**
Overall budget surplus (shortfall) (**\$ 9,973**)

As you can see, we are doing our best to keep spending within income. Do you think we can end the year in the black? Let's try! And thank you all for your help in everything!

**As Covid Recedes...**

As some of the precautions around Covid recede, please remember that there are still people within our church family that have reason to be careful. It's always a good idea to ask before hugging or initiating other close contact with friends, say at the Passing of the Peace or Fellowship time. And we encourage a frank and honest request for personal space when it is wanted and/or required; we aren't being caring when we aren't respecting one another. Thank you, all!

**We hold in our daily prayer:**

Ann Cedarholm; Bobbie Collyer;
Tom Hurst; Nita King; Betsy Mann;
Gayle Park; Greg McFall; and
Connie and Don Scott.



The practice of prayer requires discipline. When we think we can pray regularly without having a place and time, we grow sloppy and fail to accomplish it. Prayer without rhythm is like words without paper: both are often soon forgotten.

Youth Choir Resumes Again!



The Youth Choir is resuming again, and we are off to a great start! Our first piece of music comes to us from the talented family of Sara Carpenter and her dad, Tim, who directed children's music for many years. It is a setting of Jesus' parable of the two houses. One of the things the children in the choir are really enjoying is imagining how we can demonstrate the parable as we sing it, by using props and actions to dramatize the message. We have been full of ideas already, and we hope you will enjoy it as much as we are!

Youth Choir meets after church during the Adult Education hour, in the choir room downstairs. We welcome all children to join us, from the time they can read through when their voice may change. For more information, talk to Kirianne: kirianne@firstpresithaca.org or cell, 607-882-1325.

Church Re-Keying Delayed

The Re-Keying of the Church has been postponed until October 25, 26 and 27. We hope this is not an inconvenience to anyone, and we will reach out to those known to us to use the building as the time approaches.

If you have a key, you can return it to the church or recycle it. Come October 27, if all goes as planned, it will no longer work. However, if you still have need of one, contact the office so you will be on the communications lists as we issue new keys.

The new keys for the church will have numbers engraved on them so we can keep track of them. We hope this keeps the building and ministries of the church safer and more dependable for everyone. Thank you!

Our loving prayers
are with the families of
David Morey and
Jean Emily ClayRadi-



One a member, one a
former staff and
friend.

Deacons Corner

Your Deacons are back at work after a pleasant summer break. Congregational care is one of our top priorities. If you would like to be visited by a Deacon, please contact Deb Streeter (dhs4@cornell.edu) or the church office (office@firstpresithaca.org, 607 272-2800). We are here to help.

One of our outreach services to the downtown Ithaca community is our work with the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard. IKC provides food to our neighbors who are in need. You can help by donating non-perishable food items or cash in the kitchen cupboard under the bell tower. Anything helps but we ask you avoid exotic items. Canned or boxed meals, canned fruits and vegetables, soups, juices, and staple items are particularly helpful. We can always use volunteers to help pack food orders on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Contact Tom Owens (tgo2@cornell.edu or 607 280-7866) if you have questions.

The Deacons also coordinate the flowers we use in each worship service. We always need volunteers to donate flowers. If you are interested, contact Stella Martz (stellamartz@gmail.com or 717-476-1952).

Your Deacons are a great group of people who really enjoy working together to serve our church and Ithaca community. Our meetings are actually fun and interesting! If you are interested in becoming a Deacon, please contact Deb Streeter (dhs4@cornell.edu) or Misha Dixon (mishadixon59@gmail.com) or the church office (office@firstpresithaca.org, 607 272-2800).

Worship, Music, & Spiritual Life

Each month Worship, Music, and Spiritual Life meets to plan some familiar and some new projects to offer the congregation a variety of means to enhance our spiritual life and worship experience. We hope you had a chance to study the artwork created by Satre Steulke on display in the narthex through the summer, and will now take time to look at the array of clerical stoles hanging around the narthex walls. Each stole has a description next to it, so when you stop to admire the stole, take a moment to read about it. Here's a picture, below!

Keep your eyes and ears alert for news of the small group book study. The next book will be in the announcements soon. If you are interested in joining this group which meets on Monday evenings, please contact Suzy Courtney or Susan Van Sickle. New members are always welcome. New members are also welcome to the Women's Bible Study led by Rev. Joanne Bartel. This group meets on Wednesdays at 2:00.

Although we have decided not to offer an Advent devotional created by our own members this year as we did last year, it was such a good experience we hope to do it again another year. In the meantime, however, as Advent nears we will be sending information about how to access an on-line devotional for the season.

...and, as always, we have a warm welcome waiting for anyone who wants to join our committee!



New Membership Class being gathered!

The history and theology of any church are much richer than we perceive by attending worship alone. The Reformed faith has definite precepts at its heart, and they are important to appreciate in order to see why we do what we do.

Many who follow church history have been pointing out that Queen Elizabeth II died at her castle in Balmoral, meaning that she was a member of the Free Church of Scotland at her death—the first regent of the UK ever to die a Presbyterian. Our heritage is shared with this church whose commitment to equality among its followers was so firm that there could be no Head of Church, however figurative, within their ranks.

This is one of my favorite precepts of

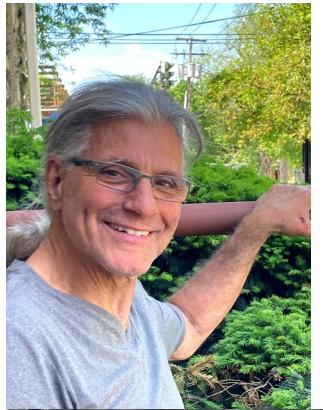
Presbyterianism: that we are all not only created equal, but remain so in the estimation we must give one another. Every member's vote counts equally. The discernment of each bears weight, and is taken into account.

Our equality is humble; Presbyterians do not make light of our power to harm, defile, and sin. We all know, if we reflect seriously, the troubling thoughts our minds can invent. But with God's help, we are saved—not because we become so good we are without blemish, but because God sees us as God's own children—and in that love, does not see our blemishes anymore, at all.

Want to hear more? Come join our New Members Class by contacting Kirianne: kirianne@firstpresithaca.org or text: 607-882-1325. I hope to hear from you!

Normally, this is the Go Joe column, but this month . . .

It's the POOR JOE Column!



Joe does such amazing work keeping our church maintained and clean that it is extra deflating when someone comes and deliberately undoes his good efforts. Some of you have probably noticed that we have had problems keeping the memorial garden neat, clean and unvandalized. Joe has gone out so many times to remove inappropriate words and to clean up broken glass, garbage and the remains of other activities we have asked the public not to



enjoy in our garden. We're working on solutions, but in the meantime tell Joe he's a superstar for helping us through it all!

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October 2022

2 World Communion Sunday 9 am - Youth Group 10 am - Worship Service 11:00 am - Fellowship Time 11:20 am - Adult Ed—Dodds 11:30 am - Youth Choir 12:30 pm - Deacons (in-person—Dodds Hall)	3 3 pm - Kendal Communion 7 pm - Kava Irish Music—3rd floor	4 7 pm - AA Mtg (Fireside) 7 pm - Kava Irish Music—3rd floor	5 2 pm - Bible Study 6 pm - YMSS Committee (Z) 6:30 pm - Finger Lakes Pipe Band 7pm - Personnel Mtg (Z)	6 8 am - Strategic Planning Comm 8:30 pm - Community Game Night 7 pm - Piperventilators - 3rd floor 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 1 8
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23 9 am - Youth Group 10 am - Worship Service 11:00 am - Fellowship Time 11:20 am - Adult Ed—Dodds 11:30 am - Youth Choir	24 5 pm - Living Hope Fellowship Service-Dodds	25 7 pm - AA Mtg (Fireside) 7 pm - Kava Irish Music—3rd floor	26 2 pm - Bible Study 6:30 pm - Finger Lakes Pipe Band	27 6:30 pm - Community Game Night 7 pm - Piperventilators - 3rd floor 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 29
30 9 am - Youth Group 10 am - Worship Service 11:00 am - Fellowship Time 11:20 am - Adult Ed—Dodds 11:30 am - Youth Choir	31 5 pm - Living Hope Fellowship Service-Dodds				

Installations Galore!

The Rev. Susan Joseph Rack, at First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses, Trumansburg!



We welcome and celebrate the installation of the Rev. Susan Joseph Rack to our neighbors to the North at Trumansburg! Her Reverend husband, Paul Rack, now retired from parish ministry, and their cat Julia join her in this new ministry. The installation officially took place on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at which Elder Suzy Courtney, Rev. Phil Courtney, Rev. Cynthia Weaver, and Rev. Kirianne Weaver were all in attendance.



La Jerne Terry Cornish as President of Ithaca College: on Saturday, October 1!

La Jerne's appointment as President of Ithaca College is a remarkable achievement given the tumultuous times through which she has already led the college. In recognition of her leadership in the successful development and implementation of the Ithaca Forever strategic plan and other critical decision-making regarding the overall direction of the college, her title was changed in July 2021 to provost and executive vice President. Now, in a further acknowledgment of her gifts, she has been named the tenth President of Ithaca College.

To us as a church family, she comes to us with Presbyterian roots from the Baltimore area, and was for that Presbytery a Commissioned Lay Pastor—that is, an ordained elder called to preach. You will understand this if you heard her from our pulpit this past summer. She brings to our fellowship energy, intelligence, imagination and—as First Corinthians reminds us is most important—love.

We celebrate with La Jerne and Deb Ptak as their family receives this wonderful honor.

Welcome to Our Newest Members of Staff!

**Dr. David Mead,
Director of the Chancel Choir**

We extend a warm and much-anticipated welcome to the wonderful Dr. David Neal, our new Director of the Chancel Choir!



Ithaca native David Neal has performed as bass-baritone soloist nationally since receiving a BA in Music and English from Cornell University, and MM and DMA degrees from Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. He has sung in Episcopalian, Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations, and since 2003 has been Music Director at Grace and Holy Spirit Church in Cortland, where he has also directed The Arts at Grace concert series. He has conducted the Johns Hopkins Choral Society and (currently) the SUNY Cortland Choral Union. David is very happy to be joining the staff at FPC, Ithaca!

**Abigail Gordon,
Nursery Attendant**



Abigail (Abi) Gordon, our new Nursery Attendant, is such a wonderful addition to our church family, and I know you will love getting to know her. Some of you already had a chance to meet her at our Welcome Back Picnic!

Abi is a sophomore at Cornell and a student of Anthropology and Childhood Psychology. She is also an experienced childcare provider, having worked in the field in Illinois, from whence she hails. In addition, her faith is strong and hopeful and loving, and she is excited to share those intangible, relational qualities of Christ with our youngest members.

Abigail, we are so grateful that you choose to spend your Sunday mornings with us, and hope we can find ways to share fellowship and our appreciation with and for you!

Youth and Children

Boy, I really hope we get a photo of the Welcome Back Picnic to post here, so that the whole congregation doesn't have to look at my rainbow socks from Children's Time three weeks ago.



October Godly Play Schedule

Date	Godly Play Story	Story Teller	Door Person	Church Activity
October 2	(stay in church)	—	—	World Communion Sunday
October 9	Creation	David	Laura	
October 16	The Ark and the Flood	Laura	Ben	
October 23	The Great Family	Kate	David	
October 30	The Exodus	Ben	Kate	Reformation Sunday!

The Children and Youth Program needs your help!

There are so many ways to serve—as a nursery volunteer, a Godly Play storyteller or doorperson, as a helper with youth events, or by serving on the YMSS committee once a month. Parents and caregivers are especially welcome!

News from the Saints...

When some Christians find themselves called saints, they rear back in alarm. “Sainted? Not I!” - But that is exactly what we are, by God’s gift. Paul addresses the churches of early Christendom “saints” consistently: “To the saints who are in Ephesus.” “To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints.”

What makes us sainted is not how good we are, but rather the Spirit God gives us, which inspires us to be not perfect, most likely, but better. And better is what we all hope for in life.

Here is some news from the saints of Ithaca!

Kristie and Hannah Volmink



...Have moved to Seattle, Washington! We will miss them so much, but Kristie got a great job opportunity, and wanted an adventure. We wish them both well—let the office know if you would like to stay in touch!

Jeff and Tamara, Scotty, and Elizabeth Scott



We are saying farewell to them too, as they head off to a new life — in Georgia! They have found some wonderful fits with community services there that make life sweet for their family. Don and Connie will be moving back to New Hampshire, their residence before Ithaca, to be near family there. But oh, how we will all miss them!

Elder Nita King:

Nita, whose artwork is astounding and of whose leadership we have been the lucky recipients, has been temporarily staying in Cortland while she prepares for upcoming shoulder surgery. We will all be praying for her as the day approaches — listen for church announcements as we stay updated on her progress. Here is some of Nita’s artwork — Texas bluebonnets!

