



# Good News

## First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca

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Dear friends,

Session met this past Sunday, June 22, after the amazing Armando wrapped up his finale Adult Education class before he and his family leave for California (for a photo, see page 11). We gathered the tables and chairs into a square, as close as we could get to a round-table of God’s chosen leaders; and opened the meeting with devotions brought by Elder Christina Mead. Her devotions opened with the thought-provoking information that the word *amateur* comes from Latin: *amator*, meaning a lover. One who does what they do for love.

She said many other fine things, and I took a note or two on what followed as well, but what I found myself thinking later on my drive home was that my pride in being an amateur was significantly greater. I am an amateur painter, bookshelf maker, reader and writer. I am an amateur mother as well, in the sense of being untrained and perhaps even unprepared for what family life sends our way. I am a very amateur gardener: this past week saw my first-of-the-year harvest of shelling peas, which resulted in not even a handful of peas. They were sweet and tasty, but oh so paltry, and now they labor in the heat. Thank goodness for the professional grocery store.

And: I am an amateur Christian. I imagined people protesting that I am the farthest thing from an amateur Christian—my work is in the church, like it was for my parents and grandparents before me! But I do it for the love of it, so am I not an amateur?

### Found Within:

- Wednesday Night Picnics! (p.2)
- FY2024 Year End Financials (p.3-5)
- More pictures than you can shake a stick at - but what does that phrase mean? (p. 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12!)

In her devotions, Christina reminded us that we need not be perfect at what we do with our time. We might do something simply because we enjoy it, in that it gives us joy. We might do many things just because those around us love it when we do—that’s certainly the only reason I’ve ever made a meal! We might try something for which we have never been trained at all—though better when that’s not the indoor plumbing or electric. This is part of the beauty of doing “Amahl”! We should play more in general: exercising our creativity and our risk, along with perhaps our humility—being like children again, whom God welcomes in with open arms.

Just sitting and thinking wonderful thoughts for a while was healing. And it was mostly peaceful, too, until I came to the thought that “professional” comes from the late Latin verb *professus*, meaning to confess or attest to one’s faith. Which made me think perhaps I am a professional Christian as well, and aren’t we all, really...

At which point, naturally, my head hurt and it was time to take a nap.

Be well, pray often,  
and do it all with *amator*,

## From Pastor Cindy

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe another month has passed already, and I am once again staring at the blank page wishing, hoping, and praying for some words of wisdom to pop into my head so that I might pass them on to you. While I enjoy writing this message once I have an idea, sometimes it is harder than other times to find the topic, and, adding to the challenge at the moment, is that it is summer, and I still have the summer mentality of my childhood. Summer is still the time to pack away your cares until fall, wear play clothes and swimsuits all day long, and run outside to play.

Well, as I think about it, perhaps there is some wisdom in that. So, I wish for you a summer that does include some time away from your cares and much time in your play clothes.

Summer did have its responsibilities, but somehow my daily chores were easier to complete knowing that when I was done, there lay ahead of me a day of exploration in our woods. So, I also hope for you a place and time to do some exploration. Whether sitting and looking at the backyard you've known for years or traveling to brand new places, exploration of God's creation simply requires openness to newness. To quote William Blake, may you "see the world in a grain of sand."

Just as the rhythms of daily activities differed in the summer, so did the rhythms of relationships. Even though my family and friends didn't change, how we spent our time together did. We learned more about each other, and the extended time we might spend together on vacations or at summer camps meant we might become more tolerant and even more appreciative of each other, thereby strengthening the bonds which would help us through the challenges awaiting us in the fall, winter, and spring. So, I pray that the ties that bind you to your loved ones become even more enjoyable and resilient through the summer.

## Summer Adult Education:

You cast your ballots, and the votes are in! Our summer Bible Study book is Paul's letter to the Romans. This letter is probably one of the most theological, powerful, controversial and beautiful of Paul's works and will be great fun to study in-depth! Adult Education on June 29 will introduce the book and how we read and interpret scripture generally.

While Adult Education in the academic year is usually held in Dodds Hall, we may move Bible Study into the nearby Heritage Room if the numbers allow—where there are tables, Bibles and a cozier atmosphere.

Cindy and Kirianne look forward to seeing you there!

## Wednesday Summer Picnics:

We look forward to fun and fellowship as we gather to eat together at Wednesday Summer Picnics. Thank you, hosts, for having us and for fixing a main dish and lemonade or iced tea. All guest may bring a dish to pass or their own supper if they prefer. Please bring your own plates and silverware. Our beginning time is 6pm. If it is a rainy day call the church for the cancelation decision. We are especially grateful to the people who have invited us to their homes. The address and directions will be given each week in the bulletin.

July 9 Deb Streeter and Tom Owens

July 16 Margaret Shackell and Glen Dowell

July 23 Angie and William Chen

July 30 Susan and Fred VanSickle

August 6 Sandra Greene

August 13 Christina and Jeb Mead

August 20 Tara and Tim Riley

## News and Notes for May:

### From the Deacons:

**Happy Summer:** Don't forget to eat ice cream and enjoy the sun on your face!

**Sanctuary Flowers:** e. Stuelke (e.@satre.org) is the Deacon in charge of ordering the flowers you see at the front of the church each Sunday. We still need to fill a few weeks this summer. Please contact e. and let her know if you want to sign up for one of the weeks. Thank you in advance.

**Deacon Visits:** If you would like or if you are aware of a member who would like a visit from one of our Deacons please contact the Pastoral team and we will be sure to schedule a visit.

**Gluten-free Communion:** In the past we have used gluten free bread for communion. Recently, we switched to using gluten free wafers. If you are gluten free, please take a wafer from the pastry cup on each of the bread plates.

Joyfully, *Heather Lane*

### New Members Classes:

We have just finished holding a new members class, and new members are joining the church in June and July as schedules permit. We hold classes as interest arises, so please let Kirianne know if you would like us to organize new opportunities. Membership is not at all necessary for participation, but like adoption it is a way of creating the sense of family that nurtures us all.

### Summer Events Overview:

#### Youth Mission Trip:

The church youth are heading to New York City from July 14-17, led by Mylika. Please hold them all in prayer!

#### Presbyterian Youth Triennium: July 28-August 1

A group of High School students from our region are traveling together for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, a national (and international) youth retreat held once every three years, this time in Louisville, KY!

#### Wednesday Night Picnics: all July and August

Join us for this movable feast! The full schedule is found on page 2.

### Summer Birthdays

#### July Birthdays

1-Tom Owens  
22-Robert Camp  
23-Corvin Sharpe

#### August Birthdays

1-Jenny Yoon  
6-Roberta Kohut  
7-Liam Riehl  
11-Samuel Ofori  
17-Linda Allen  
26-Lorraine Maxwell  
26-Paul Riley



### *We hold in our daily prayer:*

*David Brown; Jennifer Carlson; Suzy Courtney; Harris Faulkner;  
Jeff Lovell; Katherine Pantlind; Vivian and Jim Russell;  
Marj Smart; and Tina Snead.*



## What—More Photos? Lots happened in June!



*There's more to celebrate!*

**Left:** Angela Possinger, Elmer Ewing, Micah Beck, and Brad McFall. Angela and Micah were both back for visits on the same Sunday, and both served here many years as Elders. We love you, miss you, and wish you well! **Below:** Tee brought our church's Earthquake Relief gifts to Pan Maw and Saw Htoo to send to help communities in Burma. **Bottom:** The choir had their last Sunday on June 2, to make way for auditions for Amahl. Pictured are Susan, Loralyn, Pam, Mary, Lucia, Jean, Lynn, Pam, Fred, Hector, Betsy, Sam, David, Geoff and Maury!



## Report from Finance: Fiscal Year 2024 Financials

As many members heard at the annual meeting earlier this spring, our bookkeeper has been working hard on getting the church's financial records caught up after two years of transition in bookkeeping staff. Her valiant efforts have paid off, and we're happy to be able to report on the church's finances as of December 31, 2024.

As you peruse the profit and loss statement and catalog of the church's assets presented below, please note that 2024 was the first of two transitional years as we shift the church's bookkeeping to align with new Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). GAAP, the guidelines that govern how organizations keep their books, changed a few years ago to require that organizations report income differently than in the past. Under earlier guidelines, some income that the church received was not recognized on the profit and loss statement (P & L). If the income was "off-budget," like unexpected gifts or bequests, we accounted for it in accounts on the balance sheet, not the P& L. Now, we must recognize all income on the profit and loss statement when it is received, whether we budgeted for it or not. For that reason, you will see two new income accounts on the 2024 P & L: 3016 · Restricted Gifts and 3018 · Bequests. We have provided two different figures for net income at the bottom of the P & L: one, the actual net income, and one an adjusted amount that takes out these new accounts so that one can better see how our net income compares with our budget.

In 2024, most expenses came in close to or under budget. The exception was expenses under Buildings and Properties, which went over budget due to unexpected and necessary repairs, particularly to the roof (roof repair is under line 6501 · Annual Contracts). However, most of these large expenses are covered by gifts that came in in other fiscal years. \$50,000 of the roof repair will be covered by a gift we received in 2025 to help pay for the roof expenses. \$29,000 of line 6700 · Church Bldg went to a deposit on the sidewalk/ramp work to be completed in 2025 (we hope!). Funds for this sidewalk work were donated in 2023. Even with these large variations from the budget, total actual expenses came in at 101% of the budgeted expenses.

Finally, a note on the balance sheet. Some of the funds that the church holds as assets came from restricted gifts. This means that the funds must be used for a particular purpose, designated by the donor. Our church currently uses liability accounts on the balance sheet in order to keep track of what funds are restricted for what purpose, a common practice under the earlier GAAP. The resulting balance sheet is very detailed, and it is long—it would take up several pages of the Good News! In order to save space, and because these are not true liabilities, Finance Committee is choosing to reproduce just the assets side of the balance sheet in the Good News.

If you have any questions about the 2024 financials, or would like to see more detailed versions of the P & L or balance sheet, please contact the chair of Finance, Christina Mead, at [christina.mead@gmail.com](mailto:christina.mead@gmail.com).

### An Overview of 2024 financials:

- We are following new accounting standards, so this report looks very different from the past!
- Roof repairs of \$68,000 were paid for in 2024 but mostly covered by a \$50,000 gift received in 2025.
- An advance was paid by the church in '24 of \$29,000 for an accessible path to the front of the church. The cost is covered by a gift received in '23.
- Overall, this shows we were in a healthy financial position at the end of '24. Thank you for your patience and we hope to have '25 updates soon!

## 2024 Year-End Financial Report

### First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca Profit and Loss, Budget vs Actual FY 2024

| Ordinary Income/Expense                          | Jan - Dec 24   | Budget         | \$ Over Budget | % of Budget |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Income</b>                                    |                |                |                |             |
| 3000 · Income                                    |                |                |                |             |
| 3001-1 · Members & Friends Contributions         | 394,094        | 396,500        | -2,406         | 99%         |
| 3010-1 · Building Use Income                     | 35,734         | 42,400         | -6,666         | 84%         |
| 3200 · Investment Income                         | 98,402         | 66,999         | 31,402         | 147%        |
| 3400 · Youth Fundraising Income                  | 3,746          |                |                |             |
| <b>Total 3000 · Income</b>                       | <b>531,976</b> | <b>505,899</b> | <b>26,076</b>  | <b>105%</b> |
| 3016 · Restricted Gifts                          | 71,000         |                |                |             |
| 3018 · Bequests                                  | 576            |                |                |             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                              | <b>603,552</b> | <b>505,899</b> | <b>97,652</b>  | <b>119%</b> |
| <b>Expense</b>                                   |                |                |                |             |
| 4000 · MISSION                                   |                |                |                |             |
| 4001 · International Mission                     | 3,500          | 4,000          | -500           | 88%         |
| 4100 · Presby Church USA                         | 13,250         | 13,645         | -395           | 97%         |
| 4200 · Local Mission                             | 5,950          | 11,200         | -5,250         | 53%         |
| 4400 · Campus Ministries                         | 4,000          | 400            | 3,600          | 1000%       |
| <b>Total 4000 · MISSION</b>                      | <b>26,700</b>  | <b>29,245</b>  | <b>-2,545</b>  | <b>91%</b>  |
| 4500 · WORSHIP & MUSIC                           |                |                |                |             |
| 4501 · Worship                                   | 183            | 2,000          | -1,817         | 9%          |
| 4600 · Music                                     | 7,599          | 5,400          | 2,199          | 141%        |
| 4905 · Spiritual Life Materials                  | 0              | 100            | -100           | 0%          |
| <b>Total 4500 · WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>          | <b>7,782</b>   | <b>7,500</b>   | <b>282</b>     | <b>104%</b> |
| 5000 · CHRISTIAN EDUCATION                       |                |                |                |             |
| 5100 · Church School                             | 1,315          | 3,000          | -1,685         | 44%         |
| 5200 · Youth Program                             | 746            | 1,725          | -979           | 43%         |
| 5300 · Adult Education                           | 480            | 1,550          | -1,070         | 31%         |
| 5402 · Library                                   | 0              | 150            | -150           | 0%          |
| <b>Total 5000 · CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>          | <b>2,541</b>   | <b>6,425</b>   | <b>-3,884</b>  | <b>40%</b>  |
| 5500 · MEMBERSHIP CONNECTIONS                    |                |                |                |             |
| 5501 · Membership                                | 2,645          | 2,600          | 45             | 102%        |
| 5600 · Communication                             | 16             | 1,900          | -1,884         | 1%          |
| <b>Total 5500 · MEMBERSHIP CONNECTIONS</b>       | <b>2,661</b>   | <b>4,500</b>   | <b>-1,839</b>  | <b>59%</b>  |
| 5700 · DEACONS                                   | 600            | 500            | 100            | 120%        |
| 6000 · MINISTRY and STAFF                        |                |                |                |             |
| 6001 · Salaries                                  | 264,011        | 286,656        | -22,645        | 92%         |
| 6100 · Pensions, SS, Med                         | 74,836         | 86,082         | -11,246        | 87%         |
| 6200 · Professional Improvement                  | 4,102          | 7,300          | -3,198         | 56%         |
| 6400 · Miscellaneous Payroll Expense             | 7,090          | 19,150         | -12,060        | 37%         |
| <b>Total 6000 · MINISTRY and STAFF</b>           | <b>350,038</b> | <b>399,187</b> | <b>-49,149</b> | <b>88%</b>  |
| 6500 · BUILDINGS & PROPERTIES                    |                |                |                |             |
| 6501 · Annual Contracts                          | 75,788         | 7,600          | 68,188         | 997%        |
| 6600 · Manse - 110 E. Court Street               | 3,795          | 8,000          | -4,205         | 47%         |
| 6700 · Church Bldg                               | 59,251         | 55,750         | 3,501          | 106%        |
| <b>Total 6500 · BUILDINGS &amp; PROPERTIES</b>   | <b>138,835</b> | <b>71,350</b>  | <b>67,485</b>  | <b>195%</b> |
| 7000 · ADMINISTRATION                            |                |                |                |             |
| 7100 · Office                                    | 13,636         | 10,550         | 3,086          | 29%         |
| 7500 · Insurance                                 | 8,351          | 18,893         | -10,542        | 44%         |
| 7200 · Archives Committee                        | 0              | 100            | -100           | 0%          |
| 7300 · Bank Charges & Fees                       | -511           |                |                |             |
| 7400 · Miscellaneous                             |                |                |                |             |
| 7401 · Ecclesiastical Apportionment (per capita) | 11,500         | 12,000         | -500           | 96%         |
| 7403 · Professional Resources                    | 1,025          |                |                |             |

## More Photos from June:

Some more photos from around the church in the last month, top left: Did you know that during the Pride festival in Dewitt Park on Sunday, June 15, our church was host to a special Pride Game Day in Dodds Hall? Look at the beautiful welcome the Community Game Night made! Top right: our own welcome banner went up too after a long absence, and Linda McLean and Joe Bocchiario have graced our Park Door entrance with beautiful planters we will be filling soon with flowers! Bottom: On their last Sunday, Hector spoke beautifully to the church about how they found us and found a welcome here, and Armando served as liturgist and led Adult Education. Participants took a photo afterwards. How we will miss them!



# CHILDREN & YOUTH



## 2024 Financial Report Continued

|                             |                |                |               |             |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Total 7400 · Miscellaneous  | 12,525         | 12,000         | 525           | 104%        |
| Total 7000 · ADMINISTRATION | 34,001         | 41,543         | -7,543        | 82%         |
| <b>Total Expense</b>        | <b>563,158</b> | <b>560,251</b> | <b>2,907</b>  | <b>101%</b> |
| Net Ordinary Income         | 40,394         | -54,352        | 94,745        | -74%        |
| <b>Net Income</b>           | <b>40,394</b>  | <b>-54,352</b> | <b>94,745</b> | <b>-74%</b> |

|  |                |                |               |            |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| Restricted Gifts                                       | 71,000         |                |               |            |
| Bequests   | 576            |                |               |            |
| <b>Net Income, minus bequests and restricted gifts</b> | <b>-31,182</b> | <b>-54,352</b> | <b>23,169</b> | <b>57%</b> |

### Assets as of December 31, 2024

|                                       | Dec 31, '24      | Dec 31, '23      | \$ Change       | % Change    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>Current Assets</b>                 |                  |                  |                 |             |
| Checking/Savings                      |                  |                  |                 |             |
| 1000 · Cash                           |                  |                  |                 |             |
| 1003 · TCB Checking                   | 192,439          | 371,172          | -178,733        | -48%        |
| 1010 · Pastors' Discretionary Account | 3,062            | 3,033            | 28              | 1%          |
| 1030 · Money Mkt-TTC Bus Advantage    | 1,418            | 114,663          | -113,245        | -99%        |
| <b>Total 1000 · Cash</b>              | <b>196,919</b>   | <b>488,868</b>   | <b>-291,950</b> | <b>-60%</b> |
| <b>Total Checking/Savings</b>         | <b>196,919</b>   | <b>488,868</b>   | <b>-291,950</b> | <b>-60%</b> |
| <b>Other Current Assets</b>           |                  |                  |                 |             |
| 1020 · Receivables                    |                  |                  |                 |             |
| 1021 · Acc'ts Receivable              | 29,355           | 28,391           | 964             | 3%          |
| <b>Total 1020 · Receivables</b>       | <b>29,355</b>    | <b>28,391</b>    | <b>964</b>      | <b>3%</b>   |
| 1100 · Investments                    |                  |                  |                 |             |
| 1101 · General Endowment Funds        | 2,502,861        | 2,212,231        | 290,630         | 13%         |
| 1103 · Wiggins Memorial Fund IMA      | 165,951          | 154,482          | 11,469          | 7%          |
| 1104 · Park Fund                      | 512,826          | 479,748          | 33,078          | 7%          |
| 1105 · Inherited American Funds       | 289,819          | 231,940          | 57,878          | 25%         |
| 1106 · CD Pastor's Discretionary      | 30,334           | 30,334           | 0               | 0%          |
| 1107 · Tompkins Money Market Fund     | 136,780          | 0                | 136,780         | 100%        |
| <b>Total 1100 · Investments</b>       | <b>3,638,571</b> | <b>3,108,735</b> | <b>529,836</b>  | <b>17%</b>  |
| <b>Total Other Current Assets</b>     | <b>3,667,927</b> | <b>3,137,127</b> | <b>530,800</b>  | <b>17%</b>  |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>           | <b>3,864,845</b> | <b>3,625,995</b> | <b>238,850</b>  | <b>7%</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                   | <b>3,864,845</b> | <b>3,625,995</b> | <b>238,850</b>  | <b>7%</b>   |

