

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

One: ...Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
One: Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you.
One: Let us greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace.

* PEACE RESPONSE:

Peace be with you, and peace be with
you, my neigh - bor, and peace be with
all of God's cre - a - tion, as peace has been the
gift of God to me.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN’S TIME. Heather Lane

*Children who want to go to Sunday School
can follow the teachers to their room, and will be brought
back to the sanctuary at the end of worship. Children ages 0-4
may be dropped off at the nursery, and must be picked up
at their rooms following the service..*

* HYMN #69: “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” Here I Am

THE FIRST READING: Matthew 25:34-40 Harris Faulkner

THE SECOND READING: Luke 10:25-37 Sebastian Vander Ploeg Fallon

One: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

THE MESSAGE: “The Good Samaritan 2025” Harris Faulkner
e. Stuelke
Nancy Lovell
Deborah Streeter
Heather Lane
Tom Owens

* GLORIA PATRI:

Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly
Spi - rit: as it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now, and will be for - ever. Amen, A - men. A - men!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

* RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS: Deborah Streeter

One: The Bible says, “Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,”
All: and “whoever gives to the poor will not want.” Proverbs 28:27

OFFERTORY: “Ukrainian Alleluia” Craig Courtney

* DOXOLOGY: (to the tune of “All Creatures of our God and King”)
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Alleluia!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore.
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Alleluia!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION. Deborah Streeter

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: adapted from “A Brief Statement of Faith” Becca Hilts

We trust in God. ...In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. We walk by the needy and wounded, too busy to be bothered. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
We trust in Jesus who taught us how to love our neighbors, and so we

remember that we were created to love and that we come to know ourselves more fully through our relationships with others. As a result, we must ask ourselves: how am I changed by this encounter? And finally, what changes in my heart and in my actions must this encounter lead to?

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, to be good neighbors, and to live holy and joyful lives.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED BY THE LORD’S PRAYER. Sebastian Vander Ploeg Fallon

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

* HYMN: “Help Somebody Today” See insert

* BENEDICTION. Tom Owens

* CHORAL AMEN.

POSTLUDE: Allegro (Dorian) F. Peeters

*Please join us for fellowship time
in the narthex following the service!*

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:

- A Deacon Defined:** From our Book of Order we read: “The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry” (G-2.0201).
- Welcome,** to Bryn Terwilliger, our new nursery staff. Stop by the nursery on the second floor and say “Hello!”

- **Clothesline of Warmth:** the Clothesline of Warmth starts today in the narthex, running through November 23rd. The Deacons are putting it up earlier this year so that the items can be worn as soon as it gets cold, and, once again, the items will be given to Open Doors English. So, bring in your contributions – new or gently used hats, mittens, scarfs, jackets, etc.
- **This Sunday in Adult Education:** Bring your thoughtful responses to the morning’s sermon about the parable of the Good Samaritan and join the Deacons and Pastor Cindy in a discussion about how and when we choose to help and when we don’t. If you have ever had the experience of knowing you could help but chose not to, you will not be alone in this look at what can make it hard to help.
- **Thursday afternoon Bible Study:** Did you know we have started a Bible Study group every Thursday at noon? We have started with Philippians, but will soon pick a different book to read through together. Join us any Thursday, downstairs in the Heritage Room—we’d love to see you there!
- **The Spooktacular!** Our annual Halloween concert is this Saturday, October 25 at 7:00pm! As you are gearing up for Halloween, make your way to the church for a night of fun music on the organ. We’ll hear Halloween ‘standards’ (e.g. Toccata and Fugue in d) and other spooky selections. **The concert is 100% FREE and kid-friendly... come in costume and be ready for a good time!**
- **Next Week in Adult Education:** “Kingian (MLK) Nonviolent Action: It’s Not As Easy As We Would Like.” Our faith tells us we are to manage conflict without violence, yet this can be hard to do in these polarized times. When working for justice the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. advocated nonviolent protest. His principles of nonviolence will be the topic of this class led by Elder Sara Carpenter and Pastor Cindy.
- **Tai Chi**, will begin again this Tuesday October 21st from 6:30-7:30pm in the Narthex. Maurice Haltom will be our teacher once again, giving us his time and talent. Please enter by the green door.
- **Interested in Church Membership?** We will soon be starting a new members class and welcome anyone who would like to come ask questions about what membership means. Contact Rev. Kirianne for more information or to ask questions.



WHO WE ARE: A statement from the Session (2019).

We, the people of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, in a divided world filled with divergent Christian theologies, believe in a unity found in God that transcends every human label and judgment. Confronted with the immensity of Jesus’ love, we aspire to:

- * fight bigotry in our world and in ourselves;
- * celebrate our differences and recognize the strengths that only diversity can bring;
- * know that we can’t separate ourselves from one another without separating ourselves from God;
- * serve as advocates for those who are not capable of advocating for themselves;
- * cherish the earth as God’s gift to all humanity equally;
- * accept the responsibility of assisting those in need;
- * and dedicate ourselves to worship, prayer, and celebration in our church and beyond.

We do these things because we are all equally made in God’s image. God’s grace is freely given – therefore we are compelled to share this grace with all.

Our greeters today are:

Marilyn Ewing, Beth Patton, and Linda McLean

Our ushers today are:

Bob Kohut, head; with Brad McFall, Kathy Lipinski, and John Ullberg

Flowers Today

“In love on our 24th Wedding Anniversary”
From Satre and Elizabeth Stuelke.

We hold in our prayers:

David Brown; Jennifer Carlson; Susana Colle; Elmer Ewing;
Harris Faulkner; Jeff Lovell; Martha Mapes; Vivian and Jim Russell;
and the Presbyterian Church in Vladivostok.

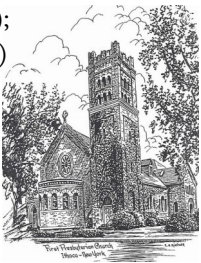
We extend special sympathies to Sam, Elizabeth, Yanai and Suzy Ofori on the loss of James Ofori: father, grandfather, and husband.

The First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca

www.firstpresithaca.org; email: church.fpci@gmail.com; 272-2800
315 N. Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

Senior Pastor: the Rev. Kirianne E. Weaver (kirianne.fpci@gmail.com)
Pastoral Supply: the Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver, Ph.D. (cynthia.fpci@gmail.com)
Director of Christian Education: Mylika Selah (mylika.fpci@gmail.com)
Organist: Dr. Ian Woods; Business Office (busofc.fpci@gmail.com);
Chancel Choir Director: Dr. David Neal (david.neal09@gmail.com)
Office Administrator: Kai Dickinson (church.fpci@gmail.com)
Building Superintendent: Joe Bocchiaro

For more info, please visit our website at www.firstpresithaca.org
and find us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ITHACA



315 N Cayuga St.
Ithaca, NY 14850
607.272.2800
firstpresithaca.org

Following Christ’s teachings, we are fully inclusive in membership and leadership.

A congregation proud to be PC(USA).

OCTOBER 19TH, 2025: DEACON SUNDAY

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

*This service is being livestreamed! You can view services on our website.
Please share your name in the Friendship Pads at the end of each pew.
Numbered hymns are found in the purple hymnals in the pew racks.*

*Today’s service is being led entirely by our Deacons.
See the announcements for a description of the Deacons’ work.*

PRELUDE: “Pavana Hispanica” J. P. Sweelinck

WELCOME. Nancy Lovell

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Luke 6:27-38* John Weiss

One: Jesus tells us: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,
All: bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you,
One: give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.
All: Do unto others as you would have them do to you.
One: Love your enemies, do good, lend without expecting to get anything back.
All: Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High.
One: Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful,
All: for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked,
One: and the measure you give will be the measure you get back.
All: Let us worship God.

* HYMN #767: “Together We Serve” *San Anselmo*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Geof Lightfoote
Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned: in wandering from your ways, wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light, and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior...
Time for silent confession.