

# 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

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**Due Date for the December 2022 issue: Monday November 14, 2022**

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Director of Christian Education: Mylika Slaughter

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

Business Manager: currently vacant • Office Administrator: Linda Sharpe,

Building Superintendent: Joe Bocchiaro

Nursery Attendant: Abigail Gordon

### Worship Schedule: November 2022

#### Sunday, November 6, 10am: All Saints Sunday

*Join us in honoring the saints, as remembered by the congregation.*

Scripture: Ephesians 1: 11-23

Luke 6: 20-31

Message: "As Alive As We Are."

#### Sunday, November 13, 10am: Deacons Sunday

*On Deacons Sunday, the elected leaders on the Board of Deacons lead us in worship and encourage us in the ministry of compassionate service.*

#### Sunday, November 20: Stewardship Sunday!

*Bring your pledges to worship, where we will celebrate the gifts God gives us to share.*

Scripture: Psalm 46

Luke 23: 33-43

Message: "Past and Future Good."

#### Sunday, November 27: First Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Matthew 24: 36-44

Message: "A Glimpse of Today."

Dear Saints of Ithaca,

Ah! Did I startle you with that title? Does it sound too holy, too grand, for us as humble Christians to adopt? James Nagy shared a quote from Tolkien in Adult Education on Sunday: "You don't really suppose, do you, that all your adventures and escapes were managed by mere luck, just for your sole benefit? You are a very fine person, Mr. Baggins, and I am very fond of you; but you are only quite a little fellow in a wide world after all!" So we are: little people, to be sure; given a higher task and purpose, most definitely.

I wonder if we think to act as holy people on a daily basis. Perhaps we imagine that contemplation and prayer belong to the holiest few, those old medieval standouts who hermed themselves in caves or fasted in the wilderness with inhuman endurance. This is not so; sainthood belongs to all of us who have the spark of God, who recognize the light in our souls. It is important that we make sure we do not limit ourselves to mere acknowledgment. Being a Christian is not simply allowing that God is real, and Christ did not lie; it is a direction and a challenge that stands before us every day. It is accepting the role of our own holiness.

Paul commonly addressed the early church as saints. Not just the leaders, not just the ordained, but all the brothers and sisters of the church. You can look for yourself: Read the first chapter of Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, and so on. (In writing to the

#### What's Inside:

- Stewardship Sunday
- Cents-Ability by the Youth Group
- Welcome to our new DCE, Mylika Slaughter
- New Bern, NC Mission Work Trip
- Christmas Display
- Re-Keying our Church Building

Galatians, he notably does *not* use the term even once, but if you look at that letter you will quickly see why – he was angered by their arguments and divisions!) "Saints" was not a term reserved for the best Christians. It belonged to all of us, to all Christ's body, to all God's people.

This may ignite the uncomfortable but exciting proposition of raising your expectations for yourself. If we are sainted, we are called to practice really extraordinary faith. If we are sainted, we should expect to be called to service. If we are sainted, we should be living not for our own self-preservation, but for the furthering of something greater. Think about that. What does it call up within you?

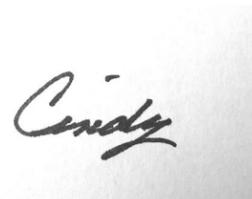
These pages contain some news of the work of the church, but come and put your shoulder to the plow with us. In worship to nourish us, and in service to live out together our calling: come, Holy Ones, come.

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

### From Pastor Cindy

Dear Friends,  
 This past summer was a pretty good one for birding from my back porch. As I mentioned in an earlier Good News, the yellow warblers returned to my willow tree and announced, what is for me, the true beginning of spring. This summer the northern goshawks again made themselves known through their rather raucous calls as they floated above looking for lunch and dinner below. Each summer brings a pair of Baltimore Orioles to the hedgerow to the north, and though I doubt they are the same birds I first noticed a couple decades ago, I am glad word has spread among the oriole community that my hedgerow has good places to hang an oriole's nest, and for a few days, this summer brought a couple of rose-breasted grosbeaks to my backyard. It was, indeed, a good summer for back-porch birdwatching. All those summer visitors are gone now, leaving the faithful year-round birds to fill the increasingly bare tree branches with their color and the chilly breezes with the calls of their everyday chores. These are the folks – the bluebirds, the cardinals, the crows, the black-capped chickadees - I need to be careful not to take for granted. The crows gather in community no matter the weather, and the cardinals make cheerful bright early morning companions flitting from shrub to shrub while I shovel the new white of a fresh January snowfall. And the chickadees! These little-capped wonders provide entertainment all year round. It is so easy to overlook these faithful upstate dwellers in the summer excitement of new visitors, but I count on them more than I realize until the visitors head south again. Now that the fun of our wonderfully successful summer picnics is over for now, and the excitement of starting up again in the fall with new energy, new programming ideas, and new staff members is settling down, I hope we are able to appreciate what is constant in our church life. It is always stewardship season, but this November I hope we pay particular attention to its call.

On the wings of a prayer,



### Adult Education

**November 6:** Presentation on the church's budget. Christina Mead and Glen Dowell will lead.

**November 13:** Report from the Deacons who participated in a workshop on Spiritual Care Practices.

**November 20 and 27:** Please watch the weekly church bulletin for announcements.

### November is Stewardship Month!

Our Stewardship Theme for the year is "Increase Your Investment and Inflate your Expectations". We want to be frank and honest that inflation is driving up many of our costs, but we don't want to allow this to be depressing. We want to turn that meaning of inflation around and have it be exciting and anticipatory. We want to look to the future with hope and faith. God has continued to send us the people we need.

We are happily awaiting the start of our new Director of Christian Education, and we are thankful for our new choir director. When we work together as a community of faith in God, there is almost nothing that cannot be achieved! Please consider increasing your pledge – or pledging for the first time – so that we can work together and make a difference in our community and around the world. Most importantly, please join me in having high expectations for what our church can do.

Margaret Shackell for the 2022 Stewardship Committee.

### Announcements and Reminders

#### Office Hours:

Without Kate, our office hours have been reduced to Tuesday through Thursday, 8:30am-1pm. In the afternoons, please feel free to leave us a message!

For Thanksgiving week, the office will be closed Wednesday through Friday. If you have information for the bulletin on November 27, please have it to the office by Monday morning, November 21 as bulletins will be printed early that week.

Remember that the church is being re-keyed if you need access at unusual times! Thank you!

#### Office Closed for Thanksgiving

The church offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday Wednesday November 23 through Friday November 25.

Be sure to watch the weekly church bulletin for updates to deadlines for announcements and activities.

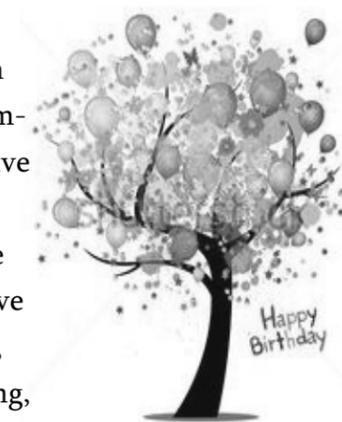
#### We hold in our daily prayer:

Ann Cedarholm; Bobbie Collyer; Tom Hurst; Nita King; Betsy Mann; Greg McFall; Gayle Park; Mark Radice; 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.*

#### Birthdays in November



- 1 – Kyounghee Han
- 1 – Nancy Jenkins
- 6 – John Weiss
- 13 – Joshua Yoon
- 19 – Lisa Everts
- 19 – Robert Kohut
- 22 – Kate Hubbs
- 25 – Maurice Haltom
- 25 - Tom Hurst
- 26 – Glen Dowell
- 28 – Jan Favaro

*... We would love to add your **birthday** and/or your **anniversary**. If it's not here, please email the office at [office@firstpresithaca.org](mailto:office@firstpresithaca.org) and we will be happy to add it!*

#### Happy Anniversary

Virginia and Lamont Hine  
 On November 7th

### Youth Choir

Our Youth Choir has been hard at work and having fun, too! Our first anthem this year will be "The Two Houses," a parable-in-song that was brought to us from the library of Elder Sara Carpenter.

One of the lovely things about this piece is that it lends itself to dramatization. The youth have been working on props to accompany the parables, so we hope you really enjoy their performance on November 13 in church.

Our next piece also has a small bit of drama to it: "Good King Wenceslas," which we hope will be ready to sing this Advent!

### All Saints Day!

November 1 is the traditional All Saints Feast Day, and we celebrate its meaning on the first Sunday of November. In this service, we remember those who came before and have passed on to us the faith we share. In addition, in communion, we pay particular attention to the Jesus' promise that all God's children meet at Christ's table.

To remember a loved one by name in the bulletin, look for an insert in the October 23 bulletin or call the office by Monday, October 31, between 8:30am and 12:30pm.

### Deacons Corner

During October and November, in addition to their regular duties, your Deacons are busy planning the Deacons' Sunday service, this year scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to be there if you can make it. For the past several years, our services have been quite a hit! Our theme for this year is visitation. Visitation is one of the main aspects of congregational care that the Deacons are responsible for. But think of the breadth of meaning that the word visitation encompasses in the Bible. We will explore how the Bible challenges all of us to be good Christians through our interactions with others. Don't miss it!

The Deacons are looking for an individual who would be interested in helping to pack grocery orders for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard. We are

responsible for packing on the first and third Thursdays of each month between 1:30 and 3pm. It is not necessary for you to participate at each session (although we can use the help if you want to), but be willing to substitute when other volunteers are unable to serve. Please contact Tom Owens ([tgo2@cornell.edu](mailto:tgo2@cornell.edu)) if you are interested. Remember to bring your canned or boxed donations for the Kitchen Cupboard and place them in the cupboard under the bell tower. Thank you!

We are always in need of individuals or families to donate flowers for the front of the sanctuary in our Sunday worship service. If you would like sponsor a flower donation, please contact Stella Martz ([stellamartz@gmail.com](mailto:stellamartz@gmail.com)) or the church office.

### Church Being Re-Keyed

Over the years, hundreds of church keys have been handed out, and we are finally re-keying the doors: October 25-27. These dates are still in the future as we write this, so we hope the project goes smoothly and as planned!

The new keys will be numbered so that we can keep better track of those we hand out. We will need your contact information to keep in our key register. Please do not give your key to anyone else directly; if you are done with your key you can return it to Linda at the office anytime.

Call the office at 607-272-2800 and talk to Linda to find out when you can pick up a new key if you need one for your church involvement.

### Our Friend Nita...

Our prayers have been with Nita as she awaited and then recovered from shoulder surgery. She has had her right shoulder pinned, but still awaits the left.



It has been a long, long journey through pain for Nita. She has decided to go to live with her daughter in Quincy, and we are sad to see her go but hopeful that she will find a good new home there. Nita has served as an elder and chair of the Worship, Music, and Spiritual Life Committee, and is part of the Monday evening small group. In addition, Nita delights us on Facebook with photos of sunrises and her beautiful watercolor paintings – which often include Texas Bluebonnets!

### Welcome Mylika!!!

*(And thank you for being humble enough to let me take this photo a mere couple of minutes after you arrived!!! - Kiri)*



# Christmas Display

## Christmas Book Display in the Narthex

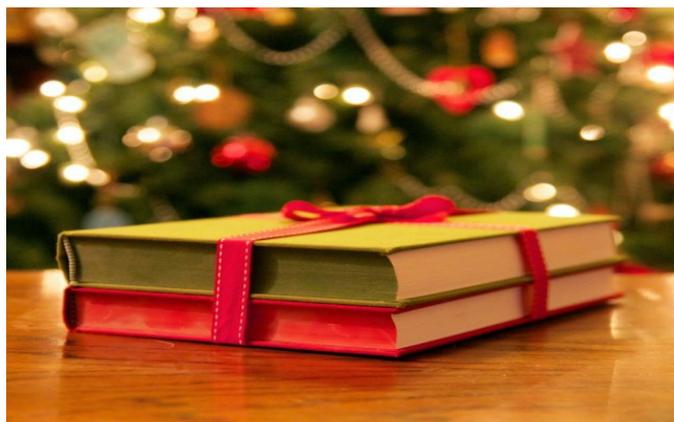
Do you remember reading Christmas stories? Looking at the pictures along with the text? People carry memories of visual illustrations with them a long time, enhancing their understanding of the coming of the Christ child.

Worship, Music and Spiritual Life Committee would like our members and friends to bring Christmas picture books to share with us during Advent and Christmas season. They will be displayed in the cases which are in the Fellowship area of the Narthex. Single page pictures from beloved Christmas stories are also welcome.

Advent begins November 27th . Bring items by that Sunday so the display can be arranged during that week. Identify the source (name of

book and author if the beloved picture is inside the book), what your particular memory is associated with the book or picture, and your name, of course.

Help with this project is always welcomed. Contact Phil Courtney (cphilipcourtney@gmail.com) with questions and offers to help.



## It's the Go Joe Column!



This past month, among other things, Joe has fixed the fan in the women's bathroom and scraped and painted the foundation walls in the choir room. And, lots of painting in the manse (!) but no photos yet. Go, Joe!



# Photos from the mission trip

**Below:** Miss Mary's house after Hurricane Florence in 2018 caused it to be deemed uninhabitable.



**Below:** Miss Mary's new house after our team installed siding and built a shed attached to the back of the house.



**Right:** Installing siding on Miss Mary's new house.



**Far right:** Framing the shed on the back of the house directed by Mark, site supervisor.



**Left:** From left: Tom, Mary, David, Pam P., Phil, Pam W., and Bob in front of Miss Mary's house.

## Mission Work Trip

New Bern, NC

Oct. 9-15, 2022

## Mission Work Trip to New Bern, NC

Scenes from the Job Site, October 9-15, 2022

Miss Mary needs a house. A beloved member of her community, she's helped many other people over the years. After Hurricane Florence in 2018, flooding was widespread. But Miss Mary's house had another problem, a flat roof. It sprung a tiny leak. Florence had stalled over New Bern for several days, causing the leak to become a torrent. Miss Mary, 70 years old, tried to cover the leak with a tarp. She applied for a home repair loan to do the work herself, but she was denied. Then she applied to church and government agencies for help and relief but again, all denied her pleas. She was offered assistance but that person robbed her of much of her money. In time the saturated ceiling and walls became enveloped with black mold and the house was deemed uninhabitable. Finally, she approached Presbyterian Disaster Assistance who listened to her need. In spite of all kinds of obstacles, Miss Mary had never lost hope.

Kristy Kulberg, coordinator of the Presbyterian New Hope Village volunteer site in New Bern heard her story. She works to connect mission volunteers with work sites. She got together with Baptist Building for Missions locally and finally Miss Mary had advocates to take on her project. They quickly determined it would be cheaper to raze the house and build on the original slab. The new foundation was built a foot and a half higher to protect against damage from future storms which would inevitably come. Miss Mary wanted to drive the first nail in the house; she did, in spite of the fact that her mother had died two days before the build began. The initial group to frame the house were twenty from the Society of Friends (Quakers) who included several licensed carpenters.

They were on a severe deadline. Hurricane Ian was imminent. They got the house enclosed before the eye of the storm passed by.

On October 9, our mission work group arrived with the tasks of installing exterior siding plus, framing and enclosing an exterior shed attached to the back of the house. We also did caulking plus we prepared the interior of the roof and walls for insulation. Everyone in the group was impressed with the job site supervisor, Mark, who was a brilliant teacher and organizer. He represented the Baptist Building for Mission group. All of us learned new job skills. All tools and materials were there ready to be used on the job.

Members of the mission work team were David Brown, Pam Pospisil, and Phil Courtney from First Presbyterian, Ithaca. Four members of the team were from the Corning First Congregational UCC Church. Bob Walker has joined us for both previous mission trips. Pam, his spouse, and Mary Daly and Tom Wilkinson joined as new volunteers. In the afternoon after work was done, the team gathered outdoors in a local park to debrief and engage in team building. One afternoon was spent exploring the beautiful town of New Bern, culminating in a delicious seafood dinner at Morgan's, the group's favorite local restaurant.

First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca is committed to volunteering time in disaster areas to help local people rebuild housing that is safe, healthy and secure. The group welcomes anyone at any skill level to join in an unforgettable experience as members of Christ's body in the world. Contact Suzy Courtney (mscourtney228@gmail.com) to learn how to become part of our next mission work team.

## Youth Group's Cents-Ability Project

The Youth Group has been spending the fall working to bring the PC(USA)'s Cents-Ability program to our congregation. Cents-Ability is one way that families, congregations, and presbyteries can support the battle against hunger and poverty. Every member is invited to set aside a few cents at every meal and bring in the set aside coins the last Sunday of each month and drop them into the collection canisters. Funds are then used to support local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

A significant aspect of this project for the youth was learning about how our church makes decisions. After learning about the program, the youth drafted a motion to send to Session. They first had to present the motion to the YMSS Committee and get its endorsement. YMSS then took the motion to Session which voted to approve the Youth Group's motion.



Once they received Session's approval, the youth got busy publicizing the program. They created posters and offered a Call to Mission during the October 2nd worship service. Sunday, October 30th will be the first collection Sunday when the congregation will bring in the coins they have set aside. The youth will have collection canisters at the sanctuary entrances, and they will be circulating through fellowship time with their canisters. Please drop in your collected coins before or after the service. Contributions that fold are also welcome even though they may not make the same joyful noise as they drop into the can.

**Every  
Coin  
Counts!**

## Youth and Children



*From the Welcome Back Picnic—September 10 at the Shackell-Dowells. Thank you Margaret and Glen!*

### November Godly Play Schedule

Date	Godly Play Story	Story Teller	Door Person	Church Activity
November 6	The Exodus	Laura	Ben	Communion
November 13	The 10 Best Ways	Kate	Linda	Deacons Sunday
November 20	The Exile and Return	Laura	Kate	Stewardship Sunday!
November 27	Discussion		Ben	Happy Thanksgiving!

*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!

## Welcome to Mylika Slaughter!

*Mylika is starting with us on November 1!  
We are so excited that we couldn't let the issue go by without a bio—you'll find this on the website too, on our staff page!*

Mylika grew up primarily in Nassau County New York, but she and her two cousins would spend summers in Alabama with their grandpa. In 2001 she and her mom moved to Alabama where she graduated from Horseshoe Bend High School. She moved back to New York to attend college and graduated with a BS in Childhood Education. During this time, she found her calling in youth ministry and Christian Ed while working at Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center. After graduating, Mylika began working at a preschool and as her church's administrative assistant. In 2016 she began a yearlong camp and conference internship in Missouri where she got to see the ins and outs of retreat ministry. While in this internship Mylika got to work as the middle school youth director at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church and traveled to Israel. At the conclusion of the internship, Mylika enrolled in the Dual Degree program at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur GA, where she graduated with a Masters in Practical Theology of Christian Ed and a Master of Divinity. Mylika's passion is offering fun, authentic and holistic spiritual support and education for youth and young people that honors the wisdom that each person already holds about God. She loves crafting with different materials and mediums and is currently working to finally get her driver's license. She is excited to get to know the people and beautiful scenery of Ithaca.

Here are some fun and wonderful things we learned about Mylika from our calls and her visit:

- Mylika has been recognized for several curriculums that she has written, planned and used.
- She has taught culinary arts and archery at Camp Lakota.
- Mylika's last name is a family trade name, just like Cindy's and Kiri's is.
- She knows a LOT about dogs and dog breeds, and at one point considered breeding them professionally.
- She has both an undergraduate and a Masters degree in education.
- Mylika can talk to pretty much anyone, and make everyone feel at home!

### Can you help us welcome Mylika?

*She is arriving on October 24, and starting November 1... and we would love to organize some meals so she doesn't have to worry about food while she settles in.  
If you can help, please CONTACT ME to find out about allergies and intolerances.*

*Text Kirianne:  
607-882-1325*

# November 2022

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 pm - AA Mtg (Fireside) 7 pm - Kava Irish Music— 3rd floor	2 2 pm - Bible Study 6:30 pm - Finger Lakes Pipe Band	3 8 am - Strategic Planning Mtg (Z) 6:30 pm - Community Game Night 7 pm - Piperventilators - 3rd floor	4	5
6 ALL SAINTS /COMMUNION SUNDAY 9 am - Youth Group 10 am - Worship Service 10:15 am - Godly Play 11:00 am - Fellowship Time 11:20 am - Adult Ed—Dodds 11:30 am - Youth Choir 12:30 pm - Deacons Meeting 5 pm - Living Hope Fellowship	7 3 pm - Kendal Communion 7 pm - Monday Evening Study Group (Zoom)	8 2:30 pm - WMSL Mtg (Zoom) 4 pm - Adult Ed Mtg (Zoom) 7 pm - AA Mtg (Fireside) 7 pm - Kava Irish Music— 3rd floor	9 2 pm - Bible Study 6 pm - YMSS Committee (Z) 6:30 pm - Finger Lakes Pipe Band 7 pm - Personnel Committee (Z)	10 9 am - B & P Mtg 6:30 pm - Community Game Night 7 pm - Piperventilators - 3rd floor 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 DEACONS 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 5 pm - Living Hope Fellowship	14 GOOD NEWS DUE 7 pm - Monday Evening Study Group (Zoom)	15 7 pm - AA Mtg (Fireside) 7 pm - Kava Irish Music— 3rd floor	16 SESSION MATERIALS DUE 2 pm - Bible Study 6:30 pm - Finger Lakes Pipe Band 7 pm - Membership Connections Committee	17 6:30 pm - Community Game Night 7 pm - JPIC Committee (Z) 7 pm - Piperventilators - 3rd floor 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 6:30 pm - Theology on Tap	19
20 STEWARDSHIP 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 5 pm - Living Hope Fellowship	21 7 pm - Monday Evening Study Group (Zoom)	22 7 pm - AA Mtg (Fireside) 7 pm - Kava Irish Music— 3rd floor	23 OFFICE CLOSED 2 pm - Bible Study 6:30 pm - Finger Lakes Pipe Band	24 THANKSGIVING—OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm - Community Game Night 7 pm - Piperventilators - 3rd floor	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26
27 9 am - Youth Group 10 am - Worship Service 11:00 am - Fellowship Time 11:20 am - Adult Ed—Dodds 11:30 am - Youth Choir 5 pm - Living Hope Fellowship	28 7 pm - Session 7 pm - Monday Evening Study Group (Zoom)	29 7 pm - AA Mtg (Fireside) 7 pm - Kava Irish Music— 3rd floor	30 2 pm - Bible Study 6:30 pm - Finger Lakes Pipe Band			