



FEBRUARY 2025 | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | WHITESBORO, NY

SHARING WITH GREAT DELIGHT

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. I am delighted to share my first newsletter article with all of you! We explored this partnership in ministry together last November. Sabrina and I were impressed with your warm welcome and caring for each other. We were impressed with your courage in your new vision in Whitesboro.

Sabrina, Riley (our Cavapoo), and Dugout (our Tabby cat) made the 1400-mile drive in two loaded cars. A few days later, we put our possessions in a storage unit from a POD. We are settling into our temporary rental.

I am becoming more and more acclimated to the area and learning the polity of the Presbyterian Church. Everyone is being very patient as I learn the terminology. The roles and systems are all like my experience just different titles. What matters is our faith in the same Jesus Christ.

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

~Colossians 3:12-14

Paul shares words in his letter to the church at Colossae that are so important in our journey to serve God together. They reflect what you have demonstrated to us, one another, and how we go forward.

- ▶ You have been “chosen” to be here at this time in this place. God has a plan, and we will explore God’s vision for the fullness of what it means.
- ▶ You have already demonstrated compassion, kindness, hu-

mility, meekness and patience. These will be critical values for us to continue in how we treat each other, members of the community and ourselves.

- ▶ The process, I’m certain, has not been perfect. Change always has a wide spectrum of feelings. This was true as you moved to this new location and as you accept a new pastor. We will bear with one another to find peace and communication to overcome differences. And when need be, forgiveness will be sought.
- ▶ Most importantly, we will do all things with love. Love is not just a feeling; it is also a choice. Our love for each other will be seen by others and be contagious.

The above is a reminder of who we are as God’s Chosen and thus has no hidden meanings. It drives who I am and know to be in your hearts as well. We do all in the name of Jesus.

Pastor George

Session News...

- The Session urges we support our Mission Partner, the Rescue Mission of Utica. By participating and donating to the Walk a Mile in my Shoes fundraiser on 2/1.
- Annual Meeting with installation of elders will take place following the worship services on 2/2.
- We received a Micah grant \$4,000 from the Presbytery in support of our Seed of Hope food pantry.
- Plans are underway for the Lenten season with Rev. George Cooper leading an adult devotional study.
- We are updating the 2025 church directory and would love to include your updated information! Do you have a new phone number, address, or email? Is your birthday or anniversary up to date in our church directory? Please send any changes to the office at fpcutica@gmail.com or 315-732-5111.

Cancellation Policy

If church is cancelled due to weather, we will post cancellation on WKTV, WUTR, and on our Facebook page. If Whitesboro schools are closed, the church is closed.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 17th, Presidents Day.

WELCOME NEW OFFICERS

Will be installed on February 2nd

Presented by the nominating team:

Class of 2027

* Judy Miller *

* Jan Waterbury *

* Tom Wattles

**denotes second term*

Many thanks to outgoing elder Cindy Molesky for her dedicated time and service.

Excuse any errors, corrections, or slight imperfections in this message, but we couldn't wait to share the wonderful news with you! Your understanding is appreciated as we strive to communicate the latest news and updates with you.



MARCH 5TH 6 PM

Mark your calendars now for our Ash Wednesday meal and service. We will begin our Lenten journey with a light meal. The meal will be followed by a worship time around the tables that will include:

- ▶ reaffirming our Baptismal vows
- ▶ the Sacrament of Holy Communion
- ▶ the imposition of ashes



Contribution Statements

Statements of 2024 giving have been passed out or mailed in January. Please check the statements for accuracy. If there is any discrepancy with your records, please call/email the church office within the next few of weeks.

What is Per Capita?

The money contributed helps build up the Body of Christ.

Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church to celebrate being a connectional part of church. In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, a reminder that all parts of the church are parts of one body. Doing your part takes both your contribution of gifts and per capita. These gifts are part of our call to be one church, one community. Through our gifts we support the work of our congregation, our presbytery, our synod, our national church, and beyond. 2025 Per Capita is \$46 per member per year. **Your Per Capita is due as soon as you are able to add it to this year's pledge.**

Offering Envelopes

Each week you can find the envelopes in the front or back of the Sanctuary. Blue envelopes are to be used for special offerings. You are encouraged to place your pledges in a white envelope and write your envelope number on it in order to help us better record your contributions for 2024.

Cashless Giving Opportunity

Our Cashless Giving Opportunity is live and provides members and friends with a modern and convenient way to contribute digitally, ensuring seamless support for our ministries.



Thank You!! St Paul's Textile

We're happy to report that in 2024 the impact to the community through this program.

- ▶ 24,698 pounds of clothing were donated from your shed
- ▶ This was enough to clothe an estimated 4,468 people all over the world.
- ▶ Based on this volume of clothing, we received \$820.21

The clothing shed is a true blessing in the community.

Jared Boxes Update!

A sweet photo and note of thanks from Perla!
She received a Jared Box at Wynn Hospital in Utica, NY.



Mom gave permission to share.

A Note from Debbie Wainwright, Sr. Development Officer/CMN Program Director at MVHS. "I thought you'd like to see the little "Thank You" email that was actually sent to me from the Executive Director at the Jared Box Project office! This little girl, Perla, received one of the donated Jared Boxes from First Presbyterian Church in Whitesboro and sent a note of thanks to their main office in PA! How awesome is this?!?! I knew that you and others involved with your donation project would appreciate seeing this gratitude come full circle! Thank you all again for your kindness and generosity".

February Birthdays

- 2 Bill Wescott
- 5 Gail Dorn
- 12 Abel Akins
- 13 Andrea Akins
- 13 Diane Todd
- 16 Carol Farley
- 21 Bernie Costner
- 24 Bill Smith



Firstnews

"FIRSTnews" is published monthly.

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First Presbyterian Church | 1 Elm Street, Whitesboro, NY | 315.732.5111

"Opening Doors, Minds, and Hearts: Serving Christ and Community."

The Rev. George Cooper | Pastor

E-Mail fpcutica@gmail.com | Follow us at www.facebook.com/fpcutica

Join us for...

Coffee Hour

Coffee . Connect . Community

Sundays

Following Worship

(Fellowship Hall)

February 16th | plentiful gifts

SUNDAYS THAT ARE NEEDED:

2/9 — 2/23 — 3/2 — 3/9 — 3/16

- Please consider signing up to bring snacks for one of our upcoming coffee hours. Sign-up sheets are conveniently located in the hall just outside the fellowship hall.

