



First News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | WHITESBORO

JUNE 2024

Opening Doors to Strangers

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. - Hebrews 13:2

For the last fifteen years I have served on the Board of Directors of The Center (formerly called The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees.) I became involved in refugee resettlement by accident. One Sunday twenty-five years ago a family of nine refugees from Burma walked through the doors of the church I was serving, Tabernacle Baptist Church. Soon our congregation was helping to welcome dozens of new friends from Burma each year.

I had no idea of the level of displacement and migration in our world until I met and became friends with refugees being resettled in Utica. Here are some eye-opening statistics about the scope of the worldwide refugee crisis:

- There are 108 million people worldwide who are refugees from their home countries.
- More than 1 in every 74 persons on earth has been forced to flee their homes.
- Currently, the majority of refugees come from three countries: Syria, Ukraine, and Afghanistan.

The United States began resettling refugees after World War II, when Congress passed legislation welcoming Europeans displaced by the war. In 1980, Congress passed the Refugee Act of 1980 and established the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. Under this federal program, the President sets the number of refugees that are

admitted each year. In 2024 the U.S. pledged to receive 125,000. In Utica, we began welcoming refugees after the Vietnam War. We have welcomed over 20,000 refugees in the last twenty years, earning Utica the nickname, “The Town that Loves Refugees.”

There is far more about our newest neighbors and the global refugee crisis than I can communicate in this short article. So, I invite you to join me at **World Refugee Day on Saturday, May 8, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Jorgensen Athletic Center on the campus of Mohawk Valley Community College.** It is a wonderful opportunity to meet some of our communities’ newest neighbors, learn their stories, and have some fun.

The day begins with a **Naturalization Ceremony at Noon** as our neighbors from around the world become New Americans. **Hamdi Ulukaya, Chobani Founder and CEO**, who came to the U.S. as an immigrant from Türkiye will speak. He famously said, “The minute a refugee gets a job they stop being a refugee.” Chobani is a major refugee employer.

The afternoon will also feature **Food Trucks and Vendors** offering international cuisine

Continued on next page...

Cook-in



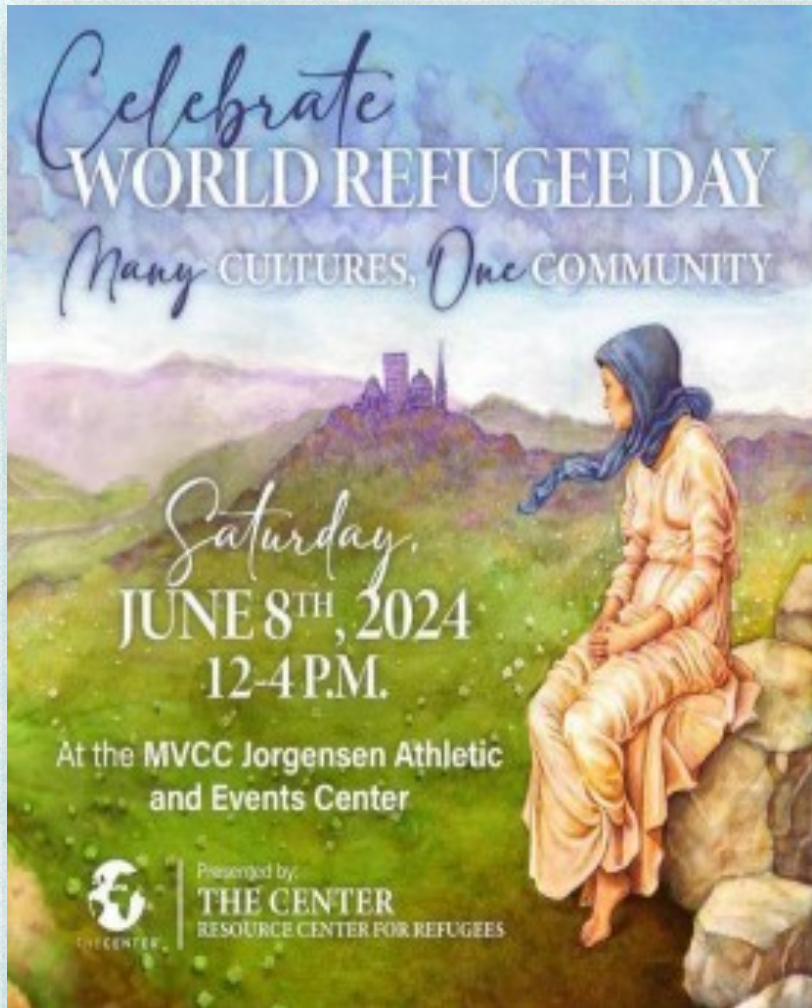
Join us for our next Cook-In for Your-Neighbor which will take place on **Wednesday, June 19th at 10 AM**. This event is a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together, share meals for those who are shut-in, and enjoy each other's company. As usual we want to make this event a success, we need your help! Please sign up on the bulletin board to bring specific items listed on the sheet. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and ensure that we have what we need for everyone to enjoy.

Upcoming Dates

- ♦ **Mission Team**
- June 8th 10 a.m.
- ♦ **Worship Team** -
- June 12th @ 7 p.m.
- ♦ **Session Meeting**
- June 19th @ 2 p. m.

SESSION NOTES

- Tithely is LIVE... Look for a QR Code in all our publications for another way to support the church and its missions
- The elevator is still in the repair phase and will soon be available for use. This may take some time so we're being patient.
- The PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) is busy working on calling a new pastor for 2025.
- The sale closing on the Genesee Street property is moving along, just waiting on a few items.



Continued from cover...

and items. There will be **Cultural Performances** from a variety of Utica's cultural communities. Come and see dancers, poets, singers, fashion, and more! Bring your grandkids for the **Children's Crafts**. The Utica Children's Museum's Mobile Museum and the Utica Zoo's Zoomobile will be joining the celebration.

I hope you will join me at our community's **World Refugee Day celebration on June 8 at MVCC**. Welcoming strangers is a key component of our faith. Jesus said that when we welcome the stranger, we welcome him.

Grace and peace, *Mark C* | Interim Pastor

Please excuse all errors, omissions, slight mistakes, and oversights.

Don't miss out on amazing
deals and treasures!

First Presbyterian Church presents a

GARAGE SALE

June 14th & 15th

9 AM - 4 PM

Mark your calendars.
See you there!

RAIN or SHINE



This is a great opportunity for you to clean out
your attic, closets, basement, or garage and
make money too!

Hurry, Space is limited

Be sure to save your space today

email : FPCUTICA@gmail.com

1 ELM STREET | WHITEBORO, NY 13492

2 day spaces \$25

1 day spaces \$15



CALLING ALL TO
COME, SELL AND SHOP
at FPC parking lot
corner of Main & Elm



JUNE 23 | 9 AM

Holy Humor Sunday



WORSHIP WILL BE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER & JOY!

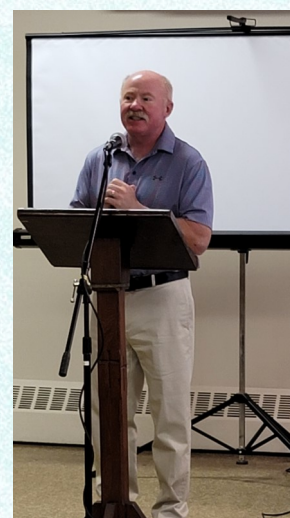
Memorial Day



Nice job FPC for reaching out to the community on parade day!



Over \$1300 was raise for the WFD annual fund drive this year. Plans are underway for next years luncheon.



WFD Luncheon



Thanks

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Cindy Molesky and all the volunteers who tirelessly coordinate and cook each month for our Hope House Mission. Your dedication and hard work make a significant difference in our community, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support.



Special Thanks...



We deeply appreciate the WFD for taking the time and effort to hang the WWII plaque in the narthex. Your dedication ensures that the sacrifices of our heroes are honored and remembered by all who visit. Thank you for your service and for helping us commemorate this important piece of history.



Don't
Forget
Your
Pledge
This Summer



In Proverbs 20:7, it is written, *"The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him."* Embody this verse through daily acts of kindness and sacrifice, nurturing in faith and helping us grow in our relationship with God.



Community News



\$5.00 entrant fee due at arrival
Judging for Best of Show and Peoples Choice
register via email: ppotasiewicz@whitesboro.us

Second Annual Summer Solstice Car Show.
Wednesday, June 19th @ 5 PM to dusk

Come and enjoy the beautiful setting of showing off your car under the shade of the trees at the Ray Daviau Park at the Village Green. Entrance fee is \$5.00 per car with all proceeds going to the Liv Strong Foundation.

Church Picnic

Sunday, September 8th
10:30 AM

FPC & WMO will be joint together for our annual outdoor worship and picnic.

Mark your calendars and look for fall the details in the July-August newsletter



Firstnews

"FIRSTnews" is published monthly.

NO SUBSCRIPTION FEE

First Presbyterian Church | 1 Elm Street | Whitesboro, NY 13492

315.732.5111

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

The Rev. Mark S. Caruana | Interim Pastor

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

June Birthdays

10 Barbara Hallenbeck

Anniversaries

4 Jim & Peg Beaton



On July 1st, the church office will start its summer hours on Monday through Thursday from 9AM-1PM. Regular hours will resume after Labor Day.