

First *news*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2020

Join us for
SUNDAY WORSHIP

IN - PERSON

10:30 a.m.

JOIN US
this weekend
ONLINE



So many CHANGES

Among us, we have responded to the threat of COVID in different ways.

We are going on six months of living with the many changes that have come about in dealing with the pandemic. When this started, most of us did not realize how long this would last. I was thinking it would be a couple of months. I envisioned that we would pick up with an Easter Celebration, with the joy of our traditional brunch and upbeat music in worship. Instead, we

hesitate about eating together and worship started slowly with great caution and no singing. I could never have imagined things to be as they are.

Among us, we have responded to the threat of COVID in different ways. There are some of us who have adjusted with relative ease to a lifestyle that tucks us into our homes. Others of us have

suffered from intense anxiety and depression. And most of us have fallen somewhere in between those two ends. Where ever we are on that spectrum, it is a learning experience for us to find ways to be gentle with ourselves and with others.

I admit that personally I struggle with the social isolation and the inability to participate in many of the routines and activities that typically energize me. In the midst of my own challenges, I've noticed that little acts of kindness take on greater significance. The little

things in life are the big things because God has shown up in those little things. I will be glad when we no longer need to be socially distanced from one another, as I'm sure all of us will be. But, I am also grateful for this time of seeing and depending on God differently. There are always good things for us to see and learn. There is always reason to be grateful. And God is always our strength.

I hope the gifts of God's hope, love, and joy will guide us as we transition from the social isolation of the pandemic into a normality that is marked by kindness and compassion for one another.

Jeanne

Remember your PLEDGE!

When we consider God's love for us, how can we not respond eagerly? Giving generously to the church is one way of responding to God's love. Could it be that our financial commitment to Christ's church speaks more clearly about our response to God's love than all other expressions

of our faith?

We thank each one for your gifts to the church thus far. As we draw near to the end of the year, please remember to fulfill your pledges to date.



*God is good all the time.
All the time God is good.
And it is good for us to gather together to praise God and to share our lives in friendship. There have been temporary adaptations in the way we worship and fellowship to provide a safe environment during this time of COVID. We are socially distanced and wearing masks, singing in our hearts and our minds rather than with our voices, conversing from a safe distance and offering virtual hugs. We continue to upload the service to **You Tube at FPCUtica.***

GOD
IS
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TIME

Per Capita ~

One of the strengths of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is that we are a connectional denomination. To be connectional means many things, not the least of which is that we join together with Presbyterians across the US to support one another in ministry and mission. Congregations work together on ministries which are too big for any one congregation.

In short, we work together to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ on many levels and in many places. The connectional ministry of the Presbyterian Church is paid largely by *per capita* (for each person). The *per capita* is a financial assessment based on church membership which every congregation is responsible to pay. Our tradition is to include it as a line item in the budget. However, many congregations ask (never require) their members to pay their personal share in addition to their pledge. For 2020 each church member is assessed \$41.14, which totals \$3,414.62 for our church. If you are able to pay your own *per capita*, it will have a positive impact on our cash flow.

Office Hours —

Office hours will remain flexible. Hours will differ from the normal schedule. Your questions or comments are important to us and we value each and every one. Please call or email us at any time and someone will get right back to you.

Many Thanks —

- We are grateful to Cathy Wheat, Tina Toglia, Becky Willsey and Fiona Peters for their willingness to serve as summer musicians.
- With Bill Wescott's retiring from Seeds of Hope ministry, he will be missed, we are filled with gratitude for Cindy Molesky as she has assumed overseeing responsibilities for Seeds of Hope. Many thanks to Donna Currie, Ruth Ward, Donna Falzarine, Genny Kinsman, Barb Wuest, Dave Jones, Dave White, Bob Misiaszek, and Peter Molesky, who are here for hours of operation and to unload the truck. What a great group of people! They have been here throughout this pandemic to continue to reach out to those in need.
- The Clothes Closet has reopened...Tuesday & Thursdays from 9-11, allowing 6 people in at a time. During COVID, we are not accepting donation. A small section of clothing has also been set up in Fellowship Hall to help with social distancing.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

BROOKS'

CHICKEN

BBQ



Oct. 15 4:00 - ?

First Presbyterian Church
1605 Genesee Street

Dear Church Family
and Friends,

It is with regret that the session wishes to inform you that the offer to purchase the church house and sanctuary has been canceled. The buyer was unable to secure the necessary funding to pursue and execute the intended use of our buildings. We will continue to offer all for sale with the hopes that another buyer will see the value and preserve our historic property.



As disappointing as this is to us all, this journey has not been without merit. God led us through two years of Visioning, exploring all our options, in order that we may continue to be a vibrant Church of Jesus Christ. Our reasoned discussions led to quick agreement by the session, the congregation, and the Presbytery to sell our buildings and move forward.

We have come to understand and appreciate all those who came before us and blessed us with these buildings and the means to maintain them while using them well, for over 200 years. However, it's not about the buildings. First Presbyterian Church is gathering to worship God, enjoying all our music, doing mission in our neighborhood, and enjoying our fellowship while caring for one another.

We are a strong community of faith, believers in the teachings of Jesus, asking for your prayers as we continue our journey together.

May the Peace of Christ be with you all,

The Session

Tom Wattles - Clerk

Firstnews

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

The Rev. Jeanne Kumbalek

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In September the following people celebrate their birthdays. If you see them, wish them a happy birthday. If it's their anniversary, wish them many more happy years.

Birthdays:

3 Thomas Hallenbeck

8 Susan Dorn

20 Tammy Bogner

21 Ken Church

24 Judy Miller

29 Gail Wilson

30 Jim Beaton

