

First News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | WHITESBORO/UTICA

JUNE 2025

Whatever Will Be, Will Be — Embracing Summer as a Season of Renewal

By Pastor George Cooper

After a cold and wet spring, it is refreshing and hopefully, summer is just around the corner. Will it be wet and cold? Will it be hot and dry? What will be, will be. As a kid, my grandmother, aunt, and mother would sing this line as we traveled to historical sites across the country. The song attributed to Doris Day has the following refrain.

*Que sera, sera
Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours to see
Que sera, sera
What will be, will be.*

I know I am dating myself when I quote this popular song, which first became popular in 1955, but to my defense, I was a little kid at the time.

The weather, whatever it will be, has been warmer over the last few days. I've actually seen that radiant ball in the sky we call the sun. Personally, I'm enjoying the change of seasons in my first Spring and Summer as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Where I moved from is already in the nineties.

Summer days allow the opportunity to take off your coat and go outdoors to enjoy nature. The outdoors has always been an opportunity for me to get closer to God.

The author of Job writes in 12:7-10, "But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all humankind.

Regardless of hot and dry or cold and wet, I hope your summer allows time for the outdoors. Enjoy God's creation. When we do, our minds relax, our anxieties calm, we worry less, and we rest. In many ways, summer is our season of Sabbath for rest and renewal.

With relaxed minds and hearts, we come to church in a new frame of mind. We can worship more freely. We can begin to plan for the future to strengthen our congregation. Join us for the church picnic on July 27th. Be looking for the report from Plentiful Gifts. Prayerfully discern your participation in Discipleship Bible Study with a start date of August.

Enjoy your summer with family and friends, including your church family at First Presbyterian Church.

Join First Church for ...

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Service

JUNE 8TH
10:00AM

Wear

COLOR OF FIRE *Red - Orange - Yellow!*

1 elm street | whitesboro, ny 13492

SESSION—

Thank You to Presbyterian Women for Their Generous Gift

We are deeply grateful to the Presbyterian Women (PW) for their generous donation which made it possible for us to purchase a much-needed new dehumidifier for the church basement. Thanks to your support, we can better protect our building and ensure a healthier, more comfortable space for all who use it.

The basement is home to many of our ministries, storage areas. Maintaining a dry, safe environment is essential. The new dehumidifier will help prevent moisture damage, reduce the risk of mold, and preserve the integrity of our church's facilities.

Your thoughtful contribution reflects the spirit of stewardship and care that PW brings to every aspect of church life. Thank you for investing in the well-being of our church home.

Upcoming Dates

♦ **Mission Team**
June 21st 10 a.m. @ Barb Shuck Home

*20 Vine Circle
Whitesboro*

~Upcoming Mission projects—Seeds of Hope and Sleep In Heavenly Peace (Watch for all the details)

♦ **Worship Team -**
- June 11th @ 6:30 p.m.

♦ **Session Meeting**
- June 18th @ 1 p. m.

Molly's House Coffeehouse

June 6th | 6 - 8 pm

pot luck snacks
and conversation

LIVE music by:
Rick Kincaid,
Becky Willsey, and
Aaron Willsey

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

BICENTENNIAL OF LAFAYETTE'S FAREWELL TOUR

June 9 & 10, 2025
with stops at Rome, Oriskany,
Whitesboro, Utica,
and Little Falls



In 1824, Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, the last living Major General of the American Revolutionary War (1775 -1783), accepted an invitation to return to the United State in advance of America's 50th Birthday. The man who first journeyed to America as a nineteen year old volunteer for the cause of American Independence arrived in New York City to adoring crowds on August 16, 1824. His trip was meant to last only three months so he would visit the original 13 colonies (states). His "Rock Star" Tour instead lasted 13 months, covering 24 states and over 6,000 miles. In advance of America's 250th Birthday, the American Friends of Lafayette are celebrating the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour by re-enacting the entire Farewell Tour. Our area is proud to host

LOCAL EVENTS

Organizations in Oneida and Herkimer Counties will host Lafayette, portrayed by a professional reenactor, as he travels through our area for the Bicentennial of the Farewell Tour promoting patriotism and America's Semiquincentennial on **Monday, June 9 and Tuesday, June 10, 2025**. The National Bicentennial Tour will be travelling from Buffalo and en-route to Boston, as Lafayette originally journeyed.

Monday, June 9, 2025 Rome, NY

4:30 pm — Events kick off with the unveiling of a Pomeroy Foundation Lafayette Trail Historic Marker in front of one of the oldest buildings in Rome, the Arsenal House at 514 Dominick Street.

5:30 pm — An interactive indoor presentation by Lafayette "himself" from the American Friends of Lafayette at the nearby Rome Historical Society (200 Church St.).

6:15pm — The evening will conclude with a walking tour to Rome's Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldiers.

Continued on next page



Community News

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



Jewtica is an annual festival celebrating the rich heritage and traditions of the Jewish community in Utica, New York and around the

world. This event brings together people from many different backgrounds to experience music, food, art, and history of the Jewish people.

—Past performers on the Jewtica stage include Isle of Klezbos and Paul Shapiro's Ribs & Brisket Revue. We have also hosted delicious demonstrations from Jewish food experts like Beejhy Barhany and Jeffrey Yoskowitz.

Join in, this June at the Utica Jewish Community Center for an unforgettable celebration of Jewish culture. All are welcome!

Church Picnic

Sunday, July 27th @10AM

Our annual outdoor worship and picnic @ the Kirland Town Park

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





*Portrait of
Marquis de
La Fayette
by Samuel F.
B. Morse,
1826, oil on
canvas, New
York City Hall*

6:45pm — The walking tour continues to Fort Stanwix National Monument.

7:00 pm — Soiree at Arsenal House. Advance registration required for this event. Please visit Lafayette200.org for details. For More Information please visit RomeHistoricalSociety.org

FOLLOW THE FRENCHMAN TO WHITESBORO AND ORISKANY !

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 Oriskany, NY

9:30 am — The Village of Oriskany will welcome Gen. Lafayette with a ceremony near the site where he was originally welcomed by fellow Yorktown veteran and Oriskany resident, Col. Garret Lansing, who also enlisted in the American Revolution as a teenager. Lansing went on to settle at Oriskany, where he invested in a woolen mill that served the community for 200 years.

10:30 am — A breakfast fundraiser at Oriskany American Legion Post 1448 (7908 NY-69, Oriskany) adjacent to the Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site hosted by the Battle of Oriskany Historical Society. The menu will feature pastry recipes from the 1820s. Regency dress encouraged. Please inquire for tickets. For More Information please visit oriskanymuseum.com

Continued in Whitesboro, NY

12:30 pm — suggested arriving by noon Lafayette will meet with Supervisor Kaleta and Mayor Hopsicker in front of the original 1807 Whitestown Hall/Court on the Village Green (8 Park Avenue, Whitesboro). A Mrs. White, who greeted the General in 1825, will recall her memory of his visit.

***Food for purchase before and after the ceremonies.
Bathrooms inside for your comfort.***

From here, Lafayette will board a six-horse drawn carriage to be carried to Utica along Oriskany Blvd. For additional information please contact Alexis at Oriskany Museum 315-736-7529 or **Whitesboro Historian Sue Lorraine 315-723-1979.**

This is also the 100th Anniversary of Whitestown receiving the French Gratitude Train kept at the past 40&8 Legion. A group from France is actively acknowledging our support of French-American friendship by our care for the Gratitude Boxcar and the enthusiasm for the Return of Lafayette Bienvenu Monsieur !

Continued in Utica, NY

2:00 pm — Lafayette will arrive by carriage and greet the crowd at the Doubletree by Hilton — 102 Lafayette St. to meet with Oneida Nation representative Ray Halbritter & other local dignitaries, followed by the dedication of Lafayette Park nearby on Genesee St.

Continued in Little Falls, NY

6:30 pm — Lafayette will lay a wreath at the gravesite of Gen. Nicholas Herkimer (200 St. Rt. 169, Little Falls).

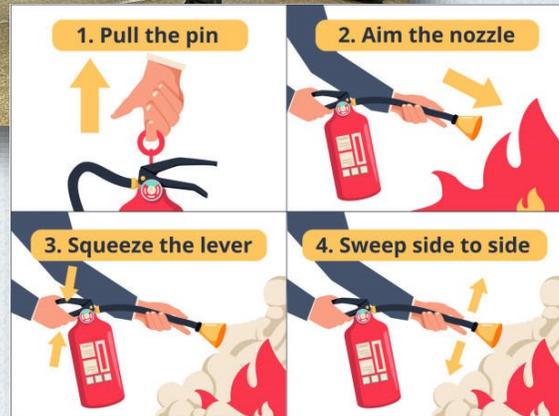
9:00 pm — Lafayette arrives by boat on the Erie Canal to meet and greet Little Falls dignitaries.

*For More Information please visit
Lafayette200cny.org*



May Highlights

Senior Safety w/WFD



A BIG shout out to the **Fellowship team**, thank you for the outstanding support along with the collaboration of the Whitesboro Fire Department during our Senior Safety Open House on May 7th. We were thrilled with the turnout—nearly 50 people—and even more so with the impact was made together. A special Thank you goes out to **George Massarotti, Fire Chief** and his dedicated volunteer staff.

With the grant through the Community Foundation we were able to distribute 25 new fire extinguishers, 28 smoke detectors, and 27 carbon monoxide detectors. These vital tools will go a long way in helping our seniors stay safe in their homes.

As a small token of our appreciation, \$500 from the congregation was given towards WFD annual fund drive. We deeply value the work they do and are proud to support it.

May Highlights Cont.



SOLD OUT!



Thanks to all who organized and helped!

Great Time!



Good Food!



Spring Tea Strips



More May Highlights

Memorial Day



Nice job **FIRST CHURCH**

for reaching out to the community on parade day!

Appreciation Sunday w/WFD and Honor and Remember those who served —



Firstnews

"FIRSTnews" is published monthly.

NO SUBSCRIPTION FEE

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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

June Birthdays

10 Barbara Hallenbeck
25 Paul Franz

Anniversaries

4 Jim & Peg Beaton



VACATION

The church office will be closed the week of June 23–27. If you need pastoral care during this time, please call the office and your call will be returned or email Pastor-George1stPres@outlook.com