

August 31, 2025
10:00AM
12th Sunday after Pentecost

**Backpack
Blessing**



During Worship

Moment of Quiet Reflection

Welcome and Greeting

Prayer for Peace

Gracious God, you are the giver of peace beyond understanding.
Let your peace rest on our hearts, homes, communities.
Where there is weariness, bring calm.
Where there is division, bring healing.
Make us bearers of your justice-filled peace,
Through the strong and gentle name of Jesus.

Amen

Prelude

Call to Worship

Gathered to worship God,
we are all right where we belong.
Called to this celebration of worship by God's Spirit,
we approach God with joy in our hearts.
Nourished by the love of Jesus, God's Son,
we gladly feast at this banquet of grace.

Music

Let All Things Now Living

#37

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Call to Confession

Our God is a generous God, bestowing grace immeasurably, loving
us beyond what we can imagine, and forgiving us before we know to ask.
To this God of generosity, love and forgiveness we now turn as we confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we compare ourselves with others, wondering if we are
better than them. We judge one another, trying to justify ourselves. We
seek to establish our superiority by assuming positions of honor. Forgive us,
we pray. Free us to see ourselves truthfully and to love one another with humble,
gracious spirits. Amen.**

A Time of Silence

Declaration of Forgiveness

God alone has the authority to judge, and by the grace of Jesus Christ, God has
declared that we are forgiven of all our sin.

Thanks be to God!

•Giving Glory to God

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Children's Time

LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prayer of Illumination

Open our hearts and minds, O God, by your Holy Spirit's power, that as scripture is read and the Gospel announced, we might receive with open hearts whatever you speak to us this day. Amen.

Scripture *Hebrews 13:1-8. 15-16*

Music

Scripture *Luke 14:1, 7-14*

Sermon *Invitation*

Affirmation of Faith

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form
he humbled himself and became
obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

•**Music** *When the Poor Ones*

#762

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, we praise you for your goodness in our lives: for our creation, preservation, and for all the blessings of this life. In these waning days of summer, we thank you for the gifts of warm days, children playing, time with family and friends, and all the other gifts of your love and grace. We especially thank you for the gift of this day, a new day to worship and serve you in Spirit and in truth. You have called us to draw close to you, honoring us with this privilege of worship.

God, even as we acknowledge your gifts, our hearts ache when we see war in our world, fear in our country, and the hate and violence and that's sometimes perpetrated in your name. We grieve with you the way power is abused to perpetuate injustice; the way those who have positions of privilege use them to their own advantage rather than for helping those in need; the way doors of access to prosperity in this country are opened to so few. Amid our own fear, confusion and anger, give us wisdom, that we might become fearless beacons of your justice, peace and truth.

Keep us faithful to our calling and fill our lives with your love overflowing.
This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying,

"Our Father..."

Invitation to the Offering

As a response to God's Word, which we have heard read and proclaimed,
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offertory

•Doxology

#606

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious God, we offer to you these gifts, both as signs of our gratitude
and as instruments of your reign. Use these gifts, and us, that your way of
love and peace, transformation and hope might flourish in this place. Amen.**

Music

Will You Come and Follow Me

#726

Charge and Benediction

Go forth from this place to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

And may the blessings and peace of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, keep
you this day and always. Amen.

Postlude

• PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE



Welcome
September



...will be our Mission

Thank you for your generosity

JOIN US IN PRAYER AS ONE COMMUNITY
FOR A SAFE & SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR

Prayer
Works !

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

Niagara Falls High School
4455 Porter Rd, Niagara Falls, NY

Meet at the Circle

Prayer
Works!



For more information contact
Rev. Makeeda Brooks (716) 285-6432



LAY READER THIS MORNING

Jill Kudiba

Happy Birthday

September 6 - Joanne Cowe *Happy 80th*
September 7 - Kimberly Yung

Flowers this morning
are in celebration of
Joanne Cowe's Birthday
given by
James



H A P P Y

LABOR DAY



The Building will be closed Monday September 1st
The Office will be open Wednesday this week

N A P Dinner & Fellowship

Wednesday, September 3rd

5:00PM — HERE at Riverside!

No need to bring a dish, the hosts take care of that!

A small donation is appreciated but not necessary



Recent Deaths:

Our Shut-Ins: Jean Aureli, Mary Bauer, Wade Bowen, Shirley Brocious, Sylvia Davis, Bettie LaMacchia, Jodi Masters, Jane Siever, Joan Swearengen, Dorothy Swick, Kay Vance

Prayer List: Mike Emmick, John (family of Kristi Murawski), Bob Davis (Sylvia's son), Corinne Kernin, Cindy Ransom, Judy (friend of Jane Siever), Dawn Ralph, Chris Soos, Anita, Tim & Jeremy Heary, George (friend of Lynn Emmick), Linda Johnson & family, Carol (friend of Chris Soos), Barb Vollick, Adam (Kristin Bradiel's boyfriend), David Brodie (Bills's brother), Sara Sroufe (Pam & Mark's daughter in law), Kimberly Yung, Shirley Jones, Kathy Doel, Bob Bull (friend of Barbara Rodgers), Ethan Westmoore and family, the Winker & Quarantillo families, friends and family of Lee Tweedie, Debbie Hansen, Elaine McCombs (Elisa Poole's mom)

PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE THE OFFICE and/or REV. LAURA ON YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS



ONLINE
PRAYER SERVICE

12:00PM

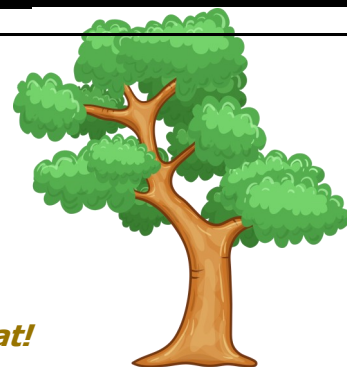
Monday - Friday

Tuesday talks

RESUMES
September 2nd

10:00AM - 11:00AM

Bring a chair & let's chat!



TGIF COFFEE HOUR

9:30AM

Friday, September 5th

Join us THEN for coffee & conversation!

BAKERS for NEXT Sunday,
September 7th

Team #2

Peggy Geist and Lisa Granieri



Ordination SERVICE



...for Carolyn Beard

First Presbyterian Church

3:00PM

Saturday, September 6th

Reception to follow