



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

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CCLI" License # 2839486

Pastor: The Rev. Leslie Latham

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Clerk of Session: Nancy Burns

Church Treasurer: Tom Dugan

Finance Secretary: Nancy Burns

Minister of Music: Kurt Ebsary

Administrative Assistant:

Judy Winters

Sexton: Kevin Donovan

Office Director of Christian Education:

Shirley Hagle

Youth Director: William Welch IV

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

September 8, 2019

11:00am

13th Sunday After Pentecost

Rally Day

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Greeting

(Please complete Prayer Concerns)

Gathering Prayer:

Weaver of life, framer of the ages, we marvel at your artistry and the trust you place in us. From our first cries to our final breaths, we are your own. Bind us now to each other in ways beyond our choosing, that your purpose might find fulfillment in our common life and service, for we pray in the name of Jesus, the firstborn of all creation. Amen.

Prelude:

Call to Worship: *based on Psalm 139*

Lord, you have searched us out and know us completely; you know every move we make.

You follow our footsteps and dwell in our resting places; you hear every word before we even say them out loud.

Your abiding presence gives us such hope. You are more magnificent than the sum of the stars and grains of sand.

Where can we go to escape you? Even in our darkest times, you always stay with us.

You recognized us while we were still in the womb. We cannot hide from your love.

Search each of us out, and help us with our restless thoughts.

Let us worship God!

***Opening Song of Praise:** "Help Us Accept Each Other"

#754

(Prayer Concerns Collected)

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

***Call to Confession**

Trusting in the power of God not only to fashion the world, but to mend and refashion our hearts, let us say how it is with us as we confess our sin.

***Prayer of Confession**

Unison

Merciful Maker, you created us for better use; remake us now. Where we are distorted, re-center and reshape us, bring us low and raise us up. Then fire and refine our hearts until we shine with your glory and find our place in your purpose. Amen.

Time of Silent Confession**Declaration of Forgiveness**

Hear the sound of love poured out:

[Water is poured into the font.]

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new. Sisters and brothers, in the name of the Christ I declare that your story is known, your sin is forgiven, your life is made new.

Let us live as those reborn. Amen.

*** Gloria:** "Halle, Halle, Halle"

#591

Time with Young Disciples: Dedication and Presentation of Bible

Eternal God, you enlighten all with your truth.

Plant your Word in our hearts as good seed,

And allow it to grow into a rich harvest

Of justice, mercy, and love.

Let it be the sharpened sword

That separates truth from falsehood,

As we seek to follow the One who was,

And who is, and who is to come,

Your Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We do not live by bread alone,

But by every word that comes from your mouth.

Trusting in Jesus Christ,

We dedicate this Bible and our education program

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,

And of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Our Faithful Response:** "Lift High the Cross"

#826

LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:

Philomon 1-21

From Paul, who is a prisoner for the cause of Christ Jesus, and our brother Timothy.

To Philemon our dearly loved coworker, Apphia our sister, Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church that meets in your house.

May the grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Philemon, I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers because I've heard of your love and faithfulness, which you have both for the Lord Jesus and for all God's people. I pray that your partnership in the faith might become effective by an understanding of all that is good among us in Christ. I have great joy and encouragement because of your love, since the hearts of God's people are refreshed by your actions, my brother.

Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to command you to do the right thing, I would rather appeal to you through love. I, Paul—an old man, and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus— appeal to you for my child Onesimus. I became his father in the faith during my time in prison. He was useless to you before, but now he is useful to both of us. I'm sending him back to you, which is like sending you my own heart. I considered keeping him with me so that he might serve me in your place during my time in prison because of the gospel. However, I didn't want to do anything without your consent so that your act of kindness would occur willingly and not under pressure. Maybe this is the reason that Onesimus was separated from you for a while so that you might have him back forever— no longer as a slave but more than a slave—that is, as a dearly loved brother. He is especially a dearly loved brother to me. How much more can he become a brother to you, personally and spiritually in the Lord!

So, if you really consider me a partner, welcome Onesimus as if you were welcoming me. If he has harmed you in any way or owes you money, charge it to my account. I, Paul, will pay it back to you (I'm writing this with my own hand). Of course, I won't mention that you owe me your life.

Yes, brother, I want this favor from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. I'm writing to you, confident of your obedience and knowing that you will do more than what I ask. Also, one more thing—prepare a guest room for me. I hope that I will be released from prison to be with you because of your prayers.

Epaphras, who is in prison with me for the cause of Christ Jesus, greets you, as well as my coworkers Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Sermon: "Discipleship Costs"

The Rev. Leslie Latham

RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

***Affirmation of Faith:** *A Prayer to start the Education Year*

The threads we bring this day are unique and precious.
We offer them with courage and timidity, pride and humility.

May these threads be woven together with love.

Students and Teachers:

We are students and teachers, bringing threads of questions, community, and commitment.

May these threads be woven together with love.

Choir Members and Musicians:

We are singers and instrumentalists,
bringing threads alive with music.

May these threads be woven together with love.

Staff, Officers and Committees:

We are members of the staff, the church officers, and the Committees,
bringing threads of administration, service and vision.

May these threads be woven together with love.

All present:

We are members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, bringing colorful threads
with rich textures, offering what we have to this tapestry called church.

May these threads be woven together with love.

Hymn of Response: "Spirit of the Living God"

#322

Invitation to the Offering:

Friends, let us love not only in our words but also in our deeds through the tithes and offerings that we give today.

Offertory:

***Praising God's Goodness – Doxology**

#606

***Prayer of Dedication:**

Unison

We give you thanks this day for the goodness and love that you have shown to us in Jesus Christ and pray your blessing upon these gifts. May they build your love in the world, to the honor of your name. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion**Hymn Before Communion:** "In Remembrance of Me"

#521

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**The Invitation****The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right...

Therefore, we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.****Hosanna in the highest.****Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup (The congregation will walk down the center aisle, take the bread, dip it into the cup and eat. A gluten-free option is available.)

***Prayer after Communion**

Unison

In gratitude, deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people, because we have shared the Living Bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth, and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD***Hymn of Sending:** "You Are Mine"

#177

Benediction:**Postlude:**

* Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP AIDS:

Large Print Bulletins, Hymnals & Hearing Devices – available from ushers. Children's Sanctuary - at the rear of the church

Baby Changing Tables - in both rest rooms of Church School Building.

Deacon's Prayer Chain - To activate Prayer Chain call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319.

New Prayer Concerns or Joys

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week:

Continuing Prayers: Scott Greenawalt; Pat & Bob Erisman; Kris Yettra; Judy Geerkin; Paul Card; Nadia; Doris Carlson; Bonnie Bringhurst; Marlene Tyrrell; Deal Kowsky; Bonnie Zimmer; Mary Jo; Shirley Hagle; and Jackie.

Prayers and caring for our homebound: Marge Klinger; Georgia Anson; Fay Tag; Doris Carlson; Alice Weber; Bob Palfi; Lillian Simon; Joy Welch; Wilma Bender; Margaret McBride; Peggy Hess, and Sue Strasser.

Because God's love is for all - everyone is always welcome.

We pray that God may bless you with peace, inspiration, and strength. We are a community, seeking to learn what it means to follow Jesus. No matter what you may be going through, no matter where you may be on your faith journey – you are most welcome here! If you would like more information, please call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319

LITURGIST: Janet & Sue Schurr

GREETER: Sue Schurr

USHERS: Team 3

STEPHEN MINISTERS: are always available to provide confidential support in times of need. Simply call Janet Haacker @ 694-4290.

REMINDER: Please call Pastor Leslie @ 490-0420 or Judy in the office @ 692-1319 if you or a loved one are ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

Music for Meals - Marla Maertin Tribute Concert: Sunday, September 8 at 5pm

Both the choir and Hearts4Worship will be playing music for this concert at First Pres Church, along with other local musical groups. This should be a wonderful event and we're excited to share our music. Proceeds to be donated to local food pantries.

Church Women United Annual Meeting & Potluck Luncheon: Mark your calendars for **Friday, September 13 at 12 noon** at our church in Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. See Donna Blinston for questions.

Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup: Saturday, September 21 at 8am

Questions and info: Contact Marilee Mathias - 716-694-8259

Rain date: Saturday, September 28

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering: Saturday, September 21 at 10am

All the women in the church are invited to attend the Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Springville. The speakers are Sherry Pomeroy, PhD, RN, and Elizabeth A. Ingold from Ingold Law Firm where the topics will include wills, Advance Directives, Health Care Proxy, Health Care Advocate, and Funeral Planning, etc. The cost for lunch is \$7.00. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Any questions, contact Jane Crossan.

September 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8 Rally Day Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Music for Meals 5p	9 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p	10	11 Circle II 9a	12 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	13 Church Women United Annual Meeting 12p Fellowship Hall UFO 7p	14
15 Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a	16 AA 9a TOPS 6:30p CE Mtg 6p Session 7p	17 Memory Lane 10:30am-2:30pm	18 Circle II 9a Healing Service 6:30p	19 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness 6:30p H4W 6:30p Choir 7:30p	20 UFO 7p	21 Adopt-A-Highway 8a PW Fall Gathering 1st Pres Church - Springville 10a