

All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

-Acts 1:14

Dear friends,

Now what?

This is a perennial question for me in the days and weeks following Easter. We faithfully place ourselves at the foot of the cross throughout Lent, then passionately walk with Jesus through Holy Week and the hushed days of expectation before Easter. Then we shout, "Alleluia!" as Christ rises from the grave. But, now what? What does Christ's triumph over death call us to be and do?

In the six weeks following Easter, Rev. Julia Wright and I will be team-preaching a worship series on the book of Acts where this question was foremost on the minds of those who first gave their lives to Jesus. We know right from the outset of the book of Acts that Jesus' first followers responded to his resurrection with prayer and fellowship. But there is so much more! They taught, preached powerful sermons, and built systems to serve the needy among them. The book of Acts is far more than a historical narrative of the early church...it is a blueprint for how Christ calls us to live on this side of the empty tomb!

As we learn about life after resurrection in worship, First Pres will be buzzing throughout the remainder of April and all of May with signs of new life! There are opportunities to volunteer for various ministries such as the **Malawi Early Literacy Team Volunteer Day on April 14** and **The Open Table on May 7** as well as a hands-on **Sew-cial for the Panti-Plus Program on April 29**. We have a chance to support the important work of the **Women of Grace Widows' Fund with a delicious take-out dinner on April 26** and at the quarterly blood drive for the **American Red Cross on May 22**.

We continue this spring to honor the life and lasting legacy of Tom Walker with two special events in April. First, the City of Watertown will be holding their annual **Arbor Day Celebration on April 28** on the front lawn of the church, where they will plant a tree in Tom's honor; we'll role out First Pres signature hospitality that day as we anticipate involvement from the church and community. Then **The Orchestra of Northern New York returns on April 30** with Brahms *Symphony No. 1* dedicated to Tom. Both will be wonderful celebrations!

All of the events are detailed on the insert in this month's newsletter and I encourage you to put in a place of prominence in your home or at work, or you can even take a picture of it on your phone so keep it handy. There are so many ways to engage with the community at First Pres this spring, and I hope you will take advantage of them all!

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve with you through this most holy time of the year and to bear witness in worship, learning, and fellowship to God's great love among us. I am also honored to be your Pastor and friend because what I see happening at First Pres is similar to what we'll be reading about in the book of Acts. In the early days of the church, the church was a place for worship, learning, and spiritual growth, but it was also a gathering place, a place to access needed services, and a safe place to share life with others. That's happening here, in this place. It takes many hands and hearts to make it happen, including your's. Thank you for sharing yourself with this community, with me and my family, and with God!

40 CANS FOR LENT



Thank you for contributing to our 40 Cans for Lent Food Drive!
We collected approximately 800 items for
the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry!

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BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

JILLIAN NORRIS
NURSERY STAFF

ALEESHA GILL
NURSERY STAFF

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY
9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.



WOMEN OF GRACE WIDOWS' FUND

COME ONE, COME ALL!!

- The Women of Grace: Widows Fund is having a takeout only Chicken BBQ fundraiser on Wednesday, April 26th from 4pm - 6pm. The dinner costs \$13 each and will include: BBQ chicken, baked beans, macaroni salad, a roll, and a slice of cake for dessert.
- For any questions or preorders please see Angela Elmer after church.

**Do you have any costume jewelry or pretty scarves
that are taking up space in your house?**

Here's a way to gift your unwanted treasures:

- On each Malawi trip, the Women of Grace: Widows Fund crew take each widow a small personal gift, something she will love, but never be able to afford. Necklaces, bracelets, and scarves are always highly valued. (And they are light, unbreakable, and easy to pack for us.)
- If you have any items you are willing to donate, please bring them in and place them in the labeled box in Fellowship Hall by May 14th. If you have any questions, please see Angela Elmer or Margot McGorman.



May 1	Matt Gorman	May 14	Carole Brown
May 4	Sarah Sinclair	May 15	David Elmer
May 7	Katrina Cox	May 16	Mary Sanford
May 7	Ruth Chiumia	May 17	Martha Brown
May 9	Judy Morley	May 20	Connor Way
May 9	Yanna Hiotis	May 22	Sarah Gerot
May 9	William Gleason	May 25	Toni Silliman
May 9	Ebony Towns	May 25	John Pike
May 10	Garren Gorman	May 25	William Pike
May 11	Gini McCreary	May 28	Stephanie Green
May 11	Sue Kitto	May 30	Carolyn Osborne
May 11	Gerda Barbour	May 31	Thomas Urling Walker, Jr.



April 16, 23, 30 and May 7, 14, 21

Pastor Andrew and Rev. Julia Wright will be team-preaching a series titled, “Now What? Acts After Easter,” which will explore how the first followers of Jesus made sense of his resurrection and sought to live as Jesus taught. We’ll watch as the early church worships and fellowships together, but how it also worked to build systems of help for the needy among them. There were even some times of great debate and argument! Look for more information in the weekly *Connect!* e-newsletter.

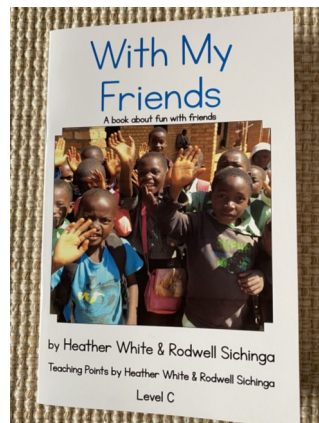
M.E.L.T. 23' Trip

Heather White, M.E.L.T. chair will embark on her 13th trip to Malawi in just a few short weeks. On April 26 she and team member, Carol Stevens, will travel to Malawi for a 15-day work trip.

First on the long “to do” list is to design, have built, and fill new bookshelves for the MELT Central Library. The Crane Cargo shipment has arrived and is going through the customs process after which the MELT Malawi team will get the 5 crates North from Lilongwe to Mzuzu to unpack at the library. It’s exciting to note title 30 has been published! That is 15,000 books in the hands of kids!!
Malawiearlyliteracy.org



Typical Malawi classroom size of those who receive the books created by M.E.L.T.



BOOK 30!

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Join us for
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT
10:00 A.M.

Listen on your radio
WATN 1240AM or
watch the service live from
www.watertownfirstpres.org
or

www.facebook.com/watertownfpc

If you miss a week of worship it is just a click away.
just visit our website at www.watertownfirstpres.org.



Members and Friends of First Pres. gathered on the
labyrinth at 8:30 on this glorious Easter morning (2023)
to rejoice that Jesus Christ has risen!