

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” - Jeremiah 29:7

Dear friends,

The summer months are off to a beautiful start here in the North Country and I want to encourage you to take full advantage of these sunny, warm days by experiencing all that our community has to offer!

I’ve been blessed to live in many different places and travel quite a bit. From camping in the Rocky Mountains and Wisconsin Dells, to riding the same rail line as Gandhi nearly the full length of India, to truly being able to see the curvature of the earth while driving through the Great Plains, God has opened my eyes, ears, and heart to the marvel that is God’s creation. And in each place I’ve lived or visited, I’ve thought of God’s command to the Israelites to ‘seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you.’

The command came at a desperate time in Israel’s history. The Israelites had been exiled, removed from their homeland, and, as the Psalmist recounts, made to entertain their captors with sad songs from home (Ps. 137). But even in exile, God gave the Israelites work to do. As the Chosen People - a belovedness from God that not even exile could take away - the Israelites were commanded to live well in the city where they were exiled and to pray to the Lord on its behalf. Because the simple truth is this: when you invest yourself, physically and spiritually, into the place where you are living, your life will become even more abundant.

Now, we are not living in exile. The seemingly-endless winter we just lived through might have felt like it, but we are not under occupation and we enjoy many, many freedoms. But God’s truth through the words of Jeremiah still rings true: when we live well in our community, our lives increase in abundance. Here are some ways I believe we can seek the welfare of our community as people of faith:

- Check out a local farmers’ market. Shop, but also strike up a conversation with one of the vendors. Learn more about their craft and help them to know that they are an important valued part of the community.
- Pack a cooler and grab a blanket for *Concert In The Park* on June 29th with the Orchestra of Northern New York and fireworks! The soul-touching music of this yearly celebration is accentuated by views of our beautiful city and magnificent Thompson Park.
- Register your kids, grandkids, and neighborhood kids for VBS—the form is included in this newsletter or you can register online at the church website. Some of my earliest memories are of Vacation Bible School and, for some kiddos, might be the only place they heard about and experience the tremendous love of God!
- Vote! There are primary elections all over Jefferson County on June 27, with early voting taking place at the Jefferson County Office Building June 17-25.
- Visit the lake or the river, even just for a few hours. When you consider the age and expanse of these natural wonders, it is humbling and convicting. I’ve never left either place without wondering what I could do to help preserve them for future generations.

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ALEESHA GILL
NURSERY STAFF

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



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- Take a walk or a hike, around your neighborhood or at a local park. Your physical health is just as important to God as your spiritual health!
- Join a club, volunteer, or serve on a committee. I know, I know, I know...we're all pressed for time. But what I've found is that I actually have more time when I give some of it away to an important cause or group.
- Worship. Of course I hope you worship at First Pres every week, but take a Sunday or two to visit a different church. Listen and learn how other people experience God and then consider how that can enrich your own faith.
- Pray. Pray without ceasing. Pray for our local leaders to make wise decisions for the good of all. Pray for me and your Elders and faith leaders everywhere that our witness might bring many to faith. Pray for our teachers and school administrators and everyone who has a hand in forming coming generations. Pray for those whose work goes unnoticed, but without whom our lives would not be possible. Pray for the sick and the homeless and ask for God's wisdom to transform our social ills. Pray even if you don't know what to pray about. God listens.

And consider joining us for the final session of "Going Deeper" which starts on July 9. For this final session we'll be reading and discussing Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*, which is a classic examination of the joy of Christian community. There we will read this quote, which serves both as a challenge and a benediction to us:

*"The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us,
the more assuredly and consistently will community increase
and grow from day to day as God pleases."*

Andrew



July 1	Dmitri Garry	July 18	Bill Bonisteel
July 3	Kelly Thomas	July 18	Logan Barnard
July 3	Elise Green	July 19	Mckenzie Way
July 4	Peter Quimby	July 19	Haydon Rudd
July 4	Hannah Barnard	July 21	David Prosser
July 7	Mitch Farney	July 21	Patty Virginia
July 8	Gail Parsons	July 23	Ken Rucki
July 9	Pat Guldenpfennig	July 25	Heather White
July 17	Sue Beaman	July 25	Matthew Bell
July 17	Marcia Reiber	July 29	Duff Kitto
July 18	Lu Green	July 29	Rev. Julia Wright
July 18	Jamie Dunbar		

Sunday School News



What a wonderful year of Sunday School this has been! Students have had a great time learning so many things: how to be disciples of God, how they are loved, about Malawi and how we are connected to the kids there.

Thank you to all of the teachers this year:

Lucy Hiotis, Kelly & Pete Thomas, Bunny Gorman, Heather White.

Without you our kids would not have the opportunity to learn and grow with God.

Our last day of Sunday School will be June 25th



Calling all Heroes!!

This July, come join us for our annual Vacation Bible School! This year is all about the heroes we find in the bible and how we can be a hero in our daily lives by living how Jesus taught us.

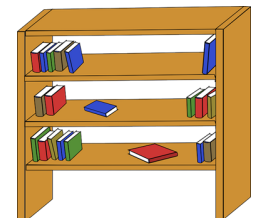
There will be 4 sessions on Wednesdays July 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 9:30am to 12:00pm.

All heroes from pre-k to 6th grade are welcome!

Register your hero(es) now! We only have spots for 24 heroes and they will fill up fast so sign up today!



M.E.L.T. Bookshelf Project



M.E.L.T. has growing pains! This is a good problem to have! With 30 titles printed to date and over 12,000 books in the MELT Central Library there is a need for a new bookshelf system. We estimate this cost to be \$3,000 including materials, transport of materials, and labor.

Please consider donating to this important project. Work to be completed in August while Carol and I are in Malawi.

Check payable to M.E.L.T. with memo- bookshelf. Checks needed by July 28th.

Mail to: Heather White/MELT

42822 St. Lawrence Ave

Thousand Is. Park., New York 13692



PW Ponderings for Spring

April 27th found us enjoying a nice lunch with an impromptu program presented by Margot McGorman, on her upcoming trip to Malawi. We agreed to deliver another \$100 in quarters to the housing authority for our Quarter Project to help with laundry expenses for senior citizens. Birthday Offering information was distributed in the pews for congregants to give, if they chose to, during the month of May.

PW has not asked for pledges or gifts for quite a while now. We are in the sixth month of the year and have received 1 gift. I would like to ask the women of the church to prayerfully consider making a gift to PW so that we may continue to do good in our area and the world, if we can.

Please make your checks out to:

*Presbyterian Women of Jeff. Co.
with pledge or gift in the memo section.*

*You may mail your pledges to
Maureen Gorman, 380 Pawling St. Watertown, NY 13601.*

Your Generous support is always greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting will be on June 22nd, at 11 am at Stone Church. Bring a sandwich if you wish. Soup or salad and dessert will be provided. What would you like to see happening with PW? What would bring you to a meeting? What are you passionate about? What would you like to share with us?

One last thing, not the least! I will continue to advocate for the start of a spin-off from our lunchtime PW meetings. I know that there are some of you who would like to get together in the late afternoon, evening, or weekend as those times might work better for you. We might revive the WIN Circle (Women's Interest Network). Step up. Don't be shy. Let me know if you have any interest in this. The sky is the limit! Call or text me on 3157784843..

*With gratitude,
Mo Gorman*

The Open Table

"O taste and see that the Lord is good!—Psalm 34:8

We will be having open table throughout the summer with the following schedule:



June 25th at 5PM

Menu:

**Chicken Teriyaki Casserole,
Cottage Cheese, applesauce, corn bread.**

July 30th at 5PM

Menu:

**Homemade chicken salad
on a croissant, chips, fruit,
and a cookie**

August 27th at 5PM

Menu:

**Pulled pork sandwich,
coleslaw, pickle,
acini de pepe salad**

Volunteers are always welcome, sign-up sheets are on the board in Fellowship Hall.

We have been able to serve about 170 meals each month for the last 3 months. Thanks to donations the cost per meal has been about \$3. Each month, seeing the people walk into our door to get a hot meal for their family and see the smile on their faces as they leave is such a heart-warming feeling. This ministry is a blessing to us all.

CHURCH
picnic

Even though the weather on June 11 was unpredictable, an inside picnic spirit prevailed as 70+ attendees enjoyed food, fun and fellowship. A huge heartfelt thank you to all who helped set up, grill, serve, clean up and to those who entertained our young disciples with various fun activities. We could not provide this special event without the assistance of so many of you!

THANK YOU ALL!!

Michele Elmer and Cherie Danforth, Picnic Coordinators

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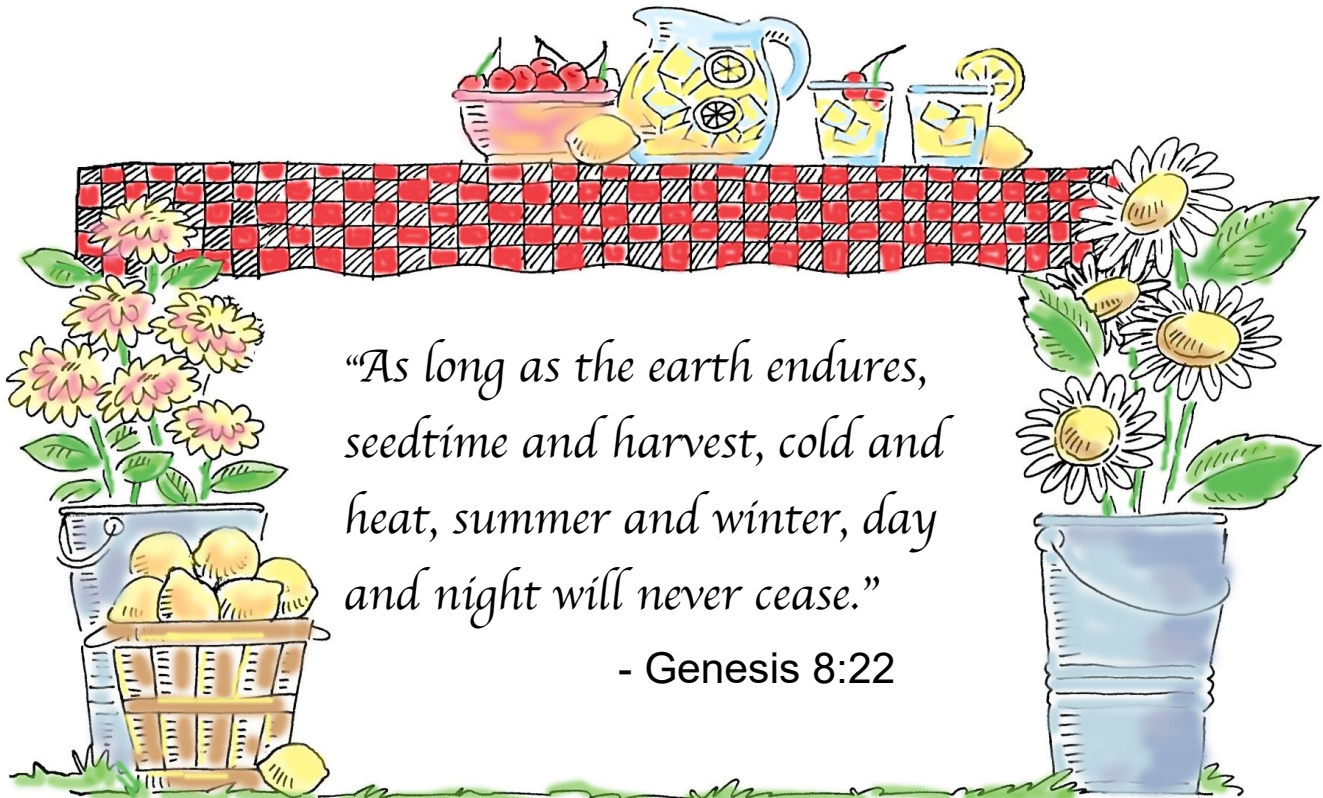


Join us for
**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT
10:00 A.M.**

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.



*“As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and
heat, summer and winter, day
and night will never cease.”*

- Genesis 8:22