

# GLAD TIDINGS

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Honeoye Falls

## Sunday Worship At 9:30 AM



Our service will begin at 9:20AM for announcements, which will be followed by the worship service. You can join us in-person or stream the service on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FPCHF](http://www.facebook.com/FPCHF). All are welcome.

We ask that you please turn off your electronic devices like your smartphone or tablet during services in the sanctuary. Turning off these devices helps with our screencasting function - making it easier for those who worship via Facebook. Thank You!

On August 4th, we will take Communion by Intinction. Communion by Intinction simply means taking a piece of bread, dipping it into the cup, and eating them together. The prepackaged wafer and juice will be available for those who prefer. To those who will be joining us via livestream on Facebook, just a reminder to prepare your Communion elements prior to the service.

## Vacations This Month

Both Pastor Kirk and Cheryl have vacations planned for the month of August.

Cheryl will be on vacation the week of July 29th and will return to the office on Monday, August 5th at 8AM. There will be no formal office hours during Cheryl's vacation. Pastor Kirk will be available for any office assistance during that time.

Pastor Kirk will be on vacation August 24th through August 31st. The Dr. Harry Heintz will be the pulpit supply pastor on Sunday, August 25th. Dr. Heintz served as lead pastor/head of staff at Brunswick Presbyterian Church, Troy, N.Y., from 1974-2012, and was a board member of Presbyterians for Renewal, 2002-2008. Dr. Heintz is active in supply preaching in the greater Rochester area, to which he moved in October 2013.

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### Church Staff

Rev. Kirk Baker, Pastor  
Cheryl Farnham, Office Manager  
Adam Lewis, Christian Education Director  
Michelle LaVarnway, Choir Director  
Amy Morrow, Bell Choir Director  
Nadie Miftari, Housekeeper



### Please Check the Church Facebook Page for Updates

Please remember that crucial announcements and worship resources are all available via the church Facebook page. You don't need to have a Facebook account to access the church's page. Our

Facebook page is  
[www.facebook.com/FPCHF](http://www.facebook.com/FPCHF)

Written by Pastor Kirk

**“So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.”**

**Matthew 5:23-24**

Some of you know that a major recent concern has been “Christian Nationalism,” especially the sect known as “Seven Mountain Christian Nationalism.” While a very small group has spoken in favor of this movement, many of us were surprised at their prominence, organization, and acceptance by some political activists at the national level.

I’m happy to say that the current result of the organized campaign to promote Christian Nationalism has been to greatly diminish its impact. Christian Nationalists seem surprised by the overwhelming rejection of their proposals by Christians across the board. While these arguments may seem obscure, I suspect they can help us in our Christian walk.

The main thrust of the Christian National Movement is to legislate a narrow form of political Christianity. There’s great disagreement on what such legislation would look like - some wish to legally disenfranchise women of the vote or to create new, sub-citizen categories for immigrants. Still others want to limit access to the polls based on faith and income. Nearly all promote a favored-citizenship status for Christians (though defining “Christian” itself is a difficult process). Christian Nationalists argue that to preserve our status as a Christian nation during a time of spiritual decline, we should transfer the locus of faith from houses of worship to the federal government.

Sometimes formal U.S. Christianity can make us very proud. The rejection of these proposals has been sweeping and unified. Christian leaders on both the left and the right have come together to oppose the idea based on Christian history,

theology, and the Holy Bible. For example, the phrase “separation of church and state” arose from American Baptists in the 1700s, who found that local laws favoring the most popular denominations forced heavier taxes on smaller denominations (who were usually Baptist and Presbyterian). They considered this corrupting of both the government and human souls. Theologically, the idea of “forced faith” opposes the Gospel of Jesus, Who accepted death without resistance in order to win us back to God. The Bible teaches that anyone who takes on the weapons of state-sanctioned force is inherently opposed to God, as we’re reading right now in Revelation. Many Evangelicals predict that putting faith in the hands of government will eventually lead to corruption of faith, no matter what the original intent may be.

What does that mean for us, who are largely unaffected by these debates? One lesson is that trying to force faith on others is always a losing proposition. We see that today in the growing rejection of evangelicalism in our country. In national surveys, congregations that identify as “Evangelical” have lost an average of 17% of their members, driven largely by young adults. These young adults often call themselves “exvangelical survivors” and speak angrily about how mainline Church history and teachings were kept secret from them. Sadly, they’re so embittered by their church experiences that most leave organized religion entirely.

Another is that trials can reveal the true mettle of our faith. Either we try to follow Jesus in every situation or we are only fair-weather friends, disciples who desert Him once the going gets tough. A true test of faith is whether we do our

best to live according to His example and teaching in difficult circumstances.

Finally, I hope we remember the words of Jesus quoted above, including in our treatment of Christian Nationalists. Many of them would not fit the Church’s historical definition of “Christian” (for example, a number of neo-Fascists support Christian Nationalism). As much as I shouldn’t need to write it, let’s remember they’re all children of God. The greatest Kingdom role we can play is to offer healing in the Name of Christ. A desire to “force” faith on others arises from fear, and is an unhealthy response to fear borne of personal weakness. In confession, we acknowledge that we all carry some kind of desire to control others and exalt ourselves. We all need healing, and we all are called to extend Christ’s healing to others.

Perhaps the Christian Nationalists have grown quieter because they’ve found so few allies. Perhaps they’re biding their time, trying not to alarm voters before a presidential election. No matter the reason, we can remember the words of the Christian martyr Dietrich Boenhoffer: “Violence can never overcome evil - evil understands violence, violence nurtures evil. The only thing that can overcome evil is a steadfast, resolute love.” Legislating personal privilege over the rights of others is a form of spiritual violence. However opposed others’ responses are to the Gospel lovingly entrusted to us by Jesus, we can do our best to follow His example, in this instance and always. In that way, we become the Body of Christ, end divisions, and spread the Gospel.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Kirk

## **Share What You Enjoy**

Every day, several people “like” something on the church accounts. If you like it, please also share it. It only takes a fraction of a second! Even I, a curmudgeonly pastor in his late fifties, have gone back onto Facebook to share church posts. And I really dislike social media! Please take the extra half-second to click “share” when you see a church media post. You never know whose life will be made infinitely better through the friendship of our church family.

Pastor Kirk

## **Congratulations to Our Housekeeper Nadije!**

On July 23rd, our Housekeeper Nadije along with 93 others became naturalized citizens in a ceremony held at the George Eastman House. Nadije has been an active participant in the KOP classes at the church for over three years as well as has worked with Cheryl weekly to learn English, study for her driving test, and studying for her citizenship. We congratulate Nadije and welcome her as a US citizen!





## ***Worship In August***

In this quiet, hot month we will complete our journey throughout the whole of God's Word. Congratulations to all who have trod the entire distance, it's taken years and is not a simple task, as we've seen together. As we wrap up John's Revelation, you might see why some feel Revelation is actually a book that promotes joy, peace, and the love of God. After we finish that complex book, we'll spend one more Sunday reflecting on how Bible passages encourage us to think upon God's Word, then examine together why Bible theologians consider teachings like rapture and young-earth creationism to be "heretical," that is, against the direct teachings of the Bible itself. It's interesting food for thought and something we rarely discuss as part of worship. In our tradition, worship is supposed to center around the proclamation of the Word, so it certainly seems appropriate to delve into these topics together.

8/4/24	Christus Victor	WCC	Revelation 19
8/11/24	Eternal Joy	WCC	Revelation 21
8/18/24	Reading the Bible	WCC	Proverbs 2, Mark 4:1-9
8/25/24	Guest Preacher	Preacher's Choice	Preacher's Choice

## ***Brief Update on our Breeze Online Directory***

The online management database we use is frequently updated, so some pages have changed. We've also received several requests to hold a refresher presentation on how to access the online directory, which we'll hold in the fall. For now, here's some information I hope helps connect you with others in the congregation and keeps you connected with them.

The first step in using Breeze is to respond to the invitation to enroll sent from the church office via email. If you haven't received one or it came a long time ago, please let the Office Manager know and one can be sent during regular office hours. When the email invitation comes, you can click a link within the email that will automatically direct you to breezechms.com After you have enrolled, your browser will usually direct you to the username and password sign-in page, but the very first time (or any time you empty your browser cache) you will be asked to enter the church "web address." Our church's web address is: HoneoyeFallsPC.

It's important that you type it exactly that way, with a capital H, capital F, and capital PC. After entering the address, click "Continue" and you will be directed to a page to create your personal user name and password.

Enter a user name and password, then confirm your password.\*Please keep track of your user name and password – you are the only one who knows what they are. Once you're in the directory, click on your name in the "My Profile" section. Please make sure all your information is entered correctly. You can change personal information by pointing your cursor over the gray bar with headings like "Family" and "Contact," and an "Edit" button will appear. When you click on your picture, or if there is no picture click on the empty head silhouette, you are given the option of selecting a picture from your computer or device. Simply click on the "Upload Image" button in the pop-up window, and choose the photo you wish to use. Please remember that sharing your picture is a way to say "welcome" to new members!

It helps church leaders complete required reports if you include your birthday. Only the Breeze Administrator or other family members can see your birthdate (if family also have an account), this is not visible to any other members. You can search for other members entered in Breeze by entering their first or last name in the search field on the right toward the top of the page. You can see a list of all church members and friends by selecting "People" towards the left at the top of the page. If you forget your username or password, you can create a new password or notify the Church Office Manager, and a new invitation will be sent to you during Church Office hours.

If you find Breeze too difficult to read or navigate, it's okay! Printing a directory from Breeze is very easy and can be done regularly to ensure you have current contact information for members and friends. Please let the Church Office know this is your preference. The easiest way is to send an email with the subject title "Need Printed Directory." Directories will then be placed in your church pocket, in the hallway near the Church Office, on a regular basis.

**AUGUST 20TH 6PM-7PM**

### ***Sabbath Hour***

The Sanctuary will be a place of **total quiet** where you can come and be alone with your thoughts and our God

**NOW AVAILABLE THE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

## Director's Dish

Written by Adam Lewis  
Christian Education Director

Here we are, Summer is half over and the stores are starting to get the Halloween Decorations out! That must mean one thing, September is right around the corner! While we still have to wait another month or so for Sunday School to start back up, things are still busy on the CE front. With our church taking the reigns of the Ecumenical Vacation Bible School, we've been busy planning for the week of August 12-16. Thank you to all of you who have offered to help volunteer that week, we can't do it without your dedication! Right now we have approximately 30 kids signed up, and there's still time to do so. Please continue to spread the word and promote our church; a lot of work has gone into the planning and I'm looking forward to a successful week of VBS!

I'm also planning a three day Mission Activity, October 11-13, for our Middle and High School youth. This will serve as an intro to our Confirmation program as well as give the youth an opportunity to make a difference! If you're Middle/High School youth are interested in participating, and you haven't already let me know, please do so, it helps with planning when I know the headcount. I'm still ironing out the details, so stay tuned for more information to come soon.

Registration for the upcoming Church School year will begin on August 1st, so please keep an eye out for my email! We have a lot of fun things planned for the kids this year and I'm looking to build on the momentum we have from last year!

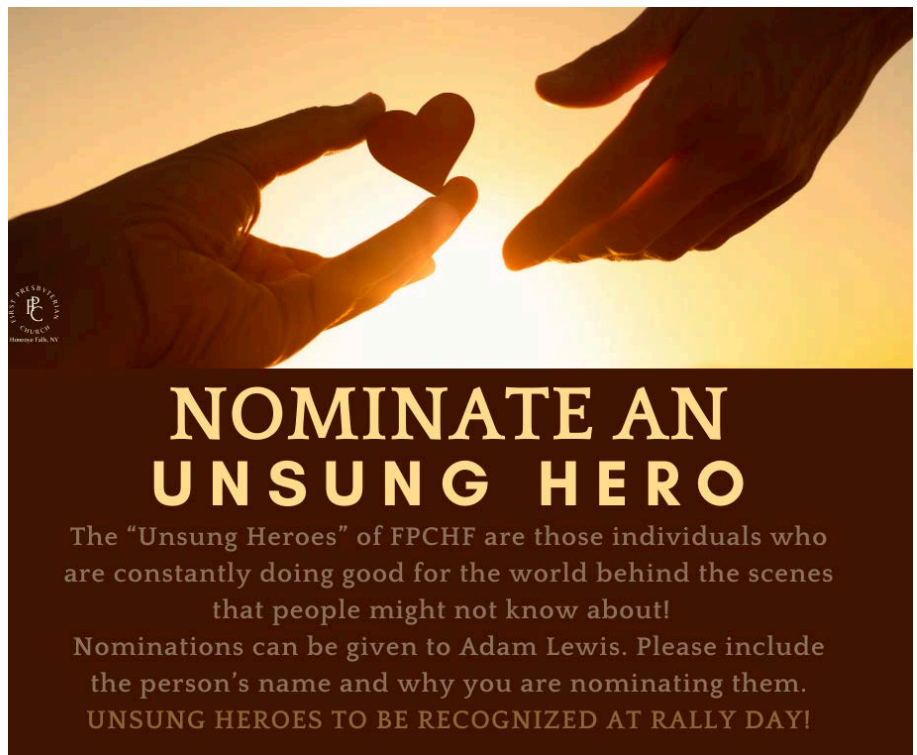
I'm also still taking nominations for the "Unsung Heroes" of our congregation. They will be recognized, along with our Puppet Hall of Fame Inductees, at the end of September. If you have some one you'd like to nominate, please send me their name and a brief description as to why they are being nominated. In a world that can seem pretty dark sometimes, lets shine light on those who are still fighting the good fight!

With all that being said, please enjoy what is left of the Summer, it's not quite back to school yet lol!

Blessings!



There is still time to register for VBS - so spread the word!



## VBS Can Use Craft & Snack Donations

Tissue Paper (many colors)

Pipe Cleaners (dark)

Small Elmer's Glue

Thin Cardboard cut 8 1/2" x 11"

Pretzel sticks (minis)

Sunflower seeds (no shells)

Mini marshmallows

Craisins & Raisins

Celery & Cream Cheese (put in fridge)

Snack baggies

Lists available - please bring by August 9th If you have any questions - please contact Adam Lewis



## Capital Campaign Team

Written by Anne Gravenstede, Secretary



**“Sharing our stories, investing in the story, continuing the story.”**

Many of you may remember the cold sanctuary during the winter and early spring. Unfortunately, at another time Creekside Nursery School had to close a few days and at another point the offices were below recommended temperatures so Pastor Kirk and Cheryl worked from home. One of the major projects that the Capital Campaign Committee has identified has been replacement of boilers in the church building with a high efficiency system. These boilers were installed in 1983 and have served us well. The Committee appreciates all the work done to date obtaining estimates for replacement, as well as contributions received toward the boiler replacement.



During its July meeting, the Committee selected John W. Danforth Company, with a local office in Victor, as the best estimate received for replacement of the boilers. As expected, all aspects of the boiler replacement project have increased in price from the original estimate received in March 2024. The Committee has approved and signed the updated quote. Arrangements are currently being made for an installment date agreeable to both the church and Danforth.

The Committee invites you to share your thoughts by either contacting any member of the committee, sending an e-mail to the church address, or by dropping a note in a folder that the Committee has established outside the church office. If you feel you can offer expertise or information on a particular need, that would also be most welcomed.

Capital Campaign Committee - Margaret Bailey, Kirk Baker, Phyllis Fritz, Linda Goodrum, Anne Gravenstede, Dick Mueller, Mark Rowe, Susan Richardson

  
**COMMUNITY**  
*Meal*  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH**  
**4:00PM**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
27 N. MAIN STREET  
HONEOYE FALLS, NY

## HandBell Ringers Needed

*FPCHF Bell Choir is looking for  
HandBell Ringers for the  
upcoming year*

*Any music reader welcome,  
experience not required*

*Rehearsals are at 8:30 AM on  
Sundays from Sept-June*

Contact Amy Morrow if interested:  
585-794-1135 or  
mewithcrew@gmail.com



**August Host for  
Community Meal Needed!  
Please contact Eleanor Sexton  
(585)624-2549 if interested!**





**LEMONADE**  
*On the Lawn*

**AUGUST 18TH**  
After Worship  
Hosted By Fellowship Team



*Deacon's*  
**AUGUST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**  
*Coffee Hour*  
**AUGUST 4TH**



**Howard Hanna**  
Real Estate Services

**Festival at the Falls**  
**2024**

**Saturday, August 17, 2024**  
**9AM-4PM**  
**Harry Allen Park**

## Come and 'Rep Your Church' at the Festival at the Falls!



**"REP YOUR CHURCH"**  
*means sit at a table with friends.*

When: Saturday, August 17  
How long: Two hours (or more if you like)  
Where: In front of the church  
Why: To reach out at the Festival at the Falls  
What time(s): Shifts run from 9 AM - 3 PM

Sign-up sheets at Sanctuary entrance



# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

The Deacons will celebrate the August Birthdays during coffee hour in Guild Hall on Sunday, August 4th.

- 04th: Taylor Goodrum
- 05th: Lia LaVarnway
- 07th: Lia Richardson
- 08th: Evan Shepard
- 11th: Donna McKay
- 16th: Alexis Ludwig
- 17th: Sally Bloom
- Noah Nestrick
- 24th: Lexie Schiedel
- 28th: Martha Quinn
- 30th: Janis McCormack

\*If you don't see your birthday on this list - please let the church office know so we can update our records\*

# AUGUST CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<p>1</p> <p>VBS Walk Through 11AM Mission Team 4PM Double Room Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1 Cheryl On Vacation</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Deacon Coffee Hour After Worship</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Session Meeting 6:30PM Room #1</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Capital Campaign Team 12PM Room #1  Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Worship 9:30AM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>VBS 9AM - 12PM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>VBS 9AM - 12PM  Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe</p>	<p>14</p> <p>VBS 9AM - 12PM  Pinehurst Service 6:15PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>VBS 9AM - 12PM Membership 4PM Room #1 Deacons 5PM Guild Hall Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1</p>	<p>16</p> <p>VBS 9AM - 12PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Festival at the Falls 8AM - 5PM</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Worship 9:30AM Lemonade on the Lawn After Worship</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>B&amp;G Team 9AM - Room #1</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe  Sabbath Hour 6PM - 7PM Sanctuary</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Generosity Team 11AM - Library  Membership Team 4PM - Room #1</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>Rowlands/Irwin Wedding Rehearsal 5PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Rowlands/Irwin Wedding 4PM  Pastor Kirk on Vacation</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Worship 9:30AM Community Meal 4PM</p>  <p>Pastor Kirk on Vacation</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Pastor Kirk on Vacation</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pastor Kirk on Vacation</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Office Hours 10AM - 3PM  Piano Tuning 10:30AM  Pastor Kirk on Vacation</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Pastor Kirk on Vacation</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pastor Kirk on Vacation</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Brian Noble Memorial Service More Details To Come</p>



First Presbyterian Church  
27 North Main Street  
PO Box 568  
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

# ***GLAD TIDINGS***

## **Worship August 2024**

Assisting Elder:  
Linda Goodrum

Liturgists

4th - Rachael Garvey

11th - Adam Bianchi

18th - Bev Hillabrandt

25th - Pat Smith

Accompanists

4th - Michelle LaMachia

11th - Laura Mueller

18th - Michelle LaMachia

25th - Laura Mueller

Communion Server

Chris Hinds

Technology Team

Patti Moehlmann, Brian Webster, Ginny Floss, Amy Morrow, Eric Ludwig, Scott May, Adam Bianchi, Ethan Ludwig, and Nolan Clar

