

November 2024 27 North Main Street Box 568 Honeoye Falls, NY 14472 Office Phone - 585-624-2160 Office Email - officefpchf@gmail.com

GLAD TIDINGS

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Honeoye Falls



Sunday Worship At 10:30 AM

Our service will begin at 10:25AM 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. The streaming of the service will begin at 10:15AM. 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 November 3rd, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper as a congregation. We will be serving the Communion elements and

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.



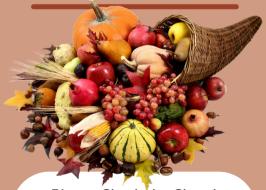
The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th for Thanksgiving. Cheryl will also be out of the office on Monday, November 1st.

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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

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

Written by Pastor Kirk

"..Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that

is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect..."

For many pastors, ministry will always include the strange division of the COVID years. Nationally, that time marked an enormous upswing in pastor resignations and a permanent loss of around 15% of worshipers. Another impacted area was social research. A giant, 2011 study by Lifeway Research started conversations on church participation and spawned smaller, follow-up studies. Then COVID came, interrupting information-gathering and leading to new behaviors. That's why a new book presenting the latest large, in-depth study of church attendance is generating a lot of discussion today.

The Great Dechurching: Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back? by Davis, Graham, et.al. (2023) provides many new insights. One conclusion of the authors is that the main impact of COVID-19 was to accelerate trends that existed long before 2020. Forget about the 1960s; over the last 20 years alone some 42 million Americans who used to attend church stopped attending altogether. This is the biggest change in U.S. religiosity since after the Civil War when church membership went from 17% of the population to 34%. The practical impact is that the majority of children raised today have zero exposure to church. Though they overwhelmingly identify as "Christian," dechurched adults are raising a generation that is extremely unchurched for the first time in nearly 200 years.

The book lays out the reasons many Christians don't find church worth the effort any more. According to the first chapter: 1) the end of the Cold War changed U.S. identity forever - people no longer see themselves as "religious" contrasted against the "godless" Communists; 2) privileging the Religious Right (who conflate politics with religion) has driven many adults away through hypocrisy and/or exhaustion; and 3) the internet has changed personal and religious habits. People mistakenly believe they can gain just as much spiritually from remote participation as from direct participation. While remote viewing is priceless for people with physical limitations, it's limiting for others. The overuse of internet means many Americans now consider leaving home more troublesome than in the past for any reason.

I have some personal qualms about the book; the conservative, non-denominational pastors and lead authors use some statistics that have been repeatedly questioned and gloss over the many challenges facing non-denominational

1 Peter 3:15b-16a

churches (though admittedly, I might do the same with Presbyterianism!). In particular, they fail to interrogate the rise of "Workism," a welldocumented force that harms households, communities, and children and clearly impacts church participation. Their own charts show a significant rise in church attendance in 2020, the year when COVID forced families to spend more time at home together. They don't look at how fin de siecle ("end-of-century") shifts in social views impacted different generations in powerful ways. Those who came into adulthood before the year 2000 hold vastly different values than those who did so after that year. This was inevitable and not due to any group behaviors.

Yet the questions the authors did ask are wellresearched and provide rich information. Their main conclusion is that the congregations who think their role is simply to be kind to visitors will not be around much longer. The authors promote a deep, cultural change to church participation: every member should now be involved in inviting and welcoming new worshipers. For example, they find that 51% of those who stopped attending church (over 20 million people!) are hoping that someone will invite them. Over 30% of those remaining will attend church if a friend asks and the pastor isn't a culture-warrior or otherwise hypocritical. This folds nicely into the Lifeway study that found 80% of first-time worshipers attended because a church member invited them and 93% become involved in church life because church members opened the opportunity to them.

In conversation we often reference how there used to be many more people in church and how much competition there is with church today. The authors of The Great Dechurching don't dwell on this; they offer hope (there's even a chapter called "Reasons to Hope"). They believe that once we stop pining for the past, we will acknowledge that U.S. Churches have always adapted to changing needs and in doing so transformed both church and society. Revivals more than doubled church membership during the two Great Awakenings. America's love of size led to the megachurch after centuries of church-planting. To learn new behaviors isn't new to the U.S. Church. Rather, we've been so privileged for so long we began to take things for granted. Like the Israelites during good years, we've welcomed the blessings of faith without committing to the responsibilities. To invite people to church, to ask them to sit with us in worship, to suggest

they join the Teams and activities that interest them - this isn't even hard. These are tiny, tiny things that God can use to bring people closer to the Christ. That truly is a reason to hope.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Kirk



Join Pastor Kirk and members of the congregation for coffee and conversation at the Manse every Tuesday from 1PM until 2PM. This is a great way to get to know one another outside of the actual church building in a relaxing environment.

Tuesdays at IPM in the Manse

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Worship In November

In our Thursday evening Bible Study, some suggested we examine key aspects of Christian faith, starting with grace. If you have some insight to share on this idea, please do let me know. It's likely that as the Bible Study group fleshes out the topics they'd like to see, we'll start a two-to-three-sermon examination of each topic they choose. In the meantime, we're using the Lectionary with occasional discursions according to traditions great and small.



11/3/24	Meaning of Baptism	Baptism	Acts 16:25-34	
11/10/24	God's Widows	Lectionary	1 Kings 17; Mark 12:38-44	
11/17/24	City of God	Lectionary	Hebrews 10; Mark 13:1-8	
11/24/24	Choosing Jesus	Lectionary	2 Samuel 23; John 18:33-40	

Giving in the Bible

As discussions about the church capital campaign continue, a question arose about capital campaigns and giving in the Bible. In every age contained in the Bible, giving utilizes an agrarian, centralized economy while ours is quite different. Capital campaigns are sometimes described as "Biblical" due to the Bible's practice of using distinct, separate collections for specific reasons. Instructions for giving are spread throughout much of the Pentateuch and clarified elsewhere, including the New Testament. These donations can sound complex to us but were associated with different feast-days so were easier for people to remember at the time.

The most well-known command to give is the annual tithe, which means "one-tenth:" "Every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman's staff, shall be holy to the Lord" (Lev. 27:32). Within Judaism, however, that's known as the "First Tithe" - used only to support the Levitical Tribe (who were given no land). There are two more; the "Second Tithe" was set aside only for God (and consumed in a shared meal - Deut. 14:22-23). The roughly tri-annual "Third Tithe" was collected for poor Israelites and foreigners; it required priests to share meals with the poor, also building relationships (Lev. 14:28-29). Additionally there were annual "firstfruit" offerings (Lev. 23:9-20; Neh. 10:35-37) - often preached as giving "the best of the best" and providing extra for those assigned to the rotating priesthood. Produce at the edge of fields was not to be picked but left as "gleanings" for the poor and for foreigners (Lev. 23:22). There was an annual "Temple Tax" based on Exodus 30:13-16, referenced repeatedly (2 Kgs. 12:5-17 & Neh. 10:32-33), and used for maintenance of the Temple. There was a collection for the Jerusalem granary, a storehouse for lean years and to withstand sieges (Mal. 3:8-12). We also know from ancient records that not all offerings were used in Temple worship. Extra grains, produce, and animals were stewarded by the Levites. In an indirect reference in Acts 4:37 a Levite named Joseph sold land. Since the Levites weren't given land during God's apportionment in Joshua 13 - 17, the only way a Levite could have obtained land was to steward donations successfully enough to buy some.

Though these practices still exist in monetary form in Judaism, Christians haven't practiced them for thousands of years. Still, we gain the idea of giving in different ways from practices found in the Bible. We pledge each year for the ongoing life and work of our local church; we take collections for the Food Cupboard and area children and families; we give for PC USA special collections that support disaster relief and distant missions; we pay Per Capita to maintain connections at the regional and national level; and from time to time we conduct capital campaigns to pay specifically for capital expenses such as building repairs, equipment purchases, and safety items. The means and purposes aren't the same as they were 2,000 years ago but the divisions of donations for specific purposes were first instituted in imitation of the examples provided in the Bible. Now, if you would like to speak about the theology of giving for various ends, please feel free to speak with me about it! That's much more interesting, in my view.









CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & TEAM REPORTS PAGE 4

Director's Dish

Written by Adam Lewis Christian Education Director

It's hard to believe that we're already in November! The past month was mainly focusing on making sure the Treble Makers were ready to perform for the congregation on October 27th, and they knocked it out of the park! I was so proud of our youth and it was so great to have them participate in worship. They are already preparing for their Christmas songs! A special thanks to Bob Richardson for directing and to our other Sunday school volunteers for helping to get the kids ready!

Looking ahead to November, our Sunday School classes will be back to their regular lesson plans for a couple weeks before Choir practice picks back up. The Puppet Ministry will continue to work on their Christmas video that will hopefully be put together the week leading up to Christmas. The elementary classes will also be assisting with some Teazaar prep work in the coming weeks.

As always, if there are any additional resources I can help provide the adults and/or youth of the church, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings to you all!





Parent's Night Out

FPCHF Parent's Night Out

Children 4-11 are welcome! Children will enjoy pizza, playing games and crafting.



Free Event!!

Parent's Night Out is back again this year at First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls. Save the date for 11/22 from 5:00-7:30 PM.

Parents have fun shopping or having dinner with adults, and your children will have fun connecting with other children in a safe and fun environment!

Pizza will be served, and many crafts and games will be planned! Sign up your children using this form: https://forms.gle/f8HSzskmVtnY7can9

Capital Campaign Team



TEAM REPORTS

Building & Grounds



The Fall Clean-Up is set for Saturday, November 2nd. We invite you to join the team and members of Scout Troop 410 to help prepare our building and grounds for winter. Please stop by on Saturday and help out where needed. Many hands make light work!

Please make sure that if you are using the Manse that you make sure that the lights are turned off and that all doors

are shut and locked. There has been a few instances recently where members of Building and Grounds have noticed lights on in the evening as well as the side door closest to the church not properly shut and unlocked.

Generosity Luncheon

The Generosity Team hosted a luncheon following worship on Sunday, October 27th. The Team would like to thank all who helped to make the luncheon a success. There is still time to return your pledges.











Fellowship Team

The next Fellowship event is coming on Saturday, November 9th from 6PM - 8PM. This has historically been an evening filled with fun and excitement and the team is looking forward to bringing it back. There will be Black Jack, Magic Ball, LRC, Bingo, and more! The Fellowship Team will be providing cold and mulled cider, lemonade, and coffee. Participants are encouraged to bring a snack and their own mug (optional). Sign-up sheet is located on the Fellowship Team bulletin board. Contact Jane Jezsu at jane.jezsu@gmail.com with any questions.



TEAM REPORTS & PRESBYTERY REPORT PAGE 6

Presbytery of Genesee Valley Meeting Report Saturday, October 27, 2024

Written by Martha Kumler, Elder Commissioner to Presbytery

The Presbytery approved the 2025 Per Capita rate which represents a 2% increase over 2024. The total Per Capita includes the General Assembly rate (\$10.84), the Synod rate (\$4.25) and the Presbytery rate (\$23.41). **The total Per Capita for each member in 2025 is \$38.50** which is \$1.65 more than in 2024. Please remember to pay your Per Capita to this church in 2025 and catch up on your 2024 Per Capita (\$36.85) if you have not done so already. Per Capita is a small amount you are asked to contribute in addition to your pledge, or as a member if you have not pledged, so that together we can fulfill that part of our budget. Our church pays Per Capita to the Presbytery quarterly, the Presbytery retains its share from the churches and pays the remaining amount to the Synod. The Synod retains its share and pays the remaining share to the General Assembly. Per Capita supports important work at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to which we belong.

One way that Per Capita benefits local churches and programs is by providing grants. Whitney Scoville, director of Pray and Play, has received an Emerging Gospel Community grant of \$20,000 from the Synod. Pray and Play is a New Worshiping Community in Rochester designed to specifically meet the needs of families with children, create authentic relationships with each other, and meaningful relationships with God.

Our new Executive Presbyter, Rev. John Odom, attended his first Presbytery of Genesee Valley meeting today. In his report, he said that he wants to get to know everyone in the Presbytery. He has been in his new position for only two weeks and is beginning one-hour conversations with staff and leaders of committees. He will follow with meeting all the pastors and congregations. He is open to meeting people in many ways from a 5-minute introduction during worship, to preaching, or joining in a church event.

Each Presbytery meeting has a worship service. During the worship service, Rev. Peter Cook, Executive Director of the New York Council of Churches preached the sermon. He reminded listeners that in John, Chapter 21, Jesus demonstrated to the disciples that they were obsessed with scarcity. As churches we compete for numbers of souls and limited resources. Instead, we need to open our minds to our shared baptism and work on healing minds which are closed to ideas from different denominations. He said there are three ways the New York State Council of Churches is working with us. First, they work with churches to fight Christian nationalism. Second, they work to improve urban and suburban zoning laws that purposefully limit affordable housing. Finally, they welcome immigrants into communities and help released prisoners return to their communities as contributing citizens. They encourage the state to provide funds to pull immigrants out of hotel rooms and provide housing in communities across the state. He said nationalism is really a power grab in the name of scarcity. We as a church offer a vision of abundance. Our nets are full, let us come together and share our love of Christ.

The Racial Justice, Peace, and Advocacy Working Group presented the Anti- Racism Policy for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley which was approved with an amendment. The amendment states that the NRSV version of the Bible will be used to assure the use of inclusive language in the Biblical references in the policy. The policy states that as a member of the PC(U.S.A.) we are a church founded by white people, historically run by white people, and still 88% white. We are implicated in the legacies of entrenched racism and "must unlearn and undo existing racist values and structures." The policy includes required anti-racism training and recommends anti-racism activities at least annually for churches and members throughout the Presbytery. The Presbytery website lists references that can be used to explore issues of racism. https://pbygenval.org/project/racial-justice-anti-racism-work/

The theme of the meeting highlighted the concept that we are all connected and are all brothers and sisters – Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor, black, brown, and white, all nationalities.

Community Meal Needs Y-0-U!!

Written by Eleanor Sexton

The November Thanksgiving Community meal will be on Sunday, November 24th., at 4:00p.m. This is one of our biggest meals of the year and well attended so we need many hands to prepare for it! The Deacons board will have a sign up poster for cooking of turkeys, doing mashing potatoes and bringing in, also squash, dressing, AND pies, pies.

Any questions, ask Eleanor Sexton at 624-2549, Jane Jezsu at 309-1841 or Brad Rivers at 624-4473.





Annual Christmas Bazaar Our 51st Teazaar!

We are planning our 51st Teazaar for Saturday, December 7th, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. It is a tradition for our church and for many in our community. We want to remind you to begin planning for your donations for this year's sale and how you can help before, during and after the sale.

All church members and friends are asked to:

- Donate a batch (or more, if you like) of Christmas Cookies. Please consider making Christmas type cookies, cut-outs, frosted and other specialty holiday cookies for our cookie assortments. The cookie assortments are a special feature of our Teazaar and they typically sell out by Noon. Please bring cookies to the church kitchen by 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 6th They are packaged beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Friday.
- Donate one or more bazaar items such as: crafts, holiday decorations, tree ornaments, used jewelry, wreaths, candies, preserves, breads, baked goods & PIES!!

please label breads (banana, pumpkin, if contains nuts, etc.) so our customers know what they are buying.

Donate candies, snack mixes, other "fun" foods for the Festive Foods Area. We already have a confirmed donation of homemade jams for this year....yay!

Donate small fare items for the Little Folks "Gingerbread House". Children only are allowed to shop in this
special area. This is organized by the team of Bob Richardson, Jen Bianchi, Jen Clar and Linda Goodrum. They
would appreciate your donations. If you are uncertain what sells well there, please contact Bob Richardson at
richardsonbob@gmail.com. Bob will be making announcements and posting lists of helpful things they will need
for their preparations before the Teazaar too.

Donate a specialty soup for the Soup Take-Out to be coordinated by Lisa Garvey again this year! This was very well received last year. A sign-up sheet will be posted near the church kitchen in early November.

- **Donate pre-enjoyed Jewelry!** This is a very popular stop for shoppers. Ask your friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers if they have jewelry to donate! Jewelry can come in any time. Label them "Teazaar" and leave in church kitchen or you may give them directly to Karen Schiedel or Cheryl during her office hours.
- Donations (smaller items) may be left in the in the church kitchen starting Sunday, Nov. 30. All donations are requested to be in by Friday, December 6th at noon so we can price them. <u>PLEASE LABEL ITEMS so that</u> they reach the intended area.

If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Karen Schiedel at 624-4364 or KSSchiedel@aol.com.

Worker Sign-up sheets will be posted by mid November.

COMMUNITY NEWS

FISH Holiday Meal Donations

The holidays are coming and those in our community need assistance with the purchase of food. Karen Schiedel has volunteered to collect gift card donations for FISH's holiday gift card program and deliver the cards to Sharon Barnes of FISH. Please contact Karen at ksschiedel@aol.com if you have any questions.

The following was sent by Sharon Barnes of FISH: As the Fall and the holidays approach, we are going to need continued donations. We especially need gift cards for the families to purchase fresh foods (bread, milk and meat). Some of our families do not have cars. They walk to the local stores so gift cards for them to HFMP or Family Dollar would be desirable. Some of the other families purchase their groceries on their way home from work, wherever the best buys are, so gift cards to Walmart or Wegmans would be appreciated.

Again this year we are hoping to give the families extra gift cards for their holiday meals. We have so many families we can't handle doing holiday baskets so the gift cards would ensure that everyone has something for their holiday meal. If you would like to donate gift cards or cash donations to purchase the gift cards please mail to: FISH FOOD CLOSET, 153 East Street, Honeoye Falls, New York 14472 (Sharon Barnes). Checks should be made out to : FISH FOOD CLOSET.

If you would like more information or to personally deliver your donation to a food closet volunteer please call or text : 585-484-7103. Volunteers of the Friends In Service Here Combined Communities (Honeove Falls, Mendon and West Bloomfield) Food Closet

lima presbyterian church

SATURDAY NOV

TO 6PM OR SOLD OUT

TAKE OUT ONLY

BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS



Bring Your Holiday Shopping List! ored by the Ionia United Methodist Church



Give blood. Help save lives.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive First Presbyterian Church

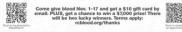
Guild Hall 27 N Main St Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

Friday, November 8, 2024 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: ovefalls to schedule an appointm

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Pow blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood co ver Red donation

rience and save up to 15 minutes by visitir and health history idPass to complete your pre-donation re uestions on the day of your appointment



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

The Deacons will celebrate the November Birthdays during coffee hour in Guild Hall on Sunday, November 3rd.

02nd: Barb Altonberg 05th: Jennifer Baker 07th: Sadie Szrama 11th: Jennifer Bianchi 12th: Bob McKav **Bob Richardson** 15th: Katya Socola 19th: Kaley Richardson 20th: Ben Mueller 24th: Carol Yendell 26th: Nate Arner 28th: Brad Rivers 29th: Joyce Rivers 30th: McKayla Celentand **Rodger Hinds**

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

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	101	ZEN	TBEI	R	1	2 Linen Drop Off 10AM - 11AM Manse Fall Clean-Up 10AM
3 Bells 8:45AM Vocal 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Baptism Birthday & Baptism Coffee Hour After Worship	4 Session 6:30PM Room #1 Cheryl Out of Office	5 Coffee Convo 1PM Manse	6	7 Mission Team 4PM Double Room Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	8 Blood Drive 1:30PM - 6PM Guild Hall	9 Fall Clean-Up Rain Date 10AM
10 Bells 8:45AM Vocal Choir 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Fellowship Coffee Hour Church Orientation 12:30PM Double Room	11 VETERANS DAY	12 Coffee Convo 1PM Manse Capital Campaign Team 6PM Room #1	13 Pinehurst Service 6:15Pm Pinehurst Community Room	14 Fellowship 5PM Library Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	15	16
17 Bells 8:45AM Vocal Choir 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Tamara Webster Rededication Coffee Hour for Rededication	18	19 Generosity Team 11AM Library Coffee Convo 1PM Manse Worship & Spiritual Growth Team 4:30PM Double Room	20 Membership Team 4PM Room #1 CE Team 6PM Zoom	21 Deacons 5PM Guild Hall Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	22 Parents Night Out 5PM - 7PM Guild Hall	23
24 Bells 8:45AM Vocal Choir 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Capital Campaign Q&A Youth Candy Making Sunday School	25	26 Coffee Convo 1PM Manse Sabbath Hour 6PM-7PM Sanctuary	27	28 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	29	30
Community Meal 4PM Guild Hall Community Med	Teazaar Set-Up Back of Guild Hall Not Available	Teazaar Set-Up Back of Guild Hall Not Available	Teazaar Set-Up Back of Guild Hall Not Available		Teazaar Set-Up Back of Guild Hall Not Available	Teazaar Set-Up Back of Guild Hall Not Available

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

GLAD TIDINGS

Worship November 2024

Assisting Elder: Erin Ludwig

Liturgists 3rd - Mark Rowe 10th - Beverly Hillabrandt 17th - Jean Reinhardt 24th - Pat Smith Accompanists 3rd - Laura Mueller 10th - Michelle LaMachia 17th - Laura Mueller 24th - Michelle LaMachia

<u>Communion Servers</u> Barb Altonberg, Rodger Hinds, Jane Jezsu, Martha Kumler, Amy Morrow, and Mark Rowe

<u>Technology Team</u> Patti Moehlmann, Brian Webster, Ginny Floss, Amy Morrow, Eric Ludwig, Scott May, and Ethan Ludwig