

# 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](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!

### World Communion Sunday

Celebrate our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world.



October 6th

On October 6th, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper with those around the world. 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.

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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)

## Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, October 14th in observance of Indigenous People's Day.



OCTOBER 29TH 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

Written by Pastor Kirk

**"..whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."  
Philippians 4:8**

It seems like every week there's another headline about the deleterious effects of social media and electronic devices. Many of us who are above forty simply shake our heads when we hear about declining mental and social health of tech-dependent teenagers. It's worth asking whether we are also adversely impacted in ways that appeal more to our generations, as well as whether we are setting good examples for younger adults.

One area Christians are discussing today is electronic news and political commentary. Back when people had to subscribe to printed periodicals to receive news and commentaries, the logistics limited how much we could access. While we may know a lot of print newspapers have closed down, the aggressive tactics of online news vendors aren't as well-known. Many e-news companies purchase consumer information from tech companies and target those they think will pay for their services. Unlike printed newspapers, there's no incentive to reach a wide audience. The more partisan - and in some cases distorted - their products are, the more people tend to subscribe. Large electronic news outlets even use algorithms to choose which stories to promote on your device. Since ad revenue increases when people respond to alerts news alerts are worded in extreme ways designed to generate outrage and fear. Add talk radio and twenty-four-hour TV news, youtube channels and partisan efforts like NewsMax and YoungTurks, and you have multiple, constant flows of news and information. The "Outrage Industrial Complex" is conservatively estimated to generate over \$200,000,000,000.00 each year in the United States alone.

Aside from the political divisions these unethical companies help to feed, daily exposure to this new kind of "news" literally damages human brains. The American Psychiatric Association now recognizes electronic news and commentary "addiction" as a widespread problem and provides treatment. When functioning in a healthy way, cortisone helps our brains determine dangerous situations, powers our competitions, and motivates us to get things done. Just like overuse of social media, constant political input boosts cortisone to unhealthy levels. Periodic outbursts of indignation cause spikes that our brains begin to crave as forms of quiet simulation. No matter how intelligent, kind, or disciplined a person may be, no brain can stand up to constant input designed to upset us without adverse effects.

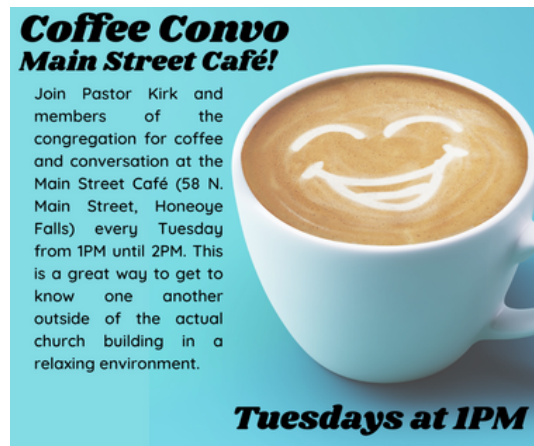
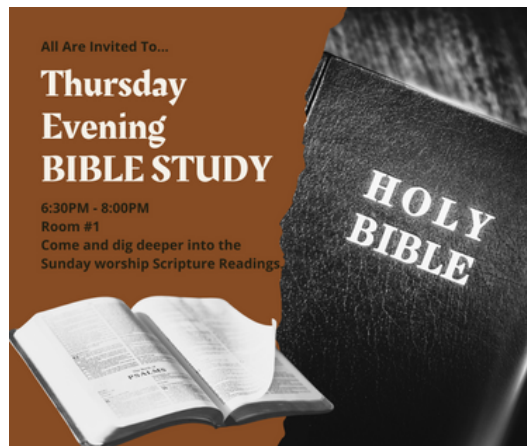
The Christian researcher Ryan Burge compares the average level of news and political intake today to "drinking from a fire hose." He limits himself to three full articles, thirty minutes of scanning, and one news update each day. Others notice that churchgoing Christians often show some of the most distorted views of the world in national polls. Despite rapidly declining crime rates - especially murder - they insist crime is increasing (always in other communities). Despite significantly higher household income relative to expenses, they insist the economy is worse than even a few years ago. Despite major court decisions expanding the rights of Christians, they insist they're under attack, "oppressed," and vilified. None of these views capture the reality or complexity of U.S. Christianity during a time of religious decline.

The big takeaway from overconsumption of news generated to induce visceral reactions is that many Christians aren't prepared to take on real ministry, let alone serve as an effective witness to the Gospel. If we think of Christians as a baseball team, then it's crucial the team know the layout of the diamond. Different fields can need different lengths to hit a home run. Some teams have superstar shortstops, others have exceptional players on first base. If we only

and always see every diamond as nothing but treacherous traps, we'll certainly lose.

In contrast, God wants to equip us for Kingdom work. God calls us to worship and read the Bible partly in order to speak back to the pernicious voices that can demoralize and disincentivize us. The Bible constantly reminds us that we are all spiritual brothers and sisters, not enemies engaged in vicious "culture wars." In order to engage people in a Christian manner we must begin with a Christian mindset. This means saying "no" to the things that disrupt and demoralize us in order to say "yes" to Christian ministry. Especially as a presidential election comes around again, our faith is put to the test in how we interact with persons who hold political positions different from our own. The news media we swim in today portrays that as a life-or-death struggle that requires forbearance and falseness. The reality of God's created world is that befriending and supporting those who are different is one of the greatest blessings in life. We think we are doing it for the other person when we actually gain the greatest spiritual benefit. In the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Kirk





## ***Worship In October***

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.



10/6/24	Together and Being Brought Together	World Communion Sunday	2 Corinthians 5:15-21
10/13/24	Forgiven	Lectionary	Hebrews 4:12-16
10/20/24	Great God	Lectionary	Mark 10:35-45
10/27/24	Necrology	All Saints' Sunday	Hebrews 11:32 - 12:2

## ***What Is an RMD?***

As conversations about the annual Pledge Campaign and the separate Capital Campaign have started, a number of retired members have asked about Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Because everyone's situation is different, it's impossible to provide guidance to individuals; these questions are best answered by financial planners and fund advisors. This article is a general introduction. It's not enough to make a decision about handling retirement income, though hopefully it can help people to ask questions of financial professionals.

Many retirement plans are subject to RMDs, including employer-sponsored 401(K) and 403(b) plans, after you retire (and if still working often at age 72). This means you cannot withdraw below a certain amount from these plans each year, though the amount varies based on several factors. When the RMD is higher than your expenses, a portion of retirement income is often taxed at the highest level possible. Some details are available on the IRS web page: <https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plan-and-ira-required-minimum-distributions-faqs>

The important thing to know is that if you donate to an approved charity (such as the church) directly from the plan, that donation is tax-deductible. This is true even when your total charitable deductions don't reach the threshold to claim deductions or to warrant itemizing your tax return. The key point is that if you receive retirement income from your plan, then donate to a charity as a second step, there is no tax deduction allowed. The payment must be arranged directly from your plan/plan management company to the charity in order to receive the deduction on your taxes.

Again, each person's situation is different, but this may allow both more savings and increased charitable donations. For example, let's say you fall within the 22% nominal federal tax bracket, and you donate \$8,000.00 to the church or another qualified organization. If that's taxed at the nominal rate of 22%, then \$1,760.00 in taxes is paid by you on that donated money. On the other hand, if you arrange to have the \$8,000 paid directly to the charity, you save that \$1,760.00 - it becomes deductible even from your RMD. If you wouldn't miss that amount in taxes, you could then increase the amount paid to the charity considerably. Or you could keep 50% of the tax savings and increase the amount of the donation by 50%. Remember, this follows tax law as it was intended to be used. When the 2017 tax reforms removed the benefits most Americans enjoyed through charitable giving, exemptions like this one were included to encourage more generosity. This isn't a loophole, but a targeted exemption to help communities support the causes that are important to them.

The above example was simpler and more straightforward than applies to many people - again, please speak with someone with training in this area before making decisions yourself. Yet it may be helpful to know there is a way to maximize your giving (and your saving). A famous quote from John Wesley (co-founder of modern Methodism) applies here: "Earn all you can... and save all you can... so that you can give all you can!"

## ***Director's Dish***

Written by Adam Lewis  
Christian Education Director

Here we are, already a month into the new church school year! Thank you to all the youth and adults who participated in Rally Day! Once again, we incorporated the same theme as the Generosity Team, and the idea that we are all pieces of a great puzzle will be a recurring theme this year in Sunday School.

September 29th was a special Sunday as we had our first-ever Puppet Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and we also recognized 12 nominated unsung heroes from the congregation! It was wonderful to see some of our original puppeteers, and it was a joy to shine a light on the goodness that people often do behind the scenes. Let's make it cool again to be kind and honorable in a society that can seem so bleak at times!

We already had our first Middle School Youth Group activity of the year! Bob Richardson and Erin Ludwig did a fantastic job planning and orchestrating the car wash event, and a big thank you goes out to the kids and other adult volunteers who participated! All the money raised will go to the Honeoye Falls (FISH) Food Pantry and the Lima Food Pantry.

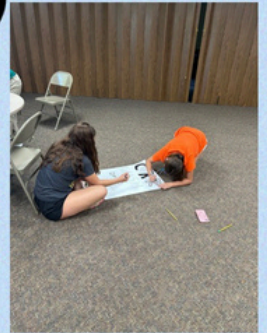
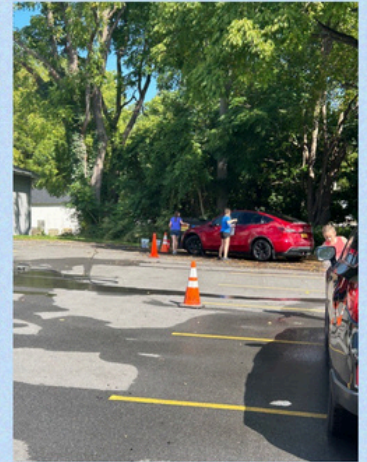
Looking ahead to October, we will see the first performance of our Children's Youth Choir. The youth will be practicing during Sunday School and will sing during worship on October 27th! The kids will definitely want to participate in Sunday School in October, as this is a fun and exciting venture!

Our Puppet Ministry has also been working on their first show of the year, which will be available on YouTube sometime at the end of October, so please stay tuned for the release of the video link!

If you haven't yet filled out a registration form for your Sunday School youth, please do so ASAP. If you need me to send another copy, I'd be happy to, or we have hard copies available at church if it's easier to fill them out there.

Also, if you are an employee, Deacon, or Sunday School volunteer and haven't completed the Abuse Prevention certification, please complete that as well. Let me know if you need another link.

## **THANK YOU FOR HELPING US RAISE \$760 TO DONATE TO THE LOCAL FOOD CUPBOARDS!**



### ***FPCHF MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP***

## ***Treble Makers & Puppet Ministry Show***

The Treble Makers will perform during worship on Sunday, October 27th, with rehearsals taking place during Sunday School. Additionally, the Puppet Ministry's first show of the year will be available by the end of October. Stay tuned for the link!

## ***Candle Lighter Sign-Up***

There are still available slots on the Candle Lighter sign-up sheet through the end of the year. We encourage you to consider signing up! You can find the sheet on the door of the Christian Education office.





## Building & Grounds



The Building and Grounds Team is looking for a piece of white 5" exposure vinyl siding to cover the opening outside Kirk's office where the air conditioner was removed. If you have

siding to donate, please contact Jane Jezsu at either [jane.jeszu@gmail.com](mailto:jane.jeszu@gmail.com) or 585-309-1841.

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 check out the sign-up sheet on the Building & Grounds bulletin board located in the hall just outside the sanctuary. Many hands make light work!

**Fall Clean Up**  
WE NEED YOUR HELP

Sign Up On The Buildings & Grounds Bulletin Board

**Saturday November 2nd 10 am**

**RAIN DATE IS NOVEMBER 9TH**



The Manse has been receiving a refreshing makeover this summer and fall, thanks to some dedicated volunteers. It's looking fabulous, and community members walking by have remarked on how nice it looks!

## Fellowship Team

The Fellowship Team extends a heartfelt thank you to Rodger and Chris Hinds for their generosity in hosting the bonfire on Saturday, September 21st. It was a wonderful evening filled with delicious food, great company, and fun for everyone. We also want to thank Brian Webster for leading us in campfire songs and music. Stay tuned for our next Fellowship event—Game Night! The date will be announced soon, so be sure to check the GTWE and church announcements!



**FELLOWSHIP GAME NIGHT**

COMING SOON

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS:

- BINGO
- BOARD GAMES
- BLACK JACK

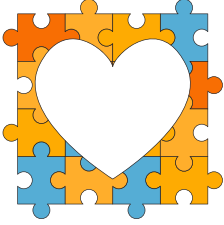
BOARD GAME SWAP FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO CHANGE OUT THEIR GAMES.

Sign-up sheet on Fellowship Bulletin Board.  
CONTACT JANE JEZSU WITH QUESTIONS,  
[JANE.JESZU@GMAIL.COM](mailto:jane.jeszu@gmail.com) OR 585-309-1841



## Generosity Team

Written by Martha Kumler, Chair



On September 8<sup>th</sup> or during the following week, you received a trifold of information about how we build a church one piece at a time and how your financial support furthers the missions of the church. You were invited to make a pledge to the continuing life of the church at any time from then through October 27<sup>th</sup>. We are now in the middle

of our fall pledge time and the pledges are coming in. Thank you! If you have not yet pledged, you may bring in your pledge card to the worship service on any of the Sundays in September and October or pledge through one of the methods described on your pledge card or on the back of the trifold.

During this pledging period, we are highlighting some of the connections of our church to the local community. On September 8<sup>th</sup> Leslie Rowe presented information about the ESL class that uses our manse as their classroom. She told us about, and showed us photos of, the field trips they had taken to practice their English-speaking skills and the meals that they had shared. On September 22<sup>nd</sup> Amy Morrow told us how Creekside Preschool uses our building and showed us photos of their classroom and their happy young faces as they lined up and went downstairs.

On October 27<sup>th</sup> we will complete the fall pledge program with a celebration lunch of soups, breads, salads, and desserts. As another connection to the community, we will purchase some of the soups from the Friends of Borne soup sale that supports their work to further education in Haiti. We hope everyone, including any friends, family, or neighbors you might bring with you on that day, will join us for a delicious meal!

## Per Capita Reminder



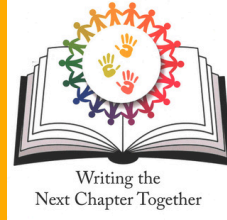
We have reached the last quarter of the year when the church makes our final payment of our per capita to the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley who are there to serve us in many ways. Recently, they have assisted our Capital Campaign Team and have provided a grant to the Puppet Ministry. In the past they have provided information and support for finding our interim pastor and our installed Pastor Kirk. Per capita also funds the Synod

of the Northeast and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).

This church will pay \$6,522.00 in per capita for 2024 which is based on the number of members of the church. By the end of August \$2,310.75 in per capita contributions have been received from the congregation this year. If you have not yet paid yours, or are paying quarterly, the 2024 per capita is \$36.85 per member (or \$9.22 per quarter). If you pay by check, write per capita on the memo line because the contribution is in addition to your 2024 pledge. When members pay their per capita it means the funds do not have to be taken from another line of our budget.

## Capital Campaign Team

Written by Anne Gravenstede, Secretary



**"Sharing our stories, investing in the story, continuing the story."**

The Team would like to thank everyone for attending the coffee hour on September 15<sup>th</sup> and for being positive about the Capital Campaign proposed projects. The next meeting of the team will be on October 1<sup>st</sup>, where additional decisions will be made. Be sure you check the GTWE for updates on the Capital Campaign.





# 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 to the "Treasures of Christmas Past" area.** Please bring any Christmas decorations, ornaments, Christmas dishes or glassware that you are not using and you would like to share. **\*\*very popular\*\***

**\*\*Please do not bring "Treasures" until Teazaar week because of storage issues\*\***

**Drop offs - Tuesday, Dec. 2 through Thursday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am-3:00 p.m. or Friday, Dec. 6 by Noon.**

Contact Karen Schiedel if those times do not work for you.

- **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. PLEASE LABEL ITEMS so that 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](mailto:KSSchiedel@aol.com).

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



ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE  
**FREE**  
*Community Meal*  
October 27th at 4PM

First Presbyterian Church  
27 NORTH MAIN STREET  
Honeoye Falls



First Presbyterian Church  
**SATURDAY  
LINEN CLOSET  
DROP-OFF**  
At the Manse  
**OCTOBER 5TH  
10AM - 11AM**

All types of linens collected.  
Do not need to be matching sets. We  
have a current need for Twin Sized  
blankets.

All linens to go towards Afghani refugees as part  
of our commitment to Keeping Our Promise

Please contact Jane Jezsu at  
jane.jezsu@gmail.com or Barb Mueller at  
barbmuller23@gmail.com with any  
questions.

Honeoye Falls/Borgne, Haiti - Sister Cities

## SOUP'S ON



BROCCOLI CHEESE,  
HAITIAN INDEPENDENCE, LENTIL,  
WHITE BEAN AND OLIVE,  
WEST AFRICAN SWEET POTATO,  
BUTTERNUT PEAR, PASTA E FRAGIOLI,  
VEG. RED SAW MILL CHILI,  
TACO, SPLIT PEA WITH HAM,  
SPLIT PEA VEG.

To benefit Friends of Borgne  
Our 14th year of helping to educate the children of Borgne, Haiti

**Drive-thru**  
**Sunday, Oct 20, 2024 10:30 AM - 1 PM**

Mendon Community Center, 167 N Main St, Honeoye Falls

32 oz containers \$15 ea. -

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

The Deacons will celebrate the September Birthdays during coffee hour in Guild Hall on Sunday, October 6th.




04th: Jack Bailey  
12th: Jennifer Clar  
13th: Rachael Garvey  
14th: Judy Keenan  
Jennifer Schiedel  
15th: David Major  
Stanley McCormack  
16th: Anne Gravenstede  
Amelia Schiedel  
17th: Paulena Hoffmeier  
19th: Scott Convers  
Gail Worboys  
20th: Christie Mazzeo  
22nd: Cindy Barton  
25th: Sharon Lonhair

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



# OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe</p> <p>Capital Campaign Team 6PM Room #1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>KOP Linen Drop-Off 10AM - 11AM Manse</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Bells 8:30AM Vocal Choir 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM</p> <p>Birthday Sunday Coffee Hour</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Session 6:30PM Room #1</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pinehurst Service 6:15PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Fellowship Team 5:00PM Library</p> <p>Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Bells 8:30AM Vocal Choir 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Church Office Closed for Indigenous People Day</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe</p> <p>Worship Team 4:30PM Double Room</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Membership Team 4:00PM Room #1</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Deacons 5PM Guild Hall</p> <p>Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Bells 8:30AM Vocal Choir 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM</p> <p>Fellowship Coffee Hour FoB Soup Fundraiser 11AM-1PM</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Personnel Team 3PM Zoom</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Generosity Team 11AM Library</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Finance Team 12:00PM Zoom</p> <p>Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1</p> 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Consecration Sunday</p> <p>Bells 8:30AM Vocal Choir 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM</p> <p>Treblemakers Sing</p> <p>Consecration Luncheon</p> <p>Community Meal 4PM</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>B&amp;G Team 9AM Room #1</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe</p> <p>Sabbath Hour 6PM - 7PM Sanctuary</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1</p>		

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

# ***GLAD TIDINGS***

## **Worship October 2024**

Assisting Elder:  
Chris Hinds

Liturgists

6th - Jennifer Bianchi  
13th - Barb Altonberg  
20th - Pat Smith  
27th - Lia Richardson

Accompanists

6th - Laura Mueller  
13th - Michelle LaMachia  
20th - Laura Mueller  
27th - Michelle LaMachia

Communion Servers

Brenda Allen, Linda Goodrum, Gail Richeson, Leslie Rowe, Eleanor Sexton,  
and Stan Worboys

Technology Team

Patti Moehlmann, Brian Webster, Ginny Floss, Amy Morrow, Eric  
Ludwig, Scott May, and Ethan Ludwig