

First Presbyterian Church

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jmwoodring@verizon.net



@FirstPresBath

Tower Topics



VOLUME LViii ISSUE 9
October 2023

SERVING WITH YOU

Pastor

John Woodring

Clerk of Session

Kathy Swan

Administrative Assistant

Valerie Brown

Treasurer

Velda Schmieg

Pianist

Melody Flanagan

Senior Choir Director

Vacant

Bell Choir Director

Vacant

Custodial Staff

Sandy Robinson

Leslie Lyons

Gene Overton

Nursery Care

Alberta Nunn

Historian

Helen Brink

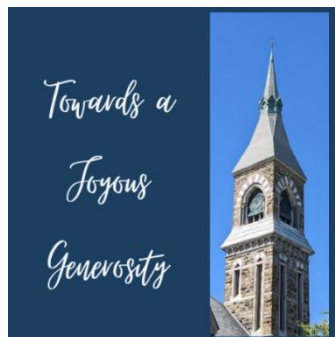
Newsletter Coordinator

Sandy Robinson



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9:30 a.m.

Youth Worship/Church
School During 9:30 Service



Celebration Sunday – October 22, 2023

We usually only think of stewardship during the Fall as we consider our monetary giving to the Lord for the coming year. Jesus spoke more about money than any other subject, but it is almost always in reference to how it interferes with our life in God. But stewardship is about more than money, or even time, talents, and other treasures. It is about the offering of our whole lives to God.

Stewardship revolves around the concept that all that we have and are come from God and belong to God. They are returned to God in order to be a blessing to our world. This is what Paul means when he says in Romans 12 that we are to offer ourselves as living sacrifices which is our spiritual worship.

But we have a very difficult time relinquishing our stuff to God. It runs contradictory to the values of our American way of life. Yet it's not our stuff, not our money, not our house, car, or X-Box, etc. It belongs to God, and we're supposed to use the gifts we have been given to bless others. How'ya doin' with that?

As you consider your estimate-of-giving this year, perhaps God is inviting you into a whole life inventory, with the only measure being how you have been a blessing to your family, your church, your community, and your world, and how you intend to be so in the coming weeks and months.

Romans 12:1-2; **Place Your Life Before God** (MSG)

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.

Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Pastor John

The Message (MSG) © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson



Scripture readings

October 1

Exodus 1:8-14; 2:1-10, 3:1-15
Moses and the Burning Bush

October 8- Rev. Arthur Jones

October 15

Ruth 1:1-22a
Ruth Follows Naomi

October 22

2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5
David Becomes King

October 29

1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29
The Kingdom Divided



INDIA

India Presentation

SUNDAY OCTOBER

1ST: Gary Brown will provide a brief PowerPoint presentation

in Lyon Hall after worship on World Communion Sunday, telling about his trip to India for Andrew and Amanda Bhasker's wedding. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served.

October



Please Bring

MONEY TO BE USED TO BUY GIFT CERTIFICATES
or

THANKSGIVING TYPE OF FOOD

Personal care products are always needed and appreciated.



OCTOBER CONTACT PEOPLE

Elder: Dean Chatfield
Deacon: Ruth Moore

HISTORY



Our Magnificent Place of Worship!

Helen Kelly Brink –

Our Present Church Building 1877

to 1955

On 22 February 1877, with lawyer and historian Guy McMaster playing the organ, the new Presbyterian Church was opened for worship! The first service was described in the local newspaper as follows: At the appointed hour a large congregation assembled to look upon one of the handsomest church rooms to be found in this part of the state.... It is large, airy and roomy, without pillars or obstructions, making it one of the very best arranged rooms for oratorical effect.... Our Presbyterian friends have occasion to congratulate themselves upon the erection of so beautiful and convenient an edifice. When the towers are complete, hardly a church in western New York will be found to surpass the new church in real architectural beauty and design. And in another local paper the following comments appeared: ...and this day the beholder stood within the grand building which has sprung up from the seed of its respectable ancestor – the old white church. What a wondrous change! The new church of Venetian Gothic design was constructed of sandstone obtained from a quarry on the Davenport property. Over the years many changes and/or additions have been made to the church building. Several of the major ones will be included in this article and in the November article. The first change took place in 1894 when If you are using the church kitchen; please, please, please put things back where you found them. All cupboards and drawers are labeled for your convenience. Thank you the towers were added. A year later Ira Davenport, Jr. commissioned the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company in New York City to renovate the church sanctuary in memory of his brother John Davenport. In 1896 Rev. Charles Noble Frost, the pastor, chose the verse that appears under the rose window on the south wall. The Tiffany

renovation was completed in 1897. In 1901 the church became the first public building in Bath to obtain electricity. (In 1908 membership was 400 and the church was debt free!) In 1914 the pew rental system, which began in the old church in 1868, was discontinued in favor of a pledge system such as we have today. The sliders that changed the length of seating in each row of pews to meet the needs of the renters were bolted in place. In 1922 a new basement with additional banquet and Sunday School rooms was completed. In 1955 a 25 bell English tuned electronic carillon was installed in the church's east tower as a memorial to deceased members Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Cole by the Cole family.



CRAFT SESSIONS

The next craft sessions will be on Friday, Oct. 13th and Saturday, Oct. 14th (notice date change), from 9-5, we would love to have you join us. If you would like more information, please see Kathy Partridge



Back Then vs. Now ...

Helen K. Brink
Church Historian

Hiring a new minister was so much easier, faster and probably just as efficient as the long, drawn out procedure we now must follow! In 1808 this is how it happened:

12On the 30th of May our new church drafted and dispatched the following letter to Rev. John Niles:

The Church in Bath and Congregation of said place being on sufficient ground well satisfied of the ministerial qualifications of you, the Rev. John Niles, and having good hopes from your experiences of your labors, that your ministrations in the gospel will be profitable to our spiritual interest, do therefore earnestly Call and desire you to undertake the pastoral office in said Church and Congregation, promising you in the discharge of your duty, all proper support, encouragement and obedience in the Lord. And that you may be free from worldly cares and avocations we hereby promise and oblige ourselves to pay you the sum of four hundred dollars, in regular yearly payments, during the time of your being and continuing the regular Pastor of this Church and Congregation.

On the 11th of June the Rev. John Niles sent the following reply:

Dear Brethren and Friends:

The call to settle with you in the Gospel Ministry given me by the Church, and the desire of the same manifested by so great a proportion of the Congregation in subscribing their names to an agreement for that purpose, I have seriously and deliberately considered together with all things relative to the business which I have been able to know. I have endeavored, if I am not deceived, to find out what is the will of Christ respecting this matter; and my judgement is, that duty to Christ and a regard to the good of his cause and to your spiritual welfare require me to accept the Call which you have given me.

And if the Association to which I belong shall be of the same mind, and see fit to install me as your Pastor, I shall willingly accept the important change, relying on the promised presence and grace of Christ to qualify me for the duties, and to support me in the labors and trials of the pastoral office. Let us earnestly desire the God of all grace to render the proposed relation, should it take place, a means of promoting the spiritual and everlasting well being of the inhabitants of this town. Should it prove to be so it will be well for me

The Rev. John Niles was installed as our first pastor on the 7th of July in 1808.



ALL SAINTS DAY- 11/5/23

In observance of All Saints Day we ask for special blessings of the following church family members who are inurned in our Columbarium:

Clesson & Margaret Cook
Sharon Muth
William & Eleanor Heigel
Warren (Mickey) and Nancy Moore
Delos and Norma Jones
Stanley Jones
Edward & Anna Noble
Everett Kiff & Alice Luckenbach
Claire Peacock
Beverly Morris



Even though we don't meet as a group over the summer months, we have been busy trying to meet the needs of those in our congregation and community as they are brought to our attention.

As a new project this year, we sponsored a 12-year old boy, paying his registration fee to attend Camp Whitman for a week this summer. When his counselor at school helped him write a note of thanks to the church, he said he had a hard time getting him to end the note as he had so many positive experiences to share. We are thankful that we had the funds to do this and are that he found it to be a valuable experience. We are always looking for new ways to share God's love and spread his word to those around us. Feel free to share any ideas you might have with any of the Deacons.

Another new outreach this summer involved Sunday Suppers. Mossy Bank Park was having a Chicken Barbeque on the same day that our Sunday Supper Team was serving dinner. The Deacons provided funds to purchase chicken dinners for those attending the Sunday Supper Meal. The meals were enjoyed and it helped those attending feel a little more connected to the civic fund raiser to assist Mossy Bank,

As always, we continue to monitor and assist with purchasing food items for the Blessing Box. We will be giving to the Community Thanksgiving Meal Project but Thanksgiving type food items would be appreciated and can be placed in the wagon outside of Lyon Hall during October. Meals have been taken to some of our home bound and those recovering from illness and surgery. Assistance was provided for a young mother who had to suddenly move due to a mold issue in her apartment. Of course, Sara's Closet is an ever-growing ministry. We continue to receive wonderful donations of gently used

clothing and the people that we serve are so appreciative of the fact that these items of clothing are available to them. We have so many stories that we could share that validate God's hand being present in this ministry!! Please feel free to stop in any Monday from 11:30 – 2:30 and see what we have to offer !!!

The needs around us are many and varied. As always, we thank you for your monetary donations and especially for your prayer support.



October 15
2:30 pm

On the
church lawn.
Bring your pets,
Invite a
neighbor

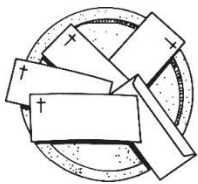


THANK YOU

Thank You to everyone who contributed to our "Garden Well" summer mission project. We exceeded our goal thanks to your generosity.

Session has added some Mission funds to purchase two "Mzuzu Drills," which are manual drills that can be constructed by local laborers using locally sourced materials, and provide a more cost-effective, safe alternative to hand digging wells, at a cost of \$115.00 per drill.

Yay, church!



Our Offering

We will resume collecting the offering with our offering plates on Celebration Sunday. October 22nd.

NOTICE

PUT THINGS BACK IN THEIR PROPER PLACE. YOU WILL FIND THEM WHEN YOU NEED THEM.

KITCHEN USE

If you are using the church kitchen; please, please, please put things back where you found them. All

cupboards and drawers are labeled for your convenience. Thank you!

Gifts have been given to:

MUSIC FUND



In Memory of Robert Stuart & Elinor Jones
By: Wildflower Hills Community

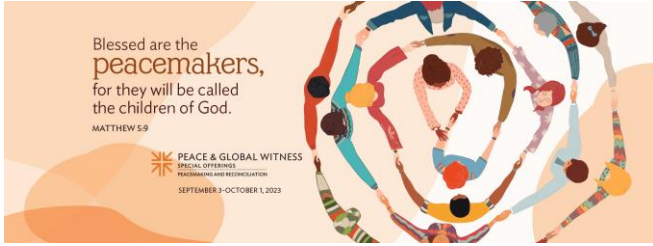


October Birthdays

October 1	Kenneth Gilbert
October 3	Helen Dildine
October 5	Emily Decker
	Douglas Schmieg
October 11	Mary Clark
October 12	Kerry McKinley
October 14	Wendell Binley
October 16	Janet Mishook
	Chris Vonderlin
October 17	Mary Louise Billings
	Helen Brink
	Diane Lines
	Gary Waldo
	Giuseppe Romano
October 18	Sabrina Decker
October 21	Roland Pickett
October 24	Christopher Clark
October 29	Cruz Stuart
October 30	Sharon War

The office will be closed 10/9/23

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS



A gift to

the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world.

Worship Questionnaire

The Session has had some inquiries about changing the time of worship from 9:30 am to 10:00 am and would like your input for our deliberations. Please return the following to the church office indicating your preference:

I prefer 9:30 am
 10:00 am

Comments:



Barb Scudder Helen Dildine, Sherry Parke,
 Dan Bussman, Lois Warren, Andi Morse,
 Diane Lathrop Sharon Ward, and your
Pastor Nominating Committee:
 Dean Chatfied, Kathy Forester, Sharon
 Gonsolus, Bob Mesler, Velda Schmieg

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Coffee Hour Schedule 2023/2024

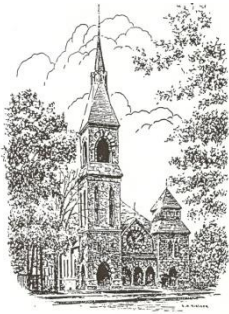
- September 10: tailgate breakfast (**host: CL Committee**)
- October 8: (host: Doug S) pizza and potluck
- November 12: (host: Dar G) potluck
- December 3: Craft Day/Pot Luck (host: Kathy P)
- December 17: Children's Play (hosts: Deacons and Session)
- January 14: (host: Dar G) potluck
- February 11: Souper Bowl (host: Sunday School Kids)
- March 10: (host: Dar G) potluck
- April 14: Birthday Sunday (**host: CL committee**)
- May 5: Cinco de Mayo pot luck (**host: CL Committee**)
- June 9: Kids' Day (host: Sunday School)
- June 16: Dads and Grads cake (**host: CL Committee**)

Host will set up main table, make coffee and lemonade, clean up.

October

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Worship Service COMMUNION Presentation by Gary Brown about his trip to India	2 4:00 – Worship Team 4:00 - PNC 5:00 - HR	3	4 10:30-12:30 – HS Cemetery Tour & Luncheon 6:00 Choir Rehearsal (1x change)	5	6	7
8 9:30 Worship Service Rev. Arthur Jones Coffee Hour – Pizza & Potluck (Doug Schmieg hosting)	9 COLUMBUS DAY OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 PNC - ? 6:00 Session - ?	10 4:00 Deacons	11 4:00 B & G Mtg 5:30 Finance Team	12 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	13 9:00-5:00 Crafts & Sewing	14 9:00-5:00 Crafts & Sewing
15 9:30 Worship Service 3:00 Supper at St. Mary's	16 4:00 PNC	17 6:30 Congregational Life	18	19 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 9:30 Worship Service Stewardship Sunday	23 4:00 PNC	24 5:00 MCY	25	26 6:00 Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 9:30 Worship Service	30 4:00 PNC	31				



TOWER TOPICS

OCTOBER 2023

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6 EAST MORRIS STREET
BATH, NY 14810

Non-Profit Org
U.S. postage

PAID

Permit No. 121
Bath, NY

Address service requested

October 15, 2023
2:30 pm



On the church lawn.
Bring your pets,
invite a neighbor!