

First Presbyterian Church

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jmwoodring@verizon



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Tower Topics

VOLUME LViii ISSUE 8
September 2024

SERVING WITH YOU

Pastor

Rev. John Woodring

Clerk of Session

Kathy Swan

Administrative Assistant

Valerie Brown

Treasurer

Velda Schmiegel

Organist

Katie Klawitter

Senior Choir Director

Trevor Ward

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

10:00am

Youth Worship/Church

During 10:00a.m. Service

Just a Kiss

“...people can only love outside and can only kiss outside, but Mister God can love you right inside, and Mister God can kiss you right inside, so it's a little different. Mister God ain't much like us; we are a little like Mister God, but not much yet.” (Mister God, This is Anna by Fynn

So concluded a little girl called Anna, set out on the London streets by her parents when she was only four years old. She was found by Fynn, a seventeen-year old boy who later became her brother by adoption. He wrote down many of little Annie's sayings. She died when she was eight.



This is Anna's conclusion after she wonders how Mister God can love everything, yet allow so much pain and suffering in the world. She thinks of her fascination and love for microscopic creatures, and contemplates how they would know if she loved them. That must be how it is with God, yet even more so. For God can kiss us right inside!

After I read those words, I thought of how true it is. God can heal us like no one else can, because God touches us on the inside and the outside. I thought about the incredible transformation a caterpillar makes in becoming a beautiful butterfly or moth. What an awesome, ordinary event that amazes everyone! Dare we believe that Christ can change us?

This is what God does for us. God sees us with our warts and bumps and ugliness (sin, failure, ugliness) and transforms us into the likeness of Christ by kissing us inside. Because of God's great love for us, and through the amazing grace of Christ, we become holy and acceptable in God's eyes.

What love God has for you and me, indeed for the whole world!

Believe the good news. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Behold the old has passed away and the new has sprung forth!

Remember that you have been kissed by God.
Pastor John



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- September 1- Corinthians 12:1-10
Power Made Perfect
- September 8- Genesis 3:1-8
Creation and Fall
- September 15- Genesis 15:1-6
God's Promise to Abram
- September 22- Genesis 21:1-21
Hagar and Ishmael
- September 29- Genesis 37-50:21
Joseph and His Brothers



SEPTEMBER CONTACT PEOPLE

Elder: **Bob Mesler**
Deacon: **Sharon Gonsolus**



**SEPTEMBER
PLEASE BRING
CANNED FRUIT**



PASTOR JOHN'S INSTALLATION

The Presbytery of Geneva invites you to the Service of Installation for Rev. John Woodring as our Pastor on Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 3 p.m. There will be a reception in Lyon Hall immediately following the service.



ANNUAL TAILGATE BREAKFAST

It's that time of year again! Join us on September 8th for our annual tailgate breakfast, which kicks off the start of the new Sunday School year. We will be starting at 9:15 in the church parking lot, weather permitting. Please bring a dish to pass; coffee, juice and tableware will be provided. See you there!

CONGRATULATIONS HELEN

Griffin Bates, Kathy Partridge, Helen Brink



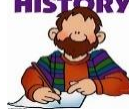
Congratulations to Helen Brink on her recent induction to the Steuben County Hall of Fame! Helen has dedicated years in keeping the history of Steuben County in the forefront through research, leading tours of the sanctuary of the Presbyterian Church, guiding tours of cemeteries in Steuben County, writing and publishing numerous books and so much more. A well deserved recognition for Helen!



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HISTORY



HISTORY TIDBITS

Helen Kelly Brink –

The Crosses

The tall cross in the sanctuary in front of the baptismal font and the cross on the stage in Lyon Hall were made and donated by Jim Mahnke. The cross attached to the rear of the church facing the parking area was donated by William and Florence Venema soon after the construction of the new addition was completed in the early 1990s. The consecration of a new cross for the communion table took place in September 1959. It was forged in Scotland of antique brass and was a gift from Frances Fay Wynkoop and Evelyn Fay Fernald in memory of Evelyn Hanks Ostrander and Henry C. and Mary Ostrander. Its four inch base of green marble came from the Island of Iona, east of the Scottish Highlands. At the time of the consecration of the cross the communion table was located next to the east wall of the sanctuary just below the baptismal font. Sometime between then and 2013 the table had been re-located to in front of the pulpit where it has remained. In 2013 after receiving several comments about having two crosses in front of the pulpit, an inlaid glass cross in front of the pulpit itself and the tall metal cross on the communion table which made it difficult to see the cross on the pulpit, the Worship Team decided to place the metal cross in the chapel near the Columbarium and Memorial Walls and to keep a chalice and plate on the communion table signifying its purpose.



COFFEE HOUR RETURNING!

The Congregation Life committee would like to reinstate weekly coffee hours but we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to host on an occasional Sunday throughout the year, starting on September 15th. Hosting will include having coffee prepared and supplying cookies, along with a simple setup and cleanup. Gluten free and sugar free cookies will be provided weekly by the Congregational Life committee; along with cups, napkins, etc.

Look for the sign up sheet in the kitchen, it will also be available at each coffee hour. If no one signs up for a particular Sunday, then there will not be a coffee hour on that Sunday.

We are trying to keep it simple, just cookies and coffee. Please, no additional foods.

Thanks in advance, looking forward to weekly friends and fellowship time!

NEW SEASON OF CRAFTING



A new season of the crafting group will be

starting on September 19 and 20! This group will be meeting on the third Thursday and Friday of every month starting at 9:30. While the scheduled hours are 9:30 to 5:00, you may come and go as you please.

We often work on our own projects but also do group projects to support a need in the community. Thus far we have made and donated catheter bag covers, bags for walkers and wheelchairs, fidget blankets for dementia patients, etc. Even if you don't feel you are talented enough to help out, there is always something you can do!

So...please bring some type of craft you are working on, a snack to share and be ready for a day of fun and fellowship on the 19th. We will solidify plans then.



Sherry Parke, Lois Warren, Andi Morse, Megyn Melnyk, Jean Morse Diane Lathrop, Kathy Walker, Sharon Ward, Tom Moore, Andy Woodring, Connie DeLisa, June Bates, Kathy Partridge, Katie Johnson, Forest Clark



B&G BLOG

Good weather allows for necessary things to be completed. With that on our side, we have proceeded to have the parking lot repaved, sealed and striped. The roof over Lyon Hall, being thirty two years old, was in need of replacing so that is being done. Our annual insurance inspection identified a few corrective measures, one being the electrical panels, which have been declared outdated and an issue. Therefore, bids were sought to make the necessary changes and the work will be completed in order to insure continuous insurance coverage and be in compliance. This will require a temporary disruption of electrical service but we will have notice.

The restoration of the mosaic panels is nearly complete. They will all be uncovered before the holidays. New non-glare covering will be placed to protect them. We hope to find artistic lighting in order to properly showcase these restored canvases. Our conservator, Klara Zold, has met many of our congregation and has been a joy to work with.

To be completely transparent, we would not have been able to do any of these costly projects without a capital campaign. However, the blessing of the Crosby Restoration fund has prevented that.

The Presbyterian Foundation New Covenant Fund has utilized the strong market to grow this fund and we are very grateful.

We'd be remiss in not thanking our Team Leader, Bob, for his leadership through all of these projects. It required seeking bids, communicating with vendors and being on site to meet with representatives and then oversight. We thank Kathy, too, for the spectacular gardens enjoyed by all.

We hope you have had a good summer. We are looking forward to installing Pastor John and getting in step with all the fall activities that are enjoyed by the congregation.



GIFTS WERE GIVEN TO:

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of Doug Madden

By: Jim & Sandi Mahnke

RESTORATION FUND

In Memory of Barb Beekman

By: Gary Brown

In Honor of Andrea Morse

By: Carol Sehm

In Honor of Kathy Partridge

By: Mark & Eleata Mitchell

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN & YOUTH

By: Steuben Youth Services

SPECIAL DONATION

New chairs for Pastor's Office

By: Ed Presley & Janet Ruger'



Kathy Partridge After Weeding The Gardens



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 4	Melissa Cottone Kris Gilbert Kirk Mishrell
September 5	Olivia Barros
September 6	Leah Barros
September 8	Marc Shuart
September 10	Karen Swartz (Rodbourn)
September 11	Lynne Shoemaker
September 16	Samuel Johnson
September 18	Susan Narby Carol Sehm Russell Walters
September 20	Wyatt Hammond
September 22	Nicole Dickson Peter McDonnell William Mishook
September 24	Terence McDonnell
September 27	Sharon Gunsolus
September 28	Joyce Loza
September 29	Sarah Tiffany Susan Martin
September 30	David Sehm



**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER TOWER TOPIC
ARTICLES IS SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

SUNDAY SUPPERS



**FREE Sunday Supper Meals
June 2nd – November 24th
EVERY Sunday!
Centenary Methodist Church
Sit down meal will be served
from 3:00 – 3:30pm**

September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Communion *Sunday Supper	LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED SARA'S CLOSET CLOSED		4:00 pm – B & G 5:30 pm - Finance	6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:15 am – Rally Day Tailgate Breakfast – Bring a Dish to Share 10:00 am Worship Service * Sunday Supper	*Sara's Closet 2:00 pm Worship Team 5:00pm HR Mtg or TBA 6:00 pm Session	4:00 pm Deacons		6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal		10:00 am Possible Sanctuary Tour (By Appointment Only)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00 am Worship Service Coffee Hour Begins 3:00 pm – Installation of Rev. John Woodring * Sunday Supper	*Sara's Closet		10:00 am – Food Security – LH 6:00 pm – A New Day Meeting for Widows & Widowers	7:00 am – 3:00 pm Steuben. Co. Office of Aging Forum – LH 5:00 pm Ministry of Children & Youth 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship Service Coffee Hour *3:00pm Sunday Supper	*Sara's Closet			6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal		10:00 am Possible Sanctuary Tour (By Appointment Only)
29	30	All Sunday Worship Services begin at 10:00am in the Sanctuary *Sunday Suppers @ Centenary United Methodist Church *Sara's Closet is open every Monday (unless noted, or holidays), 11:30 am to 2:30 pm				
Worship Service Coffee Hour *3:00pm Sunday Supper	*Sara's Closet					



TOWER TOPICS

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Pastoral 
Installation

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 @ 3:00P.M.

PASTOR JOHN'S INSTALLATION

**RECEPTION IN LYON HALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE SERVICE**



SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 @ 9:15

**TAILGATE BREAKFAST IN THE
PARKING LOT. PLEASE BRING A DISH
TO PASS**