

May 2025 27 North Main Street Box 568 Honeove Falls, NY 14472 Office Phone - 585-624-2160 Office Email - officefpchf@gmail.com

LAD TIDINGS

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Honeoye Falls



### Inside this Issue:

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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

### Sunday Worship at 10:30AM

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.

On May 4th, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper as a congregation. We will be serving the Communion elements. The prepacked 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.

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



# OUR FAITH IN ACTION

### Written by Pastor Kirk

"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life?"

Matthew 6:25-27

"I know I'm not supposed to worry" is a phrase I hear often. The reality of life is that our brains are designed to think about potential negatives and try to plan for them. A common leadership principle is "plan for the worst and hope for the best."

There's a common myth that "good Christians never worry" because Jesus said things like the above passage from the Sermon on the Mount. Yet that's clearly about needless worry. Jesus was preaching about putting God first and trusting God as loving, not punitive. In the ancient world, worry was not a purely internal thing; the only worrying that mattered was the kind that produced negative actions, such as refusing to give food or money to others. Jesus also famously preached on considering the cost of following Him (Lk14:28-30). He obviously encouraged careful consideration and good judgment.

Several people have spoken of the worry caused by the great turmoil in the stock market. We shouldn't let ideology minimize the fear this causes for those who depend on their life savings. One recent drop was the greatest, single-day decline in net worth caused by political policy in our nation's history. The following lack of clarity and consistency has caused wild market changes, exacerbating peoples' fears. Of course God cares if people can't afford to live out their remaining days.

At the same time, we aren't powerless in dealing with anxiety. Here are some things we can do when financial worry causes tension and loss of sleep:

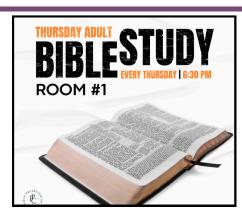
• Talk with your financial advisor. If you have a trusted advisor, they can provide a better perspective than headlines and talking heads. If you don't have one, call your investment broker; they will usually provide one at no cost.

- *Try to adjust your perspective*. A retired church member once told me he'd built wealth because he thought of money differently. He described how a friend mocked him when his Corning stock shares dropped in value. The church member explained, "As long as I don't sell it when it's low, I haven't lost a penny. I may buy even more!"
- Don't re-check your balances. This may be counter-intuitive, but because one bit of bad news has seven times the impact of one piece of good news on human brains, it can make more sense to check investment balances less during down cycles. Just as we wouldn't repeatedly hit our thumbs with a hammer, we might not want to repeatedly check balances during downturns.
- Consider the worst case. Yes, really! Worry turns to anxiety when dread enters the picture. Dread is an unnamed, unexplored form of fear. Years ago I changed career plans drastically when my dissertation advisor died, then my grandson was born. Many advised me to cut back on grandparenting rather than end two forms of employment and change course. Yet I quickly obtained another job closer to home, working fewer hours for nearly the same pay. Taking stock of real-life options if the worst happens helps us realize we'll be okay. Plans might change, but hunger and homelessness fears are rarely warranted.
- Identify one, good action. We can't control what happens in D.C. or stock markets or international trade. What can we do? I find that giving more to those harmed by the whims of the powerful brings me a great deal of peace. I'm still earning and have lived frugally enough to have that option; if that's not realistic for you, what one, next step can you take? Research shows that helping strangers is the most powerful way to lift your spirits and build equanimity.

- Set aside time to feed your soul. What activities bring you peace? It doesn't have to be directly spiritual; two that help me are word puzzles and mowing my lawn (sometimes I run out of lawn before I run out of anxiety!). What helps clear your mind and reset your nervous system? Is it gardening, reading, knitting, playing games, talking with family? Find what works best for you, and protect time for spiritual maintenance.
- Be kind to yourself. Sometimes we worry to the point of second-guessing ourselves. The story of Job reminds us that much of life comes down to chance. We all make the best decisions we can given the means at our disposal. Instead of wishing you'd invested differently or done more to impact the world, consider what would add to your comfort today. "Charity begins at home" isn't about charitable donations, it's about charitable attitudes. Remember that God forgives your mistakes and loves you just as you are. If that's God's view, who are we to argue?

This article isn't about how to save money or invest wisely; it's about ways to address a particular form of anxiety. For financial advice, please don't go to your pastor - go to a financial professional! If you're experiencing spiritual discomfort, I hope you find these strategies helpful. When it comes to money, one of my favorite sayings is "God loves a cheerful giver!" (2 Cor. 9:7). God wants us to have enough peace of mind and self-regard to take joy from generosity. May we all increase in spiritual comfort and joy as we grow in understanding all forms of stewardship.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Kirk





#### **Coffee Convo** Main Street Café!

Join Pastor Kirk and members of the congregation for coffee and conversation at the Main Street Café (58 N Main Street, Honeoye Falls) every Tuesdau 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 1PM

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## Worship In May

By now, we might all know what I'm going to write next: Easter is a Season, not one day. It starts on Resurrection Sunday, also known as Easter Sunday, and lasts through Pentecost, so named because it arrives fifty days after Easter. Pentecost falls on June 8 this year, so the entire month of May is in the Season of Easter, a joyous period when we typically consider the Resurrection and its impact. Once Pentecost arrives, we enter a new time in the Christian calendar, the Season after Pentecost (kind of self-explanatory). Here are selected Lectionary readings for these days; some of our church youth may convene worship for May 11, which is an unofficial but important holy time known as Mother's Day.



5/04/25	Third Sunday in Easter	Lectionary	John 21:4-5, 12-19	
5/11/25	Fourth Sunday in Easter	Lectionary	Acts 9:36-43	
5/18/25	Fifth Sunday in Easter	Lectionary	John 13:31-35	
5/25/25	Sixth Sunday in Easter	Lectionary	Acts 16:9-15	

### What Is a Pastor's Sabbatical?

While it's impossible to predict every future event, it's eminently possible to prepare for everyday life. I'm proud of our two formal leadership groups - the Deacons and the Session - for handling preparations well for my upcoming sabbatical from June 15 - August 10. There have been thoughtful conversations and nearly everyone has volunteered to help oversee church life and provide for members while I'm away.

A common first question is, what about worship? Good question, I'm glad you asked! Part of our historical belief is that worship isn't something "presented" or "served" by paid professionals; it's what happens when the faithful come together to spend time with God. The Presbyterian Minister isn't the provider of worship, that's up to the Holy Spirit; my training is in the facilitation of that experience. Worship can't be forced by ensuring a checklist of tasks are accomplished, it's much more likely to reach people when a certain environment is inculcated. I'm sharing the ways I try (together with our Worship Team and Music staff) to prepare that environment with our currently-serving Elders, who are assuming responsibility for services while I'm away. They'll also use some approaches we haven't often included and try new things to see how they might improve our connection with God. Then they'll welcome feedback on how things went. Please remember, the key to an effective service isn't what we "liked;" it's what moved us closer to God. Did you experience God in new or profound ways, and if so, how? It's also nice to know that, though the church pays my salary while I'm on sabbatical, there won't be any additional costs because Elders are leading worship.

Our Deacons will also more formally offer spiritual care for church members and friends. Pairs of Deacons are taking turns covering one week for each of the eight weeks. They'll be available for talk, friendship, and listening for everyday things that come up - concerns about family, relationships, anxiety, and the other, regular challenges most humans deal with from time to time. The schedule and contact information will be shared with everyone as the time draws near. Please remember - the Deacons aren't the resource for crisis care. Spiritual crises - like severe injury or illness, death in the family, serious accidents, etc., are for the on-call pastors. Ordained ministers from denominations approved by the PC USA are on call for the entire sabbatical. These ministers are well-trained (and often vastly experienced) in helping through really big challenges. The general rule is - if you need someone to talk to during a tough time, your Deacons are available. If a crisis strikes, reach out to the on-call pastors.

Our Session is also planning to cover some of the key administrative roles ministers fill today. They will have regular, remote meetings to discuss the calendar, building use, and hear updates from Deacons. They'll ensure each Team is supported and Teams are aware of what others are planning. There will be a chain of command for unexpected issues that might pop up.

Someone asked me, "Is this your preparation for leaving us?" I can't say "NO" strongly enough. First of all, you're stuck with me and my atrocious sense of humor until we plan our separation together; that's not just the Presbyterian way, it's the Christian way. Second, the Presbytery's sabbatical policy expressly forbids using a sabbatical to plan or explore ending a pastoral relationship. Many people will shoulder extra burdens to support my time of learning, and it would be highly unethical to use the opportunity in a way that disadvantages the congregation. I simply won't do that. In fact, this sabbatical study (after twenty-two years of formal ministry) may stave off retirement for a year or two. The refreshment and renewal that comes from changing focus for nearly two months is intended to make me more useful to the congregation, and ongoing ministry more engaging and enjoyable.

Please remember to check the monthly and weekly newsletter updates for more information on how the church will operate during my sabbatical. Specifics on who to contact and how will be sent out regularly.

Blessings, Pastor Kirk :)

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & MISSION TEAM PAGE 4

### **Director's Dish**

### Written by Adam Lewis Christian Education Director

As we say goodbye to April, I hope everyone had a meaningful Holy Week! But as we head into May, we continue to do the Lord's work. Starting the CE events off, we have the Middle School Youth leading the service on May 11th. *(editor's note: this date has been pushed back)* This is a great way for the youth to get involved in worship as well as give them a chance to expand on their experiences with mission and service work! A huge part of our approach to Confirmation now is focusing on carrying the church into daily life and the importance of looking for ways to make a difference. A few of our youth participated in our trip to Blessed Sacrament and others have done service projects through other venues such as Scouts. Allowing the youth to share their experiences and take away with the congregation is an important part of their spiritual journey. This year Alexis Ludwig, Lia Richardson and Nolan Mueller are taking the next steps of joining the church! We look forward to supporting them along the way!

Our other big event in May is the 3rd Annual Dick Haviland Family Pickleball Tournament on May 17th. Registration is live; please see the flyers around church or in the Glad Tidings for the sign-up link. Like last year, the auction items will be set up in the back of Guild Hall two weeks prior to the tournament. Please stop in and make your early bids! Last year we were able to donate over \$5,000 to Friends of Borgne and we look to raise even more this year. Please think about playing, volunteering or just coming to watch and support the event. It will once again be at the High School tennis courts and instruction begins at 12pm. We have two brackets this year, an advanced and a novice bracket. Hopefully this will allow for more fun and family participation. It's a doubles only tournament and we encourage parents and kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews to come sign-up and help a great cause. If you wish to make a donation to the event, we are accepting cash and checks can be made out to FPCHF with Pickleball on the memo line. If you have any questions about the tournament, please let me know (adamlewisced@yahoo.com).



Blessings to you all!

# Candle Lighter Sign-Up Now Available

A new candle lighter sign-up sheet is posted on the Christian Education Office door. Candle lighters are needed from May 11 through the end of August. If you are interested, please add your name to the list posted outside the Christian Education Office. For any questions, please contact Gail Worboys at (585) 624-4844.



# TEAM REPORTS

## **Generosity** Team

Martha Kumler, Chair

#### Per Capita Sunday Special Offering

On Sunday, May 4th , we will have a special offering to help fulfill our 2025 per capita of \$6,622. By March 31 we have received \$1,065.50 in per capita contributions. Thank you!

As a congregation, our contribution to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. allows us to join with Presbyterian churches around the country to make a difference in the world. From the PC(USA) website:

Together with our global partners, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission coworkers engage in life-transforming ministries in 80 countries and help us understand issues of ministry across the world. Despair, poverty, and violence are being overcome in the name of Jesus Christ. Hope is being restored and new life is springing forth. Guided by the Matthew 25 vision, World Mission is seeking new ways to come alongside our partners and nurture faith-filled relationships based in equity, mutuality, and justice rooted in God's love and the Gospel of Jesus. True mission partnership is about building relationships, learning from one another and walking together in faith and friendship. Together we can build the body of Christ around the world.

Our neighboring presbyteries have higher per capita apportionments than we do. The per capita for the Presbytery of Geneva is \$59.01 and the that of the Presbytery of Western New York is \$43.50. The presbytery of Genesee Valley's is \$38.50 per member. The portion of the per capita that goes to the Synod of the Northeast and the General Assembly is the same for all the presbyteries in the Synod of the Northeast.

### Plans for Pastor Kirk's Sabbatical

#### Chris Hinds, Clerk of Session

Pastor Kirk is taking a Sabbatical this summer and your leadership teams -Session and Deacons - are stepping up to plan for the needs of the congregation and the services. We welcome assistance from anyone in the congregation who wishes to be part of the plan. I am providing the schedule of services and the elder who will be planning each. If you wish to help, please contact the elder listed for the service, or call or text me. As we work on this more details will follow! If you have an idea for a service please let us know.

- 6/15 Service to be provided by CE for Father's Day and Sharing Day
- 6/22 Bible Trivia Sunday Linda Goodrum and Bruce Erway
- 6/29 Music Appreciation Sunday Michelle LaVarnway, Music Director
- 7/6 Stan Worboys is working on a Patriotic Theme
- 7/13 Mission Sunday with speakers Stan McCormack and Erin Ludwig
- 7/20 Service and Picnic at the Gazebo (or in the church if the weather is bad) - Donna Hickling
- 7/27 Pulpit Supply Pastor Communion Linda Goodrum Assisting
- 8/3 Shut In Sunday Chris Hinds
- 8/10 TBA Leslie Rowe

### June Newsletter Articles are Due on May 21<sup>st</sup> due to Memorial Day.

# Capital Campaign

Written by Anne Gravenstede Secretary, Capital Campaign Team





**PARDON OUR DUST** -The Capital Campaign Team has received requests to provide more detailed budget information and timelines for planned improvement projects. The Team is excited to announce that, thanks to the

generous contributions of individuals and groups in the congregation, work to upgrade the AV system in the sanctuary will begin in May.

Last month the Team gave a budget and timeline on the AV project - in May the project will begin in earnest, here are some updates -

Changes in the sanctuary in May in preparation for the AV installation include removal of two pews and building of an



enclosure for the AV project. Bob Richardson, "Betterhome Handyman" and others from the church will complete this work with a \$3800 budget, which is significantly below prior cost estimates. Below is the updated timeline and budget, which will also be displayed on the Campaign Bulletin Board:

#### AV Project Budget:

Applied AV "Video Phase" deposit - \$8,464 (paid)

Applied AV "Video Phase" credit for reusing monitor for balcony - \$501 to be refunded

Applied AV "Streaming Phase" deposit - \$6,512 (paid)

Applied AV Labor costs - \$17,200 (to be paid at completion of project, end of June)

Betterhome Handyman contractor cost - \$3,800 (to be paid in May) Computer, chair and misc. cost - \$1,000 (to have available May 1st) Subtotal - \$36,475 Contingency (10%) - \$3,648

Total budget - \$40,123 Session has approved to date - \$19,422



# COMMUNITY NEWS

PAGE 6

To my church family and Deacons,

Thank you for the generous college care package. It made my day very special when I received it! I will enjoy it as I'm preparing for the last few weeks of school. Thank you

Thank you again for thinking of me!

Blessings, Rachael Garvey



American

Blood Drive First Presbyterian Church Guild Hall 27 N Main St Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

Friday, May 9, 2025 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter firstpresbyterianchurchhoneoyefalls to schedule an appointment.



April 8, 2025

Dear Members of the First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for the 13 bags of canned and boxed foods to the Friends In Service Here Combined Communities Food Closet ! We truly appreciate your support, kindness and your time spent collecting and delivering the food !

Your donation will provide food for local families, senior citizens,

disabled individuals , individuals with medical conditions, single parents

and special immigrant visa families ( they risked their lives to help

American troops in Afghanistan). These local families and individuals will be

able to have healthy meals because of your donations !

It is due to the generosity and thoughtfulness of donors like you that the food closet

is able to continue to serve our local community !

THANK YOU !!

Sincerely,

Volunteers of the Friends In Service Here Combined Communities Food Closet

Mailing Address: 153 East Street, Honeoye Falls, New York 14472 EIN : 80-066094

Phone to Volunteer or to Obtain Food : 585-484-7103



# MAY BIRTHDAYS

01st: Ginny Floss Jim Mazzeo 02nd: Evelyn Blodgett 03rd: Anne Harrison 05th: Luke Szarma Lynn Yeaw 06th: Jean Reinhardt **Chuck Goodman** 12th: Pat Smith 13th: Johnny Chase **Benjamin Russell** 17th: Donna Hickling 21st: Jo Ann Tauriello 22nd: Wendy Willis 23rd: Bruce Whitmore 28th: Amy Morrow 30th: Howard Sexton

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



# MAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	HEL	LO ay!		1 Valley Pastors 10AM Room #1 Mission Team - 4PM Double Room Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	2	3 Senior Luncheon 12PM - 3PM Guild Hall
4 Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Deacon May Birthday Coffee Hour Per Capita Sunday	5	6 Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe	7	8 Fellowship Team 5PM Library Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	9 Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30PM - 6PM	10
Choirs 11 Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Coffee Hour After Worship	12 B&G Team 9AM Room #1 Session 6:30PM Room #1	13 Generosity Team 11AM Library Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe Capital Campaign Team 6PM	14 Pinehurst Service 6:15PM Community Room at Pinehurst	15 Deacons 5PM Guild Hall Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	16	17 Dick Haviland Pickleball Tournament 12PM HFL Courts Dinner to Follow at FPCHF
18 Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Breeze Tutorial & Photos After Worship	19	20 Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe Worship & Spiritual Growth Team 3PM Double Room VBS Planning 6PM Zoom	21 Membership Team 4PM Room #1 June Newsletter Articles Due	22 CE Team 6PM Zoom Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	23	24 Dick Haviland Pickleball Tournament 12PM HFL Courts Dinner to Follow at FPCHF (Rain Date)
25 Choirs Bell 8:30AM Vocal 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Community Meal 4:00PM	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27 Coffee Convo 1PM Main Street Cafe	28	29 Bible Study 6:30PM Room #1	30	31

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

4th - Jennifer Bianchi

28th - Jean Reinhardt

**Communion Servers** 

Technology Team

Liturgists

11th - Pat Smith

Assisting Elder: Barb Altonberg

25th - Rachael Garvey 25th - Laura Mueller

Accompanists

Phyllis Fritz, Jane Jezsu, Shirley Peters, Leslie Rowe, Mark Rowe, and Doug Sarkis

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

4th - Laura Mueller

18th - Laura Mueller

11th - Michelle LaMachia

M.L.

### Worship May 2025