

# GLAD TIDINGS

Monthly Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church Honeoye Falls

## Coffee & Conversation at 9:00 AM, Worship at 10:30 AM

Begin your Sunday morning with coffee and conversation in the Welcome Room prior to worship beginning at 9:00 AM. It's a warm and relaxed way to ease into the day and enjoy fellowship with others.

Our service will begin at 10:20 AM with announcements, 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 kindly ask that you turn off electronic devices such as smartphones and tablets during services in the sanctuary. Doing so helps improve our screencasting quality, making the experience better for those worshipping via Facebook. Thank you!



On January 4th, 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.



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."  
**The Church Office will be closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
January 19, 2025



## Congregational Annual Meeting

The 195th Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls is scheduled for Sunday, January 11th following worship at 11:30AM in the sanctuary.

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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)

Written by Pastor Kirk

*"Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled.'"*  
Luke 14:23

I'm pretty sure no one memorizes these articles, though I want to start by saying "remember the article from a few years ago when we saw that over 40% of young adults would start attending church if someone invited them?" That was the finding of the Public Religion Research Institute back in 2016, and it ran contrary to most peoples' expectations! During the rise of the "Nones" - people who considered themselves religious or Christian but rejected churches - most conversations about young adults and church were very negative. To know that nearly half those asked would be excited to attend a church service was revelatory!

And now... have I got news for you! Researchers started noticing an uptick in church participation among those thirty-five and younger. This is even more counter-intuitive when we recognize we're living through The Great Dechurching - the 20+ -year period when over 42 million Americans stopped going to church. That's driven by people over sixty, though it's seen in all age groups - except for adults 35 and younger, who now attend in larger percentages. Praise be to God, young adults are now carrying church-supported faith in this land.

Yet that change isn't felt evenly. Ryan Burge noticed it first showed up largely in Roman Catholic congregations; now Eastern Orthodox traditions are spiking sharply.

This should really make us think, because for decades we've been told to "loosen up" worship and membership procedures in order to attract/retain young adults. No churches have

longer, slower, more involved rituals than Eastern Orthodox ones. No membership requirements are higher, slower, and demand more of those seeking entrance. In fact, this was largely cited as a reason why second-generation immigrants usually stopped attending Orthodox Masses.

For me, this trend dovetails with what we learned from the large-scale Lifeway "Church Attendance" study from 2011. In that study, researchers found that when church leaders downplayed membership processes, members would downplay long-term commitment. Megachurches usually have no membership process and well over 70% of attendees stop attending within five years (megachurches have an average life span of 20 - 30 years).

This also speaks to young adults' quest for meaning and purpose. When our nation was largely agricultural, nearly everyone had a role to play on the family farm. Children saw the outcome of their work and learned to apply the same principles to their families when they came of age. Then we became a manufacturing nation, and people took pride in what they produced. Today we see ourselves as consumers, and are valued by how much we purchase (though this is distasteful to me, it's what research consistently finds). Those who cannot earn as much in our information-driven, service-oriented economy often feel directionless and useless.

Christian faith once provided a primary sense of identity and purpose. To replace that with

activities geared to produce high-earners may be the norm, but it's not necessarily the best thing for our children.

Young adults who struggle economically and socially are turning to churches with high ritual because ritual offers meaning in our rapidly-changing world. Ritual offers "handles" that help wrest some control from chaos and participate in God's work. Learning ancient teachings allows deep connection for so many who feel disconnected and powerless.

I'm not suggesting that we adopt Eastern Orthodox practices (for one thing, when I grow a beard I look like a biker Santa - not so good!). I am saying that even as our denomination still encourages less ritual and many pastors downplay membership processes, we probably want to push back against those outdated, counter-factual ideas. We have great traditions that run deep in the Presbyterian Church, USA. One of them is the serious examination of spirituality in relation to Jesus the Christ that we are supposed to require of all new members and new leaders. I hope we'll put time, attention, and energy into maintaining and even strengthening them, especially since they seem to help so many young adults who are struggling and seeking. Isn't that sense of purpose and usefulness something God provides all of us?

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Kirk

## ***Election and Installation of Elders and Deacons***

The election and installation of Deacons and Elders will take place on Sunday, January 4th, during the worship service. The training for Elders and Deacons will be the same day after coffee hour. This year's slate of Elders and Deacons are the following:

### **Elders**

Amy Arner, Martha Kumler (second term), Stan McCormack (one year of a two-year term), Rob Nestrack, Patti Moehlman, Rick Trindel (two-year term)

### **Deacons**

Judy Keenan, Janis McCormack (second term), Sue Ellen Roach, Mark Rowe (second term), Linda Goodrum, and Anne Gravenstede



## ***Coffee Convo***

Join Pastor Kirk and members of the congregation for coffee and conversation in the church library 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 1PM in the Church Library***

## Worship In January

First we celebrate the Christmas Season (from December 25 - January 6, the Twelve Days of Christmas), then move fully into the new year on the Christian Calendar. We'll remember Three Kings' Day on January 4, though it's officially on January 6. In some countries, parents will put small gifts under their children's beds on January 6 to represent the gifts taken to Jesus!

We'll continue following the Lectionary until we get to February, when we'll start looking at some thematic sermons, delving deeper into Biblical precepts we've touched upon before.



01/04/26	The Magii	Epiphany Sunday	Matthew 2:1-12
01/11/26	Respecter of Persons	Lectionary	Acts 10:34-43
01/18/26	Discipleship	Lectionary	John 1:29-42
01/25/26	Youth Learnings	Confirmation Sunday	Teen Choice

## Would You Like to Get Rid of That Old Laptop?

Our leadership teams are proving ever-more productive, maintaining a full schedule of fellowship, ministry, and learning activities. Now the work of the Capital Campaign Team is opening the doors to some exciting mission possibilities! Personally, I'm very eager to see what our Mission Team offers us (and to take part - I miss regular mission, it's very rewarding!).

As we inch closer to full capacity thanks to our tireless leaders, it's important to consider greater efficiency. We have much more participation in decision-making due to the Zoom software that allows people to take part in important conversations. However, we still don't have a system for Zoom meetings, which means setting up and tearing down for each meeting can waste a lot of time.

If you have an old laptop that has a camera and microphone, with wifi capability, please consider donating it to the church. We can erase all personal data and install only the software needed to run Zoom and share documents during Zoom meetings.

A dedicated Zoom station would significantly increase the time spent directly on ministry-supportive tasks, and would keep your electronics out of the waste pile. To donate, please talk with Pastor Kirk.

## February Glad Tidings Deadline

The deadline for the February Glad Tidings Newsletter is Thursday, January 22nd. Please send all submissions to Cheryl at [officefchf@gmail.com](mailto:officefchf@gmail.com).

START YOUR SUNDAY

*Coffee & Convo*

Welcome Room  
9:30AM

THURSDAY ADULT  
**BIBLE STUDY**  
EVERY THURSDAY | 6:30 PM  
ROOM #1

## Director's Dish

Adam Lewis  
Christian Education Director

Here we are, entering yet another new year! I hope that you all had a great Christmas season; it was nice seeing many of you at our Family Service on Christmas Eve. Many of our youth were involved in the service which was wonderful! For those who couldn't attend the "Treble Makers" were great and the message was written and created by our own Rachael Garvey.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped with the Soups and Gingerbread House at the Teazaar this year! Between the two, \$1153.50 was raised for the Youth Group Fund. For anyone who doesn't know, that fund helps support the youth group in their mission activities.

As we look ahead to our January events, I'm excited to share that CE will once again be hosting Carhartt Sunday, on January 25th. As usual, we will be accepting new or slightly used winter clothing items for all genders and ages. Anything from coats, hats and gloves to socks, scarfs and boots will be welcomed. We're excited to once again be able to help those in need and especially those who are close to home.

January 25th will also be Confirmation Sunday where we will be welcoming our new members Lia Richardson, Alexis Ludwig and Nolan Mueller. They, along with other Middle School youth, will be leading the service. Please come support our new members!

Looking even farther ahead, Souper Bowl Sunday will be February 8th, where we collect nonperishable food items for the local food cupboard and our annual Pet Supply drive will be taking place during the month of February. A list will be posted for needed supplies but as usual, we're looking for blankets, towels, clay cat litter, bowls leashes and collars. This time of year is great in the church because we get to see first-hand how charitable our congregation is!

Blessings to you all in this new year!



## Carhartt Sunday is January 25th

We will once again be accepting new or slightly used winter clothing items that we will donate to local shelters and outreach programs.

Please consider donating hats, coats, gloves, scarves, sock, etc. We will accept both adult and youth sized. Let's help keep everyone arm this winter!!



## Youth "Mission Talks"

Bob Richardson, Youth Leader

In January the Youth will start a series of "Mission Talks" where people from the community who are involved in mission projects will be coming in to speak to the kids about their experiences.

The first speaker is Jeff Hackett from Mission Go who has helped Susan's cousin with trips to the Dominican Republic where she is a nurse and set up pop-up clinics serving hundreds of people over the course of a week. He is also in charge of the gap program for kids who would like to spend a year after high school serving on a mission trip.

This is happening on January 18th so we would like as many of the MS/HS kids to be there that day.

More speakers to be announced soon but Joan Haviland from Friends of Borgne and Janine Lupisella from Linking Hands for Learning have already agreed to speak to the kids!!!

## Confirmation Sunday - January 25th

All are welcome to join for a special worship service on Sunday, January 25th, as the congregation celebrates the confirmation of Lia Richardson, Alexis Ludwig, and Nolan Mueller. These young people will publicly affirm their faith during the service, and we invite you to witness this meaningful milestone. In addition to the confirmation, the Middle School youth will lead the service, sharing their faith through readings and reflections.

Come and be a part of this uplifting moment as we support our confirmands and celebrate the faith of our youth.

## Capital Campaign

Anne Gravenstede, Secretary

The Capital Campaign Team has received multiple non-cash donations during the campaign, creating a need to develop a Gift Policy for the church. With assistance from Rev. Dr. Rose Niles, our liaison from the Presbyterian Foundation, a policy has been developed, which was recently approved by Session. The policy covers gifts made from various types of assets. The Team would like to recognize Margaret Bailey's leadership in the development of the policy. Anyone interested in reviewing the policy can access a copy in the Church Office.

The Church encourages and accepts gifts for the purpose of supporting the Church's programs, ministry and mission and providing for the upkeep, maintenance and enhancement of the physical facilities of the Church. Gifting opportunities include:

1. Annual budget pledging;
2. Capital improvements or expansion campaigns;
3. Supporting Christian missions;
4. Building the church's endowment;
5. Supporting special pleas in times of need;
6. Special projects available to enhance or maintain the Church building and properties;
7. Memorial gifts; and
8. Gifts for special purposes or projects envisioned by the donor that meet the approval of Session.

Gifts may be made outright, as planned gifts, or as gifts deferred in wills and trusts or contingent on future events.

January 18th

# SMILE

Let's get a complete church directory this year!

**Time to Update Breeze**

Bring in a picture of yourself or the membership team, during the coffee hour, will take your picture and add it to Breeze.  
(Breeze tutorials available)

See Sue Ellen Roach with questions.

## Join Us At the Table for Dinner

**JOIN US**  
At the Table for Dinner

**4PM**  
No Cost

**Sunday, January 25th**



**Baked Ziti, Salad, Bread, and Ice Cream**

27 N. Main Street, Honeoye Falls

This month's Community Meal (now called Join Us at the Table for Dinner) is being held on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM. This month's meal will be prepared by students from HF-L who will be serving baked ziti, salad, bread, and ice cream for dessert. All are welcome! Invite a neighbor!

Community Meal Sign-ups 2026	
January 25th	<i>WASCO!</i>
February 27th	<i>180 Main St. Cafe</i>
March 28th	
April 26th	<i>180 Main St. Cafe</i>
May 28th	
June 28th	
July 26th	
August 29th	
September 27th	
October 25th	
November 22nd	<i>Thank you for your help!</i>
December 24th	<i>Thank you for your help!</i>

Questions? See Jane 303 339 1841

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

# FELLOWSHIP

# FAMILY

# GAME NIGHT

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH**

**A FUN NIGHT FOR ALL AGES OF PIZZA, ICE CREAM SUNDAES, AND GAMES!**



CONTACT JANE JEZSU WITH QUESTIONS: [JANE.JESZU@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JANE.JESZU@GMAIL.COM) OR (585) 309-1841

The sign-up sheet for this year's meals is posted on the Deacons' Bulletin Board in the main hallway. Helpers are needed to fill the slots and provide meals for our wider community.

Please see Jane Jezsu with any questions. She can be reached at either [jane.jezsu@gmail.com](mailto:jane.jezsu@gmail.com) or (585) 309-1841.

## Teazaar “Thank You”

Our 52nd annual Teazaar was an especially well attended one. With help from the weather first and then our Greeters and Ushers, they counted those entering the front doors at 563! We also had some attendees with limitations who came up the rear ramp and with assistance from church members, they entered through the rear door, so we feel the actual number was probably 575!

We won't have final numbers on our proceeds to share until after expenses are accounted for and sales later in December are deposited. We will share more Teazaar details in our report for the Annual Meeting in January and in the February 2026 newsletter.

Again this year, SO many individuals (adults and youth) contributed time and talents in one way or another. It is not only helpful, it really is necessary in order to get everything done. The generosity and “heart” for this annual event is heartwarming and so appreciated!

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED OR CONTRIBUTED TO OUR 52 ND ANNUAL TEAZAAR!!!

The Women’s Association  
Sponsors of the Teazaar



Deacon's  
*January Birthday*  
Coffee Hour  
Sunday, January 4th

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 02: Kevin Clar  
Phyllis Fritz
- 05: Sue Ellen Roach
- 06: Ruth Hayes
- 07: Betsy Cox
- 08: Ron Nestrick
- 09: Sue Wiegand
- 11: Stan Worboys
- 12: Noah Wells
- 16: Ron Fritz  
Josh Kosciol  
Luke Kosciol  
Amelia Lonthair
- 19: Helga Lubbers
- 24: David Shaver
- 30: Anne Erway  
Serena Leary  
Dakota Powers  
Milo Sartor



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







## Red Cross Blood Drive

Come and donate blood and be entered for a chance to win a trip for 2 to Super Bowl LX in California. There is a critical need in this area and there is a goal to collect 26 units of blood.

Friday, January 8th  
1:30PM - 6:00PM

Guild Hall  
First Presbyterian Church

# JANUARY CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				<p>1</p>  <p>New Year's Day! Church Office Closed</p>	2	3
<p>4</p> <p>Bell Choir 8:30-9:15AM</p> <p>Vocal Choir 9:15-10:15AM</p> <p>Worship 10:30AM</p> <p>Deacons Birthday Coffee Hour</p>	5	<p>6</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Library</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>Capital Campaign Team 12PM Room #1</p> <p>Fellowship Team 5PM Library</p> <p>Bible Study 6:30-8PM Room #1</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30PM - 6PM Guild Hall</p> 	10
<p>11</p> <p>Bell Choir 8:30-9:15AM</p> <p>Vocal Choir 9:15-10:15AM</p> <p>Worship 10:30AM</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting After Worship</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Session 6:30PM Room #1</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Library</p>	14	<p>15</p> <p>Capital Campaign Team 12PM Room #1</p> <p>Deacons 5PM Room #1</p> <p>Bible Study 6:30-8PM Room #1</p>	16	17 Family Pizza, Ice Cream, Sundae, and Game Night
<p>18</p> <p>Bell Choir 8:30-9:15</p> <p>Vocal Choir 9:15-10:15</p> <p>Worship 10:30</p> <p>Fellowship Coffee Hour After Worship Breeze Pictures &amp; Tutorial</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Office Closed</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Library</p> <p>Worship &amp; Spiritual Growth Team 3PM Double Room</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Generosity Team 12PM Library</p> <p>Membership Team 4PM Room #1</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible Study 6:30-8PM Room #1</p> <p>Newsletter Articles Due</p>	23	24
<p>25</p> <p>Bell Choir 8:30-9:15AM</p> <p>Vocal Choir 9:15-10:15AM</p> <p>Worship 10:30AM Confirmation Sunday</p> <p>"Join Us at the Table Dinner" 4PM Guild Hall</p>	26	<p>27</p> <p>Coffee Convo 1PM Library</p>	28	<p>29</p> <p>Bible Study 6:30-8PM Room #1</p>	30	31

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

## Worship January 2026

### Assisting Elder

Martha Kumler

### Liturgists

04th - Adam Bianchi

11th - Rachael Garvey

18th - Pat Smith

25th - To Be Determined

### Accompanists

04th - Laura Mueller

11th - Michelle LaMachia

18th - Laura Mueller

25th - Michelle LaMachia

### Communion Servers

Barb Altonberg, Bev Hillabrandt, Judy Keenan, Gail Richeson, Leslie Rowe, and Stan Worboys

### Technology Team

Brian Webster, Patti Moehlmann, Eric Ludwig, Amy Morrow, Bob Richardson and David Major

