

****Below are the Bulletin and Announcements for Sunday, May 2, 2021.**

It includes the Zoom link to join during Worship Service.

Sunday WorshipTime: This link will open at 9:30 AM on Sunday. Worship will begin at 10 AM; we will leave it open for 30 minutes after worship ends for conversation.

To join by

Computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004448057?pwd=UUh4aWV6ZUxhY3A4eDgzTWw5U0V2UT09>

To join by telephone: 1 (929) 205 6099

Meeting ID: 820 0444 8057

Passcode: 155613

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Wappinger Falls, New York
May 2, 2021 * Easter 5B**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER

God of the glorious garden, giver of grace, apart from your Word we can do nothing.
Cultivate in us a sense of connection in Christ.

Prune our excess and help us to grow in faith so that we may bear good fruit for the world;
through Jesus Christ, the true vine. Amen.

HYMN GtG #631 In the Presence of Your People

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all hope and joy, we confess that we continue to live in fear.
You make us branches of your vine, but we fail to abide in you.
You extend your promise to all, yet we seek to cut off and exclude.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Sanctify us in your perfect love, the love that casts out all fear,
so that we may truly love one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
Everyone who calls on the name of God will be saved.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

I invite you to **share a sign of peace with members of your household or send your prayers for peace to those not present with you.**

GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON Acts 8:26-40

HYMN #285 **Like the Murmur of a Dove's Song**

GOSPEL LESSON **John 15:1-8**
The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING of GIFTS

1 John 3:16-17

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods yet refuses to help a sister or brother in need?

As we offer our gifts to you, Loving God, remove any doubts about how they might be used, as you offer food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, joy to the grieving, and peace to the broken.

Remembering God's great love for the world, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

DOXOLOGY (please sing these words)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Communion Feast

Come from the north and the south, the east and the west,
come from your fears and your grieving, your lost hopes
and forgotten dreams – and come to a table
set with a grace and power that will not be deterred for Christ is
risen. Alleluia!

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you.

Lift up your hearts. Let us give thanks to our God

because it is right to give God thanks and praise.
Your steadfast love, O God, has ever been before us.
Even when we have lost sight of that love, you do not forsake us.
By the urgings of prophets, by the witness of faithful ones,
you sought us out with a love that would not let us go.
And in the fullness of time, you made your seeking and your love incarnate.

(This section of the communion prayer is a poem-prayer written by the Reverend Joseph Gilmore, entitled "If We Break Bread" published by South Presbyterian Church, Dobbs Ferry, in his collection of poetry entitled *Eternity's Dance with Time*)

If we break bread, take bread and eat it, but do not *become* bread for others,
what have we done?
In the grateful hands of Jesus, the fields of God,
cultivated, seeded, tended, and harvested by a particular farmer, were not forgotten.
In the weight of the loaf,
he felt the presence of the women who had winnowed the grain;
in the fragrance, he remembered the ovens,
the hot stones and the sweat of those who baked it.
And with this bottomless gratitude for the humanity it implied, he said:
"Having eaten, this bread will become me. The body of me.
Oh God, let my life embody the sacred, urgent, mystery of You."

In his grateful hands,
the cup of wine called up the glorious things earth and light and water can do.
Those who pruned, picked, and pressed the grapes; those who added sugar
Then kept vigil, all entered the long silence of Jesus, just before he said:
"This will become the blood of me, the very life of me.
I can only drink from a cup others hold with me.
Oh God, let *me, let me* become a cup held to the lips of others."

So, God most mysterious, if we drink deeply but slake our own thirst only,
what will become of the Way of Jesus, and of the kingdom for which he prayed?

Let us pray together, the prayer that Jesus taught us of the kingdom:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day your daily bread, and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

God of all power, breathe your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of
bread and wine,
that they may be for us the life of Christ and that we may make that life visible
through our faithful witness to him.
Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread & Cup

We eat this bread and drink this cup so that we can all share in the life of Christ.

The Gifts of God for the people of God.

During the hymn, please share communion with members of your household.

GtG #526 Let Us Talents & Tongues Employ – Communion

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

If you would like to share your joys and concerns with the congregation, please call or email the church office.

In the blessed hope of the resurrection, we pray to the Lord of endless life.
By your grace, O God, raise us from death to life.

We pray for the church.

Help us to abide in Christ, like branches of a vine.

Fill us with your power and prune away our sin, so that we may bear good fruit, giving glory to you.

We pray for the world.

Let all the ends of the earth remember your love, lifting up the lowly,
feeding those who hunger, until all peoples know your saving strength.

We pray for our nation and for our leaders.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom, your justice and your compassion
all those whose decisions affect the lives of others, that all may act with integrity, honor and
with courage.

We pray for our community and for those in need.

Open our doors to seekers and strangers; let all who have been cut off and cast aside
be welcomed into the covenant of your care.

Reveal your love in the lives of those who suffer. Confirm their faith and cast out their fear.
Abide in them, that they may abide in you.

We pray for those who have died and for those who mourn.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith of Christ,
and those whose faith is known to you alone.

Give comfort to those who mourn. Fill the emptiness of loss with your never-ending peace.

We pray for ourselves and for our ministries.

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

Grant that we may minister in *your* name, with *your* love in our hearts, *your* truth in our minds,
your strength in our wills; until, at the end of our journey,
we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace.

Eternal God, show forth in us and in our world the good news of your saving power and love, so
that all may believe and have life in you; through Jesus Christ, who is risen indeed. Amen.

HYMN #611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

May the peace of Christ go with you to the places you go from here.

May the peace of Christ be in your conversations and in all your actions.

May the peace of Christ abide with you, so that you may abide in love and peace with God and
neighbor.

Now *go*, and *be* the peace of Christ for all the earth. Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE

Please call or email the church office with your prayer or pastoral care requests.

Please hold in your prayers:

~ for healing: Steve, Dorothy, Betsey, Vincent, Donna, Bob, John, Linda, Gina, Jane, Kathy,
Jonathon & Megan, Donna, Aaron, Barbara, Tom, Doug

~ for a safe and complete move for Linda

~ for peaceful rest for: Fran, Terry, Damon

~ for all who are infected with and impacted by Covid-19 and their caregivers

~ for discernment for upcoming project

~ thanksgiving for more equitable school funding in NYS, thanks to lots of advocacy & work
with legislators!

~ thanksgiving to those who volunteer to make the world a cleaner, safer place for life

~ for all who attended the climate summit last week; may they produce action and justice for the
earth

~ for Kathy, as she awaits her rescheduled medical procedure

~ for parents, students, educators & support staff as the year continues with education at home
and in the school

~ for all oppressed by violence and injustice

~ for all who confront evil and work for justice, peace and truth

~ for all of the prayers we have in our minds and in our hearts

Announcements

Sunday Worship on Zoom: To access Sunday worship on Zoom, click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004448057?pwd=UUh4aWV6ZUxhY3A4eDgzTWw5U0V2UT09>

To call in by phone: (929) 205-6099

Meeting ID: 820 0444 8057

Passcode: 155613

If you need assistance accessing our virtual worship services, please contact the office.

Re-Opening for Worship: the church will re-open for in-person worship on Sunday, May 9th. All Covid-19 protocols used last year will remain in place. Please see below for details.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Spring Craft Fair on May 22nd:

- We plan to open the Thrift Shop during the Spring Craft Fair. We need to launder the clothing that has been sitting in there collecting dust for a year. Are you willing to take a rack or a tub home and return the clothes clean and ready for sale? Call the office to arrange a pick up time.
- Help make upcycled planters from items in the Thrift Shop (or your donated items from home.) Gather at the church on Sunday, May 16th at 1 PM to prepare the planters for sale on May 22nd.
- Make a batch of chili for sale at the Craft Fair. Let us know if you can make beef, turkey or vegetarian chili.
- We will need 2 10'x10' dining tents for use at the Spring Craft Fair – please let us know if you have one we can borrow.

We would love to reopen our Twice Blessed Thrift Shop. We need some volunteers who are able to commit to weekly shifts. Interested? Contact Kathy Sorce at kathryn.sorce@gmail.com.

We are considering becoming a drop-off spot for **Terracycle** – a company that offers recycling for items that are recyclable, but not generally accepted by municipal programs, such as disposable razors, medication packaging or cleaning products. Interested in being a part of it? Contact Lucille Holohan at littlelulu914@optonline.net. <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US>

The Free Community Dinner provides take-out meals on the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month. Our next Free Community Dinner To-Go is on Saturday, May 15th. **Pick up meals between 4-5:30 PM.**

Pastoral Care:

If you would like to receive pastoral care, please call us: church office (845)297-2800; Pastor Margery (914)539-5323 or Pastor Laurie (845)632-1124. Pastoral care will be offered by appointment only.

Please let us know how else we can support your spiritual needs.

Offering of Our Gifts and Ourselves:

Thank you for continuing to honor your pledges during this time. Whether you bring it to worship, send a check to the church office by mail or make your contribution using online banking, it is important that we maintain our ability to pay our bills as we continue to navigate this disruptive time as a church community. *Thank you for your generosity!*

The Session has voted to reopen for in-person worship on Sunday, May 9th at 10 AM. Please be aware of what will be required so that we can all worship together safely.

Here's what to expect on Sunday, May 9th:

- All those attending worship *must* wear a mask/facial covering. Masks will be available if you forget yours.
- Enter the church using the ramp entrance only. You may be asked to stand outside for a few moments as others sign the log & go through health screening.
- A greeter/elder will be present at the door to take attendance, ask health screening questions and take a temperature check for each person attending, so we know how many people are attending (capacity), as well as who is attending, for contact tracing purposes, should that become necessary.
- If you are not well, please stay home as you tend to your health. There are members of our congregation who are not vaccinated; we must be mindful to offer a safe environment for all.
- Please plan to arrive early, so that there is adequate time to screen all attendees before 10 AM.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance; please wash your hands upon arrival.
- Worship will be held with appropriate seating marked off for social distancing. You might not be able to sit in your usual pew, *but* change is good. ☺
- Worship will include music, but singing by the congregation and the choir is not permitted at this time. We will be using the large screen to view the bulletin (no paper copies) as we've been doing; hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the pews.
- Offering plates will be placed near the entrance; please place your offering in the plate before taking your seat.
- Restrooms will be open for use with distance markers in the hallway. (outside of Wade Hall)
- No coffee hour will be held.
- Should you wish to meet with Pastor Margery on site for pastoral care after the service, you must make an appointment ahead of time. Pastoral care meetings will take place either in the dining room downstairs or outdoors, to allow for appropriate distancing.

We hope to see you on May 9th. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Pastor Margery or the church office at (845)297-2800. If you are not yet comfortable returning to church, please notify the church office. Remember, wear your mask, adhere to social distancing (6 feet apart from one another) and let's rejoice and be glad as we worship God.

Yours in Christ,

Elders: John Beale
Sorce

Aimee Hopkins

Christine Nastasi

Al Weitlich

Kathy

Lucille Holohan, Clerk

Pastor Margery Rossi