

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Wappingers Falls, New York
August 29, 2021 * Pentecost 14

GATHERING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Jesus has the words of eternal life;

He is the Holy One of God.

Let us worship God.

HYMN GtG #307 God of Grace and God of Glory

CALL to CONFESSION *Ephesians 6:13*

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your way.

You call us to love and serve you, yet we choose false and empty idols.

You call us to new life in Christ, yet we turn aside and fall back in fear.

Forgive us, God of grace.

Give us, by your Word and Spirit, the wisdom and strength to love and serve you faithfully;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Forgiveness: (*Ephesians 6:14-15*) Now stand firm in your faith, covered by the saving grace of God and ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

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.

(Please share with one another a gesture, offering peace from your seat.)

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to God, creator, redeemer and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

God of every generation, by the wisdom of your Word and the power of your Spirit, help us to comprehend

the height and depth and breadth and length of your great love for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON Ephesians 6:10-20

HYMN GtG #846 Fight the Good Fight

GOSPEL LESSON John 6:56-69
 The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: The Armor of God

TIME for REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING of GIFTS

James 2:5, 14-17; 1:17, 22

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for you have chosen the poverty of the world to make your people rich in faith. Help us to put our faith into practice, through the offering of our lives – giving food to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and shelter to the poor; all for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, your Word made flesh.

As people of faith and action let us offer our lives to the Lord. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.*

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 our trouble and need, we look to the Lord, the giver of our daily bread.

God of abundant grace, hear our prayer.

We pray for the church.

By the power of your Spirit and Word, help us to speak more boldly of the mystery of the gospel.

We pray for the world.

Teach the leaders of this and every land

to put aside all falsehood and corruption and to seek your ways of justice and peace.

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.

Let this place become your dwelling place, a safe shelter for strangers and refugees,
a place of promise and peace for all.

Speak tenderly to those who are hurting;

encourage them through your healing word, the word that brings the dead to life.

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.

Generous God, as you provide for us each day, nourish and strengthen us in faith and faithfulness, so that we may share your grace in a hungry world; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN GtG #838 Standing on the Promises

CHARGE and BENEDECTION *Ephesians 4:1, 4-6*

The blessing of the one God – Spirit, Son and Father – be with you now and always. Alleluia!
Lead a life worthy of your calling, giving glory to God in all things.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen!

POSTLUDE

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

Please hold in your prayers:

~ for healing and comfort: Gina; Denise; Jennifer; Megan; Jennifer; Bob; Paul; Jayneann; Betsey, Sheala

~ for Pastor Laurie's mother, Barbara

~ for those in their final days and their caregivers: James

~ for Luke in a time of discernment

~ thanksgiving for Juan's new job

~ for Paul's upcoming surgery

~ for Teresa's upcoming surgery

~ for the people of Afghanistan & the people of Haiti

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

Announcements

PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!

We are inviting a sampling of our congregation to complete the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line instrument that will help us gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping the session as they make decisions about the future of the First Presbyterian Church of Wappingers Falls.

On September 7th, those selected to participate will receive an email with a link to the CAT.

Between September 9th- 30th, if you have received the link, we ask that you go online by clicking on the link provided and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. *Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers.*

If you need a paper copy, please contact the office, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. If more than one person in your household receives the link, please have *each* individual complete the survey.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

We will hold an informational meeting after worship on 9/12/21. We hope you join us!

If you have questions, please contact Lucille Holohan. She has graciously agreed to be the “point person” for this project. You can reach her at littlelulu914@optonline.net. You may also leave a message for her at the church office. Many thanks!

CHANGES! CHANGES! CHANGES!

There will be NO Free Community Dinners in September 2021

We need some time to renovate and reorganize our space.

**In October, please join us on the first and fourth* Saturdays – October 2 & 23,
2021**

*We will host a Craft Fair on October 16th.

We hope to see you in October.
We apologize for any inconvenience.

WWW.FPCWF.COM

Sunday Worship in-Person/Online: We are watching the positivity rate and other important metrics in Dutchess County regarding Covid-19 cases. The current spike is just below our threshold to shut down in-person worship. Should these metrics indicate a need to return to online worship, we will notify the congregation ASAP. While we worship in-person, properly worn masks, distancing and health screenings continue to be required.

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.

Food Pantry Closure: The session has voted to *permanently* close the Food Pantry. When possible with the pandemic, we will plan a celebration of this life-giving ministry and give thanks for all the volunteers and clients who made it possible for so many years.

Pastoral Care:

If you would like pastoral care, please call the church office (845)297-2800 or Pastor Margery (914)539-5323. 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!*