

*Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

- James 1:17

Dear friends in Christ,

A blessed and happy Fall to each and every one of you!

It has been a while since we've published *First Press* as the office staff and I have been discerning the most effective ways to communicate with the community of FPC Watertown. After much thought and discussion, *First Press* will return to a monthly publication, but we plan to publish it in a way that each edition overlaps the next by 15 or 20 days. This way you have a month and a half of information in each edition as you plan the ways you want to be involved in the church's many programs and ministries. We will also continue to utilize the weekly worship bulletin and *Connect!* emails to keep you in the loop on all things FPC!

I have a lot of exciting information to share with you this month, so pour a cup of coffee, tea, or hot cider, and read along.

**First**, we have hired two new staff members. **Stacey Bristow**, who most recently worked at the Watertown YMCA, has come on staff with us as Church Administrator. In this role, Stacey brings many years of knowledge and experience in accounting, as well as business systems, policies, and structure. My vision in creating this position, with the guidance of the Personnel Committee, is to have a professional bookkeeper who can also oversee more of the day-to-day operational needs of the church. This shift, as Stacey has been with us about a month now, has already allowed me to expand my pastoral care and visitation routine throughout the week. **Art Boughton** has also been brought on staff as Building Supervisor. In this role, Art will maintain our beloved church building and grounds and ensure that they are safe, clean, and inviting for all of our programs and ministries.

**Please welcome both Stacey and Art!**

**Second**, I want to thank **Elder Linya Bell** who has recently stepped down as our Congregational Care Coordinator. You may not know this, but Linya is not only a vital member of our community at FPC but also in the Presbytery of Northern New York. Linya routinely preaches at churches all over the presbytery, while also serving as FPC's presbytery representative. This is in addition to her work as an Elder at FPC and her leadership of our Outreach Committee. I thank Linya sincerely for 'showing me the ropes' when it comes to pastoral care in our congregation; I look forward to continuing the kind and generous care ministry she has fostered for many years.

**Next**, you're going to notice some changes over the next few months in how we **utilize the spaces** in the main part of the church building. My first year as your pastor has been about learning, listening, and observing the ways the church functions and the systems we have in place. I've then prayed about improvements I think we can make while having many discerning conversations with our church's leadership.

To this end, the **Watertown Multi-Ethnic Community** that has been meeting in our chapel for several years will be moving to the second floor lounge where they will have space for worship,

(continued on Page 5)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
STAFF

REV. DR. ANDREW LONG  
PASTOR

GAIL PARSONS  
PARISH ASSOCIATE

STACEY BRISTOW  
ACTING BOOKKEEPER  
315-783-3635

SUE BEAMAN  
SECRETARY  
EMAIL HER AT  
wfpsec@gmail.com

ART BOUGHTON  
BUILDING MANAGER

SARA D. GLEASON  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

CARL BINGLE  
ORGANIST

JENNIFER WHITENACK  
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

JILLIAN NORRIS  
NURSERY STAFF

ALEESHA GILL  
NURSERY STAFF

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:  
TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY  
9:00 TO 2:00



AMERICAN RED CROSS

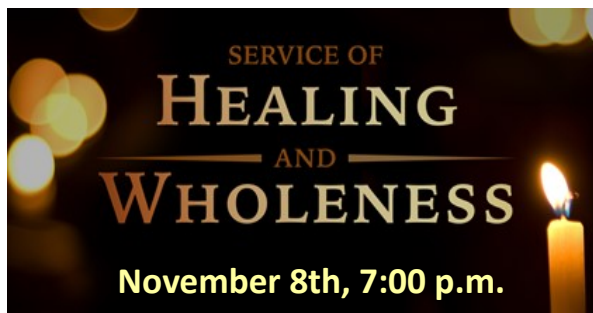


**BLOOD  
DRIVE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022  
8:30 a.m. TO 12:30 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Fellowship Hall**

**Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit  
RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment**



Healing services were an important part of the early church's ministry, and they are a way for us to encounter God's love and grace in our complex world. This service will include time for peaceful reflection and prayer, candle lighting, song, and healing practices such as laying on of hands and anointing with oil.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry**

Instant Potatoes  
Canned Sweet Potatoes  
Rice  
Dried Beans  
Stuffing Mix  
Gravy  
Cranberry Sauce  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Soups  
Canned Fruit Pie Filling  
Canned Pumpkin  
Confectionary Sugar

Cake Mixes and Frosting  
Pudding Mix  
Evaporated Milk  
Dessert Mixes  
Brownie Mixes  
Dream Whip  
Cookie Mix  
Bread Mixes  
Jelly  
Nuts



**Always in Need**

Sanitary Pads  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Body Wash  
Deodorant  
Toothpaste  
Dish Soap  
Toilet Paper  
Laundry Soap  
Paper Plates  
Plastic Dinnerware

Our "40 Cans for Lent" food drive for the Urban Mission was such a huge success that we've decided to have another food drive for Thanksgiving! Collect some or all of the items listed above, and bring them to the church by November 13!

# Trunk OR Treat

Decorate your trunk and dress up to distribute candy to our community children. About 100 trick or treaters attended last year. Free hot dogs will be served again this year. Sign up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall.

**Friday, October 28, 2022**  
**4:00 - 6:00 pm**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
403 Washington Street  
in the Parking lot  
[www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org)

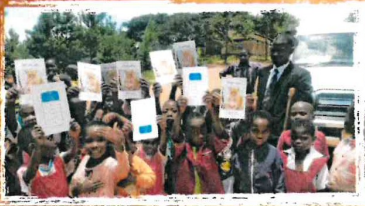


# TAKEOUT DINNER SCALLOPED CHICKEN

WEDNESDAY

NOV

09



**TO BENEFIT:**  
Malawi Early Literacy Team



[HTTP://MALAWIEARLYLITERACY.ORG](http://MALAWIEARLYLITERACY.ORG)

Malawi Early Literacy Team  
(M.E.L.T.)

Proceeds will provide books,  
teacher training, and the MELT1  
Mobile Library to remote villages in  
the Northern region of Malawi.



**First Presbyterian Church of Watertown**  
403 Washington Street Watertown, NY 13601

**4:30PM - 6:30PM ~ \$12**

Take out scalloped chicken dinner. Includes scalloped chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetable, cranberry sauce, roll, cake.

**GROUP PRE-ORDERS AND QUESTIONS CALL  
HEATHER WHITE  
315-778-9867**

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an office, and where they will have their weekly fellowship time. The **Church Administrator** will be moving to the office formerly used by the church's associate pastor, and our **Secretary** will be moving to the office currently being used as the finance office.

By the end of the year, I hope to turn the current church office back into a **library and meeting space**, where you can access the church's library resources, relax with a cup of coffee, or meet with a committee or group. These changes will take time, but I believe they will help us to fully utilize the vast physical resources we are blessed with at FPC.

Finally, a pastoral word about a word we're all sick of on this side of COVID: change. Change is not easy for anyone, especially after all of the change we've collectively endured in these past years. One of the reasons that many seek comfort and solace in the Church is that the church offers a steady foundation when much in the world changes so quickly.

*Allow me to reassure you that, even as we experience change here at the church, First Presbyterian Church of Watertown remains a strong foundation on which we are building the Kingdom with God in this community and abroad.*

The New Testament book of James says it so beautifully: God never changes. And because God never changes, and the love of God for each of us never waxes or wanes, we can be bold and confident in seeking new and different ways to fulfill the Great Commandment that Jesus gave us. We have endured perhaps the greatest challenge of our generation and God has been with us. God will also be with us as we face the future together.

Enjoy reading this month's edition of *First Press* and I look forward to continuing to worship, learn, and serve with you!

*Andrew*



“Going Deeper” Session 1 was a very enriching time of learning, discussion, and fellowship! Session 2 begins with a large-group discussion on October 30 on the book, “The Bible Tells Me So,” by Peter Enns.

**The schedule for Session 2 is as follows:**

**October 30:** Large group discussion, 12pm, Fellowship Hall

**November 6:** Large group discussion, 12pm, Fellowship Hall

**November 13:** Large group discussion, 12pm, Fellowship Hall

**Week of November 20:** Small group meetings

**Week of November 27:** personal reflection time

**December 4:** Large group discussion, 12pm, Fellowship Hall

*Please RSVP to the church office for Session 2 by October 25  
in order to receive a book or an e-reader credit.*

## A Shallow Well Message and Request by Don Klug



*Tom Logan, President of Marion Medical Mission directing the placement of a shallow well down pipe in Malawi in September.*

Excitement is high in Malawi with the arrival of American shallow well volunteers after a two-year absence due to the pandemic. American volunteers are the connection between we here in small town USA and the rural Malawi villages in need of clean drinking water. These volunteers tell the story of the Christian love we share with them and our desire to provide the materials that help them build their new water source. The Americans deliver the well materials to each village and then return to share our story and dedicate each well to God and instruct them on proper usage and maintenance.

With the shallow well season of just around 65 days in Malawi currently underway. Tom Logan, president of Marion Medical Mission reports that “We had our Field Officer Panel meeting in the Synod of Livingstonia in early September. They reported that 276 wells were ready for pump installation and four hundred plus are ready for the first team that has arrived from the US.

As of now, MMM’s Well Program with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania Konde Diocese, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Nkhoma and Synod of Livingstonia, Malawi has 1,187 wells ready for pump installation by the team of US volunteers and their Malawian counterparts. It is a team effort! A blend of the first US team and new US volunteer arrivals form in mid-October in the effort to complete the installation of 3,450 wells before the rainy season begins in mid-November.

Tom Logan exclaims, “Understand well construction does not start until September 1st. Extraordinary!!! With God nothing is impossible.”

A completed shallow well donation is just \$450. There are no administration fees deducted. A donor of at least \$450 will receive a picture of the well and the happy villagers celebrating while drawing clean water for the first time. Of course, any donation will help us reach our goal of continued mission of providing a clean water source to rural villagers in sub-Saharan Africa.

Please designate your donations to shallow wells, First Presbyterian Church, 403 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601.

Thank you, Don Klug, Shallow Well Volunteer since 2007



*Construction a shallow well by villagers under field officer direction and celebrations of completed shallow wells.*

# M.E.L.T. Moments from Malawi- August 22'



A place to meet, a place to learn  
Our updated inventory: 11,300 books circulate to the schools!



The library adorned for the Grand Opening Ceremony



Pastor Andrew in a sea of children!

MELT Malawi & MELT USA became stronger, more determined during the global pandemic completing not only the library building but many literacy projects to support our ongoing work. We remained connected via email, phone, and FaceTime but nothing compares to our "being there!"

Our four-member team spent much of August in Malawi working side by side with MELT Malawi. We all are forever strengthened by our relationships, our faith, and our confidence that a group of people can bring hope and help to those in need. Each of us is humbled by the support from First Presbyterian Church, numerous organizations, and individual donors - thank you and blessings to you.

MELT 22 team: Andy Burns, Rev. Dr. Andrew Long, Carol Stevens, Heather White



Children's Choir performed at the MELT Library Grand opening. They each received a new book



Teacher Workshop  
In new library

MELT will hold a Potluck dinner on Monday, November 7, 5:00-7:00 p.m. We invite everyone to bring a dish to pass and learn more about the MELT trip!



# Open Table

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we began a new mission with relationships by serving a free meal to our community. We have served about 940 dinners for about \$2,200 in the last 7 months. We have also started a delivery option for church members not able to come out. Thank you to those who have donated funds to this mission.

The Open Table committee, Pastor Andrew, Katie Burgoon-Long, Michele Bariteau, Dave, Michele, Melissa, and Angela Elmer, meet to discuss menus, the process of serving people and how to make improvements as we go. Anyone who wishes to be a part of the planning process please feel free to let any one on the committee know.

We would like to personally thank the volunteers who have joined us. Without you this would not be possible: Carole Brown, Lu Green, Katrina Cox, Ken & Kathy Rucki, their neighbors, Bob Kimball, Kathryn Ann Kolton, Becky & Bob Brown, John & Susan Johnson, Kelly Thomas, Liz Bonisteel, Margot McGorman, Chris Kamalsky, Kim Collins, Merle & Joanne Tousant, Linya Bell, her daughter Robyn and grandson, Nathan, Johnathan & Heather White. We even have had some Mormon lads help us out!

## Dates coming up:

**October 30**, Menu: Roast Pork, Stuffing, squash, Walldorf salad

**November 27**, Menu: Italian entrée (tbd), salad, roll

**December 25**, Merry Christmas! We are off.

**January 1, 2023**, Menu: Breakfast dinner

**January 29, 2023**, Menu: TBD

Please consider joining us on any of the above dates. Sign ups will be in the fellowship hall.





The Clipper Inn will host a benefit dinner for **Northern Choral Society** on **October 19th**.  
 If you can't get to Clayton that night, you can **pick up your pre-ordered dinners** at  
**First Presbyterian Church on Washington Street in Watertown!**

Dinners are only \$13 and include salad and bread

**Choose from:**

- Lasagna
- Pesto shrimp Alfredo with pasta
- Baked Half Chicken

**Your dining options are:**

- Pick up dinner at The Clipper Inn, Clayton at 4:00 p.m.
- Dine at The Clipper Inn starting at 5:00 p.m. (must call for reservations)  
 (315) 686-3842
- Pick up (pre-ordered) dinners at First Presbyterian Church, Watertown at 5:00 p.m.

Please see or email Sara Gleason to purchase tickets. Thank you so much!



November 1	Ama Samtu
November 2	Donna Little
November 3	Cameron Lee
November 6	Chad Green
November 8	Ken Reed
November 12	Bob Pyke
November 15	Nora Bajjaly
November 15	Gillian Hayes
November 16	Margaret Allen
November 16	Mike Stratton
November 17	Katie Speno
November 18	Maika Wirsungnin
November 19	Savannah Dorr
November 20	Grailey Walton
November 23	Nancy Paroubek
November 30	Liz Bonisteel
November 30	Sara Gleason

**PW Ponderings for Autumn**

There will be a bake sale on Election Day. The polling place at Stone Church will be the location. Bakers and buyers needed. Please contact Mo Gorman (315-778-4843) for more information.

This year we are asking all donations for the Thank Offering be sent directly to Presbyterian Women. The mailing address is

**Presbyterian Women, Inc.**  
**Remittance Processing-Giving**  
**P.O. Box 643652**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15264**

Or you may make a secure online gift at [presbyterianwomen.org/give](http://presbyterianwomen.org/give). Be sure to show *Thank Offering* in your memo line. Do not send a check to First Pres Church or to our local PW. The money collected last year will be given to 10 different organizations totaling \$289,490.00! Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

There are plans in the making for a bible study group to be held at Stone Church. Stay tuned for the details.

Decisions were made at our most recent meeting to give \$900.00 to be divided equally between MELT, Shallow Wells, and the Presbyterian Disaster Fund (Florida relief).

Please join us at our **next meeting**, to be held on **Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>** in **Fellowship Hall at FPC, 11am to 1pm**. Bring a sandwich, as usual, soup and dessert will be provided. Help us plan the future of PW of Jeff Co. We will be talking about having our annual Christmas Brunch. It would be wonderful to see some fresh faces as well as those we have missed for a few years. Save the date.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

403 WASHINGTON STREET  
WATERTOWN, NY 13601  
315-782-1750

E-Mail: [wfpsec@gmail.com](mailto:wfpsec@gmail.com)

Website: [www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org)

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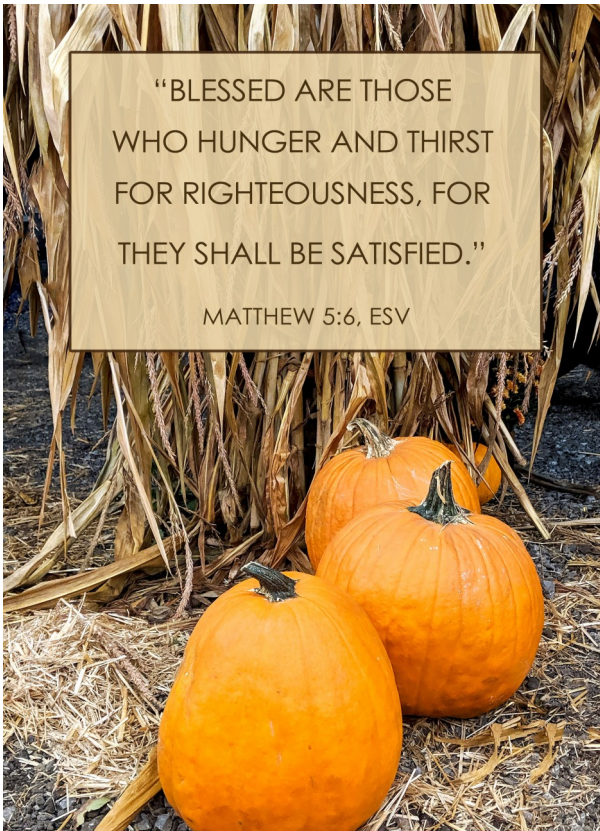


Join us for  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT**  
**10:00 A.M.**

Listen on your radio  
**WATN 1240AM** or  
watch the service live from  
[www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org)  
or

[www.facebook.com/watertownfpc](https://www.facebook.com/watertownfpc)

If you miss a week of worship it is just a click away.  
just visit our website at [www.watertownfirstpres.org](http://www.watertownfirstpres.org).



**TRUNK OF TREAT**

**Friday, October 28, 2022**

**4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Parking Lot**



**NOVEMBER 6, 2022**