



First Presbyterian Church of Lockport

“A WINDOW TO GOD’S LIGHT, LIFE AND LOVE”

Organized January 19, 1823

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

MAY / JUNE 2019 EDITION

Upcoming Events

A CELEBRATION OF EVENTS

Celebrating Heritage Sunday



A congregation is a community of faith that transcends time, place, and space. It is more than a physical structure; it represents a gathering of individuals--past, present, and future--who have become a covenant Christian community. The local congregation

is a product of its own history, shaped by the faithfulness, actions, and commitments of its members over time.

It is important to remember that a congregation is a living, dynamic entity that is continually shaped by the stewardship of those who have been part of the community, past and present. Congregations are encouraged to celebrate Heritage Sunday to remember all of the individuals whose unique gifts have and continue to shape the life of the congregation, providing models of Christian service to imitate in the present as well as to guide us into the future.

A congregation’s story has many authors, and its chapters chronicle the challenges and faithfulness of members across time. Heritage Sunday provides an opportunity to reaffirm and remind those gathered in the local covenant community that their congregation is a collective witness to generations of faithfulness and servant ministry.

1 Corinthians reminds us that there are many parts of the Body of Christ and that each member through its gifts contributes in its own special way. Each is necessary to the wholeness of the body and that when “one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”

On Heritage Sunday May 19th, we rejoice and honor those whose service, both past and present, has strengthened and enriched the Body of Christ that is First Church. As ruling or teaching elders, deacons, Christian education teachers, administrators and all others, the role of each individual is a vital part of God’s church.



Happy Mother’s Day

Come and join us for a Mother’s Day Tea.



Saturday, May 11th
at 1:00-3:00pm
at the Kenan House.

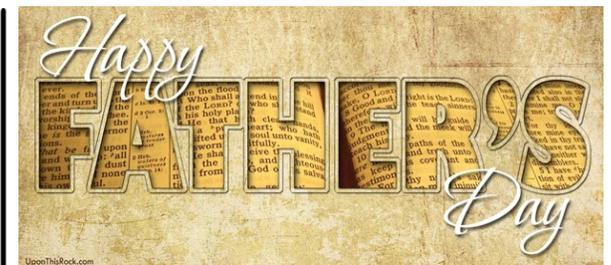


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From the Pastor's Pen

by: Reverend William James Hardy

The end of the Lenten and Easter seasons marks the beginning of the season of Pentecost. The term "Pentecost" is from the Greek (Πεντηκοστή [ἡμέρα] *Pentēkostē [hēmera]*) meaning "the fiftieth [day]." This is the Greek name for *Shavuot* (Hebrew: שבועות, lit. "Weeks"). The Feast of Weeks is "a prominent feast in the calendar of ancient Israel celebrating the giving of the Law to Moses at Sinai." (source Wikipedia). In Christianity, Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday. Pentecost falls on the tenth day after Ascension Thursday (which itself is 40 days after Easter).

Traditionally, Pentecost is a time of celebration of the Holy Spirit and is the traditional birthday of the church. The story is found in Acts 2:1-6: And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

Pentecost is also a time when the church traditionally welcomes confirmands to join the church as new members. This year we will be welcoming the following confirmands to join the church. Lucas Pynn, Avery Connor and Mykayla McCarthy. I would like to encourage members to wear the traditional red in honor of the Holy Spirit.

In honor of Pentecost, I would also encourage members to invite a person to attend our church services. Our church has much to offer people who are looking for a church home. Our worship and music, our educational programming, our family life activities, and our mission outreach can provide inspiration to those who are searching for spiritual depth in their lives.

So join us for Pentecost, wear red, celebrate the Spirit and encourage someone – a friend, a neighbor, a work mate – to come to church and experience the beauty of Christ!

Peace,
Jim



"Blog unto others as you would have them blog unto you. Spam not, lest ye be spammed! Though I surf through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no virus..."

My Mother Kept A Garden

My Mother kept a garden,
A garden of the heart.
She planted all the good things
That gave my life its start.
She turned me to the sunshine
And encouraged me to dream.
Fostering and nurturing
The seeds of self-esteem.
And when the winds and rain came,
She protected me enough.
But not too much because she knew
I'd need to stand up strong and tough.
Her constant good example
Always taught me right from wrong.
Markers for my pathway
That will last a lifetime long.
I am my Mother's garden.
I am her legacy.
And I hope today she feels the love
Reflected back from me.

Author Unknown



My Dad

When I was just a tiny kid,
Do you remember when,
The time you kissed my bruises,
Or cleaned by soiled chin?

You scrambled for the balls I hit,
(Short-winded more than not,)
Yet, every time we'd play a game,
You praised the "outs" I caught.

It seems like only yesterday,
You wiped away my tears,
And late at night I called your name,
To chase away my fears.

Though time has changed your hand-
some grip,
Your hair is snowy white,
You gait's a little slower now,
Thick glasses help your sight.

Oh, do I thirst for years gone by,
To be that growing lad,
Re-living all of the memories,
Of growing with my dad.

Author Unknown

*Any man can be
a father,
but it takes someone
special to be a
DAD*

A Spiritual-Vision of Pentecost

The church moves through Pentecost so quickly that it is difficult to do justice to the beauty and complexity of this moment of divine encounter. If we look at the heart of Pentecost it is the birthday of the church, and there remains many significant avenues for theological reflections. Peter's Pentecost speech is the first time the gospel message of the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus is boldly proclaimed. We may reflect, therefore, on the power of the Holy Spirit that entered into those gathered in Jerusalem and celebrate the transformation that results when powerful preaching reaches the ears of those who need it, as seen in the 3,000 who accepted the message and were baptized (Acts 2:37-41). Or we may read the story of Pentecost and focus on how the Spirit empowers our life of discipleship through acts of healing, devotion to prayer and concern for the needs of others (Acts 2:42-47). Each of these responses to the story focuses on the power of the word and action, which is at the heart of Reformed theology.

Before any word was spoken or any act taken, however, the apostles were overcome by a visionary experience. While they were gathered together in Jerusalem, they were suddenly accosted by a great sound from heaven and "divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them" (Acts 2:3). Often Christians bypass this experience and focus on the result, whether the ecstatic speech (glossolalia) or Peter's address to the crowd present at the event. And it all begins at Pentecost.

THE VISION OF PENTECOST

Biblical scholars have noted that the quotation from Joel in Peter's Pentecost speech (Acts 2:17-21) explains the disciples' experience as a revitalization of communication between God and God's people. "In the last days it will be," God declares, "that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and you old men shall dream dreams." With the coming of the Holy Spirit, communication lines with God are open again.

But full communication with God is not only a verbal experience; it is a visual one as well. The prophets of ancient Israel frequently describe visual as well as verbal encounters with God. And the reader of Acts does not have to struggle to find many manifestations of communication with God through visions. Acts begins with an account of Jesus' ascension, which was also narrated at the end of the Gospel of Luke. Here the apostles see Jesus taken up into heaven and immediately receive a vision of two angels (Acts 1:9-11). In the span of these three verses, there are five references to what the apostles see.

The Pentecost vision follows soon after and visionary communication across the boundary between the human and the divine is evident again as soon as chapter 5, when the angel of the Lord releases the apostles from prison and tells them to "Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life."

SEEING ANEW AT PENTECOST

Reading the Pentecost experience as visionary and highlighting the role of the Holy Spirit in the experiences of visions and dreams may feel foreign. Some are uncomfortable with the idea of mystical experience. To others, who long for more personal ways to experience God's presence, such a reading may be more than welcome. In either case, now is the time, as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, to encourage the church to explore its own spiritual life more deeply. Seeing Pentecost anew challenges Christians, as Howard Rice has written, to let go of the need "to screen out or repress our own experiences when they do not fit our rational explanations

of the way the universe operates," so that "we may be startled into new awareness of God's nearness."

The stories of the apostles in Acts tell us that what we see and experience is as vital to God's revelation as what we hear declared in the Word. Moreover,

the declaration of God's Word is only possible because we have first seen the Lord. As it was for the visionaries in Acts, visions may take many forms for us today. What they have in common is an experience that offers us the opportunity to see our reality as more than we can perceive on our own. A vision brings before our eyes the divine reality that is known through Christ and that guides us on the path by which we can make Christ known in the world. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, believers are invited to see beyond the common objects of our world, which we perceive through ordinary physical senses. Certainly the biblical story has shown that God works through, and is revealed through, the everyday realities around us. God's glory is evident in the wonder of nature.

Perhaps it is only with a sight that breaks the boundaries of heaven and earth, if indeed there is such a clear boundary, that we can see beyond the ordinary. Augustine calls this spiritual sight. If the Holy Spirit provides us with the gift to see one thing in the face of another, that is a vision! On Pentecost the power of the Holy Spirit inaugurated a new wave of spiritual sight, of vision. That same Spirit continues to flow within the Christian community today. Margaret Miles states "the first prerequisite to spiritual vision is faith, the faith that there is something to see and that it can be seen by human beings." Has God indeed poured out the Spirit on all flesh, as the story of Pentecost tells us? If so, then be ready to see visions and dream dreams.





Music Notes from the Music Director

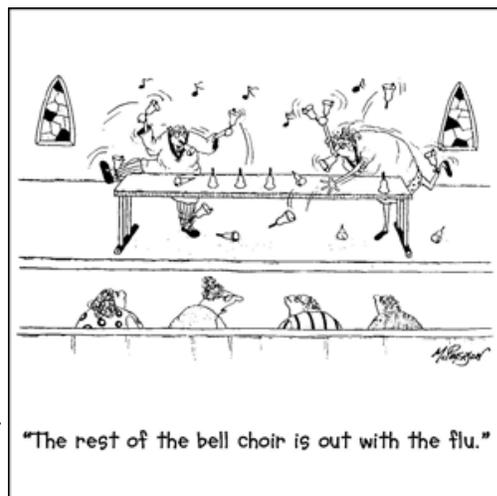
Music Groups Concluding Their Program Year

The Chancel Choir and Handbell Choirs are coming to the conclusion of the program year and will be enjoying a much deserved summer hiatus. We are in need of summer soloists. Please join me in thanking the many talented individuals who participate in our singing and ringing music programs as we come to the conclusion of another program year. Weekly rehearsals, participation in worship is a great commitment from these people. It's not too early to think about joining one of our choir groups in September. Please see Jeffrey Seekins if you are interested.

Kevin O'Brien will be substituting for Jeff on Memorial Day weekend, please say thank you to this very talented young member of our congregation.

The Music Program at First Presbyterian Church has a place for persons of all abilities and skill levels. We have singing choirs and handbell choirs for all ages. If you are looking for a place to serve here in the church, please come and join us in the fall. Our handbell choirs will begin in the fall and we always welcome new folks to our music ministries. For a complete listing of programs please see our website: 1stpreslockport.org or see Jeffrey Seekins.

It is not too early to consider planning to join the Chancel Choir in the fall. The Choir meets each Sunday at 8:45 – 9:45 and then sings at the 10:30 service. We need more volunteers!



Mark Thallander

10:30 service on May 5th, 2019

First Presbyterian is delighted to host organist, composer Mark Thallander at the 10:30 service on May 5th, 2019. Mark is best known from his service as Assistant Director of Music and Organist at the Crystal Cathedral in California (Robert Schuller's church) which was televised worldwide. Mark's duties there included Sunday morning accompanying and playing for the noted "Glory of Christmas" and the "Glory of Easter" pageants that attracted literally thousands of people across the globe each year. During a recital tour Mark suffered a traumatic auto accident which necessitated amputation of his arm. Since that time he has been touring the country for his "Mark Thallander Foundation" helping people rise above traumatic experiences to become their personal best. A national best seller entitled "Champions... Plus" was written about Mark's ordeal. You may see many of Mark's works on YouTube and find out about his foundation web site: markthallander.com.



The Chancel Choir will sing two of Mark's anthems: "And Can It Be" plus "Rejoice" with extra instrumentalists. Mark will play the Prelude and Postlude and the 1st hymn.

Tell your friends about this wonderful opportunity to meet and experience this extremely talented musician who has overcome much to continue doing the work that he so much enjoys.

Harmonia Chamber Singers

Friday, May 17th at 7:30PM

Harmonia Chamber Singers will present "A British Choral Tapestry" featuring music from Byrd to the Beatles at First Presbyterian on Friday evening May 17th at 7:30PM. Please note that there is an admission fee for this event. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$15. Come and experience one of our areas finest choral groups.



Bagpiper on Heritage Sunday, May 19th

We celebrate our 50 year members on Sunday May 19th with bagpipes. Amanda Paveglio, daughter of Steven and Cynthia Cotten, will be our piper as we celebrate and honor our heritage and long time dedicated members. The New Beginnings Handbell Choir will play an arrangement of "This Is My Father's World". The service will be followed by a luncheon sponsored by the Family Life and Worship Committees.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC KRULL PARK IN OLCOTT #8



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Avery Connor

2019

Confirmation

Lucas Pynn

Mykayla McCarthy

SUMMER WORSHIP

This year we will offer one Worship Service at 10:00AM. We will not offer coffee hour during the summer months. This is a great way to give a much deserved hiatus to all those who serve in these ministries. We will resume our regular schedule of 8:15am & 10:30am services and the Coffee Fellowship Hour on Rally Day. We wish to thank all our volunteers and participants for your dedication and commitment to our ministries at First Church. Have a safe, happy and blessed Summer!

TEACHERS & GRADS RECOGNITION

Our Teachers

Robin Andrews
Kourtney Pisarski
Nikki Thompson
Andrea shay
Trista Hayden
Robin Bonanno
Corey McCarthy
Susan Haley
Rita Heerdt
Leilah Carroll
John O'Brien
Amy Shay



Andrea Shay



Jared Miner

Sunday, June 16th.

Join us in recognition and celebration of our High School Graduates and our Sunday School Teacher's.

MEMORIAL DAY

Sunday, May 26th.

Special music by: Kevin O'Brien



Note: The church office will be closed on May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.

DOLLAR DINNERS

Wednesday-May 8th & June 12th at 6:00PM.

Note: Dollar Dinners will continue its regular schedule through-out the summer months.

TIFFANY WINDOW TOURS & DOCENTS

Tiffany Window tours are available Monday through Friday...

10:00-2:00pm May 31st — September 1st.

The church has museum quality tour wands that enable visitors to find out either the Biblical and /or Artistic facts about each window. The tour is self guided so you can spend as little or as much time as your desire. If you are interested becoming a Window Docent please contact Renee Hardy.

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SCOUT CORNER

Cub Scouts Den meetings are held Thursday evenings at 6:30-8PM. For more information contact Mrs. Kim Seekins.

Annual Basket Raffle—May 4, 2019
Cub Scout Over-niter—June 14,2019



Girl Scout meetings are held on Sundays 12:00PM. For more information contact Susan Haley.

May 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:15am Communion Service 8:30am CE Teachers Mtg 8:45am NO Youth Handbells 9:00am Chancel Choir reh. 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Hour 11:30am Coffee Fellowship Hr. 12:30pm Girl Scouts			11:00am Staff Mtg. 2:00 pm Music Lesson 3:30pm NO CBC reh. 7:15pm NO NB Bells 6:30pm Scout Comm. Mtg	6:30pm Scout Den Mtgs	Setup for Cub Scout Basket Raffle	CE—Field Trip Penn Dixie Cub Scouts Annual Basket Raffle
8:15am Communion Service 8:30am CE Teachers Mtg 8:45am NO Youth Handbells 9:00am Chancel Choir reh. 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Hour 11:30am Coffee Fellowship Hr. 12:30pm Girl Scouts	05	06	07	08	09	10
8:15am Communion Service 8:45am Last reh—Youth Handbells 9:00am Chancel Choir reh. 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Hour 11:30am Coffee Fellowship Hr. 11:45am Worship Comm. Mtg 12:30pm Girl Scouts	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:15am Communion Service 8:45am Youth Handbells 9:00am Chan. Choir last rehearsal for summer. 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service with Bagpiper Amanda Pavaglio 11:30am Heritage Luncheon 12:30pm Girl Scouts	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:15am Communion Service 8:45am NO Youth Handbells 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service with special music by Kevin O'Brien 11:30am Coffee Fellowship Hr. 12:30pm Girl Scouts	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Memorial Day Observance—Office Closed!	7-9pm Youth Game Nite	11:00am Staff Mtg. 2:00 pm Music Lesson 3:30pm NO CBC reh. 7:15pm NO NB Bells	6:30pm Scout Den Mtgs	6:30pm Scout Den Mtgs	Mother's Day Tea At the Kenan House 1:00-3:00pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
02 Day of Pentecost 8:15am Communion Service 8:30am CE Teachers Mtg 8:45am Youth Handbells 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Hour 11:30am Coffee Fellowship Hr. 12:30pm Girl Scouts	03	04 6:00pm CE 7:00pm Pers. Mtg 7:00pm H & G 7:00pm FLOM 7:00pm Finance	05 11:00am Staff Mtg. 2:00 pm Music Lesson 3:30pm Celestial Bells reh. 7:15pm New Beg. Bells 6:30pm Scout Comm. Mtg	06 6:30pm Scout Den Mtgs.	07 Swim instructors Aqua Centers Water & Safety training for HT 10:00AM in Arnold Hall	08 11:00AM Lynne Penna Memorial Service with reception to follow.
09 8:15am NO Service 8:45am Youth Handbells 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Hour 11:30am Coffee Fellowship Hr. 11:45am Worship Comm. Mtg 12:30pm Girl Scouts	10	11 7:00pm Deacons Mtg. 7:00pm Session Mtg.	12 11:00am Staff Mtg. 2:00 pm Music Lesson 3:30pm Celestial Bells reh. 6:00pm Dollar Dinners 7:15pm New Beg. Bells	13 6:30pm Scout Den Mtgs	14 Cub Scout Over-niter HT Graduation in AH	15
Father's Day & Recognition of Teachers & High School Grads. 16 8:15am Communion Service 8:45am Youth Handbells 9:30am Last day Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Heritage Luncheon 12:30pm Girl Scouts	17	18	19 11:00am Staff Mtg. 2:00 pm Music Lesson 3:30pm Celestial Bells reh. 7:15pm New Beg. Bells	20	21	22
Church Picnic 23 8:15am Communion Service 8:45am NO Youth Handbells 10:30am Worship Service with special music by Kevin O'Brien 12:00pm Church Picnic-#8 Kroll Park 12:30pm Girl Scouts	24	25 7-9pm Youth Game Nite	26 11:00am Staff Mtg. 2:00 pm Music Lesson 3:30pm NO CBC reh. 7:15pm NO NB Bells	27 6:30pm Scout Den Mtgs	28	29
30 8:15am Communion Service 8:45am NO Youth Handbells 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Fellowship Hr. 12:30pm Girl Scouts			<h1>June 2019</h1>			29

First Presbyterian Church
May/June 2019 Newsletter
21 Church Street
Lockport, NY 14094-2803

Return Service Requested

Our Staff

Rev. W. James Hardy
Pastor

Robin Andrews
Sunday Nursery Care

Elizabeth Lattimer
Office Manager

Heather Miner
Clerk of Session

Melissa Penna
Moderator of Deacons

Jeffrey Seekins
Organist/Choir Director



Memorial Service

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 8th, 2019 at 11:00am for:

Lynne R. Penna

A reception will be held immediately following the service.

PRAYER CORNER

Please continue to pray for those who are hospitalized, in nursing facilities and shut-ins, and those serving in the military. We all need to pray for one another and our church. Contact the church office to add/remove names off the prayer list.

Ken Baggett

Bergeron family

Jennifer Berry

Arlene Bolton

David Carlson

Dorothy Degnan

Martha Ferguson

Diane Howard

Doni Koukal

Cheryl Marshall

John McWilliams

Bert Mitchell

Lorraine Mitchell

Glenn Tall

Chris Wagner

Dotti Waite



From the Editor

Our next edition for 2019 will be the July/August edition. Deadline for submission is June 15th, 2019.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

Blessing to those celebrating a birthday in May & June...

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lockport Presbyterian Home...
Art in the Halls—June 15-Aug 1st.
Car Cruise—Aug 20th at 6:30PM

STAY IN TOUCH

COME SEE US

21 Church Street
Lockport, New York
14094

CALL US

(716) 433-5905

VISIT US

www.1stpreslockport



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