

# Ilion Presbyterian News

**April 2025**

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Facebook page: First Presbyterian Church, Ilion, New York

*The First Presbyterian Church of Ilion, through the Worship of God and gathering together, seeks to support each other, to welcome and serve others and to be a faithful presence of Jesus Christ in our larger community.*

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Greetings. May mercy, grace, and love be yours in abundance.

How swiftly the days of Lent have passed. Certainly, it has been a season marked by changes in weather; I am watching snowflakes blowing even now. We are witnesses to challenges, new and old, that confront individuals and communities and nations. Yet, as the Book of Common Worship reminds us, the season of Lent is a time for growth in faith through our choices and practices as disciples of Christ as we prepare for Easter and newness of life. Throughout this Lent, you have planted seeds, turned over and revitalized the soil of faith, hope, and love. You are already preparing, not just for change, but “to be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2). That is, what it means to be the church, the body of Christ, here and now.

For starters, look around and see how much space has opened up in the rooms off the fellowship hall and on the second floor. We are rebuilding and recommitting what we can do to bring about a better healthier planet. We are graced with a “company of organists and musicians” and with the energy and ideas they bring to leading worship.

Consider the number of bagged lunches delivered, the dinners, the fellowship times, the faith and climate forum, the Lenten lunch with Katelyn Rhymestine speaking about her work in crisis management and the depth and breadth of need and compassion throughout Herkimer County. Thank you to all who have planned and prepared these events.

At a conference I recently attended, nearly everyone mentioned how food and fellowship, together and in outreach, lead us to greater sustainability as a congregation. Yes, meals shared are important to Presbyterians and maybe all Christians. This is only a part of being a sustainable spiritually vibrant church. As one conference leader noted, “Small churches are the heartbeat of their communities and neighborhoods... They offer spiritual community and support to people in transition.” He added, you have “the sufficient resources (that is, time, talents, plentiful gifts, each other, and intentionality), to support a thriving congregation committed to sharing the gospel and impacting our culture.”

In less than two weeks we celebrate Easter, the center of the Christian year. Easter is not simply one day, though. It is an entire season lasting 50 days between Christ’s resurrection to the day of Pentecost, the birth of the church. Indeed, every Sunday is a time to embrace the great mystery of our faith in remembering, affirming, and proclaiming in word and song and deed, that Jesus, risen from the dead and reconciling us with God, is our Lord and Savior. May we do so with joy and purpose in his name and to the glory of God.

Peace and every good go with you, *Betsy*

## Prayer List:

Men and women who protect us and our freedoms



Dick Bly Tudy Brooks Sharon Chasteen Brianna Nicole Tim Conover Judy Conover  
Carole Jean Crimmins Jim Crossway Scott Darling Allan Dickinson  
Ed Douglass & family Betty Foor Erin Gill Greg Goodale Jan & Dave Heap Butch Holden  
Bill & Julie Hulser & granddaughters Susan Jones Barbara Lennox Dick Long Jeffrey Maine  
Wes Maine Joe Maneen Joan Matteson Rebecca Mento Claire Miller Henry & Sue Miller  
Mary B. Murphy Jackie Murphy Marvin Nellenback Peg Olson The Orendorfs Sharon Outtrim  
Patricia Ruller Fred & Jean Sullivan Utica Presbytery Ed Vennaro

In maintaining our connection as part of a community of faith and witness, and intentional in prayer, the Presbytery asks that we lift up First Presbyterian Church, Holland Patent; Participants in the Plentiful Gifts Initiative in the Presbytery of Utica; Seminary Students; Voice in the Wilderness Ministry, Greg Jenkins (New Worshipping Community)

## **Worship Responsibilities**

April 6

Rev. Betsy Jay  
Cathy Wheat

Reader — George Gullis  
Greeter — Kim Bigelow  
Communion — George Gullis, Karen Macrina  
Ushers — Jean Smith, Sheila Kennedy  
Fellowship — Doris Rathbun

April 13

Rev. Martie Fischer  
Martha Regelmann

Reader — Karen Macrina  
Greeter — Kim Bigelow  
Ushers — Sheila Kennedy, Carol Okusko  
Fellowship—Deacons

April 17 (7:00pm)

Rev. Betsy Jay  
Martha Regelmann

Reader — Sandy Eldredge  
Greeter — Karen Macrina  
Communion — Karen Macrina  
Ushers —

***PLEASE BE SURE TO NOTIFY  
THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN  
YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE IN  
THE HOSPITAL, OR IN NEED  
OF PASTORAL CARE***

April 20

Rev. Betsy Jay  
Martha Regelmann

Reader — Steve Getman  
Greeter— Karen Macrina  
Communion — Diane Lamphear, Sandy Eldredge  
Ushers—  
Fellowship — Janet Darling

April 27

Steve Getman  
Andrea Radesi

Reader — Betsy Jay  
Greeter — Karen Macrina  
Ushers —  
Fellowship — Deacons



### **Holy Week Schedule**

Sunday April 13th — Palm Sunday Service

Maundy Thursday, April 17th—7:00pm Communion Service

Good Friday April 18th — 11:00am - 3:00pm Sanctuary will be open for readings and prayers and quiet reflection

Sunday April 20th — Easter Communion Service

There will also be the annual Sunrise Service at 7:00a.m. at the Fort Herkimer Church

### **MVILR Organ Lecture at Church on April 17th**

The last of four MVILR lectures about organs will take place at First Presbyterian Church in Ilion on Thursday afternoon, April 17, 2025. The lecture is the concluding class for a course being led by Steve Keyser for Mohawk Valley Institute for Learning in Retirement. Although listed on our church calendar to start at 3:00 p.m., the class is likely to start once all registered students arrive from earlier classes at other locations (some time after 2:00 p.m.). Instructor Steve Keyser has cautioned that this is not a recital, but rather a lecture about organs. There will be music to demonstrate the capabilities of the organ. Admission to the lecture will be free for members and friends of our church. The lecture will last about one hour and will include a chance to look behind the locked door to see some of the pipe arrays and inner workings of our beautiful Cassavant Frere organ.

## FREE DINNERS

April 10th

Ham &  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Veggie  
Beverage/Dessert

April 24th

Chicken & Biscuits  
W/Gravy  
Salad  
Beverage/Dessert

*The Faith + Climate Forum held here on Thursday March 27th was a big success with fellowship, important information presented and of course, as always, a chance to come together over some wonderful snacks! Thank you to Steve Getman and everyone who helped and attended.*









The First Presbyterian Church  
90 Morgan Street  
Ilion, New York 13357-2260

## **FREE EASTER DINNER**

Traditional Baked Ham Menu

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>**

**12:00-2:00**

@

**THE WORD CHRISTIAN CENTER**

27 E. Main St. Mohawk, NY

**TAKE OUT ONLY**

**Reservations Required**

**Call: 315-731-7217**

**9AM – 5PM, Monday -Friday**

**Between MAR. 24 & APR. 18**

*to reserve your meal and pick-up time.*



