

# Ilion Presbyterian News

## July 2025

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*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.*

### OSCAR ROMARO PRAYER

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

### The Good Samaritan

*Pastor Marie Duquette, Trinity Lutheran Church, Herkimer, shared this prayer associated with Oscar Romero with the Mohawk Valley Council of Churches.*

*Romero was Archbishop of San Salvador from 1977 to 1980 when he was assassinated while celebrating the Eucharist in a hospital chapel. Canonized a saint in the Catholic Church, his life and ministry on behalf of the poor and vulnerable in his native land, El Salvador, are honored in church communions throughout the world, including Lutheran, Anglican, and Presbyterian. Oscar Romero was known as the 'Voice of the Voiceless,' following in Christ's footsteps that God's will be done, hunger and violence end, and peace and justice prevail for all.*



Peace and every good go with you, *Betsy*

## Prayer List:



Men and women who protect us and our freedoms

Bill Anton Dick Bly Brianna Nicole Tudy Brooks Janey Carrico Sharon Chasteen  
Baby Colton Tim Conover Carole Jean Crimmins Jim Crossway Scott Darling Betty  
Foor Erin Gill Greg Goodale Jan & Dave Heap Ken Helmer Hulser family Susan Jones  
Robert Kennedy Barbara Lennox Dick Long Jeffrey Maine Marie Maine Wes Maine Lee Maley  
Joe Maneen Joan Matteson Melanie L. Rebecca Mento Claire Miller Henry & Sue Miller  
Jackie Murphy Marvin Nellenback Peg Olson The Orendorfs Sharon Outtrim Jesse Rounds  
Patricia Ruller Fred & Jean Sullivan Utica Presbytery Ed Vennaro Veronica Weiss Carl Wheat

In maintaining our connection as part of a community of faith and witness, and intentional in prayer, the Presbytery asks that we lift up The Learning Academy and Committee on Preparation for Ministry; First Presbyterian Church, Oneida; New Hartford Presbyterian Church, New Hartford; Waterbury Memorial Presbyterian Church, Oriskany

A prayer for those devastated by recent floods:

God, who shaped the waters of chaos into Creation, We come before you brokenhearted, overwhelmed by the power of raging waters inundating this place of beauty and respite, leaving terror and sorrow in its wake. We thank you for the lives saved in the midst of this devastation. We grieve with those who have lost their loved ones. Comfort and console them, O God, as we stand with them in your love.

## **Worship Responsibilities**

July 6  
Rev. Betsy Jay  
Marvin Nellenback

Reader — Steve Getman  
Greeter — Robert, Sheila Kennedy  
Ushers — Robert, Sheila Kennedy  
Communion — Susan Backus  
Fellowship — Class Act

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

July 13  
Ecumenical Service  
Fr. Kenneth Hunter  
Rev. Betsy Jay  
Marvin Nellenback

Reader — George Gullis  
Greeter — Karen Macrina  
Ushers — Carol Okusko, Jean Smith

July 20  
Rev. Martie Fischer  
Jeanne Bennett

Reader — Carol Okusko  
Greeter — Sandy Eldredge  
Ushers — Betty Helmer, Karen Benham  
Fellowship— Janet Darling

July 27  
Rev. Cory Jones  
Jeanne Bennett

Reader — Susan Backus  
Greeter— Karen Macrina  
Ushers — Betty Helmer, Carol Okusko  
Fellowship — Deacons

## FREE DINNERS

### July 24th

Sausage & Peppers

Coleslaw

Corn on the Cob

Watermelon/Beverage

### August 14

Baked Chicken

Salt Potatoes

Corn On The Cob

Watermelon/Beverage

*OUTSIDE WEATHER PERMITTING*

### A Fitness Minute (by Susan Backus, M.S.)

It's here, summer, and with that comes outdoor activities of all kinds. Before you head out the door, however, there are things to think about other than sunscreen and sunglasses. Heat related illnesses occur when the body can't cool itself down effectively, leading to a dangerous rise in body core temperature. These illnesses range from heat cramps (painful muscle spasms, often in the legs, arms, and abdomen), heat exhaustion (symptoms include heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea, and headache), to the most severe and life threatening heat stroke (characterized by confusion, loss of consciousness, hot, dry skin with possible absence of sweating, as well as a body temperature above 104 degrees F.)

You have recognized these symptoms in yourself or others, what do you do?? Move to a cooler place (get into an air conditioned space), cool the body (apply cool, wet cloths to the arm pits, carotid artery areas of the neck, groin area — any place where blood runs close to the skin), take a shower, bath or get in front of a fan. Until next month.....BEE Kind!

## **Buildings and Grounds**

Business as usual for the Buildings and Grounds committee. We are researching the electric wiring in the building to satisfy our insurer, Mass Mutual. We have contacted Central Security to update our fire alarm system. That will be completed at their convenience for \$500.00. A local contractor has submitted a quote to repair areas of brick and concrete around the exterior of the building for just under \$5,000. We are looking for more quotes. Carpeting in the sanctuary and floor tiles in the dining area will be addressed by a local flooring contractor this month, July. Hardwood flooring in the fellowship hall and surrounding areas will be addressed soon. These are just a few "irons in the fire".

## **Meals Programs**

The meal programs, lunches and dinners, are alive and well! Volunteers make approximately 190 sandwiches for about 90 people (for pick-up AND delivery) every Tuesday and Thursday. The program started in 2009 serving less than 20 people!

The dinner program is a HUGE success. We serve approximately 110 dinners two times a month on the second and fourth Thursdays. We try to serve outside in the summertime when the weather cooperates. It's more work for us, but well received and attended. Kinda like a huge picnic! Come and enjoy.

Thank you to all who volunteer and support these two programs.

## **Music Notes**

On the last Sunday in December we bid a fond farewell to organist Susan Bartholomew. After 18 years she was forced to stop due to vision challenges. Susan played and cared for our wonderful Casavant Organ since its installation in 2006. The 20th anniversary of the October 6, 2006 dedication is coming up, and we will be celebrating all year!

Since January our "Company of Organists" have kept us well-supplied with exciting music for Sunday morning worship. Six "retired" organists; Andrea Radesi, Randy Davis, Cathy Wheat, Marvin Nellenback, Jeanne Bennett, and Martha Regelman are all enjoying playing our magnificent 3 manual Casavant Pipe Organ. We have juggled diverse schedules and managed to keep the music going.

Extra thanks to Jeanne Bennet and Marvin Nellenback for filling in for July and most of August, when four of us are unavailable. Martha will be back the last week of August, and the rest of our excellent musicians will be cycling through in the fall.

Please say hello to these wonderful friends when you see them at the organ bench.

## Earth Care Green Garden Team Update

The Earth Care garden team has been working diligently these past weeks planting, weeding and giving loving care to our abundance of plants. Beth, Jan, Marvin George and others have been spending a lot of time insuring a good harvest some of which has already been used in meal preparations and Rev. Betsy blessed the garden and it's harvest June 29th. An added boost to our progress has been the donation and installation of gutters on Steve Getman's garage which will fill our water barrels to irrigate the plants. Steve and his wife Suzanne graciously paid for and dealt with the contractors who installed them. We have received donations from numerous others and received a sizable Earth Care Grant from EcoAmerica as a result of an application made by our Earth Care team of volunteers. As we progress through the summer we will have periodic updates to share.



# FREE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025!



## WHEN:

**M – F, August**

**18-22, 10-2**

*Please arrive at  
9:30 on Monday  
for registration!*

## WHERE:

**St. Augustine's  
Episcopal  
Church,  
78 Second St.  
Ilion**

## WHO:

**Kids ages 5-11**

**CONTACT: Kayleigh Marosek**  
**at (315) 360-5801 for questions**  
**and to pre-register *(Limited Space)***

## Donate Blood In Honor Of **Richie Frank**



Celebrate Richie Frank's 50 years of life with us! Richie prides himself on being a loving father to two daughters and a third-generation owner of Frank's Body Repair. Throughout his life, Richie has struggled with many health issues that require him to receive blood transfusions that ultimately keep him alive and well. He is now asking for your help in saving lives, just like his! Please join our friends and family in honoring Richie by giving blood on his 50th birthday!

## **Blood Drive** **First Presbyterian Church of Ilion**

Fellowship Hall  
90 Morgan Street  
Ilion, NY 13357

**Wednesday, July 16, 2025**  
**1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Consider a **POWER RED** donation if you are O Neg, O Pos, A Neg or B Neg!

Don't forget- Please complete **RAPIDPASS** on the **DAY OF** the drive!



**American Red Cross**

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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The First Presbyterian Church

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