

First Presbyterian Church

September 6, 2015

9:30 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Be reverent. This is the house of the Lord. Before the service, speak to God. During the service, let God speak to you. After the service, speak to one another.

"I will strive to enter that intimate space of Christ's radical love with you."

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude "God Who Made the Earth and Heaven" arr. Patricia Lou Harris

Welcome and Church Life Notes

***Passing of the Peace** – please share the peace & love of Christ with your neighbor

Introit

***Call to Worship** (read responsively)

Leader: People of God, let us gather to worship and praise God's name.

People: I give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart. I will glorify your name forever!

Leader: For great is your steadfast love for me.

People: You have delivered my soul from the depths.

Leader: God says, "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."

***Hymn** "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" #367

Prayer of Confession (read responsively)

Leader: Sisters and brothers, all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. We did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but we have received a spirit of adoption. Let us then confess our sin with the freedom of children who know how deeply they are loved.

People: Merciful God, your creatures cry – creation groans – but we turn away; we surround ourselves with noise. We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility: we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy. It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.

Life-giving God, wash us clean. Restore our imaginations and our

hearts. Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins until we love with abandon and our hands reach out in blessing, for the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Amen.

(A moment for silent personal prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon (read responsively)

Leader: My fellow children of God, do not fear, for our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

People: God's hand shall lead us and hold us fast. Let us be reconciled with God and at peace with one another.

***Choral Response** "The Gloria"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost!

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be!

World without end! Amen! Amen!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time with Children Rev. Sarah Hooker

(Children may leave for the Child Care Room following Children's Time.)

Prayer for Illumination (read in unison)

Harvesting God, as we listen to your word, by your Holy Spirit lead our hearts in the way everlasting. Amen.

First Reading (pages 577-578 OT in the pew Bible) Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn** "When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace" #302

Second Reading (pages 14-15 NT in the pew Bible) Matthew 13:24-32

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "The Genius of Jesus: Holding Heaven" Rev. Sarah Hooker

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** – The Apostles' Creed – (Traditional version) (read in unison)
(Ushers gather in the narthex at this time.)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Presentation of Gifts, Offerings

Call to the Offering

Offertory "This Is My Father's World" arr. Roger Summers

*Choral Response "The Doxology" # 606

*Prayer of Dedication

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

... "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"

*Parting Hymn "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" #645

*Benediction

Postlude "Simple Gifts" arr. Douglas E. Wagner

* You are invited to stand.

Thought for today:

"The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."
—Mahatma Gandhi

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The First Presbyterian Church *Delhi, New York*



*First Presbyterian Church actively exists as the living body of Christ,
committed to growing in faithfulness to God, serving the whole human
family and welcoming all people into God's love.
(Our Mission Statement)*

First Presbyterian Church

Delhi, New York

Church Life: Week of September 6, 2015

SUNDAY September 6	9:30 am Worship in the Chapel (Chapel) 10:30 am Coffee Hour (FH) 3:00 pm Community Orchestra Rehearsal (Chapel) 5:00 pm Girl Scouts (CR)
MONDAY September 7	OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY
TUESDAY September 8	11:00 am Delaware Opportunities Senior Meals (CR) 5:00 pm Weight Watchers (FH) 6:00 pm Fellowship Committee Meeting (Library)
WEDNESDAY September 9	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:30 am SPARKS at Crossroads Café 9:00 am Senior Fitness (FH) 11:00 am Delaware Opportunities Senior Meals (CR) 5:30 pm A Pealing Sound Bell Rehearsal (Chapel & Sanctuary)
THURSDAY September 10	4:30 pm Delaware Opportunities Senior Meals (CR)
FRIDAY September 11	10:00 am "Gentle" Yoga (Chapel) 11:00 am Delaware Opportunities Senior Meals (CR)
SATURDAY September 12	9:00 am Trustees Work Day (church-wide)
SUNDAY September 13	9:30 am Sunday School Kick Off – Building Faith Brick by Brick (CE Wing) 9:30 am Chapel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:30 am Worship with Communion (FPC Sanctuary) 11:30 am Kick Off Pizza Party (FH) 3:00 pm Community Orchestra Rehearsal (chapel)
RR – Red Room; CR – Conference Room; FH – Fellowship Hall; BR – Blue Room	

"I will strive to enter that intimate space of Christ's radical love with you."

Welcome to worship on this Labor Day weekend, as we celebrate all work — paid and unpaid — that's done for the glory of God and the service of others.

"As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people" (Psalm 125:2, ESV). Thanks, God, for surrounding me always with your love and mercy.

We invite everyone to take a moment during the offertory to sign the **Church Attendance Register** found in each pew. A special welcome is extended to all who are visiting with us this morning. We hope that your worship experience will be meaningful and enjoyable. If you are interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church or becoming a member of this congregation, please speak with Pastor Sarah, the Church Office or any Elder.

COFFEE HOUR will be held today in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Worship Service. EVERYONE is invited to this time of fellowship. Please join us this morning!

The **TRUSTEES** responsible for counting today are Steve McKeegan and Pat Sullivan. The Trustees responsible for counting on September 13 are Linda Burr and Jackie Clark.

The **CHILD CARE ROOM** will be available to parents during the summer worship services. Regular nursery coverage will begin again in the fall (September 13). If you need help getting to the nursery, please contact an usher.

Children's worship bags now available. Puzzles, small toys, coloring and drawing materials are located in the hospitality room on the shelves. Children are welcome to select a bag with items of their choosing to use during worship. Children's Bulletins are also available. You may return the materials to the shelves at the conclusion of the service or simply leave the bag in the pew.

Don't forget, choir practice for the **Chancel Choir** resumes September 13 at 9:30 am. Rehearsals will continue each week beginning September 20 at 12:00 in the sanctuary. New members are needed and welcome anytime, so please join us!

The late August – mid-September newsletter is available for pick up at the church.

The Per Capita amount for 2015 has been set at \$31.81 per member.

Attendance week of 8-30-15	55
The amount needed each week	\$2,983.00
The amount given week of 8-30-15	\$3,348.00
The amount needed year-to-date	\$104,405.00
The amount given YTD as of 8-30-15	\$67,793.63
Fuel Fund given YTD as of 8-30-15	\$1,087.00
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Mission giving week of 8-30-15	\$197.00
Mission giving YTD as of 8-30-15	\$4,195.40
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Apportionment Needed 2015	\$6,775.53
Apportionment received YTD as of 8-30-15	\$2,103.62

Thoughts on Giving: “Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?” (James 2:5)

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society teaches us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith we know that material things really do not matter and we are more willing to share what we have.

Stewardship Prayer: That we may grow stronger in our faith, realizing that God does not measure us by what we possess but rather by what we do for one another.

Starting September 13, 2015, children's **Sunday School at First Presbyterian** will be an all ages class where students will use their imagination through LEGO© creations to experience their faith and the biblical story. Join us and see God at work, brick by brick. Sunday School starts at 9:30 am each Sunday during the school year.

The Christian Education committee is looking for **donations of LEGO© and DUPLO© blocks & figures**. Children will use LEGO© and DUPLO© creations to reenact biblical stories and experience their faith. So be on the lookout for LEGO© and DUPLO© blocks at garage sales or while cleaning out your closet. Your donations will be very much appreciated! Please drop off clean blocks at the church office at any time. The Sunday School program is scheduled to start September 13th.

Want to change the world? Be a part of helping our children to learn about God and helping them to develop a relationship with Jesus that will help them throughout their lives. For a small commitment of time (2 weeks) you can be a part of changing their lives forever. Contact: the Christian Ed Committee for more information.

Public Wi-Fi is now available throughout the church. The password is **firstpres**. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

****Newsletter Deadline**** Newsletter articles are due in the office on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 in order to be placed in the mid-September through October Courier. If you are able to turn items in earlier, it is greatly appreciated.

The **Upper Room Devotionals** for September and October are now available on the information racks in the Memorial Hospitality Room, on the table in the narthex and outside the church office. If you wish to contribute to defray the cost, there is a wooden box in the narthex.

FOOD BANK MISSION REMINDER! Help us fill the food box each week and help our friends and neighbors in need. Cash donations may be placed in the offering plate (clearly marked) or left in the church office. Please make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church of Delhi. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.

Come join us for a kick off Pizza Party!



Sunday, September 13th

after 10:30 AM Worship Service

**The Fellowship Committee will furnish
scrumptious homemade pizza, beverages
and table service.**

Please bring a salad or dessert to share!

**This event will be a wonderful time of
fellowship for all ages. Hope to see you there!**



**PIZZA
PARTY**

Coffee Hour volunteers are needed throughout the fall ! Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office if you are able to help. If there are no volunteers, coffee, tea and juice will be served.