

**First Presbyterian Church
Delhi, New York**

September 27, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

"For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him." Matthew 21:32



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome and Church Life Notes

Introit

"You Are My All in All"

***Call to Worship**

Leader: In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

People: Many peoples shall come and say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that we may learn God's ways and walk in God's paths.

***Hymn**

"Lead On, O King Eternal!"

#269

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy Creator, we confess and acknowledge that you created us in your own image and likeness, so that in our whole nature no imperfection could be found.

People: From this dignity and perfection man and woman have fallen, both conspiring against your sovereign majesty.

Leader: We have shown ourselves hostile to you, and have made ourselves servants to sin.

People: And thus everlasting death has power and dominion over us all, unless we are reborn from above.

Leader: By the power of the Holy Spirit, work this rebirth in us, creating in our hearts the confidence of chosen ones, with assured faith in your promise revealed to us in your Word;

People: by this faith we grasp Christ Jesus with the graces and blessings promised in him.

(A moment for silent personal prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: You no longer have to labor under the burdens of old guilts and fears, because in Christ we are forgiven and freed to serve. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Choral Response**

"Gloria Patri"

#581

***Sharing the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Anthem

“Here I Am, Lord”

arr. by Schrader

Prayer for Illumination

Holy and gracious God, may your Holy Spirit give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know the hope to which Christ has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance among us, and the greatness of his power for those who believe. Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 74:1-4

O God, why do you cast us off forever? Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture? Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old, which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage! Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt. Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary! Your foes have roared in the midst of your meeting place; they set up their own signs for signs.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

#475

Gospel Reading – Matthew 21:23-32

And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?”

They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Fix Your Hearts or Die”

Libby Cudmore, *Ruling Elder (First Presbyterian Church, Oneonta)*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

Leader: Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

People: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Presentation of Gifts and Offerings

Call to the Offering

Offertory

***Choral Response**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#606

***Prayer of Dedication**

Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

... “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”

***Closing Hymn**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

#263

***Benediction**

Postlude

CCLI License # 275648

**You may stand*

Thought for the Day: *“It’s criminal to take anything in life for granted.”*

—Anna Quindlen

Leading us in worship this morning:

Libby Cudmore, Ruling Elder (First Presbyterian Church, Oneonta) – Worship Leader

Billy Meredith, Music Director

Deacon George Thompson, Liturgist

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER!



Saturday, October 3rd, 2026
12pm-3pm

First Presbyterian Church
4 Clinton Street Delhi, NY

- Brooks BBQ Chicken lunch
- Children's games and activities
- Blessing of the animals at 2pm

Help the First Presbyterian Church Sunday School students raise money for the Heifer International animal giving program.

On a mission to end hunger and poverty



First Presbyterian Church **of Delhi, New York** **September 27, 2026**

This is the Lord's house. The Lord is here to welcome all who have come. Let us join in the spirit of love and peace for all who worship the Creator of us all.

(Prayer) Lord, quiet the distractions within us and around us as we gather in your presence. Open our hearts to your Word, fill our minds with your truth and lead us to worship you with sincerity and joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Your **tithes and offerings** may be made online via PayPal, click the donate button at <https://fpcdelhi.org/offering>, or by regular mail (4 Clinton Street, Delhi, NY 13753).

THE FLOWERS today are given in memory of Evelyn Dickson, from her family.

The Kirk will be closed Saturday, October 3 to make room for the Heifer International Project. The Kirk will be open on Friday, October 2 from 9am to 5pm!

Today is a BOUNTIFUL GIVING SUNDAY. The Delhi Food Pantry accepts non-perishable food items. You can also donate via <https://fpcdelhi.org/content/offering> or give cash or check donations designated for the food bank. Please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church.

The **TRUSTEES** responsible for counting today are Tom Little and Joe Cantwell. The Trustees responsible for counting on October 4 are Tom Leo and Kathy Beveridge.

The **Chancel Guild** volunteer for September is Gia Cantwell.

Devotional booklets (Upper Room and Daily Bread) are available outside the office and in the new narthex. Please take one for your daily devotions!

THOUGHTS ON GIVING: *"Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves..." (Philippians 2:3)* Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self-image. But, if we truly believe everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life: your family, your friends and those who make you angry.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER: That we realize we are not only responsible for our lives, but for the lives of others.

The **Per Capita** amount for 2026 has been set at \$50.51 per member.

Virtual and Sanctuary Attendance Sunday 9-20-2026	28 - 18 in sanctuary + approx. 10 virtual
General amount needed each week	\$1,432.90
General amount given week of 9-20-2026	\$714.00
General amount needed year-to-date	\$54,450.20
General amount given YTD as of 9-20-2026	\$54,080.90
Fuel Fund needed each week	\$384.62
Fuel Fund given week of 9-20-2026	\$0.00
Fuel Fund needed year-to-date	\$14,615.56
Fuel Fund given YTD as of 9-20-2026	\$2,612.00
Kirk Receipts 9-13-26 to 9-19-26	\$1,851.18
Presbyterian Mission Support week of 9-20-2026	\$10.00
Presbyterian Mission Support YTD as of 9-20-2026	\$415.00
Apportionment Needed 2026	\$6,162.22
Apportionment received YTD as of 9-20-2026	\$1,274.12

*General amount needed each week is total expenses minus budgeted savings transfers and fuel expenses.

SUNDAY September 27	<i>Bountiful Giving Sunday</i> 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Bell Choir Rehearsal
MONDAY September 28	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day 4:00 pm Bible Study
TUESDAY September 29	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations
WEDNESDAY September 30	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 10:30 am Gentle Yoga 4:45 pm PNC Meeting 7:00 pm CE Heifer Meeting
THURSDAY October 1	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day
FRIDAY October 2	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open 10:30 am Adult Ballet Class
SATURDAY October 3	10:00 am Yoga 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm Sunday School Heifer Fundraiser
SUNDAY October 4	9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship with Communion 11:15 am Bell Choir Rehearsal

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)