

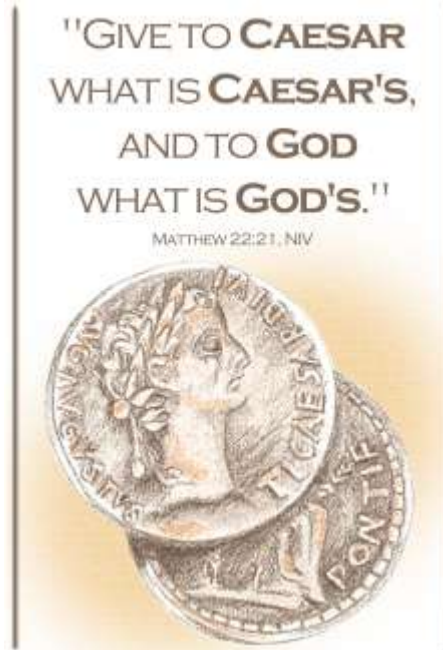
**First Presbyterian Church
Delhi, New York**

October 18, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

"And Jesus said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?'"
Matthew 22:20



GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome and Church Life Notes

Introit – Bell Choir

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

arr. by Larson

***Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 99)**

Leader: The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

People: The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

Leader: Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

People: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity.

Leader: Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool.

Unison: Holy is the LORD our God! Let us worship God.

***Opening Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God, you rule with justice and steadfast love, and your dominion is from everlasting to everlasting: grant us grace to honor you in all that we do, to walk faithfully in the way of your commandments, and to seek your kingdom above all things; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***Hymn**

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

#35

Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, you alone are worthy of our worship and our trust. Yet we confess that our loyalties are often divided. We place our confidence in the powers of this world, cling too tightly to what you have entrusted to us, and fail to love our neighbors as you command. Forgive us, we pray, for what we have done, and for what we have left undone. Turn our hearts again toward you, that we may walk in your ways, serve one another in love, and seek first your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(A moment for silent personal prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, reconciled, and restored to newness of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

***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 – Bell Choir

“To God be the Glory”

arr. by Larson

Moment for Children’s Mission – Heifer Update

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, by your Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds that as the Scriptures are read, we may hear your Word anew. Give us wisdom to understand, faith to receive, and grace to respond with faithfulness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: “I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things.

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 96:1-9

Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength! Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Epistle Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

#451

Gospel Reading – Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Image We Bear”

Jonathan Andrews

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the

one true God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Presentation of Gifts and Offerings

Call to the Offering

Offertory

***Choral Response** *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* **#606**

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious and generous God, from your hand we have received all that we are and all that we have. We give you thanks for the abundance of your blessings, for the work entrusted to our hands, and for the many ways in which you sustain us each day. Receive these gifts, offered with grateful hearts, and bless their use in the service of your kingdom. Grant that we may be faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us, generous toward those in need, and mindful of our calling to love and serve one another. May our whole lives be an offering of thanksgiving and praise to you, Almighty Father; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

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

***Closing Hymn** *"Take My Life"* **#697**

*Benediction

Postlude

CCLI License # 275648

**You may stand*

Thought for the Day: *"The world is my parish."* —John Wesley



First Presbyterian Church

of Delhi, New York

October 18, 2026

Hebrews 5:7 reminds us that Jesus "offered up prayers and supplications" and was heard by the Father. As we gather for worship today, may we bring our own prayers before the Lord and draw closer to him and to one another. Welcome, brothers and sisters in Christ.

(Prayer) Fill our minds with holy thoughts, O Lord, that we may think what you would have us think and worship you with purity of heart. 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).

Our Around the World Luncheons are back! The third Sundays of the month will be your chance to travel without leaving home! Our first stop is today after worship when we visit Germany for Oktoberfest – with fun games and a little competition!

On Sunday, October 25 we will have **Long-Term Member Recognition** during the worship service.

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

The **Elder on Call** for the coming week is Nancy Morley.

The **Trustees** responsible for counting today are Art Maxwell and Ed Goff. The Trustees responsible for counting on October 25 are Joe Cantwell and Alex Cantwell.

The **Chancel Guild** volunteer for October 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: *“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s. (Matthew 22:21)* Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given each of us. All God is asking is that we give back a portion of what he gave us. This is the essence of Stewardship. God should be our first priority in everything. All else comes second, especially our money.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER: That we realize we aren’t “owners” of anything but merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given us.

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

<i>Virtual and Sanctuary Attendance Sunday 10-11-2026</i>	26 - 22 in sanctuary + approx. 4 virtual
General amount needed each week	\$1,432.90
General amount given week of 10-11-2026	\$1,105.00
General amount needed year-to-date	\$58,748.90
General amount given YTD as of 10-11-2026	\$57,377.25
Fuel Fund needed each week	\$384.62
Fuel Fund given week of 10-11-2026	\$10.00
Fuel Fund needed year-to-date	\$15,769.42
Fuel Fund given YTD as of 10-11-2026	\$2,734.00
Kirk Receipts 10-4-26 to 10-10-26	\$2,450.38
Presbyterian Mission Support week of 10-11-2026	\$10.00
Presbyterian Mission Support YTD as of 10-11-2026	\$435.00
Apportionment Needed 2026	\$6,162.22
Apportionment received YTD as of 10-11-2026	\$1,314.12

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

Leading us in worship this morning:
Jonathan Andrews, Worship Leader
Billy Meredith, Music Director
Trustee Tom Little, Liturgist

SUNDAY October 18	9:00 am Sunday School 9:25 am Bell Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am German Luncheon
MONDAY October 19	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day 3:00 pm Girl Scouts 4:00 pm Bible Study
TUESDAY October 20	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations
WEDNESDAY October 21	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 10:30 am Gentle Yoga 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting
THURSDAY October 22	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day
FRIDAY October 23	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open 10:30 am Adult Ballet Class
SATURDAY October 24	9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open 10:00 am Yoga
SUNDAY October 25	<i>Bountiful Giving Sunday</i> 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship with Long-Term Member Recognition

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)