

Ilion Presbyterian News

August 2024

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

A month ago, I was in Salt Lake City attending the 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a teaching elder (minister) commissioner from Utica Presbytery. Michelle Dolan was the ruling elder commissioner. Each of the 166 presbyteries in the PCUSA sends an equal number of ruling elders and ministers to our biennial gathering. There are also advisory delegates: young adults from the presbyteries, theological students, ecumenical and co-mission workers invited to attend.

All of us were assigned to committees which met via zoom to deliberate and discern the various issues to be later addressed in plenary. I served on the GA Procedures committee; our major task was to review and bring forward to the Assembly the work of a "special committee" to update the standing rules for General Assembly. We might roll our eyes over the number of committees and sigh. Yet, there is something to be said for our form of governance. As the new standing rules state, "The General Assembly is the council of the whole church and is representative of the unity of [the other councils] and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (USA). They go on to note that GA "constitutes the bond of union, community, and mission among all its congregations and councils, to the end that the whole church becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness." We lift up and work towards greater unity (which is Christ's gift to the church for all who believe in him as Lord and Savior) and diversity as Paul writes in I Corinthians 12, "Now we are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

Now we may think that a General Assembly is all about resolutions and overtures, Roberts' Rules of Order, convoluted debates, and votes. That is there. But the worship of God is first and foremost. It is central, just as it is for a congregation. For among other things through worship, we encounter Christ in Word and sacrament, God's presence and action in community, hope and yearning together that our mutual witness and work will point to the reign of God.

There was a moment at the Assembly when we were in the midst of a controversial debate over whether the denomination should immediately begin to divest from all companies whose major income comes from fossil fuels. The presiding co-moderator stepped out for a moment and then returned in deep silence. News had just been received: Hurricane Beryl had been upgraded to a Category 5 level as it headed through Grenada towards Jamaica and the Yucatan peninsula. One of our ecumenical delegates was pastor and president of the three congregation Presbyterian denomination in Grenada, a denomination of around 600 members.

At that moment all busyness stopped. And we opened our hearts to God in prayer. We worshiped. The moderator led us in that prayer (as I best remember): "God, only you know...still we ask you, encamp your angels around those as your children live through this....You are still God, all by yourself. We trust you. We believe you are already working this out. So, we say thank you. We are still a praying body and still called to the work of the church for the church. Amen."

The other two core values of the standing rules of the General Assembly are the creation of community and faithful discernment and governance. In months to come, I will share more about these and about the actions of the General Assembly and of the Synod Assembly which takes place this October. For the moment, let me simply add the first words that describe the characteristic of faithful discernment and governance: Reflecting in all things Christ's command to love God and neighbor.

Such foundations are not only for General Assemblies. They are for us too as a congregation. I invite you to pray and consider how we live them and what God is calling us to do in fulfilling them. May we never cease to be a praying body called to the work of the church for the church, called to trust in and witness to the love of Christ, and in word and deed honor all persons and God's creation itself.

In peace,  
*Betsy*

## Prayer List:



Men and women who protect us and our freedoms  
Dick Bly Sharon Chasteen Brianna Nicole Tim Conover Carole Jean  
Crimmins Jim Crossway Janet Darling Scott Darling Allan Dickinson  
Jim Doremus Ed Douglas & family Sharon Eaton Dennis Eldredge Betty Foor  
Greg Goodale Bill & Julie Hulser & granddaughters Susan Jones Jeffrey Maine  
Wes Maine Joe Maneen Joan Matteson Rebecca Mento Claire Miller Henry & Sue  
Miller Marvin Nellenback The Orendorfs Sharon Outtrim Steve Price Patricia Ruller  
Fred & Jean Sullivan Sue Thuener Utica Presbytery Ed Vennaro Cheryl Waldo  
Mike, whose parents are missionaries in Brazil  
Prayers for protection & healing for Kassandra & our homeless population

We join Utica Presbytery in praying for: North Gage Presbyterian Church, Utica;  
Westminster-Moriah-Olivet Presbyterian Church, Utica; Church of Christ Uniting,  
Richfield Springs; Church in the Hood, LaDana Clark (New Worshipping Community)

## **Worship Responsibilities**

August 4 Reader— Susan Backus  
Rev. Cory Jones Greeter— Sandy Eldredge  
Fellowship— Class Act

August 11 Reader – George Gullis  
Rev. Martie Fischer Greeter – Anita Smith  
Fellowship – Deacons

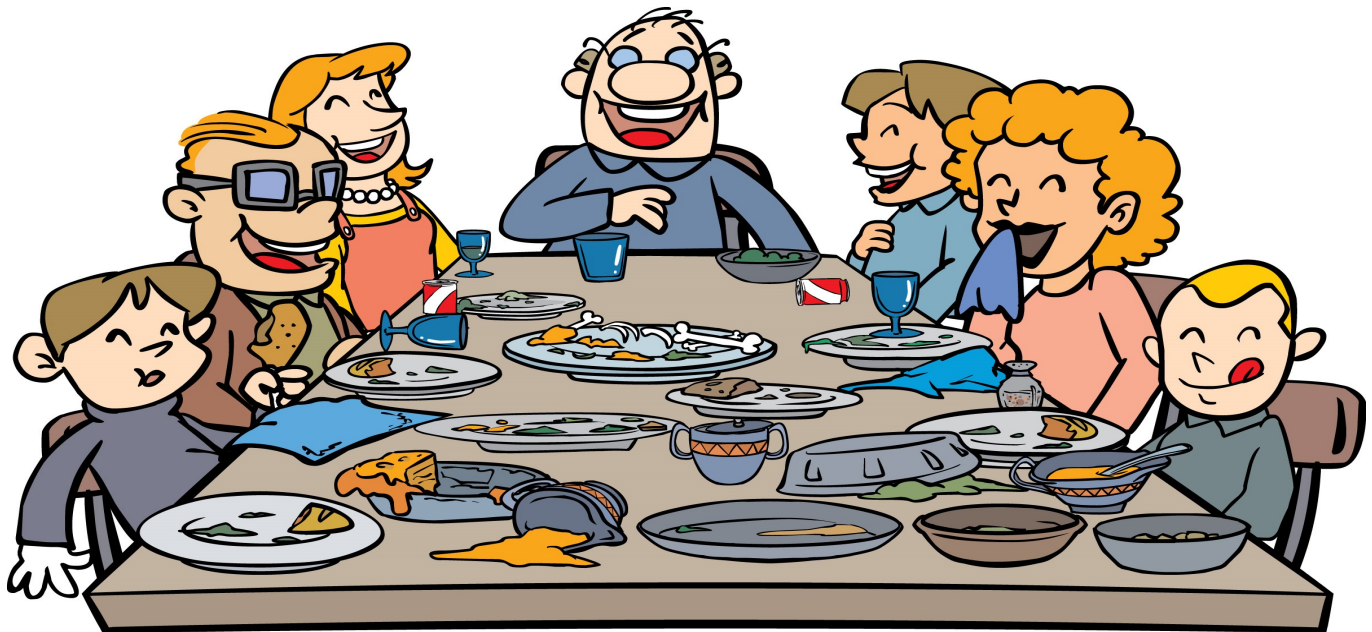
August 18 Reader – Jan Heap  
Rev. Betsy Jay Greeter – Karen Macrina  
Communion –  
Fellowship – Janet Darling /Friends

August 25 Reader – Anita Smith  
Rev. Betsy Jay Greeter – Karen Macrina  
Fellowship - Deacons

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

*Our dinners continue to be well attended! Now that the good weather is here we are having them outdoors, which is very nice, but does add a lot of work. Once again, the volunteers always step up to get the job done.*

*If you have the time, think about helping out. The food is great and the help is appreciated!!*



## **FREE DINNERS**

### **August 8**

Hot Dogs & Hamburgers

Corn on the Cob, Salad

Beverage & Dessert

### **August 22**

Baked Chicken

Corn on the Cob, Salad

Beverage & Dessert

## MIS News

August, 2024

The summer months are not normally a busy time for your MIS team, but we have been working under the radar to connect with our community.

### BLOOD DRIVE

Our blood drive, even though we didn't make our projected goal, was still a huge success. We collected 17 units. Remember that each unit is able to help 3 individuals - we could help as many as 51 people with our effort. A big thank you to Don and Diane Lamphear who helped me with the drive. There is always a need for blood, and as a positive force in our community, we strive to meet the needs of others. This is certainly one way to do that. Our next drive will be held in November. Stay tuned for the actual date.

### SCHOOL INITIATIVES

Jarvis Middle School reached out to me concerning the water bottles we supplied for that school last year. They wanted information on where and how they were purchased so that they could buy more. MIS purchased 50 bottles and delivered them to Jarvis last week. They will use them as orientation gifts for the incoming students this year. What a nice surprise for those kids!! Through your yearly pledges we are able to do things like this for the community and the children. A big thank you to all.

### CHILDREN'S INITIATIVES

We donated money to Franco's Pizza again this year to help them with their free lunch program for children. A \$500 check was delivered to them last week. This business must be commended for their generosity and their willingness to feed any hungry child that comes through the door. And they don't stop with the summer; children can go there to do homework and have a piece of pizza, free of charge. We are grateful to be able to help such a worthy, selfless cause.

Until next time, 'give away a smile, you never know what you'll get in return.'



**We would like to have a fall rummage sale (October). So, we are asking for your input and looking for volunteers to make it happen. If anyone can help out—it takes a group to make it happen—let the office know. No one has to do it all, but if we can all do a part we can make it happen! It is a fundraiser for us. Thanks in advance.**

### **News from Building and Grounds**

Starting soon the main steeple at the church will be getting a much needed facelift. A local contractor will be covering the louvres with aluminum. At the same time the woodwork will be repaired.

The exhaust system over the stove in the basement kitchen will also get an upgrade. A venting fan will be installed on the outside of the building which will provide better venting. This will replace the fan previously inside the range hood.

Cleaning the brickwork on the church exterior is still in progress. When complete, another local contractor will do some brick repair.





## NEW On-Line Ordering Available

You can now place your Food \$en\$e orders online in three easy steps!

1. Visit [foodsense.foodbankcny.org](https://foodsense.foodbankcny.org) and select your participating pick-up location.
2. Select the items you would like to purchase.
3. Pay with your credit or debit card.

**In person cash and EBT/SNAP orders for August can still be placed at:**

Presbyterian Church 90 Morgan St., Ilion on **August 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 10am-11:30 am**  
**Last day to order On-Line is Monday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**PICK UP for all orders placed in August will be at:**

Presbyterian Church 90 Morgan St., Ilion, on **August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024** from 10am-11am

Reminder - you can place an order for **Sept.** when you pick up your **Aug.** order

### AUGUST PACKAGE \$20.50

|                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ground Beef, 1 lb.                | Elbow Macaroni, 1 lb.   |
| Chicken Breasts, 1.66 lbs. (avg.) | Pizza Pepperoni, 10 oz. |
| Marinated Pork Kabobs, 1 lb.      | Corn, 15 oz.            |
| Tilapia Fillets, 1 lb.            | Strawberries, 1 lb.     |
| Hot Dogs, 1 lb.                   | Produce #1              |
| Hamburger Helper, 5.8 oz.         | Produce #2              |

### AUGUST SPECIALS:

- **Chicken Wings, 5 lbs. for \$11.00** - The chicken wings are ready for the air-fryer or grill and are in individual quick frozen.
- **Pork Tenderloin, 1.75 lbs. (avg). for \$4.50** - The pork tenderloins are a nice option since they are high in protein, low in fat, and are perfect for grilling, roasting, or slow-cooking.
- **Lobster Bites, 15 oz. for \$5.00** - The lobster bites can be baked in the oven or cooked in the air-fryer.
- **Mozzarella Sticks, 3 lbs. for \$11.50** - The mozzarella sticks are par-cooked and ready for the oven.
- **Protein Box, 5 lbs. for \$13.50** - Box includes: Ground Turkey (1 lb.), Italian Sausage (1 lb.), Boneless Chicken Drumstick Meat (1 lb.), Fish Sticks (1 lb.) and Bologna (1 lb.).
- **Meatballs, 5 lbs. for \$13.00** - The Italian meatballs are fully cooked and are in a five-pound bag.

**Food \$en\$e Shoppers:** Please remember that sites cannot hold any packages after the scheduled pick-up time. If you have a conflict, give your receipt to a friend and they may claim the package for you or it will be donated to the Food Pantry across from Catholic Charities.

If you have any questions, please speak to the site volunteers when you sign up or call Catholic Charities at 315-894-9917. Thank you.

**For Questions, please call 315-894-9917**

The First Presbyterian Church

90 Morgan Street

Ilion, New York 13357-2260

Address Service Requested