

Ilion Presbyterian News

December 2024

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Facebook page: First Presbyterian Church, Ilion, New York

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.

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Grace to you and peace from the One who is and was and is to come.

It can be easy to be dragged down this time of year with the heaviness of clouds and cold, the fears and concerns we bear for each other, our families, communities, nation, and the whole of the universe. We may suffer from sorrow and stress.

Right now, I am sitting at the dining room table watching clouds briskly move across the sky. The great news is that they are open to the brightest sunlight. And that sun is surrounded by a great blue sky overlooking the snow of the past few days and the dark ribbon of the river moving swiftly the opposite direction from the clouds. From the East to the West, the North and South, creation runs its course.

God blesses us in every season. In this time of Advent, the beginning of the church year, we are invited to seek out hope, peace, joy, and above all, love in sunshine and shadows, the hills beyond the riverbed, the trees bare and yet covered with snow intermixed with stately hemlocks and spruce.

As the prophet Isaiah proclaims: The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the forest shall clap their hands. For behold, our Lord and Ruler is coming to reign forever. (*Isaiah 55:12*)

A 17th century carol begins, "All hail to the days that merit more praise than all the rest of the year, And welcome the nights that double delights as well for the poor as the peer. Good fortune attend each merry one's friends who do but the best that they may. Forgetting old wrongs with carol and songs, to drive the cold winter away."

In all this season and for years to come, I pray for you, for those you cherish, the body of Christ in this place and throughout the world, and for those who are strangers to us and yet are in greatest hopelessness and grief.

Let us be joined in prayer for one another and to the ends of the earth:

**God of hope and joy, the time draws near when the glory of your Son will brighten the night of the waiting world. Let no sorrow hinder the joy of those who seek him. Let no sin obscure the vision of wisdom of those who find him. For it is in his name that we pray. Amen.**

May you have a blessed and fruitful Advent and the best of Christmases.

*Betsy*

## Prayer List:



Men and women who protect us and our freedoms  
Dick Bly Sharon Chasteen Brianna Nicole Tim Conover Judy Conover  
Carole Jean Crimmins Jim Crossway Scott Darling Allan Dickinson  
Jim Doremus Ed Douglas & family James Faulks Betty Foor Greg Goodale Dave &  
Jan Heap Bill & Julie Hulser & granddaughters Susan Jones Izzy Korniat Dick Long  
Jeffrey Maine Wes Maine George Maley Joe Maneen Joan Matteson Rebecca Mento  
Claire Miller Henry & Sue Miller Jackie Murphy Marvin Nellenback Peg Olson  
The Orendorfs Sharon Outtrim Patricia Ruller Fred & Jean Sullivan Sue Thomas  
Utica Presbytery Ed Vennaro John Willse

We join Utica Presbytery in praying for: Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC(USA); The Synod of the Northeast; The Clergy, Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders-Serving Congregations, and our Authorized Lay Preachers, Honorably Retired Members at Large; PCU(USA) Board of Pensions; The Trustees of the Presbytery of Utica; Presbyterian Publishing Corporation

## **Worship Responsibilities**

December 1 Reader— George Getman  
Rev. Betsy Jay Greeter— Anita Smith  
Advent Communion— Janet Darling, Marvin Nellenback  
Fellowship— Doris Rathbun

December 8 Reader — Anita Smith  
Rev. Martie Fischer Greeter — Karen Macrina  
Fellowship — Deacons

December 15 Reader — Janet Darling  
Rev. Betsy Jay Greeter — Karen Macrina  
Fellowship— Janet Darling

December 22 Reader — Steve Getman  
Rev. Cory Jones Greeter — Sandy Eldredge  
Fellowship — Deacons

December 29 Reader— Carol Okusko  
Rev. Betsy Jay Greeter— Judy Nudo  
Carol Sing Fellowship—Reception for Sue Bartholomew

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

December 24 Reader— George Watson  
Christmas Eve Greeter—  
Communion— Karen Macrina, Linda Evans

## Dates of Christmas Eve and Christmas and Lessons and Carols



### Fort Herkimer:

December 22, 4pm Christmas Eve Service

### Family of the Holy Cross:

Christmas Eve Service 4pm @ St. Francis De Sales Church Herkimer

Christmas Day Service :

8am @Blessed Sacrament Church Mohawk

9:30 am @ St Anthony & St. Joseph Church Herkimer

11am @ St. John Baptist Church Newport

### Morning Star UMC & Herkimer UMC

Blue Christmas Ecumenical Service Dec.15th @ Frankfort UMC\*\*

Christmas Eve Services: 5pm Frankfort, 7pm Herkimer (Children's Pageant)

### Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Service 7pm

Lessons & Carols Service 10:30am December 29

### St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve. Service 5pm

Christmas Day Service 10am

Lessons & Carols Service December 29 10am

### Holy Trinity Church Herkimer

December 22nd Christmas Faith Alive 10am

Christmas Eve Service 3pm

Christmas Day Service 10am

Lessons & Carol Service December 29 10am

**\*\*** A Blue Christmas Service is held for all those that are grieving , who have lost loved ones or may be dealing with difficult life situations. It is meant to provide healing and hope and to acknowledge that it is okay to not feel happy or joyful.



## Reception for Susan

*We will be having a reception for our organist, Susan Bartholomew December 29th following church services. Join us in wishing Susan well as she retires after 18 years of dedicated service. It has been our good fortune to witness her God given talent each week as she filled our sanctuary with music to delight our ears and touch our souls. We wish her the best as she begins her well deserved retirement!!*

**Thank You Susan!**



**FREE HAM DINNER**

**DECEMBER 12TH**

Ham, Potatoes

Cole Slaw

Green Beans

Dessert and Beverage

## Exercise Classes

On Wednesday, December 4th a Tai Chi class will be offered under the direction of Marilyn Miller, a well known local practitioner of the art. This class will be held each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

On Monday, December 9th a class using YouTube videos will be held. These classes will be held each Monday at 9:30 a.m.

These classes certainly cannot replace the fun, guided instruction that Sue offered us, but I'm sure she'll be proud of us since we'll be following her advice to "keep moving." Hope to see you all there.



## Christmas Cookie Swap

Sunday, December 15th after church

Bring in a dozen (or 3) of your favorite Christmas cookie on individual platters and swap them for a dozen (or 3) of a different cookie.





## 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 December can still be placed at:**  
Presbyterian Church 90 Morgan St., Ilion on **December 2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 10am-11:30 am**  
**Last day to order On-Line is Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**PICK UP for all orders placed in December will be at:**  
Presbyterian Church 90 Morgan St., Ilion, on **Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024** from 10am-11am

Reminder - you can place an order for **Jan.**, when you pick up your **Dec.** order

### DECEMBER PACKAGE (\$20.50)

Chicken Breasts Nuggets, 27 oz.  
Breakfast Sausage, 6.4 oz.  
Marinated Pork Portions, 1 lb.  
Ground Turkey, 1 lb.  
Large Eggs, 1 dozen  
Pancake Mix, 14 oz.

Breakfast Bites, 19.5 oz.  
Frozen Blueberries, 16 oz.  
French Fries, 24 oz.  
Mandarin Oranges, 11 oz.  
Fresh Produce #1  
Fresh Produce #2

### DECEMBER SPECIALS:

- **Spiral Ham, 10 lbs. (avg.) for \$16.00:** The spiral ham is a fully cooked and honey-glazed.
- **Lobster Bites, 15 oz. for \$5.25:** The lobster bites can be baked in the oven or cooked in the air-fryer.
- **Chicken Tenderloins, 3 lbs. for \$7.00:** The chicken tenderloins are in a 3-pound re-sealable bag.
- **Mozzarella Sticks, 3 lbs. for \$11.50:** The mozzarella sticks are par-cooked and ready for the oven.
- **Meatloaf Mix, 2 lbs. for \$9.50:** This meatloaf mix is an equal blend of beef, pork, and veal. It is vacuum-sealed and frozen to ensure freshness.
- **Lasagna Roll-ups, 42 oz. for \$6.50:** The cheese lasagna roll-ups are stuffed with ricotta and Romano cheese and are over two and a half pounds.

**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