

# Ilion Presbyterian News

## January 2025

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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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## Plentiful Gifts -A New Opportunity

Across the country and across denominations, more and more congregations no longer have the resources to call and to pay a full-time pastor. Some churches can hardly imagine how to continue their life as a community of faith without a pastor. Do they need to close? The Plentiful Gifts program answers that question with a conviction that in every congregation, no matter how small, there are "plentiful gifts" for ministry. The Plentiful Gifts program is an initiative of Dubuque Theological Seminary and leads congregations through a process of prayer, discernment, and discussion to clarify their identity, gifts, and mission. Through that process, the congregation identifies 4 areas of ministry and people in the congregation with gifts for leadership in those areas. Then the Plentiful Gifts leaders design training to help congregational leaders develop and strengthen their gifts. Ilion is one of seven congregations in the Presbytery of Utica that will be participating in the program beginning this month with more to come! Churches with paid pastors are only one model of how a church can be organized. All of God's people have gifts from the Spirit, given to various leaders in the church to equip all the people for ministry. It is in this confidence in God's provision of gifts through the Spirit that we embark on this new journey to discover and strengthen God's gifts for our ministry.

Rev Sam Pendergrast - Catalyst for the Plentiful Gifts Program

### Prayer for God's Guidance

God is creating new paths and possibilities,  
as we prepare for where we are going.  
Christ is freeing us with newfound love and grace,  
as we learn from where we have been.  
The Spirit is revealing new dreams to guide us,  
as we start our journey home on a new path.  
We take courage in the assurance that God goes with us;  
we affirm our call to go where Christ leads; and  
we trust the Spirit to guide us through the challenging space between,  
where we have been, where we are, and where we are going.

Surely, we are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

—adapted from Prayer for Times of Change, The United Church of Canada

In Peace, *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 The family of  
Sue Thomas Utica Presbytery Ed Vennaro

We join Utica Presbytery in praying for: Local food Pantries; The Moderator, Vice  
Moderator, Presbytery Leader-Stated Clerk, and Staff of Presbytery of Utica; 2025 Micah  
Grant Recipients; PC(USA) Foundation and Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program

## **Worship Responsibilities**

January 5 Reader  
Rev. Betsy Jay Greeter  
Marvin Nellenback Communion— Karen Macrina  
Fellowship— Doris Rathbun  
  
January 12 Reader — Steve Getman  
Rev. Martie Fischer Greeter — Sandy Eldredge  
Aaron Stout & Fellowship — Deacons  
Elizabeth Blais-Bennett

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

January 19 Reader — Jan Heap  
Rev. Betsy Jay Greeter — Karen Macrina  
Marvin Nellenback Fellowship— Janet Darling

**\*\*REMINDER\*\***

The annual meeting is January 19th

January 26 Reader  
Gene Doremus Greeter — Karen Macrina  
Martha Regelman Fellowship — Deacons

## January 18—25, 2025 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

At the heart of our reflections for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is the question posed by Jesus to Martha: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). This same question resonated throughout the deliberations of the first Ecumenical Council, meeting in Nicaea in 325, which gathered Christian communities from around the world to strengthen their relationships as the Church of Jesus Christ. Read in isolation the question might appear as a stark challenge, but from the Gospel story it is clear that the words of Jesus are spoken in love and experienced as invitation as well as challenge. Similarly, while the Council of Nicaea was not without its challenges as a wounded and scattered Church sought to discern the truth of the Gospel message, there was an obvious desire to deepen connection and belonging and to live faithfully as disciples of Christ.

Reflecting on these moments we are reminded that the gift of our faith brings both support and challenge. The 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea this year has been embraced with a hopeful enthusiasm in the global Church and in ecumenical bodies, inspiring a wide range of events and dialogues. It is valued as a significant moment of shared history across the different Christian traditions, despite the many ways in which our paths may have diverged in the years since. Some have remained closer to the Church envisaged at Nicaea with the Nicene Creed continuing to be of central importance as a statement of faith, while others have adopted non-credal models of Church placing greater emphasis on other forms of expression of shared Christian faith. Looking back together from our different perspectives presents an opportunity to deepen understanding and relationships, strengthening our unity in diversity.

There is an opportunity to celebrate and draw strength and encouragement from the gift of our shared faith. In these troubled and turbulent times, we can take heart from the endurance of that faith. The Church that gathered in Nicaea was one that had been shaken and wounded by violence and persecution and was therefore close to the suffering of humanity. It was presented with an opportunity for dialogue with the political power which posed difficult choices about how best to share the Good News of the Gospel as faithful disciples of Christ, whose Kingdom is not of this world. In today's polarised world, when trust in the willingness of political powers and authorities, including the Church, to protect the most vulnerable has been undermined, how might a renewal of our commitment to Christian unity contribute to positive change?

*(taken from The Church of Scotland)*

## **NATIONAL FAITH+CLIMATE FORUM**

On March 27, 2025, First Presbyterian Church, 90 Morgan Street, Ilion, New York, will serve as a host site for the National Faith+ Climate Forum focusing on creation care. From 12:30-5:30 p.m. we will gather for inspiring discussions, hands-on sessions and connections with local and national faith leaders. Together we can strengthen our commitment to climate action. The forum is free. Refreshments will be provided.

As of now, Ilion is one of 23 sites nationally and one of two in New York—the other being First Presbyterian Church of Cooperstown.

Don't miss out. Register for free now at [https:// nationalfaithandclimateforum.org](https://nationalfaithandclimateforum.org) . If you plan to attend in person, you will have a chance during the registration process to select First Presbyterian Church of Ilion from a drop-down menu.

Any questions contact Steve Getman.

### **FREE DINNERS**

#### **January 9th**

Baked Chicken

Roasted Potatoes

Vegetable

Beverage & Dessert

#### **January 23rd**

Beef Stew

Bread

Tossed Salad

Beverage & Dessert



## 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 January can still be placed at:**  
Presbyterian Church 90 Morgan St., Ilion on **January 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 10am-11:30 am**  
**Last day to order On-Line is Monday January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**PICK UP for all orders placed in January will be at:**  
Presbyterian Church 90 Morgan St., Ilion, on **Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025** from 10am-11am

Reminder - you can place an order for **FEB.**, when you pick up your **JAN.** order

### JANUARY PACKAGE (\$20.50)

Italian Sausage, 1 lb.  
Chicken Breast Portions, 1 lb.  
Italian Meatballs, 1 lb.  
Ground Turkey, 1 lb.  
Frozen Pizza, 10.8 oz.  
Cheese Ravioli, 13 oz.

Pasta Sauce, 26 oz.  
Cauliflower Soup, 14.5 oz.  
Mixed Vegetables 16 oz.  
Diced Tomatoes, 14.5 oz.  
Fresh Produce #1  
Fresh Produce #2

### JANUARY SPECIALS:

- **Stuffed Pork Chops, 2 lbs. for \$10.00:** The pork chops are stuffed with apples and cranberries.
- **Chicken Wings, 5 lbs. for \$9.00:** The chicken wings are ready for the air-fryer or grill and are individually quickly frozen.
- **American Cheese, 5 lbs. for \$13.50:** The sliced American cheese is not individually wrapped.
- **Breaded Shrimp, 3 lbs. for \$13.00:** The shrimp are butterflied, breaded, and contain a quantity of 21-25 per pound.
- **Beef & Broccoli, 22 oz. for \$6.00:** The beef and broccoli consist of beef strips, broccoli florets, and red bell peppers with white rice in a savory soy sauce.
- **Stuffed Shells, 48 oz. for \$7.50:** The stuffed shells are frozen and have 18 shells per special.

**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