

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
34 BRINKERHOFF STREET
PLATTSBURGH, NY 12901

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Pulse

May 2025

**First Presbyterian
Church**
34 Brinkerhoff Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

**Phone 518-561-3140
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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Luoma
tluoma@presbyplatt.org

Administrative Assistant
Sadie Prinsen
office@presbyplatt.org

Office Hours
Mon 1-4p, Tue.-Thur. 9a-4p
Closed Friday

Website
www.firstchurchplattsburgh.org

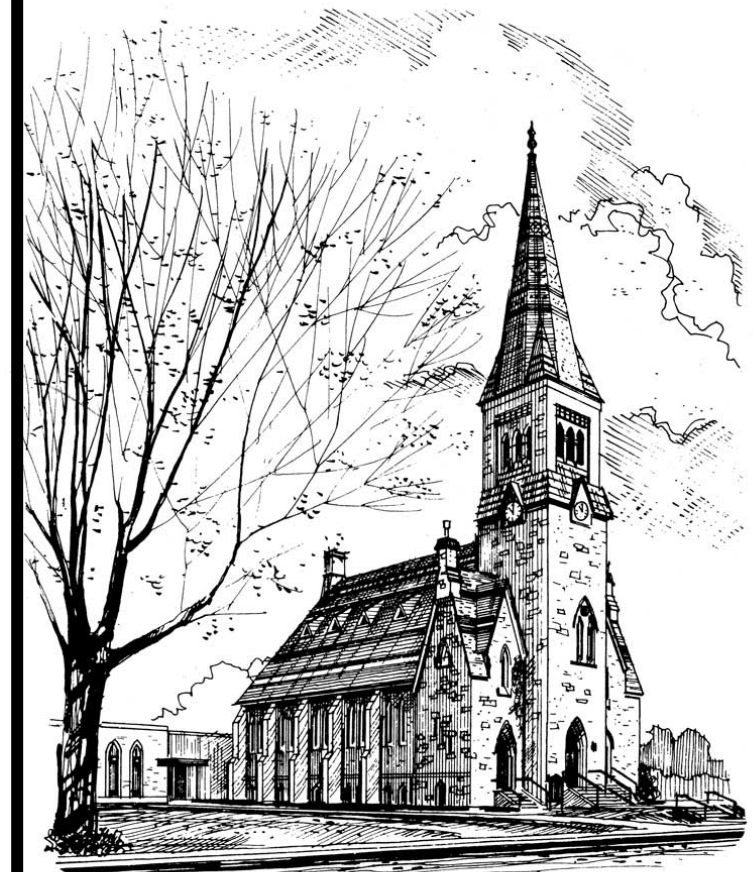
Miss any of our recent worship services? You can watch
our sermons on our website!

<https://www.firstchurchplattsburgh.org/worship/sermons/>

First Presbyterian Church of Plattsburgh NY



Find us on
Facebook



*Worship Christ, Teach Faith
and Practice Love*

Upcoming and Ongoing Events

Bible Study: every Tuesday at 10:30am (Through 5/20)

Knit'n'Twit: every Tuesday 1:30pm-3:30pm

AA Meeting: every Tuesday & Thursday 12pm-1pm

Parkinson's Support Group: every Wednesday 1:45pm-2:45pm

Table Tennis: every Wednesday 7pm

Quilting Group: every Thursday 9:15-11:15am

May Meetings & Events

Mon 5- Yoga Class (5pm)

Mon 12- Yoga Class (5pm)

Tues 13- Interfaith Council Meeting (Noon)

Tues 13- Deacons Meeting (5pm)

Wed 14- Finance Committee Meeting (5:30pm)

Mon 19- Session (6pm)

Tues 20- Staff Meeting (9:30am)

Tues 20- Building & Grounds Meeting (6pm)

*Thurs 22-Deadline for Pulse Submissions, **Office Closed***

Mon 26- Memorial Day, Office Closed

Fri 30- Spring Clean-up (9:30am)

Sat 31- Spring Clean-up (9:30am)

Worship Leaders for May

5/4- Jennie Booth

5/11- Debra Donahue

5/18- Dana Jeweler

5/25- Stuart Voss

Looking Ahead...

- The office will be closed on May 22nd and May 26th for Memorial Day Weekend.
- Church at Camp has been scheduled for June 22nd at Camp Tapawingo.

May Birthdays

2- Brenda Phillips

3- Morris Root

10- Chris Duley

12- Eric Odnoha

13- Jane Houth

13- Emma Snook

15- Teresa Mahoney

15- Jean Choe

18- Amber Guay

18- Cathy Ellis

19- Doris Pomerance

21- Jaqueline Curilla

25- Jackie Walker

26- Matt Burgin

26- Olivia Burgin

26- Diana Ashline-Beaudet

26- Erin Malchoff

28- Ethan Luoma

29- Diane Cohen

30- Brittany DuBrey

A Quick Recap

It feels as though Spring has just finally arrived, but many of us have our eyes fixed on Summer already! The month of May here at First Presbyterian Church will be busy as we celebrate Spring and our faith community.

We hope you'll join us in the work ahead, as well as the celebrations of completion.



Sabbatical Plans

As many of you are already aware, I will be on Sabbatical from June through August of this year. This month begins the 8th year since I arrived in 2017, if you can believe it!

I am very pleased to share that Rev. Marty Weitz, a retired pastor and member of the Presbytery, will be filling in for me in my absence. I've come to know Marty through our work together in the Presbytery, and I think you will all enjoy him a great deal.

We were fortunate to be the recipient of two grants: one from the Presbytery, and another from the PC(USA) Board of Pensions. In addition, housing for Marty and his wife is being provided by Jim & Angela Snook and Chris Duley. Both of these add up to the fact that the cost of the Sabbatical has been covered 100% without adding a single dollar to the church's budget.

During the month of July, I will be at Eastern Point Retreat House (EasternPoint.org) in Gloucester, Massachusetts making a 30-day silent retreat program known as the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. During that time, I will be meeting with a Spiritual Director once a day as well as participating in Mass once a day, but otherwise will be practicing silence and solitude.

Yes, it's a little intimidating to me, too, but I think/hope/pray that it will be a wonderful experience. The Spiritual Exercises is an old tradition and obviously not many people are able to dedicate a full month to it, so I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity. This is the same retreat center that I have been to for two 8-day silent retreats previously, so I have some idea of what to expect, but there's a big difference between 8 days and a month!

For the rest of the time of the Sabbatical, I plan to work on a book that I have been working on for many, many years. It will probably not surprise you to learn that the book is about the Apostle Peter, my favorite Bible character (besides Jesus, of course). I've worked on the book piecemeal for a long time, and look forward to having uninterrupted time to dedicate to working on it. I have no idea how much time I might need to finish it as I've never had time like this before to work on it, so I don't know how much can reasonably be expected to achieve. Nevertheless, I hope to make significant progress on it.

~Pastor Tim

Palm Sunday



Thank you to everyone on the Worship & Music and Youth & Education councils who made our Palm Sunday special.

Thanks to Jennie Booth and Mark Malchoff for setting up the palms in the sanctuary.



The congregation celebrated Palm Sunday with a lively fellowship hour hosted by the Youth and Education committee. They made the traditional pretzels to mark the day and also shared hot cross buns and fastenacht.



Photos Courtesy of Victoria Duley & Adrian Carr

Reconsidering In-Kind Donations

If you are downsizing or looking at discarding items you or your family no longer need or use, please not 'donate' or drop the items off at church. Look towards other community outlets such as thrift stores or events such as yard or garage sales that support a nonprofit or have your own garage sale. Some items may be needed or used by programs serving children or supporting/aiding families. The church too is trying to downsize its holdings as well as discard old or obsolete items. If you think what you have is something the church really might use, talk to appropriate folks first.

Kitchen and Food Shelf: Neither the kitchen nor the Interfaith Food Shelf can use food items with expired dates. This would include anything with a short upcoming expiration date. While the kitchen can sometimes use cooking utensils and additional serving utensils, they must be clean and very good condition. Pots and pans and serving plates are not needed. The kitchen also does not need individual sugar, sugar substitute, or creamer packets.

Fellowship: We do not need any more cloth or plastic table cloths for the large 8-foot tables or card tables, or cloth napkins. Likewise, we do not need straws; coffee stirrers; paper plates, unless they are 8 ¾ -inch Chinex; or large plastic drink cups.

The Toddler Room and Crib Room have been thoroughly cleaned and vetted so that in each there is a sufficient number of safe, age appropriate toys and books. No more toys or books are needed, nor are baby supplies.

Arts & Crafts Supplies, etc.: At this point we do not need any arts and crafts supplies or kits, crayons, markers, etc.; children's books, games, or costumes.

General: We do not need lamps or furniture or decorative items.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Church Spring Cleanup: UPDATE

Friday, May 30th - 9:30 am -11:30 am
Saturday, May 31st - 9:30 am - 11:30 am

The previously announced dates of the 16th and 17th have been changed to the 30th & 31st.

Some of the activities include raking, pruning, mulching, sweeping, washing windows, along with many other possibilities! Join in the fun to spruce up the church and grounds! All sorts of jobs for all sorts of skills!

Contact Bill Merrill at bkrlmerrill@verizon.net or 518-578-7321 to sign up!

Recycling

After 13 years of recycling our church bulletins and office paper, I am finding it more difficult for me to carry the bags of paper to my vehicle and to the Clinton County Recycling Convenience Center on Sand Road in Morrisonville (Schuyler Falls). This paper is not contaminated, and is sorted and stored separately. I believe Casella has a reuse market for this recycling effort.

At the Recycling Center, you can also bring your own recycling of newspapers, magazines, #1 and #2 plastics, cardboard, and glass bottles and jars. If any individual or team are willing to take over this project for the good of our environment, I will accompany you on our first visit. Thank you!

-Nancy Olsen (518-561-0189)

Spring Potluck Luncheon

The Deacons will be hosting a Spring Potluck Luncheon after Worship Service on Sunday, May 25th.

May 25th is Pastor Tim's last Sunday in the pulpit before his Sabbatical Leave, making it a good time to gather in fellowship and wish him well with his plans. Please join us and bring a dish if you are able!

Guest Pastor

This Summer, we're going to be joined by Rev. Marty Weitz from June 1st to August 31st! Here's what he'd like you to know about him:

Rev. Martin Weitz (likes to be called Marty)

Born and grew up in Albany NY. Graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, New York City. Spent several years playing bass trombone in the "pit orchestras" of various Broadway Shows. Later was bass trombonist with American Symphony and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

After leaving music studied for the ministry at the New England Consortium of Seminaries. (Andover Newton, Bangor, Harvard & Yale)

Ordained by The Reformed Church in America later transferred ordination to Church Of Scotland.

Church's served and other service:

Pastor - Fordham Manor Church, New York City

Sr. Pastor - St Thomas Reformed Church, US Virgin Islands

Pastor – American Church, Warsaw Poland

Sr. Pastor - Protestant Church in the Sultanate of Oman

Theological Advisor to General Secretary, Church of South India

Faculty - United Theological College Bangalore India (Seminary to the Church of South India)

Locum Sr. Pastor – The Dunblane Cathedral, Dunblane Scotland

2027 Will be teaching courses at Bishop's College, Kolkata (Seminary of Church of North India)

Married to Emilie Price Weitz - former Medical Social Worker

Two children:

Daughter - Kristin Weitz Brown, Social Worker, Potsdam Central School

Son – Matthew Weitz, Chief US Consular Officer, Kolkata

A One Great Hour of Sharing Thank You!

A special thank you to all who have given to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering! One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together each year to work for a better world, helping those at home and throughout the world deal with disasters, hunger, displacement, poverty, and rebuilding their lives. The gifts to this offering are shared with the ministries of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. As of April 29th, a total of \$4,580 has been received.



Living Faith

May's theme for Living Faith is motherhood. If you would like to share a faith story about your mother, being a mother or motherhood, please let us know and we will find a Sunday for you to share.

We hope you will consider the theme in quiet times of reflection during the worship service and step in to share with each other and with the congregation as well.

In Peace,
The Worship and Music Committee
Jennie Booth, Adrian Carr, Mark Malchoff, Sally Meisenheimer and Tim Luoma

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes will continue on May 4th. The final two classes will be June 1st and June 8th.

Choir Season

We want to thank all of our choir members for their participation and for helping create beautiful music for our worship services! Music adds a new level of depth to our worship services that would not be achieved without them.

Choir will have their last performance for the season on May 18th, 2025 before their Spring/Summer break.

Adult Church School & Bible Study

Adult Church School will have their final meeting for the Spring on May 18th.

Bible Study will be having their last meeting for the season on May 20th.

Monthly Financial Snapshot as of Mar 31st, 2025

Year to Date Income:	\$72,028
Year to Date Expenses:	\$75,001
Difference:	\$(2,974)
Total Investments:	\$378,282
Restricted Funds:	\$198,875
Unrestricted funds:	\$179,407



Understanding and welcoming those with mental illness into our Faith Communities

Sunday, May 4, 2025

1-3 pm

***Plattsburgh United Methodist Church
127 Beekman St. Plattsburgh***



Interfaith Council of Plattsburgh and Clinton County



Session News

Session most recently met for a Stated Meeting on April 28th, 2025. At this meeting, Session:

- Reviewed various matters of unfinished business, such as initiating a conversation with young families to find out what it is the church can provide for them; looking into where the project about naming the church as a beneficiary on accounts or in wills left off when COVID shut everything down; the status of a plan for church safety and security.
- Identified as ongoing issues to be monitored the Appreciative Inquiry Dream Team ideas, revamping Personnel Committee operations, and paying for the flat roof repairs/replacement.
- Learned that a group, the Plattsburgh Clarinet Choir, reached out to the church about doing a concert in the church in August. Our Director of Music, Adrian Carr, is in touch with them. Ironically, none of the Clarinet Choir lives in or near Plattsburgh anymore.
- Learned that a group spearheaded by Bill Merrill is working on a Sacred Sites grant application. Critical to the application are estimates for the identified needed remediation projects for the Sanctuary building. We are supposed to have them by the end of the month. Since any grant will require matching funds from the church, the potential match plus the amount owed to the NBT line of credit for the flat roofs work, may necessitate looking at a capital campaign.
- Approved a revised, simplified Deacons' Manual.
- Heard from Elder Carl Payne, Financial Secretary, that we weathered the downturn in the equity market pretty well with our investments down about half of what the equity markets are. Hopefully, we will not have to withdraw money for operating expenses anytime soon.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be Monday, May 19th at 6 pm. Session will be meeting in-person in Classroom 3, next to the Choir Room.



an INSPIRATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL free series
for personal, professional and community development

Walk It Off

**From One Extreme to the Next
with Chris Rosenquest and Tracy Vicory-Rosenquest**

**Wednesday, May 7th
6:00 to 7:30 pm**

Old Soul | 124 Margaret Street in Downtown Plattsburgh

Through an interview with Tracy, Chris will discuss his 500-mile hike on the El Camino, a hard physical challenge following an all-encompassing leadership experience.

**His journey helped him examine the questions we all contemplate:
To what extreme do we go to to transform ourselves?
What defines us; Failure? Success?
Why do we take risks?**

**How can we best transition from one hard thing to the next?
How can we support others in their journeys?**

Please come out to support our amazing local professionals and businesses!

**Like us on Facebook: Vinspire
Follow us on Instagram: VinspireInspiringNorthCountry**

Sally Meisenheimer, Steph Moore and Dana Jeweler are three members of the committee who bring these valuable sessions to you.

Community Garden

The church via the Local Mission Council again has a plot (#53) at the Community Garden at Penfield Park. We are hopeful that we will not have to spend as much time this year as we did last year clearing bonus crops of weeds and guest plants (particularly viola, chives and dill weed), the seeds of which travel from other gardens. There do seem to be a lot of violas in at least half of the plot, courtesy of a neighboring garden. If you want any violas, please stop by the plot and help yourself.

If anyone would like to help with preparing the plot for planting – digging out weeds and guest plants, tilling the plot or, if anymore compost/soil gets delivered to the garden area, transporting via wheelbarrow some of that to our plot – we could use your help. We hope to start planting much sooner this year than last. Nancy Olsen (518.561.0189) and Judy Bunnell (518.561.8011) are the contact people.

The focus of our planting is on produce for the Interfaith Food Shelf. Over the years we have learned that green beans and beets are most appreciated. Other folks inundate the Food Shelf with cucumbers, tomatoes and summer squash. Onions tend to disappear from the garden plot, i.e., harvested by interlopers, and a whole crop of potatoes is too easily wiped out by potato bugs. This year we are going to try doing two or three succession plantings of green beans. We'll intersperse beets between the bean plantings. Once the plants get going, help is going to be needed with weeding, watering and picking the produce – and also keeping the Japanese beetles off the bean plant leaves. Please contact Nancy or Judy if you would like to help with these tasks.

Upper Room Devotionals

The May/June edition of *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide is available in the back of the Sanctuary.