

First Presbyterian Church

IN VICTOR
WHOEVER YOU ARE.
HOWEVER YOU HAVE COME.
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

Since we have such a great cloud of witnesses....

Hebrews 12:1



My Cheering Section!

First Presbyterian Church

70 East Main Street

Victor, NY 14564

585-924-2289

www.victorpres.org

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Jimmy Reader
& Rev. Joy Bergfalk

Organist: Ayn Patrowicz

AV: Bill Martz

Liturgist: Rebecca Martz

Greeters/Fellowship: Amy Reinhardt
& Donna Schake

Order of Worship

September 10, 2023, 10am

*Please stand if you are able.

Prelude

“God of Our Fathers”, arr. by Robert J. Hughes

Welcome & Announcements

*Responsive Call to Worship

Psalm 90, selected verses

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

**A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.**

Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;

Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendor to their children.

**May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.**

*Opening Hymn No.526

“For All the Saints”

*Invocation

Scripture Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

Some time later, Abram had a vision. The Lord said to him,
“Abram, do not be afraid.

I am like a shield to you.

I am your very great reward.”

But Abram said, “Lord and King, what can you give me? I
still don’t have any children. My servant Eliezer comes from
Damascus. When I die, he will get everything I own.” Abram
continued, “You haven’t given me any children. So this servant of
mine will get everything I own.”

Then a message from the Lord came to Abram. The Lord
said, “When you die, what you have will not go to this man. You will
have a son of your own. He will get everything you have.” (cont.)

Scripture (cont.)

The Lord took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky. Count the stars, if you can.” Then he said to him, “That’s how many children will be born into your family.”

Abram believed the Lord. The Lord was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram’s faith made him right with the Lord.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Today we gather in a holy space where saints have trod. Because of their faith in you and because of your guidance, we now stand on holy ground. Forgive us when our faith falters, when we doubt our heritage, when we doubt that your hand guides us and that the future belongs to you.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Passing the Peace**

Anthem “Simple Gifts”, arr. by Mark Schweizer
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Children’s Time

Unison Prayer for Illumination

Open our eyes to saints who gather around us cheering us on. Give us the grace to throw off whatever hinders us, so that as a cheering crowd surrounds us, we will faithfully run the race you have set before us.

Scripture *Hebrews 11, selected verses; Hebrews 12:1-3*

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. 2 That is what the people of long ago were praised for.

Abel had faith. Because of his faith Abel was praised as a godly man.

Enoch had faith. So he was taken from this life. He didn’t die. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Those who come to God must believe that he exists. And they must believe that he rewards those who look to him.

Noah had faith. (cont.)

Scripture (cont.)

Abraham had faith. So he obeyed God. God called him to go to a place he would later receive as his own. So he went. He did it even though he didn’t know where he was going. And Sarah had faith. So God made it possible for her to become a mother. She became a mother even though she was too old to have children. But Sarah believed that the God who made the promise was faithful. Abraham was past the time when he could have children. But many children came from that one man. They were as many as the stars in the sky. They were as many as the grains of sand on the seashore. No one could count them.

All these people were still living by faith when they died.

Isaac had faith. Because of his faith he worshiped God.

Jacob worshiped as he leaned on the top of his walking stick.

Joseph had faith. So he spoke to the people of Israel about how they would leave Egypt someday.

Moses’ parents had faith. So they hid him for three months after he was born. They saw he was a special child. They were not afraid of the king’s command.

Moses had faith. Because of his faith, Moses left Egypt. It wasn’t because he was afraid of the king’s anger. He didn’t let anything stop him. That’s because he saw the God who can’t be seen.

The people of Israel had faith. So they passed through the Red Sea. They went through it as if it were dry land.

Israel’s army had faith. So the walls of Jericho fell down. It happened after they had marched around the city for seven days.

Rahab, the prostitute, had faith. So she welcomed the spies.

That’s why she wasn’t killed with those who didn’t obey God.

What more can I say? I don’t have time to tell about all the others. I don’t have time to talk about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, David and Samuel and the prophets.

All these people were praised because they had faith. But none of them received what God had promised. That’s because God had planned something better for us. So they would only be made perfect together with us

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Sermon "The Push from Behind, the Pull from Ahead"

***Hymn of Response** *GTG No. 741* "Guide My Feet"

Offering
***Doxology**

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**
Gracious and giving God, in the saints surrounding us, we give back to you a portion of what you have given us as a testimony to your love, generosity, and love. Accept our gifts and our very selves and empower us for the days and years ahead.
Amen.

Communion

Prayers of the People

***Closing Hymn: The Lord's Prayer**

***Benediction**

Postlude "A Mighty Fortress is Our God",
arr. by Thomas Chesterton



Communion Preparers: We are in need of additional volunteers to help prepare the elements for communion each month this Fall/Winter. Communion will be served on the second Sunday of each month.

Greeters and Coffee Hour Volunteers: Please sign up on the volunteer schedule bulletin board in the Welcome Center, or email Courtney in the office if you would like to help.

Ways you can SERVE



The meal train continues for Marilyn & Larry Teel as Larry continues to heal. Please scan the QR code to sign-up!

*Meals must be **gluten-free** and they like fresh fruits and vegetables.

Any questions, please feel free to contact me!

Brenda | brenda.14450@gmail.com
-Or- 585-259-5687



*The PNC is proud to introduce
Rev. Michael McNamara as the FPCV Pastor candidate!*

- Please Join us with Pastor Mike on **September 16 from 1-3 pm** in Corey Hall for a casual Meet & Greet!
- Sunday, September 17**
Pastor Mike will lead our 10am worship.
- Congregational Meeting** immediately following worship on 9/17 to vote.

Any questions for Rev. McNamara can be submitted in writing to the office or PNC chair, Marti Mowers, before September 17.



**Upcoming Church & Community events to add to your calendars:
*details on each event in your eNews***

Church Calendar

Sunday, September 10

10 am Sunday Worship w/communion & Sunday School kick-off!
11:15am *Congregational Meeting & Fellowship
7:30pm AA & Al-Anon meetings

Monday, September 11

7 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 12

9:30 am Free Panera
7 pm Session Meeting
7 pm Bridge Class

Thursday, September 14

Noon Bridge Class

Saturday, September 16

1-3 pm Meet & Greet with Rev. McNamara
5 pm Community Dinner

Sunday, September 17

10 am Sunday Worship
11:15am *Congregational Meeting & Fellowship
7:30pm AA & Al-Anon meetings



Thank you for the gift of your presence here this morning. We are so glad you have chosen to spend this time in this space. Please know you are invited to participate in any way that is most helpful for you. You are not expected to announce your presence, but you are most welcome to reach out to anyone here. You are invited to fellowship following worship downstairs in Corey Hall and we would love to share a coffee and a chat. If you would like to have us reach out to you in the days ahead, please fill out the Visitor Card in the pew and drop it in the Offering plate or use the QR code below.

If you are here with children, that is wonderful, and they are welcome too. Sunday School is offered *during the school year* during the worship service for youth ages 4 through grade 6, following the Children’s Time. Youth Group Sunday School is also offered for children in 6th grade and up every other Sunday. The Infant Care Room, equipped so users can hear and watch the service, is located at the top of the eastern stairs in the back of the sanctuary.

It is good to have you here. Welcome.

**Interested in becoming a member?
Please call or email one of our pastors.
Pastor Jimmy: 585-315-9241, Pastor Joy: 585-315-7826
pastor@victorpres.org**

