

First Presbyterian Church
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September

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What a great summer it has been, and how wonderfully welcoming you the people of Horseheads have been to Marcy and me. Thank you! I am enjoying getting to know our members and have been excited to lead worship at the Methodist church as we combined services in August.

That said, I am looking forward to returning to our regular worship time (10:30am) and worshipping in our sanctuary, as I am still learning the routines and traditions of the church.

This summer we passed a couple of important milestones. Our music director, Dan LaBar, celebrated his tenth year at the church. Congratulations Dan! The church also celebrated eight years of hosting the monthly free community dinner. Amazing! What a gift you have provided to our many neighbors. Special thanks to Jan Stillman and Gayle Howard for their leadership, and the many hands, including our friends from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, that make this ministry a success each month.

The book of James calls upon people of faith to be, "*doers of the word* (1:22)." I think of this small clipping of scripture and am thankful for our many ministries and commitments – music, community dinner, pre-school, food pantry. The list could go on.

Jesus taught his disciples that the life of faith was a life of action. Doing for others. Loving neighbors. Working for justice. Having taught them these things, shown them these things, Jesus sent the disciples out into the world to "DO" his work – to continue the change that he had begun. They returned to him and he continued to teach them. Ultimately, the disciples were left to continue his work on their own. They were empowered to do his work. Within the Presbyterian Tradition we use a phrase, "the priesthood of all believers." It means that each of us who follow Jesus, who seek to know God, is empowered to continue the work of those disciples, and ultimately of Jesus himself. We are the ones called to "*be doers of the word.*" We are called to enact change, to embody his ministry.

On September 8th we are hosting an Open House for the community, from noon to 2:00pm. Following worship, we will welcome guests from the community into the building to see what we're up to. I look forward to spending time with our members and getting to know these neighbors. Additionally, this is a great opportunity for each of us to reflect on what we are already *doing* as God's people in Horseheads. I hope you can join us on September 8th, and as you are reminded of our numerous involvements, I invite you to ponder what new thing God is calling us to that will benefit the community.

In Christ,

Aaron

WORDS FROM WORSHIP

As always, it seems like the summer has gone by too quickly. Because of that, here are a few reminders to add to your calendar.

1. On Sunday, September 1, 2019 the worship service goes back to the 10:30 AM starting time.
2. September 1, 2019 falls on Labor Day weekend. Normally we have Communion on the first Sunday of the month, but since this falls at the end of summer and is a holiday weekend, the decision was made to postpone Communion until the following Sunday, which is September 8, 2019.
3. The second Sunday in September is being designated “Welcome Back Sunday”, so please plan to join us Sunday, September 8.
4. One other date to be aware of is Sunday, October 6, 2019. This is World Communion Sunday.



	LAY READER	HEAD USHER	Coffee Hour
1st	Allen Oldfield	Guy Stillman	Deacons
8th	Marty Oldfield	Joe Matejka	B&G / Mission
15th	Ellen Benedict	Jim McIntosh	Community Meal
22nd	Doug Cotton	Doug Day	Christian Discipleship
29th	Jan Stillman	Guy Stillman	Session

