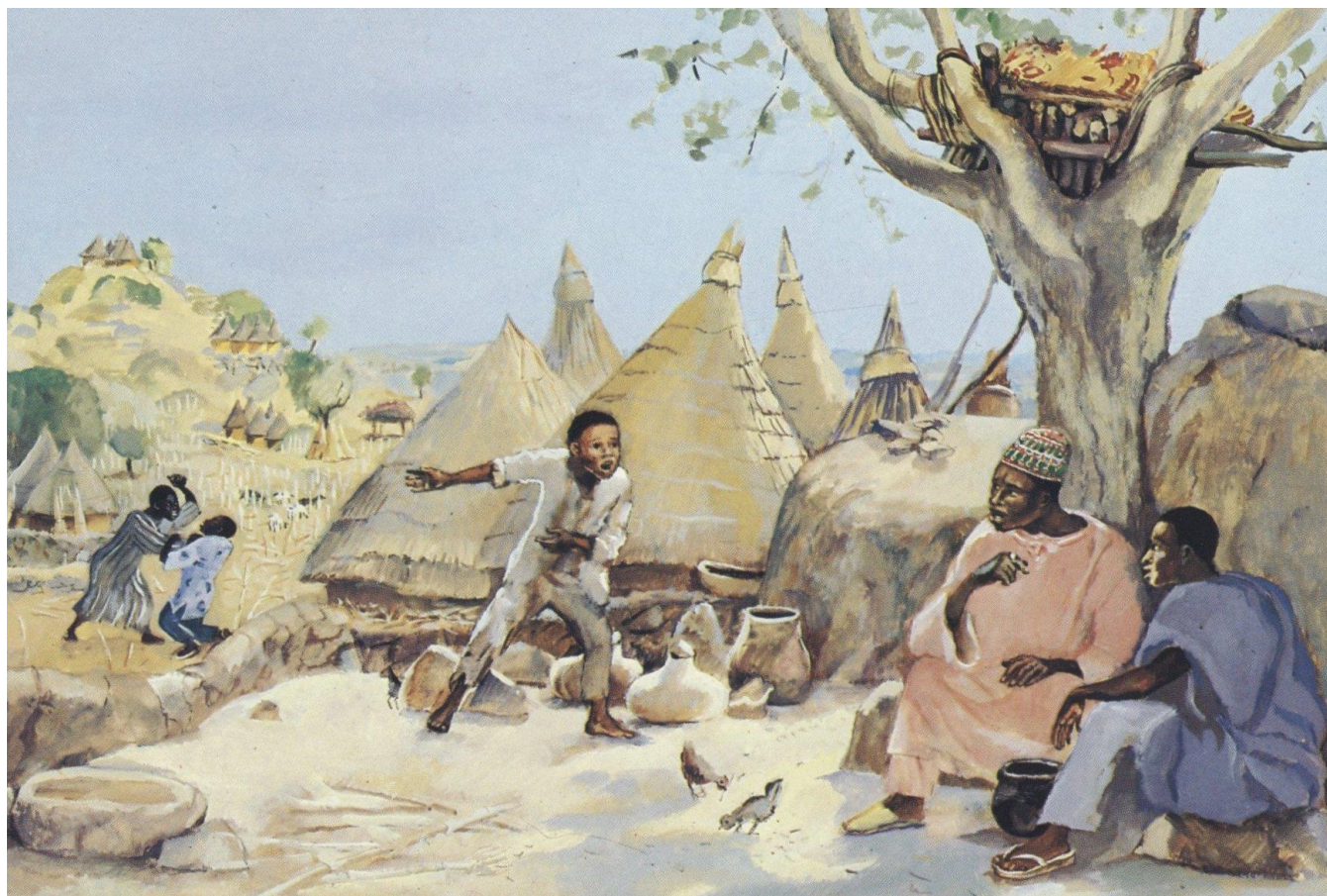




First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 17th, 2023



Our Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church of Northport is a welcoming community that invites all people to learn about and respond to the Word of God as found in the Old and New Testaments. Our mission is to be shaped by, proclaim, and live out the good news of Jesus Christ. We are committed to supporting the spiritual development of our congregation by feeding the spiritually and physically hungry, caring for the sick and lonely, nurturing children, and reaching out to those in need in our local and global communities.

FOUNDED 1785

WELCOME TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHPORT

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you with us. We bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we worship together as one. In our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning -- a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God. We hope you will experience some of the love and warmth of this caring community of faith. Welcome! We're glad you're here!

Rachel Vione, Pastor

- Please let us know of your presence by joining our members in signing our Friendship Pad (blue folder in pew).
- If you have any questions about our church, please ask our greeters and ushers (the folks who handed you a bulletin) or visit our website www.fpcnorthport.org.
- Nursery care is provided each Sunday at our 10:00 am worship service, if you need help please ask an usher.
- Parents of young children are invited to pick up a children's worship bag hanging on the wall in the narthex (entryway).
- Everyone is invited to gather immediately after worship for conversation in the Hartt Room.

HOW TO CONNECT

- Come to worship—we're here every week!
- Watch our LiveStream on our YouTube Channel - www.youtube.com/@fpcnorthport
- Follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/fpcnorthport
- Join the church!
- Find the most current information on our website (www.fpcnorthport.org).

Today in Worship

In order that we might give our full attention to God during worship, we request that you turn off, or turn to silent mode, all cell phones and pagers and that no flash photography be taken.

About Today's Cover Art: "The Unforgiving Servant" - JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. In this dramatic depiction of the parable of the unforgiving servant, the viewer is thrust into the middle of the narrative. In the background, we see an unforgiving servant demanding from another a debt he is owed. The forgiving lord is being told of the vengeful nature of one of the servants upon whom he had mercy. The faces of the messenger and lord display shock and anger at the forgiven servant's lack of compassion. Undoubtedly, the viewer is inspired to feel similar levels of indignation. From this parable and painting, we should be reminded that a merciful heart is one that mirrors God's.

Cover Art JESUS MAFA. The Unforgiving Servant, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48396> [retrieved September 13, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr>

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2023

16th Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

~We Gather in God's Name~

*The service of worship begins with the music of the prelude.
Through its power and brilliance, may you feel the majesty and glory of God;
in its quietness, God's peace.*

PRELUDE "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" Dr. Brenda Clark
D. Wood

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Rachel Vione

MINUTE FOR MISSION "Blood Drive" Deacon Robert Spiller

CHORAL INTROIT "O Thou Who Hearest Every Heartfelt Prayer" F. Atkinson
Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) from Psalm 103:1-4

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

Bless God's holy name.

God forgives. God heals. Gods transforms with steadfast love.

Bless God's holy name.

*HYMN NO. 409, vs. 1&4 "God Is Here!" ABBOT'S LEIGH

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

SILENT PRAYERS

(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Indicates the congregation is invited to stand

Please be aware that the broadcasted service may include images and video of people in the sanctuary who are present for the service.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Glory Be to the Father”

Hymn No. 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

~We Hear God’s Word~

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Deacon Jeannie O’Brien
(p. 2, pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND PRAYER

5th grade and younger gather on the chancel steps

After the message, children are invited to attend Sunday school classes on the lower level of the church.

HYMN NO. 435

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

IN BABILONE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

(p. 20, pew Bible)

SERMON

“Letting the Ending Surprise You”

Rev. Rachel Vione

~We Respond As God’s People~

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

from A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn No. 1, v. 1

NICEA

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF RULING ELDERS AND DEACONS

Elders:

Melissa Barasch, Dennis Crowley, *Frank Dentrone, Marilyn Fox, Kim Gilbert

Deacons:

Jim Beyer, *Janeen Crowley, *Helene Dunat, Tim Gladding, Robin O'Neil Gonzalez, Bob Spiller

There are different gifts,

But it is the same spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

But it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through different people in different ways.

But it is the same God who achieves his purpose through them all.

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit.

To use it for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ.

And individually members of him.

Though we have different gifts, together we are a ministry of reconciliation led by the risen Christ.

Just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve,

and to give his life to set others free.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

*Indicates Officer to be ordained

OFFERING

Please scan the QR Code on the back page

OFFERTORY

“Lord, Here Am I”
Chancel Choir

J. N. Beck

*DOXOLOGY NO. 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us,
to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the Head of the church and
the Lord of our lives. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

- *HYMN NO. 69 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" HERE I AM

- *BENEDICTION

- *CHORAL BENEDICTION "Peace I Leave You" R. Repp

- *POSTLUDE "Largo" from "Violin Sonata, Op. 5, No. 8" A. Corelli

Following the benediction, the congregation is invited to depart the sanctuary for coffee hour.

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**Prayers**

June VonVange (family member of The Michels), Danny Digennaro (friend of the Mercer family), Scott J. Andersen (friend of the Mercer family), The Nathan Family (friend of Tom Sundquist), Greg Farrell (Kathy Landi's friend), Sharon Anderson (friend of the Dickmans), Joe Winkler, Mike Rowley (friend of the Newmans), Justin Yoskowitz, Brian Brewer (Faustine White's son), **the family of:** Aaron Thomas (Tiffany's husband), Edward Pedersen (Jeanne Meyer's brother), Aileen Horton (Diane Lobaugh's friend from England), Grandma Rose (Kristine Blane's grandmother), Brian Murphy (Kristine Blane's stepfather), **those in Healthcare facilities** – St. Catherine of Siena Nursing & Rehabilitation Center: Ann Deery, **our partner congregations:** Nueva Paz, Cuba and Iglesia Evangelica Presbiteriana Nueva Vida, Malverne; the Presbytery of Long Island and its staff; the Synod of the Northeast, the Presbyterian Church (USA), its Louisville staff, its missionaries worldwide

## Announcements

**Ordination & Installation of Officers.** Today, we will be ordaining and installing those called by God to serve as Ruling Elders and Deacons this year. The questions we ask of them, our promises of support, and the laying on of hands (by those with whom they will serve and those who have come before them), are powerful reminders of the great trust and authority given to our church leaders.

**Sunday School Classes Meet Today!** Following the Children's Message, all children are invited to attend Sunday School on the lower level. Nursery care is provided in the nursery on the lower level.

**Adult Education is back!** – Starting today, September 17th, Adult Christian Education will meet in the Library at 9 am before church each Sunday. We are beginning with a series called "Half Truths" by Adam Hamilton which is 5 short video sessions that explore common sayings attributed to the bible and whether they capture the truth intended in the bible text. We will discuss the impact that they have on our interactions with each other and with God. Please join us for coffee, conversation and to endeavor to find a better understanding of our relationship to the bible, each other, and God. Any questions, contact Cathy Coleman at 631 266 3020.

**Chancel Choir will be rehearsing on Thursdays at 7:30 pm.** We are looking for new members to join in singing with our FPC Chancel Choir this year. Maybe you haven't sung since high school, maybe you listen and enjoy singing from the seats in the congregation, maybe you are looking for a way to deepen your connection with God. Singing with the FPC Chancel Choir could be just what you need to fill your spiritual cup! We would love for you to join us at our rehearsals, along with our returning members, on Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the choir room (lower level) with Colleen Agovino and Brenda Clark!

**Sign Up to be a Liturgist** – The Sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Hartt Room.

**Help is needed with our livestream!** We need volunteers to run our livestream equipment on Sunday mornings. Our livestream services have become an important ministry here at FPC and we would like to continue to offer this option to those who cannot worship with us in person. Training will be provided. Please contact Kevin McKerr if you can help.

**Please continue to support the church by fulfilling your 2023 pledge.** As we approach the fourth quarter of 2023, please be sure to fulfill (or begin), your 2023 pledge to the church. Thank you!

**Deacon Blood Drive – Thursday, September 28** from 1-7 pm at St. Philip Neri, 15 Prospect Ave., Northport

**Pioneers will meet on Wednesday, September 27** – Senior adults are invited to join our Pioneers for fellowship, fun, chapel, and lunch at 10:00 in the Hartt Room.

**Thank you!** To all who donated school supplies for those in need. The backpacks and supplies were given to children and families from YDA and our Food Pantry clients.

**Daily Devotions "These Days"** – The new issue of "These Days" for October - December has arrived. Copies are available in the Hartt Room.

**Presbyterian Women's (PW) Book Discussion Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** – Please put the next PW book discussion on your calendar to talk about "The Pull of the Stars" by Emma Donoghue. The discussion will be held at the home of Christine Spiller on Tuesday, September 19 at 10 am. Please call Christine at 631-757-8167 to let her know if you are joining in. The book talks are great!

**Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast** – Each week the Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast Group meets at 8:15 AM in Greenlawn Family Restaurant or Northport Park. All men of the church are invited to join in! For more information, please email Deacon Tim Gladding at [emgeetd@aol.com](mailto:emgeetd@aol.com)

## Contact Information

### Church Office

330 Main St., Northport, NY 11768

Phone: (631) 261-6434

Email: [office@fpcnorthport.org](mailto:office@fpcnorthport.org)

Website: [www.fpcnorthport.org](http://www.fpcnorthport.org)

 [www.facebook.com/fpcnorthport](https://www.facebook.com/fpcnorthport)

### Ecumenical Lay Council Food Pantry

Phone: (631) 261-4357

### Weekday Nursery School

Phone: (631) 757-1342

Email: [info@weekdaynorthport.com](mailto:info@weekdaynorthport.com)

Website: [www.weekdaynorthport.com](http://www.weekdaynorthport.com)

 [www.facebook.com/weekdaynorthport](https://www.facebook.com/weekdaynorthport)

To sign up for the church email list send  
your email address to:  
[office@fpcnorthport.org](mailto:office@fpcnorthport.org)

## The Staff of The First Presbyterian Church of Northport

Rachel Vione

*Pastor*

Colleen Agovino

*Chancel Choir Director*

Brenda Clark

*Director of Music & Organist*

John Kennedy

*Facilities Manager*

Kevin McKerr

*Finance and IT Manager*

Michelle Micucci

*Director of Weekday Nursery School*

Karen Twitchell

*Office Administrator*



Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the church.  
The network name is FPCN\_Guest  
The password for the guest network is Hartt330

## Session

Marcia Mercer (Clerk of Session), Melissa Barasch,  
Pat Bell, Melissa Beyer, Cathy Coleman, Dennis  
Crowley, Frank Dentrone, Vicki Field, Marilyn Fox,  
Kim Gilbert, Susanne Haffner, William Heuer,  
Cindy Mies, Diana Montusi, David Ofsharick, Anita  
D'Amico Stambouly

## Deacons

Jim Beyer, Janeen Crowley, Helene Dunat, Sue  
Ebert, Jack Fink, Tim Gladding, Carolyn Louis  
(co-moderator), Krista Mellinger-DeRoma, Jeannie  
O'Brien (co-moderator), Robin O'Neil Gonzalez,  
Jeannie Reed, Robert Spiller, Pegge Stella,  
Marjorie Sundquist, Tiffany Thomas

## Give Online



## Pay Your 2023 Per-Capita \$38.95 per member

