

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WASHINGTONVILLE

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025

Baptism
of the Lord

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Welcome to worship!

We praise God for everyone who joins us in worshipping this weekend.

It is a blessing to worship God as part of a community of faith.

öThe Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.ö

Psalm 29:11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Psalm 29:1-3, 11

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

People: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

People: May the Lord give strength to His people!

May the Lord bless His people with peace!

*PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

Lord God, we praise You for the many ways You connect Yourself with us. Jesus, we praise You for submitting Yourself to be baptized, as we do. Holy Spirit, we praise You for showing Yourself as a dove that day for the sake of the eyewitnesses. Father, we thank You for speaking in Your own voice when Jesus was baptized. Today, O Trinity, give us grace to recognize Your presence in our worship and Communion. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN #71

öPraise to the Lord, the Almightyö

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, You have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and the distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and the needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may live into the promise of our baptism and trust You in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE AND FORGIVENESS (responsive) Romans 8:34, 2 Corinthians 5:17 para.

Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

People: **Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.**

Leader: Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

Avery & Marsh

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

WE HEAR THE WORD PROCLAIMED

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:1-7 Pew Bible p. 585

SECOND READING Acts 8:14-17 Pew Bible p. 892

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S TIME

Prayer requests will be collected following The Children's Time

*GOSPEL READING Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 Pew Bible p. 834

MEDITATION Rev. Martha Carlson

WE RESPOND TO GOD

*HYMN #66 *ō*To God Be the Glory*ö*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison) [C67-9.08]

We believe that in Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among His own people and shared human needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. In giving Himself for them, He took upon Himself the judgment under which all people

stand convicted. We believe that God raised Him from the dead, vindicating Him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK ARE: the victims and their families of the terrorist attack in New Orleans, all the people suffering in the Middle East, the people of Ukraine, Amanda, Anne, Bruce R., Debra V.'s mother, Donnie S., Edd C., FPCW, family & friends of Jill F., Jim P., rest in peace President Jimmy Carter, Joe M., Claire & Jack, Karen J.'s grandson, Kathy D., Kaye B., Kim & Mike N., Linda R., Mary N., Martha B., Nancy B., Nancy P., Natalie C., Peggy W., the family of Robin N., Ron & Maribeth, Sabine P., nurses & caregivers of Sonya H. in Hospice, Sue H., Sue R.- in hospice care, Zacharyeus B., the family of Zachary C., and the men and women in our Armed Forces, especially Marine Riley Bray-Jones, Ashley Sabo-National Guard, Ben Clark-U.S. Navy, SSG Michael Grounds, LC Michael Haub, Airman Frank Terry-Air Force. Also in our prayers this week are: First Church Beacon, First Church Bedford, Ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (1/18).

THE OFFERING

It is important that we offer ourselves to God, with or without the physical symbols of offering, because it is in the using of our gifts that we serve God.

Financial offerings may be mailed to the church. The church's mailing address is 30 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville NY 10992.

*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER FOR DEDICATION (unison)

Lord of all, we thank You for the grace and mercy You give us in Your church, where You save us in many ways and grant us community with each other and with You. Here we offer to You not only our tithes and offerings, but also ourselves in Your service, in Your Son's name. Amen.

WE TAKE GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING HYMN #411

öHow Firm a Foundationö

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Please be seated for the postlude.

POSTLUDE

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

What does Isaiah say that God is asking the Israelites not to do? Why not?

When will God be with the Israelites?

Think about Isaiah saying that God gives people in ransom for other people.

How do Isaiah's promises from God apply to us? How do they warn us?

What did Peter and John do in Samaria? Why? What was the result?

How is this story good news for us?

What did people wonder about John the Baptist?

What was John the Baptist preaching about the Messiah?

Do you think Jesus fulfills John's expectations?
Why do you think Jesus was baptized?
What happened when Jesus was baptized?
How is Jesus's baptism good news for us?

Join the people who are reading the Bible-in-a-year readings. This week's Bible readings are:
Sunday: Genesis 27-29; Monday: Genesis 30-32; Tuesday: Genesis 33-36; Wednesday: Genesis 37-39;
Thursday: Genesis 40-42; Friday: Genesis 43-46; Saturday: Genesis 47-50.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Choices to communicate PRAYER NEEDS:

1. Send your prayer requests to Lois via email: lmbd9999@gmail.com. There are currently 42 persons in our e-Prayer Circle who are notified of prayer requests. Cynthia will add names from e-prayer requests to the weekly prayer list.
2. During Sunday worship services, fill out a prayer request card or verbalize your request at prayer time. The cards will be collected immediately following The Children's Time. God does hear and answer our prayers! Thank you, God!
Prayer requests from worship services and from e-Prayer Circle will be put on our weekly prayer list and remain on the list for 30 days, unless requested otherwise.

Snow Cancellation – Our church cancellation policy during the winter months is to evaluate weather conditions on a case by case basis to determine if church closure is advisable for the safety of our congregation. The church's answering machine will have a message about closure. Our website will have a special notice on the front page. A group email will be sent and phone calls will be made to members of our congregation who do not have computers or do email.

Office hours: Tuesday 3:00-5:00.

Call the manse phone any time at 845-614-0048, or email Martha at revmpc86@yahoo.com or text Martha at 845-260-2273.

The church office (845-496-3814)

will be open only as needed until further notice.

Messages left on the answering machine and emails sent to fpcwashingtonville@gmail.com will be checked regularly.

The church's mailing address is 30 Goshen Avenue, Washingtonville NY 10992.

The church's website is fpcw.makeswebsites.com

The church Facebook page is First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville.

Questions, comments, discussion group on Facebook is
Washingtonville First Presbyterian Church.