

Welcome to Western
Presbyterian Church

WESTERN SPIRE

AUGUST 2025

Some suggest that church websites fail to intrigue and engage visitors because there are many other tools, such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, available to connect with people. In fact, it is more costly and requires constant effort to keep the website updated and relevant than other social media platforms. However, I don't think it is an either/or approach. Instead, it is a both/and strategy to have a new church website which complements our Facebook page to ensure more intriguing and effective communication with new visitors as well as existing members. I appreciate that the financial committee agreed to support this project.

While some leaders of WPC are working on developing a new church website, I would like to share my draft of the pastor's welcome message with you for your input. This message will be featured under the "About Us" in the main menu and describes who we are. Your careful reading and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Welcome to Western Presbyterian Church in Palmyra, NY. We are glad you have visited the website of this loving, inclusive and faithful congregation. There should be many ways to help your faith in God grow, but I believe you will discover many thoughtful and sincere Christians that try to manifest the beautiful kingdom of God in and through this church.

By living the faith in Jesus Christ boldly and loving everyone fearlessly, Western Presbyterian Church is committed to creating a safe space for anyone to participate fully in the life of the faith community without any human boundaries. We respect and tolerate a wide variety of voices, yet we find our coherence in the confession that "Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior of the world and the way of life we are called to follow."

If you are looking for a church that proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ and that welcomes you as you are, we might be the church you are looking for. You are also invited to bring your own ideas to contribute to making this community more flexible, more adaptable, and more available for serving the members and broader communities in an ever-changing world. Faith is a lifelong journey, but it is the only trip worth taking. Come and take the journey together with us.

We are a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the largest Presbyterian denomination in the nation, whose presence in the U.S. traces back to the early 1700s. As the central motto of the Reformed tradition said, "Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda" in Latin, which is translated as, "The church reformed, always reforming," the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a part of the Reformed tradition always strives to align itself closely with God's Word and to respond to the ongoing needs of the world."

Peace of Christ,
Rev. Hodong Hwang



Thanks to everyone who made, baked, and sold pies for **Family Promise of Wayne County**. As of July 13th, we have made over \$300.

Success Rate – 54 of 62 – 87% (73 adults and 149 children) of entering sheltered families have graduated from the program since we opened our doors to the first family on October 20, 2018. Our Roof Over Their Heads (ROTH) program started in August of 2021 and has since provided one-time financial assistance to 198 families as of March 14th. That is 226 adults and 435 children.

There is currently 1 family in shelter in Newark.

Family Promise asks you to make a commitment to financially support Family Promise on an annual, semiannual or monthly basis. Donations can be made by credit or debit card or PayPal by going to <https://www.fpwayneny.org/donate> or by check sent to:

Family Promise of Wayne County, New York, Inc.

P.O. Box 165

Newark, New York 14513

Need more information?

You can view our website at: info@fpwayneny.org

Or contact:

Evonne Pomerantz, Executive Director at the above address or

call her at (315)-665-0037.



1,000 boxes of Cereal in memory of Lois Daniels' mission work.



As of July 13th, we have collected 410 boxes.

Half have been given to the Food Pantry,
and half have been put in the Food Cupboard.

VBS will be collecting cereal and taken to fill the Food Pantry shelves.

Thanks to all who have donated to our neighbors who
live with Food Insecurity.

We are nearly halfway to our Goal.

A Message from the Worship Team:

We are looking for additional people to assist with our worship services such as ushers and/or liturgists. Are you interested? Or perhaps you might be interested, but you need more information. We would be happy to give you the information you need and to team you up with someone who would assist you.

And you might be wondering about the scheduling. It is done on a rotation, and we can make changes if your scheduled date does not work for you.

If you are interested or if you have questions, please contact Sue Leonard at 585-734-4027 or seleonard2003@yahoo.com. Thank you.



Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards and support, following our daughter in law, Katherine's death. It was wonderful to receive so many blessings.

Don and Ruth Dantz



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 2	Dona Kadlecik
August 4	Samantha Teeter
August 6	Beverly Mouton
August 7	Janet Barager
August 21	John Kadlecik
August 21	Anita Adams
August 21	Sharon Marr
August 23	Rena Haigh
August 25	Patti Squier



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 1	Morris & Tricia Owen
August 4	Michael & Jan Semans
August 26	Ray & Sharon Marr
August 28	Bill & Sara Bush

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time!

The team minutes received for August include:

WPC Christian Education Team

Minutes July 1, 2025

Building Faith, Family, and Fellowship. WPC nurtures spiritual growth, joyful fellowship, meaningful community, and global involvement: worshiping and serving God with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

Present: Jody Pruitt, Emily Hunt, Cim McFarlane, Lisa Premyslovsky

In Spirit: Ellen Avery, Pastor Hodong

Upcoming Events:

July 28- August 1- VBS

September 28- Back to Sunday School Breakfast

October 5- First Day of Sunday School

TBA Friday in October- Bible Trivia Night with Fellowship Team

November 9- Christmas Card Making

November 30- No Sunday School Thanksgiving Break

December 28- No Sunday School Christmas Break

January 4- Youth Epiphany Service

January 18- Valentine Card Making

February 22- No Sunday School- February Break

March 1- Easter Card Making and Bulletin Making

March 29- Palm Sunday Parade

April 5- No Sunday School Easter

May 31- Youth Service, Last Day of Sunday School

July 27-31- 2026 VBS

Continuing and New Business

VBS- We are still in need of volunteers- both school age groups need an adult leader and kitchen helpers. Emily will announce at church on Sunday. We discussed the following VBS related items:

-the ice cream truck- Nani's will come on 7/30 at 11:45- we discussed the possibility of using the WPC credit card to pay for the ice cream- Emily reached out to Val to find out if that is possible and we have permission to use the church's credit card.

-cereal drive- we will have the kids deliver boxes of cereal to the food pantry on Friday- we will need wagons and possible police escort across the street.

-because we will deliver the boxes of cereal on Friday, we will have a condensed schedule on Friday.

-Cim sent out 51 invitations/registration forms.

-we discussed the location of the flag donated by the Squires-front of the church by the steps or near the parking lot? Which is better?

-the volunteer shirts are here!

-Jody will assemble the lanyards.

- Bible buddies and God sightings are ready.
- Courtney suggested doing PR for VBS during farmers market on Sunday mornings. Cim will look for small flyers from bunny breakfast.
- Lisa will send a check from PRC for their donation.

Sunday School News- We created our 2025-2026 calendar- see above

Camp Whitman- Max McKinney was awarded a Robert D. Gunkler Camp Scholarship to attend Camp Whitman. Congratulations to Max!

Nursery- We drafted the job posting and job description for the possible nursery staff member.

Next meeting: August 8 at 7:00 or September 1 if August is not needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Hunt

PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM - MINUTES

April 16, 2025
WPC

Present: Phil Opdycke, James McFarlane, Gary LaBerge, and Don Dantz

1. The meeting started with a prayer.
2. Gary presented the lease as reviewed by the lawyer. The committee reviewed it. A copy was sent to Janet and discussed with Bruce Chapman.
3. We talked briefly about the planning of an electronic sign on the front right of the church. Phil will plant the seed. Depending on the design, anything from \$6,000 to \$12,000. The \$20,000 is made of brick.
4. The hot water boiler pump is not functioning. Gary will call for Emcor assistance.
5. There were several times that the fire detection system reported last week. We need 2 phones, and the phone line is still pushing some interference. It could be all sorts of loose wires. So, we will look into it.
6. We will contact Emily, our cleaner, and decide on times for the semiannual cleaning dates.
7. The display on the new hot water boiler has failed, so Emcor will be contacted to fix the screen. It was hoped we could fix it in the summer. They stated a cost of \$2,720 to replace it.
8. Gary reported that he built four shelves and put up a door for the CE closet. Phil will paint the shelves.
9. Gary will purchase more plastic tubs for storage. Cost for the construction is about \$650.
10. We will contact K & D disposal to change the garbage dumpster to a larger garbage dumpster because of VBS and then leading into Little Froggies. It is once a week.
11. Steve Kennard installed a new clock that runs the front porch door light. Gary found two new ones. Steve swapped one of them out.
12. The committee is seeking Session permission to dispose of the seventy year-old organ that is in the Mary Griffith room. Jack says it does not work. Disposal TBD.
13. We received the HDMI extender system package. James tried to get it started, and it didn't work.
14. We are looking into putting in a new ball valve to replace the old water intake. First, we had to find where it was. It is located in the organ pump room.

Respectfully submitted by Phil Opdycke

PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM - MINUTES

May 29, 2025
WPC

Present: Phil Opdycke, James McFarlane, and Gary LaBerge

Excused: Don Dantz

The meeting started with a prayer at 6:40 pm.

1. James is still working on the basement TV. It still does not work from the set-up station.
2. Last Wednesday, the building inspector for insurance purposes checked out the church and was suitably impressed.
3. On 4/25, the hot water pump was replaced by Emcor.
4. Phil painted the shelving in the CE storage room.
5. Gary seeks permission to purchase 10 clear tubs for more storage.
The music room's new storage was built by Gary.
6. Larry is to be paid \$50 for the mowing and grass trimming for fuel, equipment, and time.
7. Gary met with the lawyer, John Morrell, about Little Froggie's lease.
8. The parking lot needs to have the joint resealed and out front a little more resealing and then restriped sometime this summer.
10. The property committee is looking into a new electronic sign for the front of the church.
11. This will require the removal of one of the sycamores. It will be in the viewing way and its size is closely encroaching on the church.
12. Inquiring into getting a larger dumpster so that it will cover the Little Froggies, VBS, and church use.

Respectfully submitted by Phil Opdycke

Our Prayer Concerns (updated July 16, 2025)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Jeanne Gendron (requested by Terry & Valerie Gendron)

Family & Friends of Ronald G. Williams (requested by Kathy Barr)

Family & Friends of Katherine Dantz (requested by the Deacons)

Serving in the Armed Forces:

AJ Bliss, Josh Polle

Please pray for those of our congregation with immediate concerns:

Ellen Avery, Joan Barnard, Bob Dardenne, Deb Dardenne, Joan Durfey, Frank Lawrence, Bentley Matz, Tricia Owen, Wilma Redman, Patti Squier

Congregation members needed continued prayers:

Irene Fadden, Pam Gnagy, Cim McFarlane, Jody Pruitt, Nancy Roets, Jan Semans

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton, David Squier

Others for whom prayers have been requested:

Sarah Carone, Ted & Nancy Elsenheimer, Mark Fiegl, Joan Griswold, Don Hagen, Janet Haigh, Russell Harris, Jerry Locey, Laurie Loomis, Iris McConnell, Luke Medina & family, Megan Melville, Sharyl Patton, Kate Pfaff, Earl Pringle, Patty Rogers, Jack Sweeney, Andy Umreiko, Donna Wirth, Ruth Yeo

May your prayers go out to:

All caregivers; All those affected by natural disasters; All those who have no one to pray for them; All victims of violence, hatred and hunger; Please pray for those that wish to remain anonymous

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Ryan & Ashley Lawrence on the birth of their son Jacob Banner Lawrence on July 12 weighing 6 lbs. 4 oz. Jacob is the great grandson of Frank & Bron Lawrence.

Names will remain on the prayer list for 30 days unless renewal has been requested.

Prayers of Intercession are offered each day by our Deacons. To request prayer for yourself or another, please contact Randy Kennard, chair of Deacons, Sandy McMenamin, or Kathy in the Church office.



AUGUST 2025

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1 9 – 11:30 am VBS	2
3 8 th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am worship service	4	5 10 am Deacons 3 pm Fellowship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Session	6	7 9:30 am Mission/ Social Concerns	8	9
10 Communion & Cereal Sunday 10 am worship service	11 9 am to 8 pm FH Scrapbook Crop	12 9 am to 7 pm FH Scrapbook Crop 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	13 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	14	15	16
17 10 th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am worship service	18	19 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	20 6:30 pm Property	21	22	23
24 11 th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am worship service	25	26 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	27	28	29	30
31 12 th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am worship service Potluck Luncheon						



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 10 am Deacons 1 pm Men's Group 3 pm Fellowship 7 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	3	4 11 am Bible Study	5	6
7 13 th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group	8	9 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christin Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	10 7 pm FH Boy Scouts	11 11 am Bible Study	12	13
14 Communion & Cereal Sunday 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group	15	16 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	17 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	18 11 am Bible Study	19	20
21 15 th Sunday after Pentecost 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group	22	23 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	24	25 11 am Bible Study	26	27
28 16 th Sunday after Pentecost Back to Sunday School Breakfast 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group	29	30 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room				