

Dear Families:

Welcome back! We at First Presbyterian Church hope that you had a wonderful summer, full of family time and outdoor fun! We are ready to get back into a new school year at home as well as at church!

This morning, we had our welcome back breakfast. We usually gather as a family once a month for a meal; starting in October it will be the 2nd Sunday of the month after worship. The students love to help prepare a treat for this dinner, so we could really use your help on those Sundays. The youth here do other things that contribute to the church as well: participate in communion (usually the first Sunday of the month), help collect money for the Olean Food Pantry with our Noisy Can loose change collection (every 4th Sunday), light candles before and after worship, and hold various fundraisers throughout the year. Currently, we have a mini-rummage sale set up in Fellowship Hall. It will feature fall items/holidays. If you have any items to donate, we would appreciate the help!

In our first class today, we focused on the Gospel of Matthew. In this gospel, Peter asks Jesus a question about forgiveness. He asks Jesus how many times we should forgive someone who wrongs us. Jesus says 77 times! (Some translations say “70 times 7!”) In other words- a lot. And repeatedly! Jesus tells a parable to explain this. In His story, a man owed a LOT of money to a king. He didn’t have it. The king threatened to sell the man and his whole family into slavery as repayment. The man cried and fell at the king’s feet and begged for mercy. The king forgave his debt and let him go. The man left and went to visit a friend who owed him money. He also could not pay, but the man did not show mercy. He put his friend in jail. When the king heard this, he changed his mind. He threw the man in jail because he did not show mercy like the king had shown him. So, we must show mercy to others, just as Jesus shows mercy to us as we break His rules daily!

Thank you for joining us today!

Carol McClellan

CE Director