

BOTTLED WATER OVERTURE

The First Presbyterian Church of Port Jervis and the White Plains Presbyterian Church offer the following motion to the Presbytery of Hudson River:

1. That the Presbytery of the Hudson River serve tap water, if safe, instead of bottled water at all locations and gatherings of the presbytery;
2. That the Presbytery encourage all member congregations to refrain from serving bottled water at meetings, meals, and other gatherings of the congregation;
3. That all member churches request their members to stop using bottled water and educate them on the environmental impact of doing so.
4. That if this policy is adopted, the Stated Clerk be asked to notify all member clergy and congregations, and to add request 1 (above) to the guidelines to prepare for presbytery meetings.

Rationale: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all. (Ps. 104:24) You have made springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal...From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. (Ps. 104:10, 13) Think of it this way: we are servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. (I Cor. 4:1)

1. *More than 75% of plastic bottles end up in landfills or the ocean.*
2. *There are five massive patches of plastic in the oceans around the world. These concentrations of plastic debris cover large swaths of ocean; the one between California and Hawaii is the size of the state of Texas.*
3. *Much of bottled water is simply tap water.*
4. *The U.S. EPA sets more stringent standards for tap water than the FDA does for bottled beverages.*
5. *Bottled water corporations have depleted aquifers in rural areas.*
6. *Millions of barrels of oil are used each year to produce and transport bottled water. It is imperative that we reduce non-essential uses of oil.*
7. *"Humans are making excessive demands upon and doing reckless damage to lakes, streams, and groundwater.... Meanwhile most Third World nations cannot afford the systems that would produce safe drinking water.... [Christians] must practice wise, humble, responsible stewardship after the model of servanthood that we have in Jesus." -"Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice" - PCUSA General Assembly 1990*