

First Presbyterian Church
60 East Main Street
Oyster Bay, NY 11771



MISSION STATEMENT

With doors wide open, we welcome all to come and discover how God's love in Christ connects us more deeply with each other, our community, the world and with God.

With arms wide open, we welcome all who are looking for something more, who have questions, who want to make a difference as they learn, serve and reach out in word and deed.

With hearts wide open, we welcome you.

~ Open Doors - Open Arms - Open Hearts ~

The Presbyterian Times

60 East Main Street, Oyster Bay, New York 11771

The Reverend Dr. Jeffrey D. Prey, Pastor

January 2025



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

60 East Main Street

Oyster Bay, New York 11771-2411

PHONE: (516)922-5477 FAX: (516)922-5496

E-mail: officefpcob@optonline.net

Web Site: www.oysterbaypresbyterian.org

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ministers	The People of God
Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Drew Prey
Administrator	Cristina Harrison
Organist/Choir Director	Jessica Chen
Custodian	Manuel Denegri

OFFICERS

Clerk of Session	Cathy Hogg
President, Board of Trustees	Jerry Lalonde
Moderator, Board of Deacons	Pat Azmitia
Secretary of Deacons	David Harrison
Treasurer	Kristine Lalonde
Sunday School Superintendent	Cristina Harrison

SESSION

George Baker	Church Support, House
Catherine Ceballos	Mission
Selina Collier	House
Heather Franciotti	Worship
Isa Gutierrez	Christian Education
Christopher Hogg	Membership & Outreach
Deborah Hudak	Church Support
Richard Kveton	Church Support
Jerry Lalonde	Worship
Jennifer Newitt	Membership & Outreach
Dan O'Hare	Christian Education
Mia Ramirez	

BOARD OF DEACONS

Pat Azmitia	Ushers
Catherine Berg	Helping Hands
Barbara Catalano	Audiovisual
David Harrison	Sanctuary Care
Joan Kingsley	Outreach
Kristine Lalonde	Special Events, Kitchen Care
Janet LaRotonda	Coffee Hour
Gilbert Lim	Outreach
Janice Longworth	
Jill Mason	
Scott Powell	
Edna Standerwick	Coffee Hour
Steve Wasilchuk	Outreach

MINISTRIES

Pastoral Care and Visiting (Holy Communion, prayer, spiritual counsel...): Jeff wants you to know that he is available for you when needed. When you would like to share some time in Christian conversation and prayer with the pastor, please let him know. Jeff would welcome a visit with you.

Church Membership: If you are a newcomer to First Presbyterian Church, you are invited to consider church membership. Jeff welcomes the opportunity to receive you in Christian friendship. Please let him know when considering membership at the First Presbyterian.

The Presbyterian Times is a monthly publication (except in August) of the First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay, New York. Items for inclusion should be received in the church office no later than the 20th of the month. All articles are welcome, but may be edited for length and content.

Editor & Publisher: Cristina Harrison

FROM JEFF'S DESK...

Richard Foster has written a book titled: “Prayer - Finding the Heart’s True Home” - which is a wonderful description to hold in our hearts and minds as we think about this gift of God to us. We touched on the book during a “What Presbyterians Believe” class, and I thought it would make for a nice sermon series. So... here we go.

Foster offers a very down-to-earth understanding and experience of prayer that makes it easy for anyone to connect - at some level - with what he writes. I particularly like the structure he uses to invite us in: three movements into prayer that are Trinitarian in character.

“The movement inward (Part I) is prayer to God the Son, Jesus Christ, which corresponds to his role as Savior and Teacher among us. The movement upward (Part II) is prayer to God the Father, which corresponds to his role as sovereign King and eternal Lover among us. The movement outward (Part III) is prayer to God the Holy Spirit, which corresponds to his role as Empowered and Evangelist among us.”

There parts, with seven “types” in each part - a very balanced presentation of a topic we often approach as exclusively spiritual and ethereal. He goes on to say:

“...healthy prayer necessitates frequent experiences of the common, earthly, run-of-the-mill variety. Like walks, and talks, and good wholesome laughter. Like workin the yard, and chit-chat with neighbors, and washing the windows... we need regular exercise in the hills and valleys of ordinary life.”

Let us dig a little more deeply into something many people take for granted, and - as such - miss out on what it means to encounter God.

STEWARDSHIP

How to Live a Meaningful Life

A timeless Lesson on which to build our lives – a story worth repeating as we begin a New Year

Many Americans live with two opposite feelings. On one hand, they want to experience meaning and purpose in their lives. On the other hand, they often feel that they are running on empty.

In his classic novel, *Les Miserables*, Victor Hugo tells us how to eliminate that second feeling. The bishop befriends Jean Valjean and gives him lodging. Valjean repays that kindness by stealing the bishop’s valuable candlesticks. After the bishop reports the theft, the police magistrate questions Valjean in the bishop’s presence. As the interrogation progresses, Valjean seems headed for jail. At that point, the bishop unexpectedly retracts his charges and offers a plausible reason for why the candlesticks are missing.

Jean Valjean is amazed. When he and the bishop are alone, he says, “Why did you do that? You know I am guilty.”

The bishop replies, “Life is for giving.”

Why do churches receive an offering in their worship services? Some people say, “Because the church needs the money.” That is only part of the answer. Even if a wealthy benefactor fully underwrote our congregation’s expenses, we would still need to provide people with the opportunity to give an offering in our worship services. Weekly giving teaches us—and reminds us because we keep forgetting—that life without unselfish giving is life without meaning and purpose.

Victor Hugo is right. Life is for giving.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21

TREASURER'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED
\$28,872

AVG. MONTHLY EXPENSE
\$27,060

OVER/(UNDER)
\$1,812

YTD RECEIVED
\$317,071

YTD EXPENSE
\$279,434

OVER/(UNDER)
\$34,229

MISSION FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED
\$358

AVG. MONTHLY PMT.
\$1,820

OVER/(UNDER)
(\$1,462)

YTD RECEIVED
\$19,173

YTD PMT.
\$4,075

OVER/(UNDER)
*

* MISSION DISBURSEMENTS ARE MADE QUARTERLY.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY...

1	Happy New Year!	
5	Communion Worship	10:00 a.m.
	C.E./Sunday School Meeting	11:30 a.m.
7	Blood Drive	Time to be determined
	Deacons Meeting	7:00 p.m.
8	Annual Reports are Due ⇐	
11	Community Dinner	5:00 p.m.
12	Confirmation Class	9:00 a.m.
	Ordination and Installation	10:00 a.m.
	Worship M.T. Meeting	11:30 a.m.
15	House M.T. Meeting	7:00 p.m.
21	Session Meeting	7:30 p.m.
22	Book Club	6:30 p.m.
26	Confirmation Class	9:00 p.m.
	Annual Congregational Meeting	Immediately after worship
	Potluck Luncheon	



Annual congregational call

The members of the First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay, New York, are called to convene for the Annual Meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 26 2025, immediately following worship, to:

- ❖ Receive the report of activities of church organizations and officers for 2024
- ❖ Receive the report of the church treasurer
- ❖ Receive the budget recommendations of session
- ❖ Vote on the pastor's terms of call
- ❖ Dismiss the 2024 nominating committee
- ❖ Election a nominating committee for 2025
- ❖ Consider other pertinent business if presented



Community Meal

Contact Jerry Lalonde:
 Email galalonde@aol.com
 Text or call cell 516-297-7773

OR

January 11, 2025
5:00 p.m.

Contact Selina Collier:
 Email Selina_collier@fa.org
 Call 516-759-1168

SESSION NOTES

SESSION NOTES FROM DECEMBER 2024 MEETING

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay held a regular meeting on December 17, 2024.

Jeff welcomed newly elected Elder Catherine Thomas Ceballos to our meeting. Ordination and installation for Catherine and new Deacons Catherine Berg, Jill Mason and Scott Powell will take place during worship on January 12, 2025.

Session reviewed and approved the draft Budget for 2025. Jeff excused himself while Session discussed his proposed terms of call. The congregation will vote on Jeff's terms of call at the January 2025 Congregational meeting.

CHURCH SUPPORT: Richard noted that 40 pledges have now been received for 2025.

MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH: Jeff, Cathy, Deborah and Dan reviewed the active membership roll. Session reviewed a letter drafted by Jeff to be sent to people who are not regularly attending church, in preparation to move them to the Other Participants Roll.

THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO JOIN ALL MINISTRY TEAMS!

Please contact one of the elders in charge if you are interested in joining that committee.

MINISTRY	TEAM
Christian Ed	Elders Chris Hogg & Mia Ramirez
House	Elders George Baker & Heather Franciotti
Worship	Isa Gutierrez & Jennifer Newitt
Church Support	Elders George Baker, Richard Kveton & Jerry Lalonde
Mission	Elders Selina Collier and Clerk Cathy Hogg
Membership and Outreach	Elder Deborah Hudak & Dan O'Hare

DEACONS NOTES

DEACON'S REPORT FROM THE DECEMBER 3, 2024 MEETING:

Ten packages were shipped to college students for exam relief.

The Advent brunch will be December 8th, and the Deacons need to make phone calls to their lists to ask for side dish, baked goods, and desserts. Jeff will buy Christmas themed paperware and will set up the tables.

Christmas Outreach is proceeding well, and so far several families have been selected.

Christmas flowers: Deacons need to recommend the people on their lists that have suffered a loss. We have an initial list of ten people

We discussed the need for volunteers to drive church members to appointments in the village.

The next Blood Drive will be on January 7.

HOLIDAY SHARING PROGRAM

The Board of Deacons wants to thank everyone who helped us provide a special Christmas to the families we sponsored in our community. Your generosity is extremely appreciated.



BLOOD DRIVE

First Presbyterian Church

60 East Main Street, Oyster Bay

January 7, 2025

Time to be determined

Appointments are preferred, however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.

Visit nybc.org/coronavirus for COVID-19 protocols.

To signup call 800-933-2566 or visit www.nybc.org/donate

Please remember to eat, drink and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo.



New York
Blood Center



800.933.BLOOD • nybc.org



#nybloodcenter

THE OFFICE

REMINDER

RE: **Annual Meeting - January 26, 2025**

In order to have the 2024 Annual report ready for distribution on Sunday, January 12th; two weeks prior to the meeting as required, please submit your reports by:

January 8, 2025

Turning in your reports in a timely matter will be seriously appreciate it.
Thank You!!



Pledge Envelopes

The 2025 pledge envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Fellowship Hall. Please help the counters by using your pre-numbered envelope and indicating the amount allocated to the General Fund and/or Mission Fund. Thank You.



Chancel Flowers

The Chancel Flowers are a great opportunity to honor, or remember loved ones and to celebrate birthdays and special occasions. Feel free to sign up to provide the chancel flowers, the chart is located in the office hallway opposite of the Church Family pictures.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We had a very Merry Christmas, indeed, in Christian Education.

Our Christmas Pageant was everything we hoped it would be—and even more. Every year we say: “this Pageant was the Best One Ever.” Well, this year was certainly no exception! Our “Friendly Beasts” certainly filled our Church with joyous song. The sanctuary was packed with parents and family and the rest of our Church family, you could just feel the positive energy. It was remarkable, this year, to see the participation of several multi-generational groups. The “Kingsley Kings,” of course, with Grandfather, son and grandson - plus grandson as a narrator. Then there was the “all-singing-all dancing “Angel Ava” with her father Alex Hogg playing the French Horn. And most wonderful of all, a REAL Mary and Joseph (with twins “en ventre sa mere” attending their first Pageant) and their sister charming us all as an Angel! To top it all off, this year saw the return of our beloved Brass Ensemble, led by Harold Kingsley and supported by his son and grandsons, plus Charlotte Merten and Alex Hogg.

Many, many thanks to Elaine Palmer for, once again, directing our Pageant. Elaine was supported by a wonderful team, including Eileen Pollitt and Mia Ramirez. Selina Collier and Fran Johnston did their usual wonderful job on costumes. And “Miss Jessica” did her usual brilliant job in leading the children in music. Many others, too numerous to mention contributed to the Pageant. It really was a Church-wide activity! But we just have to “shout-out” Heather Franciotti for an especially excellent job of “star carrying!”

We ended 2024 on a high note with a stimulating “Bookies” Session on James. Plus, a touching “What Presbyterians Believe” Zoom meeting on Prayer.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The (U) Friendly Beasts



Thank you one and all...

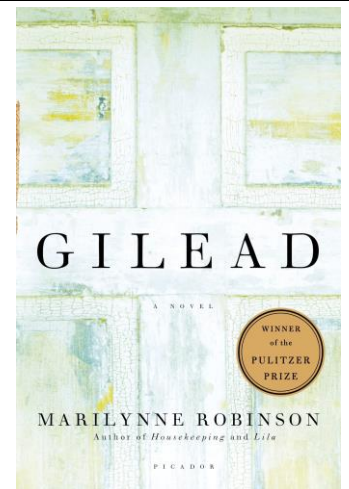
BOOKIES

Our next meeting on January 22nd, 2025
at 6:30 PM

Our next book is a Pulitzer Prize winner and is the second book of the author, Marilynne Robinson.

In 1956, toward the end of Rev. John Ames life, he begins a letter to his young son, an account of himself and his forebears. He tells the story the sacred bonds between father and sons, bonds that have been tested in his tender but strained relationship with his best friend wayward son.

It is also a tale of another remarkable vision: life as a wondrously strange creation. It tells how wisdom was forged in Ames's soul during his solitary life, and how history lives through generations even when betrayed and forgotten. Robinson carefully and tenaciously explores some of the deepest questions confronting the human species. *Gilead* is poignant, absorbing and lyrically written work of art.



We will discuss and munch on good goodies.

See you then - Joan

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

The Food Pantry donations will continue to be collected on the First Sunday each month or anytime and delivered to local food pantries.

These are the most asked for items:

Pasta, Pasta sauce, Diced Canned Tomatoes
Boxed rice mixes
Canned Beans, Stews, Soups & Chili
Peanut Butter, Jelly or Jam
Coffee & Tea

Mac & Cheese 2 pound or smaller bags of Rice
Canned Vegetables - low sodium preferred
Cereal & Oatmeal
Kids' Snacks
Gatorade Juice Boxes

The People's Pantry, 123 Audrey Avenue, Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Accepting donations on Wednesdays from 12:00-6:00 and Fridays from 9:00-1:00
Shopping: Senior Wednesdays 2:30-3:00; Community Shopping
Wednesdays 3:00-6:00 & Fridays 10:00-12:00
To volunteer, go their website at <https://peoplelovingpeople.net/volunteer-form>

North Shore Community Church Food Pantry, 209 South St, Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Accepting donations at church office (on the corner) on Thursday and Friday
between 10:00-3:00, or Saturday morning at the back door of the church between 9:00-10:00.
Shopping: The Pantry is open for shopping every Saturday morning from 9:00-10:00

NOSH Food Pantry/North Shore Soup Kitchen

NOSH is currently accepting donations of non-perishable food at its new permanent home:
32 School Street (back entrance), Glen Cove
weekdays between 9:00-1:00 (closed Wednesday and weekends)

North Shore Soup Kitchen has re-opened and is accepting donations for its food pantry at
First Baptist Church, 7 Continental Place, Glen Cove, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings
between 9:00 – 12:00

Mimi Mernin's Food Pantry, Village Church, Bayville, 9 Mountain Avenue, Bayville, NY

Donations may be left in a bin at the back of the Church which is emptied daily.
516-628-2737

**Thanks for helping us to help our neighbors!
The Mission Outreach Ministry Team**

January

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|----|---|----|--|
| 5 | Second Sunday after Christmas
Communion Service
Scripture: Jeremiah 31:7-14
Romans 6:15-23
Sermon: "The Results of the Gifts" | 19 | Second Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Psalm 36:5-10
Luke 11:1-4
Sermon: "Simple Prayer" |
| 12 | First Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Psalm 29
Galatians 4:4-7
Sermon: An Invitation to "Come Home" | 26 | Third Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Psalm 22:1-5
Matthew 27:45-50
Sermon: "The Prayer of the Forsaken" |

