

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



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

March 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	Richard Kveton
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	Mission
Heather Franciotti	House
Isa Gutierrez	Worship
Christopher Hogg	Christian Education
Deborah Hudak	Membership & Outreach
Richard Kveton	Church Support
Jerry Lalonde	Church Support
Jennifer Newitt	Worship
Dan O'Hare	Membership & Outreach
Mia Ramirez	Christian Education

BOARD OF DEACONS

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

The following comes from "Reformed Worship" Journal, where I found the outline of an idea for how to approach the season of Lent this year.

The season of Lent traditionally begins with a service of repentance on Ash Wednesday. Attendees are invited to receive on their foreheads the mark of the cross, made from ashes. We often think of these ashes as a mark of our penitence, but they also mark us as people who live in the way of the cross. What would it mean if we wore ashes on our foreheads every day? When we don't wear ashes, do the people around us know that we are Christ followers?

This season of Lent, we want to be especially attentive to the ways we co-labor with Christ in lives of servanthood. In Scripture, people called to a particular vocation were often symbolically anointed on the forehead using oil. The prophet Isaiah was marked on the lips with a live coal.

As we journey together during the six weeks of Lent, it would be good to ask questions that will be explored in the series:

What does it mean that we are co-workers with Christ?

What work are we called to do?

How much are you willing to give up for that work?

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2025

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED	AVG. MONTHLY EXPENSE	OVER/(UNDER)
\$22,599	\$27,645	(\$5,046)
YTD RECEIVED	YTD ACTUAL EXPENSE	OVER/(UNDER)
\$22,599	\$24,622	\$2,023

MISSION FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED	AVG. MONTHLY PMT.	OVER/(UNDER)
\$6,489	\$1,800	\$4,689
YTD RECEIVED	YTD ACTUAL PMT.	OVER/(UNDER)
\$6,489	*	*

* MISSION DISBURSEMENTS ARE MADE QUARTERLY.

STEWARDSHIP

The Full Life

"The key of the selfish, unregenerate person is *get*. The key word of the dedicated Christian should be *give*. The Prodigal Son set off a series of negative events destined for failure when he said to his father, 'Give me the portion of goods that falleth to me' (Luke 15:12)."


"Our Lord's command was, 'Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over...' (Luke 6:38). Yet it was more than a command. It was an invitation to glorious and abundant living. If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area of his life." [*Select Stewardship Sermons*, Billy Graham]

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

Matthew 6:21

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH...

2	Confirmation Class	9:00 a.m.
	Communion Worship	10:00 a.m.
	C.E./S.S. Meeting	11:30 a.m.
4	Deacons	7:00 p.m.
5	Ash Wednesday Service	7:30 p.m.
8	Community Dinner	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
9	Daylight Savings Time Begins	 2:00 a.m.
	1st Sunday in Lent	
15	Habitat "Faith Build"	
16	Huntington Men's Chorus	
	Confirmation Class -	A.M. & P.M.
	Mission M.T. Meeting	11:30 a.m.
17	What Presbyterians Believe	7:30 p.m.
18	Session	7:30 p.m.
23	Guest Preacher - Ken Pollitt	10:00 a.m.
26	Bookies	6:30 p.m.
30	Confirmation Class	9:00 a.m.



**DON'T BE LATE TO CHURCH
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR**

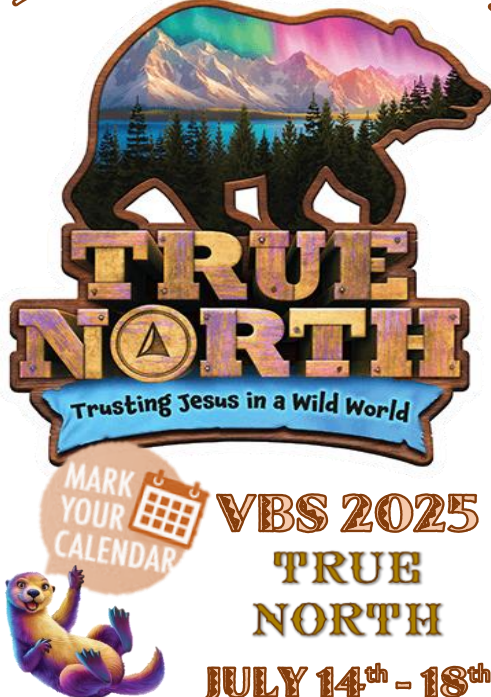
Coming Up...	Family Communion & a "Pre-Palm Sunday Festival"	April 6
	Palm Sunday	April 13
	Easter Egg Hunt	
	Pascal Supper	April 17
	Good Friday Tenebrae Service	April 18
	Easter	April 20



Community Meal

Contact Jerry Lalonde: **March 8th**
 Email galalonde@aol.com **5:00 p.m.**
 Text or call cell 516-297-7773

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



TRUE NORTH

Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

MARK YOUR CALENDAR **VBS 2025**

TRUE NORTH

JULY 14th - 18th

DEACON NOTES

DEACON'S REPORT FROM THE FEBRUARY 4 MEETING:

The blood drive netted 28 units. The next blood drive will be on September 16th.

The annual luncheon meeting went very well, the dishes were enjoyed by all.

Janice volunteered to serve on the Nominating committee.

The service for Frank Hudak will be on February 15 at the church. Two ushers will be needed to help open the church and welcome guests.

We checked the birthday lists for accuracy and completeness. The Deacons should contact their lists for any missing birthdays.

SESSION NOTES

SESSION REPORT FROM THE FEBRUARY 18 MEETING:

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay held a regular meeting on February 18, 2025. Session welcomed new Junior Elder/Youth Representative James Masler.

CLERK'S REPORT: Cathy noted that the Annual Statistical Report prepared for Presbytery was completed and approved by Session. Cathy has submitted it to Presbytery and will include it in the Book of Minutes.

MODERATOR'S REPORT: Jeff noted with sadness that he performed the funeral and memorial service for Frank Hudak here at the church on February 15, 2025. Frank passed away on February 1, 2025. Deborah gave thanks for all the support of her church family.

CHURCH SUPPORT: Richard noted a small deficit for the month of January. He advised the 2025 Pledge offering goal is short by about \$13,000 at this time. Session has faith that our congregation will fill that shortfall. Session also discussed possible uses of the 2024 budget surplus.

PRESBYTERY REPORT: Jeff and Mia attended the most recent Presbytery Meeting which focused on proposed changes to the Book of Order. Jeff also advised that a new Presbytery Mission Statement also was approved. It reads:

Guided by the Spirit, Our Presbytery follows Christ by partnering with congregations, communities, and individuals to embody God's inclusive love and justice in an ever-changing world.

ELDER TRAINING: Session had a discussion about creating a church policy for addressing the possibility of Homeland Security Immigration Enforcement action on our church property, given the recent rescission of the so called *Sensitive or Protected Places Policy*. Presbytery has encouraged us to draft such a policy to assert the church's rights under the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to prevent any search or seizure on our property without a valid judicial warrant. Session approved a motion to draft such a policy.

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 and Mia Ramirez
House	Elders – George Baker and Heather Franciotti
Worship	Elders – Isa Gutierrez and Jen Newitt
Church Support	Elders – George Baker, Richard Kveton and Jerry Lalonde
Mission	Elders – Selina Collier and Catherine Ceballos - Clerk, Cathy Hogg
Membership & Outreach	Elders – Deb Hudak & Dan O'Hare

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Energy and excitement remain high in our Christian Education Team.

We are preparing a "Mini Pageant" on April 6 telling the story of how Jesus came to town for Palm Sunday. Rehearsals will start soon They will all be done during Church time. So, our preparations should not impact our young families' busy schedules.

Our Brass Ensemble is already rehearsing for Palm Sunday and, hopefully, Easter. Led by our beloved Harold Kingsley, our brass musicians span all age-groups. They are really looking forward to playing to you all.

"Bookies" continues very happily with an excellent discussion on a "Frozen River." Coming up is Barbara Kingsolver's new novel, "Animal Dreams".

"What Presbyterians Believe" is also going strong. In our last get together, we discussed the differences and fundamental similarities between and among our Christian denominations.

BOOKIES

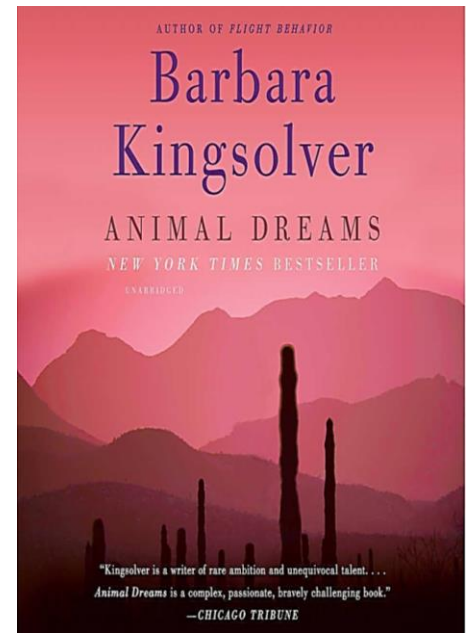
Wednesday, March 26, 2025
at 6:30 PM - discussing
~ *Animal Dreams* ~

"An emotional masterpiece . . . A novel in which humor, passion, and superb prose conspire to seize a reader by the heart and by the soul." —New York Daily News

From Barbara Kingsolver, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Demon Copperhead* and recipient of the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, a passionate and complex novel about love, forgiveness, and one woman's struggle to find her place in the world.

Even if you have not joined us for Bookies before, consider reading this book, and, if you can, join us for food and discussion on Wednesday, March 26 at 6:30. It is something special.

See you then - Joan



SAVE THE DATE

THE THRIFT FAIR

March: To-Do-List

March 20th Spring arrives!

Spring cleaning time... Please begin gathering your used and unused household items as well as new and gently used clothing for April/May donation. Thank You.

The Thrift Fair Returns, May 10th

MISSION MATTERS

As you likely heard in church during the Annual Meeting, a 'tithe' of about ten percent of our financial surplus for fiscal year 2024, was used to make a donation to the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund** to support their work with victims of the California wildfires.

There has been a strong response to the call for volunteers for our second **Habitat for Humanity** build on March 15, but please contact Jeff Prey or Chris Hogg if you are interested in joining the build team for this or our other builds this year.

The **community dinners**, on the second Saturday of each month continue to draw an appreciative group of guests and an enthusiastic and varied group of folks setting up, serving and cleaning up. There is great music thanks to Gilbert and his friend Mitch who play for us each month. Please consider baking desserts for one of the dinners or coming in to help out and share in a relaxed evening with our guests. Contact Selina Collier (selinaacollier@gmail.com) or Jerry Lalonde (galalonde@aol.com) for more details.

Like last year, if you are spring cleaning, we will be collecting stained or discolored towels for **Glen Cove Animal Shelter**. There is a box near the door to the kitchen where you can leave towels.

And, in April, Palm Sunday is the Sunday we designate for our special **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering. The three programs supported by OGHS work to assist individuals and communities in need across the globe. Nationally and internationally, grants support recovery from fires, tornados, floods, hurricanes and drought. In addition, financial donations aid a variety of refugee assistance programs, long-term recovery initiatives, and developments that empower vulnerable communities. You can participate in the OGHS offering at church on Palm Sunday or online at pcusa.org/give-oghs.

Food donations: If you are able, please pick up a blue bag as you leave the sanctuary, fill it with canned or dry goods and bring your donation to church. You can bring it in at any time but on the first Sunday of the month when we celebrate communion, is a great time to connect what we have been given with what we can give. Our donated groceries are delivered each month to one of the three local pantries that help to support.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

These are the most asked for items:

Pasta, Pasta sauce, Diced Canned Tomatoes	Mac & Cheese 2 pound or smaller bags of Rice
Boxed rice mixes	Canned Vegetables (low sodium preferred)
Canned Beans, Stews, Soups & Chili	Cereal & Oatmeal
Peanut Butter, Jelly or Jam	Kids' Snacks
Coffee & Tea	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

March...

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 2 | Transfiguration Sunday
Communion Worship
Scripture: Psalm 57:1-11
John 13:31-38
Sermon: "Covenant Prayer" | 6 | Second Sunday in Lent
Scripture: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Luke 13:31-35
Sermon: "Commitment to Service" |
| 9 | First Sunday in Lent
Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Luke 4:1-13
Sermon: "The Call to Service" | 23 | Third Sunday in Lent
Scripture: Zechariah 11: 12-13
Matthew 26:17-26
Sermon: "The Cruellest Sin"
Guest Preacher: Ken Pollitt |
| 30 | Fourth Sunday in Lent
Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Sermon: "The Heart of Service" | | |

