

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

February 2025



Bears all things, believes all things.

Hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13:7,8a

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

Pastor
Administrator
Organist/Choir Director
Custodian

The People of God
The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Drew Prey
Cristina Harrison
Jessica Chen
Manuel Denegri

OFFICERS

Clerk of Session
President, Board of Trustees
Moderator, Board of Deacons
Secretary of Deacons
Treasurer
Sunday School Superintendent

Cathy Hogg
Richard Kveton
Pat Azmitia
David Harrison
Kristine Lalonde
Cristina Harrison

SESSION

George Baker
Catherine Ceballos
Selina Collier
Heather Franciotti
Isa Gutierrez
Christopher Hogg
Deborah Hudak
Richard Kveton
Jerry Lalonde
Jennifer Newitt
Dan O'Hare
Mia Ramirez

MINISTRIES

Church Support, House

Mission
House
Worship
Christian Education
Membership & Outreach
Church Support
Church Support
Worship
Membership & Outreach
Christian Education

BOARD OF DEACONS

Pat Azmitia
Catherine Berg
Barbara Catalano
David Harrison
Joan Kingsley
Kristine Lalonde
Janet LaRotonda
Gilbert Lim
Janice Longworth
Jill Mason
Scott Powell
Edna Standerwick
Steve Wasilchuk

MINISTRIES

Ushers
Coffee Hour
Helping Hands
Audiovisual
Sanctuary Care
Outreach
Special Events, Kitchen Care
Coffee Hour
Outreach
Kitchen Care
Greeters/Ushers
Coffee Hour
Outreach

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

Jimmy Carter was our nation's longest lived President, but his legacy takes shape beyond his political accomplishments. His involvement with Habitat for Humanity raised the profile of this important ministry, and continues to have an impact today (and - in our own back yard). So, it often is with ministries that work to lift up and to build... to walk alongside and to look beyond.

I recently received a book about another such ministry - Room at the Inn, a nonprofit founded by Father Charlie Strobel in Nashville that has evolved over time into a national model for offering care, love, and hope to the unhoused. Motivated by something Robert Kennedy said, "Few of us have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation." Fr. Strobel's work is a part of that history.

He writes of what he did and - why he did it - noting that Mark Twain has said: "The two most important days of your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." His "why" found form in an impactful ministry among the unhoused - people who needed to know they were seen, and - loved, and - cared for. For Charlie, it all came about through a reflection on the Sermon on the Mount, which is introduced by the Beatitudes, which was the moral framework within which he tried to live his life.

The book is a beautiful reflection back on that life, and - on that ministry, and - on the people he encountered along the way. He suggests that every one of us has what he calls "Beatitude Moments" - totally unexpected, grace-filled experiences when one is filled with love. We remember these as divine gifts from above - not simply memories.

Sometimes, they lead us in the writing of our little part of the history of our generation. Sometimes, they are the seed that is waiting to be planted. But in all times, this is a beautiful way to live our lives - being open to *beatitude moments*, and then - doing something about them - sharing the grace we ourselves have received.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SEE ANNUAL REPORT

STEWARDSHIP

The Dash

"After walking through a cemetery, a man said, 'Have you noticed how much meaning a dash can have? Born 1921—Died 1981. What a way to summarize a life—with a dash!' That will eventually describe the years of every person's life—a dash. We cannot stop our movement toward the final destination, but we can choose what we do with our dash. We can spend it on significant matters or on meaningless trivia. Thus a congregation's ministry of stewardship is a matter of ultimate importance—far more significant than fund-raising.

"Shrouds have no pockets. We do not see Brinks trucks in funeral processions. Hearses do not pull U-Haul trailers. But stewardship lets us take it with us. 'Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal' (Matt. 6:20). Through prudent stewardship, we can enter the abundant life of joy and meaning. Through stewardship, we can protect ourselves from being possessed by our possessions, thinking they are permanent and that they buy permanent security. Through stewardship, we can grow spiritually. Through stewardship, we create a meaningful dash." [*The Vital Congregation*, Herb Miller]

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

Matthew 6:21

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY...

2	Confirmation Class	9:00 a.m.
	Communion Worship	10:00 a.m.
	C.E./Sunday School Meeting	11:30 a.m.
	Mission M.T. Meeting	11:30 a.m.
4	Deacon's Meeting	7:00 p.m.
8	Community Dinner	5:00 p.m.
18	Session	7:30 p.m.
23	Confirmation Class	5:00 p.m.



Coming Up:

Ash Wednesday	March 5
Daylight Savings Time Begins	March 9



Community Meal

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

OR

February 8, 2025
5:00 p.m.

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

First Presbyterian Church Of Oyster Bay



2025 CHURCH DIRECTORY

60 East Main Street
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
(516) 922-5477

The 2025 Church Family Photo
Directory is available in
PDF format at your request.

Please send your request by e-mail
to: officefpcob@optonline.net



Community Blood Drive

To our Life Savers

and volunteers

Thank you!



28
units
collected



Next Blood Drive - will be in September

DEACON NOTES

DEACONS REPORT FROM THEIR JANUARY 7, 2025 MEETING:

The Christmas Outreach program was very successful, thanks to members of the congregation completing the wish lists.

Christmas flowers were presented to those who have suffered a loss over the last year.

We welcomed the new Deacons; Catherine, Jill, and Scott.

Pat explained the Deacon's lists and how we communicate with the people on the lists.

Jeff presented a manual complete with photos for the participants of the coffee hour.

We went over assignments for the various Deacon's ministries.

We will have our annual meeting followed by a potluck luncheon on January 26.

Jeff explained the Silver Star Fund and its history.

The Blood Drive netted 28 units of blood.

The installation and ordination of new Deacons will be on January 12.

SESSION NOTES

SEE ANNUAL REPORT

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Flush from the delight of our Christmas Pageant, your CE Team is looking at another Pageant for Palm Sunday. This one will be much smaller scale than the full-blown Christmas Pageant. But just as much fun. Given all the demands on our Church family's time, we will have far fewer rehearsals. We are also hoping to include the Brass ensemble in the performance. Rumor has it that we might just have an Easter Egg Hunt around Easter. Stay tuned!

Bookies and "What Presbyterians Believe" remain very active, despite the frigid weather...

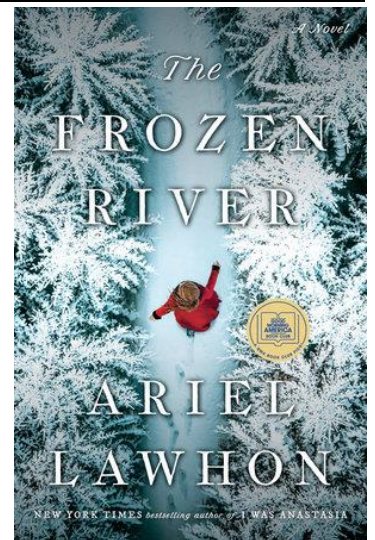
BOOKIES

"The Frozen River" - by Ariel Lawhon:

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • GMA BOOK CLUB PICK • AN NPR BOOK OF THE YEAR

A gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. *The Frozen River* is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.



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, February 12 at 6:30. It is something special.

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

February...

2 Forth Sunday after Epiphany
Communion Worship
Scripture: Psalm 139:1-10
 1 Corinthians 2:6-13
Sermon Title: "Prayer of Examen"

9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Lamentations 2:11-13
 Acts 2:22-24, 36-39
Sermon Title: "The Prayer of Tears"

16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Jeremiah 17:5-10
 Luke 22:39-46
Sermon Title: "The Prayer of
 Relinquishment"

23 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-6
 Galatians 5:16-18, 22-25
Sermon Title: "Formation Prayer"

