

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 2026*



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

60 East Main Street

Oyster Bay, New York 11771-2411

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E-mail: [officefpcob@optonline.net](mailto:officefpcob@optonline.net)

Web Site: [www.oysterbaypresbyterian.org](http://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	Catherine Berg
Secretary of Deacons	David Harrison
Treasurer	Kristine Lalonde
Sunday School Superintendent	Cristina Harrison

## SESSION

George Baker  
Jim Brundige  
Selina Collier  
Heather Franciotti  
Isa Gutierrez  
Christopher Hogg  
Richard Kveton  
Jerry Lalonde  
Jennifer Newitt  
Dan O'Hare  
Mia Ramirez  
Catherine Thomas

## MINISTRIES

Church Support, House  
Church Support  
Mission  
House  
Worship  
Christian Education  
Church Support  
Church Support  
Worship  
House  
Christian Education  
Mission

## BOARD OF DEACONS

Catherine Berg  
Ya Ming Chen  
David Harrison  
Deborah Hudak  
  
Liz Hux  
Kristine Lalonde  
Janet LaRotonda  
Gilbert Lim  
Eileen Pollitt  
Scott Powell  
Edna Standerwick  
Steve Wasilchuk

## MINISTRIES

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

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# FROM JEFF'S DESK

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Phil Ryken, the President of Wheaton College, offers these thoughts (on the occasion of a snow day):

Snow was exceptionally uncommon in the dry climate of ancient Israel, so it is not surprising that some people were afraid of it. The Israelites could see the snow on distant mountaintops, but it rarely fell where they lived. It must have been all the more beautiful when it did fall, and perhaps this explains why the Bible uses snow as a metaphor for three of God's greatest gifts.

First, there is God's word, which goes out from God's mouth like snow from heaven ([Isa. 55:10](#)). As it goes out, the word of God has the same life-giving, fruit-producing effect that snow has when it waters the earth.

Second, there is God's Son, our Savior. The Bible uses the image of snow to describe the radiant resplendence of the glorified Christ. According to Daniel, "his clothing was white as snow" ([Dan. 7:9](#)), and in his revelation, John testifies that the same is true of his hair ([Rev. 1:14](#)). In his resurrection body, Jesus sparkles like the snow.

Finally, there is the forgiveness of our sins. That too is like the pure, white snow. When David was desperate for God to take away his guilt, he prayed, "wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" ([Ps. 51:7](#)). His prayers were answered, because God has promised to forgive every penitent sinner: "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" ([Isa. 1:18](#)).

Every shovel-full of snow preaches the mighty wonders of God—the power of his Word, the beauty of his Son, and the purity of our forgiveness. All of which is something to think about—and something to praise—the next time we get a snow day. I can hardly wait!

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

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JANUARY 2026

### GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED	AVG. MONTHLY EXPENSE	OVER/(UNDER)
\$16,481	\$27,720	(\$11,239)
YTD RECEIVED	YTD ACTUAL EXPENSE	OVER/(UNDER)
\$16,481	\$24,357	(\$7,876)

### MISSION FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED	AVG. MONTHLY PMT.	OVER/(UNDER)
\$7,470	\$1,733	\$5,737
YTD RECEIVED	YTD ACTUAL PMT.	OVER/(UNDER)
\$7,470	*	*

\* MISSION DISBURSEMENTS ARE MADE QUARTERLY.

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# STEWARDSHIP

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## *Breaking Out of Bondage*

“God’s Word to us about money is not painful. To the contrary, it is good news. The god of money seeks to dominate and destroy our lives. Many of us live in bondage to money, even as we think we are enjoying the good life. Money is constantly on our minds. However, as we understand God’s truth about money and possessions, we are set free from this devastating force. .” [*Partners With God*, Bobby L. Eklund and Terry Austin]

Our offerings to God’s work make a difference in the lives of other people, but they also help us break out of bondage and connect our lives to matters that matter

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

*Matthew 6:21*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

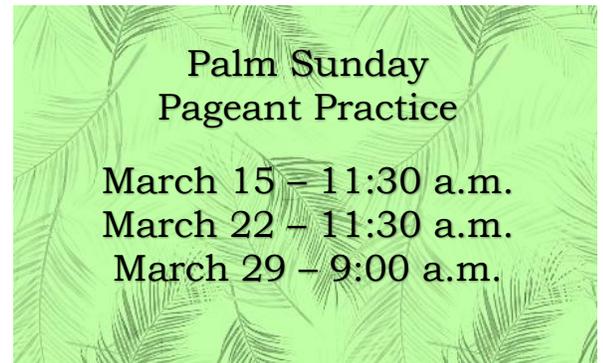
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### MARCH...

1	<b>Communion Worship</b>	10:00 a.m.
	C.E./S.S./VBS Meeting	11:30 a.m.
3	Deacons	7:00 p.m.
8	<b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>	→ 2:00 a.m.
	<b>Scout Sunday</b>	
14	Community Dinner	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
15	Palm Sunday Pageant Practice	11:30 a.m.
17	Session Meeting	7:30 p.m.
22	Palm Sunday Pageant Practice	11:30 a.m.
25	Bookies	6:30 p.m.
28	A Celebration of the Life of Richard Longworth	
29	Palm Sunday Pageant Practice	9:00 a.m.
	<b>Communion Palm Sunday Worship</b>	
	Palm Sunday Pageant	
	Easter Egg Hunt	



<b>Coming Up...</b>	Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 8:00	April 3
	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.	April 5
	Easter Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.	April 5
	Joint Deacons and Session Meeting	April 14
	Thrift Fair	May 2



Contact Jerry Lalonde: **March 14th**  
Email [galalonde@aol.com](mailto:galalonde@aol.com) **5:00 p.m.**  
Text or call cell 516-297-7773

OR Contact Selina Collier:  
Email [Selina\\_collier@fa.org](mailto:Selina_collier@fa.org)  
Call 516-759-1168

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



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# DEACON NOTES

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## **DEACON'S REPORT FROM THE FEBRUARY 3 MEETING:**

We will host the next Blood Drive on September 22, and hopefully we will be able to collect enough pints to continue having these community events.

Thirty-five people attended the pot luck luncheon following the Congregational Meeting. The amount of attendees was lower than usual, but it was very well enjoyed. The announcement for everyone to take home their leftovers worked well, making easier work for the clean up team. The special events committee did a wonderful job putting it together.

We discussed sending birthday cards to our lists to help maintain contact. We discussed other ways to get members involved, and reviewed previous ways years ago, such as the progressive dinner, square dancing, theatrical productions, and the youth group,

Steve volunteered to be the next Deacon representative for the nominating committee.

The special events committee will meet after the Deacon's meeting.

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# SESSION NOTES

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## **SESSION REPORT FROM THE FEBRUARY 17 MEETING:**

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay held a regular meeting on February 17, 2026.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT:** Communion was celebrated on Sunday, February 1, 2026, as authorized by standing resolution of December 16, 2025. The Session approved study leave for Jeff on April 27th -May 3; Ken will preach May 3rd. Session also approved May 4-5 as vacation days for Jeff.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Pat Azmitia, Cliff Chabina, Carol Johnston, and Elaine Plamer were elected to serve as at large members of the committee at the Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2026. Steve Wasilchuk is the Deacon rep on the committee; Isa Gutierrez and Richard Kveton are the Elder reps.

**ELDER TRAINING:** Session discussed required Elder training videos, to be viewed independently and then discussed at the next Session meeting. Jeff advised of the February 28th meeting of the Long-Range Planning Task Force at the Sagamore Yacht Club. Elders and Deacons are asked to attend and Jeff will extend the invitation to all members.

**MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH:** Olivia and Thomas Pojero were introduced to and unanimously approved by the Session as new member candidates. They will join on a date to be determined, and baptism of their son Cameron to follow that date. Jerry Lalonde reported that the progress in establishing a Medical Equipment Loan program is under review.

### **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.

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Team</b>
<b>Christian Ed</b>	Elders – Chris Hogg and Mia Ramirez
<b>House</b>	Elders – Heather Franciotti and Dan O'Hare
<b>Worship</b>	Elders – Isa Gutierrez and Jen Newitt
<b>Church Support</b>	Elders – George Baker, Jim Brundige, Richard Kveton and Jerry Lalonde
<b>Mission</b>	Elders – Selina Collier, Catherine Ceballos and Clerk, Cathy Hogg
<b>Membership &amp; Outreach</b>	Elders Needed



# One Great Hour of Sharing

Due date: March 29, 2026

Serve the most vulnerable around the world,  
offering aid to people lacking access to life's basic necessities.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

## Causes Supported

Disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, immigration, migration & refugees

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

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Your CE Team is now hard at work on our Palm Sunday Pageant. Our children will tell us the story of how a young person helped Jesus to find a colt as he came to Jerusalem for Passover. We will have roles for all our children. And just three short rehearsals. And, yes, our pageant will be on Palm Sunday!

### Easter Egg Hunt!!!

Sunday, March 29, 2026

11:30 a.m.

Sunday School Children 6th Grade  
and under



Don't forget to  
bring a basket  
for your eggs!

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## BOOKIES

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Wednesday, March 25, 2026

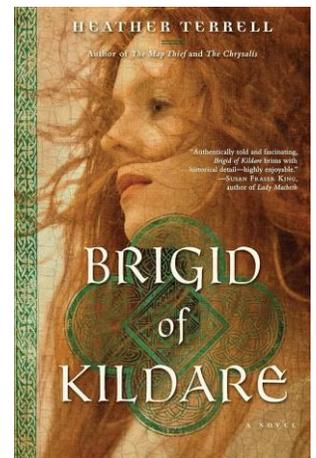
### Brigid of Kildare by Heather Terrell

Our book is *Brigid of Kildare* by Heather Terrell, a novel about Ireland's first and only female priest and bishop, and about a modern day quest to make sense of her legacy.

Rich in historical detail, Heather Terrell's mesmerizing novel is the story of the revolutionary Saint Brigid and the discovery of the oldest illuminated manuscript in the annals of the Church, a manuscript that contains an astonishing secret history.

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 25 at 6:30. It is something special.

See you then - Joan.



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## SAVE THE NEW DATE

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### THE THRIFT FAIR

March: To-Do-List

March 21st Spring arrives!

Spring cleaning time...Please begin gathering your used and unused household items as well as new and gently used clothing for April donations beginning April 6th.

Traditionally the Thrift Fair has been held on Mother's Day weekend. This year, and possibly going forward, the fair will be on the first Saturday in May.

**The Thrift Fair returns Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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# FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

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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	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:

15 Hill Street, 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**

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## March...

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|---|---|----|--|
| 1 | Second Sunday in Lent<br>Communion Worship<br>Scripture: Psalm 121<br>Luke 24:25-32<br>Sermon: "Scripture"  | 15 | Fourth Sunday in Lent<br>Scripture: Psalm 23<br>Luke 24:19-24,25-27<br>Sermon: "Sacrificial Death" |
| 8 | Third Sunday in Lent<br>Scout Sunday<br>Scripture: Psalm 95<br>Luke 24:25-27,44<br>Sermon: "Sacred History" | 22 | Fifth Sunday in Lent<br>Scripture: Psalm 130<br>Luke 24:22-24<br>Sermon: "Silent Tomb"             |
|   | 29  |    | Palm Sunday<br>Communion Worship<br>Scripture: Psalm 118:19-29<br>Luke 24:28-31<br>Sermon: "Sight" |

