

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 Summer News

60 East Main Street, Oyster Bay, New York 11771

The Reverend Dr. Jeffrey D. Prey, Pastor

July and August 2026



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

60 East Main Street

Oyster Bay, New York 11771-2411

PHONE: (516)922-5477

E-mail: officefpcob@optonline.net

Web Site: www.oysterbaypresbyterian.org

Summer Office Hours: Wednesday - Friday,
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

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

BOARD OF DEACONS

Catherine Berg	Flowers, Sanctuary Care
Ya Ming Chen	Helping Hands, Outreach
David Harrison	Audiovisual
Deborah Hudak	Coffee Hour, Helping Hands, Special Needs
Liz Hux	Flowers, Special Events
Kristine Lalonde	Outreach
Janet LaRotonda	Kitchen Care, Special Events
Gilbert Lim	Coffee Hour
Eileen Pollitt	Sanctuary Care
Scott Powell	Greeters/Ushers
Edna Standerwick	Greeters/Ushers
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...

I have not read Pope Leo's first encyclical - *Magnifica Humanitas* (at 42,000 words, it is the length of a short novel) - but I have read about it. Perhaps you've heard about it...

Among the many (very many... perhaps too many... but who am I to question a Pope?) topics he addresses is a challenge to the unregulated development of artificial intelligence. And while he suggests policy responses, at its philosophical core (according to *The Economist*) it is "a rebuttal of two views of humanity's destiny that are popular in Silicon Valley and the tech community: trans-humanism and post-humanism."

The first is a vision for the enhancement of human beings through technology, such as body engineering and similar pursuits. The second envisions a hybridization of human beings, machines, and the environment - in pursuit of what techies term "the Singularity." And yes - that does sound evil in an apocalyptic / dystopian way.

The *Economist* observes that what animates these pursuits is an enthusiasm for a supposed "optimization" of the species - a similar enthusiasm to that which informed 20th century eugenics. Which was popular with Nazis and Fascists. As the Pope observes - "in the name of progress, 'necessary sacrifices' may begin to be justified."

At its simplest level, the Pope seems to be asking who is God - the God revealed in the Bible, or - us? The nub of humanity is that in all its grandeur and woundedness - we must never seek to replace or surpass it. Our humanity is a magnificent gift.

So also is our hope - if our hope is grounded in what God promises, as opposed to what we envision or believe we can create. What the Pope seems to fear is that too many people see the coming of artificial general intelligence in messianic terms - similar to how they see and pursue general technological advancements that can have specific applications defined as "improvements" to our bodies and our lives.

In the face of these concerns (fears...?), Leo states that "technological development has significantly improved the living conditions of humanity." He gives it its due, as likely all of us do. But he warns against misplaced hopes and dreams. As God is the one who made us and all that is, let us put our ultimate hopes and dreams in Him, and in what it is He has promised.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MAY 2026

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED
\$22,115

AVG. MONTHLY EXPENSE
\$27,720

OVER/(UNDER)
(\$5,605)

YTD RECEIVED
\$116,409

YTD EXPENSE
\$135,715

OVER/(UNDER)
(\$19,306)

MISSION FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED
\$534

AVG. MONTHLY PMT.
\$1,750

OVER/(UNDER)
(\$1,216)

YTD RECEIVED
\$17,615*

YTD PMT.
\$3,275

OVER/(UNDER)
**

* INCLUDES THRIFT FAIR

** MISSION DISBURSEMENTS ARE MADE QUARTERLY.

STEWARDSHIP

The Spiritual Nature of Money

In his remarks prior to the offering at a men's retreat, a Colorado pastor said, "We never take collections at these events. We do, however, receive an offering."

He was stating an important truth about Christian stewardship. Receiving an offering is quite different from fund raising. Offerings are a spiritual matter in which we give ourselves to God's causes. Fund raising, on the other hand, is a financial matter in which we give our money to pay the bills for a good cause.

That is an important distinction. In our worship service each Sunday, we are not just taking a collection to pay the bills; that would be fund raising. No, we are receiving an offering. When we give an offering, we give more than money.

That is the major reason that churches ask people to give money as part of the worship service each Sunday – because our giving of money helps us to give a far more important gift: ourselves.

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

Matthew 6:21

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY...

4	Happy 250 th !	
5	Communion Worship A Declaration of Celebration	
	Hymn Festival to Honor 250 years	10:00 a.m.
11	Habitat "Faith Build"	8:00 a.m.
	Community Dinner	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
16	VBSC Leaders and Volunteers Meeting	6:00 p.m.
20, 22 & 24	Vacation Bible School Camp	5:45 - 8:15 p.m.
23	A Mid Summer's Eve, hosted by Deborah at Mariner's Walk	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

AUGUST...

8	Community Dinner	5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
23	Triathlon Sunday "Taizé Evening Worship" followed by a Potluck Picnic on the lawn (weather permitting)	6:00 p.m.
30	L.I. Ducks	5:05 p.m.

Coming up in September...

13	Rally Day / Sunday School Kick-off	10:00 a.m.
22	Blood Drive	time to be determined



Office Summer Hours

July & August

Wednesday,
Thursday & Friday
10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Note – We will end the summer with a
"Taizé Evening Vespers"

Service on August 23 at 6:00 p.m.
followed by a potluck picnic

THERE WILL BE NO MORNING SERVICE



Community Meal

Meals are provided free of charge to guests of the Senior Center and People Loving People Food Pantry.

Contact Jerry Lalonde:

Email galalonde@aol.com

Text or call cell 516-297-7773

or

Contact Selina Collier:

Email Selina_collier@fa.org

Call 516-759-1168

**July 11, 2026
&
August 8, 2026
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**



Habitat for Humanity®

of Long Island, NY

FAITH BUILD

Saturday July 11.
Christianity in action.



COST:

- 1 child in family - \$40 one week
- 2 children in family - \$50 one week
- 3 children in family - \$60 one week

*This is a volunteer program.
Fees cover materials and expenses*

Registration Forms are available: Call Cristina at (516) 922-5477 to pre-register
(All checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay)

SAVE THE DATE

July 20, 22 & 24

5:45 - 8:15 p.m.

Vacation bible school program is open to all children
who have completed Pre-K to Grade 6

**Adult Volunteers &
Student Volunteers in Levels 7 and up are needed**

Contact: Isa Gutierrez - grammieluv@gmail.com

An Important Organizational Meeting for Volunteers will be held
at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, **July 16**, at the
First Presbyterian Church
60 East Main Street, Oyster Bay

DEACONS NOTES

DEACON'S REPORT FROM THE JUNE 2, 2026 MEETING

The service and reception for Anne Evans was very special and was greatly appreciated by her family. A memorial service for Richard Murcott will be on August 1 at 10:00. A reception following the service will be held in Fellowship Hall.

A baptism for Preston Kenniff will be held in the fall.

The next Habitat for Humanity build is July 11.

Children's Day is on June 21.

The dedication for the donated blankets will be on June 21.

SESSION

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay held a regular meeting on June 16, 2026.

MODERATOR'S REPORT: Communion was celebrated on Sunday, June 7, 2026, as authorized by standing resolution of December 16, 2025.

Jeff reported that he performed a Celebration of Life for Anne Evans at the church on May 30, 2026.

Session approved the baptism of Rory Colavito, son of member Carly Koster Colavito and Pat Colavito, to be held on July 19 or August 30, 2026.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Jeff advised that the committee interviewed a few candidates for the custodian position and has extended an offer to Wayne Placella, who is the head custodian at Vernon Middle School. He will be starting July 1. Manuel will work through June 30.

ELDER TRAINING: The transition task force includes Elders Richard, Jerry and Christopher, Deacon Liz Hux, and members of the congregation Pat Azmitia and Cate Ludlam. They held their first meeting on Monday with Jeff to facilitate the start of the process of preparing for Jeff's eventual retirement in 2-3 years. Their mission is to explore the process of transition in order to avoid common pitfalls of churches who do not adequately prepare for this change and will focus on defining who we are as a church, what our mission is as a congregation, who we want to be going forward, and what kind of minister we will be looking for in the future. The task force expects that this self-study process will take about a year, will require input from the congregation, and will result in a document called our Ministry Discernment Profile, which is a Session document.

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 & Dan O'Hare
Worship	Elders – Isa Gutierrez & Jen Newitt
Church Support	Elders – George Baker, Jim Brundige, Richard Kveton & Jerry Lalonde
Mission	Elders – Selina Collier, Catherine Thomas & Clerk, Cathy Hogg
Membership & Outreach	Elder – Isa Gutierrez & Deacon Deborah Hudak

CHILDREN'S DAY



Children's Day was just wonderful! All our children young and old (including our dear Pastor) delighted in leading the Service. Our children had such fun. And so did the whole Church family. Just as importantly, our Sunday School students showed how much they have learned.

Surely, we should all feel very good about our Sunday School!

And now, on to VBS during the week of July 20.
Enjoy your summer!



MISSION MATTERS

Father's Day Blanket Sunday



Your Generous donations raised \$635 to
CWS - Church World Service, which will provide
63 blankets to those in need throughout the world.
Your dollars offer hope and comfort to many!



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	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

The pantry is open for donations; Tuesday 11:00 – 1:00 pm

Wednesday 11:00 – 1:00 pm, Thursdays 11:00 - 6:30 pm

Community Shopping: Thursdays 2:00-6:30 pm

To volunteer, go their website at <https://peoplelovingpeople.net/volunteer-form>

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

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

July...

5 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Communion Worship
A Declaration of Celebration
Hymn Festival to Honor 250 years

12 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 10:5-13
Sermon: "The Point of Obedience"

19 Eight Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 12:1-2
Sermon: "In View of God's Mercy"

26 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 12:1-8
Sermon: "Get Real"

August...

2 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Preacher - Ken Pollitt

9 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Preacher - Ken Pollitt

16 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Preacher - Ken Pollitt

23 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Taizé Evening Vespers Service
(No Morning Service)

30 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Romans 12:9-21
Sermon: "How Will They Know?"

