

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

December 2025



Merry Christmas

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

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

Selina Collier

Heather Franciotti

Isa Gutierrez

Christopher Hogg

Deborah Hudak

Richard Kveton

Jerry Lalonde

Jennifer Newitt

Dan O'Hare

Mia Ramirez

Catherine Thomas

MINISTRIES

Church Support, House

Mission

House

Worship

Christian Education

Membership & Outreach

Church Support

Church Support

Worship

Membership & Outreach

Christian Education

Mission

BOARD OF DEACONS

Pat Azmitia

Catherine Berg

Barbara Catalano

David Harrison

Joan Kingsley

Kristine Lalonde

Janet LaRotonda

Gilbert Lim

Janice Longworth

Scott Powell

Edna Standerwick

Steve Wasilchuk

MINISTRIES

Ushers

Coffee Hour

Helping Hands

Audiovisual

Sanctuary Care

Outreach

Special Events, Kitchen Care

Coffee Hour

Outreach

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...

Max Lucado writes:

Holiday travel. It isn't easy. Then why do we do it? Why cram the trunks and endure the airport? You know the answer. We love to be with the ones we love.

The four-year-old running up the sidewalk into the arms of Grandpa.

The cup of coffee with Mom before the rest of the house awakes.

That moment when, for a moment, everyone is quiet as we hold hands around the table and thank God for family and friends and pumpkin pie.

We love to be with the ones we love.

May I remind? So does God. He loves to be with the ones he loves. How else do you explain what he did? Between him and us there was a distance - a great span. And he couldn't bear it. He couldn't stand it. So, he did something about it.

"He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing." - Phil. 2.7

As we gather during these holidays, may we gather in gratitude - one for another, and - in gratitude for the love of God that came to dwell among us.

STEWARDSHIP

Doing the Possible

A sermon idea in The Clergy Journal begins with words we often hear from others and think to ourselves. "If I had a million dollars ... If I had a million dollars, I would be the most generous person you ever saw. I would give liberally to the church and all its causes. The question for most of us is not 'What would I do if I had a million dollars?'"

The sermon seed goes on to remind us that when Christ asks us to give, he does not ask us to do the impossible, "but to do the possible. In the Scripture lesson Jesus commended Mary: 'She has done what she could' [Mark 14:8a]. There must be something very significant about Mary's giving, that she should be held up by the Master as an example for all time.

"There is a bit of dialogue in George Bernard Shaw's drama, Saint Joan, that illustrates the need for personal commitment:

"Joan: They cannot hold them against God. God did not give them the land under those forts; they stole it from Him. He gave it to us. I will take those forts.

"Dunois: Single-handed?

"Joan: Our men will take them. I will lead them.

"Dunois: Not a man will follow you.

"Joan: I will not look back to see whether anyone is following me.'

"To the opportunity that is ours today, may we respond in such commitment that we do not look back to see if anyone else is following."

When we write a figure on our commitment card at the conclusion of our annual stewardship campaign, God does not call us to do what others will do but what we can do with God's help

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

Matthew 6:21

UPCOMING EVENTS

December...

2	Deacons Meeting	7:00 p.m.
4	L'Dor V'Dor Youth Visit	7:00 p.m.
5	T.R. Association Candlelight walk	7:00 p.m.
6	O.B. Christmas Tree Lighting	4:30 p.m.
7	Hanging of the Greens	10:00 a.m.
	Stewardship Dedication	
	Advent Brunch	11:00 a.m.
	Christmas Pageant Practice	11:45 a.m.
13	Christmas Pageant Practice	9:45- 12:00 p.m.
	Community Dinner	5:00 p.m.
14	Christmas Pageant Practice	8:45 a.m.
	Christmas Pageant Sunday	10:00 a.m.
15	What Presbyterians Believe - Baptism	7:30 p.m.
16	Session Meeting	7:30 p.m.
17-18	IHNC Toy Drive	
21	Holiday Sharing Program - Gifts Due	
24	Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	5:00 p.m.
	Evening Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	9:30 p.m.
25	Merry Christmas!!!	



Community Meal

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

December 13, 2025

5:00 p.m.

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



HOLIDAY SHARING PROGRAM



The Board of Deacons invites the church family to participate in the Holiday Sharing Program by volunteering to provide a gift to a needy individual or family in the Oyster Bay community, please no money or gift cards. Only gifts purchased and wrapped.

The sign-up board is in Fellowship Hall for your consideration,

Gifts are due by December 21st.

Thank you all for your generous support and giving to the community outreach program.

TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2025

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED	AVG. MONTHLY EXPENSE	OVER/(UNDER)
\$32,469	\$27,650	\$4,819
YTD RECEIVED	YTD EXPENSE	OVER/(UNDER)
\$287,541	\$265,348	\$22,193

MISSION FUND SUMMARY*

AMT. RECEIVED	AVG. MONTHLY PMT.	OVER/(UNDER)
\$1,345	\$1,800	(\$455)
YTD RECEIVED	YTD PMT.	OVER/(UNDER)
\$19,705	\$11,575	**

** MISSION DISBURSEMENTS ARE MADE QUARTERLY

SESSION NOTES

SESSION NOTES FROM THE SESSION MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2025

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay held a regular meeting on November 18, 2025.

Session approved the terms of call for Jeff to serve as Covenant Pastor from January 1 to December 31, 2026, as voted on and approved by the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on November 16, 2025.

Session reviewed the draft Budget for 2026. Session will vote on approval of the Budget at the December meeting.

Jeff circulated a draft of the "In Case of Emergency" information sheet he has been compiling with Cristina, of all important information about Church operations, accounts, and service providers.

CHURCH SUPPORT: Annual pledges are starting to come in.

PRESBYTERY REPORT: Jeff attended Presbytery Day at Northport Presbyterian Church on November 15 and reported on a variety of workshops he attended.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The committee completed their work on nominees for 2026. Those recommended were elected at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 16.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: The committee has completed annual reviews and made recommendations to the Session on salaries for 2026.

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

DEACON NOTES

REPORT FROM THE NOVEMBER 5, 2025 DEACONS MEETING

- Jeff mentioned that we will need a volunteer to be moderator when Pat's term is finished.
- We went over the list of students that are at college. The Deacons need to check their lists for student addresses. We would like to send their gift cards at the end of November.
- The Holiday Fair will be on November 22. Set up for the fair will take place on November 16 following the service.
- The Christmas Outreach Program (Holiday Sharing) is being planned. The list of families are expected to be available after Saint Andrew's Day, November 30.
- Last year we gave out about 12 Christmas flowers to those that have suffered a loss in their life. The Deacons should look at their lists for possible recipients this year.
- The Advent brunch will be on December 7.
- A New Members party will be held on November 8, hosted by Deb Hudak.
- We were reminded about placing a flower on the lectern for newborns.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICERS

ELDERS CLASS OF 2028

FIRST TERM

Jim Brundige

SECOND TERM

George Baker Heather Franciotti
Chris Hogg

DEACONS CLASS OF 2028

FIRST TERM

Ya Ming Chen Eileen Pollitt
Liz Hux

SECOND TERM

Gilbert Lim
CLASS OF 2026
Deborah Hudak

HOLIDAY FAIR

Thank You for your donations, for your support and
special thanks to all who worked so hard to make
this event possible and successful.



END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS: In order for contributions to appear on your 2025 statement, contributions must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2025 or dropped off at the church office before the office closes on Friday, December 26 at 2:00 p.m. If you have stock or some other type of property that you would like to donate, please contact the church office (516) 922-5477.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



A Gift from the Heart

December 14, 2025

Pageant rehearsal schedule:

Sunday	12/7	after church	11:30
Saturday	12/13	Dress Rehearsal	9:45 – 12:00
Pageant Sunday	12/14	Final Rehearsal	8:45

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our Sunday School is abuzz with excitement as we prepare for our Christmas Pageant on December 14. We have 20 children of all ages participating. Really quite a record. And this year we have another newborn participating as Jesus: Leo Hogg. And Leo is bringing along his parents as Mary and Joseph. Elaine Palmer has, once again, prepared a wonderful script with broad participation by all our children. And all our favorite Christmas carols and songs will certainly be ringing out. Another Christmas miracle is being born. Please join us in celebrating it with our children!

Adult Education is also going strong, with both Bookies meeting January 7, 2026 and What Presbyterians Believe meeting December 15, 2025. We also have a quite recent addition to our Adult Education line-up. For the past year, Steve Collier has been leading a small group in Bible Study at his house. Most recently, they have been focused on the Book of Matthew. The group has found their monthly meetings to be a powerful way to build relationships and deepen their faith. The group would be delighted to welcome others from our Church family. Just reach out to Steve to do so.

BOOKIES

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

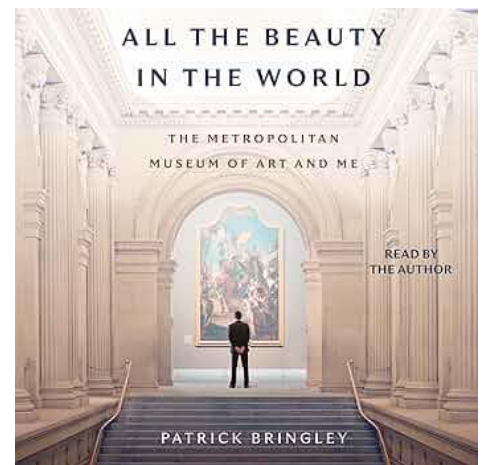
~ the Bookies ~

at 6:30 PM - discussing

~*All the Beauty in the World*~

Our book is *All the Beauty in the World* by Patrick Bringley.

A portrait of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and its treasures by a former New Yorker staffer who spent a decade as a museum guard. In the tradition of classic workplace memoirs like *Lab Girl* and *Working Stiff*, *All The Beauty in the World* is a portrait of a great museum, its hidden treasures, and the people who make it tick, by one of its most intimate observers.



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, January 7 at 6:30. It is something special.

See you then - Joan.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you like to make a donation to the flower fund, we will use your donations to purchase Poinsettias to decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to dedicate your donation in memory, honor or in thanksgiving of loved ones, please fill out this form and kindly place it in the offering plate.



Please Submit your requests and dedications by
DECEMBER 14TH, 2025



to appear in the Christmas Dedication Insert list.

Thank You!

Please Print Neatly

In memory of: _____

by: _____

In honor of: _____

by: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

by: _____

Pledge Envelopes

The 2026 pledge envelopes will be in the Fellowship Hall ready for picked up. 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. You may want to call the office to make arrangement for pick up.



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:
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**

December

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|--|--|
| <p>7 Second Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens
Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-12
Matthew 4:12-17
Sermon: "Having Walked in Darkness..."</p> <p>14 Third Sunday of Advent
Scripture: Luke 1:46-49
Christmas Pageant Sunday</p> | <p>21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Scripture: Isaiah 9:3-7
Matthew 3:13-17
Sermon: "For Unto Us"</p> <p>24 5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service
9:30 p.m. Evening Candlelight Service</p> <p>28 First Sunday after Christmas
Scripture: Luke 2:13-20
Sermon: "Glory to God"</p> |
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