

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.*

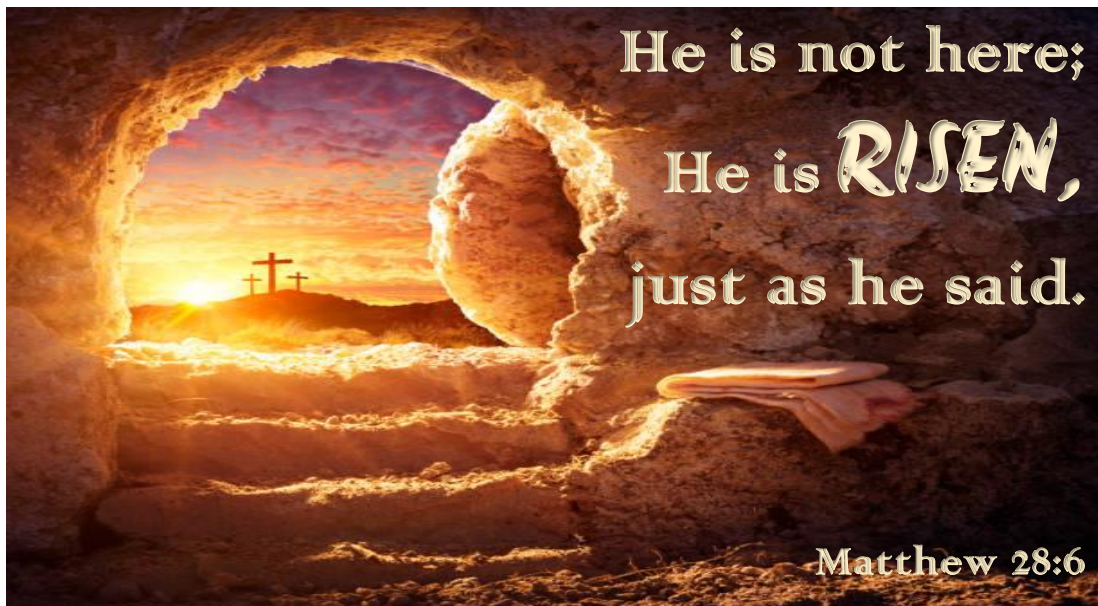
*~ Open Doors - Open Arms - Open Hearts ~*

## *The Presbyterian Times*

60 East Main Street, Oyster Bay, New York 11771

The Reverend Dr. Jeffrey D. Prey, Pastor

*April 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

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

## 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

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## FROM JEFF'S DESK...

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Tish Warren wrote an Op-Ed piece for the NYT a couple of years ago about “why it matters that Jesus really did rise from the dead.” As we approach Easter Sunday, I share some of her observations with you - that this affirmation of his resurrection is both a statement of hope, and - a statement of fact.

She references a poem by John Updike, written in 1960 (“Seven Stanzas at Easter”) as particularly meaningful to her.

“It tells the reader that the Resurrection is not a parable, not an event to mark the rebirth of spring. Easter is no tamed observance that respectable modern people can fit neatly into our sensibilities. The force of its claims must be reckoned with, yet their content can never be accepted in a purely philosophical materialist view of the world.”

She notes that:

“Updike is pushing back on an idea that became ascendant among mainline Protestant churches around the turn of the 20th century and still exists in some places: that belief in a bodily resurrection is incompatible with modern science, technology and medicine. But many who rejected the literal Resurrection of Jesus wanted to maintain some kind of Christian identity, so the story of Christ rising from the dead was recast as a purely spiritual event or a metaphor, not strictly, materially true. In contrast, Updike almost roars: “Let us not mock God with metaphor...”

“...It would be so much more acceptable if Easter were merely a ritual communicating religious ideals, teaching us to cultivate the better angels of our nature. But if Easter is only an abstraction, it doesn't mean much to me. I'm with the Apostle Paul who wrote and the billions of Christians around the world who profess, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.” If Jesus wasn't actually resurrected, then Easter is less real than the budding buzz of spring, less real than a dying breath, less real than my own hands, feet and skin. I have no interest in a Christianity that isn't deeply, profoundly, irreducibly material...”

“... Christians believe that because Jesus is risen, the same power that raised him from the dead is alive in us. The Book of Romans says, “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.” This historical event leaps out of history into the present tense...”

“... Easter, if it's worth anything at all, is more than a metaphor. But it is more than mere history as well. It happened in a specific hour 2,000 years ago yet it cannot be captured in time. It is earthy and palpable but also a sign and a symbol pointing to a reality more mysterious than I can name.”

I pray the reality and the hope of Easter is yours - now, and always.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## APRIL...

2	House M.T. Meeting	7:30 p.m.
6	Pre-Palm Sunday Festival Practice	9:00 a.m.
	Family Communion Sunday Worship	10:00 a.m.
	Pre-Palm Sunday Festival	
	C.E. Meeting	11:30 a.m.
8	Joint Meeting of Deacons and Session with Confirmation Class	7:00 p.m.
12	Community Dinner	5:00 p.m.
13	Palm Sunday Worship	10:00 a.m.
	Easter Egg Hunt	11:30 a.m.
17	Paschal Supper	6:00 p.m.
18	Good Friday Tenebrae Service	8:00 p.m.
20	Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 a.m.
	Easter Sunday Worship	10:00 a.m.
27	Communion Service	10:00 a.m.

## COMING UP...

Thrift Fair May 10



## Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

April 6	Pre-Palm Sunday Festival	10:00 a.m.
April 13	Palm Sunday	10:00 a.m.
April 17	Paschal Supper	6:00 p.m.
April 18	Good Friday Tenebrae	8:00 p.m.
April 20	Easter Sunrise at SYC	6:30 a.m.
	Easter Worship	10:00 a.m.

## Easter Egg Hunt!!!

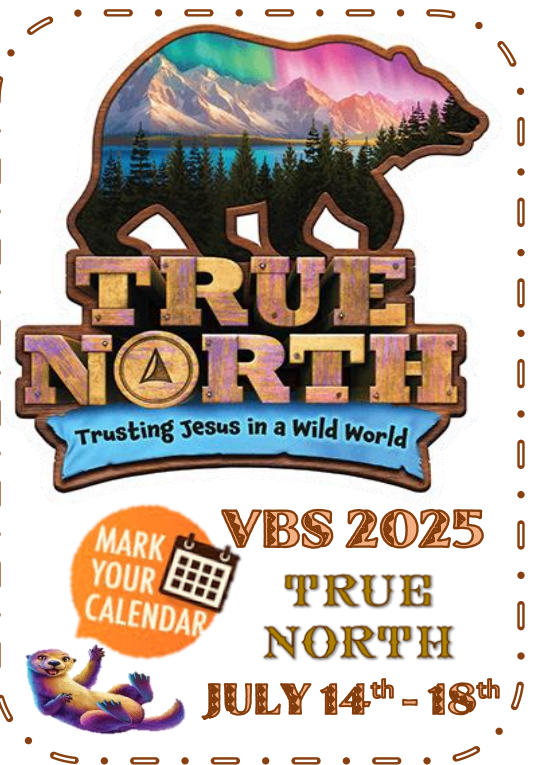
Sunday, April 13th

11:30 a.m.



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

Sunday School Children 6th Grade and under



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# STEWARDSHIP

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## *Why Did Jesus Talk about Money So Much?*

“Jesus’ insistence that money is both physical and spiritual explains why he spoke of it so frequently. Buttrick’s classic book, *The Parables of Jesus*, lists forty-three parables. Twenty-seven of these (62 percent) refer to money and possessions. One out of every ten verses in the four Gospels (a total of 288 verses) deals with money. The Bible includes 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 verses on faith, and more than 2,000 verses on money and what it buys. “The question Jesus illustrates so perfectly with the story of the rich barn builder is as current as the morning paper. Each of us asks the same question every day of our lives: Will I try to achieve a quality life by focusing on money or by focusing on God? As we answer that question, we tend to believe yet resist believing Jesus’ teaching that money is both material and spiritual. On one hand, we see that Jesus is right. On the other hand, we are constantly tempted to think and behave as if Jesus missed the turn on this issue.” [Money Is/Isn’t Everything, Herb Miller]

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

*Matthew 6:21*

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## TREASURER’S REPORT

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### FEBRUARY 2025

AMT. RECEIVED	AVG. MONTHLY EXPENSE	OVER/(UNDER)
\$33,226	\$27,645	\$5,581

YTD RECEIVED	YTD EXPENSE	OVER/(UNDER)
\$56,629	\$50,144	\$6,485

### MISSION FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED	AVG. MONTHLY PMT.	OVER/(UNDER)
\$375	\$1,800	(\$1,425)

YTD RECEIVED	YTD ACTUAL PMT.	OVER/(UNDER)
\$6,864	*	*

\* MISSION DISBURSEMENTS ARE MADE QUARTERLY.

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## DEACON NOTES

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### DEACON'S REPORT FROM THE MARCH MEETING:

We reviewed our deacon’s lists for those who would merit receiving Easter flowers after a hardship in the past year.

Last year we sent 36 Easter baskets to the Boys and Girls Club. Jeff will find out how many are needed for this year. We will assemble them on April 6.

Steve, Janice, and Kris will organize the paschal meal this year. The Elders will do the set up.



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# SESSION NOTES

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## **SESSION REPORT FROM THE MARCH MEETING:**

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

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Cathy presented all the Session Minutes for 2024 at the annual Clerk's meeting at Presbytery on March 14 and those minutes were approved without exception. They will be added to the official record of Session minutes kept in the Church.

Cathy reported on 2025 Session requirements reviewed at the Clerk's meeting regarding a variety of Church policies which Session currently is working on and required employee, minister and Elder trainings.

Session approved a motion to take the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT:** Session approved a motion to hold the annual joint meeting with the board of Deacons on April 8, 2025, and to meet with the Confirmation class at that time.

**ELDER TRAINING:** Session approved a new church policy for addressing the possibility of Homeland Security Immigration Enforcement action on our church property, 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 reviewed the goals and action items from the Long-Range Plan of a few years ago and noted that while many have been addressed, there remain many opportunities for action and Jerry will create a list outlining those.

## **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 George Baker
<b>Worship</b>	Elders – Isa Gutierrez and Jen Newitt
<b>Church Support</b>	Elders – George Baker, Richard Kveton and Jerry Lalonde
<b>Mission</b>	Elders – Selina Collier, Catherine Ceballos and Clerk, Cathy Hogg
<b>Membership &amp; Outreach</b>	Elders – Deb Hudak & Dan O'Hare



## **Community Meal**

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

**April 12, 2025**

**5:00 p.m.**

Contact Jerry Lalonde:

Email [galalonde@aol.com](mailto:galalonde@aol.com)

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

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL

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Our “Christian Educators” are abuzz with excitement as we prepare for our Children’s Lenten Pageant on April 6, when we will see” Jesus coming to town.”

That excitement will continue on Palm Sunday itself on April 13, when the children will lead us in the procession of palms and our Brass ensemble will start the service with a fanfare. And right after our Palm Sunday Service, we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt. So, lots and lots going on in our early childhood classes.

We are also busy in our junior high years, with four confirmands being received on Father’s Day on June 15.

Children’s Day and our Church Picnic will be on June 22, the last day of Sunday School Classes. But, for those missing Sunday School during the summer, we will have Vacation Bible School during the week of July 14. The theme will be “True North.”

In Adult Education, Bookies continues to go strongly, discussing Barbara Kingsolver’s “Animal Dreams” on March 26. “What Presbyterians Believe” continues to host lively and interesting debate. This past Monday, we discussed other the Mormon and Jehovah’s Witnesses religions.

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# MISSION MATTERS

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With lovely sunny days recently, Spring is finally showing signs of bursting into color. If this moves you to begin Spring cleaning, please consider dropping off old towels and sheets in the orange box by the kitchen door. These are greatly appreciated by the **Glen Cove Animal Shelter**.

April 13th is Palm Sunday, which is the day that our congregation takes up our special **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering. In response to Isaiah 58, where we are called upon to be “repairers of the breach” OHGS supports three Presbyterian ministries, each responding to that commission in different ways.

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works to bring immediate relief to communities stricken by earthquakes, fires, droughts etc.
- Presbyterian Hunger Program seeks to fund projects that will bring about sustainable improvement in the health and nutrition of communities.
- The Presbyterian Committee on the Self Development of People affirms God’s concern for humankind by supporting the long-term correction of conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression, including working with refugees.

Please consider participating in the OGHS offering at church on Palm Sunday or giving digitally at <https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing>. This website also has lots of information about the issues addressed and the projects supported by OGHS.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

*Please give generously.*

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

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# THE THRIFT FAIR

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## April: To-Do-List

April showers bring May flowers

As you tend to your spring gardens, keep the Thrift Fair in mind. In addition to household items, plants are wonderful to donate. Divide your plants, pot them up, and keep them happy before donating them to the fair in May. Other donations may now be left on the stage.

Please mark bags/boxes "Thrift Fair"

Thank you.

## **THRIFT FAIR**

Saturday, May 10, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Thrift Fair raises money for our Mission Fund  
by selling new and gently used items  
to the community at large.



### How will you support this church event?

All items should be new or gently used  
and in clean, useable condition.

<p>Please bring your donations <b>after</b> Monday, April 21st No later than Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Arrangements for home pick-up must be made by Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup></p>	<p>Please Place your donations on the stage in the Fellowship Hall</p>
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## Your help is needed

### Donate New & Gently Used Items:

- ◆ Gently used clothing ◆ Children's clothing  
(no stains or rips and no undergarments)
- ◆ Shoes ◆ Toys ◆ Furniture
- ◆ Household furnishings ◆ Collectibles
- ◆ Housewares ◆ Garden-yard tools & equipment
- ◆ Books, hard cover and paperback  
(no text books or encyclopedias)

### Baked Goods:

- ◆ Homemade cakes ◆ Pies ◆ Breads
- ◆ Cookies ◆ Brownies ◆ Cupcakes, etc.

**GET YOUR  
RED OF  
STUFF**



HELP MAKE OUR  
**THRIFT FAIR**  
THE BEST EVER!

Please bring your baked goods  
Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
or Saturday morning, May 10<sup>th</sup>

*If you have questions or require home pick-up  
Please call Suzie Ecton (516) 628-3527  
or the church office (516) 922-5477*



## **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**

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*April..*

6 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Family Communion Sunday Worship

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8

Sermon: "The Ministry of Self-Giving"

13 Palm Sunday Worship

Scriptures: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11

Sermon: "The Servant King"

20 Easter Sunday Worship

Scriptures: Isaiah 65:17-25; Acts 10:34-43

Sermon: "The Servant's Message"

27 Second Sunday of Easter

Communion Sunday Worship

Scriptures: Psalm 118:14-29; Acts 5:27-32

Sermon: "Are We Witnesses?"

