

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 2026



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

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

Cathy Hogg

Richard Kveton

Catherine Berg

David Harrison

Kristine Lalonde

Cristina Harrison

MINISTRIES

Church Support, House

Church Support

Mission

House

Worship

Christian Education

Church Support

Church Support

Worship

House

Christian Education

Mission

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

FROM JEFF'S DESK

As you follow Christ into the wilderness of Lent, consider what it means for the church to not just contribute to culture but also stand against culture—not out of fear, but because the church's message and witness stand in contrast to the world.

“In a divided world, may we speak of our unity in Christ. In the midst of a scarcity mindset, may the church be generous in all things. When the world is at war, let the church work for peace and the flourishing of all. Amidst the shouts of “hate,” may we live “love” and follow the God of love to the cross.”

Looking ahead to a Lenten Worship Series, let's spend some time with the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). These two disciples traveling from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus on the evening of Easter Sunday are on a journey that began in sorrowful despair at the sudden death of their beloved friend and master. However by the time they reach their destination their outlook is completely transformed into one of light and hope. An unrecognized traveler joins them, and the conversation he holds with them causes their hearts to burn with new insight and excitement. This encounter changes their lives—a journey from blindness to enlightenment, from darkness to sight.

The motif of light as a symbol of increasing spiritual discernment is a favorite of Luke's. When John the Baptist is born, his father, Zechariah, prophesies that his son will prepare the way for the coming of God's mercy, just as the morning light breaks on those sitting in darkness (Luke 1:78, 79). The night sky outside Bethlehem is brilliant with angelic light as Jesus' birth is proclaimed (Luke 2:13, 14). Dim-eyed Simeon pronounces that he has seen God's salvation: a light to the nations, and glory to Israel (Luke 2:28-32). As he comes of age, Jesus announces the commencement of his public ministry by saying that the Spirit has anointed him to proclaim release from oppression and sight to the blind (Luke 4:16-21).

The dynamic of light and darkness, sight and blindness invites us to explore how much we see. Like a city on a hill at night, like a lamp on a stand, the kingdom is here. Even more, the risen Jesus is here! Where do we see him? How much of his kingdom presence do we recognize in our midst?

TREASURER'S REPORT

SEE ANNUAL REPORT

STEWARSHIP

Holding onto the Best

“Some two hundred years ago, the French educator Alexis de Tocqueville came to America to study our newly independent republic. In *Democracy in America* he pointed to elements of colonial life that still describe Americans today: ‘I have seen the freest and best educated of men in circumstances the happiest to be found in the world. Yet it seemed to me that a cloud habitually hung on their brow and they seemed serious and almost sad in their pleasures. They never stop thinking of the good things they have not got. They clutch everything and hold nothing fast.’

“We have grown more knowledgeable and secure over the last two hundred years, but...The forces that hammer at us have turned us into a nation of seekers. Part of our search has been prompted by a sense that much of our lives is empty, confusing, monotonous, unrewarding. We search for meaning and inspiration, for a workable formula that can lead us to a joyful, contented, satisfying existence.” [Give to Live, Douglas M. Lawson]

The answer is so obvious that we can fail to see it. Real meaning in life does not come from getting things but from giving something.

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

Matthew 6:21

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY...

1	Communion Worship	10:00 a.m.
	Annual Congregational Meeting	11:00 a.m.
	Potluck Luncheon	11:30 a.m.
	C.E./Sunday School Meeting	11:30 a.m.
3	Deacons Meeting	7:00 p.m.
4	House M.T. Meeting	7:00 p.m.
6	(Numerically - a cool date...)	
11	Bookies	6:30 p.m.
14	Community Dinner	5:00 p.m.
15	Worship M.T. Meeting	11:30 p.m.
17	Session	7:30 p.m.
18	Ash Wednesday Communion Service	7:30 p.m.
22	First Sunday in Lent	
28	(Session LRP Mini-Retreat) ?	



Coming Up:

(Session LRP Mini-Retreat) ?	March 7
Daylight Savings Time Begins	March 8
A Celebration of the Life of Richard Longworth	March 28
Palm Sunday and "A Palm Sunday Festival"	March 29



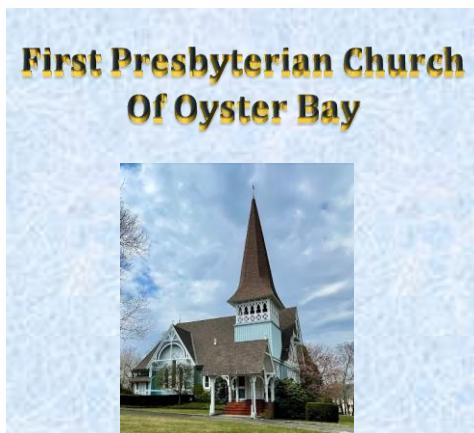
Community Meal

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

February 14, 2025
5:00 p.m. ❤



2026 CHURCH DIRECTORY
60 East Main Street
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
(516) 922-5477

**The 2026 Church Family Photo
Directory is available in
PDF format at your request.**

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

SESSION NOTES

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay held a regular meeting on January 27, 2026 on Zoom due to snowy weather.

Jeff welcomed newly elected Elder Jim Brundige.

CLERK'S REPORT: At worship on January 4, 2026 Jim Brundige was ordained and installed as an Elder. Ya Ming Chen, June Hux and Eileen Pollitt were installed as Deacons.

Session elected the following officers for 2026: Richard Kveton, President of the Board of Trustees; Kris Lalonde, Treasurer; Cathy Hogg, Clerk of Session.

Cathy noted with sadness the loss of church member Frank Hudak, who died in 2025. His name will be removed from our roll of active members. She also noted with sadness the death of Richard Longworth on January 10, 2026.

Session voted to approve the annual Statistical Report for the Presbytery. Cathy will submit it to Presbytery and include it in the book of Minutes.

MODERATOR'S REPORT: Communion was celebrated on Sunday, January 4, 2026, as authorized by standing resolution of December 16, 2025.

Session approved changing the celebration of communion from Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026, to Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026, to coincide with the Children's Pageant.

CHURCH SUPPORT: Richard reviewed the final numbers for 2025 and reported that 2025 was very successful year. Richard noted a most promising trend since the Fall of 2025 where monthly revenues exceeded monthly expenditures and noted that for the full year 2025 all revenue categories exceeded their budgeted amount. He is encouraged that pledge and plate offerings were over budget, especially as pledges so far for 2026 are about \$80,000 short of the goal of \$250,000. As in the past, he is hopeful this amount will in fact be covered.

Jeff noted our strong financial position is built upon a faithful and generous membership, a physical plant that lends itself well to use by a variety of rent paying organizations and film crews, and a creative membership that finds new ways to raise money through events like the Oyster Fest parking and the Holiday Fair.

PRESBYTERY REPORT: The next Presbytery Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 3 at 6 pm on Zoom. Jeff will attend and Session voted to elect Richard to be our Elder representative.

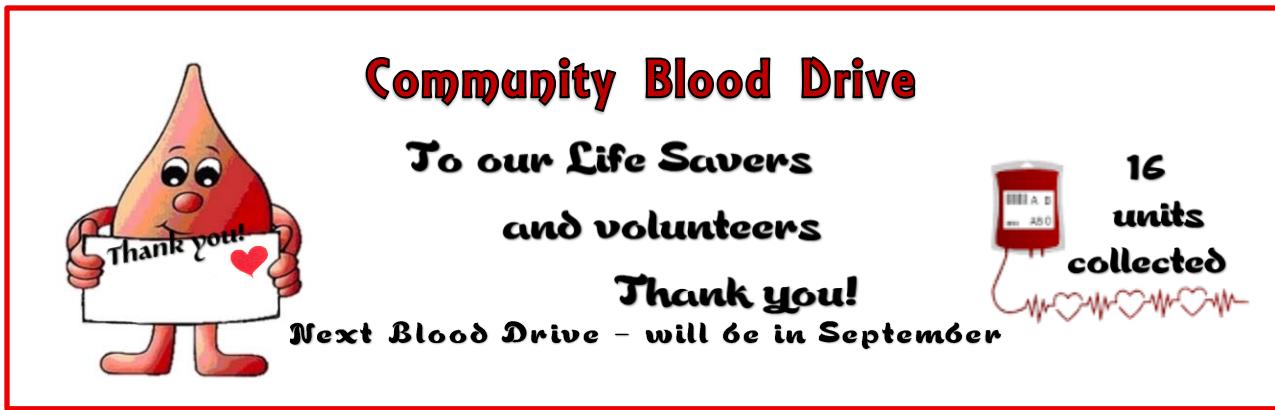
NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Session elected Richard Kveton and Isa Gutierrez to be our reps to the Nominating Committee.

ELDER TRAINING: Session in planning a mini retreat on February 28 to discuss topics from the Long Range Plan.

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 Heather Franciotti & Dan O'Hare
Worship	Elders Isa Gutierrez & Jen Newitt
Church Support	Elders Richard Kveton, George Baker, Jim Brundige & Jerry Lalonde
Mission	Elders Selina Collier & Catherine Thomas & Clerk Cathy Hogg
Membership and Outreach	Elders Needed



DEACON NOTES

DEACONS REPORT FROM THEIR JANUARY 6, 2026 MEETING:

We received thank you cards from the Life Enrichment Center for a donation we made to the Gala Dinner, from Hazel for sending her flowers, and from the Youth and Family Counseling Agency for the families that received gifts from our Holiday Sharing program through the Adopt a Family Program. The advent brunch was enjoyed by all, although somewhat lightly attended.

A signup sheet was passed around for us to schedule attending Session meetings.

We discussed our deacon's lists, reallocating those who are from departing deacons.

We reviewed committee assignments, and the new Deacons chose their ministries.

We will have a luncheon following the congregational meeting on January 25. The Deacons need to call their lists for main and side dishes, salads, and desserts.

Steve reported on the blood drive that was just finishing. Twenty people showed up and they collected 16 units of blood. Unfortunately, this amount does not meet the minimum set by the Blood Services.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SEE ANNUAL REPORT

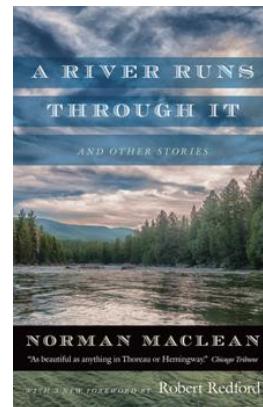
BOOKIES

A River Runs through It by Norman Maclean.

It is a kind of text: equal parts fishing primer, literary masterworks, and spiritual guide.

In this book the art of casting a fly becomes a ritual of grace, and a metaphor for an attempt to move into nature.

It is a work that touches the heart. Hopefully you will enjoy the book.



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 11 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:
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

February...

1	Forth Sunday after Epiphany Communion Worship Scripture: Exodus 17:8-13 John 13-17 Sermon Title: "Intercessory Prayer"	15	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Scripture: Isaiah 53:3 Phillipians 3:10 Sermon Title: "Suffering Prayer"
8	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Scripture: Psalm 113 Acts 28:1-10 Sermon Title: "Healing Prayer"	22	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Scripture: Psalm 32 Luke 24: 13-24 Sermon Title: "Sorrowful Searching"

