

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 2024*



# 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, 9:30 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

Efrain Azmitia	House
George Baker	Church Support, House
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
Barbara Catalano	Helping Hands
Stephen Collier	Special Events
Randy Ecton	Greeters
David Harrison	Audiovisual
Joan Kingsley	Sanctuary Care
Kristine Lalonde	Outreach
Janet LaRotonda	Special Events, Kitchen Care
Gilbert Lim	Coffee Hour
Janice Longworth	Outreach
Jane Byrd McCurdy	Ushers
Edna Standerwick	Coffee Hour
Steve Wasilchuk	Outreach

## MINISTRIES

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

## MINISTRIES

Ushers  
Helping Hands  
Special Events  
Greeters  
Audiovisual  
Sanctuary Care  
Outreach  
Special Events, Kitchen Care  
Coffee Hour  
Outreach  
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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Philip Yancey has written a book titled: "The Jesus I Never Knew." Philip Yancey is well-known and widely written in Christian circles, and beyond - having met with and counseled U. S. Presidents. How is that he can say of Jesus - that he had never known him?

Taking a long and "preconception-free" look at the Gospels, he says he got to know a Jesus who was different from the Jesus he learned about in Sunday School. In some ways, this Jesus was more terrifying. In some ways, he was more comforting.

From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, Yancey uncovers and presents a complex character who generates questions as well as answers - a Jesus who is "brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying." In it all, he found a Jesus different from the flannel graph Sunday School figure, the sweetly smiling Victorian Saviour, and all the cultural cliches that have tamed Jesus and kept him in comfortable religious boxes.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of this Jesus at Easter, let's consider what it means for our lives that he lives -

Who is this Jesus that we may have met many years ago, and what can we gain from meeting him again?

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### APRIL...

2	Joint Meeting of Deacons & Session	7:00 p.m.
3	House M.T. Meeting	7:30 p.m.
4	Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.
7	Communion Sunday Worship Sunday School / C.E. Meeting	11:30 a.m.
8	Solar Eclipse What Presbyterians Believe	approx. 3:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
11	Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.
13	Community Dinner	5:00 p.m.
14	A Baby Sprinkling & Light Luncheon	11:00 a.m.
18	Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.
21	"Organ Crawl"	Details TBA
22 - 27	Jeff away at Ministry Conference (No Choir Practice)	
28	Hymn Festival Mission M.T. Meeting	10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.



### COMING UP...

Rock Voices Concert	May 5
Thrift Fair	May 11
Community Dinner	May 11
IHNC Awards Dessert at Christ Church	May 20
Habitat Faith Build	June 22

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# STEWARDSHIP

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## *Materialism Is Deceptive*

Perhaps our currency should be printed with a label that reads: ‘Warning, money may be hazardous to your spiritual health . . . .’ Love of money and not money itself is the problem. Certainly wealth can be used for good purposes. When this is the case, it becomes beneficial to one’s spiritual health. ”In Jesus’ day, the Jews considered wealth a reward from God. They had great difficulty recognizing the subtle danger of materialism because they had come to identify it as a sign of God’s favor. Coming out of that background, a rich young man approached Jesus with an important question. . . . ‘Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ (Luke 18:18).

“Although he asked a sincere question, when he heard the answer he was distressed. Jesus pointed out the main obstacle between him and eternal life—his money. . . . ‘When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth’ (Luke 18:23) . . . . He was deceived by believing that because he had great wealth he was blessed by God. In reality, his money separated him from God.” [*Partners With God*, Bobby L. Edlund and Terry Austin]

At first glance, this Scripture seems to say we should give away all our money. The meaning is deeper than that. Jesus is saying that idolatry to money can disconnect us from the riches of God’s Spirit.

That is one of several reasons why systematically giving money to God’s causes is part of every church’s teaching about personal spiritual growth. Giving money to God does not mean that God will insulate us from all of life’s troubles. But not giving money to God guarantees that we are not likely to escape the small box of self-concern and connect with God’s life-changing Spirit

*“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 2024

#### GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED	AVG. MONTHLY EXPENSE	OVER/(UNDER)
\$21,028	\$27,060	(\$6,032)
YTD RECEIVED	YTD EXPENSE	OVER/(UNDER)
\$47,869	\$48,682	(\$813)

#### MISSION FUND SUMMARY

AMT. RECEIVED	AVG. MONTHLY PMT.	OVER/(UNDER)
\$553	\$1,820	(\$1,267)
YTD RECEIVED	YTD ACTUAL PMT.	OVER/(UNDER)
\$2,073	*	*

\* MISSION DISBURSEMENTS ARE MADE QUARTERLY.

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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 19, 2024. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Pastor the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey D. Prey at 7:05 pm.

Session approved holding the annual joint meeting with the Deacons on April 2, 2024.

**PRESBYTERY REPORT:** Session elected Richard to be the Session rep to the Saturday, April 13 Presbytery meeting is West Islip at the Presbytery Center.

**ELDER TRAINING:** Jeff shared a brief reading from Max Lucado on Matthew 27 regarding the tearing of the curtain in the Temple when Christ died.

Isa shared that we need Lay Readers for most Spring Sundays after Easter.

Cathy shared that we need Nursery Care providers as well. Sign-up sheets are in the office hallway along the kitchen wall.

### **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>
Christian Ed	Elders – Chris Hogg and Mia Ramirez
House	Elders – Efrain Azmitia, George Baker and Heather Franciotti
Worship	Elders – Isa Gutierrez and Jen Newitt
Church Support	Elders – George Baker, Richard Kveton and Jerry Lalonde
Mission	Elders – Selina Collier and Clerk, Cathy Hogg
Membership & Outreach	Elders – Deb Hudak & Dan O'Hare

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# DEACON NOTES

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## **DEACON'S REPORT FROM THEIR MARCH MEETING:**

We received a thank you note from a congregational member for a Silver Star request that was approved by the Deacons.

The Deacons approved a Silver Star request from a member's cousin that has Crohn's Disease, to cover two months of insurance bills for \$1200

The Joint Meeting will be on April 2nd or 9th.

We reviewed our lists for Easter flowers.

We made plans to assemble baskets for the Boys and Girls Club on Palm Sunday following the service.

There have been suggestions that we hold the Pasqual Dinner every year. The Deacons agreed to keep it for alternate years.

There are plans to welcome Jessica back by hosting a lunch on the 14th of April. The Deacons agreed to fund food for the event.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL

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“Our PALM SUNDAY PAGEANT and EASTER EGG HUNT! Our children gave us a “Double-Header” of blessings on Palm Sunday.

First, a joyous, energy-filled Pageant celebrating Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem, plus re-enactments of some of our Lord’s parables. There are plenty more Parables, so we are already hoping for a Palm Sunday Pageant Sequel next year!

As if the Pageant wasn’t enough, then the Easter Bunny came to visit.

Our High School and Junior High, students did a great job of filling and hiding those Easter Eggs. But, judging from the delight on the faces of our younger students, maybe they did an even better job of finding them! Oh, and speaking of joy and energy, maybe that Easter Bunny had just as much fun (if not more) than the kids.”



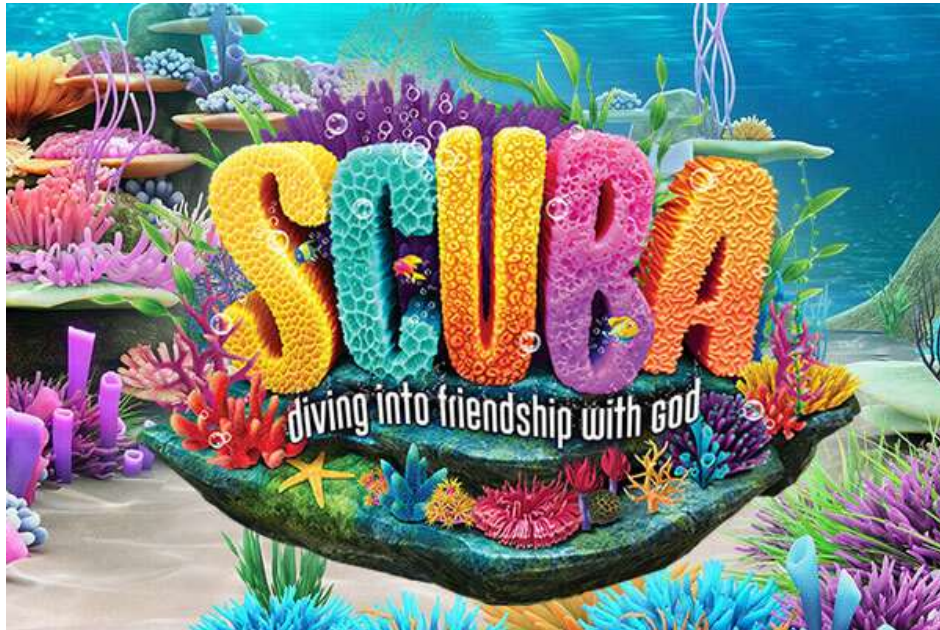
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# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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## SAVE THE DATE

July 15 – July 29



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## MISSION MATTERS

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### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

*Your generous donations are greatly appreciated!!  
We raised \$676.00 to help support the poor and the oppressed.  
Thank you!!*



### Community Meal

**March 13, 2024  
5:00 p.m.**

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](mailto:galalonde@aol.com) OR  
Text or call cell 516-297-7773

Contact Selina Collier:

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

# THRIFT FAIR

Saturday, May 11, 2024

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.

Please bring your  
donations

After Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

No later than

Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

Arrangements for

home pick-up

must be made by

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

Please

Place your donations on

the stage in the

Fellowship Hall

## 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.

Your baked goods will be greatly appreciated anytime

Please bring your baked goods  
Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> or Saturday morning, May 11<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)*

GET YOUR  
RID OF  
STUFF

VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!

HELP MAKE OUR  
THRIFT FAIR  
THE BEST EVER!



**The Thrift Fair**  
**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 be left on the stage. Please mark bags/boxes "Thrift Fair"

**Thank You.**

**The Thrift Fair returns Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.**

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**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...*

7 Communion Sunday Worship

Second Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Matthew 2:13-18; Revelation 12:1-6

Sermon: "The Jesus I never Knew - Birth:  
The Visited Planet"

21 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Genesis 3:1-7; Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: "The Jesus I never Knew - Temptation:  
Showdown in the Desert"

14 Third Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Matthew 1:1, 17; Luke 2:21-24

Sermon: "The Jesus I never Knew - Background:  
Jewish Roots and Soil"

28 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Hymn Festival

Scriptures: Luke 12:8

Sermon: "The Jesus I Thought I Knew"

