

April 2026



First Pres. Press

FROM THE PASTOR

**The seed is in the ground.
Now may we rest in hope while
darkness does its work.**

-Wendell Berry

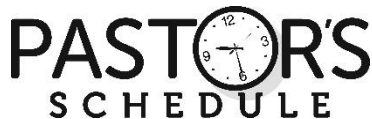
There's a difference between hoping and wishing. In a wish we know what we want (maybe not what we really need) and we are "hoping" that we will get it in the future. Hope as a virtue (faith, hope, and love) is about an openness to what will come and a trusting in the one doing the work. It's a stance in regards to the future...no matter what it is we will act in courage, love, and care for our neighbors. We will receive it as the work of God. And let's be honest, we don't really know what the future holds for the world.

There is a mystery in the transformation of the seed in the dark, cool soil. We can't really do anything to speed it up or determine what comes of it. As the parable in Mark says, the farmer plants the seeds and goes to bed. All on its own the seed sprouts and grows.

This is what active waiting means. The activity for us is becoming more open to what will arise from the seeds we plant. Training our eyes to see differently, to see what we are missing right now.

The seed in the soil, Jesus's body in the tomb, the growth of a child, the transformation of our hearts. Its all hoping because God is doing a mysterious work out of our sight.

Pastor Garrett



Pastor Garrett is available in-person at the church Mon, Tue and Wed 9:30 - 12:30 or by appointment.

WORSHIP



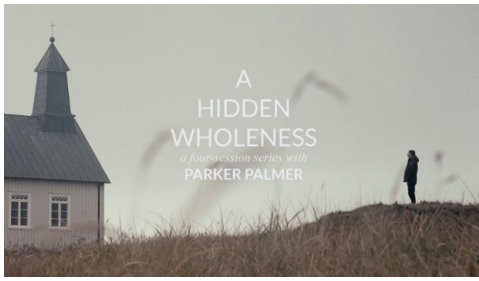
Faith Class Reminder:

October faith classes for elementary students will be on April 12 & April 26. Younger students will meet with Pierre and Jason during worship and older students will meet with Bill and Rich during fellowship hour.



Palm Sunday	10:15 am
Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm
Good Friday	7:00 pm
Easter	10:15 am

CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD



Starting April 12th, Garrett and Ashley will be offering a 4-week study called "A Hidden Wholeness." In a world often marked by division, fear, and uncertainty, this series invites you into a journey of re-discovery—a journey toward a deeper connection with God, yourself, and others. Through the wisdom and reflections of Parker Palmer, these four sessions explore themes of hospitality, grace, and hope as pathways to wholeness in our lives and communities. Each week we

will watch a short video together and discuss. You do not need to be able to attend all four and there will be no homework given! We hope you can join us!



Thank you to our church family for all the cards, prayers and concerns while I am recovering in Florida.

Lynda & Ed Fauler

Welcome Stephen

Judy Alderman's Great Grandson
Born March 12, 2026



Meet Sophia Jane Brown

Granddaughter of Mike and Leigh Anne Herd
Born March 13, 2026



Joint Presbytery Gathering – You're Invited!

Members and friends of the Presbyteries of Cayuga-Syracuse and Susquehanna Valley are invited to a special joint gathering.

Date: Saturday, May 16

Time: 11:00 am – 2:30 pm

(Doors open at 10:30 am for registration and fellowship)

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia

Who Should Attend:

Everyone! All members, elders, deacons, pastors, and friends of both presbyteries are encouraged to come.

Why Attend:

Come to build new friendships, learn from one another, hear about the merger between the Lehigh & Lackawanna presbyteries, share your thoughts, ask questions, and enjoy a day of connection and community.

Lunch:

Lunch is included. A \$5 donation is welcomed.

Please email Lorrie Cooney: lccooney1@gmail.com with your name, church, and number attending so we can plan for lunch.

The **Craft & Chat Group** has added a gathering on each 5th Mondays. This gathering will be a little different, the group will all do the same craft together. On March 30 we painted planters then added a live plant to each. These are the projects finished:



NEWS FROM THE DEACONS



Prayer requests for the prayer chain?
Contact Leigh Anne Herd at laherd02@gmail.com or 315-727-0178

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CLERK

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LFPC SESSION MEETING

03/09/2026

- Nominating Committee is meeting to prayerfully consider who to nominate for offices of Ruling Elder and Deacon
- The sign outside will begin displaying monthly messages from the Mission and Social Justice Committee
- The Session, in the next year, will begin developing an anti-racism policy for LFPC.
- Holy Week will include Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, both at 7 pm.
- The family area in the back of the sanctuary will be expanded and updated in the next few months, allowing for families with small children to worship together safely and quietly.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE

Additional details about the meeting and other information about the presbytery can be found in the weekly presbytery e-newsletter *Presbytery Matters*. Go to their website cayugasyracuse.org and click on the Resources tab.

MISSIONS

Blessings in a Backpack



As part of the partnering rotation for the month of April, we are asked to collect:

Fruit Cups (any brand or variety)

The **Blessings in a Backpack** program is a national nonprofit program that works with local chapters to provide food during the school year to children in need.

The Liverpool Chapter of **Blessings in a Backpack** is now feeding students in all the elementary schools in the Liverpool School district! Every week during the school year, each of these students receive food for the week-end- two breakfast items, two lunch items and two snacks. A group from our church helps to pack the meals on the second Wednesday of the month during morning hours.

Those wishing to make monetary donations to support the program can write a check to “Blessings in a Backpack” and write “**Liverpool NY Chapter 1854**” on the memo line. Checks should be sent to Blessings in a Backpack, Liverpool Chapter 1854, PO Box 52, Liverpool, NY 13088. If you have any questions regarding the above, or would like to volunteer to help pack, please contact Karen Fay at fimtay@gmail.com or talk to me during Fellowship Hour on Sunday mornings.

Isaiah’s Table Little Pantry	Needs include ready-to-eat items (pop-top cans or pouches), cereal, pasta, cereal bars, bar soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, or a monetary donation made out to: “Isaiah’s Table”
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The following items are being accepted for ongoing needs for families:



Diapers (any size)
Baby wipes

Any questions, contact the church office (315) 457-3161 or office@liverpoolfirstpres.org Donations can be dropped off in the foyer during office hours and on Sunday before worship services.

FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY GROUPS

Join a Fellowship/Study Group

Craft & Chat Group - 6:30pm	1st & 3rd Mondays
Fathers~Brothers~Sons - 6:30pm	1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Becoming Faithful Followers (BFF) - 6:30pm	2nd & 4th Wednesdays
Manuscript Study -1:30pm	1st & 4th Thursdays
Elsie O'Neil Circle - 12:30pm	2nd Thursday
Choir - 7:00pm	Thursdays

Contact church office for more information

Craft & Chat!



Join a group of friends to craft & chat together. We gather on Mondays on the 1st & 3rd week from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the LFPC library.

Whether you crochet, knit, make cards, draw, sew or any other craft you are welcome to join. Even if you don't craft, just come to chat. This is a casual gathering to share craft ideas, enjoy conversation with others and make new friends.

The gatherings will be April 6 & April 20. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend to the next gathering!!
Contact Lisa Bricault with any questions.



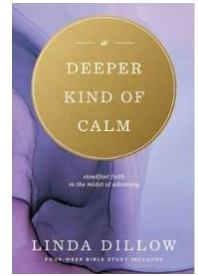
Fathers • Brothers • Sons
is a new kind of men’s gathering for a new day
We will meet on April 7 & April 21
6:30-8pm at LFPC.
Come and join the community!

together in faith • circle of trust • shoulder to shoulder • present in the moment



2nd & 4th Wednesdays
6:30 – 7:45 pm
Fellowship Hall

Join us as we strive to become more faithful in following God’s word and Jesus’ teachings.



This devotional study of Psalms helps us remember that God, in His Faithfulness, is with us always. With God we can manage life’s challenges and disappointments (our own, those of family/friends and in our world) with positivity and a deeper kind of calm.



Manuscript Study

Manuscript Study will meet the first and fourth THURSDAYS of the month at 1:30 - 2:30 in the church library.

Manuscript Study is a process of:

1. Reading Scripture without subheadings and verse separations
2. Observing repetitive themes and words, comparisons/contrasts, by highlighting, underlining, making notes and writing questions
3. Discussing observations and recognizing common themes in order to develop a central message
4. Praying for God's wisdom and guidance in applying this central message to our lives today

Our study this year will focus on the book of Exodus. The only supplies needed are a pencil/pen and a Study Bible or a phone for research. If you have questions, please call Leigh Anne Herd.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

ELSIE O'NEILL/WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

We warmly invite all women of the church to join our Circle — a place where friendship, faith, and fellowship come together. We meet monthly on the **second Thursday at 12:30 PM** in the **Fellowship Hall**. We’ll be meeting next on, **April 9, 2026** and we hope to welcome our faithful friends *and* many fabulous new faces!

Each month, we gather with brown-bag lunches and enjoy a delicious dessert provided by our members. Our time together includes updates on church life, meaningful service projects, and a light Bible study that often sparks rich and heartfelt conversation. Through

laughter, learning, and shared prayer, we find strength and support in one another.

Whether you're looking for spiritual encouragement, new friendships, or simply a welcoming space to connect, the Elsie O’Neil Circle is here for you.

March is a busy & fun month for our Elsie O’Neil Circle. This month we celebrated St. Patrick's Day. Here are a couple pictures to share.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Warm wishes,
Coleen Clapper, Chair



LFPC LIBRARY

If you are looking for stories, DVD's or other information, remember to check our online church library website: librarycat.org/lib/firstpres1829_Type in any search phrase you like. An advanced search is available, just click on the arrow to the right of the search box.

*Please note: We do not have electronic sign outs. Therefore, each item will say available. The only way to check if an item is available is to look for it in the library. Each item has a sign out card. Please fill out and leave in the tray next to the first door to the library.

Any questions, please contact Sue Kline at slkline51@gmail.com

CHURCH FAMILY BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

1 – Richard Lash
3 – Linus Gouger
10 – Cate Beardsley
11 – Rick VanHoute
15 – Timothy Ebner
17 – Sue Kline
30 – Jennifer Campbell

(if anyone has been omitted from this list, please contact the church office)



GIVE TO LFPC



If you are able, please **continue make your regular financial offering** to the church by mailing your check to Treasurer, Liverpool First Presbyterian Church, 603 Tulip Street, Liverpool NY 13088 or on our website at: <https://liverpoolfirstpres.org/give> or download the mobile app “Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement”

Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse E-News

Our goal is to highlight things going on throughout the Church: within our Presbytery, in our congregations, as well as in the Synod of the Northeast and across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

To subscribe see: <http://cayugasyracuse.org>

The **May 2026 Newsletter Deadline** is **Monday, April 27 by 12 noon**. Please get all articles and pictures into the church office by the deadline. You may call the office at 315-457-3161 or email office@liverpoolfirstpres.org

