

December 2025



First Pres. Press

FROM THE PASTOR

MUSINGS:

The turkey has been rendered down to its most basic form: a sandwich. Other leftovers have likewise been disposed of in any number of different ways. And now, looms the specter of Christmas and all of the paraphernalia that goes with it.

We have to buy the tree, or at least resurrect the artificial one we have tucked somewhere in the basement. And of course, there are the outside decorations. And who can forget the shopping to find the perfect gift? Periodically, there are parties to celebrate the season. Every year, it seems to become a bigger deal to the point where we sigh a sigh of relief when all the festivities are all over, and we can return to normal.

Madison Avenue, Daddy Warbucks, and Saturnalia have largely redefined what this time of the year is all about. We forget. What started as the celebration of the coming of the Messiah, to remake the world in the image of God, has slowly been transformed into a birthday party whose meaning can get lost in the frenzy of the season. We console ourselves by saying, "It's about the giving."

On one hand, of course, it is. We celebrate God's giving us a visible reminder of his presence with us. And so, Christmas becomes another Thanksgiving. On the other hand, it is about receiving that which we could not manufacture for ourselves.

Jesus came to show us what the love of God is like. The fact that he came as an infant and not as a conqueror should speak volumes. Of course, we can further our misunderstanding by saying that he came as a meek and mild the first time, but will come again as the divine militaris. That means we just put off the inevitable judgment of our enemies until later.

Jesus, as a child, was God's way of demonstrating patience with a species that is impatient and irritable at best, even as we display great acts of courage and compassion. God gave Jesus time to grow and thrive among us so that at some point he could still say, "There is another way." And then, he lived that other way in the face of relentless pressure. Take care of himself first, do fancy tricks to win people over, and finally, to make a deal with the apparent ruler of the earth. In other words, play by everyone else's rules. He died, not for our sins but because of our sins. He died to show just how far God would go to convince us of his love for us and for all people. And God raised him to show us that nothing we could do would thwart his will for creation.

And so, the message of Christmas is multileveled. It is a message of patience. It is one of love and understanding. It is one of not going along with the crowd but rather living our lives caring for others and doing what is right, even when it is difficult. In the process, we find it to be a message of healing, of hope, and life as we only wished it could be.

From me and my house, we wish you a Merry Christmas.

Pastor Sean

One last word.:

As my time with you draws closer, it seems only reasonable to leave a closing word. That word is *thank you*. I have enjoyed my time with you, worshiping, playing, and sharing. I am grateful for those opportunities to draw closer to you when circumstances called for another ear.

You are truly a remarkable congregation, and it is my prayer that God will continue to bless you and lead you into new opportunities for service and growth. I believe I am a better person because of your loving welcome.

May God be with you, one and all.


If you need to talk:

Contact Lisa at the office to arrange a meeting with me by either calling (315) 457-3161 or email office@liverpoolfirstpres.org.

On those evenings when the Session meets (2nd Monday), I expect to be in the Pastor's office from about 500 p.m. until 15 minutes before the meeting. The door will be open, feel free to drop in and talk.

Pastor Scott

WORSHIP

September Worship Schedule

December 7, 2025	Rev. Scott Cupp
December 14, 2025	Rev. Scott Cupp
December 21, 2025	WE Sunday with Elder Ashley Gouger & Elder Bill Newell & Rev Garrett Anderson
December 24, 2025	Rev. Garrett Anderson
December 28, 2025	Rev. Garrett Anderson

Church Officers

The Session

Rev. Scott Cupp – *Moderator*
 Tim Bricault – *Fellowship*
 Tim Fay – *Buildings and Grounds, Bookkeeper*
 Lynda Fauler – *Stewardship and Finance*
 Tracie Folley – *Mission, Director of FIFCPS*
 Ashley Gouger – *Faith Formation Coordinator*
 Leigh Anne Herd – *Clerk of Session pro tem, Worship, Prayer Ministry*
 Linda Hook – *Personnel*
 Bill Newell – *Christian Education, liaison with Presbytery*
 Tom Ogden – *Treasurer, Buildings and Grounds, Stewardship*

Board of Deacons

Brittany Holt – *Moderator & Fellowship*
 Linda Breckheimer – *Birthday Cards*
 Karen Bloom – *Kitchen Ministry & Birthday Cards*
 Ruth Crissman – *Missions & Fellowship*
 Jessica Gorman – *Missions & Communion/Worship*
 Diana Marocco – *Shut ins & Home Communion*
 Pierre Nzuah – *Fellowship*
 Bonnie Santos – *Communion/Worship*
 Fletcher Smith – *Treasurer, Missions & Fellowship*
 Marianne VanHoute – *Communion/Worship & Fellowship*
 Sue Woodworth – *Fellowship & Note Taker*
 John Woodworth –



Faith Class Reminder:

October faith classes for elementary students will be on December 14 only this month. Younger students will meet with Pierre and Jason during worship and older students will meet with Bill and Rich during fellowship hour.

CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

A Time for Giving

Our congregation is always generous and seeking ways to give. During this coming Advent season, the Mission Committee has provided two missions for us to share our blessings with. All gifts are asked to be brought in by December 7 to be organized during the Hanging of the Greens.

The Giving Tree - fill the tree in the Fellowship Hall with hats, scarves and mittens to go to the Samaritan Center.



Interfaith Baskets - fill our five baskets with items needed for the New Americans that came in last January and for those in the Center for Aging or create your own basket! All items may not reflect a religious theme, image or writing. See items needed below:

- \$25 Gift cards (Walmart, Tops, VISA)
- Hygiene products
- Non-perishable food items (Kosher/Halal Friendly)
- Blankets
- Board games/card games/crosswords/puzzles
- Toys (balls, dolls, stuffies, legos, etc.)



Breakfast at Isaiah's Table December 13th

Our church is providing breakfast for attendees of Isaiah's Table on December 13th. We are looking for donations of bananas, muffins and 12 oz juice bottles. A sign-up sheet is posted in the back of the church sanctuary. We ask that donations be brought in between December 7th and December 12th and left in the church office or church library. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Karen Fay at fim-tay@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your support!



A Not So Silent Night Jazz Concert

Celebrate the holidays with the finest young musicians in the Syracuse area

**December 19, 2025
7 PM**

Liverpool First Presbyterian Church ~ 603 Tulip St ~ Liverpool, NY 13088

*Donations will be accepted for our local community





**Annual Christmas Caroling Caravan
Sunday December 21st
4:00pm**



Meet at church parking lot at 3:45 to assemble parade
We will drive to residences to sing carols
Wear your Santa hats and bring your jingle bells

Carolers will gather at Dennys on Seventh North St after to share dinner
Contact Leigh Anne to participate in this joyous event!

Please register by Thursday morning Dec 18

The Edwards Family Band, Tom Ogden's daughter's family, will be providing music for the service **Dec 28th**. As members of the Annie Moses Conservatory, they perform regularly in musical productions.

- Bonnie Grace age 8 plays Mandolin
- Troy age 11 plays cello
- Reese age 14 plays piano and guitar
- Gabriella 15 plays Violin and Guitar
- Emily piano
- Rob Guitar



All are professionally trained in voice.

We look forward to seasonal music as part of the service.

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

11/10/2025

- We have received \$182,973 towards our \$202,400 for 2025 thus far
- During Advent, Life of the Congregation will be before the prelude and a time for meditation during the prelude will be observed
- A jazz band that Sam Anderson is part of will be hosting a jazz band concert on Friday, December 19 that is open to the community and is free of charge
- It was agreed that we would work towards increasing our budget for mission each year with the ultimate goal of 10% of the total budget. This may take a few years. Currently, we are at 4%.
- The Deacons will be offering a parking lot ministry to help escort congregants when the parking lot is icy.

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 cavugasyracuse.org and click on the Resources tab.

MISSIONS

Blessings in a Backpack



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

Starkist lunch to go tuna packs

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: (***most needed items**)
Hygiene Items: soap, shampoo & conditioner, children's toothbrushes, toothpaste*, anti-per-spirant/deodorant*, feminine pads*, shaving cream.

Cleaning products: all-purpose cleaner*, dishwashing liquid, paper towels, tall kitchen garbage bags, laundry detergent (no pods), sponges ideally with scrubby side

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 -1:15pm	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 Dec 1 & Dec 15. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend to the next gathering!!

Contact Lisa Bricault with any questions.

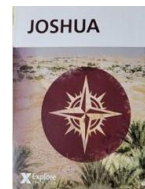


Fathers • Brothers • Sons
is a new kind of men's gathering for a new day
We will meet on Dec 2 & Dec 16
6:30-8pm at LFPC.
Come and join the community!

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.

We've completed study sessions 1-4: The Commission, The Conquest, The Commitment, The Commands.

Dec 10 BFF Christmas Party
Dec 24 No Meeting, Christmas Eve Service

Jan 14 The Challenge
Jan 28 The Cycle

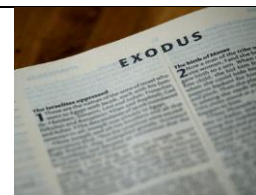
Manuscript Study

Manuscript Study will meet the first and fourth THURSDAYS of the month at 1:15 - 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.



ELSIE O'NEIL/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**. Mark your calendar for our next gathering on **December 11, 2025**, and we hope to welcome back 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.

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

Warm Winter Wishes,
Coleen Clapper, Chair

FLORAL COMMITTEE



You can order flowers for the sanctuary to honor someone, celebrate a special occasion or just to brighten someone's spirit. Contact a member of the floral committee and they will take care of your request, \$40.00.

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

DECEMBER

1 – Jolene Kittle, Erin Folley	21 – Joe Miles
5 – Joan Halsted	23 – Chloe Kittle
6 – John Pfeffer	26 – Bill Newell
16 – Ryan Hart	27 – Liz Miles
18 – Rev Garrett Anderson	
20 – Mary Lou Matthews, Logan Overend, Chris Pfeffer	



(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 **Jan 2026 Newsletter Deadline** is **Monday, Dec 29 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

