

February 2026



# First Pres. Press

## FROM THE PASTOR

Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, 'what do you want?' They replied "Teacher, where do you abide?" John 1:38.

In these days of chaos, the clash of kingdoms, and the challenge of how to follow Jesus in the world, where we abide is of great importance. The disciples may have been asking literally where Jesus was living since he was new to the area. But the word abiding is used over and over again in John's gospel to talk about deeper spiritual matters of what grounds us to reality, God's grace, and ourselves as the habitation of the Christ Jesus on earth.

When we are grounded in Christ who abides in the Father then our anger, concern, longing, and fear have their own rightful place and purpose. When we allow these states to be the ground where we live then we are truly on shaky ground and shifting sand. Anger becomes outrage, concern becomes anxiety, longing become untethered from what is before our eyes, and we don't have fear we become our fear.

Abiding in Christ and his words abiding in us helps us to know the next right step to take. When we are abiding in Christ through prayer and contemplation, spiritual practices, and trust then we will be at home.

Pastor Garrett



### **A Brief Theology of Tyranny** from Matthew Myer Boulton.

When the Nazis rose to power in the early 1930s, most German Christians chose one of two options. First, the majority decided to collaborate with the new regime in one form or another, appeasing, cooperating, or both – and for its part, the regime was eager to exploit the tools of Christianity . . . (<https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/2026/1/27/a-brief-theology-of-tyranny>)

## WORSHIP



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**February 18, 2026**  
**6:00 PM**

Deacons will be serving dinner  
following worship at 6:30 PM



### **Faith Class Reminder:**

October faith classes for elementary students will be on February 8 & February 22. 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



**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**February 8, 2026**  
**11:30 am**

Printed copies will be available February 1



The Mission and Social Justice Committee invites you to bring a can of ready-to-serve soup and to vote for your AFC or NFC teams by placing your soup donations on the Souper Bowl table set-up in Fellowship Hall by **Sunday, February 8**. Soup collected will be donated to *Mary & Joseph's Pantry at Epiphany Parish* on Tulip Street.

The Mission Committee will be providing **Tailgate Snacks** in Fellowship Hall following worship on **Souper Bowl Sunday**.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Wavle-Brown at [ewavlebrown@proton.me](mailto:ewavlebrown@proton.me) Together we can tackle food insecurity and help neighbors in need in our community! **Go LFPC!**



### **"Jump for Jesus"**

**Who:** Friends in Faith students.

**What:** A fundraiser for Friends in Faith.

**When:** February 12, 2026

**How can you help:** Sponsor a preschooler by signing up and pledging an amount for their participation in the event. You can pledge a dollar amount per jump or a flat rate. Please make all checks to **Friends in Faith** as we have a separate bank account from the church.

**We appreciate your support!**



**2nd Annual LFPC Chili Cook-Off**  
**February 22, 2026**  
**11:30 am**

Enter your chili for all to sample and vote for the winner  
Sign up to enter in the church sanctuary

*Brought to you by the Fellowship Committee*

# Thank You

## for your prayers, messages and kind deeds

God answered our prayers and my family and I are so very grateful. We went from thinking we'd not have Mom with us for Christmas to celebrating her remarkable recovery and recent move to Greenpoint. This church has offered many beautiful gifts of prayers, thoughtful messages, and support throughout the past few months.

*Thank you for being a loving, kind, wonderful church family and for continuing to let God's light and love shine through in all that you do.*

With love and appreciation for every one of you,

*Linda Heck*



Thank you so much for your generosity and care in supporting InterFaith Works' Year End Gift Basket initiative. Because of you, families and individuals across our community experienced warmth, dignity, and joy during the holiday season.

\*entire letter from InterFaith Works is posted in the sanctuary

### NEWS FROM THE DEACONS



Prayer requests for the prayer chain?

Contact Leigh Anne Herd at [laherd02@gmail.com](mailto:laherd02@gmail.com) or 315-727-0178

### MISSIONS

#### Blessings in a Backpack



As part of the partnering rotation for the month of February 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](mailto: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"



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](mailto: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 Feb 2 & Feb 16. 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 Feb 3 & Feb 17  
6:30-8pm at LFPC.  
Come and join the community!

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



**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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're getting ready to start a new study  
Join us on Wednesday, February 11  
Fellowship Hall to socialize and choose what we'll study next!



## 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.

## 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**. We'll be meeting next on **February 12, 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.

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](http://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 [skline51@gmail.com](mailto:skline51@gmail.com)



## CHURCH FAMILY BIRTHDAYS

### FEBRUARY

1 – Jason Gouger  
8 – Debra Cangemi  
9 – Dode Lipton



(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 **March 2026 Newsletter Deadline** is **Monday, Feb 23 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](mailto:office@liverpoolfirstpres.org)

