

July 2026



# First Pres. Press

## FROM THE PASTOR

### **Freedom From and Freedom To**

*For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. – Galatians 5:1*

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States it would be wise to reflect on what freedom means. We need both the "from" perspective and the "for" perspective.

We need freedom from oppressive powers and structures in order to flower in our unique ways as creations of God. Forces outside us can squash our freedom with rules, laws, and actions that impinge on us. Sometimes we are aware of *internal* attitudes, scripts, and beliefs tie up and keep us from being fully who God made us to be. When this "from" perspective is over-emphasized, we can wind up with mere "I want what I want, when I want it."

Freedom helps us flourish when we also have the "freedom for" perspective. As Paul says later in Galatians 5 that we have been given freedom in order to live in the Spirit of God which is all about serving, loving others, and giving ourselves and receiving others. Its in this kind of free-flowing mutuality that we find our true selves. This is the "pursuit of happiness" and abundant life that comes from liberty.

In what ways would you like to experience greater freedom? How can you help someone else experience freedom? How might these together move you both toward flourishing?

Pastor Garrett

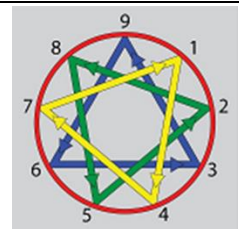
**PASTOR'S**  
SCHEDULE

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

**Save the Date!**

**July 28, 2026**

**6:30 – 8:00 PM**



Pastor Garrett will be having an enneagram teaser meeting with a class starting in the fall

Call (315) 457-3161 to register to attend

**CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD**



**Join the Deacons  
For an ice cream social  
July 19, 2026 after worship!**



The Village of Liverpool & Liverpool  
Community Gardeners Present:

# BARREL PLANTER CONTEST 2026

VOTE for your favorite barrel planter  
from the village businesses!

Voting runs:

**JULY 1 - JULY 31**

Ballots and maps are available  
and can be submitted at the  
following Locations:

- Liverpool Library
- Liverpool Village Hall

OR vote online here 

**Only 1 vote per person**

[www.facebook.com/villageofliverpool](http://www.facebook.com/villageofliverpool)



Who will feed the kids this weekend?

See details in the Mission & Social Justice section below about the summer challenge for Blessings in a Backpack.

## Jazz for a Cause

The New Line Jazz Band

July 26, 2026 4-5 PM



Fundraiser for Blessings in a Backpack

Admission will be any \$ amount or accepted food items to help fill backpacks.

Skippy's Ice Cream will offer treats in the parking lot post-performance.

\$5.00 per item (cash only) tickets bought at the door

Proceeds benefit the Liverpool Chapter 1854 of Blessings in a Backpack



## Join the Deacons for our annual church picnic

August 8, 2026

3 - 6 p.m.

Clay Park Henryclay Pavillion

Please use entrance from Henry Clay Blvd!

Hamburgers & hotdogs will be provided by the deacons.

**Bring your favorite dish to share!**

Sign up in the back of the sanctuary



## NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE



OUTREACH  
COMMITTEE

ADDRESSING QUESTIONS ASKED VIA  
WE SUNDAY SURVEY:

WHY DON'T WE OPEN THE CHURCH  
TO THE PUBLIC FOR PERFORMANCES  
AND SPEAKERS?

Plans for a number of public  
events are in process, including a  
musical performance in July.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY?

We accept food and monetary donations to help  
feed the hungry at Isaiah's Table and through  
Blessings in a Backpack. Bins are located in the  
vestibule of the parking lot side entrance.

## 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



The LFPC Deacons will be doing Nametag Sundays on the first Sunday of each month.

See a Deacon upon arrival for your nametag.

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CLERK

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LFPC SESSION MEETING

06/08/2026

- A Window Restoration Committee (subcommittee of B & G) was formed to address remaining windows that need to be releaded, cleaning and painting around windows
- The jazz group that played in December will be holding another concert this summer, date TBA; a suggested donation of \$20 will be given to the Blessings in the Backpack program for helping feed our children who live with food insecurity in Liverpool
- The LHS Marching Band will host a car wash in the LFPC parking lot on June 18.
- Many members have not yet paid their per capita of \$40 per member; if you have not yet paid, please send your per capita to the finance office
- Session will not meet in July, next meeting is August 3, 2026

### 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](http://cayugasyracuse.org) and click on the Resources tab.

## MISSIONS

### Blessings in a Backpack

**Join the summer challenge to collect items to feed**

**Liverpool Elementary School children for the upcoming school year**



Collections will include: oatmeal packets, cans of ready to serve soup and Chef Boyardee pastas (in ready to serve cans), mac and cheese cups, fruit & grain bars (NO NUTS), tuna packets, fruit cups, applesauce or pudding cups, 100% juice box or pouches, or monetary donations with checks made out to ***Blessings in a Backpack Chapter 1854***.

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.

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:

Diapers (any size)  
Baby wipes

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	resumes in the fall
Becoming Faithful Followers (BFF) - 6:30pm, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays	resumes in the fall
Manuscript Study -1:30pm, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays	resumes in the fall
Elsie O'Neil Circle - 12:30pm, 2nd Thursday	resumes in the fall
Choir - 7:00pm, Thursdays	resumes in the fall

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 July 20 only this month. 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays  
Resuming in the fall  
6:30-8pm at LFPC.  
Come and join the community!

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



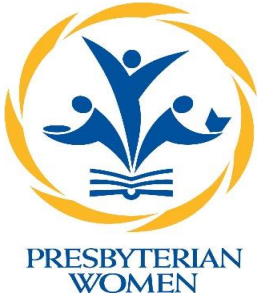
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays**  
**6:30 – 7:45 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**

We're enjoying summer activities during July & August

L. Hook, Facilitator

## Manuscript Study

**This study will resume in the fall**



### **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 **SEPTEMBER 10, 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.

Our Elsie O'Neil Circle wrapped up another wonderful year with an end-of-year celebration filled with delicious food, laughter, games, and warm fellowship. We are grateful for the friendships we share and look forward to gathering again in September.

**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 Liz Wavle-Brown ([ewavlebrown@proton.me](mailto:ewavlebrown@proton.me))

## CHURCH FAMILY BIRTHDAYS

### July

2 – Jaxson Sanborn  
4 – Tom Ogden  
5 – Mary Wavle-Brown  
6 – Lynda Fauler  
7 – Susan Farnsworth  
8 – Foster Smith  
9 – Steve Uhl  
11 – Benjamin Kittle  
14 – Skylar Johnson  
16 – Ken Pfeffer  
24 – Margie Grisanti  
30 – Eileen DeGroff

(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 **August 2026 Newsletter Deadline** is **Monday, July 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](mailto:office@liverpoolfirstpres.org)

