



First Pres. Press

FROM THE PASTOR

Not Really Alone

I am an avid watcher of the reality series, *Alone*...just finished season 11 where 10 survival experts are put down inside the arctic circle with minimal gear to survive. . . alone. The last one wins the prize of \$500,000. All the participants had plans for the money to benefit their family and community but they were out there for deeper reasons, too. Some of those reasons did not become clear until they had made the journey.



The wilderness has always been a sacred classroom—and reminds us why. When the participants were stripped of almost all comfort what remains is hunger, silence, fear, loneliness. But also a deep sense of connection with themselves, creation, the divine, and with those they left behind. Almost always there is a deep confrontation with self. Almost always the contestants confess learning that something else is more important than the money. This season one learned that despite his traumatic experiences with people that he does need contact with them. Another heard the wisdom that the money would hinder him from doing his humanitarian work around the world. Survival is not just about skill—it is about discernment, gratitude, and perseverance.

Spiritually, this mirrors our own faith journeys. God often leads us into “wilderness seasons” not to punish us, but to shape us. In isolation, we learn to listen. In struggle, we learn to trust. In simplicity, we rediscover what truly sustains us. The wilderness does not break us—it refines us. Like the saints before us, we emerge changed, strengthened, and more deeply rooted in God’s presence, carrying lessons that comfort could never teach.

Pastor Garrett

WORSHIP



Faith Class Reminder:

October faith classes for elementary students will be on March 8 and March 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



One Great Hour of Sharing Fish banks will be collected on March 29

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food, clean water, sanitation and education. Through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) YOU can make a difference. There are three programs supported by your extra generosity during this season of Lent: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and Self-Development of People (SDOP). These programs provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support any that are poor and oppressed. This is the largest way the Presbyterian comes together to help make the world a better place. Link to more information: <https://pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing>



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 March 8 and March 13 and left in the church office or kitchen. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Karen Fay at fimtay@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your support!

March 14 Breakfast at Isaiah's Table

Our church is providing breakfast for attendees of Isaiah's Table on December 13th. We are looking for donations of 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 March 8 and March 13 and left in the church office or kitchen. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Karen Fay at fimtay@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your support!



Join the Deacons
For some trivia fun and snacks!
March 15, 2026 after worship!



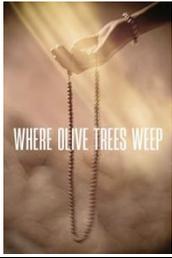
2nd Annual LFPC



Winners
1st Place: Jessica Gorman
2nd Place: Susan Farnsworth
3rd Place: Linda Breckheimer

Congratulations!!



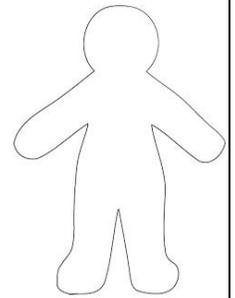


The Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery's Social Justice Committee is presenting the film, "**Where the Olive Trees Weep**" hosted by our church on **March 22 at 4:00**. Our mission/social justice committee and the deacons will offer a light dinner and dessert following the viewing of the film as we participate in a time of questions and answers. Please let Lisa know if you will be coming so the committee can prepare accordingly.

Paper Doll Campaign

Across the country, ICE is ripping children away from their communities and detaining them alongside their parents. In March of 2025, the administration reopened the South Texas Family Residential Center (also known as "Killey") in rural Dilley, TX. This is the center where 5-year-old Liam Ramos was detained after ICE agents took him and his father from their home in Minnesota 1,200 miles away. Conditions in Dilley are horrific. Families lack access to clean drinking water, nutritious food, and basic medical care, all posing serious health risks. Children's chronic medical conditions, acute illnesses, and injuries are being overlooked or ignored. Studies have consistently shown that placing children in detention, under any conditions, is traumatic and creates long-lasting harm, such as developmental delays, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicidal thoughts.

The LFPC Mission and Social Justice committee has joined churches in our presbytery in a national Paper Doll Campaign to address these inhumane conditions for children and families. During the Fellowship Hour, paper dolls will be available for you to write a message on of your hope for children in our country, your desire for family detainment to end, or the future you would like to see for children in our country, your desire for family detainment to end, or the future you would like to see for children. The paper dolls will be collected on March 22 and sent to our congressional representative.



March 29th after worship

Egg hunt for children 13 yrs old and younger
Suggested donation: \$5 per person will support Isaiah's Table

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee and the Deacons

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

02/09/2026

- The statistical report for 2025 was approved for submission to the PCUSA office. This annual report helps the greater church understand its life, ministry and mission more fully.
- Policy for cancelling church in inclement weather
 - The session will vote by 7:00 am whether or not the worship service is cancelled.

- Communication to the congregation will be via mass email, Facebook and television by 8:00 am.
- Elder Leigh Anne Herd was elected as Stated Clerk for LFPC.

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

A stated meeting of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse was held at **6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2026**, on Zoom. Here are some highlights from the meeting:

- The meeting was led by our Moderator the Rev. Michael Hill. Vice Moderator the Rev. Dr. Shavonn Lynch and Teaching Elder Courtney Steinger led us in worship.
- The Stated Clerk, the Rev. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye, reminds everyone that the deadline to submit Statistical Reporting is February 20th!
- Our Lead Presbyter for Transformation, the Rev. Greg Garis, referenced a podcast with the Rev. Dr. Gil Rendle. Rather than mourning the decline of traditional church structures, Gil explores how disruption may be clearing space for new forms of faith and community to emerge.
- Several overtures were discussed and all were confirmed by our Presbytery to be presented to the General Assembly. **The following overtures were discussed and approved:**
 - On In-Person Assemblies (from our friends at the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship)
 - On Prohibiting Non-Disclosure Covenants in Employee Relations (from Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the Pacific)
 - Green Future Endowment Fund
 - Regenerative Farming and Creation Care
 - Changing Course for a Green Future
 - Repudiate Christian Nationalism
 - Recognition that Israel has Violated the International Law Prohibiting Genocide
 - On the Jeju 4.3 Tragedy in South Korea
- The contract for our Stated Clerk was extended until the annual meeting in June.
- The schedule for stated meetings and future meetings of our Presbytery (meeting locations are to be determined) are as follows:
 - **Saturday, March 14th** -- Stated Meeting (In Person)
 - **May 16** -- Joint fellowship and educational gathering with the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley. (Cazenovia Presbyterian Church)
 - **Saturday, June 13th** -- Annual Meeting
 - **Saturday, September 19th** -- Stated Meeting (In Person)
 - **Wednesday, November 18th** -- Stated Meeting (Zoom)
- Election of GA Commissioners was carried out.
- The meeting ended with prayer at 8:37 p.m.

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 March we are asked to collect:

Oatmeal (individual packets)

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	Needs include ready to eat items (pop-top cans or pouches), cereal, pasta, cereal bars, bar
Little Pantry	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 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 March 2 & March 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 March 3 & March 17
6:30-8pm at LFPC.
Come and join the community!

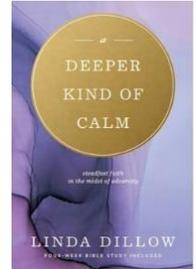
together in faith • circle of trust • shoulder to shoulder • present in the moment



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.

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 **March 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.

February is a busy & fun month for our Elsie O’Neil Circle. We not only celebrated Valentine’s Day, but also our favorite member, Dode Lipton. It was her 90th birthday. 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

MARCH

1 – Clarajane Pfeffer	16 – Sue Woodworth
2 – Pam Carges	19 – Jerry Shave, Pat Urquhart
5 – Krisin Overend	21 – Mavrick Breckheimer, Missy Shipman
11 – Rebecca Johnston, Cathy Miles	22 – Erik Folley
12 – Mike Herd	
15 – Pierre Nzuah	

(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 **April 2026 Newsletter Deadline** is **Monday, March 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

