

First Presbyterian Church

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@FirstPresBath

Tower Topics



VOLUME LViii ISSUE 3
March 2024

SERVING WITH YOU

Pastor

Re. John Woodring

Clerk of Session

Kathy Swan

Administrative Assistant

Valerie Brown

Treasurer

Velda Schmiege

Organist

Katie Klawitter

Senior Choir Director

Trevor Ward

Bell Choir Director

Vacant

Custodial Staff

Sandy Robinson

Leslie Lyons

Gene Overton

Nursery Care

Alberta Nunn

Historian

Helen Brink

Newsletter Coordinator

Sandy Robinson



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9:30 a.m.

Youth Worship/Church
School During 9:30 Service

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A crosshair is a pattern of fine lines or markings built into the eyepiece of an optical device. (The term reticule is usually used in weapons; graticule is the term for non-weapon usage such as in a microscope.) Crosshairs assist the viewer to focus on a line of sight with greater accuracy and ease than if no lines were present.

In a few short weeks it will be Holy Week and we will remember the whole story once again from Palm Sunday through Easter. Scripture tells us that Jesus has "set his face" to Jerusalem. He has warned his disciples of what will happen there, but it seems that they don't get it. And who would, if you believed that Jesus is the Messiah? Crucifixion and death can't be in the cards, can they? The cross helps us focus more clearly on God's love for humanity.

Our penitential journey to Jerusalem with Jesus during Lent cannot escape the dark disturbing shadows of the cross. Nearly 2,000 years later, the cross remains the central symbol for Christianity. Jesus has taught his disciples about the way of the cross and now he picks up his cross, the burden only he can bear, trundling through the jeering streets of Jerusalem, staggering, falling. This same Jerusalem that he had wept for only days earlier. "Crucify him," comes the demand.

His mother watches as the nails are pounded into his bruised bleeding flesh. The soldiers bargain for his clothes. One of his fellow condemned mocks him, as do some in the crowd. There are a few moments of redemption amidst the agony. Jesus tells John to take care of his mother. The other criminal who hangs with him defends him.

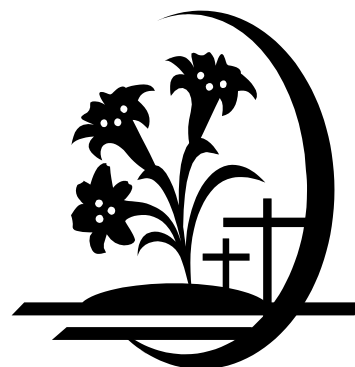
Jesus cries out in forgiveness. The centurion proclaims what the disciples already sort of know. "Truly this man was the Son of God."

Then the dark of death ensues, and Nicodemus and Joseph make haste to get his body in the tomb before sundown.

Sunday. Dawn. It's a new day after the Sabbath. And a quiet group of women discover the incredible wrenching news. His body is not there. He is not there. But it is not until he appears to Mary and to the rest of the disciples that they begin to believe. He has risen, just as he said. What joy!

These two events, the crucifixion and the resurrection, are inseparable. Even with the long lens of history of 2,000 years, we can most clearly see the resurrection through the reticules of redemptive suffering. And we can best perceive the cross backlit by the bright buoyant hope of Easter.

(cont'd on next page)



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John 12:23-24 says it this way: ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.'" (NRSV)

This coming Holy Week, as you hear once again of the good news of God's love, may you have a greater clarity of focus on the Lord of life. May you know the power and presence of our risen Lord who died that we might be raised to newness of life.

Pastor John



Food
Pantry
Needs

MARCH

Please Bring

CANNED VEGETABLES

Personal care products are always needed and appreciated.



March Worship Schedule

March 3 **Mark 12:13-17**
The Question about Paying Taxes

March 10 **Mark 12:28-44**
The Great Commandment

March 17 **Mark 10:32-52**
Bartimaeus Healed

March 24 **Mark 11:1-11** Palm Sunday

March 28 **Mark 14:32-42**
Prayer in Gethsemane; Maundy Thursday
Communion Service 7:30 pm

March 31 **Mark 16:1-8** Easter



MARCH CONTACT PEOPLE

Elder **Dean Chatfield**
Deacon: **Pat Shuart**



Maundy Thursday
Communion
March 28
7:30 pm Lyon Hall



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - 2024



GOOD FRIDAY- 3/29/24

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, 12 noon -2 pm. We will start at St. Mary's at noon and proceed to the Presbyterian Church then on to St. Thomas Church and our final stop will be at the Centenary Methodist Church at approximately 2:00pm.



Lenten Lunches

If you haven't attended yet, you are in luck as there are three more Lenten lunch opportunities being held in March. We are serving from 11:30 - 1:00 on March 6, 13 and 20, come feast on homemade soups, desserts and some delicious sandwiches.

HISTORY



HISTORY TIDBITS!

Helen Kelly Brink –

At the rear of our sanctuary is a model of our @rst church building which was located on the very same spot on which our present building is located. Opened for services in 1825 our little white church with its 100 foot high steeple was the @rst church building in Bath and its steeple was the @rst one in Steuben County. The church was used until July 1874 when it was demolished to make room for our present building which was opened for worship in February 1877. The model was made by David Ketch, an architectural student and the son of Wayne and Frances Ketch. Presented to the church in 1993, the model is covered by a plexiglass covering and sits on a table, both of which were donated by Gary and Ruth Waldo.

The Souper Bowl of Caring Challenge was a huge success!! This year Team Taco Soup, coached by Caleb Lyke won with \$230.02!!! They changed their game plan and tried a new recipe this year! The risk paid off! Team Chicken Noodle Soup, led by retiring coach, Skylar Lyke, played well, raising \$189.50. Both soups were quite tasty and sold out!

\$419.752 was raised to help feed the hungry in our own community!

The money was deposited into our Deacon funds and will be used to purchase food and supplies to make meals for our Sunday Suppers.

Thanks to everyone who bought and enjoyed the soups! And thanks to everyone who made a donation without tasting the soups.

It really was a team effort! Thanks to the coaches in the kitchen – Bill Joint, Pam Delio, Suzette Tunison, Eleata Mitchell and Andrea Lyke.

And thanks to the team players, Dalton Rook, Skylar, Caleb, and Torin Lyke, Leah and Olivia Barros, Brayton Tunison, and Carter, Weston and Tessa Daley. Great job, chopping, measuring, mixing and cooking!

Not only did all these folks help with cooking, they made new chef hats and signs for the event and they held soup pots for donations.

This was the 5th year that the youth made soup and held a friendly competition. Here are the stats for those 5 years – Chicken Noodle has won twice, Taco has won once, one year there was a tie between Chicken Noodle and Taco, and Breakfast Soup won once. We have collected \$2,223.39!!!

Great work!!

Everyone is already looking forward to next year's Souper Bowl of Caring! Wonder who the winner will be???



SPECIAL PALM SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR

In keeping with tradition, the Burton family will be hosting a

special coffee hour directly after the service on Palm Sunday.



WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR TOWER TOPICS BY E-MAIL

Tower Topics is also available by e-mail in PDF format. Please send an e-mail to officepreschurch@gmail.com to subscribe.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Hoffman/Cole scholarship applications are available in the office. Application deadline is April 30, 2024.

Burton scholarship applications are also available in the office.

Church DEACONS



Bags of Hope

Bath, N.Y. (June 2, 2021) - The First Presbyterian Church of Bath has partnered with the Steuben County Sheriff's Department creating the "Bags of Hope" Outreach Program.

The idea for this project came from Katie Johnson, a member of the church who also has an interest in law enforcement.

Once the project was approved by the Boards of the church, Sara Johnson, Moderator of Deacons, met with Sheriff Allard and Under Sheriff McNelis to propose the project. The department was interested in the project and wanted to partner with the church.

We applied for a grant from the Committee on Mission and Witness from the Presbytery of Geneva. The church received a grant of \$2000 which we matched. Donations from church members and the community were also received.

The "Bag of Hope" project will provide individual bags for adults and children. Each bag will contain a blanket, bottle of water, protein bars/ kid's crackers & cheese, socks, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, band aids and hand sanitizing wipes. The children's bags also contain a flavored drink mix pouch and a stuffed animal. In the winter we also try to provide 1 size fits all gloves for children and adults. We are also providing extra protein bars and water for the department and treats and water for the K-9 dogs in case they are at a scene for a long period of time.

The Sheriff's Department will carry the bags in their vehicles to be given to individuals in need that the department may encounter, such as homeless, indigent and those going through traumatic situations, like accidents, fires, or violence.

The program began June 1, 2021. 100 bags were delivered to the Sheriff's Department on that date.

To date we have filled 300 bags for the Sheriff's Department.

We have also started a new program. Deputies at the courthouse are now offering special bags to children who come to DSS with their parent. These bags contain a bottle of water, a snack of crackers and cheese, a book, small toy, toothbrush and toothpaste.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Sherry Parke, Lois Warren, Andi Morse, Megyn Melnyk, Diane Lathrop, Rita Butters Sharon Ward, Tom Moore and your Pastor Nominating Committee: Dean Chatfield, Kathy Forrester, Sharon Gonsolus, Bob Mesler, Velda Schmieg



IT'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY!

On April 14th, we will be celebrating birthdays! All birthdays in every month of the year will be celebrated at a special coffee hour. We will need twelve people who would be willing to take a different month and decorate the table to represent that month. Example: If you offer to take April's table, you would decorate the table with possibly an Easter theme. If you would like to "adopt" a table, please let Kathy P. know or sign up in the church office. Birthday cake and ice cream will be provided by the Congregational Life team.



EASTER LILIES

To provide an Easter Lily to beautify our worship spaces for Easter Sunday in Memory of or in Honor of someone; please have it delivered to the church by Thursday March 28th. All names to be used in the Easter Bulletin must be received by Monday March 25th.

An Easter Lily in ___ Memory or in ___ Honor of

Given

By _____

CHICKEN BBQ



Drive-thru Chicken BBQ is Back!!!!

**Saturday, April 6th
4:00pm - until gone
1/2 Stern's chicken, beans,**

coleslaw, roll and cookie

\$12.00 - No pre-sale tickets needed!

Spread the word to all your friends and neighbors!

Help the youth raise funds to attend Camp Whitman!



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 3/10/24

This year, the clocks will spring forward in the early hours of Sunday, March 10, marking the commencement of DST across much of the United States



IN WORSHIP WITH YOU

Enclosed with this newsletter is a list of all the worship teams with their team leader and all members of the team

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. Recognizing that the hope we have in Christ is lived out in our hope for one another, we respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated One Great Hour of Sharing gifts, while the Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent.

The Session has designated Palm Sunday to collect the OGHS offering. Our offering last year was \$763.00. This is approximately \$6.50 per member. Won't you consider increasing your gift by a dollar this year?



Special March Birthdays - Card Shower

96th Birthday - Lois Warren- March 13th
 7287 County Rt. 13
 Bath, NY 14810

95th birthday - Helen Snyder - March 27th
 Steuben Center
 7009 Rumsey St.
 Bath, NY 14810



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 3 | Sandra Simonson
Patrick Zimmerman |
| March 4 | Barbara Scudder |
| March 5 | Sandra Sehm
Mike Romano |
| March 8 | Debbie Fisher
Stanley Bhasker |
| March 10 | Michael Conley |
| March 11 | Chad Partridge |
| March 13 | Lois Warren |
| March 14 | Velda Schmieg
Kathleen Johnson |
| March 17 | Dean Chatfield
Donna Montgomery
Colin Gilbert |
| March 18 | Destiny Barros
Hannah Barros |
| March 19 | Madison Shuart |
| March 21 | Robert Thomas |
| March 23 | Elizabeth Partridge |
| March 24 | Laura Hapeman |
| March 26 | Joyce Wahlig |
| March 27 | Helen Snyder
Jade Andrus |
| March 28 | Ron Delio
Lisa Von Hagn Daley |
| March 29 | Dallas Thomas |
| March 31 | Matt Vonderlin |



GIFTS WERE GIVEN TO:

KITCHEN FUND:
In Memory of Helen Dildine
 By: Phil and Lee Dickson

Name: _____ Date: _____

Easter Word Search

K F B F Y J U B S Z S T J U G O E
I F S D J I S W F Z N N H T H D O
R G Y K G S J S A Q A O L O T R S
R Q C U O Y M E A W M I N E R K L
S R B R W L O V E F O X O M S N S
E E C F Q G W O F D R I I X A G S
L N B S L M J L E O X F T C L Q S
T K W A F E J M P D U I C H V N L
S F M X S C N R A D Y C E R A K E
O B O U N D U M E R G U R I T R C
P Y S E A O S S I G Y R R S I U I
A V S Z I M E V S J J C U T O Y F
A I K V R E T S O O R C S S N L I
R S A T F I N L T U S R E Z Z O R
B S F I R N I H I C J O R J X H C
E F E T O N V D K X L W K I N G A
R E D E M P T I O N O N K M E I S

thorns

rooster

redemption

king

crown

saviour

romans

mary

jesus

cross

salvation

risen

love

holy

christ

sacrifice

resurrection

lamb

crucifixion

Apostles

The House Next Door Helen Kelly Brink Church Historian



A large, seven-gabled house can be seen on the church's east side in old pictures of our church like the one above, dated 1861. I've often wondered about that house - who built it and when, who lived there, and why and when was it torn down. For those of you who share my curiosity, the following contains the answers. Others may be interested in a glimpse of history about Bath and our church.

The house was built ca 1830 by William Woods, a well known Bath lawyer. It's stated in an old diary that "Charles Williamson (the founder of Bath) had his house where Will Woods has since lived." William Woods was born in Washington County, New York, in 1790. He arrived in Bath in 1813, studied law and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1817. In addition to practicing law, he was Bath supervisor in 1818, member of the state legislature in 1823, a representative in Congress from 1823 to 1825, and Steuben County surrogate judge from 1827 to 1835. He and his wife Mary Lyon Woods, a sister of Moses Lyon who built our first church, lived in the house with their three children. William Woods died in his home on 7 August 1837 at age 47 so he didn't live in his new home for many years.

After Woods' death, Levi C. Whiting (1814-1861), a Bath merchant, purchased the house and did some extensive remodeling. He was the owner of the Barge, a large department store located on the corner of Liberty and Buell Streets. A picture of it can be seen on page 151 in the book entitled *The Heritage of Bath, NY 1793-1993*. The store burned in a 1855 fire. In the above book it is stated that "with his (Whiting's) characteristic energy he commenced building before the ground was cold...". It burned again in 1862. Whiting was Bath's mayor in 1850, 1853 and again in 1855. He was Bath's postmaster from 1841 to 1846. He and his wife are buried in Grove Cemetery.



Photo From Steuben County Historical Society

In 1866 James Lyon (1823-1910), youngest son of Moses Lyon who built our first church, purchased the "beautiful, seven gabled house." It soon became home to James, his wife Harriet Robie Lyon, a daughter of Bath lawyer Reuben Robie, and their three children. Harriet's residence in her new home was rather short lived as she died in 1883 at the age of 57. James married again a few years later to Elizabeth Underhill, daughter of Robert Underhill who owned a local publishing company. Their marriage was not destined to be lengthy since Elizabeth died on Christmas day in 1900. Behind the house there must have been a barn which housed at least one cow. James' and Harriet's son Reuben Robie

continued ...

House Next Door – continued:

Lyon was often teased by his school mates because he had to milk the cow and do some chores before school. They would say to him, "If my father was as rich as your father, I wouldn't have to milk a cow!" He would reply that if they had his father, they would most definitely milk the cow! Reuben studied law in New York City. After being admitted to the Bar there in 1880, he returned to Bath, moved into the house with his parents, and soon took up the practice of law. In April 1885 Reuben married Emeline "Emma" Kemp, daughter of Hon. William Kemp, a banker in Troy, New York. Reuben brought his new wife to live in the house which by then was called the Lyon Homestead. Reuben and Emma eventually became the parents of three children. Emma was the Mrs. Lyon who donated \$6000 to the construction of our church's towers with the promise from the church that there would be no clock in the tower. The family belonged to St. Thomas Episcopal Church where James served as vestryman for more than 50 years. Reuben died in 1916 at age 59. Emma died in 1937. All of the Lyons mentioned above are buried in Grove Cemetery in the family plot.

In 1927 ownership of the house passed into the hands of William Wallace Babcock, owner of the W. W. Babcock Ladder Company, at the time the world's largest manufacturer of ladders. In an account of his life it is stated that "he dismantled the well-known landmark and built a smaller home where he lived until his death in 1932." W. W. Babcock was born in 1867 in the town of Dansville. He began earning his livelihood in Addison where he worked as a painter and decorator. In 1898 he moved to Campbell where he worked in a merchandise establishment until 1904 when he moved to Bath where he became under-

sheriff, a position he held for three years. In 1905 he purchased Bath's Jackson Churn Company and a year later organized it into the Babcock Manufacturing Company. The company continued to produce butter churns into the 1920s after which it produced only ladders. Even though his health had always been frail, Mr. Babcock was involved in many community businesses and organizations. He was active in the establishment of the First Church of Christ Scientist of Bath. He built a chapel on his property next to our church for the use of members only. In 1923-24 he built the Babcock building which housed the 700 seat Babcock Theater. In addition he served for several years as a village trustee and was foremost in establishing Bath's municipal electric system. He was married to Grace Lewis Babcock (1884-1962) and they had one child Millard C. Babcock (1899-1974). The Babcocks are buried in Grove Cemetery.

In April 1963 our church purchased the Babcock property of Mrs. Arthur Young for \$22,500. This included the lot, the 8 room house which became the manse, and a small cottage which became the pastor's study and the church office which was then located on Liberty Street. Interestingly, Mrs. Arthur Young was Grace Lewis Babcock Young, W. W. Babcock's widow.

IN MINISTRY WITH YOU – 2024

Session	Kathy Swan (Clerk), Dean Chatfield, Emily Decker, Kathy Forester, Susan Martin Bob Mesler, Donna Montgomery, Kathy Partridge, Doug Schmieg, Rev. John Woodring (ex officio)
Deacons	Sue Gay, Lee Dickson, Sharon Gunsolus, Katie Johnson, Mary Jane Jones, Marge Mesler, Ruth Moore, Patricia Shuart, Debbie Vonderlin
Buildings and Grounds	Bob Mesler, John Jones, Rev. Jim Newman, Allan Gay, Jim Mahnke, Jim Robinson, Kathy Swan, Rev. John Woodring
Congregational Life	Kathy Partridge, Dean Chatfield, Bob & Marge Mesler, Kathy Swan
Finance	Donna Montgomery, Barb Scudder, Marc Shuart, Velda Schmieg (ex officio), Susan Martin
Audit Team	Dean Chatfield, Helen Brink, Matt Lyke, Dr. Susan Narby
Human Relations	Dean Chatfield, Kathy Swan, Theresa Markham
Ministry w/Children & Youth	Andrea Lyke, Eleata Mitchell, Bill Joint, Kathy Forester
Mission/Stewardship	Doug Schmieg, Matt Lyke, Russell Walters, Rev. John Woodring
Nominating	Dean Chatfield, Matt Lyke, Helen Brink
Worship	Emily Decker, Helen Brink, Jim Robinson, Rev. Gary Brown

Church Staff

Pastor	John Woodring
Clerk of Session	Kathy Swan
Moderator of Deacons	Sue Gay
Administrative Assistant	Valerie Brown
Organist	Katie Klawitter
Choir Director	Trevor Ward
Custodians	Leslie Lyon, Sandy Robinson, Gene Overton
Office Volunteer	Sandy Simonson
Treasurer	Velda Schmieg
Archivist/Historian	Helen Brink
Columbarium Coordinator	Helen Brink
Tower Topics Production	Sandy Robinson

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1/	2/
3/ 10:00 - <i>Worship Service, Communion</i> 3:00 - <i>Sunday Supper</i> St. Thomas	4/ 2:00 - <i>Worship Team</i> 4:45 - <i>PNC</i> 5:00 - <i>HR Mtg</i>	5/	6/ 11:30 - <i>Lenten Lunch</i> 4:00 - <i>Bldg & Grds</i> 5:30 - <i>Finance</i>	7/ 6:00 - <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	8/	9/
10/ 10:00 - <i>Worship Service</i> <i>Coffee Hour (Dar Grant)</i> 3:00 - <i>Sunday Supper</i> St. Thomas	11/ 4:45 - <i>PNC</i> 6:00 - <i>Session</i>	12/ 4:00 - <i>Deacons</i>	13/ 11:30 - <i>Lenten Lunch</i>	14/ 9:30 - 5:00 - <i>Sewing & Crafts</i> 6:00 - <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	15/ 9:30 - 5:00 - <i>Sewing & Crafts</i>	16/
17/ 10:00 - <i>Worship Service</i> 3:00 - <i>Sunday Supper</i> St. Thomas	18/ 4:45 - <i>PNC</i>	19/ 6:30 - <i>Congregational Life</i>	20/ 11:30 - <i>Lenten Lunch</i>	21/ 5:00 - <i>MCY Mtg</i> 6:00 - <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	22/	23/
24/ Palm Sunday 10:00 - <i>Worship Service</i> 3:00 - <i>Sunday Supper</i> St. Thomas	25/ 4:45 - <i>PNC</i> <i>Final day for Easter Lily memorial & honorary names given to office</i>	26/	27/	28/ Maundy Thursday 6:00 - <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> 7:30 - <i>Maundy Thursday Communion</i> - <i>Lyon Hall</i> <i>Final day for Easter Lily deliveries</i>	29/ Good Friday 12 noon - 2:00 - <i>Stations of the Cross</i> 1-St Mary's, 2-1 st <i>Presbyterian</i> , 3- St. Thomas 4-Centenary <i>Methodist Church</i> Office Closed	30/
31/ Easter 10:00 - <i>Worship Service</i> <i>Easter Lily Memorials/ Honorariums</i> 3:00 - <i>Sunday Supper</i> St. Thomas						



TOWER TOPICS

MARCH 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6 EAST MORRIS STREET
BATH, NY 14810

Non-Profit Org
U.S. postage

PAID

Permit No. 121
Bath, NY

Address service requested



MARCH 24- PALM SUNDAY

**MARCH 28- MAUNDY THURSDAY- Communion
Service 7:30pm in Lyon Hall**

**MARCH 29- GOOD FRIDAY-12:00 noon start at St.
Mary's church and will end at Centenary Methodist
at 2:00pm**

MARCH 31- EASTER- 10:00 am Worship Service