

# First Presbyterian Church

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Tower Topics email  
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Pastor  
[jmwoodring@verizon.net](mailto:jmwoodring@verizon.net)



@FirstPresBath

## Tower Topics

VOLUME LVIX ISSUE 3  
April 2026

### SERVING WITH YOU

Pastor  
Re. John Woodring

Clerk of Session  
Kathy Swan

Administrative Assistant  
Valerie Brown

Treasurer  
Velda Schmieg

Organist  
Aubrey Laverty

Senior Choir Director  
Anne Romano

Custodial Staff  
Sandy Robinson  
Leslie Lyons  
Gene Overton

Historian  
Helen Brink

Nursery  
Alberta Nunn

Newsletter Coordinator  
Sandy Robinson



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
10:00 a.m.  
Youth Worship during  
Traditional Service

There is something to a whisper. Something subversive and grand and secret. Something in the quietly breathed words that begs us to be still and listen intently because we just might miss what is being said. "Shhhhhh... ..listen!" We pay careful attention because we might learn something we didn't know before. Something mysterious and intimate and private.

Frederick Buechner writes of Easter as the whispered secret in the dark. (from "The Secret in the Dark" found in *The Longing for Home* and reprinted in the book *Secrets in the Dark*.)

In the dead quiet of dawn the women make their way through Jerusalem to the garden to find the tomb where Jesus was laid two nights before. And what is revealed to them there comes not with the triumphant voices of ten thousand angels, but the solemn question offered by two angels, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Peter and another disciples run to the tomb after hearing from Mary Magdalene that the body of Jesus is missing, but they don't hear anything. All they see is some left over linen wrappings.

In the Gospel of John, Mary in her grief remains at the tomb and questions a gardener if he has seen Jesus' body. And then Jesus says her name. "Mary."

The triumph of life over death comes in a whisper. As Buechner writes:

*The way the Gospel writers tell it, in other words, Jesus came back from death not in a blaze of glory, but more like a candle flame in the dark, flickering first in this place, then in that place, then in no place at all. If they had been making the whole thing up for the purpose of converting the world, presumably they would have described it more the way the book of Revelation describes how he will come back again at the end of time with "the armies of heaven arrayed in fine linen, white and pure" and his eyes "like a flame of fire, and on his head many diadems" (19:14, 12). But that is not the way the Gospels tell it. They are not trying to describe it as convincingly as they can. They are trying to describe it as truthfully as they can. It was the most extraordinary thing they believed had ever happened, and yet they tell it so quietly that you have to lean close to be sure what they are telling. They tell it as softly as a secret, as something so precious, and holy, and fragile, and unbelievable, and true, that to tell it any other way would be somehow to dishonor it. To proclaim the resurrection the way they do, you would have to say it in whispers: "Christ has risen." Like that.*

The disciples didn't understand what it meant that morning. They were still struggling with the horror of Jesus' death. They were lost in their own private grief. We proclaim, "He is risen!" All they could say is, "He is not here."

I sometimes wonder if Jesus spoke Mary's name in a whisper and that is why she leaned in, peering at his face, close enough to touch him. "Rabbouni?" (Teacher) Is that really you?

Come Easter Sunday we will celebrate, joyfully and loudly, the incredible good news, "Hallelujah, He is risen!" Or maybe, perhaps, you will also hear Him through the quiet whispering your name.

Pastor John



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## APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 5 - Easter  
John 20:1-18  
Communion

April 12-  
John 20:19-31  
Thomas Doubts

April 19-  
Acts 9:1-19a  
Along the Way

April 26-  
Acts 16:16-34  
Singing a Prayer



**APRIL**

**Please Bring**

**TOILET PAPER**



## APRIL CONTACT PEOPLE

**Elder: Barb Scudder**

**Deacon: Jackie Woodring & Marge Mesler**



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected On Easter-April 5. Envelopes will be available in the bulletin on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday/



I will be hosting a CPR class on Saturday April 11 in the fellowship hall. 10 - 3 with a lunch break. The cost is \$34 for person. There is a limit of 5 slots open. If you are interested, please contact Dean

Chatfield at 607-684-3545 or at [tchrnrse@gmail.com](mailto:tchrnrse@gmail.com)



## MAUNDY THURSDAY- 4/2/26

Maundy Thursday services will be held in Lyon Hall at 7:30pm



## GOOD FRIDAY- 4/3/26

Stations of the Cross will be in Pulteney Park at 12:15pm.



## EASTER SUNDAY -4/5

Easter services will be held in the sanctuary At 10:00a.m.

There will be a community Easter sunrise service at St. Thomas Episcopal church at 6:15a.m.

The Lumberjack potluck was well received. Several members of the church dressed in festive attire and helped set the mood for the activities of the day. There was ax throwing(plastic) where several showed their skills. Someone even had a bullseye. Perhaps it was Mrs. Bunyon, seen below.



As our Lenten lunches are winding down (last one will be held on March 25th), I'd like to thank everyone for your support. From our kitchen helpers, servers, chefs, ticket takers, donators of food and mostly, for those who came out to support us. Again, we have had a very successful event because of a great group of people. So thank you to everyone involved!



Mark your calendar! The potluck on May 17th will be a pizza party! Watch for further details.



### **COME CRAFT AND CHAT WITH US**

The Craft and Chat group (formerly the craft group without a name) is back in action. Our next get together is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th from 9:30 - 4:00. As always, everyone is welcomed, this group is very informal and we love to chat! Bring a craft you are working on and if you want, a snack to share. Or just bring yourself if you want to see what we are all about.

Please let Kathy Partridge or the church office know if you will be attending.





**RESTORATION FUND**

**In Memory of June Bates**

By: Ruth Moore

**In Memory of**

**Nancy Ann Gunderman Burns**

By: D. Guy Burns

**MUSIC FUND**

**In Memory of June Bates**

By: Patricia Stuart

Barbara Scudder

William & Jan Mishook

Eleata Mitchell



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

April 2

Giovanni Romano

Gregory Rougeux

April 3

Valerie Mitchell

April 4

Abigail Dickson

Caleb Lyke

April 5

Seth Jones

Patricia Seger

April 6

Ruth Moore

Kathy Partridge

April 7

Onalee Newman

Jeffrey McKinley

April 8

Rachel Oest

April 9

Joshua Sehm

April 10

Peg Inglis

Michael Joint

April 13

Barbara Saler

April 18

Bryant Conley

April 19

Philip Dickson

April 20

Alexander Stuart

April 21

Melissa Joint

Michael Mishook

Andrea Morse

April 22

Sandra Robinson

April 23

Susan Gay

Sherman Lyke

April 26

Nicolas Tunison

April 29

Tina Stuart



**May articles are**

**Due**

**April 20, 2026**



*In Our  
Thoughts  
and Prayers*

Andi Morse, Lois Warren, Sharon Ward,  
Diane Lathrop, Sherry Parke,  
Tim Forester, Bob Hujar, Sharon Gunsolus,  
Barb Saler, Bradley Mesler, Debbie Vonderlin,  
Debi Crossman Singer, Sandi Mahnke,  
Sandy Simonson, The Klawitter Famly



## APRIL 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:00 A.M IN THE SANCTUARY (unless noted otherwise)			4:00 pm - B & G Mtg 5:30 pm - Finance Mtg <b>10:00 am &amp; 1:00 pm</b> <i>Helen giving tour to 2 groups of kids</i>	<b>1</b> <i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i> Lily deliveries due 5:15 pm - Handbells 6:00 pm - Choir <b>7:30 pm</b> <i>Worship Service, Lyon Hall</i>	<b>2</b> <i>GOOD FRIDAY</i> <i>Stations of the Cross 12:15 pm</i> <i>Pulteney Park</i>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b> <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i> <i>Lily Memorials</i> Worship/Communion, Sanctuary <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> 11:30 am Coffee Hour - Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper	<b>6</b> Sara's Closet Closed	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00 am - Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> 5:15 pm - Handbells 6:00 pm - Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Worship, Sanctuary <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</i> 11:30 am Coffee Hour - Lyon Hall - Deacons Mtg follows after Coffee Hour 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm - 4H Meeting (Kitchen) *Sunday Supper	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm - Session Sara's Closet 11:30 am-2:30 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:00 pm - A New Day for Widows & Widowers	<b>16</b> <i>9:30 am - 5:00 pm</i> <i>Chat &amp; Crafts</i> 5:15 pm - Handbells 6:00 pm - Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Worship, Sanctuary <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 11:30 am - Coffee Hour, Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper	<b>20</b> Sara's Closet 11:30 am-2:30 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Administrative Professional Day</i>	<b>23</b> 5:15 pm - Handbells 6:00 pm - Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Worship, Sanctuary <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</i> 11:30 am Coffee Hour - Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper.	<b>27</b> Sara's Closet 11:30 am-2:30 pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>*SUNDAY SUPPERS @ St. Thomas Episcopal Church - 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm thru June 2026</b>	



## TOWER TOPICS

**MARCH 2026**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
6 EAST MORRIS STREET  
BATH, NY 14810

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U.S. postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 121  
Bath, NY

*Address service requested*



### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**March 29- Palm Sunday**

**April 2- Maundy Thursday-Communion- 7:00pm Lyon Hall**

**April 3 – Good Friday- Stations of the Cross 12:15pm in Pulteney Park**

**April 5- Easter- Sunrise Service 6:15am St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
Easter Service 10:00a.m. in the Sanctuary**