

# First Presbyterian Church

6 East Morris Street, Bath, NY 14810

607-776-6464



Tower Topics email  
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Church Website  
[www.bathfirstpres.org](http://www.bathfirstpres.org)

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[officepreschurch@gmail.com](mailto:officepreschurch@gmail.com)

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



@FirstPresBath

## Tower Topics

VOLUME LVIX ISSUE 3  
March 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

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be two weeks into the season of Lent, two Sundays from Daylight Savings Time, three weeks from the spring solstice, and over a month until Easter.

We tend to overlook the fact that Lent doesn't end with Easter. It ends with Maundy Thursday, with the Last Supper, with the Garden of Gethsemane. Lent doesn't point towards Easter but to the cross, to suffering and death, pain and passion, betrayal, sacrifice and atonement. This is what it means when scripture tells us that Jesus set his face to Jerusalem. He knew he was destined for the cross. Time and time again he taught his disciples about his impending death. So much so that Peter dares rebuke him by telling him it wouldn't happen. (Jesus also spoke of his resurrection, but these are few in number compared to his many references to the cross.)

The cross was an execution device perfected by the Romans to inflict suffering and humiliation on criminals and traitors and anyone else they decided to torture to death. Like most means of execution, it is simple and brutal, and it also was designed to create incredible pain that could last for days. It is no wonder that Jesus prays desperately in the Garden that this cup of suffering would be taken from him.

Quite frankly, I do not care to contemplate the passion of our Lord for all 40 days. Maundy Thursday communion service is dark enough for me. Yet the mystery of our faith and the centrality of the sacrament of our Lord's Table compel me to consider in a deeper manner the costly grace of God's gift to humanity.

Some have questioned whether or not Jesus had to die in order for God's salvation to be fulfilled. Scripture tells us that Jesus knew this as his destiny. It seems quite illogical that sacrificial atonement, which is the theological term for the subject, is the one and only means for God to save us. Such a "necessity" would constrain and limit God, who, with a word, brought everything into being. Is this the only way God could save the world?

Jesus said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13, NRSVUE)

In my thinking, the cross is the way God chose to demonstrate love for us. The cross is the way God chose to bring salvation to the world. This is the length and breadth and height and depth of the love God has for the world. Each step along the way to Jerusalem, each prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, each word in his trials indicate that Jesus also chose this way – because he loved us.

The American folk hymn What Wondrous Love Is This? asks the question well. "What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?"

*"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:9-10*

*Pastor John*



### MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 1 Communion  
John 9:1-41  
Healing of the Blind Man

March 8  
John 10:1-10  
I am the Gate

March 15  
John 10:11-18  
I am the Good Shepherd

March 22  
John 14:1-17, 15-18  
I am the Way

March 29 Palm Sunday  
John 12:12-26  
Triumphal Entry



### MARCH

Please Bring

**CANNED  
VEGETABLES**



### MARCH CONTACT PEOPLE

**Elder: Dean Chatfield**

**Deacon: Jackie Woodring & Marge Mesler**



### PALM SUNDAY- MARCH 29

Palm Sunday will be celebrated on March 29, 2026. One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on this day

Last week we emailed the 2026 Lenten Prayer Partnership booklet for you to use. The theme for this year is the "I am" sayings of Jesus in the gospel of John. Physical copies are also available from the church office, and you can also request that the PDF be sent to you, if you would still like to receive one. Please remember that we also have prayer service throughout Lent on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 AM in the chapel.

## LUMBERJACK POTLUCK- 3/15/26

Have you ever dreamed of being a lumberjack? Well, now is your chance! Don your jeans and flannel shirts on Sunday, March 15th and join us for our lumberjack themed potluck directly after worship. Beards optional!



### 2026 Drive-thru Chicken BBQ !!!

Saturday, March 21  
4:00pm - until gone  
1/2 Stern's chicken, beans, coleslaw, roll and cookie

\$13.00 - No pre-sale tickets needed!  
Spread the word to all your friends and neighbors!  
Help the youth raise funds to attend Camp Whitman!



### 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/



Holy Week starts 3/29/26

3/29/26- Palm Sunday  
4/2/26- Maundy Thursday  
4/3/26-Good Friday  
4/5/26 Easter Sunday



Souper Bowl Sunday Results:

On February 8, we experienced an exciting Super Bowl event. We are thrilled to announce our winners.

- The Patriots finished in last place, with \$40 and 18 cans
- The Seahawks secured second place, with \$41 and 51 cans.
- Coming first, the Buffalo Bills collected \$150 and 37 cans.

In total, we raised \$231 for Sunday Suppers. We gathered 106 cans for our community food pantry.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this year's Souper Bowl a tremendous success



### CPR CLASS 4/11/26

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 [tchrrse@gmail.com](mailto:tchrrse@gmail.com).



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of June Bates who passed away on January 31, 2026.

March 3	Sandra Simonson Patrick Zimmerman
March 4	Barbara Scudder
March 5	Sandra Sehm Mike Romano Stanley Bhasker
March 10	Michael Conley
March 11	Chad Partridge
March 13	Lois Warren Laura Ask
March 14	Velda Schmieg Kathleen Johnson
March 17	Dean Chatfield Donna Montgomery
March 18	Destiny Barros Hannah Barros
March 19	Madison Shuart
March 23	Elizabeth Partridge Valerie Brown
March 26	Joyce Wahlig Jade Andrus
March 28	Ron Delio Lisa Daley
March 31	Matt Vonderlin



**GIFTS WERE GIVEN TO:**

**DEACONS FUND**

**In Memory of June Bates**

By: Lynne Shoemaker &  
Richard Moyle

**MUSIC FUND**

**In Memory of June Bates**

By: Gary Brown



**April articles are  
Due  
March 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, Neal Wrinkle, Debi Crossman Singer, Sandi Mahnke, Marge Mesler, Sandy Simonson



# MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Worship/Communion 11:30 am Coffee Hour – Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>2:00 pm – Worship Team 5:30 pm – HR Mtg</p> <p>Sara’s Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>11:30 am – 1:00 pm <i>LENTE LUNCHEON, LYON HALL</i></p> <p>4:00 pm – B &amp; G Mtg 5:30 pm – Finance Mtg</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>5:15 pm – Handbells 6:00 pm – Choir</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><i>World Day of Prayer</i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><i>June Bates Funeral 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm – Receiving 2:30 pm Service</i></p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Worship, Sanctuary 11:30 am Coffee Hour – Lyon Hall – Deacons Mtg follows after Coffee Hour <i>Daylight Savings Begins</i> *Sunday Supper</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:00 pm – Session</p> <p>Sara’s Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>11:30 am – 1:00 pm <i>LENTE LUNCHEON, LYON HALL</i></p> <p>10:00 am – Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>5:15 pm – Handbells 6:00 pm – Choir</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Worship, Sanctuary 11:30 am – <i>Lumberjack Potluck, Lyon Hall</i> *Sunday Supper</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Sara’s Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><i>St. Patrick’s Day</i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>11:30 am – 1:00 pm <i>LENTE LUNCHEON, LYON HALL</i></p> <p>5:00 pm – A New Day for Widows &amp; Widowers</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9:30 am – 5:00 pm <i>Crafts &amp; Sewing</i></p> <p>5:15 pm – Handbells 6:00 pm – Choir</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><i>First Day of Spring!</i></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><i>Chicken BBQ 4:00 pm until no chicken left</i></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Worship, Sanctuary 11:30 am – Coffee Hour, Lyon Hall  *Sunday Supper</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Sara’s Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>11:30 am – 1:00 pm <i>LENTE LUNCHEON, LYON HALL</i></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>5:15 pm – Handbells 6:00 pm – Choir</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Worship, Lyon Hall <i>Palm Sunday</i> 11:30 am Coffee Hour – Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Sara’s Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p>ALL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY (Unless noted otherwise) *SUNDAY SUPPERS @ St. Thomas Episcopal Church – 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm thru June 2026</p>			



## TOWER TOPICS

**MARCH 2026**

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*



### **2026 Drive-thru Chicken BBQ !!!**

**Saturday, March 21**

**4:00pm - until gone**

1/2 Stern's chicken, beans, coleslaw, roll and cookie

**\$13.00 - No pre-sale tickets needed!**

**Spread the word to all your friends and neighbors!**

**Help the youth raise funds to attend Camp Whitman!**

### **Lumberjack Potluck Luncheon- 3/15/26**



**Don your jeans and flannel shirts and join us for our  
Lumberjack potluck lunch following worship service.  
Beards optional!**