

First Presbyterian Church

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@FirstPresBath

Tower Topics

VOLUME LVIX ISSUE 3
May 2026

SERVING WITH YOU

Pastor
Re. John Woodring

Clerk of Session
Kathy Swan

Administrative Assistant
Valerie Brown

Treasurer
Velda Schmieg

Organist
Vacant

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

Ben Sasse, former US Senator from Nebraska (2015-2023), former University of Florida President (2023-2024) spoke plainly when he announced his cancer diagnosis a couple of weeks ago. In his public letter announcing the diagnosis, Sasse wrote: “Last week I was diagnosed with metastasized, stage-four pancreatic cancer, and am gonna die.”

In his initial public statement, he said, “Advanced pancreatic is nasty stuff; it’s a death sentence.”

But he quickly reminded us of another truth. “But I already had a death sentence before last week too — we all do.”

In the same reflection, Sasse emphasized that the process of dying still has meaning: “Death and dying aren’t the same — the process of dying is still something to be lived.”

“Our daughters are 24 and 22, and our son just turned 14,” Sasse said. “And he feels like he needs a dad for a little while longer. So, I want to knock him upside the head and wrestle with him and tell him how much I love him and tell him stuff I wish I had done differently in my life.”

And what are some of those things he wishes he had done differently?

“Lots of dumb stuff that I cared too much about. The foolishness of our works is pretty apparent when you try to really look at the accounting of a life. One thing I tell my kids a lot is, ‘Man, I wish I’d taken the Lord’s Day more seriously...it’s a really good antidote to all those idolatries.’”

~ “MinistryWatch” – Warren Cole Smith – March 9, 2026

Pretty heavy stuff for this wonderful month of May. The end of winter has finally come. Flowers bursting forth to paint our yards and hillsides with splashes of color. The various shades of green leaves that emerge daily on the hillsides. The smell of apple blossoms. Warm sunshine and afternoons. Mother’s Day and barbecues. And, for those who know, the peculiar odor of fresh-cut grass mixed with lime, damp dirt infields, and the smell of a leather baseball glove.

Where are you spending your time and energy? In lots of dumb stuff that you care too much about? Or the things that bring you life? In activities and people that will sustain you for the long haul? Today is an invitation to linger longer in what really matters.

Pastor John



“All travelers, somewhere along the way, find it necessary to check their course, to see how they are doing.

We wait until we are sick, or shocked into stillness, before we do the commonplace thing of getting our bearings.

And yet, we wonder why we are depressed, why we are unhappy, why we lose our friends, why we are ill-tempered.

This condition we pass on to our children, our husbands, our wives, our associates, our friends.

Cultivate the mood to linger.

...Who knows? God may whisper to you in the quietness what God has been trying to say to you, oh, for so long a time.”

Howard Thurman, Deep Is the Hunger



MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

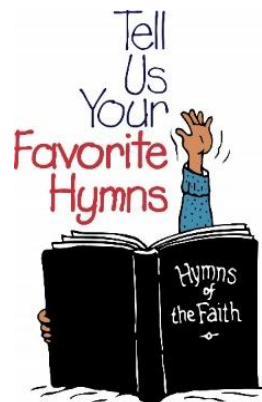
May 3- Communion
Acts 17:16-31
Sharing the Hope of Jesus

May 10
Philippians 1:1-18a
What Really Matters

May 17
Philippians 2:1-13
Living Like Jesus

May 24-Pentecost
Acts 2:1-4
Wearing Red

May 31
Romans 5:1-5
Wide Open



Our Favorite Hymns

Summertime worship means the return of our “hymn sing” at the beginning of worship. The bulletin insert will have a form you can fill out for up to five of your favorites. They don’t have to be from our hymnal. Help Pastor John choose

hymns for the summer services which will start June 28, in Lyon Hall.



MAY
Please Bring

CANNED FRUIT



MAY CONTACT PEOPLE

Elder: Kathy Forester
Deacon: Jackie Woodring & Marge Mesler

SANCTUARY TOURS



Sanctuary tours will again be offered during July and August from 10AM to 1PM on Wednesdays: July 1,8,15, 22, 29& August 5, 12, 19, & 26. People will be needed to greet visitors and to conduct the tours. We especially need tour guides who will be given a printed guide for this role. If you would like to help in either capacity on one or more of the above dates, please let me know or call the church office (607-776-6464) as I will soon be setting up the schedule of helpers.



FINANCE NEWS

It always makes us feel grateful for our incredibly generous congregation. That allows us to do all the necessary things as well as a few extras, for example, we have permission to buy a new copier to replace our 8 yr old one. It is exciting to also consider some new things for our church.

Many of you give memorial or honor donations when the occasion arises. We'd like to remind you to indicate where you would like the gift to go. Funds to RESTORATION are not needed. While at one time, that was appreciated, we now have a facility fund to cover anything that restoration would have covered, thanks to the Crosby gift. We suggest supporting DEACONS, MUSIC or PASTOR DISCRETIONARY funds. Just put a note on the MEMO line.

Some have taken advantage of their regular pledge or special gifts through VANCO. We are still learning the ins and outs of this. It is important to remember there is a fee so when you register to do this, be sure to enter all the pertinent information and opting to pay the fee covers the cost of the program.

Lastly, per capita can be paid any time. 2026 amount is \$66.43. This is membership/support of Presbytery

Many thanks for your support of our church and its programs. While many churches are closing, we are blessed to have a faithful, caring, thoughtful and generous congregation.

It's that time of year again...time to add wood chips to the church gardens. We can use a lot of helpers to dump buckets of wood chips, there are a lot of areas that need some sprucing up. Mark your calendars for 9:30 on May 2nd to assist with this activity if you can help. Thank you to Scott Folckemer and his 4H group for delivering and helping with the wood chips. Any questions, see Kathy P.



Easter centerpieces were made by Kathy Forester, Dean Chatfield and Debbie Vonderlin. These were very creative using donuts for the tomb and the donut holes as the boulders

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



There is a lot of space in our gardens for more perennial memorial plants. If you would like to donate a perennial (no shrubs or roses please) in memory of someone, please contact Kathy P. so we can work out logistics. Added to the plant will be a metal tag with the name of the person the plant has been planted for.



FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

1st Friday Fellowship will be May 1 at 7:30pm in Lyon Hall.

Come listen to live music and enjoy fellowship with members of other churches.



MOTHERS DAY May 10, 2026

Remember to wish all the special women in your life a happy Mother's Day.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual Chicken BBQ on March 21st.

The weather was a little cool but we were grateful that the wind stayed away!

A great group of youth and adults prepped the beans and coleslaw the night before. Volunteer helpers on Friday and Saturday were Bill Joint, Andrea, Torin, Skylar, and Caleb Lyke, Russell Walters, Pastor John and Jackie Woodring, Lisa, Carter, Weston and Tessa Daley, and Eleata Mitchell. New to the crew this year were Anne, Mike, Giovanni and Giuseppe Romano. They jumped right in and helped in the kitchen and as "runners", delivering the meals to the vehicles. No one spilled the beans!

Unfortunately, we did not sell as many meals as we had purchased. So, we did not make as much profit as we have in years past. But the extra meals did not go to waste! They were served during a Sunday Supper meal and were very much appreciated. Special thanks goes to the deacons for donating \$200 to help lessen our losses and still make a profit of \$1,041.81. The funds go to scholarships for Camp Whitman.

COFFEE HOUR



The coffee hour is enjoyed by most. It is a chance to connect and chat. Cookies, muffins, crackers, even pop corn make it more enjoyable. It takes all of us to make those things appear. Dar and Emily do all the prep, all they need is for us to bring them goodies. So why not sign up for a Sunday. You don't even have to do dishes!



Orpheus Chorale will be performing at the Bath Presbyterian Church on May 3 at 3pm.



SARA'S CLOSET UPDATE

Sara's Closet Ministry continues to fill a big need in our community. March alone saw over 200 customers come through our doors !! Winter has been a struggle this year for many. Because of many generous donations, we were able to give out 107 winter coats in addition to so many other warm items of clothing !!! We occasionally get blankets in with the donated clothing so those were shared as well. We recently had our wardrobe changeover to summer clothes... yes, summer is finally here !! Recently, as we were getting ready to leave the closet, a young man came in and said he was there to present us with a check for \$650 !! He was one of the owners of Tub Town Brewing Company. They, and another local establishment had held a recent fund raiser and each chose a nonprofit charity to benefit from the proceeds. Mr. Conrad happened to know Katie Johnson and was familiar with Sara's Closet, so he chose us ! Although donations make up the majority of our needs, there are always items that we run low on and try to purchase when we see good sales as well as other supplies like plastic bags, fabric softener spray, markers and tape etc. We are so very grateful to this local business for choosing us to benefit not only financially from this fund raiser, but also for spreading the word about this ministry located in our church. Thank you Tub Town Brewing Company !!



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Robert Hujar, who passed away on March 28, 2026.



GIFTS WERE GIVEN TO:

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of Robert Hujar

By: Richard and Gail Martin

GENERAL FUND:

In Memory of Robert Hujar

By: Gary Brown

By: William & Jan Mishook

SARA'S CLOSET

In Memory of Bob Hujar

By: Mark & Eleata Mitchell



**June articles are
Due
May 20, 2026**



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 4 James Barros
Kathleen Clark
May 5 Deanna Lang
May 9 William Von Hagn
May 10 Trevor Lang
May 12 Edwin Presley
May 15 Robert Kittle
Cameron Tunison
May 17 James Tunison
May 18 Kimberly Enzion
Breanna Jones
May 19 Diane Lathrop
Lindsay Wolfe
May 21 Anne Romano
May 26 Rose Mishrell
May 27 Matthew Robinson
May 29 Trevor Parke
Alicia Sherer
May 30 June Brown
May 31 Pat Binley
Carolyn(Carrie) Cardinale



Andi Morse, Lois Warren, Sharon Ward,
Diane Lathrop, Sherry Parke,
Tim Forester, Sharon Gunsolus
Sandy Simonson, Debi Crossman Singer,
Eleata Mitchell, Sandi Mahnke, Deb Vonderlin
The Klawitter Family, Bob Hujar Family



The office will be **CLOSED**
May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

RIDDLE

What do you call a camel with no humps?

ANSWER: Humphrey

Easter 2026 - Lily Memorials

IN LOVING MEMORY

Graham Andrus
Our Beautiful Son, Forever Missed
Forever Loved

by Karen, Tom and Jada Andrus

June LeRay Bates

by Sherman and Chad

Richard and Barbara Beekman

by Edwin Presley and Janet Ruger

Herb, Pat and Mike Bonsor

by Sherman and Chad

Herb, Pat and Mike Bonsor

by Sue Narby

Martha Brown

by Rev. Gary Brown and Family

Don, Dawn and Dale Chatfield

by Dean Chatfield and Dianna Burleson

Jack and Maryse Crisman

by Rev. John and Jackie Woodring

Tom and Harriet Griswald

by Robert Robinson and Family

Sara Johnson

by The Swan and Johnson Families

Mary Jane Jones

by Patricia Stuart

Wesley Moore

by The Moore Family

Dr. Edwin and Nadia Presley

by Edwin Presley and Janet Ruger

Betsy Robinson

by Robert Robinson and Family

Clifford and Lois Robinson

by Robert Robinson and Family

Mary Ann Robinson

by Robert Robinson and Family

Nancy and Richard Stuart

by Sherry and Trevor Parke

Joe and Stella Sincerbox

by Jim and Sandy Robinson

David Swan

by Kathy Swan and Family

Gordon Vonderlin

by Debbie Vonderlin

Andy Woodring

by Rev. John and Jackie Woodring

Dr. MaryAnne Woodring

by Rev. John and Jackie Woodring

In Memory of Our Loved Ones

by Bob and Marge Mesler

IN HONOR OF

Sandi Mahnke

by Debbie Vonderlin

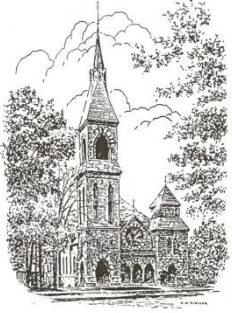
Ruth Moore

by Dean Chatfield and Dianna Burleson



MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, 10:00 A.M – SANCTUARY *SUNDAY SUPPERS @ St. Thomas Episcopal Church – 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm thru June 2026					<u>1</u> <i>7:30 pm First Friday Fellowship Lyon Hall</i>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> Worship/Communion, Sanctuary 11:30 am Coffee Hour – Lyon Hall <i>3:00 pm, Orpheus Chorale Concert</i> *Sunday Supper	<u>4</u> 2:00 pm – Worship Team 5:30 pm – HR Mtg Sara's Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> 4:00 pm - B & G Mtg 5:30 pm - Finance Mtg	<u>7</u> <i>National Prayer Day</i> 5:15 pm - Handbells 6:00 pm - Choir	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> <i>MOTHER'S DAY</i> Worship, Sanctuary 11:30 am Coffee Hour – Lyon Hall - Deacons Mtg follows after Coffee Hour *Sunday Supper	<u>11</u> 6:00 pm – Session Sara's Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> 10:00 am – Staff Meeting	<u>14</u> <i>10:30 am – 2:00 pm Annual Rotary Luncheon – Lyon Hall</i> 5:15 pm - Handbells 6:00 pm - Choir	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> Worship, Sanctuary 11:30 am – <i>Pizza Party</i> & Coffee Hour, Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper	<u>18</u> Sara's Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> 5:00 pm – A New Day for Widows & Widowers	<u>21</u> <i>9:30 am – 4:00 pm Crafts & Chat</i> 5:15 pm - Handbells 6:00 pm - Choir	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> Worship, Sanctuary 11:30 am Coffee Hour – Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper.	<u>25</u> <i>MEMORIAL DAY</i> Office & Sara's Closet CLOSED	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 5:15 pm - Handbells 6:00 pm - Choir	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>31</u> Worship, Sanctuary 11:30 am Coffee Hour – Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper.						



TOWER TOPICS

MAY 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6 EAST MORRIS STREET
BATH, NY 14810

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Bath, NY

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MAY POTLUCK ON 5/17/26 WILL BE A

