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Tower Topics

VOLUME LViii ISSUE 10
November 2026

SERVING WITH YOU

Pastor
Re. John Woodring

Clerk of Session
Kathy Swan

Admnistrative Assistant
Valerie Brown

Treasurer
Velda Schmieg

Organist
Cathy Reed

Senior Choir Director
Anne Romano

Custodial Staff
Sandy Robinson
Leslie Lyons
Gene Overton

Nursery
Alberta Nunn

Historian
Helen Brink

Newsletter Coordinator
Sandy Robinson

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

It is a season for thanks. Thanks for the harvest. Thanks for God's sustaining providence. Thanks for another day, another breath, another prayer.

How often do we remember to stop and praise God for the little things? For the simple things? For the moments and events that would take our breath away if we dared to think of them as miracles, wondrous gifts from God?

I had walked outside one morning into the cold November chill and saw dainty kitty paw-prints outlined in the frost on the walkway railing, just one place where a kitten had paused just long enough to melt the frost. I should have been thinking about how slippery the walkway was as my next two steps were frantic slides.

I don't really like the first days of cold. I'd much rather complain. But I couldn't keep the grin off my face as I slid the next 15 feet to my garage door with one little push. And then as I walked out to feed the chickens and let them out, I listened carefully to the mix of frosty crunch and the underlying slurp of wet muddy ground that is my swamp of a backyard. Little pools of rainwater sparkled amidst the crystalline frosted grass. And I grinned again. It really is breathtaking to stop and see the beauty of the killing frost.

I didn't take long. I didn't ponder anew the wondrous creation. I did not get lost in the reverie of a brilliant sparkling morning. But I paused. And I grinned. And somehow each step became lighter, more joyful, and I didn't notice the cold anymore. And then Marley crowed.

I had been softened to receive God's grace. I'd like to say it all began with a pausing kitty (pun intended), but it actually began the night before. I remembered the first touches of frost that I saw when I checked the chickens for the night. I wasn't so glad to see it then. I remember thinking how yucky it was for November to be here.

"Lord, thank you for each moment,
for the blue-sky moment,
the softening earth,
the freshening wind,
for the sap flowing,
the bird nesting,
the yellow bush,
for my full heart
and the joy rising in me.
Soften me
to receive whatever comes as a gift
and to praise you in it."
Ted Loder, Guerillas of Grace

Pastor John

All Saints Day will be observed on November 1,2026. We will be remembering all those who have passed in the last year. If you have a loved one or friend whose name you would like to be listed in the liturgy, please contact the church office.

NOVEMBERS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 1 **Communion/All Saints Day**
Matthew 5:1-12
Blessed

November 8
Matthew 24:1-8
Sign of the Times

November 15
Matthew 25:14-30
Parable of the Talents

November 22
Matthew 25:31-46
The Judgement of the Nations

November 29 – **First Sunday of Advent**
Mark 13:24-37
The Son of Man

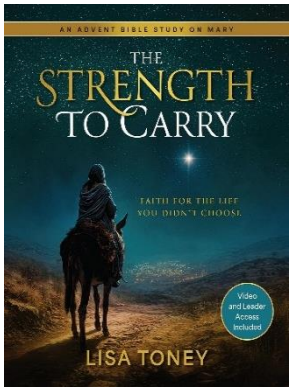
NOVEMBER

Please Bring

Money to be used to buy gift cards to purchase Thanksgiving food items.

NOVEMBER CONTACT PEOPLE

Elder	Dean Chatfield
Deacon:	Jackie Woodring and Marge Mesler



An Advent Bible Study on Mary
The Strength to Carry
Faith for the Life You Didn't Choose
By Lisa Toney

Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am beginning Dec. 1.

Please contact Pastor John if you are interested, but need another time to meet.
($23.29 at Amazon)

POTLUCK & CRAFT DAY

Mark your calendar for our annual potluck and craft day! Following the church service on Dec. 6th, we will enjoy food and friendship followed by crafting. Please bring a dish to pass, all craft supplies will be provided. This is a great day to share holiday excitement and lots of laughter!

DECORATE the Church

We will be decorating the inside of the church for Christmas on 11/28/25 at 9:00am. Please, everyone come join us as we decorate trees, hang garland, lay wreaths and find new areas in the church to make festive. This is a great way to start getting into the holiday spirit. There will be holiday music, doughnuts and coffee
o enjoy

ELECTION NIGHT SPAGHETTI DINNER

Tuesday, November 3rd
4:30pm - 6:30pm

Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, bread, cupcake and beverage

Adults - $12.00
Ages 5-12 - $6.00
Under 5 - Free

Eat in or Take Out

Funds Raised for Camp Whitman Scholarships

Hope to see you there! Invite your friends!

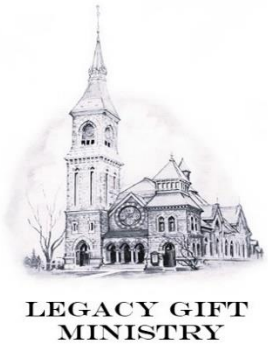
COMMUNITY
Thanksgiving
WORSHIP SERVICE

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Wednesday, November 25 at 7 pm
Pastor John preaching

What a fun time we had at our Craft and Chat session! Our next get together will be from 9:30-11:30 on Dec. 4, feel free to join us. Details to follow.

SUMMER SANCTUARY TOURS

Thanks to Samantha Brown we enjoyed a banner 21 st year of offering summer sanctuary tours! She moved the re-runs of her shows to YouTube which resulted, in large part, to 181 people coming to see our sanctuary.For those of you who don't know Samantha Brown, she visited our church in 2019 and had many pictures taken for inclusion in her "Places To Love"program on public broadcasting. The show that features our church is entitled "Corning and The Southern Finger Lakes." The 181 people came from 18 states as far away as California and Oregon and as close as Pennsylvania. Also touring our sanctuary were people from Japan, Poland, Canada, and from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Their total donations amounted to $1000.



The Finance team launched a **Legacy Gift** program at our Bath Presbyterian Church a year ago. We would like to draw your attention to this program as the year-end approaches and budgets and gifts may be part of familiar household conversations.

Our church has been a home for worship, fellowship and ministry in this community for 218 years. We enjoy today what was built by those who came before us. A legacy gift is an opportunity to impact this congregation and community with those who will follow us. Planned gifts enable our vital ministry to inspire future generations, care for our cherished church home and explore new ministry opportunities.

Some ways to give include:

BEQUESTS or a gift through a will or estate.

RETIREMENT ACCOUNT which might leave less tax burdened assets to loved ones.

REAL ESTATE no longer needed that may be repurposed.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS can combine flexible benefits like income tax benefits and gifts to the church.

(Please consult with a financial advisor about potential tax implications.)

Through a legacy gift, your impact will continue beyond your lifetime. By making this commitment, you will remain Christ's hands in the world- through THIS congregation.

Brochures are available at the entrance to Lyon Hall if you would like more information.
Thank you for considering such a legacy gift at our church

Why Are We The
<u>First</u> Presbyterian Church of Bath?

Helen K. Brink – Church Historian

Have you ever wondered why we're the First Presbyterian Church of Bath? Was there ever a Second Presbyterian Church of Bath? The answer to that question is - Yes! There was!

The Second Presbyterian Church of Bath came into existence as a result of the "Old School – New School" controversy in the Presbyterian Church USA. which came to a head in 1837. A simplified explanation of the two "Schools" follows:

The Old School, led by Charles Hodge of Princeton Theological Seminary, was much more conservative theologically and did not support the revival movement. It called for traditional Calvinist orthodoxy as outlined in the Westminster standards.

The New School derived from the reinterpretation of Calvinism by New England Congregationalist theologians Jonathan Edwards, Samuel Hopkins and Joseph Bellamy and wholly embraced revivalism. Though there was much diversity among them, the Edwardsian Calvinists commonly rejected what they called "Old Calvinism" in light of their understandings of God, the human person, and the Bible.

Later, both the Old School and the New School branches split further over the issue of slavery into Southern and Northern churches. The latter supported the abolition of slavery. After three decades of separate operation, the two sides of the controversy merged, in 1865 in the South and in 1870 in the North. Two Presbyterian denominations were formed – PCUS in the South and PCUSA in the North.

The revival movement mentioned above increased in popularity in the 1830s. Rev. Charles Finney (1792-1875), a Presbyterian minister, was a key leader in the movement in America. Beginning in 1821 and for several years thereafter, he conducted revival meetings across many northeastern states and won many converts.

According to "Presbyterianism in Steuben and Allegany" by Rev. James A. Miller, published by Steuben Presbytery in 1897, the following is an account of what took place regarding our church:

"On 28 August 1837 a majority of the congregation voted to withdraw from the Bath Presbytery, which had become New School, and to seek admission to the Susquehanna Presbytery, which was Old School. A little later 19 members and 2 of the 3 elders desiring to retain connection to the neighboring churches in the Bath Presbytery withdrew and organized the Second Presbyterian Society of Bath (Constitutional) which was New School. An edifice was erected in 1841 on the site of the old Purdy Opera House. This remained an independent church until 1870 when its members reunited with the original church. During its existence the church received 211 members and was served by 11 ministers."

It is stated in our church records that, in 1837, the members who voted to withdraw from our church probably were influenced to do so by their minister Rev. Isaac Platt. On 13 February 1870 the surviving members who left our church in 1837 returned during the pastorate of Rev. James Platt, Rev. Isaac Platt's son!

Later in 1870, perhaps the addition of the returned members helped to influence the congregation to authorize the trustees to raise $30,000 to finance the building of a new church, the one we worship in today.

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 3	Patricia Shuart
November 6	Darolene Grant
November 7	Samantha Wolfe
November 10	Andrea Lyke
November 11	Ava Tunison
November 12	Evelyn Bussman
November 13	Skylar Lyke
November 19	Garrett Lang
	Makenna Taggert
November 24	Andrew Bhasker
November 25	Christopher McDonald
November 28	Clifford Bhasker
	Carter Daley
	Anthony Mazza

Deadline
for **December** articles
Is
November 20

GIFTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO:

GENERAL FUND

In Memory Barbara Saler
By: Ed Presley
Bill & Jan Mishook
Helen Brink
Shirley Watts

In Memory of Edith Rouse
By: Bill & Jan Mishook

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of Barb Saler who passed away on October 10, 2026.

Andi Morse, Lois Warren, Sharon Ward,
Diane Lathrop, Sherry Parke, Bradley Mesler
Tim Forester, Sharon Gunsolus, Kathy Walker,
Eleata Mitchell, Sandy Simonson, Pat Shuart,

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship/Communion, *All Saints Remembrance Day, Sanctuary* 11:30 am - Coffee Hour, LH *Sunday Supper	**2** 2:00 pm – Worship Team Sara's Closet 11:30 am – 2:30 pm	**3** *4:30 pm – 6:00 pm* *Election Day* *Spaghetti Dinner Lyon Hall*	**4** *4:00 pm - B & G Mtg* *5:30 pm -Finance Mtg*	**5** 5:15 pm – Handbells 6:00 pm – Choir	**6**	**7** *7:45am – 4:00pm* *Pro-Action Day* *Care Training -Lyon Hall*
8 Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:30 am - Coffee Hour, *Deacons' Meeting,* Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper	**9** *6:00 – Session* Sara's Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm	**10**	**11** 10:00 – Staff Meeting	**12** 5:15 pm – Handbells 6:00 pm – Choir	**13** Steuben County Historical Society Meeting, LH 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	**14**
15 Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:30 am – Coffee Hour, Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper	**16** Sara's Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm	**17**	**18** 5:00 pm – A New Day for Widows & Widowers	**19** 5:15 pm – Handbells 6:00 pm – Choir	**20**	**21**
22 Worship Service, Sanctuary 11:30 am Coffee Hour, LH 6:00 pm - Wellspring Fellowship Mtg., LH *Sunday Supper.	**23** *SARA'S CLOSET WILL BE CLOSED* *Valerie on vacation this week back Monday the 30th*	**24**	**25** *THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE 7:00 PM ST. MARY'S CHURCH*	**26** *HAPPY THANKSGIVING* **Office Closed**	**27**	**28** *9:00 am - Advent Decorating of the Sanctuary*
29 Worship Service, First Sunday of Advent Sanctuary, Congregational Meeting after Worship 11:30 am Coffee Hour, LH *Sunday Supper.	**30** Sara's Closet 11:30 am–2:30 pm	SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 10:00 A.M – SANCTUARY *SUNDAY SUPPERS @ Centenary Methodist Church, 3:00 pm–3:30 pm thru December 27, 2026				

TOWER TOPICS

November 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

SPAGHETTI DINNER – 11/3/26

Tuesday, November 3rd
4:30pm - 6:30pm

Adults - $12.00
Ages 5-12 - $6.00
Under 5 - Free