

# First Presbyterian Church

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



@FirstPresBath

## Tower Topics



VOLUME LViii ISSUE 4  
April 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**  
10:00 a.m.

Youth Worship/Church  
School During 10:00a.m.  
Service

;-

To say that Mary and the disciples were surprised by what they encountered at the tomb that First Sunday morning is an understatement. They are dumbfounded and bewildered by this inexplicable disappearance of their Lord's body. It is one thing to talk about resurrection of the dead, and even have seen it when Jesus called Lazarus forth from the tomb, and quite another to discover an empty tomb, and angels, and then later, Jesus himself.

Anyone who has lost a loved one knows the haunting anguish of the empty chair, the imagined timbre of a voice not there, the surge of whelming grief that pours from our eyes as water. No matter if their death was expected or unexpected, there is a surreal quality to our own lives in the following days. How can someone dearly loved be with us, and then not, as if they never existed? We wish it was only a bad dream...

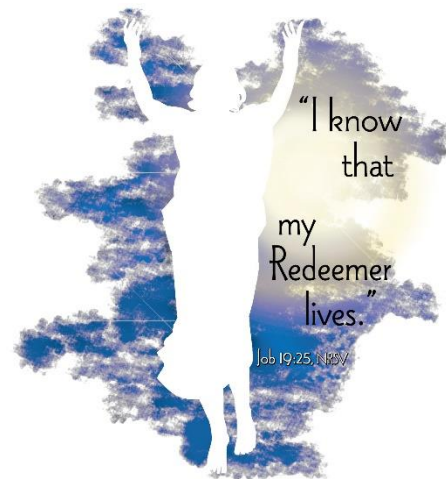
No one is ready to fully embrace resurrection until she has spent time in that dark place where hope cannot be seen. In reality, resurrection is the last thing we expect. We would not bury our dead if we expect them to come back to life three days hence. We would not bury ourselves in tears of grief when a loved one dies. We would not be in mortal anguish knowing that we will never see our loved one again. Never to have and to hold and to laugh and cry and share a smile or tear. Never!

But resurrection is not about chocolate and eggs, bunnies and springtime, women in hats, little girls in cute dresses, and lilies everywhere. *It's about being surprised by more hope than we can ever possibly hold on to.*

When Jesus rolls away the stone behind which we have buried our lives and invites us into his garden and into the light of his new day, we discover ourselves laughing despite the tears, smiling despite the pain, somehow knowing peace despite being bereft of the moorings to which we had anchored our lives. Therefore, we do not mourn as those who have no hope.

One day, death and pain and tears will be no more and the glimpse of resurrection that gives us our hope will be fully realized in the everlasting realm of God.

Pastor John





### April Worship Schedule

April 7 Mark 12:18-27 –  
Questions about Resurrection

April 14 Mark 9:33-37-  
Who is the Greatest?

April 21- Mark 10:13-16-  
Welcoming Children

April 28- Mark 12:41-44-  
A Widow's Offering



**APRIL**  
**Please Bring**

**PERSONAL CARE  
PRODUCTS**(soap,  
deodorant, shampoo,etc)



### APRIL CONTACT PEOPLE

**Elder** Donna Montgomery  
**Deacon:** Lee Dickson



**WORSHIP  
INFORMATION**

### **WORSHIP TIME**

In the November issue of the Tower Topics it was noted worship service would be 10:00a.m. up thru March 31, 2024. At this point in time **worship service will remain at 10:00a.m.**



Sherry Parke, Lois Warren, Andi Morse, Megyn Melnyk, Jean Morse Diane Lathrop, Kathy Walker, Sharon Ward, Tom Moore, Andy Woodring, Connie DeLisa, Barb Beekman and your **Pastor Nominating Committee:** Dean Chatfield, Kathy Forrester, Sharon Gonsolus, Bob Mesler, Velda Schmieg

## HISTORY



### HISTORY TIDBITS!

Helen Kelly Brink –

#### The Baptismal Font

Around 1895 the baptismal font in the southeast corner of our sanctuary was given as a memorial to Margaret Dobbin Davison by her four sons – Moses, Isaac, William and Robert Davison. She had died in 1893 at the age of 72. The memorial gift was accompanied by a letter containing the following message:

“In 1846 William and Margaret Dobbin Davison with their three young children made the voyage across the Atlantic from Ireland to New York City – then by packet boat up the Hudson and the Erie Canal to Dresden on Seneca Lake, thence by ox team to the Mansion House on West Morris Street in Bath. (This was a large hotel popular in stagecoach days. House now located at 13 West Morris Street is part of original building.) William soon obtained employment as a carpenter with Col. Ira Davenport on Cameron Street. Here a fourth child and second son Isaac was born. It so happened that he was so ill that his parents despaired of his life. But they considered it so essential that the infant should receive the Sacrament of Baptism and due to the fact that in that year there was no Presbyterian minister in Bath, they prevailed upon the Episcopal rector to administer the Sacrament of Baptism to Isaac.”

With that background it was quite fitting for Margaret’s sons to give a baptismal font in her memory. In 1959 her grandchildren placed on the font a suitable brass plate stating the above facts.



#### A Moment For Deacons

The little red wagon has been a fixture in the narthex outside Lyons Hall for several years. For those who may not know, the Deacons participate with other area churches to help feed the hungry in Bath. This is done through the Turning Point food bank and the Blessing Box, outside our church. The food items being specifically requested for the month are noted in the Tower Topics. These items (or really any items you wish to donate) can be brought to the church and placed in the red wagon. After the Blessing Box was put in place, we found that most of the items collected in the wagon could be used to help keep the Blessing Box stocked. Excess items and those that may not be appropriate to be placed there, are taken to Turning Point. In choosing food items to donate, you may want to keep in mind that often people who need the food do not have access to kitchen utensils including can openers, so flip top and individual serving size items are particularly helpful.

Whether the collected items are placed in our Blessing Box or are taken to Turning Point, they are important in helping us in this ministry. We offer our sincere thanks for all the donations to the Red Wagon collection so that we can continue to help feed the hungry in our community.



## 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](mailto: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.



## 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.

Join us directly after worship on April 14th as we celebrate everyone's birthday! Share your birthday at your own special table with others that have birthdays in the same month. Cake and ice cream will be provided!

## 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!**



## Cinco de Mayo Coffee Hour

The Congregational Life team invites you to our first Cinco de Mayo coffee hour celebration on May 5th. We will be having a taco bar along with other Mexican foods. Feel free to wear your sombrero!



AND WE  
THOUGHT  
BOB WAS A  
BIG "DILL"



## GIFTS WERE GIVEN TO:

### DEACON FUND

**In Honor of Emily Decker**

By: Larry & Liz Hojnoski

**In Honor of Lee and Phil Dickson**

By: Larry & Liz Hojnoski

### CHATFIELD YOUTH

#### SCHOLARSHIP

**In Memory of Don & Dawn  
Chatfield**

**In Honor of Dean Chatfield**

By: David & Carol Sehm

### KITCHEN FUND

**In Memory of Helen Dildine**

By: Ruth Moore

### MUSIC FUND

**In Memory of Arlene Brundage**

By: Ruth Moore



Our Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Tom and Donna Montgomery on the loss of Tom's mother.





A huge shout out to those who donated food, worked and/or supported the Lenten lunches, this season was extremely successful. Thank you all!



### Special April Birthdays Card Shower

**96th Birthday- Barb Saler- April 13**  
7709 Rt. 333  
Campbell, NY 14821

**92nd Birthday- Mary Jane Jones- April 16**  
6 Vermont St  
Bath, NY 14810



### 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	Robert Bennett Joshua Sehm
April 10	Peg Inglis Michael Joint
April 13	Barbara Saler
April 16	Mary Jane Jones Nicole Thomas Jason Osmin
April 18	Bryant Conley
April 19	Philip Dickson
April 20	Alexander Shuart
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 Shuart Judy Aho

# April

# 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 2:00 – Worship Team 4:45 – PNC 5:00 – HR	2	3 4:00 – Bldgs & Grnds Mtg 5:30 – Finance Mtg	4 6:00 - Choir Rehearsal	5	6 4:00 until Gone – Drive-Thru Chicken BBQ (Youth raising funds to Attend Camp Whitman)
7 10:00 - Worship Service - Communion  Mission & Stewardship  3:00 – Sunday Supper - St. Thomas Church	8 4:45 – PNC  6:00 - Session	9 4:00 - Deacons	10	11 6:00 - Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 10:00 - Worship Service  Birthday Sunday – Lyon Hall (Hosts: Congregational Life)  3:00 – Sunday Supper - St. Thomas Church	15 4:45 PNC	16 6:30 - Congregational Life	17	18 9:30-5:00 Crafts & Sewing  6:00 - Choir Rehearsal	19 9:30-5:00 Crafts & Sewing	20 9:30-1:30 Officer Retreat Church
21 10:00 - Worship Service  3:00 – Sunday Supper - St. Thomas Church	22 4:45 - PNC	23 5:00 - MCY	24	25 6:00 - Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 10:00 - Worship Service  3:00 - Sunday Supper St. Thomas Church	29 4:45 - PNC	30				



## TOWER TOPICS

**April 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*



**APRIL 6- 4:00p.m. Drive Thru Chicken Barbecue**

**April 14- Birthday Party for everyone**

**(additional information inside the newsletter)**