

# First Presbyterian Church

6 East Morris Street, Bath, NY 14810

607-776-6464

Tower Topics email  
[bathprest@gmail.com](mailto:bathprest@gmail.com)

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

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

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



@FirstPresBath

## Tower Topics



VOLUME LViii ISSUE 2  
February 2024

### SERVING WITH YOU

Pastor

Re. John Woodring

Clerk of Session

Kathy Swan

Administrative Assistant

Valerie Brown

Treasurer

Velda Schmieg

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

9:30 a.m.

Youth Worship/Church  
School During 9:30 Service

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“One of the problems I have with Catholics,” my friend commented, “is that they just take the confessional for granted. You know, like they don’t have to change their lives –just walk into the confessional booth, go to mass, and then return to life as usual.”

I was surprised by this criticism, particularly because the same could be said about Presbyterians. Every week in worship we pray the prayer of confession and hear the assurance of pardon and then go about our lives as usual. I suspect that’s true of most people in denominations that have a formal means of confession and pardon.

How authentic is your confession?

There are at least two important questions in considering the matter: One, How do you gauge genuine confession? And two, what does a forgiven life look like?

Do we really mean it when we say we’re sorry? Can we really keep the promise, “I’ll never do it again?” Ultimately the authenticity of confession is dependent upon the confessor, but I have found that confession that is genuine has a longer perspective than the immediate moment. It acknowledges what happened and the impact it had on those involved. It offers restitution where possible, and suggests possible ways to avoid repeating the offense in the future. But even more so, hints that the act of confession is an ongoing process to be completed in time. Saying the words is only the beginning, the follow-through is more important.

In that sense, confession is like New Year’s resolutions that actually succeed. It depends on motivation and accountability for a resolution to make it past January. That is part of the follow-through.

“As far as east is from west, and north is from south, so have your sins been cast from you. God remembers them no more.” Every week in worship we are reminded that our sins are forgiven—as if they didn’t exist, never happened. What would it be like if we actually believed and lived that promise? Can we really forget? Should we?

There are some sins that are (and should be) unforgettable. The forgiven life is not one that ignores or dismisses the past as if it had not occurred. It is one that acknowledges what has happened, but refuses to let the future be defined solely by the past. The identity of a Christian is not that we are “sinners in the hands of an angry God,” but that we are forgiven sinners. By the February Worship Schedule

grace of God, we do not have to be captive to our past sins, though our lives may be defined and constrained by them. A forgiven life works toward a future that can be different from the past. A life that follows Jesus.

*“Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.*

*Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.*

*Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.”* Book of Common Worship

Pastor John

# February

February Worship Schedule

February 4- Mark 6:1-29

February 11-Mark 8:27-9:8

February 18-Mark 10:17-31

February 25-Mark 10:32-52



**FEBRUARY**

**Please Bring**

**PEANUT BUTTER**

**Personal care products are always needed and appreciated.**



**FEBRUARY CONTACT PEOPLE**

**Elder Emily Decker**  
**Deacon: Marge Mesler**

## *Ash Wednesday Worship Opportunities*

February 14, 2024

9 – 9:15 am – in the First Presbyterian Church Chapel

7 – 8 pm – at St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Both services provide for the Imposition of Ashes



## LENTEN LUNCHES

Lenten lunches are quickly approaching, the first one will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 14th. We will be asking for workers, pie donations, soup donations, etc. If you can help in any capacity, please contact Kathy Partridge or call the church office. There will also be sign-up sheets in the weekly bulletins as well as at the end of this newsletter. More details to follow. Thanks in advance!

## HISTORY



## HISTORY TIDBITS!

Helen Kelly Brink –

The Candelabras, The Lighter Box, and The Library

The two candelabras located on the altar were given to the church in 1943 in memory of William Dwight Garrison, “the beloved church school superintendent”, who died on 24 April 1943. Mr. Garrison was born in Kanona on 30 September 1872 to Emanuel and Esther Garrison. His first wife was Edith Ware Garrison (1879-1935). Their son William Nelson “Bill” Garrison (1916-2004) joined his father in the coal and oil business after he returned from service in World War 11. He became owner of the business after his father’s death.

The lighters used to light the candelabras are stored in a wooden container at the rear of the sanctuary. The container was built by Bernard Hough and donated to the church by Dean Chatfield “in loving memory of Larry and Brenda Burton for their years of dedication to our church.” The Burtons died in 2015 as the result of an auto accident.



## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING -2024

The SOUPER Bowl is back!!! On February 11th Team Taco Soup and Team Chicken Noodle Soup will be battling it out to see who makes the best soup!

The two teams will be serving their homemade soup after the 10:00 service. This will be a free will offering with a minimum of \$1.00 per serving. The soup we be served as eat-in or take out. The winning team will be determined by which soup collects the most money.

Can’t stay after church? Don’t worry, children will also be collecting donations at the end of the service. You can help fill the pot of your favorite team (soup) on your way out! These suppers

All of the money donated will be used to support feeding the hungry in our community at Sunday Suppers. are being held every Sunday from 3-4pm at St. Thomas Episcopal Church until May. Then they will be served at Centenary Methodist Church. Our church has two teams who provide meals.



Sherry Parke, Lois Warren, Andi Morse, Megyn Melnyk, Diane Lathrop, Sharon Ward, Tom Moore and your **Pastor Nominating Committee:** Dean Chatfield, Kathy Forrester, Sharon Gonsolus, Bob Mesler, Velda Schmieg



## Deacon Update

We would like to take this opportunity as a Board, to thank Bob Mesler for his years of service as a Deacon. We also thank Mary Jane Jones and Marge Mesler for agreeing to serve an additional term as Deacons. Debbie Vonderlin has been newly installed as a Deacon and we welcome her and look forward to sharing new thoughts and ideas as we continue to serve.

In an effort to make visitors to our church feel welcome, first-time visitors will be receiving an olive wood prayer cross along with a small card containing church information. Visitors will also be encouraged to complete the updated information cards located in the pew pockets

Just a reminder that the Prayer Chain is active and a wonderful way to share in prayer support for those we care about, whether or not they are members of our congregation. If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please contact Sue Gay so she can get appropriate information to be able to contact you. If you would like us to be praying for someone, again, contact Sue or the church office and the information will be shared with those on the Prayer Chain.

Every few months we are going to share a moment for Deacons, where we will provide more information about some of our ongoing ministries. This will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about what we do, possibly become interested in volunteering to assist us, and also be an opportunity for monetary and prayer support. The money that we use to fund our projects is all obtained through donations. The needs around us are many and varied. Please feel free to contact any of the Deacons with concerns that you may be aware of that need our attention. We thank you for all you do to support us in this ministry.

Sue Gay, Moderator



## PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

PASTORAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We continue to prayerfully read and discern the "Pastor Information Forms" that are sent to us. We would appreciate your continued prayers as we navigate through the Church Leadership Connections process online.

Dean, Velda, Kathy, Bob, Sharon

### Lenten Lunch Help

I would be more than happy to help with the following (check all you can help with):

- \_\_\_\_\_ set up
- \_\_\_\_\_ clean up
- \_\_\_\_\_ donate a pie
- \_\_\_\_\_ donate a soup
- \_\_\_\_\_ prep food
- \_\_\_\_\_ serve food
- \_\_\_\_\_ work the ticket table
- \_\_\_\_\_ prep the takeout orders
- \_\_\_\_\_ manage the dessert table
- \_\_\_\_\_ serve beverages

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Sign & return



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Marcia Melnyk
February 2	Neal Wrinkle
February 3	Jeff Sehm
February 4	James Mahnke
	Edith Rouse
	Katelyn Oest
February 6	Shirley Aston
February 7	Teagan Kiff
	Lisa Swan
	Bailey Walker
February 8	Bradley Lines
February 9	Derek Kiff
February 10	Dylan Thomas
	Frank Kiff
February 14	Kelly Oest
February 15	William Decker
February 19	John Taggart
February 22	Laurie McDonnell
	Judy Jaromin
February 24	Justin Dickson
February 26	Marissa Yott
February 28	Jake Taggart



## Gifts have been given to

### MUSIC FUND

#### **In Memory of Arlene Brundage**

By: Rev. Gary Brown  
Beatrice Beckman

### KITCHEN FUND

#### **In Memory of Helen Dildine**

By: Jim & Sandy Robinson  
Karen Matteson

#### **In Memory of Arlene Brundage**

By: Karen Matteson

### DEACONS' FUND

#### **In Memory of Arlene Brundage**

By: Patricia Stuart

### RESTORATION

#### **In Memory of Helen Dildine**

By: Helen Brink  
Larry & Liz Hojnoski  
Sandra Simonson

#### **In Memory of Arlene Brundage**

By: Helen Brink  
Ann Aumand  
Marie Bailey  
Sandra Simonson  
Timothy & Laurie  
Jacobson  
Leann Wightman  
Kevin Brundage

### BURTON SCHOLARSHIP

By: D. Guy Burns  
Nicholas Fondoules

**+FEBRUARY 2024**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1/ 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	2/ 7:00 pm 1-Friday Fellowship	3/
4/ 10:00 am Worship Service, Communion 3:00 pm Sunday Supper, St. Mary's Church	5/ 4:45 pm - PNC 5:00 pm - HR Mtg	6/	7/	8/ 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9/	10/
11/ 10:00 am Worship Service Souper Bowl, Youth Hosts 3:00 pm Sunday Supper, First Presbyterian Church	12/ 2:00 pm Worship Team 4:45 pm - PNC	13/	14/ †❤ Valentine's Day ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 am - Worship 11:30 am - Lenten Lunch 4:00 pm B&G Mtg 5:00 pm MCY Mtg 7:00 pm -Community Worship-St. Thomas	15/ 9:30 am-5:00 pm Sewing & Crafts  6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16/ 9:30 am-5:00 pm Sewing & Crafts	17/ Lyon Hall Private Party Use
18/ 10:00 am Worship Service 3:00 pm Sunday Supper, St. Mary's Church	19/ PRESIDENTS' DAY OBSERVED  OFFICE CLOSED  4:45 pm PNC	20/ 10:00 am Congregational Life  4:00 pm Deacons	21/ † 11:30 am Lenten Lunch	22/ 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23/	24/
25/ 10:00 am Worship Service 3:00 pm Sunday Supper, St. Mary's Church	26/ 4:45 pm - PNC	27/	28/ † 11:30 am Lenten Lunch	29/ 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal		



# TOWER TOPICS

**February 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*



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## LENTEN LUNCHESES

**2/14/24- 3/20/24**

<b>Soup</b>	<b>4.00</b>
<b>Sandwich</b>	<b>4.00</b>
<b>Any Two items</b>	<b>7.00</b>
<b>Any Three items</b>	<b>10.00</b>
<b>Desserts</b>	<b>3.00</b>