First Presbyterian Church
6 East Morris Street, Bath, NY 14810
607-776-6464

Tower Topics email bathprestt@gmail.com
Church Website www.bathfirstpres.org
Church Office officepreschurch@gmail.com
Pastor jmwoodring@verizon.net

@FirstPresBath

# Tower Topics

**VOLUME LViii ISSUE**
**October 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 Directo**
**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 S**

"So… when's stewardship Sunday?" That's the question that came zipping at me after worship. The short answer is Celebration Sunday is October 25th. The best answer is every Sunday. That's right. Each and every Sunday we should be reviewing the gifts of our lives to God. Sometimes we forget to think about it that way. Sometimes the offering seems to be only about money, but it's more than that. "Bless the gifts and the givers, and those unable to give at this time," is a prayer I often use to dedicate the gifts of the people to God during worship, but that may limit the blessing to a monetary focus.

Don't get me wrong, I do think that we need to hear that we are blessed even if we can't put anything in the offering plate on a given Sunday. But the reality is that we all have something—some gift of time, talent or treasure—that could be offered up to be blessed by God each and every day.

Celebration Sunday is the primary Sunday of the year that we focus on the giving of money, in particular, the offering of our pledges for the coming year.

What should you be giving? Now that's an interesting question. The Old Testament tells us we should offer a tithe (10%) of our income to God. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians ,

*"For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, 'The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little."* ~ 2 Corinthians 8:12-15

Consider the following questions:

How have you been blessed?
What is your abundance?
What is the need?
What is the goal to be met?
What is God asking from you?

What would be sacrificial giving for you?
How is giving money a spiritual matter?
What other ways can you bless others?
Whom are you blessing?

We are to give as we are able. We don't have to give until it hurts. The target, then, for those who are blessed financially, ought to be at least 10%. Not all your giving to God comes through your gifts to the church. Many of you bless other organizations in our community with your gifts as well, and rightly so. So maybe you figure that in as well.

Please prayerfully consider all of your giving to God for the year 2027.

*Pastor John*

## OCTOBER
## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**October 4- World Communion**
**Psalm 80:7-15**
**Philippians 2:12-18**
***"shine like stars"***

**October 11-**
**Psalm 106:1-6**
**Philippians 3:4b-14**
**"press on"**

**October 18**
**Psalm 96:1-6**
**Philippians 4:10-13**
***"the secret"***

**October 25-Celebrarion Sunday**
**Psalm 1**
**Matthew 22:34-49**
**"The Greatest Commandment"**

**Worldwide Communion Sunday and the Peace and Global Witness offering October 4, 2026.**

**World Communion Sunday** is an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity.

**Peace and Global Witness Offering** helps peacemaking efforts both in the U.S. and around the world.

## OCTOBER

Please donate money to be used to buy gift certificates for the purchase of holiday food.

## OCTOBER CONTACT PEOPLE

Elder: Bob Mesler

Deacon: Jackie Woodring and Marge Mesler

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY 10/25/26

We will have the offering and dedication of our pledge cards during worship. The Stewardship brochure and Pledge cards will be available after the first week of October.

*The*
**PURPOSE-DRIVEN**
*Life*
6 - week Book Study

Tuesdays at 10:00
October 20 – November 24

## CRAFT and CHAT SESSION CHANGE

We will be changing up our Craft and Chat sessions to focus on specific crafts monthly. Our next session will be held on Oct. 21 from 9:30 to 12:30, our craft will be flower pocket pictures. We will provide all materials but are asking for a three dollar donation to help cover the cost. If you have a hot glue gun and craft scissors, you might want to bring them to cut down on wait time.
We will be limiting the class to 12 participants, please register by Oct. 12 so we will have enough supplies. You can register by calling the church office or by emailing kpartridge1@yahoo.com.

## Messy Church - Community Intergenerational Church Service

The October gathering for Messy Church is on Saturday, October 24th, from 3 – 5 pm at the Centenary United Methodist Church, 3 West Washington St. It is playful, prayerful and welcoming. All are invited! Come, enjoy the fun, fellowship and good food!

## MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Sunday School**
Sunday School classes will be held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.
The classes will be for children from K - 12th grade. Bill Joint, Andrea Lyke and Eleata Mitchell will take turns teaching the classes.

For children attending church on the 1st and 3rd Sundays there are books and bags near the front and back of the church filled with activities for children to borrow during the church service.

## OCTOBER HIKE 10/17/26

On Saturday, October 17th, Bill Joint will lead a hike at Tanglewood Nature Center on Harris Hill outside of Elmira. The colors should be beautiful, and you can see the progress on the Sky Bridge. We will meet at the church parking lot at 11:00 a.m. and carpool from there.
Bring a bag lunch and water. We will return at approximately 3:00 p.m. All are invited - bring a friend!

Call Bill if you have questions (607-769-8032).

## FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP

First Friday Fellowship will be on October 2 at 7:30pm in Lyon Hall. Come enjoy music and fellowship with members from other churches.

First Presbyterian Church of Bath

## Grandparents Ministry

**Show Up & Cheer for Our Youth!**

We have so many talented, smart, and athletic children in our congregation. They need our community's love and encouragement! You can make a world of difference simply by being there.

How You Can Support:

- Attend local youth soccer, volleyball, or football games
- Enjoy their band, orchestra, or chorus concerts
- Offer a warm smile and words of encouragement

*Schedules and future dates are posted on the Ministry of Youth & Children bulletin board (just outside the church office).*

Thank you for your invaluable Grandparent support!

**REMINDER- SPAGHETTI DINNER**
**11/3/26**

This is  just a reminder. Our annual spaghetti dinner will be happening on November 3. Keep in mind when you are out shopping that we will need thin spaghetti(not angel hair), spaghetti sauce, cooked  ground beef and cupcakes. More information will be in the next newsletter

**GIFTS  HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO**:

## DEACON'S FUND

**In Memory of Edith Rouse**
By: David Rouse
Debby Hunter
Ruth Moore

## GENERAL FUND

**In Memory of Edith Rouse**
By: Leann & Dana Wightman

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

| | |
|---|---|
| October 5 | EmilyDecker |
| | Douglas Schmieg |
| October 11 | Mary Clark |
| October 12 | Kerry McKinley |
| October 14 | Wendell Binley |
| October 16 | Janet Mishook |
| October 17 | Helen Brink |
| | Mary Louise Billings |
| | Diane Lines |
| October 18 | Sabrina Decker |
| October 21 | Roland Pickett |
| October 29 | Cruz Shuart |
| October 30 | Sharon Ward |

Andi Morse, Lois Warren,Sharon Ward
Diane Lathrop, Sherry Parke, Bradley Mesler,
Tim Forrester, Sharon Gunsolus, Barb Saler,
Sandi Simonson, Eleata Mitchell, Bob Mesler
Pat Shuart, Family of Edith Rouse

The office will be closed on Monday Ocober 12. 2026.

**November** Tower Topic articles are **DUE** by **October 21,2026**

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped out with the September Presbytery meeting, especially Donna Montgomery and Bob Mesler for planning and organizing all the food and refreshments, and Jim and Sandy Robinson for everything they did behind the scenes!

## SPIRITUAL WISDOM

*I can't see the train, but I can hear it. You don't have to see the Holy Spirit to know He's there.*

kno

*Falling leaves in Autumn is Nature's way of letting us It's time to cozy up!*

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES<br>10:00 A.M – SANCTUARY<br>*SUNDAY SUPPERS<br>@ Centenary Methodist Church,<br>3:00 pm–3:30 pm thru December 27, 2026 | | | | **1**<br>5:15 pm – Handbells<br>6:00 pm – Choir | **2**<br>7:30 pm<br>1st Friday<br>Fellowship,<br>Lyon Hall | **3**<br>Wellspring Fellowship<br>Meeting & Prayer<br>9:00 am – Noon,<br>Lyon Hall |
| **4**<br>Worship/World Communion,<br>Sanctuary<br>11:30 am - Coffee Hour,<br>Lyon Hall<br>*Sunday Supper | **5**<br>2:00 pm – Worship Team<br><br>Sara's Closet<br>11:30 am – 2:30 pm | **6** | **7**<br>4:00 pm - B & G Mtg<br>5:30 pm - Finance Mtg | **8**<br>5:15 pm – Handbells<br>6:00 pm – Choir | **9** | **10**<br>Sanctuary Tours<br>10:00 am<br>BY APPOINTMENT |
| **11**<br>Worship Service,<br>Sanctuary<br>11:30 am - Coffee Hour,<br>Deacons' Meeting,<br>Lyon Hall -<br>*Sunday Supper | **12**<br>*COLUMBUS DAY*<br>*REMEMBRANCE*<br>SARA'S CLOSET &<br>OFFICE CLOSED<br><br>6:00 pm - Session | **13** | **14**<br>10:00 – Staff Meeting | **15**<br>5:15 pm – Handbells<br>6:00 pm – Choir | **16** | **17** |
| **18**<br>Worship Service,<br>Sanctuary<br>11:30 am – Coffee Hour,<br>Lyon Hall<br>*Sunday Supper | **19**<br>Sara's Closet<br>11:30 am–2:30 pm | **20** | **21**<br>9:30 am –12:30 pm –<br>Craft and Chat<br><br>5:00 pm – A New Day<br>for Widows &<br>Widowers | **22**<br>5:15 pm – Handbells<br>6:00 pm – Choir | **23** | **24**<br>Sanctuary Tours<br>10:00 am<br>BY APPOINTMENT<br>(the last tour until next<br>July) |
| **25**<br>Worship Service,<br>Celebration Sunday<br>Sanctuary<br>11:30 am Coffee Hour,<br>Lyon Hall<br>*Sunday Supper. | **26**<br>Sara's Closet<br>11:30 am–2:30 pm | **27** | **28** | **29**<br>5:15 pm – Handbells<br>6:00 pm – Choir | **30** | **31**<br>*HAPPY*<br>*HALLOWEEN*<br> |

# TOWER TOPICS

**OCTOBER 2026**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6 EAST MORRIS STREET
BATH, NY 14810

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**October 2 – First Friday**
**October 4 – World Communion Sunday**
**October 17- Hike at Tanglewood**
**October 21 Craft and Chat**
**October 25- Celebration Sunday**