

First Presbyterian Church

6 East Morris Street, Bath, NY 14810

607-776-6464

Tower Topics email
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Church Website
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Church Office
officepreschurch@gmail.com

Pastor
imwoodring@verizon.net



@FirstPresBath



Tower Topics

VOLUME LViii ISSUE 2
February 2025

SERVING WITH YOU

Pastor

Re. John Woodring

Clerk of Session

Kathy Swan

Administrative Assistant

Valerie Brown

Treasurer

Velda Schmiegel

Organist

Katie Klawitter

Senior Choir Director

Anne Romano

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 10:00 Service

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*The headline read: "Going Cell-Less For 12 hours... And Surviving." It was written well over a decade ago before the "smartphone" became ubiquitous. In the time since, our technological dependency (addiction!) has become even more severe, especially for our younger generations that have never known life without internet and increasingly, life without Facebook, Tik-Tok, and Instagram. For a deep dive into the subject, read *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. Our younger generations are facing challenges that we are just beginning to comprehend as evidenced by the myriad responses by our primary educational institutions.*

The constant state of alertness to the next email, text, Instagram, or Tik-Tok video, or to scrolling from image to image is having a devastating effect on us and our children. Our ability to focus on the real world, to have deep conversations, and to develop intimate relationships is being short-circuited because we cannot focus. This impacts our spiritual life as well.

Our devices hem us in behind and before. They lock us up in prison cells of our own making. We forget that humans were created with a need for deep bonds of friendship, faithful blood-ties of family, and an inseverable covenant with God. None of which can be properly developed, strengthened and deepened by proxy. We long to drink deep from the River of Life. We were designed for human interaction. But tweets and text-messaging and e-mail do not and cannot replace the warmth of a smile, the twinkle of an eye, a gentle touch on an arm, the life-engulfing embrace of a bear hug, the unity of hearts in prayer, the joy of laughter and good food. They cannot help us work through the emotional and spiritual complexities of love and trust, betrayal and forgiveness, and the intimacy of any loving relationship. They deprive us of shared experiences.

I cannot help but think of how much the posture we assume when we are using our cell phones imitates a posture of prayer – hands clasped, heads bowed.

The words of the second commandment that I learned as a child come to mind:

Exodus 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them or serve them..." (RSV)

The answer – the antidote – the prescription to our dilemma is the fourth commandment.

"Remember the Sabbath Day, and keep it holy." Exodus 20:8 "Then [Jesus] said to them, "The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath." Mark 2:27

Sabbath means "cease. Holy means "set apart." How do we remember to stop, to pause, to set apart a day, and hour, a time period for ourselves, our families, and God?

But we can barely make Sabbath last for that brief hour on Sunday morning. Yet Sabbath is more than not working. And while keeping the Sabbath is a commandment, even Jesus taught that it was not absolute. What would it look like to program Do Not Disturb into your schedule in order to be "in Sabbath"? How would your life be better if the TV and the cell phone and the computer and all those ways we entertain/distract/addict ourselves ceased for a time and you focused on loving your neighbors and yourselves, on hospitality and the graciousness of presence? On deepening of the real life-giving, soul-affirming eternal ties that bind our hearts in fellowship with each other and to God?

Such a thing would need to be compelled by love and not by law, by duty not by obligation, by liberty and freedom not by demand or force, by mutuality and forbearance not by judgement.

May you be inspired and strengthened by God's Holy Spirit; May you fully embrace the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; May you know the full peace of God's presence; And may you always offer the love of God to all whom you meet.

Pastor John

February

February Worship Schedule

February 2- Communion
Luke 6:1-16
Healing on the Sabbath

February 9-
Luke 7:1-17
Raising the Widow's Son

February 16-
Luke 7:18-35
Are You the One

February 23-
Luke 7:36-50
A Woman Forgiveness



Food
Pantry
Needs

FEBRUARY

Please Bring

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS:

Deodorant, Shampoo, Soap, Feminine Products, Toothpaste, Razors



FEBRUARY CONTACT PEOPLE

Elder: Doug Schmieg
Deacon: Sue Gay



California Wildfire Disaster Assistance

The Session has designated \$2,000 for California Wildfire relief. If you would like to add to this offering from our church, please designate your intention in the memo line of your check or envelope. You can read more about the wildfire impact on Presbyterians at <https://www.pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/fires-rage-out-control-southern-california-affecting-churches-and-presbyteries>

You can also give by donating to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's U.S. wildfires account, using the code DR000165. (Go to www.pcusa.org, click on How We Serve, and Disaster Response)



NEWS FROM MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Ministry of Children and Youth have a couple of save the date announcements.

The first one is February 9th, which of course is Super Bowl Sunday. We are going to tackle hunger a little differently this year. This year we are going to raise funds to support our local Sunday Supper meals by holding a soup cook-off. This will be held after church on February 9th during coffee hour. We need chefs! Do you have a favorite soup that you think could win the cook-off? Please let me, Andrea Lyke or Bill Joint know if you would like to enter the cook-off. The more the merrier!

Other activities are being planned for you to participate in while choosing your favorite soup that Sunday. More information will be shared.

The second date to put on your calendar is Saturday, March 22nd – That is the date of our annual drive-thru chicken BBQ
Thanks!



NEW AT THE DORMANN LIBRARY

Coffee, Crosswords, and
Coloring for Seniors -

Mondays - All Day! 10-4

Come out on Mondays to enjoy some crosswords or coloring, as well as coffee from our Chapters Cafe! While the coffee, crosswords, and coloring is available to library patrons of all ages, seniors (65+) will be able to purchase coffee at a discounted rate of \$1.00 per cup!

Make sure to ask for your discount at the counter when ordering.

Senior Board Game Social - Wednesday February 19th - 11am - noonish

Come to the library and join other seniors for rousing bouts of board games! Choose between the suggested game of the month or any other available game in our collection. This month's suggested game is Hues and Cues! Please register in advance by calling the library 607-776-4613 or on dormannlibrary.org - click on Activities and Events - click Here for Calendar - click Senior Board Game Social - click begin registration

Senior Book Mingle - Wednesday February 26th - 11:00am - 12:00pm

Come join with other seniors and discuss the book(s) you've been reading this month! This program is similar to a book club, but one where everyone reads their own choice of book and comes together in a group to discuss their books. Please register in advance by calling the library 607-776-4613 or on dormmanlibrary.org -- click on Activities and Events - click Here for Calendar - click Senior Book Mingle - click begin registration

DEACON UPDATE



As Christians, prayer is an integral and personal part of our faith journey. For many, expressing our joys and concerns during the Sunday service or asking for special prayers via the prayer chain are a meaningful way to share a need and connect with our church family. For some, however, prayer concerns are more private and while an individual may wish to ask for prayer support, they want to do it less openly. Prayer requests have also come from people at Sara's Closet. We have often felt God's hand, leading His people to us for more than just clothing.

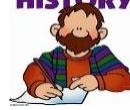
For the next few months, as a trial, the Deacons are going to make prayer cards available at both entrances to the sanctuary, at Sara's Closet and the Blessing Box. In church, the card can be filled out immediately and placed in the offering plates located there, or completed during the service and placed in the offering plate as it is passed. Prayer cards completed in Sara's Closet or at the Blessing Box will be placed in a locked Prayer Box.

This will NOT take the place of Joys and Concerns. The written requests will NOT be read aloud.

These requests will NOT be placed in the bulletin or be added to the Prayer Chain. You can put as much or as little information on them as you wish. Names are not necessary. The Deacon of the month, as noted in Tower Topics, will be collecting any requests after church and they will be prayed over by that Deacon throughout the week. Prayer requests left in the locked box in the Blessing Box will be collected on Sunday morning and be placed in the offering plate for blessing and then also taken by the Deacon assigned.

As Deacons, we are called to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our congregation. Prayer support is an important way to help identify and meet these needs. If you have questions about this new venture, please see any of the Deacons.

HISTORY



The Beginning of Our Church And The People Who Made It Happen

Helen Kelly Brink
Church Historian

Continuing our story, following is a brief biography of two of the people who played a role in the beginning of our church:

Both **William and Elizabeth Aulls** signed the covenant in 1808 and, in 1811, William became one of the first elders of the Church of Christ In Bath - Presbyterian Congregation. They were the first permanent residents of Pleasant Valley, which was then in the town of Bath, arriving there in 1793. They settled on their 200 acres of land, which is now in the town of Wheeler, that William had purchased from the Pulteney Estate. William, believed to be the son of William and Elizabeth Calhoun Aulls, was born in Londonderry, Ireland, on 21 January 1748. He made his first visit to America in 1767. He returned to stay in 1771. At first he taught school in Boston where he married Elizabeth Daniels Morris (1746-1828) in October 1772. She was the young widow of Captain Morris, a sea captain. From Boston they moved to New Brunswick, New Jersey, where William built a mill and engaged in mercantile business. Because he was actively engaged in the Revolutionary War, as a consequence his property suffered at the hands of the British and he lost everything. They moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he served with the 6th Battalion of Pennsylvania Militia. They remained in Lancaster until they came to Bath. William was a staunch Presbyterian and was strict in his religious observances. It was said "that his house was made sacred with the voice of prayer and praise." William and Elizabeth had three sons and six daughters. He resigned his eldership in 1814. He died on 23 February 1816. Both he and Elizabeth are buried in Pleasant Valley Cemetery

LENTEN LUNCHES

HELP KEEP THE KITCHEN ORGANIZED



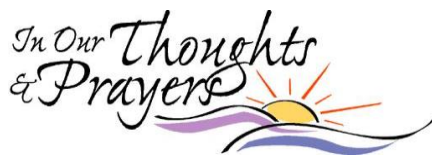
Just a gentle reminder...if you use items in the kitchen such as dishes, utensils, paper products, etc., please put things back where you found them. All cupboards and drawers are labeled to keep things organized. Thank you.

The Lenten lunch season will quickly be upon us, the first luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 5th. More information is to follow.

If you would like to help out with the luncheons in any capacity, please call the church office for details.



If you would like more information or would like to help, you may also contact Kathy Partridge.



Lois Warren, Andi Morse, June Bates,
Tim Forester, Sandy Simonson, Sherry Parke,
Connie DeLisa, Forrest Clark, Susan Moore,
Barbara Saler, Sharon Ward, Diane Lathrop,
Bob Hujar, Mary Jane Jones,



Notice:

If you miss worship due to illness or travel, you can usually watch it live by going to Facebook Live

(no account required) or on YouTube – 1stBathPresChurch. And you can find previous worship services online at our website: <https://www.bathfirstpres.org/>



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Marcia Melnyk Kathy Walker
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:

BURTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of Larry & Brenda Burton

By: Brian & Gretchen Casey

DEACON'S FUND

In Memory of Gary Waldo

By: Pat Stuart

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of:

Betsy Robinson

Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Robinson

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Griswald

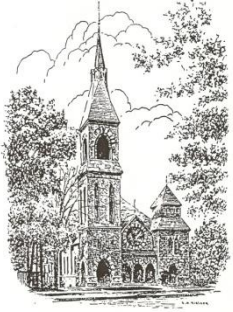
By: Robert & MaryAnn Robinson



**DEADLINE FOR
MARCH TOWER TOPICS
IS
FEBRUARY 17, 2025**

February 2025

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
ALL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:00 am *ALL SUNDAY SUPPERS @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 3:00 pm				6:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal		<u>1</u>
<u>2</u> Communion 11:30 am Coffee Hour - Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper	<u>3</u> 2:00 pm - Worship Team 5:30 pm - HR Mtg *Sara's Closet 11:30 am-2:30 pm	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> 4:00 pm - B & G Mtg 5:30 pm - Finance Mtg	<u>6</u> 6:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	<u>7</u> 7:00 pm-9:00 pm First Friday Fellowship, Lyon Hall - Music & Fun	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u> Worship Service, SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY 11:30 am Soup cook-off/Cookie bake-off & Games, Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper	<u>10</u> 6:00 pm - Session *Sara's Closet 11:30 am-2:30 pm	<u>11</u> 4:00 pm - Deacons	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> 6:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	<u>14</u> VALENTINE'S DAY	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> Worship Service, 11:30 am Coffee Hour - Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper	<u>17</u> <u>PRESIDENT'S DAY OBSERVANCE</u> Office & Sara's Closet Will be Closed	<u>18</u> 7:30 am- 4:00 pm Pro-Action Head Start Training, Lyon Hall	<u>19</u> 7:30 am- 4:00 pm Pro-Action Head Start Training, Lyon Hall 6:00 pm - A New Day Mtg for Widows & Widowers	<u>20</u> 9:30 am - Sewing & Crafts, Sewing Room (next to Nursery Room) 5:00 pm - MCY Mtg 6:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	<u>21</u> 9:30 am - Sewing & Crafts, Sewing Room (next to Nursery Room)	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> Worship Service, 11:30 am Coffee Hour - Lyon Hall *Sunday Supper	<u>24</u> *Sara's Closet 11:30 am-2:30 pm	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> 6:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal	<u>28</u> RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE - 11:30 am - 4:30 pm Lyon Hall	



TOWER TOPICS

February 2025

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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