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CHURCH

Lewiston, NY



**community,
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a place for you

Outreach

First Presbyterian Church
505 Cayuga St.
Lewiston, NY 14092
716-754-4945
www.lewistonpres.org
Firstpreslewiston@gmail.com



April 2026

Pastoral Letter

April, 2026



Spring is here! It has been a joy to be back at First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston as I returned from my scheduled research leave in Germany. I had a very productive leave, writing 55,000 words of my

dissertation over the course of three months. Thank you to the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly over the winter, as well as to our faithful clergy from across the presbytery who supported our congregation by offering pulpit supply and pastoral care.

In January, we began a First Pres Book Club, where we have read different books to help us challenge and grow in our faith. Would you join us in reading our congregational book for the month of April?

April: *A is for Alabaster* by Anna Carter Florence (2023)

Recommended for:

- People looking to learn more about the Bible
- Individuals looking to develop a spiritual practice

You can find a sample copy of the book on the informational table in the foyer. If you head to the website and purchase the book on our "Book Club" page, a small portion of your purchase will go towards supporting the church.

As you read the book, consider the following questions:

1. What symbols, images, and figures in the Bible are important to you? How did you learn about these figures? What role do they have in your faith?
2. What is your relationship to the Bible? Do you read about the Bible? Or do you read the Bible? What is the difference between the two? How might each practice build on the others?
3. For millennia, Christians have developed spiritual practices, such as attending church, reading the Bible, praying, and serving others. What devotional practices are a part of your life?

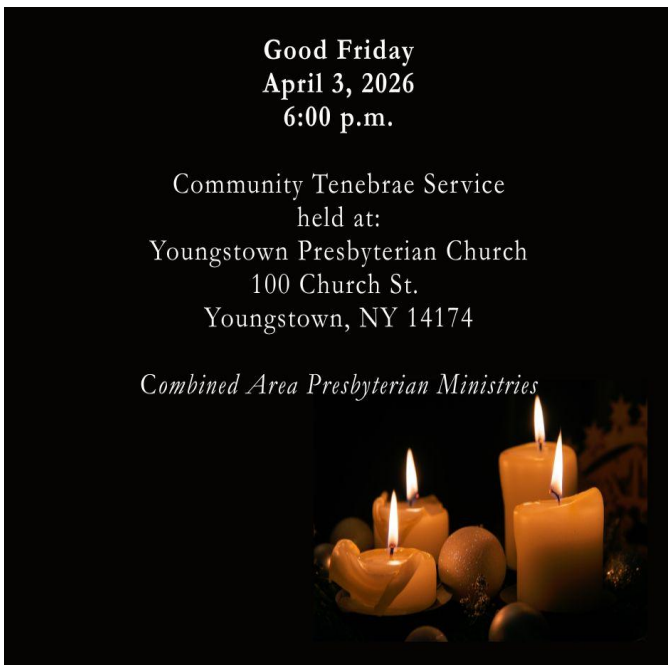
I look forward to returning to worship with you this month, and continuing to grow with you this spring!

All the best,
Rev. Carly Beard





Tenebrae Service
Combined Presbyterian Ministries



Mark your calendars for our Good Friday Tenebrae Service on **April 3rd at 6PM.** This Community Worship Service will be held at Youngstown Presbyterian Church (100 Church St., Youngstown NY) and combines the area Presbyterian Ministries

of Lewiston, Youngstown, Riverside, and Bacon Memorial.

We hope to see you there for this special evening where we honor and remember the passion of Christ.

Holy Week

Heavenly Father, as we walk through Holy Week, open our hearts to witness Your Son's sacrifice anew. In the noise of daily tasks and worldly concerns, help us pause and turn our thoughts toward Calvary.



Palm Sunday Worship
 March 29th, 11:15 am,
 Main Sanctuary
 -Kids' Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School
 -Luncheon to Follow

Easter Sunday Worship,
 April 5th, 11:15 am
 Main Sanctuary



Presbytery Women Annual Rummage Sale



Donations for the annual rummage sale will begin being accepted on Wednesday, April 1. Please contact Louise Wasko (716-754-4641 or 716-417-7066) or the church office to confirm that the Social Hall is open to receive your items.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED both in preparation and during the sale—you do not have to be a church member to donate or help!

Important Dates:

- **Saturday, April 4 – 9:00 AM at Syro’s:** Planning meeting to finalize details. Please let Louise Wasko or Sharon Barto know if you can attend.
- **Wednesday, May 13:** Set-up begins. Doors open 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM for volunteers and donations.
- **Thursday, May 14:** Social Hall open 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM for volunteers (especially for those available after work).
- **Friday, May 15:** Doors open at 10:00 AM to finish preparations. *Early Bird Sale* runs 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM.
- **Saturday, May 16:** Sale open 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, with a final *Bag Sale* from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM.

Food & Extras:

Pam Killmer will once again be outside at the grill serving hot dogs. For \$5.00, you can enjoy a hot dog, chips, and a soda or water. All

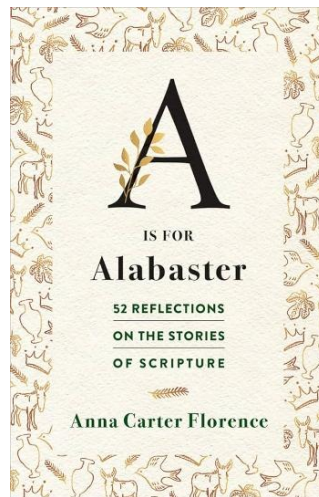
proceeds will benefit the Presbyterian Women for special events.

The Presbyterian Women will also host a bake sale featuring pies, cake slices, and more delicious s treats.

-Louise Wasko, PW Moderator

Book Club - April 2026 “A is for Alabaster”

For the month of April, we are reading “A is for Alabaster” by Anna Carter Florence:



Beloved preacher and writer Anna Carter Florence brings winsome insight to an array of characters and stories in the Bible—some celebrated and some overlooked. From courageous Abigail to Zelophehad’s daughters, and from an alabaster jar of ointment to

Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree, Florence takes readers on an enchanting tour of the Old and New Testaments with reflections that reveal ancient wisdom and spark imagination anew.

Learn more about the Book Club online, including details coming soon about our Summer reading at

<https://www.lewistonpres.org/book-club>



April, 2026 Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Wed., Apr. 1	5:00pm	NAP Dinner, First Pres. Lewiston
Thurs., Apr. 2	6:00PM	FPCYoungstown
Fri., Apr. 3	6:00pm	Tenebra Service, Joint Churches at First Pres. Youngstown
Sat., Apr 4	9:00am - 1:00pm	Farmer's Market, SH
	11:00AM	Memorial for Sue McBee
Sun., Apr. 5	6:45AM	Community Sunrise Service - Old Fort Niagara
	11:15am	Easter Sunday Worship - Communion NO Sunday School
Tue., Apr., 7	6:00pm	Session, SLC
Wed., Apr. 8	1:00-6:00pm	Red Cross Blood Drive, SH
Sun., Apr. 12	11:15am	Worship Sunday School
Tues., Apr. 14	5:00pm	Christian Ed., NLC
	6:00pm	Property Team, SLC
	6:00pm	Special Needs, BR
Sun., Apr. 19	11:15am	Worship Sunday School Congregational Mtg.
Wed., Apr. 22	5:00pm	Deacons, SLC
Sat., Apr. 25	9:00am-1:00pm	Farmer's Market, SH Prep for Palm Sunday
Sun., Apr., 26	11:15am	Worship Sunday School

Regularly Scheduled

Sundays	Pickleball - 1:30-4:30pm, SH
Mondays	Pickleball - 2:00-5:00pm, SH
Tuesdays	AA - 7:00pm, SH
Wednesdays	Pickleball 6:30-8:30pm, SH
Thursdays	Boy Scouts 6:30-7:30pm, SH

Church Directory



The newly updated Church Directory is now available. Please be sure to take a copy from the table in the Narthex.

If you would like one mailed or emailed to you, please contact the office.

From your Deacons **Scholarship Applications**

The Deacons are offering scholarships for seniors graduating from high school and entering a two or four-year college in the fall of 2026. The scholarships offered are: Arnold W. Sedlak and Franklyn M. Collins.

Applications are available through the Lewiston Porter guidance office or in the church office, and should be **returned to the church or school office by May 1, 2025**. Applications may be submitted by email to Firstpreslewiston@gmail.com or by regular mail to 505 Cayuga St. Lewiston, NY 14092.

Welcome

We're pleased to announce and warmly welcome *Debra Sherman* as our new cleaning staff member at the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston.



Blood Drive
First Presbyterian Church
Behind the Church
505 Cayuga St
Lewiston, NY 14092

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

+++ Double your impact!
Ask about a Power Red Donation to help: Trauma Victims,
Moms and Babies, and Sickle Cell Patients! +++

For an appointment visit your American Red Cross Blood Donor App,
RedCrossBlood.org, Find a Drive, LewistonNY
or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.



NEW MERCH! Come give March 30-April 12 for an exclusive Red Cross x Life is Good T-shirt, \$6.99!

Property Team Update

Painting of the Old Stone Church began this month and is expected to be completed by early April. It's coming along beautifully, and we can't wait to see the finished result and enjoy its fresh new look.



Liz Campbell	April 1
Cathie Shoff	April 12
Ellen Weld	April 13
Sharon Barto	April 18
Pam Kilmer	April 22
Grace Fong	April 26
Michael Cleveland	April 29

Space Task Force Update

We are moving along and making great progress! The Sunday School is almost finished, the NLC has been cleaned out and organized and ready for removal of things for the Rummage Sale. Our next meeting is Saturday, March 28, 1-3pm. We will begin to remove items to the basement and start to tackle the library. Little, by little we are opening spaces for multi-usage. If anyone has any extra time on March 28, come join us. Many thanks to Cathie and Bob Shoff, Cindy Davey, Sandy Wasko, Terri Brown, Jim Lemke, Missy Standish, and Bonnie Nye for lightening the load for the betterment of the church." Many hands make light work. " This crew is AMAZING!



Penny & Thomas Schulz	April 1
Ellen & Bradley Weld	April 5
Teresa & Bruce David	April 24

Niagara Area

Presbyterians (NAP) Dinner

The monthly NAP Dinner for January will be held on Wednesday, April 1st here at First. Pres. Lewiston. at 5:00pm.

We hope many of you can attend these evenings of combined church fellowship throughout Niagara.



Friends & family of Bob Colling, Marge Olver, Chris Friday, family of William Webb, Gwen Webb, Nancy & family, Carol Mae G, Ralph Barto, Andon, Sherry Hubler.

Current Session Members

Patty Berggren, Pam Kilmer, Sandy Wasko, Terri Brown, Marna Whitworth, Bob Shoff

Current Deacon Members

Kim Cleveland, Heather Klaiber, Rita Welker, Juanita Pearl, Kristin VanSlyke, Louise Wasko, Jim Lemke

Christian Education

- Sunday School -



Hello to all,
Our Sunday School theme for April is *Resurrection and Renewal* and our verse is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

In March, we studied the Ten Commandments using different craft projects to illustrate the Commandments, from using modeling clay, to cutting and gluing, to a puzzle to take home. Pictures to



follow. In talking with the children, I heard a few students say that they did not feel safe in school. This broke my heart.

Our CE committee came up with an idea to pray for safety for the children and the teachers during Children's Time on Communion Sundays. Let's take that one step further...let's assure them we are a safe and secure space for them while in this building. God is our protector. In addition to prayer, the committee decided to let the parents know if and only if we have an incident that we establish an Emergency Drill. This has started.

Our class ages have changed from children age 4 to now we have middle school students. Two sets of lesson plans are now being written to accommodate everyone. WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR TEACHERS TO GUIDE THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR WALK WITH CHRIST. IT IS OUR JOB AS A CHURCH TO SHOW THEM THE WAYS OF CHRIST SO THEY CAN BATTLE WHATEVER THEY ARE FACED IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. Won't you sacrifice one Sunday per month for 30 minutes to lend a helping hand for the sake of these young people? No experience necessary. Everything is laid out for you. Many thanks!



To honor Earth Day, the children will be decorating pots and planting seeds to watch them grow to begin the spring season...a time of renewal! Let us all continue to look forward to warmer temperatures and brighter sunshiny days! Happy Spring! We also entertained our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. The kids took home A LOT of candy.

Memorial Service

To our Church Family and Community:

A memorial service celebrating the life and memory of Sue McBee will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2026, here at First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, with a reception to follow. If you are able to contribute to the reception by providing desserts, sandwiches, or other items, please contact Louise Wasko or Sharon Barto.



Thank you to our 2026 Outreach Newsletter Sponsors !

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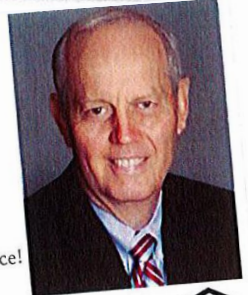
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**Blood
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first presbyterian

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Lewiston, NY



**community,
faith, peace,
justice, hope**
a place for you

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***Worship - Sundays at 11:15am
(Parking in Rear)
Handicapped & Visitor Parking in Front.***

***PastorRev. Carolyn (Carly) Beard
Elizabeth Campbell.....Clerk of Session
Sioux Gigliotti.....Office Administrator
Sue Gunzelmann.....Treasurer
Robert Hull.....Choir Director/Organist***

***Church Phone # 716-754-4945
E-mail - Firstpreslewiston@gmail.com
Web Site - www.lewistonpres.org
Church Office Hours: Tues, Wed Thurs 10am - 2pm***