

first presbyterian

CHURCH

Lewiston, NY



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

Outreach

First Presbyterian Church

505 Cayuga St.

Lewiston, NY 14092

716-754-4945

www.lewistonpres.org

Firstpreslewiston@gmail.com



February 2026

Pastoral Letter

Dear members and friends of First Pres. Lewiston,

It is hard to believe it is already February! I am just about halfway through my research leave in Cologne, Germany, where I am working on my doctoral dissertation. I hope you have enjoyed worshipping and learning with inspirational clergy from across our presbytery. Thank you to Rev. Laura Norris-Buisch and Rev. Njeri Wagana Hughes for sharing their talents with our community.



Last month, we began a First Pres Book Club, when we read *Deep Roots* by Laura Godfrey. I would like to invite you to join us for February and March! Our upcoming books are:

February: *Changing our Minds* by David P. Gushee
Recommended for:

- Individuals curious about how our faith responds to social, cultural, and political issues.

Purchase link: <https://amzn.to/48Z19Bv>

March: *Better Ways to Read the Bible* by Zach W. Lambert

Recommended for:

- People wrestling with faith and the Bible
- Individuals looking to for healing and wholeness.

Purchase link: <https://amzn.to/44emrbN>

(Please note: If you purchase a book through a link above, a small portion of your purchase will go towards supporting the church. A sample copy of

each book is available on the informational table in the foyer.)

February Book Club:

For the month of February, we are reading the book *Changing our Minds* by David P. Gushee. As you read this book this month, consider these questions:

1. Consider the verse Genesis 1:27: "God created humankind in God's own image, in the image of God, God created them." What does it mean to be made "in the image of God"? Do you believe all humans are made in the image of God? (What about your neighbor? Your colleague? Your ex?) What might the diversity of humankind reveal about the nature of God?
2. As Gushee reflects, he says, "My mind has changed" (5). In your life, when has your opinion about an issue changed? What caused it to change? Is "changing your mind" a sign of "caving" to social pressure, or seeking the truth? Is "changing your mind" a sign of weakness or a sign of humility?
3. Gushee's perspective on the full inclusion and celebration of the LGBTQ+ community in the Church only changed after years of experience, study, and prayer. Please join me in praying that our hearts may be transformed, so that we might know that all people are made "in the image of God," and that we might help share with our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters the love of God and friendship of Christian community.

I hope that this book and ensuing conversations help our church think deeply about the love of God, and help transform how we embody that love to all of God's creation.

All the best,
Rev. Carly Beard

Book Club

YOU are cordially invited to participate in a **monthly First Pres Book Club** You can participate in one month, two months, or all three!

FIRST PRES BOOK CLUB

This winter, join First Pres Lewiston in reading a book hand-selected to help us deepen our faith and consider the role of the church in the world today. Follow along with discussion questions in our monthly Outreach newsletter, and consider purchasing your book with our Amazon link - a small percentage of each purchase will go back towards the church!

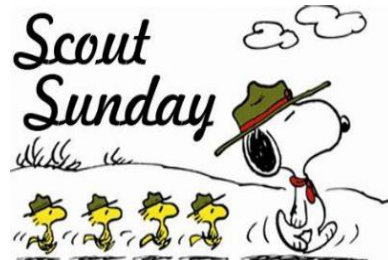


Welcome New Member

We joyfully welcome our newest member to our church family! We are grateful that God has led you to worship and grow with us. May you find a place of belonging, encouragement, and spiritual growth as we serve Christ together. We look forward to sharing fellowship, faith, and community with you.

New Member
Michael Stiles

Sunday, February 8, 2026



Lewiston Boy Scouts of America Troop 855 will join us for Worship on Sunday, February 8th to observe Scout Sunday. This

is a day for the pack to honor a Scout's "duty to God". The Scouts will also serve a pancake breakfast to everyone after Worship. We hope to see everyone there.



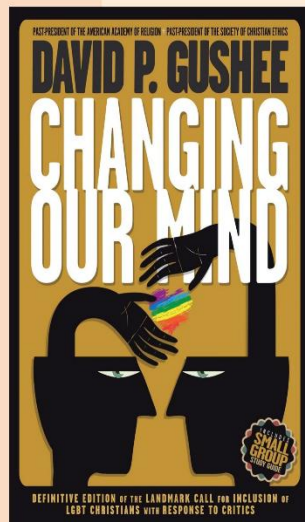
February

Pastor's Pick:
Changing Our Mind
by David P. Gushee

Recommended for:

- Individuals curious about how our faith responds to social, cultural, and political issues.

Purchase at
amzn.to/48Z19Bv
to support First Pres.



Niagara Area

Presbyterians (NAP) Dinner

The monthly NAP Dinner for February will be held on Wednesday, February 4th at Riverside Church.

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



February, 2026 Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Sun., Feb. 1	11:15am	Worship - Communion Sunday School SOUPer Bowl Sunday
Tues., Feb. 3	6:00pm	Session, SLC
Wed., Feb. 4	5:00pm	NAP Dinner, Riverside
Sun., Feb. 8	11:15am	Worship Sunday School Scout Sunday
Tues., Feb. 10	6:00pm	Special Needs, BR Prop. Team, Chior Rm.
Wed., Feb. 11	1:00am- 6:00pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Sat., Feb. 14	9:00am	Farmer's Market, SH Happy Valentine's Day
Sun., Feb. 15	11:15am	Worship Sunday School Mardi Gras Sunday
Wed., Feb. 18		Ash Wednesday Youngstown Worship
Sun., Feb 22	11:15am	Worship Sunday School
Wed., Feb. 25	4:00pm/ 5:00pm	Worship Team, SLC/ Deacons, SLC
Sat., Feb. 28	9:00am	Farmer's Market, SH

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



Arie Weld	02/05
Kim Cleveland	02/16
Joanne Harms	02/18
Kathy Janik	02/27
Amelia Monahan	02/27
Cindy Davey	02/28

Happy 90th Birthday, Betty Gravino!

While the weather may have kept us from celebrating together, it couldn't dampen the love and admiration we all have for you. We hope your day on January 31st was absolutely fabulous and filled with smiles, memories, and the knowledge of how



cherished you are. Here's to 90 wonderful years—and many more moments worth celebrating.

Mardi Gras Celecration
Sunday, February 15th



Everyone is invited to a special Mardi Gras themed coffee hour in the Blue Room after worship on Sunday, February 15th. We'll be having King Cake, festive treats, beads, and lively fellowship.

Mardi Gras attire is optional.



Christian Education
Sunday School



Our theme this month is "Unconditional Love." Our verse to memorize is "God is Love." 1 John 4:8.

God first expressed His love by creating everything for us to enjoy...the mountains, rivers and oceans, the animal life including sea creatures and birds that fly, food for us to eat and even creating every human being. Why did He create all of this? He created all of this because He loves us and Always wants the best for us. He first loved us unconditionally and He continues to do that.

All children are welcome to join in and partake in learning more about how God loves us even when we make mistakes and how to love others as He loved us first.



Space Task Force Update

Seven people met on Saturday, January 24 for a few hours to start the process of re-organizing, consolidating or simply getting rid of things not needed anymore in the church.

The Food Pantry has been situated on the first floor by the Pastor's office. There is ample shelving for all kinds of food items to stock the outdoor "Little Food Pantry of Lewiston."

We also started to organize the Sunday School room. We found some interesting usable things for the children to use as well as some pretty neat décor items. We will continue to consolidate the old Sunday School items into the existing Sunday School room.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, February, 7 from 1-3pm for anyone interested in helping with this overwhelming project. Many thanks to Bob Shoff for his expertise in building shelving to allow for more storage. He made it look so easy! Thanks, Bob!

Food Pantry Update

Many thanks to all of you who have donated items to our Lewiston Little Free Food Pantry. It has proven to be a success and seems to be in constant use. **An important caution....we cannot**

include canned items or anything with liquid during these cold winter months. The temperature can cause cans to rupture which invites bacteria. Please also check expiration dates before adding items to the pantry.



Food donations can be dropped off INSIDE the church Tuesday-Thursday from 11:00am to 2:00 pm. The Food Pantry for these items has been situated on the first floor by the Pastor's office.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women would like to thank everyone who baked, helped, and supported the Pres. Women Bakesale at the Robert Burns Dinner at the Lewiston Fire Hall on January 24th. Your time, generosity, and delicious treats contributed greatly to a wonderful evening of fellowship, great food and fun music.

Blood Drive - February 11th



Blood Drive First Presbyterian Church

Behind the Church
505 Cayuga St
Lewiston, NY 14092

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Transfusions are common for individuals with cancer, especially if they are receiving chemotherapy or radiation that affects red blood cell production, or if they have blood cancers that crowd out red blood cells. BE A POWER RED DONOR!!!

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



Come give blood 1/26-2/28 for a \$20 e-gift card to your choice of merchant. See rcblood.org/heart

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

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Show your support for patients in need this winter. You'll get a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice from the Red Cross when you come to give blood or platelets Jan. 26-Feb. 28.

Book now: <https://rcblood.org/3K8E99S>



Patrick Hodgins, Michael Hodgins, Dan W., Joyce Hodgins, Kevin B., , Debra, William & Gwen Webb, Jacquie Rodriguez-Lentz, Carl Hubler, Judy DeWald, Mark L., Tom C., Tom S., Jon J., Bernie, friends and family of Jeff Schuster, friends & family of Sue McBee, Gary Hodgins, Jerry Gibas, Shelli Valenti, Bob Colling.

Current Session Members

Sharon Barto, 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

Visitation Requests *If you are in need of a visit or call from the Deacons, please let one of the Elders, Deacons or the Church Office know.*

In Memoriam....

Susan L. McBee

Susan L. McBee, of Lewiston, NY, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. She was 72.

Sue was a dedicated and compassionate educator, at Lewiston-Porter High School for 20 years, and found joy in tending to her garden, cheering on her beloved Buffalo Bills, and spending time with her faithful dog, Finley. Sue volunteered her time at the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston, where her kindness and willingness to help were deeply appreciated.



Services will be announced at a later date and will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston.

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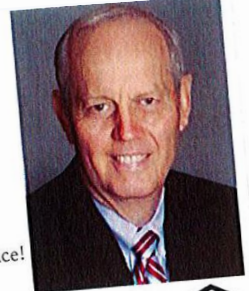
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***Worship – Sundays at 11:15am
(Parking in Rear)
Handicapped & Visitor Parking in Front.***

***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***