

Outreach

First Presbyterian Church
505 Cayuga St.
Lewiston, NY 14092
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Firstpreslewiston@gmail.com



January 2026

Pastoral Letter

Dear members and friends of First Pres. Lewiston,

A very happy New Year! I am writing to you from Cologne, Germany, where I am spending my three-month research leave to work on my doctoral dissertation. But don't worry - First Pres Lewiston is in good hands! Over the coming months, the church is fortunate to have four experienced, inspirational preachers take up the pulpit. Thank you to Rev. Bob Hagel, Rev. Laura Norris-Buisch, Rev. Abby Trautmann, and Rev. Njeri Wagana Hughes for their dedication to our community.



Though I am across the Atlantic, I would love to continue learning with you and deepening our faith together. To do this, I would like to invite you to participate in a **monthly First Pres Book Club** from January through March. You can participate in one month, two months, or all three! The books are:

January: *Deep Roots* by Laura Godfrey

Recommended for:

- Families looking to raise their children in Christian values
- Individuals wanting to deepen their faith through a regular spiritual practice.

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

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.)

January Book Club:

For the month of January, we are reading the devotional *Deep Roots* by Laura Godfrey. As you use and read this book this month, consider these questions:

1. What is a spiritual practice? Do you engage in any spiritual practices? How does a spiritual practice help to deepen your faith and relationship with God?
2. For one week, read a devotional every day. Incorporate the devotional into your daily routine - maybe you read it with your morning coffee, or just before you go to bed at night. At the end of the week, reflect on how the week has gone. What was it like to try the devotional? Is this a spiritual practice you want to incorporate more regularly into your life?
3. As you read devotionals, select one that speaks to you. What do you find impactful about the devotional? Share your insight with a friend, family member, or another member of the church.

I hope that you find this book fruitful, and a wonderful way to start the new year.

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!



For the month of January, we are reading the devotional *Deep Roots* by Laura Godfrey.

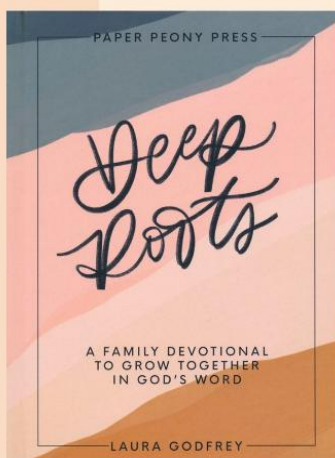
January

Pastor's Pick:
Deep Roots
by Laura Godfrey

Recommended for:

- Families looking to raise their children in faith
- Individuals wanting to deepen their faith through a regular spiritual practice

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



Welcome New Members

We joyfully welcome our newest members 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 Members

George Crafts
Dee Kysor
Patricia Quigley

In Baptism

Maverick Mancuso



January, 2026 Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Sat., Jan. 3	1:00pm	Space Task Force
Sun., Jan. 4	11:15am	Worship Sunday School
Tues., Jan. 6	6:00pm	Session, BR
Wed., Jan. 7	8:00 - 11:30am	HART Mtg., BR
Wed., Jan. 7	5:00pm	NAP Dinner, BR
Wed., Jan. 7	6:00pm	Deacon's, SLC
Sat., Jan 10	9:00am	Pres. Women Mtg., BR
Sat., Jan. 10	10:00am	Christmas Take Down
Sun., Jan. 11	11:15am	Worship Sunday School
Tues., Jan 13	6:00- 7:00pm	Special Needs, BR
Sat., Jan. 17	1:00 - 6:00pm	Baby Shower, BR
Sun., Jan. 18	11:15am	Worship Sunday School
Tues., Jan 20	6:00PM	Property Team Mtg.
Wed., Jan. 21	6:30pm	Boy Scout Adults Mtg., BR.
Sat., Jan. 24	5:00	Bake Sale for Robert Burns Dinner, Lewiston Fire Hall.
Sun., Jan. 25	11:15am	Worship Sunday School



Jimmy Ewy	January 3 rd
Denuta Derkatz	January 6 th
Austin Dewey	January 16 th
Alyssa Rutland	January 16 th
George Crafts	January 18 th
Betty Gravino	January 31 st

Niagara Area

Presbyterians (NAP) Dinner

The monthly NAP Dinner for January will be held on Wednesday, January 7th here at First Pres. Lewiston at 5:00pm in the Blue Room.

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



Thank you



The staff at First Presbyterian Lewiston would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude for the very generous bonuses'

received this Christmas season. We all feel blessed to have such a giving and supportive community.

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

Sunday School News

Many thanks to Sandy Wasko and her team for a wonderful interpretation of the Birth of our Savior from an animals' perspective during our annual Christmas Pageant. Titled "The Talking Animals", it included everything from Mary and Joseph, to the donkey, the goose, the cow, the camel, and sheep. Their thoughts were brought forth in a unique way. The angel set the scene with her idea of what happened that blessed night. Olivia, Logan, Arianna, Leo, Calusa, Leigh, Lilly, Amelia and Hailey were fabulous as their characters. Thank you, for all your hard work.

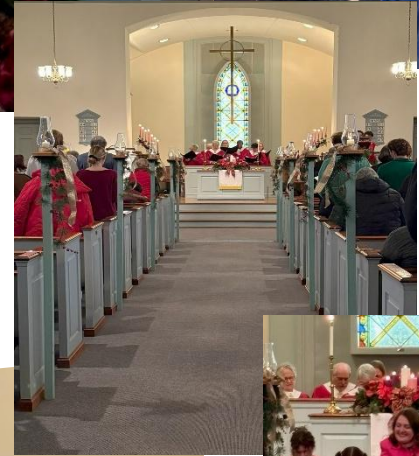


Sunday School for January: The theme will be "New Beginnings" based on Genesis Chapter One and the creation story. Children will be memorizing Bible verses each month and this month's verse is "God created me in His own image." Genesis 2:3. Each month as the theme changes, there will be a new Bible verse to memorize.

Small groups and Wednesday night Bible Study will resume at a later date.

Would you like to sign up? Save your spot today at bit.ly/sundayschoolfirstpres.

Christmas Eve Canglight Service



Presbyterian Women

Had a great turnout for the Christmas lunch following our service? Over 80 in attendance.

Many thanks to Louise Wasko and to everyone who was able to help. A delicious meal and a wonderful day of food, fellowship and fun was shared.



From your Deacons

A heartfelt thank you from the DEACONS to all who generously contributed gifts and/or monetary donations to our Angel Tree. Our



congregation, along with patrons and vendors from the Lewiston Artisan Farmers Market, helped to bring Christmas joy to several families in need!



A thank you, from Niagara County Sheriff

We would like to thank NCSO Victim Services for all of the great work they have done this holiday season. Some highlights of their efforts include making meal deliveries to families with assistance from Pellicano's Marketplace, participating in the Niagara Falls Police Department's Toy Express Drive, and delivering donated Christmas gifts to families in Niagara County. **Thank you to First Presbyterian Church Lewiston, NY** for making the delivery of gifts possible and for continuing to support the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Unit. Thank you to Pellicano's Marketplace for your continued generosity to our community! We truly appreciate all of the wonderful people of Niagara County that support our mission and allow us to help those in need!

In Memoriam....



We are grieved to share the news of the sudden passing of our dear friend Jeff Schuster on December 19, 2025.

A longtime resident of Lewiston, Jeff was rooted in family, faith, and community. He shared his love of music with the Lewiston Choraleers and with the choir at First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston.

Jeff is remembered for his gentle humility, love of music, and unwavering support for the Buffalo Bills. He is survived by his sisters, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as his many friends and loved ones.

A celebration of life open to the community will be held in the summer.

"Are any among you suffering? Let them pray. Are any cheerful? Let them sing songs of praise" (James 5:13)

Chuck, LeeAnn, Fred, Jean, Janine Sullivan & family, Kenny, Sandy & Melanie, Tiffany, Ruby, Jon Welker, Sophie, Patrick Hodgins, Michael Hodgins, Dan W., John Maxwell, Pat Kubiak, 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, Sue McBee.

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.*



Robert Burns' Dinner *a celebration of Scottish music and culture!*

January 24, 2026
6 p.m.
doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Frontier Vol. Fire Hall
2176 Liberty Drive
Niagara Falls, NY

Tickets: \$40
(reservations required by 1/14/26)

Highland Dress encouraged

Entertainment by
the MacKenzie Highlanders' Pipe Band
Rince na Tiarna adult Irish Dancers
Ceilidh 9-11 pm - with Step-in-Time Celtic Music

for tickets contact:
mackenziepipeband@gmail.com or (716) 404-9686

Sponsored by the MacKenzie Highlanders' Pipe Band



Presbyterian Women

Robert Burns' Dinner – Sat Jan 24th at 6pm

For the past four years, PW has provided the dessert table at the Robert Burns' Dinner with goodies. We will be doing it again this year! Any donations would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help, please let **Sharon Barto** know ASAP with the item you will contribute, so we have an idea of everything being donated. Many of you have attended and have always had a wonderful evening of fellowship, great food and fun music. The dinner is on January 25th at 6pm and tickets must be purchased in advance (by Jan 15th).

Thank You to our 2026 Outreach Newsletter Sponsors!

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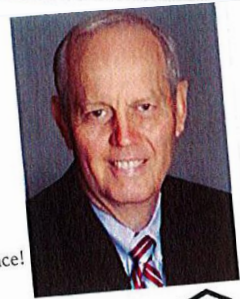
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CHURCH

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