

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



March 2026

Pastoral Letter

March 1, 2025



Dear members and friends of First Presbyterian Lewiston, Can you believe that March is already here? I am looking forward to worshipping with you all when I get back to Western New York later this month. I hope you have

enjoyed learning with faithful clergy from across our presbytery. Thank you to Rev. Bob Hagel, Rev. Laura Norris-Buisch, and Rev. Njeri Wagana Hughes for sharing their gifts with First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston.

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 March?

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

Recommended for:

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

To Purchase, see church website:

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

(Please note: If you purchase a book through the website, 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.)

March Book Club:

For the month of March, we are reading the book *Better Ways to Read the Bible* by Zach W. Lambert. As you read this book this month, consider these questions:

1. What is the Bible to you? Do you see the Bible as “the book of answers,” as divinely inspired, or infallible? Is the Bible a collection of stories and parables, or is it a history and legal code? As you think about what the Bible means to you, reflect on where you got this idea or belief - was it from your own religious education as a child? From sermons or podcasts? From prayer or personal study?
2. Lambert reflects on multiple “lenses” where Christians have read the Bible in ways that have caused harm to themselves and others. Can you think of a time when Christians have read the Bible in a way that caused harm? What motivated their reading? What was the impact of the harm caused? Did the reading and use of the Bible call people closer to God - or did it just drive people away from the Church?
3. Reflect on new and “better ways” that you can read the Bible. How does studying the cultural, historical, and political contexts of the books of the Bible help you to understand its content? What are ways to read the Bible that draw you closer to Jesus - to love and justice and and mercy? How might you read the Bible with an eye towards the fruitfulness, abundance, and joy that it can impart on your life today?

I hope that this book and following conversations will help us reflect on how we read the Bible, so that we might come to better know God and rest assured in God’s love for us.

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!



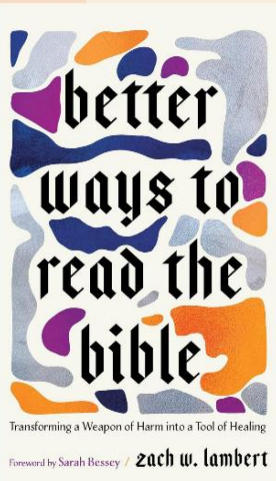
March

Pastor's Pick:
Better Ways to Read the Bible by Zach W. Lambert

Recommended for:

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

Purchase at
amzn.to/44emrbN
to support First Pres.



Lenten Bible Study

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

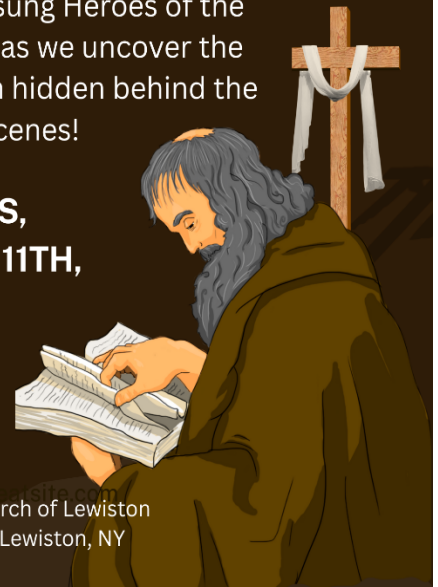
"THE SUPPORTING CAST IN THE EASTER STORY"

"Meet the Unsung Heroes of the Easter Story" as we uncover the mighty wisdom hidden behind the scenes!

WEDNESDAYS,
MARCH 4TH, 11TH,
AND 18TH

6:30 P.M.

First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston
505 Cayuga Street, Lewiston, NY



"Supporting Cast in the Easter Story"

Sometimes the most powerful lessons come from those in the background. During this three-week study, we will explore the lives and roles of the "supporting cast" in the Easter story and discover how their faith, failures, and courage speak to our own walk with Christ.

Three Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Blue Room

March 4

March 11

March 18

Come deepen your faith this Lenten season as we prepare our hearts for Easter. All are welcome!

Sign up sheets are on the table in foyer.

March, 2026 Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Sun., Mar. 1	11:15am	Worship - Communion Sunday School
Tue., Mar. 3	6:00pm	Session, SLC
Wed., Mar. 4	6:30pm	Lent Bible Study, BR
	5:00pm	NAP Dinner, Bacon Memorial
Sun., Mar. 8	11:15am	Worship Sunday School
Tue., Mar. 10	5:00pm	Christian Ed., SLC
	6:00pm	Special Needs Group, BR
	6:00pm	Property Team, SLC
Wed., Mar. 11	6:30pm	Lent Bible Study, BR
Sat., Mar. 14	9:00am- 1:00pm	Farmer's Market, SH
Wed., Mar. 18	6:30pm	Lent Bible Study, BR
Sun., Mar. 22	11:15am	Worship - Communion Sunday School
Sat., Mar. 28	9:00am	Farmer's Market, SH Prep for Palm Sunday
	TBD	Prep for Palm Sunday
Sun., Mar. 29	11:15am	Palm Sunday Worship - Communion Sunday School - Easter Egg Hunt Palm Sunday Lunch

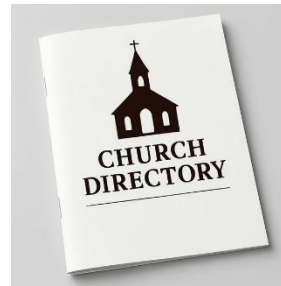
Regularly Scheduled

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



Lily Cleveland	March 13 th
Eleanor Zelinski	March 15 th
Natalie Monahan	March 16 th
Patricia Quigley	March 20 th
Kyle Winstel	March 29 th

Church Directory



We are currently updating our Church Directory. You may have received a print-out data sheet containing your information as it currently appears in our database. Please review the information carefully, make any necessary corrections or updates, and return the sheet to Sioux in the office by **March 17th**. Of Note: There's no need to return the sheet(s) if the information is correct.

If you have not received a data sheet and AND/OR if you wish to become a *Friend* of the church and be included on the Directory, please contact Sioux in the church office. We'd love to have you.

Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate and up to date.

Christian Education

- Sunday School -



The theme for Sunday School this month is “*Forgiveness.*” Our verse to memorize is Matthew 18:21-22. The children are reading in the Bible, using the table of contents, finding the page numbers, book, chapter and verse.

To emphasize the Lenten season, children have been given a packet that is comprised of a cut-out Cross along with 40 different *activities* to accomplish throughout the Easter season ... one activity for each day of Lent. Activities include simple prayers for teachers, neighbors, the homeless, obeying their parents, setting the table, picking up their toys, even limiting the video games and devices, and showing kindness and forgiveness to others. Once they have accomplished an activity, they can tape it to the cross.



During Sunday School on March 29th, the children will be hunting for Easter Eggs, so bring your Easter baskets to take home your goodies.

We can always use teachers and helpers for our Christian Education program(s). Can you sacrifice one Sunday per month? It turns out to be 30 minutes - that’s all ! Lesson plans are supplied, and there’s no experience necessary. How about it? Contact Pam Kilmer (716-417-7760 or email pjkilmer003@gmail.com. We seriously need your help.

From your Deacons

- Souper Bowl of Caring-

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated to the annual **Souper Bowl of Caring** collection! Together we raised \$200.96 and collected 177 food items for our church’s food pantry!

“For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink” – Matthew 25:35



- Samaritan Room Collection -

For the month of March, the Deacons are collecting bottles of hair conditioner as well as men’s & women’s deodorant to help restock the Samaritan room. Please place items into the “Deacons Donation Drop Box” located in the Narthex.

Thank you for your continued support!

“Happy are those who are concerned for the poor; the LORD will help them when they are in trouble” ~ Psalm 41:1

Space Task Force Update

As we move forward in baby steps, we continue to make strides in cleaning-up and/or cleaning-out items in the church, and repurposing them. Items from previous VBS summers have been sent to the Presbytery for their "Swap and Share" initiative.



The Food Pantry is now arranged in the double-doors outside of Rev. Carly's office...



... and we found a beautiful *Noah's Ark* mural that is now displayed on the wall in the Sunday School wing of the church. Check it out!

Additionally, furniture has been moved into the Blue Room for more seating for coffee hour, and the Sunday School Room is coming along, as we continue to consolidate items from the Learning Centers into the Sunday School area.

Niagara Area

Presbyterians (NAP) Dinner

The monthly NAP Dinner for January will be held on Wednesday, March 4th at Bacon Memorial at 5:00pm.

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



Help Wanted!

Church Cleaner - needed ASAP. 8-10 hours per week, 40 hours maximum per month. Flexible hours. \$20 per hour.

Office/Church Administrator - ~20 Hours/week to begin in April.

If interested, please submit resume (or letter of inquiry), including references to the church office, submit via email to : Firstpreslewiston@gmail.com or speak with Terri Brown.



Winter Market

BUY LOCAL, BUY FRESH

THE 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
505 CAYUGA STREET LEWISTON, NY

9:00AM - 1:00PM

Sat March 14th and 28th

Daylight Savings Time



Remember to "Spring Ahead" by setting your clocks ahead one hour at 2:00am on Sunday, March 8th

Thank you to our 2026 Outreach Newsletter Sponsors !

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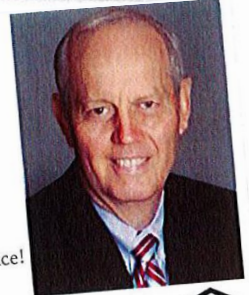
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CHURCH

Lewiston, NY



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

505 Cayuga Street, Lewiston, NY
716-754-4945 :: firstpreslewiston@gmail.com

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