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a place for you

First Presbyterian Church
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www.lewistonpres.org
Firstpreslewiston@gmail.com



May 2026

Pastoral Letter

May, 2026

Dear members and friends of First Presbyterian Lewiston,



A very happy May! The last month has been full of Easter celebrations, deepening relationships, and important conversations in our community. It has been an honor to be able to walk alongside you through these conversations.

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 May?

In May, we will be reading the 2018 book *Outside the Lines* by Mihee Kim-Kort. Kim-Kort is a PCUSA pastor and a Queer woman, and in this book, she reflects on how this aspect of her identity has impacted her spirituality and ministry in the church. You are welcome to review a sample copy of the book on the informational table in the foyer, and can purchase the book on Amazon or at Bookshop.org.

As you read this book, consider these questions:

1. Who are you? What identities are central to your sense of self? How do these identities impact your career, your family life, and your relationship with God?
2. Kim-Kort compares the radicality of being Queer today with the radicality of Jesus' life and ministry. In your reading, do you see

- Jesus' life as conveyed in the Gospels as radical? Has the message of the Gospel become more or less radical over time?
3. Kim-Kort speaks about the importance of the body in spirituality. What is the role of the body in your relationship to God? Is prayer something that happens through only words? Or do you pray with your hands and your feet?

I hope that this book and ensuing conversations will help us reflect on the beauty and diversity of God's creation, so that we might come to better understand ourselves, our neighbors, and our God.

All the best,
Rev. Carly Beard
May, 2026

May
Pastor's Pick:
Outside the Lines
by Mihee Kim-Kort
.....
Recommended for:

- People wrestling with inclusion and welcome.
- People wanting to deepen their understanding of Christian spirituality

Let's learn together!

MIHEE KIM-KORT
outside the lines
How Embracing Queerness Will Transform Your Faith
Foreword by Rachel Held Evans

Presbyterian Women Annual Rummage Sale



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! Sign-Up sheets are available on the table in the foyer.

Important Dates:

- **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

From Your Deacons Youth Faith Initiative

To support the spiritual growth of children and youth in our community, the Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston are proud to offer year-round scholarships for our children and youth to attend Christian camps, conferences, retreats, and trips. Eligible youth may apply for scholarships of up to \$200. Apply for a scholarship today at lewistonpres.org. Applications are processed on a monthly basis.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LEWISTON
YOUTH FAITH INITIATIVE
SUPPORT FOR YOUTH TO GROW IN FAITH

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Grow in faith!

Niagara Area

Presbyterians (NAP) Dinner

The monthly NAP Dinner for May will be held on Wednesday, May 6th at Riverside Church at 5:00pm.

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



May, 2026 Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Sun., May 3	10:30am	Small Groups - <i>Christian Origins</i>
	11:15am	Worship - Communion Sunday School - <i>Comfort</i>
Tue., May 5	6:00pm	Session, SLC
Wed., May 6	All Day	HART/Alzheimers Association, SH
	5:00pm	NAP Dinner, Riverside
Sat. May 9	9:00am- 1:00pm	Farmer's Market, SH
	9:00am- 1:00pm	Spring Clean-Up
Sun., May 10	10:30am	Small Groups - <i>The Early Church</i>
	11:15am	Worship - Communion Sunday School - <i>Comfort</i> Happy Mothers' Day
Tues, May 12	5:00pm	Christian Ed., SS Rm.
	6:00pm	Special Needs, BR
	6:00pm	Property Team, SLC
Wed., May 13	10:00am - 5:00pm	Rummage Sale Set-Up, SH
Thurs, May 14	3:00pm- 7:00pm	Rummage Sale Set-Up, SH
Fri., May 15	3:00pm - 7:00pm	Rummage Sale, SH
Sat., May 16	9:00am - 1:00pm	Rummage Sale, SH
Sun., May 17	10:30am	Small Groups - <i>Heresy & Orthodoxy</i>
	11:15am	Worship Sunday School - <i>Comfort</i>
Tues., May 19	10:30am	Historic Tour, OSC
Wed., May 20	5:00pm	Deacons, SLC
Sat., May 23	9:00am- 1:00pm	Farmer's Market, SH
Sun., May 24	10:30am	Small Groups - <i>Mysticism & Monasticism</i>
	11:15am	Worship Sunday School - <i>Comfort</i>
Sun., May 31	10:30am	Small Groups - <i>The Early Modern Church</i>
	11:15am	Worship Sunday School - <i>Comfort</i>
	12:00pm	New Members, Meet & Greet

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



Jennifer Newman	May 10
Emma Winstel	May 13
Dr. James Collier	May 31



Kathy & Ed Janik	May 29
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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

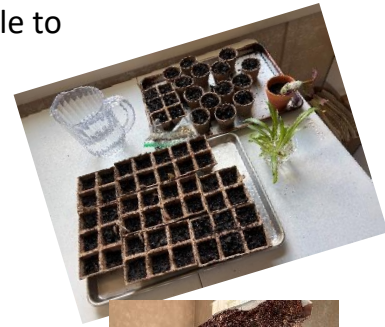
- Sunday School -

Hello to all ...

We are a growing group of children. Last month, April, we were focusing on Jesus' Resurrection and how we become renewed by His raising from the grave on Resurrection Sunday. The children were very involved, and enjoyed activities during Palm Sunday worship and our annual Easter egg hunt.



and the children were able to take one home and watch the new roots grow to get ready to pot. They also saw a spider plant with roots that we were able to pot into soil, along with a mature spider plant that sprouted new 'babies' and is establishing new growth.



Relating all this to Jesus and the Resurrection, shows us that as Jesus rose from the dead to give us new life, to show us eternal life, there can be new life even in plants.

Many thanks to the Snyder family who made Earth cookies for all to share. What a sweet idea, and tasty too! Thanks Jennifer and Josh!

Thanks also to Mr. Ralph, Mr. Josh, Miss Ruth, Miss Missy and Miss Cathie for all their work with the children. They really enjoyed this lesson.

Our May lesson will be centered around "Comfort." Our Bible verse will be Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, but give you a hope and a future." There is comfort in knowing that God has our lives all worked out for us. All we have to do is stay focused on Him and He will make our path straight.

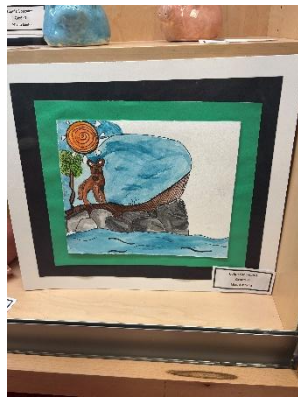


We also used Earth Day to demonstrate how new growth can begin from seeds. The children potted new plants from seeds thanks to Mr. Ralph's expertise. He showed us how to put a little bit of soil, then a few seeds, and then more soil. The children were able to leave some potted plants here for the community garden and were able to take one plant home. We showed some 'babies' on a spider plant,

Sunday school teachers are needed! Christian Education is looking for volunteers who are willing to serve one Sunday a month as a Sunday school teacher or helper. This is a great way to support the mission of the church and help our young ones grow in their faith. If interested, please contact Pam Kilmer.

- Congratulations Leigh Cleveland -

Leigh's Artwork was on display at Lewiston-Porter's School Art Show. Leigh is in the Middle School and has tremendous talent in ART. Let's all take a minute to congratulate her on her AWESOME achievement! Congratulations, Leigh! Well done!



- Mother's Day Breakfast -

On Sunday, May 9th, the Sunday School staff will be celebrating Moms and Dads with breakfast during Sunday School. Grandmothers are invited too! The menu will include: scrambled eggs, French toast casserole, fruit, and Timbits. After Children's Time, the children and families are invited to come back to the Sunday School room for a bite to eat. Thanks to all the parents for making every effort to bring their children to Sunday School each week as possible. You are making a difference in your child's life. Clap, Clap, Clap!



In His Continued Service,
Pam

Small Groups

SMALL GROUP
our faith story

Join us for a six-week, 30-minute Small Group exploring the history of Christianity from its ancient origins to our present day.

- may 3 christian origins
- may 10 the early church
- may 17 heresy and orthodoxy
- may 24 mysticism and monasticism
- may 31 the early modern church
- june 7 the church in modernity

Sundays at 10:30AM

Register on the sign-up in the foyer or by emailing firstpreslewisston@gmail.com

First Presbyterian Lewiston
505 Cayuga Street
Lewiston, NY 14092

Please Join us for our next session of small groups, taking place Sundays before worship from 10:30AM to 11AM from May 3 to June 7. Spots are limited. Sign up on the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

Space Task Force Update

Thank you to the volunteers on the *Space Task Force* for their hard work in helping the church to clean out spaces and bring new life to our church community. Thank you to chair Pam Kilmer and members Cindy Davey, Terri Brown, Bob Shoff, Cathie Shoff, Sandy Wasko, Bonnie Nye, and Patty Berggren. The Space Task Force will take a hiatus in the summer and reconvene in the fall. If you would like to help, please be in touch with Pam Kilmer

Coming Soon ...

1 - Community Celebration- 250th Anniversary - July 5th

We will be hosting a special community celebration on Sunday, July 5 in commemoration of America at 250. We will be looking for volunteers to welcome visitors, work at the grill, and provide cookies. We will also have an opportunity for the youth in our congregation to sing in a youth choir. More information coming soon.



The First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston was recently chosen to accept an America 250 flag that will be flown adjacent to the historic village cemetery and Old Stone Church. Pastor Carly Beard accepted the flag from local legislators who spearheaded the project.



2 - Vacation Bible School-

On Sunday mornings from July 12 - August 30, First Pres of Lewiston will introduce a "new thing" for the summer months.

After 'Children's Time' in worship, the children will participate in a new program called "Ready, Set, Go." We will engage in sports-related activities, such as Pickleball, "Capture the Flag," Four Square, Flag Football, Kickball, etc. For eight weeks, the children will be learning and playing these games during regularly scheduled Sunday School times, which will be centered around the scripture "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phillipians 4:13.

An activity schedule will follow. Get pumped, get ready...LET'S GOOOO!



3 - Member Spotlight-

A new section will be included in *OutReach* designed to spotlight individual members. We plan to feature short interviews with members in our newsletter—offering a chance to introduce new and existing members in their own words, and share what they'd like others to know.

Not everyone has had the opportunity to connect yet, so this is a great way to build those connections. Interested in being interviewed? Or in helping conduct interviews? See Liz Campbell for more details.

Thank you to our 2026 Outreach Newsletter Sponsors !

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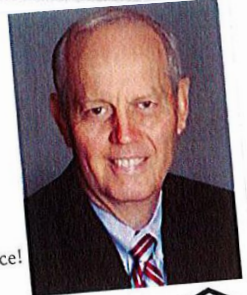
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CHURCH

Lewiston, NY



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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**

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Web Site – www.lewistonpres.org
Church Office Hours: Tues, Wed Thurs 10am – 2pm**