first presbyterian
CHURCH
Lewiston, NY

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

First Pres Outreach

November 2026

Learn more:
lewistonpres.org

Contact us:
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Lewiston, NY 14092
716-754-4945
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Pastor's Corner

Dear members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston,

In October, our two "church chats"—Future Forward on finance and stewardship and Meet-an-Elder/Deacon on church leadership—invited us to reflect on giving back and doing ministry together. As we approach the holidays and year's end, consider your role at First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston and how God may be calling you to give back. Here are some ways to do so this season:

1. Pledge in stewardship. Your financial support helps keep our church open, lit, and warm through Western New York winters. While tithing (giving 10% of your income; Deuteronomy 14:22) is a traditional practice, we welcome pledges of any amount you feel called to give.

2. Serve as a church leader. If you feel called to support those in need or help guide our church's mission and ministry, consider serving as a deacon or elder. Speak with Terri Brown or a nominating committee member to learn more.

3. Serve on a committee. Church members and friends are welcome! Many committees meet just an hour monthly, with occasional service projects. Christian Education (Pam Kilmer), Property (Bob Shoff), and Worship (Sandy Wasko) especially need volunteers.

I hope that in this season, you might have the chance to reflect on what First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston means to you and where God may be calling you to give back to the local church. Blessings for the month ahead!

All the best,
Rev. Carly Beard

Staff Appreciation



A heartfelt thank-you to Pam Kilmer for the countless hours of time, creativity, and love she has devoted to creating our new under-the-sea-themed Kids Zone here at First Presbyterian Church!

Pam has poured her heart into bringing this wonderful space to life, transforming it into a colorful, welcoming, and imaginative place where children can play, explore, and let their imaginations swim! Her dedication, attention to detail, and willingness to give so much of herself are a true blessing to our church family.

Creating a space where children feel welcome, loved, and excited to learn is such a special gift. Through Pam's hard work and vision, our youngest members and visitors will have a place designed just for them—a place filled with fun, wonder, and opportunities to grow in our church community.

Pam, thank you for sharing your time and talents so generously. Your efforts have made a BIG splash, and we are so grateful for all the love you have poured into this special project! You are a wonderful example of what it means to serve with a joyful heart. 🤍👏

Thank you, Pam, for helping make First Presbyterian Church an even more welcoming place for our children and families!

Around the Church

Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Day. On Sunday, September 27 we celebrated our employees and volunteers with an appreciation event following worship service. Many thanks to our employees and volunteers! You are the heart of the church! Congratulations to Louise Wasko for being chosen as Volunteer of the Year!







Presbyterian Women. Eleven women gathered at the church on Saturday, October 10 for homemade soup, sandwiches, and brownies. Sandy Wasko opened the meeting with a devotional, and everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship. Our next meeting will be a breakfast meeting on December 5th at 9:30 AM here at the church. ***All women are invited to attend.***



This Month at First Pres

Thanksgiving Baskets. This month, the Deacons are gathering food for Thanksgiving Dinner to help those in need. Beginning on Sunday, November 1st, a collection basket will be in the Narthex, along with a list of needed items. Once you have chosen which items you will be donating, cross the items off the list. Please bring all items to the church no later than Sunday, November 22nd. If you would rather make a monetary donation, envelopes will be available. Please place envelopes in the weekly collection plate. If you are aware of a family in need, please contact Heather (716-807-7068) or the church office. Thank you and GOD BLESS! ~*The Deacons*

Election Day Bazaar. Join Presbyterian Women on Tuesday, November 3 for our Election Day Bazaar, taking place from 9AM-5PM with setup on Monday, November 2, at 4:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Items available will include homemade jams, spaghetti sauce, our popular Caponata, homemade bread, and apple pies ready to bake. Donations of baked goods are always welcome. A table will also feature nicer items suitable for sale, especially Christmas and Thanksgiving decorations. No clothing, please.

Annual Church Thanksgiving Lunch. All church members and friends are welcome to join us for our annual church Thanksgiving luncheon on Sunday, November 22 following worship. Presbyterian Women will provide all main dishes, but attendees are encouraged to bring a dessert to share. Donations to contribute to the cost of the meal are appreciated but not required. Please join us regardless—we are a church family, and everyone is welcome! Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet and see Louise Wasko with any questions.

Operation Christmas Child

Our church has participated in Operation Christmas Child for many years. Boxes and forms will be available in the back pews of the Sanctuary beginning Sunday, October 25. Please take a box or two and fill them! Please return filled boxes by Sunday, November 15, to allow our volunteers time to deliver them to the local collection site. Thank you to Presbyterian Women for covering the shipping expenses for our donated boxes. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Wasko



CE News

As we have just finished “Trunk or Treat”, we are moving on to the end of the calendar year. First let me thank those who participated in our annual Fall event…Kim and Mike Cleveland, Cathie and Bob Shoff, Patty Berggren, Ruth and Chris Gaul, Louise and Sandy Wasko, Dee and George, Erin and Norah Castek, the Rodriguez’s, Sharon and Raph Barto, Liz Campbell, Ellen Weld, Sarah McBee, David Baird and Gretchen Napier. A special thanks to Ruth Ceretto, our resident “face painter” for her expertise and safe painting on people’s faces. It was an added bonus! From decorated cars, to donated candy, to being present for games and activities. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your time and effort. It is much appreciated.



As we look ahead to the Advent season, I am asking for the congregation to collect toilet paper and paper towel rolls for a special advent project for children. It’s a surprise, so I can’t give too much away. Shhh! You can drop your rolls off at church or give them to me any Sunday.If anyone is available, we will be using these rolls on Saturday, Nov 14 10am-noon in the Kids Zone. This project will be given out to the children on Nov. 29. Hope you can lend a helping hand.

The **Christmas Pageant**…we will introduce the Pageant to the children after the Thanksgiving Luncheon in the Main Sanctuary, where we will assign parts. No one will have to memorize any parts, or lines. This will be an easy production as well as meaningful and enjoyable. Rehearsals will be Dec 6 during coffee hour and Dec. 19 10am-noon. Please plan on being in church these days for a quick rehearsal. God is good! Pam Kilmer



Community

Pickleball. Join us Sunday or Monday (3-5 pm) (1:30-4:30 pm) or Wednesday (6:30-8:30 pm) for a friendly match. See Louise Cadwalader or Penny Schulz for more information.

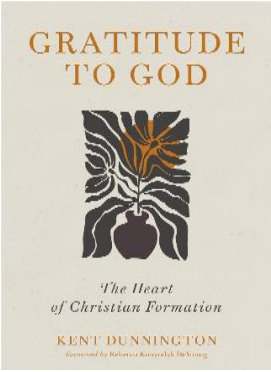
AA. Lew-Port AA meets Tuesdays at 7 pm and provides critical support for recovery.

Little Free Food Pantry. Help stock the Lewiston Little Free Pantry for one week this month. To volunteer or learn more, contact Terri Brown.

Outreach Update. Beginning January 2027, the Outreach church newsletter will be available on our website, by email, and in limited print copies at church. Sign up for email delivery on the foyer sign-up sheet. If these options are not accessible to you, please contact the church office.

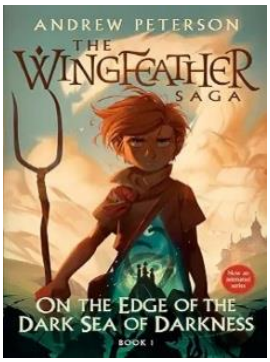
Sharing the Harvest with Heart, Love & Soul
Mark Baetzhold, Executive Director from Heart Love & Soul in Niagara Falls, sent a lovely thank-you letter for providing them with a donation of 10.5lbs of tomatoes from our garden. They appreciate the fresh and healthy food for their community!





Book Club. November: *Gratitude to God: The Heart of Christian Formation* by Kent Dunnington is about reclaiming a biblical vision of thankfulness for spiritual formation and everyday life.

Family Fall Book Club: *On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness: The Wingfeather Saga Book 1* by Andrew Peterson (2020).



November 2026 Calendar

Date	Event
Sun., Nov. 1	11:15AM –Worship with Communion and Coffee Hour
Tues., Nov. 3	9AM-5PM – Election Day Bazaar 6PM – Session Meeting
Sun., Nov. 8	11:15AM – Worship, New Member Sunday and Coffee Hour
Tues., Nov. 10	6PM – Property Team Meeting
Sun., Nov. 15	11:15AM –Worship and Coffee Hour
Sun., Nov. 22	11:15AM – Worship, Stewardship Sunday, Congregational Meeting, Thanksgiving Luncheon and Coffee Hour
Mon., Nov. 23	5-7 PM – Youth Group
Sun., Nov. 29	11:15AM –Worship and Coffee Hour

Save the Date

Spaghetti Dinner. Join us at 5PM on Wednesday, December 2 for a “give what you can” Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for our Youth Group. Dinners will feature salad, homemade spaghetti and meatballs, and rolls, as well as a bake sale. All proceeds will benefit the First Pres Youth Group.



Family Advent Dinner and Bible Study. All are invited to join us for a three-week Advent Dinner and Bible Study. We’ll gather at 5PM on December 2, 9, and 16 for a community dinner. Then, at 6PM, we’ll have a family-friendly Advent Bible Study. RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

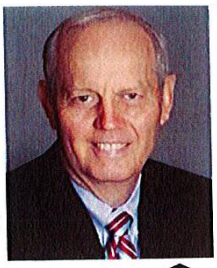


Christmas Eve Service. Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve service at 4PM on Thursday, December 24 in the Old Stone Church. Be sure to invite family and friends and arrive early to secure your seats!



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First Presbyterian Church of Lewiston
Worship – Sundays at 11:15am

Rev. Carly Beard, Pastor
Elizabeth Campbell, Clerk of Session
Denise Erskine, Administrator
Robert Hull, Choir Director/Organist
Pam Kilmer, Sunday School Coordinator

Session Members: Patty Berggren, Terri Brown, Pam Kilmer, Bob Shoff, Sandy Wasko

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

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