

First *you*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | WHITESBORO, NY
APRIL 2026

Join us ...

Easter SUNDAY

CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION

04 . 05 . 2026

10:00 AM

JOIN US ON EASTER SUNDAY FROM 8:30 - 9:30 AM FOR A DELICIOUS
BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP BEFORE OUR EASTER CELEBRATION!

BRING YOUR FAMILY, INVITE YOUR FRIENDS,
AND START THIS JOYOUS DAY TOGETHER. ✠
EVERYONE IS WELCOME—COME AS YOU ARE!

Calendar of Events

Apr 4th – Sat. - Choir Practice

Apr 5th – Easter Sunday

Apr 7th — Tues. - Disciple Bible Study

Apr 8th – Wed. - Worship Team

Apr 11th — Sat. - Choir Practice

Apr 12th — Sun. - Worship & Coffee Hour

Apr 14th — Tues. - Disciple Bible Study

Apr 15th — Wed. - Admin Team @11

Session @ 1

Apr 18th — Sat. - Choir Practice \

Defensive Driving

Apr 19th — Worship & Coffee Hour

Apr 20th — Mon. - Craft Connection

Apr 21st — Tue. - Disciple Bible Study

Apr 26th — Worship & Coffee Hour

JOIN US FOR —



Resurrection and Renewal: What Comes Next?...

“There is a time for everything.” That is the theme of Ecclesiastes 3. Many of us know these words from the Byrds’ 1965 song, “Turn! Turn! Turn!” Pete Seeger wrote the lyrics, but the Byrds made it popular. Other artists who recorded it include Judy Collins and Dolly Parton.

The song reflected significant changes taking place in the culture. A generation rose up against the Vietnam War. The Civil Rights Movement was gaining momentum. Music was changing, with screaming teens (girls?) responding to the Beatles, Beach Boys, and Rolling Stones. The National Endowment for the Arts supported creative endeavors. Television had replaced radio. News media began to dominate the airwaves. This was an era of the second wave of women’s rights—advocating for equal pay in the workplace, reproductive rights, and challenges to traditional gender roles. Free love also challenged traditional mores surrounding sexuality.

Every generation faces changes that can be challenging or beneficial. Easter represents a significant shift in its time. During Holy Week, at the Lord’s Supper, Jesus said, “This cup is the new covenant.” Previously, He stated, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” His Easter resurrection meant hope and salvation not only for the Jews but also for the

Gentiles. He was bringing change that ultimately carried the Gospel from Israel to the entire Roman Empire.

First Presbyterian Church has seen more than its share of changes. These changes can be traced to many factors, including shifts in culture. Regrettably, Whitesboro Presbyterian Church closed, and First Presbyterian Church in Utica had to sell its building. Worship styles have evolved, including their level of formality and the genres of music. The focus has transitioned from children and families to serving a more senior population. This is not right or wrong, but reflects efforts to adapt to the culture. Pastoral transitions also bring change. “There is a time for everything” (Ecclesiastes 3:1–14).

What’s next? Where is God leading us as a church in faithful service to one another and the community? We now enter the Easter season, when the disciples spent time in prayer, waiting for the gift Jesus promised. That promise was fulfilled at Pentecost. Will you pray with me that the Spirit of God would empower us to be bold and courageous in the direction God is calling us to go and what God is calling us to do next? Let us pray...

Pastor George

Session Update!

- ◆ The Session will complete a walk-through soon to assess current maintenance and repair needs throughout the building. As we look ahead to the coming months, when the building will fully be ours, priorities are being established for both interior and exterior improvements to ensure the space is safe, welcoming, and well cared for.
- ◆ Work in the Fellowship Hall continues to progress, with the soundproofing project now nearing completion. This improvement will enhance the usability of the space for gatherings and events.
- ◆ Our Communication Team remains actively engaged in strengthening the church's presence online. Efforts are ongoing to update and maintain our social media platforms, helping us better connect with both our congregation and the wider community.
- ◆ In addition, live streaming capabilities are currently being developed, with the goal of making this a regular part of our worship experience in the near future. Our thanks to Brady and Ryan Shuck.

Congregational Informational Meeting

There will be a congregational informational meeting on **Sunday, April 19th, following worship** in the Fellowship Hall. All are encouraged to attend to learn more about upcoming church plans and initiatives. Your participation and input are important as we move forward together as a congregation.

Vacation Notice

Please note that the pastor will be away from **Wednesday, April 22 through Wednesday, May 6**. If pastoral care is needed during this time, please contact the church office.

Additionally, the office will be closed for Beth's vacation beginning **Friday, April 24** and on **Monday, May 4**. Phone calls will be answered, and emails will be returned in a timely manner.

Giving!

Who would have imagined that the first three months of the year are already behind us? Time moves quickly, and as we enter the next quarter of 2026, we pause to reflect on the commitments we have made in faith and generosity. In the coming weeks, a record of your 2026 pledge contributions to date will be available for your review.

When we consider the boundless love God has for us, how can we not respond with joy and gratitude? One of the most meaningful ways we express our love for God is through our giving. Our financial commitment to Christ's church is more than an obligation—it is a reflection of our faith, a declaration of trust, and an act of worship. Perhaps the way we give speaks more clearly about our devotion than any other expression of our faith.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your generous support of the church. Your gifts are making a real difference in the life and ministry of our congregation. As we move into the months ahead, we encourage you to remain faithful in fulfilling your pledges. Online giving continues to be available as a convenient option, helping ensure the church can thrive and carry forward its mission of sharing God's love with the world.



A Meaningful Way to Give Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs):

If you are age **70½ or older**, you have a unique opportunity to support the church while also receiving potential tax benefits through a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**.

A QCD allows you to give directly from your **IRA (Individual Retirement Account)** to a qualified charity—like our church—without counting that distribution as taxable income. For those who are **age 73 or older and required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)**, a QCD can be used to **satisfy all or part of your RMD**.

This means your gift can:

- Support the ministry and mission of the church
- Reduce your taxable income and even Medicare premiums down, depending on total income thresholds.
- Fulfill your RMD requirement in a tax-efficient way

Rather than taking your RMD as income and then making a donation, a QCD allows you to give directly from your IRA, which may help lower your overall tax burden.

If you are considering this option, we encourage you to:

- Contact your IRA custodian to arrange a direct transfer
- Ensure the check is **mailed directly to the church**
- **Include your name in the memo line** so we can properly credit your gift

Qualified Charitable Distributions are a thoughtful way to make a lasting impact through your giving while being a good steward of your financial resources.

If you have questions about how to direct a gift to the church, please contact the church office—we are happy to help.



\$35

Defensive
Driving
CLASS

1 ELm Street, WHitesboro, NY 13492

April 18th @ 9am

- ✓ Requirements for discount
- ✓ Certificate
- ✓ Bring a snack

Class
Booklet
Certificate

315-732-5111

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Call the church office to reserve your spot Today!



We trust in the power of prayer and in the comfort it brings, no matter what season of life we find ourselves in. Prayer connects us to God and to one another, especially in moments when words are hard to find.

If you or someone you love would like to be included on our prayer list, please reach out to the church office. It would be our privilege to pray with you and for you.

Let us continue to hold one another in love—lifting each other up with faithful, heartfelt prayer.

Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

- Reid Simpson
- Tom Harrington
- Davis Family
- Capraro Family
- Morris Family
- Barb Wuest
- Mariana Tata
- Linda Weise
- Judy Westerhoff
- Jon Fuller
- Bill Smith
- Ruth Ward
- Helen Lynch
- Luke & Family
- Jessica Peters
- Becki Nasci
- Jose Polanco
- Bev Ryan
- Greg Hyde
- Becky Dinello

With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy on the passing of **Eleanor Angell**, a long-time and faithful member of our congregation, on March 29 at the age of 102. We give thanks for her long life and the many years she shared with our church family. A graveside service will be held on **April 22 at 1:00 pm.**

We also extend our sympathy to **Donna (Michael) Duel** and family on the passing of her aunt, **Carolyn Shal**, who passed away on March 30. Please keep both families in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

EACH SUNDAY ...

Following Worship

Fellowship Hall

Join in for coffee, refreshments and conversation!

FAIR TRADE COFFEE & TEA

Did you know that the coffee and tea we enjoy at church are Fair Trade? This means the farmers who produce them receive a fair price through a non-profit cooperative, ensuring better livelihoods for their families and communities. Every cup you drink supports justice and fairness—thank you for being part of this mission!



Caring for Our Neighbors: Supporting Westmoreland Elementary

One of the simplest and most meaningful ways we can live out our faith and care for our community is by meeting everyday needs. This season, we have an opportunity to support the students and families of **Westmoreland Elementary School** by collecting a few essential items that can make a big difference in a child's day.

Many students come to school carrying more than just their backpacks—they may also be facing challenges at home that affect their ability to focus, learn, and fully participate. **50%** of the students are identified as underserved. By providing basic necessities, we can help ease some of those burdens and create a more supportive, nurturing environment for them.

We are inviting donations of the following items:
Snacks for the classroom – Individually packaged, nut-free snacks such as granola bars, crackers, or fruit cups help ensure that no child goes hungry during the school day.

Laundry soap – A simple but vital household item that helps families maintain clean clothing for school and daily life.

Socks – New socks of all sizes are always needed and greatly appreciated, especially during colder months.

These items may seem small, but together they provide comfort, dignity, and care to children and their families. When a student has clean clothes, a full stomach, and the support of a caring community, they are better able to learn, grow, and thrive.

We encourage you to participate in this collection effort as you are able. Donations can be brought to the church and placed in the designated collection area. Every contribution—big or small—helps us extend kindness beyond our walls and into the lives of our neighbors.

Let us continue to be a church that serves with open hands and compassionate hearts.



Celebrating the Success of Our Lenten Luncheons

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped make our Lenten Luncheons such a meaningful success. Together, we raised over \$800 to support our ministry and local organizations that are making a real difference—providing essential services for our community, supporting local municipalities, offering housing for women and children, delivering spiritual care, promoting mental health, and partnering with our local school.

These gatherings have truly been a collaborative effort. A special thank you goes to our amazing volunteers who prepared soups, made sandwiches, baked treats, set the tables, and took care of cleanup. Your dedication and generosity have brought our community together and made a tangible impact.

Thank you for being part of this journey of service and fellowship!

Please excuse all errors, omissions, slight mistakes, and oversights.

First *years*

First Presbyterian Church | 1 Elm Street, Whitesboro, NY 13492 | 315.732.5111

"Opening Doors, Minds, and Hearts: Serving Christ and Community."

The Rev. George Cooper

E-Mail fpcutica@gmail.com | www.fpcutica.net | Follow us at www.facebook.com/fpcutica

April Birthdays

- 2 Mike McHale
- 11 Beth Decker
- 11 Devon Hoffman
- 21 Chris Hoffman
- 24 Kayleigh Sturtevant
- 25 Marcia Bramhall
- 28 Kay Christensen
- 29 Gordon Evans



Joyful Noise Café

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH 2026

- Special Performances
- Games
- Coffee, Desserts

starting at 5:30
First Presbyterian Church
1 Elm Street • Whitesboro, NY

FREE EVENT donations gladly accepted
For more information contact Becky Willsey
at willsey41@earthlink.net



Kindly
Join us for our
Spring Tea

Saturday
MAY 16 2026

at one o'clock in the afternoon
food - drink - raffle baskets

\$20 per person
Reserve your seat at the table today!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1 Elm Street
Whitesboro, NY 13492
FOR TICKETS CALL
315-732-5111

**Coming
next month**