

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF GREENLAWN**



**Sunday Celebration of Worship
May 11, 2025
The Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season – Mother's Day
10:30 a.m.**

**Meeting ID: 813 0261 1379
Passcode: 039859**

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN

May 4, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season – Mother's Day

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Dan Charnews /Tyler Hago/ Glenn Jahier

CALL TO WORSHIP

And Jesus said, "Come!"

To all mothers and children, he said, "Come!"

To the motherless and childless, he said, "Come!"

To all who long to be mothered, he said, "Come!"

Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy-laden,

And I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,

For I am gentle and humble of heart,

And you will find rest for your souls.

*HYMN # 335

Though I May Speak

O WALY WALY

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain as sounding brass and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, spirit, come, our hearts control. Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship and are freed.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Creating God who loved us into being, we, Your children, praise You. When we fall, You lift us up; when we fail, You restore us; when we are wounded, You nurse us; when we grieve, You weep with us; when we celebrate, You laugh with us. But sometimes, we don't reach out to You; we are embarrassed, or we forget, or we feel silly. Help us to reach out to You at any and all times of our lives, we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Creator God, on this day set aside to honor and remember our mothers, we give You thanks for all women in our lives. We thank You for choosing them, and we are grateful for the sacrifices they made for us. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, cousin, grandmother, stepmother, neighbor, teacher, or someone else, we thank You for the women who held us and fed us, who cared for us, taught us, and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love that they showed us.

(All females in the congregation are invited to stand for a blessing.)

Lord God, we thank You for the gift of mothers and other women in our lives. We appreciate the many examples of faithful women in Scripture: Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Lois. We are mindful this day of all these women, and especially Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, who had the courage in faith to say "yes" to Your calling. May the women gathered here today emulate these examples of faith, and may they model for us what it means to be Your disciple. Bless them on this special day, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray by saying, "*Our Father ...*"

Congregational Response # 333: (Please remain seated)

LAFFERTY

*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Christ Jesus, You look with favor on any gift from the heart. You praised the generosity of the Samaritan. You marveled at the widow who shared out of her poverty. You blessed the apostles who had neither silver nor gold, but the desire to share Your healing power. Teach us gratitude for the gifts of others as well as our own, that, respecting the variety of gifts, we might ever grow in our ability to give as well as receive. We pray in the name of God, Giver of every Good Gift, Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Exodus 1:8-21
Luke 1:26-28

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Van Cleef

“Shiphrah and Puah: Two Unsung Heroes of the Bible”

*HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

*Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you. You are my own.
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.*

*Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my Son's dear story, here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.*

*Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here his tender comfort stilled you.*

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

SIYAHAMBA

We Are Walking in the Light of God (Sing song twice)

*We are walking in the light of God,
We are walking in the light of God. (2X)*

*We are walking, walking, we are walking (Oo)
We are walking in the light of God. (2X)*

Joys and Announcements

Welcome, John Eyre

We are pleased, once again, to welcome John Eyre to the organ bench while Leonora celebrated her mother-in-law's birthday upstate in Oneonta.

A graduate of SUNY Fredonia, John is a professional accompanist, singer, arranger, clarinetist, and conductor. He is President of Bulkhead Publishing Company, a music publishing house located in Riverhead. Welcome back, John, and thank you again for sharing your musical gifts with us.

Today's Service

We are especially grateful to God for the women who have influenced our lives, helped to form our faith, and made us the persons we are today. The photos on the Communion Table are a tribute to those women.

Each woman in our congregation will be given a small gift this morning. Even if you are not a mother, chances are you have influenced the life of a child in some way, and we thank God for you!

Coffee Hour

There is no coffee hour today.

Prayer Garden Committee to Meet Next Week

That fenced-in area behind the church is a bit of an eyesore, but fear not! We have big plans to turn it into an outdoor worship and meditation area.

Next Sunday, May 18, we will have a meeting after Coffee Hour to determine the steps we need to take to make this outdoor worship area a reality. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend. We are especially looking for people who have a "green thumb."

The Easter Flowers Have Been Planted4.

We have a couple in our congregation who love to do nice things but prefer to remain anonymous. Thank you to this couple for planting the Easter flowers (in the rain!) earlier this week.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

There is still time for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, which supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

When this program was started in 1949, the idea was for everyone to donate the equivalent of one hour's worth of wages; hence the title "One Great Hour of Sharing." Now people are simply asked to give whatever they choose.

Envelopes are available in the lobby. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

An Invitation to Comedy and Karaoke

You are invited to join us for a night of comedy and karaoke on Saturday, May 31, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event features "The Squeaky Clean" comedienne Pat Shea, and "Joyful Noise Karaoke" with DJ Larry. Pizza, salad, dessert, coffee, tea, and beverages will be served. Tickets are \$10, payable at the door. A love offering will be received for the talent.

\$10 for dinner and entertainment? This is a great bargain, indeed!

The Little Food Pantry

Kathie Gerlach, our Mission Chair, reports that our Little Food Pantry was totally emptied twice last week, saying "There was absolutely not one item left." The following foods, in particular, are needed:

- Canned Chef Boy R Dee Ravioli
- Canned chicken
- Canned corned beef hash
- Peanut Butter (Sippy of Jif)
- Grape and strawberry jelly / jam
- Rice

Thank you for your generosity.

You May Now Donate On Line

Simply put your cell phone into camera mode, hold it up to the funny little square thing (no need to take a photo), and the link to our church website will pop up. The "Donate" button is on the opening page.



New Members

Have you been worshipping with us frequently? Would you like to become a member of our church? We will be having a “New Members Sunday” within the next few weeks. Please see Pastor Ann.

Storage Area Behind Chancel

Our de-cluttering is a work in progress. Many thanks to Debbie Eitel, Larry Foray, and Jim Zima for rolling up their sleeves this week and getting rid of some junk (and a few dead mice) in the storage area behind the Chancel.

Coffee Hour Schedule

The Coffee Hour sign-up list is on the food table in the Narthex. Thank you to those who have already signed up to host a Coffee Hour. Please consider hosting this important ministry one Sunday. Thank you.

Recycling Plastic

Elwood Library has partnered with a local Girl Scout Troop to complete a Plastic Film Recycling Challenge sponsored by NexTrex. After a group has collected a certain amount of plastic over a specific period of time, they can earn a bench made out of recycled plastic film. We can help. Look for the plastic recycling box in our church hallway. There is a flyer on it that explains all the types of plastic bags that can be included.

STAFF

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Susan Perrotta

Webmaster

Irene Lang

Building Use Manager

Larry Foray

THE SESSION

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2025

Marian Adams
Bill Becker
Gary Prentiss

Class of 2026

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach

Class of 2027

Debbie Eitel