

**The First Presbyterian Church  
of Washingtonville  
The *Good News*-Letter**

May 2025

Mother's Day  
Sunday, May 11



## From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

We are in the midst of a busy time of year. The joys of Easter are barely over, and we're getting ready to participate in the community yard sale. We're happy to have participated well in One Great Hour of Sharing and the Habitat for Humanity Walk for Housing. We're looking forward to our month of packing for Food for Kids. But all is not uniformly rosy. There are deep divisions of opinion in our society that divide families and friends. Sometimes we get impatient with others over their attitudes or actions.

I want to share a story I read recently online.

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. "That laundry is not very clean; she doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap." Her husband looks on, remaining silent. Every time her neighbor hangs her wash to dry, the young woman makes the same comments. A month later, the woman is surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and says to her husband: "Look, she's finally learned to clean her laundry more effectively. I wonder who taught her how to do it?" The husband replies, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows." And so it is with life... What we see when watching others depends on the clarity of the window through which we look.

We stand every day on the edge of the greatness we could achieve if we used God's gifts to the best advantage. Opportunities present themselves all the time, from the way we interact with other people individually to the work we try to do together as a church. Let's use our opportunities for God's glory. See you in church!

In Christ's love,

### Prayer for May

Lord God, as we look at the beauty of Your creation made new in spring, give us grace to become new creations in Christ. We pray in His name. Amen.  
Amen.

### HABITAT WALK



The 2025 Habitat Walk for Housing was on April 27th. New this year was a start and finish for Walk at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh. Our team of FPC Washingtonville raised \$655.00 in donations.

## Worship Ministry

May has arrived once more with warmer weather, beautiful spring flowers blooming, green grass appearing and buds opening up on the trees again. God doesn't disappoint us with the beauty He gives us.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, (May 1 this year) bringing together people of all faiths to pray for our nation. The National Day of Prayer is designated by the United States Congress, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation." The president is required by law to sign a proclamation each year, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

The 2025 Theme for the National Day of Prayer is:

**POUR OUT TO THE GOD OF HOPE AND BE FILLED**

*"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13*

Mother's Day is May 11<sup>th</sup> -- a day to celebrate all mothers.

Sunday, May 25, is during Memorial Day Weekend. Martha and Edd will be away, and we wish them safe travels. We are very pleased to have Rev. Glenn Henricksen with us again in the pulpit.

Ascension of the Lord is Thursday, May 29.

We hope to see you all in worship.

Blessings,

The Worship Committee

# May 2025

## First Presbyterian Church

				1 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A.	2	3 Josef's Cleaning 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
4 9:30 Worship 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	5	6 7:00 Troop 416	7 8:00 PM A.A.	8 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A.	9	10 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
11 <b>Happy Mother's Day!</b> 9:30 Worship 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	12	13 7:00 Troop 416	14 8:00 PM A.A.	15 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A.	16	17 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
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Session Moderator  
Rev. Martha Carlson

Clerk of Session  
Deborah Chedister

The Session  
Nancy Bruscano 2025  
Mark Chedister 2025  
Bobbie Trager 2026\*  
Debra Van Regenmortel 2026

Board of Deacons  
Jorus Beasley 2025  
Mo Moss 2026  
Hanora Sullivan 2026  
Peggy Wright 2026\*

\*indicates second term

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## May Birthdays



1 Dolores Taylor

15 Mo Moss

### The Sacrament of Baptism

On April 6, what a joy it was to witness the Baptism in our Sanctuary of Baby Maurice James William Findlay, Jr. Maurice is the grandson of former FPCW member, Doreen Dunn, and the son of her daughter Ashley.



## “All Is Forgiven”

Read: Judges 16-18  
Luke 7:1-30

“This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”  
*Luke 15:24*

In one of his short stories, Ernest Hemingway tells a tale about a Spanish father who longs to reunite with his estranged son. He places an advertisement in a local newspaper: Paco, meet me at Hotel Montana at noon Tuesday. All is forgiven. When the father arrives, he finds a crowd waiting. Eight hundred Pacos had responded to his advertisement, longing to be forgiven by their fathers.

It’s a touching story that speaks to our own deep desire for forgiveness, and it reminds me of a story Jesus told. There, a young man leaves his father on a hunt for “wild living” but soon finds himself in trouble (Luke 15:13-14). When he “[comes] to his senses” and returns home (v. 17), his estranged father rushes to embrace him before he’s even had a chance to apologize (v. 20). “This son of mine was dead and is alive again,” the father cries in joy; “he was lost and is found” (v. 24). In this story, the father represents God, the son represents us, and heaven’s joy is glimpsed when we too return to our heavenly Father.

Forgiveness lifts a weight off a guilty soul. But like a gift, what’s offered to us must be received. Hemingway never tells us if the father in this story finds his own Paco. Will the Father in Jesus’ story have His sons and daughters return? His arms are outstretched, awaiting our response.

### Reflect & Pray

How would you feel if you were Paco’s father?  
What can hold you back from receiving divine forgiveness?

*Father, knowing what I’ve done, Your offer of forgiveness is overwhelming.  
I receive it, thank You!*

## Calendar of Prayer for our Congregations and Leadership

The endorsed calendar of prayer is a way for us to be united. It's an awesome responsibility and gift to pray for one another. To make our offering on behalf of one another. Each member congregation, staff member, elected servant leader, ministry team, and mission commitment of our Presbytery is represented:

First Church Jeffersonville, Older Adult Week; Legacy Giving Sunday, National Day of Awareness & Action for Missing Holocaust Remembrance Sunday (5/06), Freedom Plains United PC LaGrangeville, Board of Pensions Staff, Remembrance Day (5/15), Larchmont Avenue PC, Mission Worker Sunday, Presbyterian Heritage Sunday, First Church Marlboro, HRP Racial Justice Partnership, Ascension of the Lord (5/29).



Call Cynthia at 845-496-3814 or send an email to [firstpres@frontiernet.net](mailto:firstpres@frontiernet.net)  
to share your news with our church family.



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