

April 5, 2026, 11am
Olean First Presbyterian Church

Easter

Prelude ~ "Finale" from *Organ Symphony #5* ~ C. M. Widor

Good Morning Saints

Announcements

*Please sign the ritual of friendship found at the ends of the pews.
If you are new here, we would like to get to know you.*

Choral Introit

God is good

Every day

And every day

God is good

Call to Worship

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship our good-news Christ.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord, O risen Christ, before sending her as the first witness to your resurrection glory, you revealed to the grieving Mary the breadth, the length, the height, and the depth of your steadfast love with the simple message "Do not be afraid." Resurrect in us a bold love that overcomes fear and sends us to recount what you have done through words of comfort, catalyzing witness, and love of neighbor, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn ~ *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* ~ No. 232

Jesus Christ is risen today,

Alleluia!

our triumphant holy day,

Alleluia!

who did once upon the cross,

Alleluia!

suffer to redeem our loss.

Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing,
Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King,
Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave,
Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save.
Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured,
Alleluia!
our salvation have procured.
Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King,
Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing.
Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above,
Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love.
Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host,
Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia!

Call to Confession

Friends, on Easter Sunday, we remember that the world did its worst to God. The world battered and bruised, betrayed and abandoned, crucified, and buried our living God. And despite it all, Jesus still chose to return. Jesus rose again and immediately went to work spreading God's love to the very people who had hurt him. So hear me when I say, there is nothing you can do that could keep God's love at bay. With that good news in mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus Christ loves, claims, and seeks us.

Friends, let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we want to be Easter people. We want to shout your good news from the rooftop. We want to follow the disciples who ran to look for you. We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid," but we are afraid. And we don't know where to look. And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing. So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people. We have best intentions and best laid plans. We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias." We are on our way, but we are not there yet. Show us how to embody your good news in this world. Show us how to be your Easter people. With hope for tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Family of faith, even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias,” we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God’s love at bay. So join me in this good news declaration:

Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed. This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God. Amen

Our God Is an Awesome God ~ No. 616

Our God is an awesome God
who reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love;
our God is an awesome God!

Prayers of the People

Minute for Mission ~ One Great Hour of Sharing, Doug Cashing

Presentation of the Offering

On Communion Sunday, any loose offerings are passed to the Deacons for their missions.

*Doxology ~ No. 606

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 Thanksgiving

Anthem ~ *Let the Trumpet Sound* ~ Natalie Sleeth

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

**Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don’t understand.**

Scripture Readings ~

Jeremiah 31:1-6

31At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. 2Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, 3the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. 4Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. 5Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. 6For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: “Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.”

Matthew 28:1-10

28After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” 8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The Word of God
The Word of Life

Message

Music for Meditation

The Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
O God of mercy and might.
In your wisdom, you made all things
and sustain them by your power.
You have called forth men and women in every age
to be your servants and speak your word.
When we rebelled against your call
and turned from your ways,
in your love you called us back to you.
You delivered us from captivity,
and made covenant to be our sovereign God.
You sent prophets to call us to justice and compassion.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the choirs of heaven

and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thank you for your faithfulness from generation to generation and especially for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ. He walks with us along the way and fills our hearts with love. He breaks bread with us and opens our lives to experience grace. He covers us with healing and pours out love with abandon.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
We pray the prayer he taught:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn ~ *Hear the Good News of Salvation* ~ No. 441

Hear the good news of salvation:
Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy!
Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.

All the sins I have committed,
to my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish;
Christ forgives and so I sing:
Jesus Christ, how much I love you!
Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me.
Love me still and cleanse within.

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *Thine Be the Glory* ~ Bryan Glyncannon

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Please stay after and join us for Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall.

2026 Easter Memorials

*In loving memory of Our
Parents and Grandparents*

~ Dave & Kay Shults

In loving memory Peg & Don Bergreen

~ Betsy & Doug Price

*In loving memory of Our Mom,
Helen McCully*

*~ Don, John, Dean, Jean and Joan and
families*

In loving memory of Dylan Oakley

~ Andrea Oakley & Lexie Fisk

*In loving memory of all those I have
loved through this church*

~ Lanna Waterman

*In loving memory of Fran Wurtz, Gene
Wascher and Pat Smith*

~ Joan & Mark McGonnell

*In loving memory of Robert & Jane
Brown*

~ Doug & Betsy Cashing

In loving memory of Our Parents

~ Thomas & Karen Bowersox

*In loving memory of Chet & Grace
Cashing*

~ Doug & Betsy Cashing

*In loving memory of Our Parents and
Grandparents*

~ Roger & Carol Gold

*In honor of Carol Bess & Cindy Shaver
and in appreciation of their 1st
Presbyterian Church family*

~ cousins, Bob & Letty Mason of Ohio

*In loving memory all our loved ones
that have passed*

~ The Kwitek Family



Prayer List

Joe Hovey	Emily Kennedy	Matt Isenberg
Judy Sanchez	Martin Hatch	Craig Polson
Joe Gullo	Mark Newcomb	Chase Ewoldt
Sally Belloli	Diane Trippany	Avrie Sinesiou
Joseph Kwiatkowski	Alyssa Daly and Family	Renee Ensell
Ken Stebbins	Punkie & Craig Sinesiou	Kim Whitney
Judi Blair	John & Rachel Wheaton	Carol Bess
Thomas Burian	Sylvia Lynch	Bruce Levine
Cataleya Casas	Ron Register	Dennis Whittaker
Don Caldwell		

*Please let the office know who should be removed and who needs to be added.
Thank you for your help!*

Church Calendar for the week of 4/5/26

Sunday – Apr 5	11am Worship <i>Communion</i> Noon Children’s Easter Egg Hunt 2:30pm Worship at Eden Heights
Monday – Apr 6	4pm Session Meeting
Tuesday – Apr 7	6:30pm Scouts
Wednesday – Apr 8	5pm CE Meeting 6:30pm Scouts
Thursday – Apr 9	4pm Deacons Meeting 5:30pm BYO Dinner 6pm Scouts 6:30pm Vespers 7pm Bible Study 7pm Choir
Friday – Apr 10	10am Coffee & Conversation at Tim Hortons 7:30pm Fish Club
Saturday – Apr 11	9:30am New Life & Growth Retreat
Sunday – Apr 12	9:30am Bible Study 11am Worship Noon Potluck Lunch



Birthdays

8 Matt Isenberg, 10 Christine Berardi



Anniversaries

5 Rick & Brenda Snyder

There will be a Children's Easter Egg Hunt today after Worship.



Join the group in Fellowship Hall to be part of it!



New Life & Growth Retreat

Saturday, April 11th

9:30am - Noon

Bring your ideas and energy!
(And a snack to share if you'd like)

Next Sunday, April 12th,
is our 2nd Sunday
Potluck Lunch. If you
are able to, please bring
a dish to pass. If not,
plan to attend anyway!

