



Message from Rev. Hale

*...on entering the house,
they saw the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down before him and paid him homage.
Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him
gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. [Matthew 2:11]*

We're about to celebrate Epiphany, the 12th Day of Christmas, (that "twelve drummers drumming" day) which marks the end of the Christmas season. Each of those days engages in two celebrations— one during the day, and another at night. Imagine what we've missed—24 celebratory party-times that follow Christmas Day itself! That final night, *Twelfth Night*, is a time to go caroling and attend church services and have one's house blessed. It's the last festive gathering where you lift the wassail—toast the promise of the coming year with a mulled cider / orange / sugar / cinnamon / clove + whatever else— a warm, spicy brew. And come the next day, you pack away the Christmas decorations 'til next year... *or ...* you leave them up until Candlemas, which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas Day!

Recognizing that Epiphany comes at the end of an extended Christmas Day celebration brings on the feeling that now, at last, Christmas *is finally over!* Yes, the holiday is complete now with this final story, but the outcome of that story lives on. All that was revealed to the Wisemen and what they told when they got back home, continues to be *revealed* to countless others through the way we live our lives—the way we manifest the selfless love of Christ.

We each are living "epiphanies"—the potential of God's in-breaking care impacting someone's life. Let's not pack that away for a season—not even for a day! After Twelve Days of Christmas, let's *BE* 353 days of epiphany!

*Once again, thanking God for our life together—
dear epiphanies one and all..... Marilyn*

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Lectionary for January/February 2025

January 5
2nd Sunday of Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1: 1-9, 10-18

January 12
Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Joh 2:1-11

January 26
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

February 2
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4: 21-30

February 9
Isaiah 6:1-8, 9-13
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 16
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

February 23
Genesis 45:3-11,15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

**Christian Education News - Kari Kloss**

The season of Advent brings about a very special time of year for the Christian Education of our congregation. Diana led us through a walk of courage over fear as each Sunday she prepared nourishment for our souls as the rest of us took turns bringing in food to nourish our bodies. We talked, listened, laughed, and created. Many crafts were made that went to our homes as decorations for the holiday reminding us each time we look at them of the joy of the season and the love that is spread among us...a love that comes from God and the story of His son Jesus Christ. Diana spoke on the last day of how God has all our gifts in place as we come into this world...a plan for us that includes the people that will enter our lives and the journey we will make. A journey that will require courage at times. We may not think we have what it takes, but with God, the people He surrounds us with, and the lessons we have learned through the experiences He has planned, we are able to find the strength that we need. Diana reminded us that courage...well it's just another form of faith. For with faith, we find our courage.

The Christian Education committee would like to take a moment to thank Diana and all those that helped and contributed during our Advent season. The rest of us appreciate it beyond words! And like Marilyn said...Advent would not be the same without this time together...so thank you!

Christian Ed. Cont.

Scenes from another successful Breakfast and Advent Program. . .



Property Committee - Norm King

Wintertime does not slow down! It is a new year with a new Sanctuary Cleaning Schedule going up in February posted in the Quilt Room. Your name will remain on the list unless you tell me you want it removed. Also, if you would like to be added to the list, please let me know as soon as possible. Many times, two people work together. The sweeper and supplies are kept in the room at the end of the hall on the second floor past the bathrooms. Cleaning includes running the sweeper in the Quilt Room, Narthex, and the Sanctuary. Light dusting and a general picking up of anything are as needed. Dates are usually four times or so during the year. Cleaning can be done at your convenience during the week to be ready before the date assigned to your name. Some like to do it for a month at a time. In fact, January, February, and March are already taken. You may trade dates if something comes up. Keeping the church looking nice is everyone's concern. Your help is greatly appreciated. See me or contact me if you would like to be added or have any questions.

Our committee recently met with a representative from a different Lift Company. Updates will be given when decisions have been made regarding replacement and installation of the elevator in the church.

The additional flooring tiles arrived and were installed in the adult Sunday School room downstairs. It is all finished and looks great. New double swinging doors were purchased by Close's Lumber Co. in Olean, which were installed by Steve Langworthy and his brother. They look beautiful and are a nice addition to the area.

The bushes were given a fall trimming in the front of the church. They were then decorated for the holidays with festive lights. Snowplowing has been done a few times in the parking lot this winter.

Thank you to those who have done these chores and shoveled the sidewalks, too. Thank you to all the volunteers who keep our church looking beautiful inside and out. Many thanks to those on the Property Committee.

Mission News - Julie McLarney Pagett

Hurricane Helene Congregational Response – Through your generous donations, \$1,100 was raised by the congregation for disaster relief efforts in response to Hurricane Helene. Barb Fairbanks sent the funds on to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief organization. Thank You!

Harvest Sunday – Once again, thanks to your generous donations, we were able to provide

Mission News - cont.

two local families in Portville the necessary supplies for a bountiful Thanksgiving feast. The items you donated, along with a gift card, were delivered to each family the week before Thanksgiving. More monetary donations were received than asked for and the additional funds (\$102.77) were donated to the Portville Community Food Pantry after Session approval. Thank you again for your incredible generosity!

Christmas-Themed Rummage Sale – This year’s Christmas-themed Rummage Sale was held on November 2nd. The sale brought in a total of \$684.50 which will be donated to our Rummage Sale Mission Fund and used to support local mission projects.

Presents for Panthers – First, a big thank you to Kathy Hendrix for running this year’s Presents for Panthers mission project! Kathy dropped off your generous donations (including \$60 in cash, so many wonderful gifts, wrapping paper, bows, and tags) to Portville Central School on December 17th. Thank you so much for helping to make Christmas special for others in need. Your unending generosity is a beautiful gift!

Donations – The following donations were approved by Session...

Jack Shepard Memorial Mission Fund – \$500 for Wings, Flights of Hope

Hunger Fund – \$200 for the Salvation Army and \$300 for the Cattaraugus County Department of Aging.



Thank you all, for the Christmas gift gathered and so generously given.

Thanks be to God, for this life we share together!

... Marilyn



Session Notes - Judy McClain

At a Meeting of the Congregation on November 10, 2024 after worship, the congregation approved the Nominating Committee slate of candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC): Bizzy Chaffee, Diana Dunbar, Barb Fairbanks, Mike Kessler and Judy McClain. Thank you to the Nominating Committee for their work to invite these members to serve on the PNC. Also, thank you to the five members who comprise the PNC for accepting to do this work.

Session approved that communion be served during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

The 176th Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held January 26, 2025 after worship.

Portville Community Food Pantry News - Randy McClain

Many, many thanks, actually 4,000+ thanks!, go to the Portville Central School National Honor Society and the entire student body, faculty, staff and administration for an OUTSTANDING annual food drive this year! Over 4,000 food items were collected during the month of November and then delivered to the food pantry! This really filled the near empty shelves of the food pantry. This is the most that has ever been donated from the school food drive! It was interesting to learn that the elementary grades incorporated math skills with this project—counting, charts, graphs, averages, etc. Such a great experience of hands-on learning and community service!

The Portville Community Food Pantry was very fortunate to also be awarded a Renodin Foundation Grant for \$2,000! This was the first time that an application was submitted for this grant. Thank you to the Renodin Foundation!

Appreciation is also extended to High Point Federal Credit Union for presenting \$1,000 to the food pantry. Thank you High Point Federal Credit Union!

Thank you to everyone who donated through the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation “Cattaraugus Gives” fundraising campaign—the food pantry received \$2,650! This is an one day on-line event in December for non-profit organizations to participate in for donations that sometimes have matching funds and special awards.

All these funds will be put to good use to provide the best assortment of food items to meet our clients nutritional needs. These awards will go a ways to help maintain our inventory of available foods but will not last all year. The average monthly expenditure for 2024 was \$1,355 to purchase meats and other needed foods that have not been donated to maintain adequate inventory.

“Thank you!” to everyone who donates food items through the year! This is a very important part of operating the food pantry.

The 2024 year end statistics show that the equivalent of 9,396 total meals for the year were provided to an average of 36 households each month. These households are comprised of senior citizens, veterans, working adults, unemployed adults, disabled adults and young children all with the common need for just a little extra food to get through the months. This need may be increased with the news of heating costs by the recent approved National Fuel Gas hike set to raise the average customer’s bill by about \$17 a month over the course of the next two years and will take effect on Jan. 1, 2025



Pre Portville Central School Food Drive.

Post Portville Central School Food Drive.

Thank you to the Portville Community for your continued support!



January

- Jan 2 Richard Jones
- Jan 3 Dan Schmidt
- Jan 7 Sandi Coletti
- Jan 7 Riley Burlingame
- Jan 10 Owen Spehar
- Jan 17 Jack Pagett
- Jan 20 Alex Woodhead
- Jan 22 SJ Gardner
- Jan 22 Emmy Woodhead
- Jan 27 Jean Kessler
- Jan 30 Mazey Wallace



February

- Feb 2 Max Wallace
- Feb 5 Pamela Alejandra Lopez Conde
- Feb 5 Wanda Hollamby
- Feb 6 Amy Spehar
- Feb 10 Briar Spehar
- Feb 13 Barb Fairbanks
- Feb 13 Terry Keeley
- Feb 22 Amelia Burlingame





JANUARY

- 01/01 *New Year's Day,*
Church Office Closed
- 01/05 Worship Service/Communion,
10:00 a.m.
Norm King – Elder for the Month
- 01/06 ***Epiphany of the Lord***
- 01/07 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:30 a.m.
- 01/08 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
Mission Committee Meeting,
4:45 p.m.
- *Session Reports Due to Judy McClain**
- 01/12 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- *2024 Annual Committee Reports Due**
- 01/14 PPNC mtg, 3:30 p.m.
- 01/15 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
Session, 4:30 p.m.
- 01/19 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 01/20 *MLK, Jr. Day/*
Church Office Closed
Food Pantry Prep
- 01/21 Food Pantry Prep
- 01/22 Food Pantry, Open
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
No Bible Study
- 01/26 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.



February

- 02/02 Worship Service/Communion,
10:00 a.m.
- Julie McLarney–Pagett – Elder for the
Month
- 02/04 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:30 a.m.
- 02/05 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
- 02/09 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Souper Bowl of Caring
- 02/12 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
- *Session Reports Due to Judy McClain**
- 02/14 **Happy Valentine's Day**
- 02/16 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 02/17 *Presidents' Day*
Church Office Closed
- 02/19 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
Session, 4:30 p.m.
- 02/23 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- *March/April newsletter info due**
- 02/24 Food Pantry Prep
- 02/25 Food Pantry Prep
- 02/26 Food Pantry Open
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.





**Epiphany Coloring sheet
for children
and young at heart.**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -
PORTVILLE, NY**

19 North Main Street
P.O. Box 765
Portville, NY 14770
Voicemail: 716.933.6426
Email: portville.presbyterian followed by
@gmail.com

Sunday School: 9:00 am - ages 3 to adult
Please check web site for dates when Sunday School
meets.
Worship Service: 10:00 am

Follow us on Facebook!
Our Website:
www.portville.presbyterian.org