



Message from Rev. Hale

*“The steadfast love of the Lord never ends...
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” [Lam. 3:22–23]*

After the wonderful celebration party we had 3 weeks ago now, I put off looking through the beautiful box that held all the cards and gifts. It just didn't seem right to do, since you all thought my retirement was going to happen in a couple of weeks from then— on June 30! Yet it also wasn't *right* not to thank you all for coming that day and expressing my thanks for gifts you brought and contributed to! Forgive me, folks. My reasoning is all-too-frequently convoluted, and maybe after 27+ years of this precious life together we've experienced, you will understand a bit . . . *and forgive me!* As I read the messages the cards expressed and the notes you wrote, you each were right there with me, and know you always will be, and, you will hear from me!!

Our party will always be one of the most memorable events I've experienced in my l o n g life! Thank you, Judy and Barb, for all your thoughtful care and planning, and thank you all who pitched in with desserts and helping with “the-all” it took to make it the wonderful day everyone had! And thanks to each one of you who took the time to come and spend a few hours together. It wasn't just a party. It was a time of deeply-bonded fellowship as we so enjoyed the company of one another!

I thank you each and everyone and forever thank God who brought us together in the first place; our ever-loving-merciful God who has steadfastly walked with us every step of the way we have taken together since Nov. 1st, 1997, and Who will be there with us all beyond Sept. 30th.

Thanks be to God, dear friends, for our life together and all the *Life* we'll yet know, with our hearts forever filled and bonded by the Spirit's love. *Marilyn*

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Lectionary for July/August 2025**July 6**

Psalm 30
Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16
Luke 19:1-11, 16-20

July 13

Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 20

Psalm 20
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 38-42

July 27

Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

August 3

Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 10

Psalm 50:1-6, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 17

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 24

Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 31

Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14: 1, 7-14

Session News - Judy McClain

Rev. Marilyn Hale's retirement has been amended to September 30—we are blessed to have this additional time together.

Baptisms – May 25—Maci Elizabeth Anderson, daughter of Brooke and Scott Anderson
June 8—Archer Wallace Chaffee and Anastasia June Chaffee, son and daughter of Bizzy and Brad Chaffee
June 22—Jamison Anthony Spehar, son of Jessica and Jordan Spehar

Confirmation – June 1—Lucille (Lucy) Elizabeth Spehar, daughter of Heidi and Jesse Spehar



New Members – June 8—Judy and Terry Everetts, Kim Kessler, Amy and Troy Spehar



Class of 2028 Elders – June 22—Elder Ordination of Terry Everetts and Installation of Terry Everetts, Barb Fairbanks and Connie King. Thank you to **Norm King** and **Vicki Schmidt** Class of 2025 Elders for the past six(6) years you have served this congregation on Session.

Session News cont.

Re-Organization of Committees

Our Committees will be re-organizing for 2025-2026! Please be thinking "I want to help!" "I can do something!" Everyone can do something! Everyone is needed and wanted! Please consider becoming an active part of what makes this church great!

Our committees are as follows: Christian Education, Congregational Care, Mission, Finance and Stewardship, Property, and Worship.

Committee chairs will be announced soon. Be looking for the Committee Signup Sheet in the Narthex or contact Judy McClain, Clerk of Session, regarding which committee you wish to serve on. Thank you!

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

GREAT NEWS! The Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) has been approved and submitted and is now LIVE online with the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) for ministry candidates to view and apply. Several preliminary information matches according to the PC(USA) matching algorithm have already been posted for the PNC's review and initial rating for consideration. PNC will be meeting regularly to rate these, and those who are rated high enough will be invited to submit more detailed information about themselves. The PNC will carefully consider all this information for the best possible candidates. This process may take some time. The PNC will also be compiling a list of interview questions for the candidates.

MORE GREAT NEWS! Along with the MDP the new church website **Home – First Presbyterian Church | Portville** (<https://portville-presbyterian.org>) is now LIVE online too! The website is available for ministry candidates to view "to get to know us" and for the congregation's information and for the general public to see us and all our activities and maybe join/support our church and congregation. Please look over the website and let us know what you think. The new calendar, bulletins, newsletters, and photos will soon be updated regularly as soon as a couple people are trained for posting on the website. Please remember-if you have any questions or comments about the Call for a Pastor process, contact a member of the PNC committee anytime-Bizzy Chaffee, Diana Dunbar, Barb Fairbanks, Mike Kessler and Judy McClain. We ask you keep Marilyn, the PNC, the congregation and the persons who God is preparing for ministry in your prayers.

Worship News - Diana Dunbar

Looking back...

The Worship committee seeks to honor everyone here at the church throughout the year. In May we wanted to take a moment to thank the women of faith that do so much for our church. We gave them a pen and penholder that could attach to any book or notebook. In June we handed out sweet treats to the men of the church to pay tribute to their work and dedication in service.

On June 8th we celebrated Pentecost by spreading God's love and peace by greeting each other in another language and reminding each other that God loves them. Forty-four countries and 23 languages were used to get this important message across. We had a small taste of what the believers experienced when the disciples receive the Holy Spirit, and all present spoke and understood God's message in different languages. Our experience was unifying and uplifting in the same way that I am sure the followers felt with the gift of the spirit after the grief and uncertainty they felt from Jesus's death.



Looking ahead...

Summer is a time to regenerate. The sun and warm weather allow us to do so many things that our colder temperatures take from us. We often travel or vacation, get together with family and friends, or just sit on the back porch or patio soaking up the gift of God's creation.

This time of year, also is used to update and regenerate the committees that do the work of this church. The Worship Committee will begin the new year this September and we are looking for members to join us in planning and providing the congregation worship opportunities to grow our faith. If you would like to join us, contact Di Dunbar. We would love to involve new ideas and the talents of others to enhance these experiences for all who come to our church.

Also, remember to sign up for worship duties and seek new ways to be a part of the church. Sign up to be a liturgist, volunteer to learn how to program and play the music recorded on our organ, get trained on recording and uploading our worship services, welcome those that join us on Sundays by being a greeter, sign up to run the vacuum in the sanctuary, and watch for signup sheets for donating food for coffee hours or pot-lucks. Remember many hands make light work...

Christian ED News - Kari Kloss

I cannot believe that we have come to the end of our 2024–2025 Christian Education year. The last two months have been filled with so much activity.

Open House and teacher recognition took place on May 18th. First, our church family congregated in the basement after looking through student work and the crafts displayed throughout the Sunday School classrooms. The chatter and laughter all around filled the hearts of all who attended. Parents smiled over their children's creations from the past year. Second, we celebrated our teachers during worship for all the time and care they gave to prepare and instruct our children. They each received a hanging plant. Then, each teacher called up their students to receive their certificate and Scoops gift card.



This year was a bit more meaningful during this particular worship hour as our Sunday School Students young and old, past and present all celebrated Marilyn. After I read an introduction about the light Marilyn has placed in all our hearts that will continue to shine for many years, our current students began singing the first verse of "This Little Light of Mine." During the second verse, former students stood and/or joined in, and by the third verse the whole congregation was singing to Marilyn. Then, Bizzy and our students presented Marilyn with a book of thank you's from the children. It was a day full of love.

On Father's Day, June 15th, we recognized our graduating seniors Anna Keeley, who was able to attend, and Emma Keeley. After I read a section from "Oh the Places You Will Go", Bizzy introduced and shared with the congregation Anna's plans. It was a very

Christian ED News - cont.

special way to celebrate Father's Day with the love and support both girls had received from both dad and mom during their years at Portville.

Finally, as we close this year out, Christian Ed is preparing for a 3-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the first time in many years. The days are scheduled for July 15th-17th running from 6:00-7:30 p.m. for youth ages 4-12. This will be opened to the community. We have a camping theme with the bible study focusing on 3 of Jesus's miracles. We had an in-person sign up on June 25th. We are so excited to set out on this journey together!



Property Committee - Norm King

A Spring Cleaning Day was held on May 3, and it rained. So those who attended worked inside the church cleaning, dusting, sweeping, and making everything look nice and bright. On the rain date of May 17, another clean-up day was held to work on the outside of the church. The gardens were weeded, bushes trimmed, leaves raked, and mulch put down. The sidewalks were edged and all of the front and side areas were worked on. Many thanks to all those who were there and helped with all these tasks from 9 to noon. A To-Do List was made up for those who could not be there those days. There are still a few items to be checked off. If you have some spare time and can check off an item or two, please consult the List or see Judy.

Also, in May, Anderson-Shortell was called to give a maintenance check of the boiler system. They were trying to figure out heat for the Sunday School rooms and get it adjusted. They walked through the system and then focused on the main boiler room. Northstar Lift Co. is still in the works for replacing the lift in the church. Duggan & Duggan has to do some preliminary work to get the job going. We hope to see some progress on a new elevator system in the early fall. Updates will follow.

As a reminder, please check the Sanctuary Cleaning Schedule located in the Quilt Room from time to time to see if you are listed for that Sunday to clean. Thank you to all those who help out with numerous tasks around the church, both inside and outside, to keep the church and the grounds looking great. Many thanks to the Property Committee and church congregation for helping to keep the areas looking nice. Your help is appreciated! Have a great summer!

Portville Community Food Pantry - Randy McClain

It has been an especially interesting couple of months here at the Food Pantry. A few new households have been added to our roster as these families found themselves in need of "a little extra" each month. This totaled 9 new people. And then a few of our households found that they no longer had a need for our food pantry support. Two families have relocated out-of-state and one family is now in a better position and no longer in need of support from our food pantry. This totaled 7 people. And so goes the flow of our continuing mission to serve those with food insecurities and wish those well who have had their circumstances improve. Our door is always open. For the month of June we helped 37 households with a total of 95 people. The food items that are currently needed by the Food Pantry are Pork and Beans and canned tuna fish.



Mission News - Julie McLarney-Pagett

Your generous giving to our Pentecost Offering totaled \$1250. From that total \$750 was sent to the Presbytery and \$500 was donated to GLYSWNY which provides support for LBGQ+ youth.

Please consider joining our Mission Committee. Our next Mission meeting will be announced.

Rummage Sale News - Barb Fairbanks

Our annual Rummage Sale has been scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. On July 27th, help will be need after worship services to pull out and set up tables and with pulling out all the boxes of donated treasures from the storage rooms. All donated treasure will be pulled out and displayed on the tables on Monday, July 28. The last day to make any donation to this years' church rummage sale will be Wednesday, July 30th.

May /June Baptisms



Our Celebration with Rev. Hale



Our Celebration with Rev. Hale



July

Birthdays to Remember

- July 11 Kathy
- July 12 Mia
- July 14 Saylor
- July 14 Vicki
- July 16 Eva
- July 17 Craig
- July 19 Isabelle
- July 23 Karl
- July 27 Scott
- July 27 Blake
- July 28 Rhonda
- July 30 Sandy

August

Birthdays to Remember

- August 2 Archer
- August 5 Hannah
- August 10 Colt
- August 17 Ed
- August 18 Addison
- August 19 Carter



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers
 for God's comfort and peace to
 The family of
 Sharon Hill - McLarney
 August 2, 1941 - June 21, 2025



Calendar Dates to Remember

July

Elder of the Month: Barb Fairbanks

- 07/06 Worship with Communion,
10:00 a.m.
- 07/08 PNC, 3:00 p.m.
- 07/12 Bob Fairbank's Class Reunion
Meets at Noon
- 07/13 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Dr. Dorothy Pearman
VBS set up, 1:00 p.m.
- 07/15 Vacation Bible School,
6:00–7:30 p.m.
- 07/16 Vacation Bible School,
6:00–7:30 p.m.
- 07/17 Vacation Bible School,
6:00–7:30 p.m.
- 07/20 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 07/21 Food Pantry prep, 9:00 a.m.
- 07/22 Food Pantry prep, 9:00 a.m.
Presbytery Meeting, 4:00 p.m.,
Wright Memorial Church
- 07/23 Food Pantry 8:30 a.m. – noon
- 07/27 Worship Service , 10:00 a.m.
- 07/29 PNC, 3:00 p.m.

August

Elder of the Month for: To be determined

- 08/02 Rummage Sale,
8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- 08/03 Worship Service with Communion,
10:00 a.m.
- 08/05 PNC, 3:00 p.m.
- 08/10 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 08/12 PNC, 3:00 p.m.
- 08/13 Randolph Session, (MKH) Noon
Portville Session, 4 p.m.
- 08/17 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 08/19 PNC, 3:00 p.m.
- 08/24 Worship Service , 10:00 a.m.
- 08/25 Food Pantry set-up, 9:00 a.m.
- 08/26 Food Pantry set-up, 9:00 a.m.
PNC, 3:00 p.m.
- 08/27 Food Pantry 8:30 a.m. – noon
- 08/31 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

Newsletter articles due



Amy, Troy, Judy, Terry, Kim, and Jacques



**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

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Our Website:
www.portville.presbyterian.org