



Message from Rev. Hale

*“Shout out, do not hold back! Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free...
to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house...” [Isaiah 58:6...]*

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.” [Psalm 51:1-2, 6]

Certain of our Biblical texts serve as trusty gatekeepers standing guard at the entrance to the sacred Seasons of the Church, texts that set a liturgical rhythm specific to each one—each of the four Seasons that guide all the *keeping* and the *doing* that engage our faith lives.

With this Newsletter, we are summoned to the entrance of the Season of Lent with a *“Shout Out”* that straightens our spines and lifts our heads in alerted attention It’s followed by a *“plea for mercy”* with our heads bowed and hearts aching and searching, knowing full well our God is ever-forgiving, and vigilantly searching too—searching for us to go *loose the bonds* and *share our bread*, with a Divine Heart aching to relieve the oppressed and the poor!

Again on Wednesday night we’ll gather for a service and read the texts that draw us into Lent. And I’ll not just hear the words, but I will hear the voices that have read these words over the years, as the significance of what God is calling us to do settles within, another layer deep. And even though the *“Shout Out”* seems so much more urgent in this dark, grim time in our world and our pleas for mercy are more critical, there’s a steady assurance that comes through as we’re being summoned to keep *another Lent close to God’s heart* and do God’s bidding.

Thanks be to God, dear friends, for God’s unbroken covenant of love for this world.

Thanks be, for this life together, that continues to open our hearts to others and steadies our resolve to step up and “do!” Marilyn

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Lectionary for March/April 2025**March 2****Transfiguration of the Lord**

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]

March 9**First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16 ****Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36

March 23**Third Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 30**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 6**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

April 13**Palm Sunday / Sixth Sunday in Lent**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Luke 19:28-40

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Philippians 2:5-11

April 20**Resurrection of the Lord**

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

John 20:1-18

April 27**Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) - Judy McClain

The PNC has been busy since the beginning of January meeting almost every week to guide our church through the process of selecting a new minister as defined by the Church Leadership Connection (CLC), an online matching and referral system that serves as a tool for the Call Process of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Organizations authorized to start their calling process can post positions, receive matches and referrals from call seekers by completing the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDF) of us seeking a minister that will be matched with the Personal Discernment Profile (PDP) of someone who is seeking a call to ministry for our review and selection. There have been three surveys presented to the congregation for their input as to a new mission statement, defining who we are

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) - cont.

as a congregation and who we are longing for as a minister. The responses from the congregation are appreciated and are helpful in providing a good cross section of everyone in our church. The MDP includes statistical information about our church and narratives. Please, let's keep each other in prayer—Marilyn, our congregation, PNC and that someone out there who God is preparing for us.

Worship News - Diana Dunbar

*The
Season
of
Lent*



At our recent Worship Committee meeting, we met to firm up plans for our two Lenten services: Ash Wednesday on Mar. 5th with the imposition of ashes and Palm Sunday Service on April 13th when palms will be distributed to members of the congregation. Plans were also firmed up of our annual Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner on April 17th; having the church open on the afternoon of Good Friday, April 14th, for personal prayer and devotions; Easter Sunrise Service in Chestnut Hill Cemetery (time to be determined) followed by our Easter Sunday service at 10 am.

During the Lenten Season, members of the Worship Committee will be offering a series of Minutes for Worship starting on March 9th. Plans are also in place to offer several congregational activities prior to church service during the six weeks of Lent.

Christian Education News - Bizzy Woodhead

Despite the freezing-cold temperatures we've been having, our children came together in January and February for our Winter session of Sunday School! One week, all of our Sunday School classes made Get Well cards for a couple members of our congregation, as well as made cards for Brooke and Scott and their new baby girl, Maci! At the end of February, the Preschool/Kindergarten class recreated the scene from the story of Moses parting the Red Sea by laying out blue and tan colored tablecloths on the ground, filling the "waters" with sea creatures and taking turns, as Moses, leading the class through the parted sea on the sandy path! They loved this! There will be no Sunday School classes in March or April, but we will meet again May 11th and 18th. May 18th will be Open House for all the children's Sunday School classes. All will be welcome to visit the children's classrooms before Worship to see what we've been working this school year! Students will also be recognized for participating in Sunday School during Worship on this date.

Lenten Soup and Study will take place following Worship on March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th and April 6th. Bible Study will not meet during Lent but will reconvene on April 30th.

Christian Education News - cont.



Session Notes - Judy McClain

Our Session has approved the following:

- ◆ Meeting of the Congregation March 9, 2025 after worship to approve revised Bylaws
- ◆ Contract with Northstar Lifts LLC, Tully NY, to install a new lift. This will be paid from Building Improvement and Preservation Fund.
- ◆ Quote from Brian Kelly, Trisonder Marketing LLC, Olean NY for a new website and photography for the new website for the church. This will be paid from the Memorial Fund.

Mission News - Julie McLarney-Pagett

January's Mission Highlight of the Month was our **BABY LAYETTE** program. Our program's coordinator, Kathy Hendrix, reported a big increase in donations... thanks to YOU. She already dropped off 9 baby bags to the Olean General Hospital for some new local families.

We had **TWO Mission Highlights of the Month for February**. First was our **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** collection which brought in **146 canned goods** and **\$221 in donations** for the Portville Community Food Pantry... again, thanks to YOU. Also, thanks to our program coordinator, Kari Kloss, who always gets us excited about this amazing program. Yes, we CAN make a difference... and we did!

Our second highlighted program for February was our **FUN FLEECE FESTIVAL**. Unfortunately, due to the wintry winter we are experiencing this year, the in-person festival was cancelled. Fortunately, that didn't stop many of you pitching in to make those fleece blankets at home. In total, 73 blankets were made and will be donated to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. Way to go, you snippers and knotters!! Thanks also to Cso, our program coordinator, for leading the way to help support children in need.



Mission News cont.

Our Upcoming **Mission Highlights** for **March** will be our support of **PCS PERSONAL CARE ITEMS** and for **April** will be the **PORTVILLE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY**. Be sure to check out our MISSION BULLETIN BOARD downstairs outside the Adult Sunday School room for important information about each program and what you can do to help.

Donations – The following donations from the Jack Shepard Memorial Mission Fund were approved by Session ...

\$400 for the Kevin Guest House

\$400 for the Ronald McDonald House

\$600 for Interfaith Caregivers

Property Committee - Norm King



The new Sanctuary Cleaning Schedule is posted in the Quilt Room on the board. All the dates are filled in for the year 2025. Thank you to all who have volunteered to clean the upstairs church areas.

New doorstops have been installed on the wooden swinging doors of the Adult Sunday School room. Thank you to Steve L. and Barb F. for doing this. A new whiteboard has been installed for use in the Adult Sunday School room, too.

The "Adopt-A-Room" list of the other areas of the church to be cleaned is in the Narthex for people to sign up. There are a few empty blanks still available. These are areas of the church that are mostly on an "as needed" basis. Many thanks for your time!



The Rummage Sale Storage room has been updated. Ray's Carpet-ette donated a roll of linoleum. Thank you to Steve and Barb for installing it recently.

The Northstar Lifts Co. representative came to talk to the Property Committee about the removal of the old and installation of a new lift with documentation and drawings. With our questions answered, it was decided to select Northstar for this job. We will continue to keep the congregation updated as to when the work will begin.

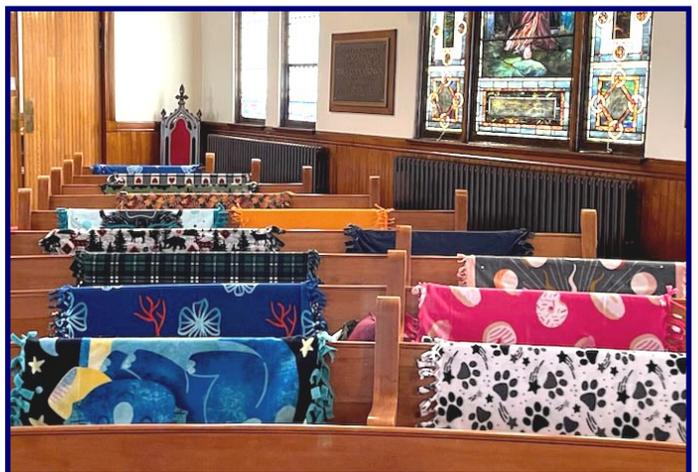
Thank you to all those who are on the Property Committee and giving of your time and talents. Also, thank you to the many people who do various tasks around our church to keep everything looking great inside and outside.

Food Pantry News - Randy McClain

The Portville Community Food Pantry has 46 households on the Client List to begin 2025. The Food Pantry has provided a total of 70 individuals in 28 households the equivalent of 630 meals in January and 85 individuals in 35 households 765 meals in February.

There are a few changes with Food Pantry operations recently. Walmart is now providing bread products to the Food Pantry. The Bimbo Distribution Center that was providing the bread items after Stroehmann's Bakery (Bimbo) closed had a directive from their headquarters that all charitable donations were to be discontinued. The management at Walmart has been very receptive and cooperative to our need. Their support is very much appreciated. Another change has been the closing of the Portville Park and Service Store. The Food Pantry purchased gift cards at the Park and Shop to give to our clients to be able to obtain dairy and other perishable items. This was a big convenience for those with no or limited transportation. These gift cards will now be purchased at the Portville Dollar General to distribute for convenient shopping for clients. Aldi gift cards are also available for clients who can shop there. So as circumstances change our Food Pantry seeks new options to maintain adequate support for those in need.

The Rusty Rooster Farm and Vintage LLC at 484 Highland Terrace had a special promotion during the month of February "Share the Love." A percentage of all their sales for the month will be donated to Portville Community Food Pantry and Sophia Laborde (cancer patient.) This is a wonderful gesture to support local as local supports. The Food Pantry is grateful for the donation from Rusty Rooster and all their customers!





March 5	Katie
March 6	Walker
March 8	Bill
March 9	Johneta
March 11	Lauri
March 15	Dave
March 24	Bradley
March 30	Christine



April 4	Garry
April 7	Josh
April 9	Wallace
April 10	Judy
April 11	Nicole
April 14	Marilyn
April 16	John
April 25	Buffy
April 30	Willine



WORSHIP SCHEDULE for Holy WEEK

03/05 *Ash Wednesday*

Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.

03/09 Soup and Study after Worship

03/16 Soup and Study after Worship

03/23 Soup and Study after Worship

03/30 Soup and Study after Worship

04/06 Soup and Study after Worship

04/13 **Palm Sunday**

04/17 **Maundy Thursday** Potluck
Supper and Communion

04/18 **Good Friday** – Sanctuary open
from 12 to 3 pm

04/20 **Easter Sunday** – Sunrise Ser-
vice in Chestnut Hill Cemetery—TBA
Breakfast at Sprague's following
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.



03/02 Worship Service/Communion,
10:00 a.m.

Norm King – Elder for the Month

03/04 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:30 a.m.

Pastoral Nominating Committee
(PNC), 3:00 p.m.

03/05 ***Ash Wednesday***

Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.

03/09 ****Daylight Saving Time Begins***

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

Lenten Soup & Study after worship

03/11 PNC, 3:00 p.m.

03/12 Mission Committee Meeting,
4:45 p.m.

03/16 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

Lenten Soup & Study after worship

03/18 PNC, 3:00 p.m.

03/23 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

Lenten Soup & Study after worship

03/24 Food Pantry Prep Day

03/25 Food Pantry Prep Day

PNC, 3:00 p.m.

03/26 Food Pantry open

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

*Committee Reports for Session due
to Judy

03/30 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

Lenten Soup & Study after worship

03/31 Lectionary in Westfield (MKH),
10:00 a.m.



04/01 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:30 a.m.
PNC, 3:00 p.m.

04/02 Session, 5:00 p.m.

04/06 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

Lenten Soup & Study after worship
NAME – Elder for the Month

04/08 PNC, 3:00 p.m.

04/13 ***Palm Sunday; Holy Week Begins***

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

One Great Hour of Sharing Collection
Welcome to Rev. Joshua Trautmann,
Presbyter Exec.

04/17 ***Maundy Thursday***

Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper
and Communion, TBA

04/18 ***Good Friday***, Sanctuary open for
self-guided prayer and meditation,
12 – 3 p.m.

04/20 ***Easter Sunday***

Sunrise Service in Chestnut Hill Cemetery,
TBA

Breakfast at Sprague's following
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

One Great Hour of Sharing
Dedication

04/21 Food Pantry Prep Day

04/22 Food Pantry Prep Day

PNC, 3:00 p.m.

04/23 Food Pantry, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

04/27 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

May/June newsletter info due

04/30 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.

Reminder: If your clocks do not automatically adjust for **Daylight Savings Time . . .** set your clocks **ahead 1 hour** on Saturday, **March 8** before going to bed.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -
PORTVILLE, NY**

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@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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www.portville.presbyterian.org