



## Message from Rev. Hale

*“As I was with Moses, so I will be with you....  
(the) Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” [Joshua 1:5...]*

*“Connections.”* That was the word that opened the way into a 26 year-long discipline of writing an article for the newsletter! On this side of 26 years, it seems to have sounded a prophetic note for all the life we have been given by God to share. Because on “that” side of 26 years, it was all begun with a *stretch* of faith made by a seasoned congregation which took on the challenge of engaging with a seminary student new to ministry. Yet here we are, a bit older and well-seasoned by so much of this life we’ve shared and *still very much connected* with bonds that will never be broken.

The words from Scripture that anchored that relic of an article came from a passage in Joshua: *“I will not fail you or forsake you....”*; words for both a congregation extending a Call and a hopeful minister answering—*both* relying on God to see them through. It is God’s Word *alive in our hearts* that has drawn us here and kept us doing ministry together all these years, as we have sought to follow the Christ who walks with us every single day.

That first newsletter article was closed with this line:

*Thanking God for YOU...your servant in Christ, Marilyn.”*

After all these years, through the *gift* this shared life of faith has been in all we’ve experienced together, here’s the line that closed the July/August Newsletter:

*“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”*

*“Thanks be to God, dear friends,”* is how every thought of YOU is so naturally framed every time! I’ll just say, *“Connections,”* and leave it at that, (*nearly*), grateful that the life-long bonds we have with God and one another *will never be broken*. Go check out Romans 8:38–39. (*truly leave it at that!*)

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**Lectionary for September/October 2025****September 7**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

**September 14**

Psalm 14  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

**September 21**

Psalm 79:1-9  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

**September 28**

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

**October 5**

Psalm 137  
2 Timothy 1:1-14  
Luke 17:5-10

**October 12**

Psalm 66:1-12  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19

**October 19**

Psalm 119:97-104  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Luke 18:1-8

**October 26**

Psalm 65  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

**Happy Retirement!**  
**Rev. Marilyn Hale, we are**  
**forever thankful**  
**for your ministry with us.**

**Session News - Judy McClain**

The 2025-2026 Session Organization Meeting was held July 9, 2025-  
Class of 2028 Elders welcomed-Terry Everetts, Barb Fairbanks, Connie King

Committee Chairpersons: **Christian Education**-Kari Kloss, Bizzy Chaffee  
**Congregational Care**-Barb Fairbanks, Judy McClain  
**Finance and Stewardship**-Connie King, Mark Hendrix  
**Mission**-Jullie Pagett  
**Nominating**-Bizzy Chaffee, Barb Fairbanks  
**Personnel**-Vicki Schmidt, Mark Hendrix  
**Property**-Terry Everetts, Steve Langworthy  
**Worship**-Diana Dunbar

Committees are meeting and getting organized for the year. "Thank you!" to everyone who has signed up to serve on a committee.

Please contact the appropriate committee chairperson(s) or a committee member when you see a need! You don't have to be on a committee to help! Just as you take care of your home and yard so does our church home need everyone to help take care of it!

## Session News cont.

The bells chiming the hour have been restored! Have you heard them? Oh what a beautiful sound! The Sound Track, Allegany, did this work.

The Session and Congregation wish Rev. Marilyn K. Hale a very happy retirement and our sincerest thanks and appreciation for your faithful dedicated service to our church and community **November 23, 1997–September 30, 2025** (27 years, 10 months, 7 days) as the 20<sup>th</sup> minister of our congregation.

You have been a wonderful shepherd to this flock.  
You have been God's light shining on us, shining in us.  
You have cared for us.  
You have given us your special love.  
You have been an inspiration.  
You have touched all of us.  
You will be remembered forever.

We give thanks and praise to God and you for our time together.  
May God bless you and keep you as you have blessed and kept us!

## Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) News

The PNC continues to meet and follow the PCUSA and WNY Presbytery guidance to Call a Pastor. We continue to explore many ways to share our Call and find candidates looking for a Call. Please continue to keep the PNC, congregation, Marilyn and someone, somewhere who God is preparing just for us.

## Christian ED News - Kari Kloss

Often, we must wait for autumn to hear the joyous sounds of children filling the church. But this past July, the Christian Education Committee held its first Vacation Bible School in quite some time. We had 37 students enrolled with around 30 of them attending at least one of the three days and about half of them able to make it each day. Our youngest class had almost full attendance each evening.

It was an amazing experience attending and assisting at Camp Good News where students sang songs; laughed together; completed a craft; had a snack; played games; and heard three stories about Jesus' Miracles including the feeding of 5,000, the healing of a blind man, and the calming of a storm. We are so grateful to all the adults who worked and

## Christian ED News - Kari Kloss

played alongside the children, appreciative to the families that brought their children each night, thankful to the children who attended with such enthusiasm, and beholden to Diana Dunbar who I am sure does not want to be singled out but she was the one who presented the idea to breathe life back into a VBS program, wrote our curriculum, created the scenery, and ran the craft station each night. What an unforgettable experience and joy learning about Jesus together as we sat by a handmade campfire in the middle of a forest surrounded by God's creatures and encircled by our youth.

And now just around the corner on **September 14<sup>th</sup>**, we will be opening our doors again to begin our fall semester of Sunday School. Each month, September–November leading up to Advent there will be two Sundays where the children will be invited to come to attend in one of our three classrooms. Bizzy Chaffee and Katie Burlingame (PreK–K), Amy Spehar (1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup>), and Carly Painter (4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup>) have graciously volunteered to continue teaching our children. They will be using another curriculum written by Diana that will lead to a very special event in December. Thank you, ladies!

And no, I have not forgotten our adult students who show as much excitement to grow and go on their own spiritual journey with their fellow church members. They will follow the same schedule as our children for the most part. Diana has agreed to lead their class. Please be sure to sign up if you are considering participating.

Classes will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, October 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and November 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Advent begins November 30<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you all on Opening Day!



## Finance Committee News - Connie King

Here is the church. Here is the Steeple. Keep the doors open. It is here for the people.

**Commitment** means to bind as by a promise or pledge. A pledge is a promise or an agreement, a promise to give.

The Finance Committee met recently and discussed many things for this year. Keeping up with the needed projects such as the new Lift, and maintenance in many other church areas were on the list. The focus is on calling a new minister and what that may look like in the future.

How is all this going to continue? It is by your commitment to give each Sunday. Also, the giving of your time /talents is very important and appreciated. Thankfully, there are many willing hands. The church is still here even though you may be out of town. The bills still come even though you might not be here for whatever reason.

Pledge letters will soon be sent out. Look into your heart. Please honor your Pledge each Sunday. It is vital to the life of our church that the spirit of God is present in all that we do.

## Property Committee - Terry Everetts

The Property Committee would like to advise the Elevator Project should be completed by the end of August. Final cosmetic completions are close to finish. We will announce to all via e-mail communication when ready for usage. Bill Putt (member of the Committee) has been overseeing the activity and we would like to thank him and give credit for his time and efforts. (Pictures of the change are on the last page of newsletter.)

The recent Committee Meeting had discussions for current church needs. Everyone is invited to assist and help as able to. Several needs are as follows: Church cleaning (please see lists in the Quilt Room) – feel free to help in anyway with this. Outside we have weed pulling and soon we will have leaf raking and snow shoveling around entrances. Any assistance in any of these areas would be a very appreciated help for the Church Family.

If any questions please feel free to contact any member of the Property Committee: Terry Everetts, Steve Langworthy, Judy McLain, Barb Fairbanks, Norm King, Troy Spehar, John Paggett, Mark Hendrix or Rev. Hale.

## Mission News - Julie McLarney-Pagett

The Mission Committee is very excited to welcome several new members to our team! Our committee seeks to respond to the call of Jesus Christ by committing ourselves, with the support of our congregation, to the welcome, acceptance, support, and love of all God's people in our own community and the world abroad. We seek to live and reflect our Christian faith by working for justice and serving others through compassion and reconciliation.

As a result of our June's **MISSION HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH**, we are thrilled to report that a total of 37 baby gift bags have been delivered to the maternity ward at Olean General Hospital so far this year! We want to thank everyone for their donations to the **Baby Layette Project**.

**September's Mission Highlight of the Month is our Gift-A-Book Project.** The books donated through our Gift-A-Book program are offered to children who find themselves in the care of the Child Advocacy Center's beneficial program. **Books to be donated should range from toddler level books all the way up to books for teenagers.** Ollie's Bargain Outlet in Olean has many wonderful children's books at great discounted prices. So far this year, 81 books have been delivered to the Child Advocacy Center! Thank you so much for your incredible generosity to date and let's see how much further we can extend that number to help children in need.

You can probably guess our **October Mission Highlight of the Month... Halloween Trick or Treating!!** We had such a great time last year connecting with our local community on Halloween. Community outreach is an integral part of mission work so we will be welcoming the trick-or-treaters again this year and sharing our time, love, and of course, **CANDY** with them. Start preparing for this wonderful project by purchasing bags of candy to donate later in October. Also, we would love to have lots of volunteers to join us again out front to welcome the community on Halloween. We hope you will plan to join us!

**Donations** - The following donations were approved by Session at the last two meetings...

From the **Jack Shepard Memorial Mission Fund**

\$600 for Child Advocacy Center

\$125 for Pfeiffer Nature Center's Adopt-A-Tree Program

\$500 for Miriam Center for Hope and Healing

From the **Rummage Sale Mission Fund**

\$300 for Remote Area Medical's September Event in Olean

## Mission News cont. - Julie McLarney-Pagett

From the Hunger Fund

\$500 for Genesis House

\$500 for Warming House

From the Mission Trip Fund

\$300 for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in response to the Texas Floods in July

## Portville Community Food Pantry News - Randy McClain

For the months of **June** and **July** the Food Pantry provided the equivalent of **1,548** meals to **176** people in **68** households. It is expected that the need will increase as National Grid rates have increased and home heating cost will increase as the seasons change. A couple of items that are especially needed now are tomato soup and macaroni and cheese.



The need continues and is answered by those who answer the need. There are many individuals committed to continuous giving—you and all you give are appreciated so much. Amelia Burlingame and her friend Lochlan Nawrot answered the need this summer in a big way with their wonderful cookie and lemonade sale! Their Lemonade and Cookie Sale efforts raised \$520.25 for the Food Pantry. As their shirts clearly state in the picture . . .

“Bake Sale Besties”. Thank you Amelia and Lochlan!

And another community member answered the needs of our Food Pantry by making donations from her vegetable garden. Thank you to Camilla Scott for her donations of freshly picked tomatoes and peppers to the most recent Food Pantry Day. Our clients really appreciated receiving fresh vegetables.



## Congregational Care News - Barb Fairbanks

Mark your calendar for **Our Anything Pizza** fellowship party on Sunday, September 7 after worship. Get on the internet and google “pizza recipes other than pizza”. It’s amazing how many creative dishes can be made with traditional or non-traditional ingredients....pizza dip....pizza sliders...pizza pasta salad...pepperoni pizza monkey bread.... banana split brownie pizza... the list goes on and on! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who wish to contribute “anything pizza”. **ALL** are invited to gather together in fellowship after worship.

Marilyn’s last Sunday leading us in worship is September 28, so we invite **ALL** to gather in fellowship after worship to celebrate our lives together. Refreshments will be served.



9/3 Terry  
 9/4 Eliana  
 9/11 Bob  
 9/11 Chris  
 9/12 Jesse  
 9/22 Wyatt  
 9/23 Sean  
 9/24 Lindsay  
 9/24 Kathy  
 9/26 Randy  
 9/26 Drake  
 9/27 Carly  
 9/28 Ava  
 9/28 Jacquie  
 9/28 Elinor  
 9/30 Ryan



10/2 Kristin  
 10/6 Cindy  
 10/7 Kelsea  
 10/10 Ron  
 10/10 Avery  
 10/14 Ian  
 10/21 Brodie  
 10/30 Shirley



## Calendar Dates to Remember



- 09/01 **Labor Day** Church Office Closed  
Elder of the Month: Steve Langworthy
- 09/02 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:00 a.m.  
PNC, 3:00 p.m.
- 09/07 Worship Service/Communion,  
10:00 a.m.  
Peace and Global Witness Offering  
Sept/Oct Newsletters in Narthex
- 09/09 PNC, 3:00 p.m.
- 09/14 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.  
Peace and Global Witness Speaker
- 9/16 PNC, 3:00 p.m.
- 09/17 Session, 4:30 p.m.
- 09/18 Bethel Lutheran Council (MKH)
- 09/21 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Dr. Pearman, Guest Minister  
Peace and Global Witness Offering  
Minute
- 09/22 Food Pantry Prep
- 09/23 Food Pantry Prep  
PNC, 3:00 p.m.
- 09/24 Food Pantry Open 9:00—noon
- 09/28 Peace and Global Witness Offering  
Minute



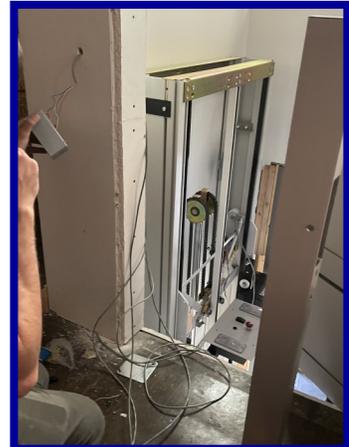
- 10/05 Worship Service and Communion  
Elder of the Month ?  
World Communion Sunday /  
Peace and Global Witness Offering
- 10/07 PNC, 3:00 pm
- 10/08 Finance Committee Mtg, 6:30 pm
- 10/12 Sunday School, 9:00 am  
Worship Service, 10:00 am
- 10/14 PNC, 3:00 pm
- 10/15 Session, 4:30 pm
- 10/19 Sunday School, 9:00 am  
Worship Service, 10:00 am
- 10/20 Food Pantry Prep Day
- 10/21 Food Pantry Prep Day  
PNC, 3:00 pm
- 10/22 Food Pantry open 9:00 am—noon
- 10/26 Sunday School, 9:00 am  
Worship Service, 0:00 am  
\* **Reformation Sunday**
- 10/31 Trick or Treating, 6:00 – 8:00 pm



and in with the new!



Out with the old...



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -  
PORTVILLE, NY**

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Portville, NY 14770  
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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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