



A Great Journey for All presented by the Sunday School Classes



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Lectionary for January/February 2026

Sunday, January 4

Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Sunday, January 25

Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, February 15

Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Sunday, January 11

Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, February 1

Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12



Ash
Wednesday

Sunday, January 18

Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Sunday, February 8

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 22

Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

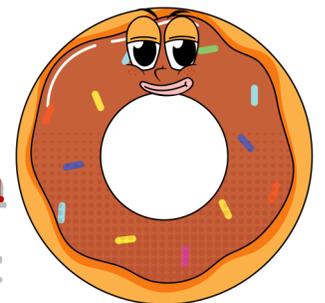
Finance Committee Report by Connie King, Co-chm.

Back in the day when I taught shorthand, my senior girls had to transcribe many stories. One of my favorites was "The Thirteenth Doughnut." Some of the story is as follows: You are probably too young to remember the good old days when the baker gave an extra doughnut whenever a customer bought a dozen. That thirteenth doughnut was his way of saying that he appreciated the business and hoped that the customer would come back again--the "little extra" that made fast friends. (Of course, the story went on about the secretary and her many duties and tasks in an office. When she stayed to help her boss meet an unfinished deadline, she was giving the thirteenth doughnut.)

The Pledge Cards were recently sent out and many returned. You can still turn yours in at the collection plate or to our treasurer. These cards help us to plan for the next year, to replace needed items in the church, and to maintain them. Perhaps you gave a little extra this year--the thirteenth doughnut. If you did, thank you! It allows the Finance Committee to determine what we can do in the upcoming year to meet our challenges and pay the bills. Try to keep consistency in your giving. Everyone benefits by giving a little extra that goes to maintaining our beautiful building, the outside maintenance, our Sunday School programs, our new elevator, and our offices/equipment, etc. Your time volunteering on a committee, running the sweeper, bringing food for coffee hours, shoveling snow, changing a light bulb, fixing a broken electrical outlet or pipe, and bringing items for our many mission projects is important. All of that does not go unnoticed. What you pledge keeps on working. When everyone gives and/or helps, everyone is a winner--giving a little extra--the thirteenth doughnut!

The story in the shorthand book concludes: Giving more than is expected is a part of the philosophy of every "secretary" who is going places. It means looking on your work as a career--not just a nine-to-five job that somehow must get done. Please honor your pledge and try to be consistent in your giving.

**The
Thirteenth
Doughnut**



Mission Committee News by Julie McLarney-Pagett

Our community outreach Halloween project was another wonderful success! The rainy and windy weather didn't keep those adorable trick-or-treaters away. John did a basic count and figured we welcomed about 300 kids this year. Many thanks go out... to Steve Langworthy for letting us use his canopy tent, to our volunteers (Kari Kloss/Judy and Terry Everetts) for working the event (Judy even provided us with hot chocolate!), to Diana Dunbar for donating Halloween-themed pencils to go with the color and activity sheets that were passed out, and to ALL OF YOU for donating the candy. Already looking forward to next year!!



Mission Committee News (continued) by Julie McLarney-Pagett



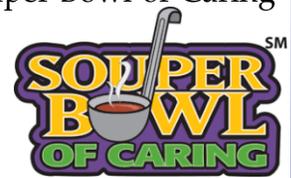
This year's **Harvest Sunday** mission project once again provided all the necessary items for a bountiful Thanksgiving feast to two local families in need. Due to your generosity, we collected more money than expected and were able to provide an extra \$35 in Aldi's gift cards to both families. Thanks to all of you... and to Katie Burlingame for her help with this project.

Your generosity didn't stop there. Our **Presents for Panthers** mission project collected 43 toys and games, 8 clothing items, 9 sports balls, a lot of art supplies, and \$122 in cash donations! All the items were delivered to Portville Central School along with 13 rolls of wrapping paper and hundreds of gift bows. You helped make Christmas extra special for many families! Thank you to Kathy Hendrix and Amy Spehar for running this important mission project.



Our January's Mission Highlight of the Month is our **Baby Layette** project where we collect donations of baby items and drop them off at Olean General Hospital to be given to new families. The types of items we collect are onesies and sleepers, blankets, diapers/wipes, and other miscellaneous baby items, as well as baby gift bags. Keep an eye out for those after Christmas sales! Thank you Kathy and Amy for running this project!

We have two mission projects we highlight in the month of February... the Souper Bowl of Caring and the Fun Fleece Festival. This year's Super Bowl will take place on Sunday, February 8th. That same Sunday is the day we will be collecting donations of canned soups and monetary donations to help support Tackle Hunger's annual **Souper Bowl of Caring** event to raise millions for local food charities. Our donations will be given to the Portville Community Food Pantry. Thank you to Kari Kloss and



John Pagett for coordinating this project.



The other February mission highlight is our annual **Fun Fleece Festival**. Each year we make simple fleece blankets and donate them to the Child Advocacy Center to bring comfort to children who are dealing with difficult issues. Cso Woodworth is still working out the details of this year's event, but keep an eye out as more details are to come!

The following donations were recently approved and sent out... \$500 to Wings, Flights of Hope from the Jack Sheperd Memorial Mission Fund, as well as \$200 to the Salvation Army and \$300 to the Department of Aging from the Hunger Fund.



Sanctuary Cleaning Schedule 2026 by Connie King

A new schedule will be going up sometime in January posted in the Quilt Room. Many names are already on it for cleaning. Your name will remain on the list unless you tell me you want it removed. If you would like to be ADDED to the list, please let me know. 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 Sanctuary. Light dusting, emptying waste cans, and general picking up of anything are AS NEEDED. Dates are usually five times or so during the entire year. Thank you to Mary Ann C. who volunteered to be a substitute and can fill in June through October. Some people like to clean for a month at a time. At this time, January, February, and March are taken. You may trade dates if something comes up. Keeping the church continually looking nice is everyone's concern. Your help is greatly appreciated! If questions, see Connie/Norm King (we are helping the Property Committee) or email us at kingerrt@verizon.net



News from the Session by Judy McClain

Join Us!

“Thank you!” to everyone who is keeping our church alive and functioning as we have entered this time without a minister. Everyone is welcome to do something. There are things that need to be done seven days a week—in addition to attending Sunday School and worship on Sundays. The church is alive all week long as members come and go helping to keep First Presbyterian the special place it’s always been. Each day there is a fellowship of service and connection who give of their time and talents to take care of our church and its programs. Be a part of it!



For pastoral care, please contact **Judy McClain**, Clerk of Session, by calling or texting her at (716) 933-6303. The information will then be given to Rev. Levine.



Jan. 3rd	Dan Schmidt
Jan. 7th	Riley Burlingame
Jan. 7th	Sandi Coletti
Jan. 10th	Owen Spehar
Jan. 17th	Jack Pagett
Jan. 20th	Alex Woodhead
Jan. 22nd	SJ Gardner
Jan. 22nd	Emmy Woodhead
Jan. 26th	Kim Kessler
Jan. 27th	Jean Kessler
Jan. 30th	Mazey Wallace

Sending Birthday Wishes!



Feb. 2nd	Max Wallace
Feb. 5th	Wanda Hollamby
Feb. 6th	Jacques Bourguignon
Feb. 6th	Amy Spehar
Feb. 9th	Fynleigh Corcoran
Feb. 10th	Briar Spehar
Feb. 13th	Barb Fairbanks
Feb. 13th	Mary Sprague
Feb. 22nd	Amelia Burlingame

Portville Community Food Pantry News by Randy McClain

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR ALL YOU GIVE!

November and December are always extra special times of the year for the food pantry. So many individuals and organizations choose to do end of year donations to the food pantry either with food items or monetary donations. THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

This year was exceptional as the concern for the families in need was increased by the federal government shutdown and not paying SNAP benefits. Our Portville community and surrounding area really took the initiative and stepped up to make sure there was an abundant supply for those in need. It was quite the experience as day after day people reached out to give, give, give.

Portville General Dollar manager Steve offered to hold a food drive at the store. Every day for a couple weeks there was a shopping cart full of food items to pick up. Dollar Store customers sure did respond in a big way. THANK YOU Steve and D.G. customers! Divine Nutrition owner Dawn Urban ran a food drive and three big boxes of food came to the food pantry. THANK YOU Dawn and D.N. customers!



Portville Central School National Honor Society held their food drive during the month of November this year. This year was the largest number of food items ever! What a day to have the senior National Honor Society students carry in boxes of food, sort it, shelve it and then enjoy a pizza lunch together. Seeing these students in action and talking with them-they are our hope for the future! Thank You to PCS administration, faculty, staff, students & parents for all your support!

Before After the PCS Delivery



Portville Community Food Pantry News (continued) by Randy McClain



Delivery of Portville Central School's Annual National Honor Society Food Drive.

Thank you, PCS Nat'l Honor Society Students!



Worship Committee News by Diana Dunbar

We are on a new journey... We have survived four months on this new adventure... I might even say we've thrived on the journey. We have been blessed with a variety of voices from the pulpit with messages surely inspired by the Holy Spirit... ten Sundays and five different speakers. The weather so far has cooperated with allowing visiting speakers to safely travel to us. We made it through our first "solo" service, Hanging of the Greens. We were on our own and the church is beautifully decorated. Our many thanks to the readers and our worship leader for making it a special day.



The children's pageant was a blessing to all with nearly one hundred in attendance. Don't we wish we could welcome that many each week. Thanks to the children and their teachers for bringing us a message of hope during the holiday.



Yes, there were a few hiccups along the way. One speaker thought our service started at 11:00 am and some of us were scrambling to figure out what we could do...but God escorted her through our doors at the last minute and maybe some of you weren't even aware of the anxiety behind the scenes. Misplaced and unplugged microphones have been a challenge...but the handheld ones have allowed us to continue and everyone to hear... And then there were no candles for the Advent wreath on the first Sunday of Advent... that was an "oops" but quick thinking and a substitute white candle saved the day.

Things weren't perfect...I like my ducks in a row, but I am coming to accept the rebellious one that wonders out of line.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5 – 6

We will continue to do our best, trusting in God to make our paths straight and maybe relax enough to enjoy the journey we are on.

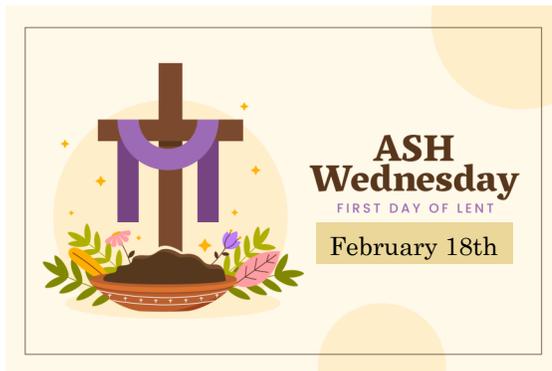
Worship Committee News (continued) by Diana Dunbar

Things to look ahead to...

A choir under the direction of Linden will begin on January 18th. We will practice at 9:00 am before church on Sundays when there is no Sunday School. Mark your calendars all you singers and "wannabe" music makers: January 18th, February 1st, and February 15th. "Make a joyful noise all ye lands." Psalm 100:1

Lent is right around the corner...we are beginning our planning for this special time of year. It begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th...stay tuned for more details to follow...

And
so
the
journey
continues...



"Sing to the Lord a new song: sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name..." Psalm 96:1-2a



Interested in singing in the choir...
Here is the schedule for Jan and Feb...

- ☉ January 18: Choir Practice
- ☉ January 25: Sunday School
- ☉ Feb 1: Choir Practice
- ☉ Feb 8: Sunday School
- ☉ Feb 15: Choir Practice
- ☉ Feb 22: Sunday School

We will practice the weeks when there is no Sunday School planned. We will meet at 9:00 am to practice for approximately 30 to 40 minutes. Mark your calendars. Come and sing for the Lord!

Property Committee News by Terry Everetts

Be advised the Property Committee has been taking care of several smaller issues the past few weeks. Thank-yous go out to Troy Spehar for taking care of the snow shoveling around the entrances (and it has been pretty "old time snow" most recently). Also, Bill Putt and Steve Langworthy have completed several tasks on our list of active items and "Thank You" for your very knowledgeable and talented work. Concerning larger items on our list – we continue to work on these including waiting for timeline on Organ repairs/upgrades, Sanctuary bulb replacements, replacement of outside door by lift entrance, addressing the outside appearance of the facility, needed repairs to the stained glass windows and working to find more space for an additional Sunday School Classroom. As far as current needs – we still are looking for volunteers to assist with needed church cleaning. The list with openings is posted in the Narthex for review to see if anyone can assist. Also, the church is in need of someone to help in the Sound Room (let Cso know if you can do this).

we are all
IN THIS
Together

Christian Education Committee News by Kari Kloss



For the past two months, the classrooms and dining room have been busy as our children worked hard creating the script and props for their upcoming pageant. Sometimes, the kiddos worked with their class and on a few Sundays all classes worked together in the dining area. Our youth would hear or read the bible verses, sing the songs, and then put together their interpretations of what they heard. Additionally, they needed to make the materials needed for their performance. Little hands working together to create a setting we were blessed with on the 3rd week of Advent. The hustle and bustle along with the discussions and laughter was a joy to witness. I could feel their excitement as they prepared "A Great Journey for All."



A Great Journey for All



Christian Education Committee News (continued) by Kari Kloss



On November 30th , Diana led the first of three Sundays of our Advent program. This year's theme is Comfort and Joy, and Diana has also made devotionals focusing on that theme for our families. As I began to read on Day 1, I was transported to another place as my heart filled with similar moments, similar feelings. This devotional is a gift that will offer you comfort or joy or hopefully both. You will even find special recipes for treats for your family to enjoy. We are so thankful for Diana and her time and dedication especially during this time of year! On December 7th and 21st, the other two Advent Sundays began with our wonderful breakfast prepared by all of you. We are so appreciative of your help, support and attendance for those of you who were able to attend.

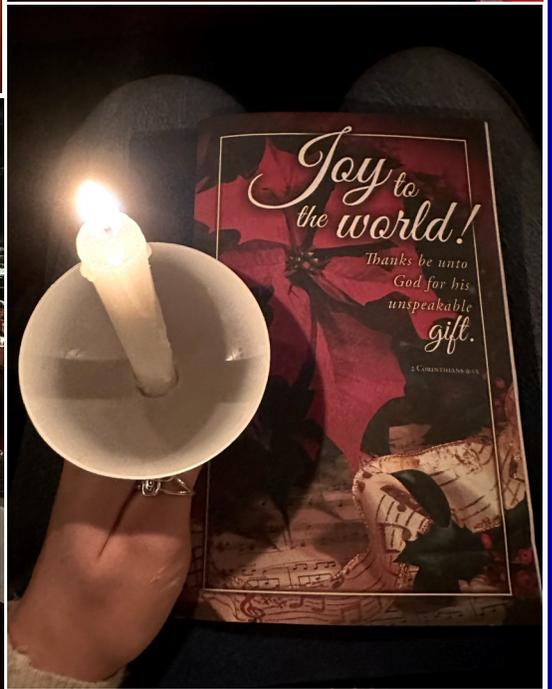


MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!
Our winter Sunday School session dates will be January 11th and 25th , February 8th and 22nd. The 22nd will be used to introduce Lent to our Sunday School classes. God Bless you all!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



*Silent night, holy night; All is calm, all is bright
 Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
 Holy infant so tender and mild
 Sleep in heavenly peace
 Sleep in heavenly peace*





- 1/01 New Year's Day; Church Office Closed
- 1/04 Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Kari Kloss – Elder for the Month
- 1/06 Epiphany of the Lord
- 1/11 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 1/14 *Session Reports due to Judy McClain
- 1/18 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 1/19 MLK, Jr. Day/Church Office Closed
- 1/21 Session, 4:30 p.m.
- 1/25 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 1/26 Food Pantry Prep
- 1/27 Food Pantry Prep
- 1/28 Food Pantry, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



- 2/01 Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Connie King – Elder for the Month
Annual Congregational Meeting after worship
Fellowship meal after cong. meeting
- 2/08 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Souper Bowl of Caring
- 2/11 *Session Reports due to Judy McClain
- 2/15 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
*March/April newsletter info due
- 2/16 Presidents' Day/Church Office Closed
- 2/18 Ash Wednesday
Session, 4:30 p.m.
- 2/19 Property Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- 2/22 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent
- 2/23 Food Pantry Prep
- 2/24 Food Pantry Prep
- 2/25 Food Pantry, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

P.N.C. Committee News by Judy McClain

The committee continues to reach out and network with our Call for a Pastor. Our church appreciates everyone who has been pulpit supply for us Sundays since October. We are continuing to be a small and vibrant church growing in knowing the Word. And our Christian Education is full of excitement with so many children and adults participating. Continuing to have good programs with good attendance is an important key to get the attention of candidates. Thank you to everyone who is involved and committed with consistent planning and participating in worship, Sunday School, and all the special activities. And as always, PNC asks that everyone keep our congregation, PNC and those who God is preparing to respond to our Call in prayer. With faith, hope, joy and love we look forward to 2026 and the plans God has for First Presbyterian Church of Portville!





A Great Journey for All!



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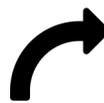


Sunday School for Ages 3 to Adult
Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. Please check
our website (see QR Code below) for
dates when Sunday School is in session.



Follow us on Facebook!

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www.freepik.com



Our Website: www.portville.presbyterian.org

Worship Service Sundays at 10:00 am

