



The Cornerstone

Volume 30 Issue 2

March/April 2026

The **Property Committee** held a work session on Saturday Morning February 7th and completed final work on one of the downstairs rest rooms walls. Sheet rock repairs after plumbing upgrades along with final painting. Also, 29 upstairs lights were replaced with new energy efficient LED bulbs. The main Sanctuary, the Narthex, Quilt room and upstairs elevator entrance way were taken care of. A few photos of the project are shown. *Special Thank You to: Mark Hendrix, Barb Fairbanks, Connie King, Norm King, Judy Everetts, Terry Everetts, Chris Hellwig, Sean Gardner as well as Community Friends Kip Morrow and Mike Magnano for stepping in and helping complete.* All lanterns were cleaned inside and out during the process. **In addition, the need still exists for volunteer help with Spring and Summer outside lawn, shrubs and weeding duties.**



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Lectionary for March/April 2026



<p>Sunday, March 1st Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9</p>	<p>Sunday, March 22nd Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45</p>	<p>Sunday, April 12th Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31</p>
<p>Sunday, March 8th Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42</p>	<p>Sunday, March 29th (Palm Sunday) Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matt. 27:11-54</p>	<p>Sunday, April 19th Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35</p>
<p>Sunday, March 15th Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41</p>	<p>Sunday, April 5th (Easter Sunday) Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10</p>	<p>Sunday, April 26th Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10</p>

SANCTUARY CLEANING SCHEDULE

The new 2026 Sanctuary Cleaning Schedule is now posted in the Quilt Room. Please consult the list to have the cleaning done for the Sunday date near your name. You may trade dates if something comes up. Mary Ann C. has agreed to be a substitute from June through October. Phone numbers are in the church Directory. Thank you for volunteering and for your continued support to help keep our church looking so beautiful.



Finance Committee Report by Connie King, Co-chm.

REFRESH AND RENEW

Refresh and renew that is what we do. Take a step back and look around. What do you see? It is always something. There is always something to fix. When things fall apart, we try to fix them or replace them with something new. This happens in our lives as well as our church. Big ticket items (examples are the flooring and the elevator) are often brought about by the Property Committee. Other items needing some attention are suggested many times by church members. Then the Finance Committee gets involved.



We all need to work together to ensure the success of this church--its vibrant congregation, our beautiful building, finding a caring minister. Support is what we do--for each other and for this church. Care about what is important to you. Please honor your pledge. Our church is here every Sunday for you plus all the other days of the week.

Baby it's cold outside ... but a warm atmosphere inside!

Christian Education Report by Kari Kloss, Co-Chair



(Continues onto the following page.)

The weather may have been cold this year during our winter session of Sunday School, but the fellowship and time spent together filled all hearts with warmth and joy.

Our adult class has been reading the first couple chapters in the Book of Colossians. They read the chapter together and then discuss the verses. They noted the Theological Belief that Jesus is the head of the church and He is sufficient. The Growth and Spiritual practical truths are that new life is found in Christ and that Christians should let go of sin and live with virtue.

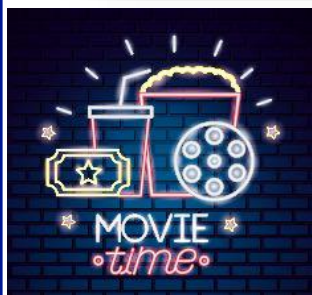
Our last Sunday for the Winter session and before our Lenten Soup and Study program was February 22nd. We will pick back up for our Spring Session on April 19th and continue on April 26th, May 10th and May 31st. The 31st of May will be our Open House and Teacher/Student recognition, so make sure you mark the date on your calendars!

Lenten Soup and Study will take place after church for 4 weeks in March (the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd). There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for all those interested in attending and/or helping.

Lenten Soup and Study Dates

March 1st	March 8th
March 15th	March 22nd

We hope you will consider joining us!



A new idea for a movie day was brought up by a parent and plans are being made for March 22nd from 2-4 for anyone who would like to come and watch an animated Christian movie at church. There will be popcorn and drinks provided!

March

- 5th Katie
- 6th Walker
- 8th Bill
- 11th Lauri
- 15th Dave
- 24th Bradley
- 30th Christine



Happy Birthday

April

- 4th Garry
- 7th Josh
- 9th Wallace
- 10th Judy
- 11th Nicole
- 14th Marilyn
- 16th John
- 25th Buffy
- 30th Winnie

Christian Ed. Report (con't) by Kari Kloss, Co-Chair



Our youth classes have been busy learning about Lent through a curriculum created by Diana Dunbar. Diana looked for ways to teach parts of the Easter story for our younger attendees. She came up with the idea of Resurrection Eggs. These eggs held an item like a donkey, cup, palm branch, coins, flower, etc for the children to see and hold. There was a description with each item. Bizzy and Katie's class went searching for the eggs that were numbered and then matched the number with the item before hearing what they symbolized. In addition, they worked on creating a palm branch and an angel on Play-Doh mats. Amy's class took turns opening an egg and reading the message inside and making the connection to the item. Carly's class will also read to each other and talk about these key moments of the Easter story through the symbolism contained in each egg.

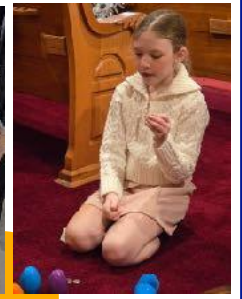


Resurrection Eggs...
These eggs tell the story of the end of Jesus's life through his resurrection.

Each egg tells one part of the story. Eggs should be opened in order 1 - 12. Inside each egg there is a symbol and a note to use to explain what the symbol means. There are also bible verses that can be used with the older children.

Here are the twelve symbols and a brief statement for each:

1. Heart: Jesus loves all of us and he taught us to love God and love each other.
2. Donkey: Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem.
3. Palm Branches: People in Jerusalem waved branches to celebrate Jesus.
4. Coins: Judas took money to turn Jesus over to the soldiers.
5. Towel: Jesus washed his friends' feet because he cared for and loved them.
6. Cup: Jesus shared a meal with his friends and told them to remember him.
7. Pink Flower: Jesus prayed in the garden after the meal with his friends.
8. Rope: Jesus was arrested by soldiers who tied him up.
9. Cross: Jesus died on the cross even though he did nothing wrong.
10. Lily: Jesus never did anything wrong. His heart was pure like a white lily.
11. Stone: Jesus came back to life because he was stronger than death.
12. Butterfly: Jesus changes us into something new when we love him.



Session Report by Judy McClain

The 177th Annual Meeting of the Congregation moderated by Rev. Abigail Trautmann, Executive Presbytery/Stated Clerk of Presbytery of Western New York, was after worship on February 1, 2026. The committees 'chairperson presented reports that highlighted the events of 2025 that now are part of our history that helped us to continue to grow, serve and love. The 2026 budget of \$112,660 was accepted by the congregation. Thank you to Cso Woodworth for preparing the 2025 pictorial power point that was viewed during the lunch and time of fellowship held in the dining room after the meeting. Thank you to the Congregational Care committee for coordinating the lunch.

THE GLORY THAT IS SPRINGTIME

Frosted crocus in the garden are harbingers of spring
awaking from their winter dream to hear the robins sing.

The daffodils and tulips are yawning everywhere
waiting for those sunny days that warm us like a prayer.
We've had our fill of ice and snow and set some record lows.
We're anxious now for warmer days and the promise of a
rose.

We have had our epiphany, enjoyed the holidays, and now
the

Lenten season fills every heart with praise.

New leaves appear on barren
trees. The grass is turning green,
and throughout the countryside
bluebirds have been seen.

It is a time of resurrection from
winter's chilling gloom
for the glory that is springtime
recalls an empty tomb!
by Clay Harrison in "Hope
Renewed"



Provided by Connie King

Photos from our Christmas Carol Sunday Worship Service



Portville Community Food Pantry Report by Randy McClain

So many blessings!

Thank you for another successful Souper Bowl Sunday soup, bean and monetary collection that benefits the food pantry. 144 cans of soups and beans plus \$165 - WOW! Thank you to everyone for your donations!

The Portville Dollar General manager and customers continue to support the food pantry. A seasonal clearance sale is now being held that gives customers the opportunity to purchase items-hats, gloves and food-that they can donate to the food pantry if they wish. Thank you to our Dollar General manager and customers! The hats and gloves are nice "extras" to offer our families.



Rusty Rooster Farm and Vintage LLC are holding their annual "Share the Love" campaign that 100% of the profits of the 'Share the Love 't-shirt sales benefit the Portville Community Food Pantry and Boulder Crest Foundation. Thank you to Rusty Rooster and everyone who bought a t-shirt! Wear them proud! Love local supporting local!



Thank you! ❤️



Church Calendar provided by Judy Everetts

Mark Your Calendars!

MARCH 2026

Terry Everetts – Elder for the Month

- 03/01 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Laura Whitford
Lenten Soup & Study after worship
- 03/04 Feb/March Session Mtg., 4:30pm
- 03/08 ***Daylight Saving Time Begins**
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Nicodemus Creach
- 03/15 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Nicodemus Creach
Lenten Soup & Study after worship
- 03/22 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Mary Whitcomb
Lenten Soup & Study after worship
- 03/23 Food Pantry Prep Day
- 03/24 Food Pantry Prep Day
- 03/25 Food Pantry open 9:00 a.m.
- 03/29 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
PALM SUNDAY
Holy Week Begins
Guest Minister:



Marcia Buhl
OGHS Collection

APRIL 2026

NAME – Elder for the Month

- 04/02 **Maundy Thursday**
Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper
- 04/03 **Good Friday**; Sanctuary open for self guided prayer and meditation, 12–3 p.m.
- 04/05 **Easter Sunday**
Sunrise Service in Chestnut Hill Cemetery, TBA
Breakfast at Sprague’s following Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Minister: Rev. Lee Beckes
One Great Hour of Sharing Dedication
- 04/12 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Mary Whitcomb
- 04/19 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Minister: Rev. Dorothy Pearman
- 04/26 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Nicodemus Creach
- 04/27 Food Pantry Prep Day
- 04/28 Food Pantry Prep Day
- 04/29 Food Pantry, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Pastor Nominating Committee Report by Judy McClain



The PNC is grateful for the committed slate of pulpit supply ministers and speakers who are leading our worship during our time of transition. Each of our pulpit supply bring the word of God to us in different and special ways that will help the congregation and committee to discern what qualities and style we are looking for in our next minister. Thank you to everyone who takes part in and attends worship and activities. Our church continues to be alive and vibrant!

Please continue to keep our congregation in prayer and the one God is preparing for us according to His plan!



Mission Committee Report by Julie McLarney-Pagett

Our Mission Highlight of the Month helps bring attention to our Ongoing and Hands On Mission projects throughout the year. In January and February, thanks to your donations, we were able to drop off 17 new gift bags filled with baby items for families in need at Olean General Hospital. Thank you!!



The month of February hosts two of our annual mission projects: our Souper Bowl of Caring and the Fun Fleece Festival. This year's Souper Bowl of Caring took place on Sunday, February 8th. You donated 144 cans of soup and \$165, all of which were given to the Portville Community Food Pantry. The following week we hosted our annual Fun Fleece Festival at the church where we worked to make a total of 50 blankets that will be dropped off at the Child Advocacy Center in Olean. Thanks to all who attended the event... see photos on the following page.



In March, our Mission Highlight of the Month will focus on our collection of personal care items to be donated to students in need at Portville Central School. You can continue to drop off your donations for this project on the display in the Quilt Room.



The Portville Community Food Pantry will be our April Mission Highlight of the Month. Per a request from the food pantry's coordinator, Randy McClain, the food pantry is in need of egg noodles and 1# bags of rice to help build up a stockpile of these monthly staple items. Thank you for all your generous donations!



Mission's Fun Fleece Festival Photos



Worship Committee Report by Diana Dunbar

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord...”

Psalm 100:1

We announced in the last newsletter that we were starting a choir that would sing once or twice a month and the choir has met. Unfortunately, I missed the first practice because of my surgery, but I was able to attend the last rehearsal. There were four of us along with Linden muddling through a beautiful song of praise. By the end of our rehearsal, we were sounding pretty good. I don't know if we can call four voices a choir, but I was excited about our sound and the composition is beautiful. If laughter and enthusiasm are a sign of success, I can't wait to share this song with the congregation.



It's not too late. If you are curious and want to see what the “noise” is all about, join us. Our practice times for March and April are March 15th, March 22nd, and April 12th. We gather in the sanctuary around the piano at 9:00 am for about 30 minutes. I'm not sure when we will be ready to sing for the congregation, but I know it will be a meaningful experience for all. Thank you, Anita and Linden, for providing us with another way to celebrate and worship our Lord.

*There is still time to join us...don t shy away from this musical opportunity to praise God.
Sing to the LORD a new song...” Psalm 96:1*

The Season of Lent is upon us...

On February 18th we celebrated Ash Wednesday with our Lutheran friends. There were 25 in attendance, and we began our journey to the cross by setting our minds and hearts in the right direction.



Lent is a time to prepare us to experience the love that Jesus showed to each of us on the cross.

Each Sunday during Lent we are going to look at one of the “I am...” statements of Jesus that are found in the gospel of John. We have created a weekly devotional page about the declaration and other supporting scripture that you can “feed on” throughout the week to contemplate and to use for your personal prayer and devotion on your journey of growth and transformation that this time of year asks us to delve into. A member of the congregation will introduce the statement during



worship and light a candle to mark each of the important “milestones” on our journey to the cross. On March 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd we will study four of these in more depth after church during our “Soup and Study” fellowship luncheons.

(Continued on following page.)

Worship Committee Report (con't) by Diana Dunbar

More to look forward to this Lent...

Sun, Mar 29th

Palm Sunday

Distribution of palms during worship, 10:00 a.m.

Thu, Apr 2nd

Maundy Thursday

Potluck Dinner at church, 5:00 p.m.

Fri, Apr 3rd

Good Friday

Sanctuary open 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
for quiet reflection and prayer

Sun, Apr 5th

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at Portville Cemetery, 6:45 a.m.
Breakfast at Sprague's Restaurant to follow
Worship Service with Communion, 10:00 a.m.



Thank you to **Barb Fairbanks, Cyndy Kennedy, Kari Kloss, and Judy Everetts** for all their help with the plans for Lent...

Pulpit Supply:

We have secured ministers and speakers to fill our pulpit through July 12th. Thank you to all those who have shared with us God's word while we continue to wait on His plan for us.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD" Jeremiah 29:11



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www.freepik.com

Worship Service: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School for Ages 3 to Adults: 9:00 a.m.

Please check our church's website (see QR code below) for dates when Sunday School is in session.

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