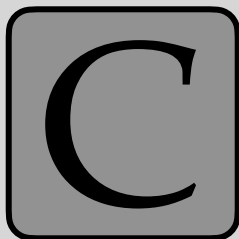


The



First Presbyterian Church of Portville, NY

cornerstone



Volume 30 Issue 4 Page 1

July/August 2026

Welcoming Our Newest Session Members... Diana and Amy

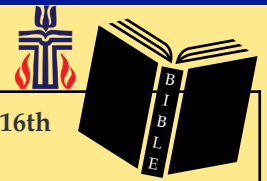


Thank you **Kari** and **Steve** for serving on Session.
Welcome to the Class of 2029 -
Diana
and
Amy.



Ordination/Installation	Pg. 1	Portville Food Pantry	Pg. 6	Session & Summer Poem	Pg. 13
Lectionary /Sanctuary Cleaning	Pg. 2	Church Calendar	Pg. 6	Mission Committee	Pg. 14
Finance, PNC & Birthdays	Pg. 3	Christian Ed. Committee	Pg. 7 - 11	Lemonade Stand Photos	Pg. 14
Property Committee	Pg. 4 & 5	Worship Committee	Pg. 12	Vacation Bible School	Pg. 15

Lectionary for July / August 2026



Sunday, July 5th Psalm 45:10-17 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Sunday, July 26th Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Sunday, August 16th Psalm 133 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28
Sunday, July 12th Psalm 119:105-112 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Sunday, August 2nd Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21	Sunday, August 23rd Psalm 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20
Sunday, July 19th Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Sunday, August 9th Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33	Sunday, August 30th Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28



Sanctuary Cleaning Schedule by Connie and Norm

SANCTUARY CLEANING SCHEDULE: The new 2026 Schedule is posted in the Quilt Room. A partial list is printed below with your name and the date to have the cleaning done in the sanctuary area. You may trade dates. Phone numbers are listed in the Directory or call the church office to get a number you need. Sweepers and cleaning supplies are in the room at the end of the hall just down from the Sound Room. Thank you for volunteering and for your continued support to help keep our church looking so nice. Mary Ann C. is available to substitute from June through October, if needed.

July 5	Julie	Sep 6	Julie
July 12	Kathy	Sep 13	Vicki
July 19	Vicki	Sep 20	Jacquie
July 26	Jacquie	Sep 27	Kathy
Aug 2	Norm	Oct 4	Diana
Aug 9	Mark	Oct 11	Eva
Aug 16	Eva	Oct 18	Connie
Aug 23	Connie	Oct 25	Mark
Aug 30	Vicki		



Finance Committee Report by Connie, Co-Chair

What is Per Capita?

"My church has to pay for me? **What !!!**"

Yes, indeed! Like all churches in our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, we pay a per capita amount to our Presbytery for every member of our church. This year's per capita amount is \$50 per member.

"What do they do with this money?"

- Part is retained by **Presbytery** (cluster of Presbyterian churches in same general area) for its administrative costs as well as to cover its operating expenses, staff, etc. For example: assisting in our search for a minister
- A portion is sent to our **Synod** (cluster of Presbyteries in the same geographical area) to be used for administrative and operating costs as well, but also it is used to assist in legal costs a church may incur.
- The final portion goes to **General Assembly** (cluster of synods) to provide leadership and training events for all churches in PCUSA and to set denominational policy, doctrine and national mission priorities.

So what does this mean? Since our per capita is based on the number of members, it is important that our membership rolls be kept up to date. If you have questions, please call Barb Fairbanks at 585-307-4167.

PNC Report by Judy

The PNC is continuing to explore how to share our Call for a Pastor in any way possible that may connect with call seekers. Have you talked with family, friends, co-workers about our search or a new pastor? We continue to remain persistent and patient with faith,

Keep
THE
FAITH

Faith
HOPE
Love

Trust
LORD

FAITH
open
DOORS

trust, hope and prayer (lots of prayer) that God's Plan will be revealed with the right person to be our minister at the right time. Our congregation continues to be vibrant with good attendance each Sunday at worship and serving God throughout each week!

July

1st	Troy
2nd	Evelyn
2nd	Susan
3rd	Linden
5th	Anita
5th	Julie
7th	Ainslee
7th	Cyndy
11th	Kathy
12th	Mia
14th	Saylor
16th	Eva
17th	Craig
19th	Isabelle
23rd	Karl
27th	Scott
28th	Ronda
30th	Sandy



Happy
Birthday

August

2nd	Archer
5th	Hannah
6th	Mac
10th	Colt
17th	Ed
18th	Addison
19th	Carter

Property Committee Report by Terry

A HUGE Thank You to all of the 15 that attended the recent Saturday Morning Church Clean-up Work Session. Several areas inside and outside were addressed with excellent results shown. (Steve, Bizzy, Mary Ann, John, Julie, Jack, Barb, Bob, Mark, Kathy, Bob, Norm, Connie, Terry and Judy)



Property Committee Report by Terry (con't)

Other areas of note are the completion of the Organ Upgrade Project as well as the Audio System Upgrade and the installation of air conditioning in the Pastors Office as well as the Church Secretary's office.

Currently on the Open Line Report: the committee is working on possible updates to the facility heating system and the outside appearance of the Church. Several minor issues are also being taking care of at this time.

Also, thank you Mark and Troy for keeping up with the lawn work and thank you Barb for all of your extra efforts.

Organ Upgrade Project



Portville Community Food Pantry Report by Randy

Do you know... The Town of Portville is a rural community of approximately 3,500 residents in Cattaraugus County, New York. County data indicate that roughly 12.2% of residents experience food insecurity, suggesting that more than 425 Town of Portville residents may struggle to access sufficient nutritious food. The community has a significant senior population, with more than one-quarter of residents age 65 and older. In addition, approximately 40–46% of students in the Portville Central School District* qualify for free or reduced-price meals, demonstrating substantial economic need among local families. Rural transportation barriers, rising food costs, and fixed incomes create ongoing challenges for many households, making local food assistance programs essential to community well-being.

The Portville Community Food Pantry serves the Portville Central School District and is an important resource that helps to address these needs for the members of our community, young to old.

*Note: Portville Central School is comprised of the whole of the Town and Village of Portville, and parts of Towns of Olean, Genesee and Clarksville. These areas take in parts of Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties.

Church Calendar provided by Judy

Mark Your Calendars!

JULY 2026

Connie – Elder for the Month

07/05 Worship Service/Comm., 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr.
07/08 Session, 4:30 p.m.
07/12 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Mary
07/19 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker:
07/21 Vacation Bible School, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Food Pantry Set Up, 7:00 p.m.
07/22 Food Pantry open 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Vacation Bible School, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
07/23 Vacation Bible School, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
07/26 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr.

AUGUST 2026

Barb – Elder for the Month

08/02 Worship Service/Comm., 10:00 a.m.
Guest Minister: Rev.
08/09 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth
08/16 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
with Bethel Lutheran Church
08/19 Session, 4:30 p.m.
08/20 Property Committee
08/23 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth
Deadline for July/Aug Newsletter Articles
08/24 Food Pantry Set Up, 9:00 a.m.
08/25 Food Pantry Prep Day
08/26 Food Pantry, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
08/30 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr.

Christian Education Committee Report by Kari

What a whirlwind of an end for our 2025-2026 Sunday School Season! So much activity, so much fun, so much fellowship!

For the final classes of the year, our Sunday Schoolers were busy with May Day cards for our neighbors at the manor, learning their final lessons, and preparing for Open House on May 31st.

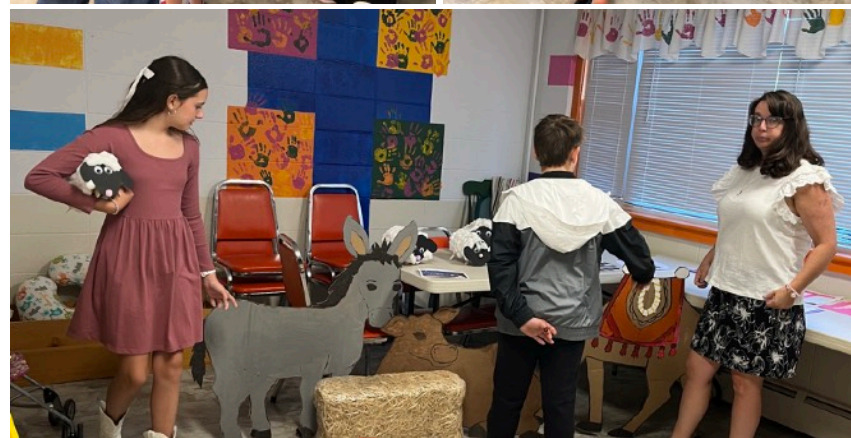
Our families and congregation were able to walk through the classrooms to see what our youth have been working on and learning all year. The attendance charts in each room show how much our Sunday School continues to grow! It's exciting how many children fill the rooms and sanctuary throughout the year! Then, everyone was invited to share in the sundae station provided by our adult Sunday School class (THANK YOU SO MUCH) and watch a slide show of moments from the year while visiting with one another. The joy was palpable.



2025 - 2026 Sunday School Open House



Christian Education Committee Report by Kari (con't)



Christian Education Committee Report by Kari (con't)



After Open House, we recognized our teachers and students during worship. It's important to note that Bizzy also made sure we sent cards to our 2 college graduates.

I (Kari) presented our teachers with a thank you poem (which I will share below) and the church purchased each teacher a beautiful hanging basket. Bizzy, Amy, and Carly handed out Certificates of Participation and Scoops gift cards to celebrate our children. It was a glorious day!

With that said, I would like to thank everyone for an amazing 3 years as your Christian Education Co-Chair. I feel so blessed to have been a small part of this growing area of our church. To open another youth classroom, start-up Vacation Bible School, and present a full Christmas pageant, all while being the co-chair for this committee has been a joy.

Furthermore, it's quite an experience to become an elder and learn about your church, be a part of the conversations and decision making, and spend an evening each month with truly incredible Christians. I would encourage anyone who even hears a whisper of the call to serve to take that step. There are lots of helping hands as you gain your footing.

I am so grateful for all the hands that played a role making Christian Education such a success and such a joy to lead. And to that end, working alongside all the ladies in the committee and especially our teachers who give their time, talent, and energy...ladies who inspired the poem below...(please allow my poetic liberties) 😊

Christian Education Committee Report by Kari (con't)

Kari's Thank You Poem

The Bizzzzzness of teaching takes a heart that is true,

One that can handle the Bizzy-ness too.

Our littles' teacher (Bizzy) shares God's love with every child she meets

Turning tiny footsteps towards Jesus's feet.

And by her side JESSie proves it's truly no jest,

How faithful she serves and Jessss gives her best.

She Jessss rolls up her sleeves to help get the job done,

Volunteering her time with our youngest while having fun!

Also, there is Katie who helps with a patient 😊 heart.

A special lady faithfully serving and doing her part.

In this teacher role she is more than o K

T-ing up for her own class with God leading her way.

Amy takes aim at each heart and mind,

Helping God's truth hit the mark each time.

She points each lesson straight and true,

Encouraging faith to grow in all that her middlers do.

Carrrrly has the drive to guide our preteens on their way.

Providing directions toward Christ on our school Sunday's.

She helps steers their hearts through every turn and mile.

Always with love, humor, and her own style.

And Diana guides and leads our adult class.

Plus, she creates lessons for all occasions that helps God's truth last.

***Di** plans a lot and blesses us more than she sees,*

*Getting God's work **Dun Bar** None with ease.*

Ladies, we thank you all for every prayer, smile, and song.

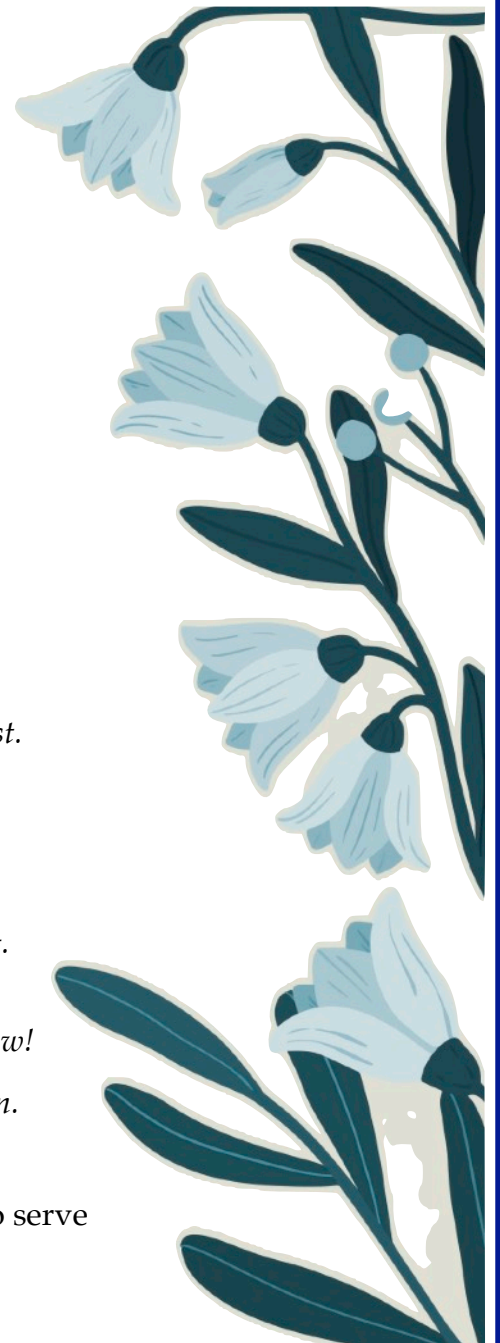
For loving ALL ages of God's children in our church all year long.

Your kindness and time mean more than you know

Because through all your teaching, God's kingdom continues to grow!

And I'll say it again teachers...you are all in a "class" of your own.

Thank you everyone at Portville Presbyterian for allowing me to serve
as your Christian Education Co-chair and Elder 2023-2026!



Christian Education Report by Kari (con't)



Worship Committee Report by Diana

Let everyone that has breath...

Praise THE Lord

This time of year always feels like the end of something and the start of something a little quieter. I think that is because I was a teacher for so long. The last few months were filled with activity and celebration during worship. The following is a recap of these busy events...a congregational meeting, the children helping to celebrate the women of the church, the fruit of the spirit shared on the Sunday of Pentecost, the teachers and students of our Sunday School recognized, ordination and installation of elders to begin plans for a new year, and the men were honored on Father's Day. Linden is off for the summer spending time with his family and traveling and we are grateful for Joshua as he fills in for Linden while he is gone. We've enjoyed the visiting pastors and speakers that continue to share their knowledge and faith with us... and that is some of what we've done the past two months.



Pentecost Sunday



Mother's Day



Now summer is here ... remember amid the busyness of our lives we need to enjoy some quiet relaxation and renewal that this season can offer. Be sure to come on the Sundays when you are able and if you are traveling join us on Facebook. Listen to the wise words of the Psalmist, "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10. Let the days of summer refresh your spirit and your devotion to God.

Father's Day

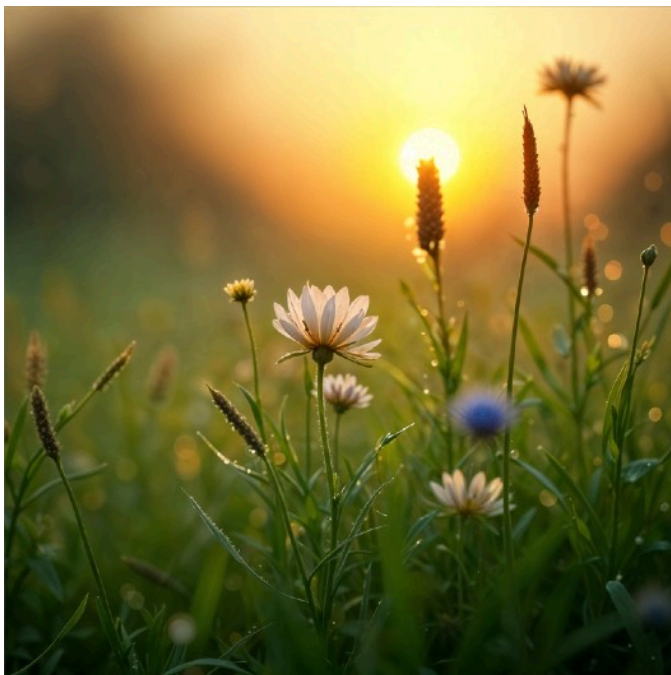


Session Report by Judy

Communion by Intinction



The Session approved offering communion by intinction from time to time. This will give an opportunity to elders who may have some difficulty to serve communion walking up and down the aisles to stand or sit by the communion table to serve the gluten free bread cubes as the congregation walks by and then go on to the minister who will be serving the cup. This occasional way of communion will offer some of our elders to continue to be involved in serving the sacrament of communion.



SUMMER HOLDS

submitted by Connie
written by Nancy Watson Dodrill
from: "Hope Renewed"

*A touch of velvet, a bloom of a rose,
The fragrance of flowers and honey in groves,
Christened the morning with a heavenly scent
On the breeze of the solstice when springtime is spent.*

*The crystal blue sky holds a whisper of cloud,
And birds that sing praise to the Creator, aloud,
On wing, they're like angels with colorful hue
That worship and love Him, eternity through.*

*Summer holds dreams that we had as a child,
A sock full of memories of youth running wild;
Trusting the Savior on instinct that grows,
The basis of faithfulness that only God knows.*

*Summer holds warm nights with diamonds above,
Such jewels are the treasure, a troth of pure love,
Embodied in Heaven where the greedy can't steal
And dreamers envision what pleasures are real.*

*Summer holds romance, Summer holds youth,
Summer holds fantasy, Summer holds truth;
Enchantment from Nature, all sunny and bright,
With long days of wonder and short dreams at night.*

*God blesses the Summer with His own gentle touch,
With color and fragrance, we all love so much.
He created this time so our spirits can rest
In knowing He loves us, His chosen and best.*

Mission Committee Report by Julie

Thank you all so much for your continued support of our On-Going Mission Projects! These projects...

- ❖ Baby Layette (display in the Narthex)
- ❖ Gift-A-Book (display downstairs outside Adult Sunday School Room)
- ❖ PCS Personal Care Items (display in the Quilt Room) and
- ❖ Portville Community Food Pantry (display downstairs in the Dining Room)

help serve our community members in need and your generous donations make that service of love and support possible.

Our **July Mission Highlight of the Month** will be the Portville Community Food Pantry and we will be focusing on collecting egg noodles, cans of tuna fish, and boxes of macaroni and cheese.

August's Mission Highlight will be those needed personal care items for the Portville Central School students who will be returning in the fall. All donations are greatly appreciated!!

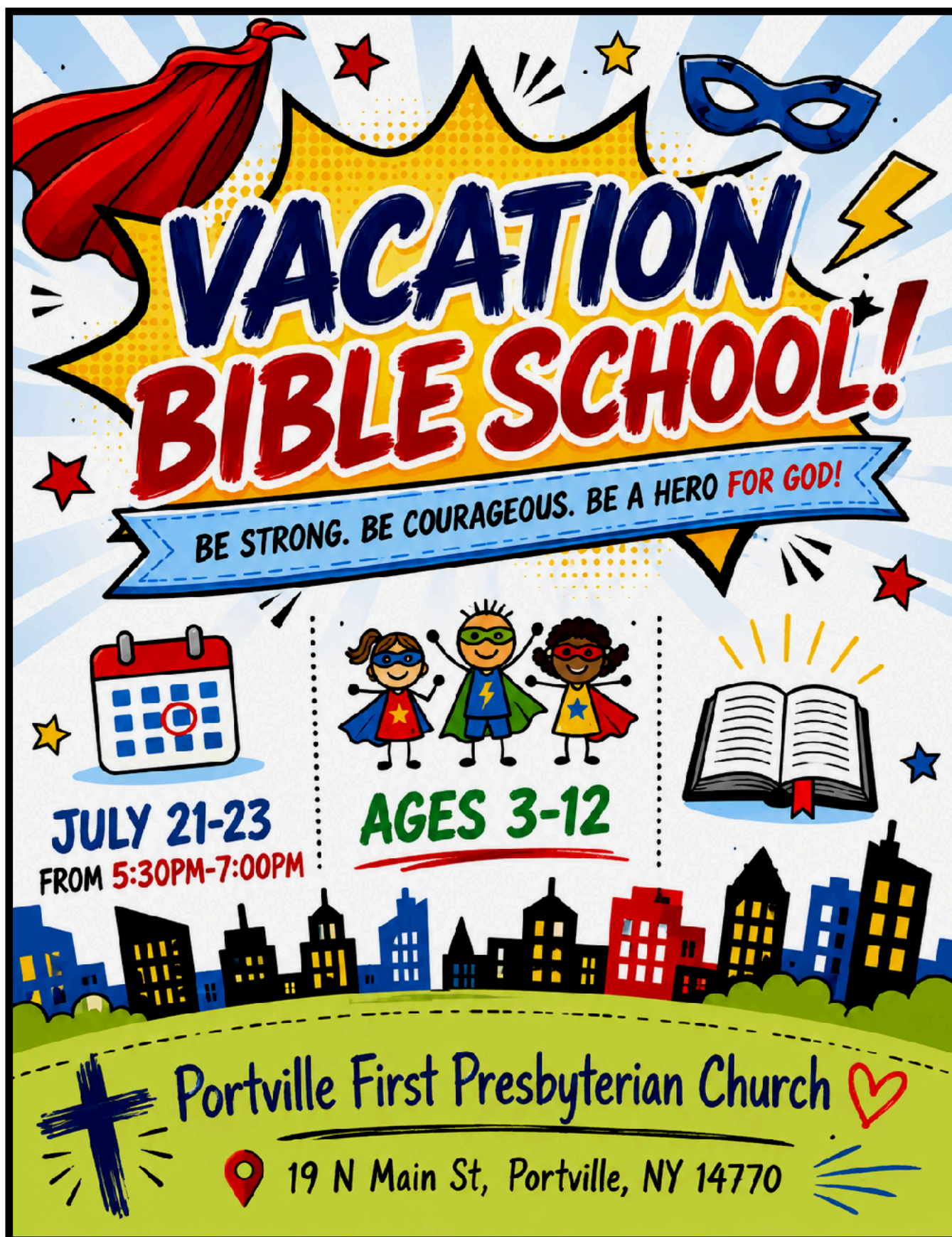
On Saturday, June 27th, Amelia and Lochlan hosted their 3rd Annual Lemonade and Bake Sale with all proceeds benefitting the Portville Community Food Pantry.



**The next day in worship,
they presented the Portville
Community
Food Pantry
with
\$1,197!!!!
Way to go,
Ladies!!!**



Vacation Bible School



A vibrant, comic-book style poster for Vacation Bible School. The background is a bright yellow starburst shape with a blue and white striped border. At the top left is a red cape, and at the top right is a blue mask. A yellow lightning bolt is on the right. The title "VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!" is written in large, bold, blue and red letters with white outlines. Below the title is a blue banner with the text "BE STRONG. BE COURAGEOUS. BE A HERO FOR GOD!". In the center, three cartoon children in superhero costumes (red, blue, and yellow) are standing. To the left of the children is a calendar icon with a red circle around the date July 21-23. To the right is an open book icon. Below the children, the text "AGES 3-12" is written in green. At the bottom, a city skyline is visible. The text "Portville First Presbyterian Church" is written in blue, with a red heart to the right. Below this, a red location pin icon is followed by the address "19 N Main St, Portville, NY 14770". A blue cross icon is on the left.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

BE STRONG. BE COURAGEOUS. BE A HERO FOR GOD!

JULY 21-23
FROM 5:30PM-7:00PM

AGES 3-12

Portville First Presbyterian Church ♥

19 N Main St, Portville, NY 14770



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

19 North Main Street

P.O. Box 765

Portville, NY 14770

716.933.6426

portville.presbyterian (followed by @gmail.com)

Clipart images
designed by Freepik.
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.



Follow us on Facebook!

