

Session Report by Judy

Session welcomes Class of 2029 Elders **Diana** and **Amy**! Thank you for your willingness to serve our congregation in this way!

Session held its organizational meeting in July for 2026-2027. Following are the committee chairs:



Christian Education - Bizzy

Congregational Care - Barb, Amy

Finance and Stewardship - Connie, Mark

Mission - Julie

Nominating - Bizzy, Barb

Personnel - Mark, Vicki

Property - Terry

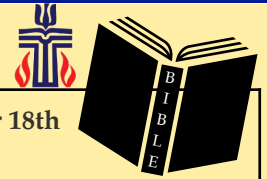
Worship - Diana



Committees are holding their organizational meetings for 2026 - 2027. Regular meeting dates are being set and events planned. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to serve on one or more of these committees. It's never too late to join a committee - sign up anytime! You are always welcome! Your ideas, suggestions and questions are important to include everyone in the life of our church!

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Lectionary for Sep/Oct 2026



Sunday, September 6th Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	Sunday, September 27th Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32	Sunday, October 18th Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
Sunday, September 13th Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	Sunday, October 4th Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46	Sunday, October 25th Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46
Sunday, September 20th Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16	Sunday, October 11th Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	



*With joy in our hearts, we would like to welcome
three new members to our church family...
Katie, Brenda, and Joe.*

Sanctuary Cleaning Schedule by Connie and Norm

SANCTUARY CLEANING SCHEDULE: The 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 through October, if needed.

Sep 6	Julie	Nov 1	Julie
Sep 13	Vicki	Nov 8	Connie
Sep 20	Jacquie	Nov 15	Kathy
Sep 27	Kathy	Nov 22	Connie
		Nov 29	Norm
Oct 4	Diana	Dec 6	Mark
Oct 11	Eva	Dec 13	Eva
Oct 18	Connie	Dec 20	Connie
Oct 25	Mark	Dec 27	Jacquie



Portville Community Food Pantry

by Randy

Portville Community Food Pantry (PCFP) received a donation of \$1,806.92 plus 483 food items from the 2-week Mastel Ford "Drive for Food" collection! WOW! PCFP was surprised to be selected to be the benefactor of the Mastel Ford campaign to support community service efforts. THANK YOU! to Mastel Ford and their customers for their commitment to our families in need. These funds will be used to purchase meat and produce.

In the first half of 2026, the food pantry served 202 households with 422 people that includes 124 senior citizens, 188 adults and 110 children. The equivalent of 3,798 meals were provided to help these families in our community when their other resources fell short.

Thank you to everyone in our congregation who supports the food pantry. So many members donate food and funds to keep this vital community program a real help in those in need. Thank you to Bethel Lutheran Church, Jonah's Attic of Rivers Edge United Methodist Church, and Obi Community Church also for all your support with volunteers and/or funds for the food pantry.



September

3rd	Terry
4th	Ellie
11th	Bob
11th	Chris
12th	Jesse
22nd	Wyatt
23rd	Sean
24th	Lindsay
24th	Kathy
26th	Randy
26th	Drake
27th	Carly
28th	Ava
28th	Jacqui
30th	Ryan

Happy Birthday



October

2nd	Kristin
6th	Cindy
7th	Kelsey
10th	Ronald
10th	Avery
14th	Ian
21st	Brodie

Finance Committee Report by Barbara and Vicki

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...oops!



What is BPIF?

A long time ago, in The First Presbyterian Church of Portville, NY...actually in September of 2002...the BPIF was established. BPIF stands for **Building Preservation and Improvement Fund**. The seed money (around \$18,000) for this came from...

- 1) a CD that had been previously invested from a surplus in previous years' general operating budgets
- 2) a CD previously established with Memorial Fund monies
- 3) two lawn sales
- 4) a surplus in the 2002 operating budget

Over the years this account has grown due to generous donations (yes, the church gratefully accepts donations to BPIF!) But it also has been used for many different church improvements. Our original lift account (called Barrier Free around 2004) received seed money from this account. When all expenses were met, the remaining monies from the Barrier Free account were transferred into BPIF. More recently, our new current lift (2025) was funded from BPIF. Some other significant projects include outside church painting (2008 & 2010), blacktopping (2009), kitchen renovation (2014), roofing (2016 & 2018), windows (2016), library and office renovations (2017 & 2018), furnace repairs (**many** in recent years), and flooring (2019 & 2024). By our church having this fund, a lot of the worry of where money is going to come from for needed repairs is alleviated. It does not affect our general operating monies.

We do have some major expenses coming up, however. Our top property is the old furnaces (yes, we have three). As mentioned above, we have had **many** repairs and the furnaces are in dire need of being replaced. Our next priority is the siding and this most likely will be on next year's agenda. These projects will tap into monies from BPIF.

If you wish to make a donation to BPIF, checks can be made out to the church and directed to Barb Fairbanks, the church treasurer, with BPIF noted in the memo line.

**Building
Preservation and
Improvement Fund**



Upcoming Events in September and October



Sunday School Classes
September 20th and 27th
October 11th and 25th
25th is Children's Sabbath

September 27th
Annual Picnic at Pfeiffer Nature Center after Worship



October 31st
Community Halloween Trick-or-Treating



Church Calendar provided by Judy

Mark Your Calendars!

SEPTEMBER 2026

Bizzy – Elder for the Month

- 09/06 Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Rev. Lee
- 09/07 *Labor Day*; Church Office Closed
- 09/08 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 09/09 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 09/10 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 09/13 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth
- 09/15 Church Office Closed; J. on vacation
- 09/16 Church Office Closed; J. on vacation
Session, 4:00 p.m.
- 09/17 Church Office Closed; J. on vacation
- 09/20 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Marcia
- 09/21 Food Pantry Prep Day
- 09/22 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Food Pantry Prep Day
- 09/23 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Food Pantry open 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 09/24 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 09/27 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth

Pfeiffer Nature Center Picnic after Worship



OCTOBER 2026

Diana – Elder for the Month

- 10/04 Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Minister: Rev. Lee
Mission Committee Meeting - via email
- 10/06 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Finance Committee Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- 10/07 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 10/08 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 10/11 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth
- 10/13 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 10/14 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 10/15 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 10/18 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Minister: Rev. Dr. Dorothy
- 10/20 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 10/21 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Session, 4:00 p.m.
- 10/22 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 10/25 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Children's Sabbath Day
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Elizabeth
- Deadline for Nov/Dec Newsletter Articles**
- 10/26 Food Pantry Prep Day
- 10/27 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Food Pantry Prep Day
- 10/28 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Food Pantry open 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 10/29 Church Office Open, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 10/31 *Halloween*
Mission's Community Trick-or-Treating

Property Committee Report by Terry

The new railing has been installed for access to and from the pulpit area. Thanks to Mark, John and Jack, Terry, and Barb for completing the activity.

Also, a new bulletin board was mounted in the downstairs entrance area. Thank you to Dave and Kathy, Norm, and Terry for getting it mounted after worship and prior to Vacation Bible School.



A cabinet, created by Jim, to enclose the newly added sound system in the dining room was recently set up. Thanks to all for making another great project from our Property Committee happen!



And the work goes on...

Be advised that the Property Committee is working on several initiatives.

We have three large projects currently being addressed:

#1 - A siding project which will begin soon includes new vinyl siding on the rear and both sides of the church.

#2 - We are obtaining proposals for upgrading the facility heating system.

#3 - The east side entrance way "canopy" has obtained severe structural damage and is scheduled for immediate repair. Work will begin as soon as the contractor is available.

Otherwise, many small line items are being addressed.

Worship Committee Report by Diana

First the Worship Committee wants to inform the congregation that Linden will not be returning this Fall. He has taken a full-time position with a church in Buffalo. We will miss him, but we wish him the best in this amazing opportunity and thank him for his time of service with us. This leads to a request, we need more music techs to learn how to play the music recorded on the organ and we hope some of you will choose to learn how to do this responsibility. If you are interested in participating in the training, please let Judy or Diana know. While I am imploring you to consider volunteering to be music techs, let's not forget that we need liturgists, greeters, and recorders each Sunday. Check out the volunteer list and sign up.

Looking back... We want to thank our Lutheran friends, community visitors, and members that worshipped in the Park on August 16th. It was well attended and the spirit was felt. The cookies and lemonade were a delicious ending to the Worship in the Park.



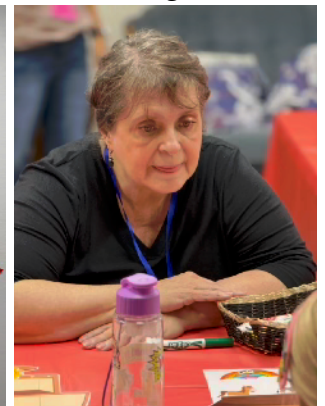
Looking ahead... On **September 27th**, we will be having our annual trip to **Pfeiffer Nature Center** for a picnic after worship. Sub sandwiches will be provided and there will be a sign-up sheet for side dishes to go with them. We will enjoy a brief program, fellowship, and good food. Plan to come along. Be advised that the Property Committee is working on several initiatives.

On **October 25th**, we will be celebrating the **Children's Sabbath** where we honor the children in our church. Mark your calendar.

Christian Education Committee Report by Bizzy



JESUS IS MY HERO! We had our very successful second year of Vacation Bible School here at our church this summer! The theme was "Heroes of the Bible". During the 3-day event, kiddos from our church, as well as from the community, learned the stories of Noah, David, and Jonah. Youth were split up into 4 classes, and each day they made crafts, read one of the Bible stories and participated in related activities, played games, and ate snacks. We had over 30 youth, ages 3-12, registered for the event and 17 volunteers from our congregation, 2 parents, and 1 friend who helped bring this event to life and made it run smoothly! THANK YOU GREATLY TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS - YOU ARE AMAZING!!! Diana put together the curriculum that each teacher followed, as well as hand-crafted many of the decorations used to decorate the spaces we used - A HUGE THANK YOU TO YOU, DIANA! We are looking forward to next year!



Christian Education Committee Report by Bizzy (con't)



Super Kiddo!

Christian Education Committee Report by Bizzy (con't)



Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. - Joshua 1:9



Christian Education Committee Report by Bizzy (con't)



Children's and adult Sunday school starts up again for the 2026 - 2027 school year on September 20th, during which we will celebrate our return to Sunday school with cider & donuts! Bizzy will be teaching the 3 year-olds up to kindergarteners, Amy will teach the 1st and 2nd graders, Katie will teach the 3rd and 4th graders, and Carly will teach students 5th grade and up. A special welcome and thank you to Katie for volunteering her time to being one of our Sunday school teachers - THANK YOU & WE APPRECIATE YOU, KATIE! Diana will once again teach the adult class, and they will be studying David.

The remainder of the Sunday school dates for the fall session are: September 27th, October 11th & 25th, and November 15th & 22nd. The children's Sunday school will be putting on a Christmas program during worship on November 29th. Additionally, Diana's much anticipated Advent program will begin November 29th before worship and will continue for the next 3 Sundays (December 6th, 13th, & 20th). Our Christian Education committee will have a busy and lively fall, and we can't wait!!!

Mission Committee Report by Julie

There have been several changes to PC(USA)'s Special Offerings as a result of accepted recommendations in the 226th General Assembly. Started in 2026, the previous four special offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy) have been reduced to three (One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion - formerly Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy). These changes are meant to focus on causes instead of specific program-based beneficiaries. It is also in response to "excessive donor fatigue."

The new Special Offerings and their beneficiaries are:

- **Christmas Joy Offering**, during Advent: at-risk children, youth and young adults, leadership development for people of color, Presbyterian-related Schools & Colleges Equipping Communities of Color, 35%; and the Board of Pensions assistance program for servants of the church in need, 35%.
- **One Great Hour of Sharing**, interpreted during Lent and received on Palm Sunday and/or Easter Sunday: disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change and immigration, migration and refugees.
- **World Communion Offering**, interpreted beginning Labor Day and received on World Communion Sunday: grants to other councils of the church reflecting WCO values. Proceeds would also be available for causes that include aspects that may be described as reconciliatory, including racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness and ecumenical and interfaith relations.

Regarding the upcoming World Communion Offering, under the new rules enacted by the 226th General Assembly, congregations and mid-councils retain 0% of the initial collection. Instead of automatic retention, 25% of the total World Communion Offering receipts are now pooled to fund a competitive grant program. Local congregations and presbyteries can apply for grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 for local ministries and reconciliation efforts that align with the offering's focus areas (racial/ gender justice, peacemaking, and global witness).



Our 2026 World Communion Offering runs from September 6th to October 4th. We've set our 2026 goal at \$600.

Mission Committee Report by Julie (con't)

Our committee has reorganized for the next year and made a few changes as well.

While we are still running our Ongoing and Hands-On mission projects, we are no longer focusing on a Mission

Highlight of the Month. The displays for our Ongoing mission projects (Baby Layette, PCS Personal Care Items, and Gift-A-Book) are still in the same locations and donations are accepted any time throughout

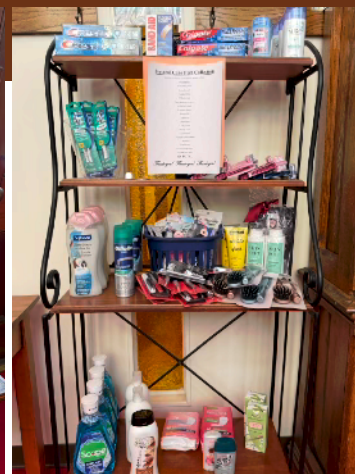
the year. In fact, thanks to your recent donations to Baby Layette, eight more gift bags were donated to Olean General Hospital in July!

Our Hands-On mission projects will be highlighted as each project approaches. In the Fall/early Winter, three Hands-On mission projects will take place...

Halloween Community Trick-or-Treating, Harvest Sunday, and Presents for Panthers. Keep an eye out for announcements for these projects in Sunday worship bulletins in the weeks to come.



Our Ongoing and Hands-On Mission Projects



Autumn Blessings

by Deborah Ann Belka

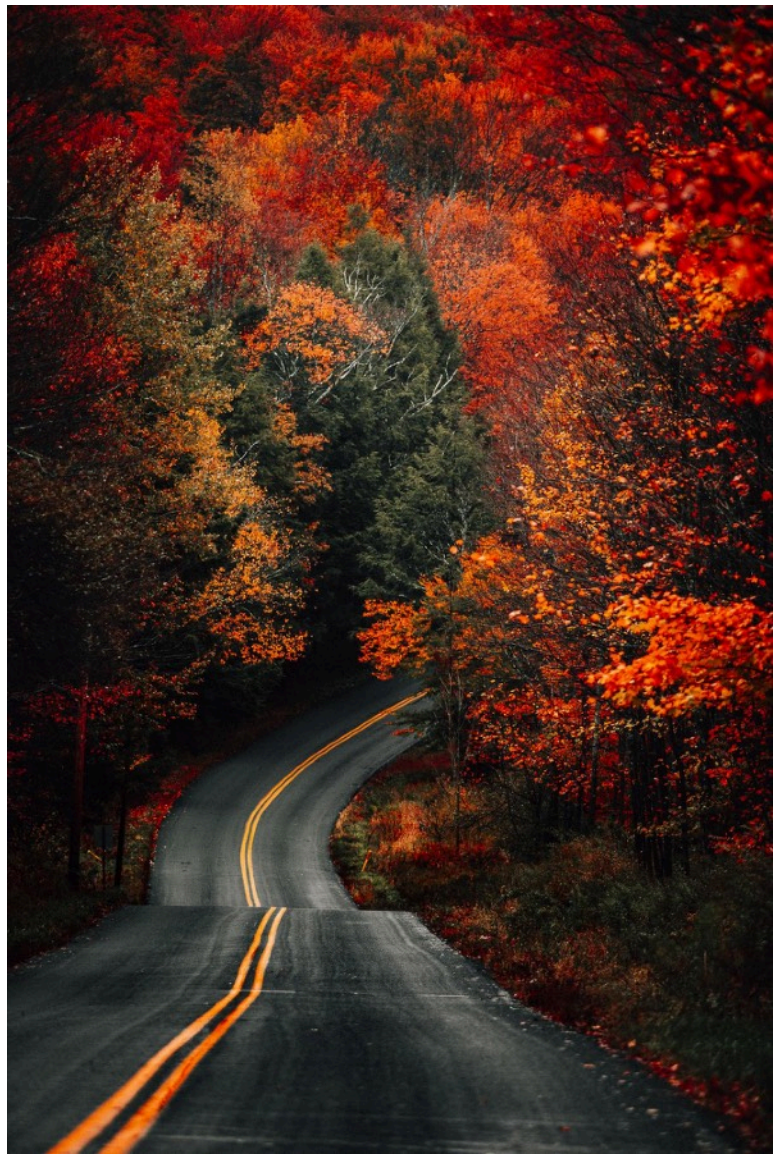
Autumn brings to the soul relief,
as hot Summer days slip to an end
God sent the season for weary hearts
to restore, repair, and mend.

Unlike the Autumn trees,
that shed their changing leaves
God sent the season for failing hearts
to adhere, embrace, and cleave.

Just as with the Autumn winds,
there comes a new refreshing rain
God sent the season for fraying hearts
to increase, grow, and gain.

The Autumn sun is slow to climb
and dips much earlier into the night
God sent the season for sleepy hearts
to rise, shine, and unwind in His light.

God gave to us the Autumn season,
so we could have a respite and rest
for it is the season for our beset souls
to see how much we are blessed!



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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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