



## Message from Rev. Hale

There's a saying: *old habits die hard*. We all recognize that refers to a habit we're trying to rid ourselves of; and we all have them—'cause they *die hard*! I'd like to add a new saying: *old habits keep us going*! That refers to practices in our lives that we want to encourage. Both sayings will bring a challenge into our lives. We'll agree both the "ridding" and the "keeping" are hard to do. We can also agree that both bring a positive impact upon us.

Every morning I feed the birds. Regardless of the temperature or depth of snow or wailing wind, I have bundled up and faced the raw, cold air every morning this winter to scatter the seed; fill the feeder for the birds; *and an army of squirrels!* I can mutter at the weather, but still I have to go. Much of it has to do with an old habit; getting out every morning to do "chores;" feed the chickens; break the ice in the water tray and add fresh; do whatever needs doing at the crack of dawn! I may groan as I go out now, but this early morning habit *keeps me going*.

We will again begin the season of Lent with a service on Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. And then, on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will gather for *Soup and Study* at 6 pm, and every Monday following throughout Lent; together keep our *discipline* of fellowship that enriches the life Christ calls us to share here.

For some, keeping Lent is an old habit. For others, it is a worthy "old habit" to form; this time of being more intentional about our relationship with God. Lent is a time that will nurture our faith as we prepare to celebrate Easter. I hope we will keep Lent well together this year. I look forward to supper and study, as we keep or begin an *old habit* that is *good* for us all!

*Sharing the welcome of Christ with you,  
Marilyn*

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## Lectionary for March / April 2011

### March 6

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2 or Psalm 99  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

### March 13

1st Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

### March 20

2nd Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

### March 27

3rd Sunday in Lent  
Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

### April 3

4th Sunday in Lent  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

### April 10

5th Sunday in Lent  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

### April 17-Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11 Psalm  
118:1-2, 19-29 Isaiah  
50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or  
Matthew 27:11-54

### April 24-Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah  
31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts  
10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or  
Matthew 28:1-10

of the  
Risen  
Christ

## Mission Committee News

Karl Shuey / Barb Fairbanks / Cso Woodworth

### Kickoff of the One Great Hour of Sharing Campaign

The Mission Committee has requested and Session has approved the Church's participation in One Great Hour of Sharing for 2011. This appeal, which has a history of over sixty years, provides another opportunity for our

congregation to experience the joy of giving to others.

One doesn't have to look very hard or very far to see people in need. News reports are full of stories telling of devastating earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. We know that there are many in our

world who are hungry and lack clean water. Others are without adequate shelter and need assistance to get and maintain affordable housing. There are also many in our country and around the world who do not have even the ability to identify, let alone address, some of their most basic

problems.

One Great Hour of Sharing uses its resources in to help in each of these areas of need. Approximately one-third of the offering is spent in the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, one-third on **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** and one-third on **Self-Development of People**. The first two of these programs are self explanatory. The Self-Development of People initiative works

with community groups to identify needs and then to address those needs. Some examples are working with a rural community in the Dominican Republic to bring in clean water or with those in poverty in Detroit to use vacant land to garden, enhancing both the landscape and their ability to provide food.

Members of the mission committee will be presenting Minutes for Mission re-

garding the One Great Hour of Sharing Appeal during the month of March. The offering of your gifts will be taken on March 27. The goal for this year is \$1000, which we are confident the you will embrace and support as enthusiastically as you have in the past. As the One Great Hour of Sharing Campaign states so well, **“Sharing Brings Joy. To Others, to God, and to Us.”**

**Special Olympics Scarves Project**



The 33 Special Olympic scarves, that were knitted or crocheted by members of the congregation, were sent to Norristown, PA in early February.

Pennsylvania received over 1000 scarves (exceeding their goal) and will share the extra ones with states that did not meet their goal. If you want more information on this project, please visit this website: [www.scarvesforspecialolympics.org/](http://www.scarvesforspecialolympics.org/)

[pics.org/](http://www.scarvesforspecialolympics.org/)

Thanks for your support of this hands-on mission project.



**4th Annual Fun Fleece Festival**

What does three hours, thirty community members, and thirty-five tied fleece blankets equal? It equals another successful Fun Fleece Festival; our 4th to be exact! And it equaled hours of fun, a little feast-

ing, and flying fingers.

Every year this event just keeps on getting better and better. There are more people in attendance ( Methodists, Lutherans, and Presbyterians), more fellowship enjoyed and more blankets created for the Southern Tier Child Ad-

vocacy Center.

A huge shout out of thanks goes to Vicki Schmidt for creating the flier and making connections within the community for this hands-on mission project, to Barb Fairbanks for, again so masterfully, coordinating the meal, to Shelley Pollock

for the donation of the sub platter, and to all the Fun Fleece attendees for their donation of their time and fleece in making this another successful event .

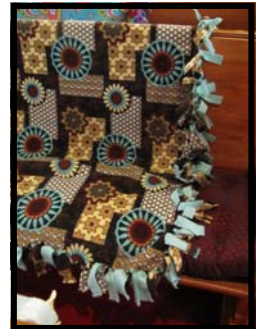
Please check out the

church's website (click on the Fun Fleece Festival link at [www.portville-presbyterian.org](http://www.portville-presbyterian.org)) for a montage of pictures from this event.

One attendee said that she has so much fun and that

she hopes that this event continues on.

The Mission Committee has already begun to plan . . . how does the 5th Annual Fun Fleece Festival on February 5th, starting at 5 sound?



**THE FOOD PANTRY . . .**  
*from your grocery cart to our shelves!*

*by Stephanie Hill*

**Sharing brings JOY!**

Thank you for your continuing to bring in a food

item each week! Following is the list of food items we will be collecting in March and April:

The week of: we will be collecting:  
03/06 egg noodles  
03/13 tuna

03/20 spaghetti  
03/27 canned fruit  
04/03 mac and cheese  
04/10 cake mix  
04/17 spaghetti  
04/24 jello or pudding

**Christian Education News**

Connie King

Spring is coming . . . as soon as it gets warmer and melts all this snow and ice! It is something to look

forward to after a long winter's nap.  
Currently the Live B.I.G.

class is going into its spring quarter curriculum. The kids and the teachers are having a great time, and

more youth in attendance is encouraged. It is not too late to join the group. Notice their work on the wall outside their classroom downstairs each week. A One Great Hour of Sharing youth activity in March will be coordinated with the mission committee.

A "Soup and Study" Lenten gathering in the church dining room at 6 p.m. on Monday evenings beginning March 14 through April 11. A light meal of soup will be followed with study led by Rev. Hale. A copy of "We Have Seen the Lord!" by William Barclay will be provided to each participant. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. If there are any changes or additions, please watch for announcements in the bulletins.

**BOOK REVIEW:** In this volume, Barclay draws on the wisdom of the Gospels to trace the last days of Jesus' earthly ministry from his entrance into Jerusalem to his resurrection and appearances to his disci-

ples. Barclay's genius of conveying the continuing power of scripture in engaging, readable prose shines through on every page. Filled with enduring truths and insightful anecdotes, this study is sure to become a classic for those seeking the true meaning of Easter. The four Gospels differ widely in the ways they begin their stories about the life of Jesus. Matthew carefully establishes Jesus' royal lineage; Mark quickly identifies him as One whose coming was long promised through the prophets; Luke tells of his humble but divinely blessed birth; John sings poetically about the incarnation of the Word through which God establishes all things. The Gospel writers are unanimous in their insistence that Jesus' life reveals both the presence of God among us and the essence of humanity. They differ and agree in other ways too. They agree that death could not hold him. When the powers of the world had done their

utmost, even that was not enough. The sections bear upon Jesus' identity, his teaching, his death, and his resurrection. To think about Easter, we need to give attention to each of these areas. These strands become woven into one story that rises through hope, learning, confrontations, isolation, and despair, to the rising shout of the Gospels: He is risen!

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**March 9:** Ash Wednesday  
**March 14 to April 11 :** Soup & Study  
**April 17 :** Palm Sunday  
**April 24 :** Easter (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)

When you see the sun, smile. Happy Spring and Happy Easter to all!



## Worship Committee News

Coni Coletti

### Building Blocks of Worship

Our building block and focus of worship in February is illumination. In our service every Sunday we start with a prayer of illumination before the responsive reading and sermon.

Before attempting to listen for the word of God, we pray for the assistance of the Holy Spirit to open our ears to hear and our hearts to receive what God is saying to us through Scripture and interpretation. Even long before the time of Jesus, when-

ever the Scriptures were read in public worship, it was thought appropriate to pray that the people would be enlightened by the reading.

There are many references in the Bible for illumination. In Luke 24:45 it says that "Christ opened their minds to understand the scriptures."

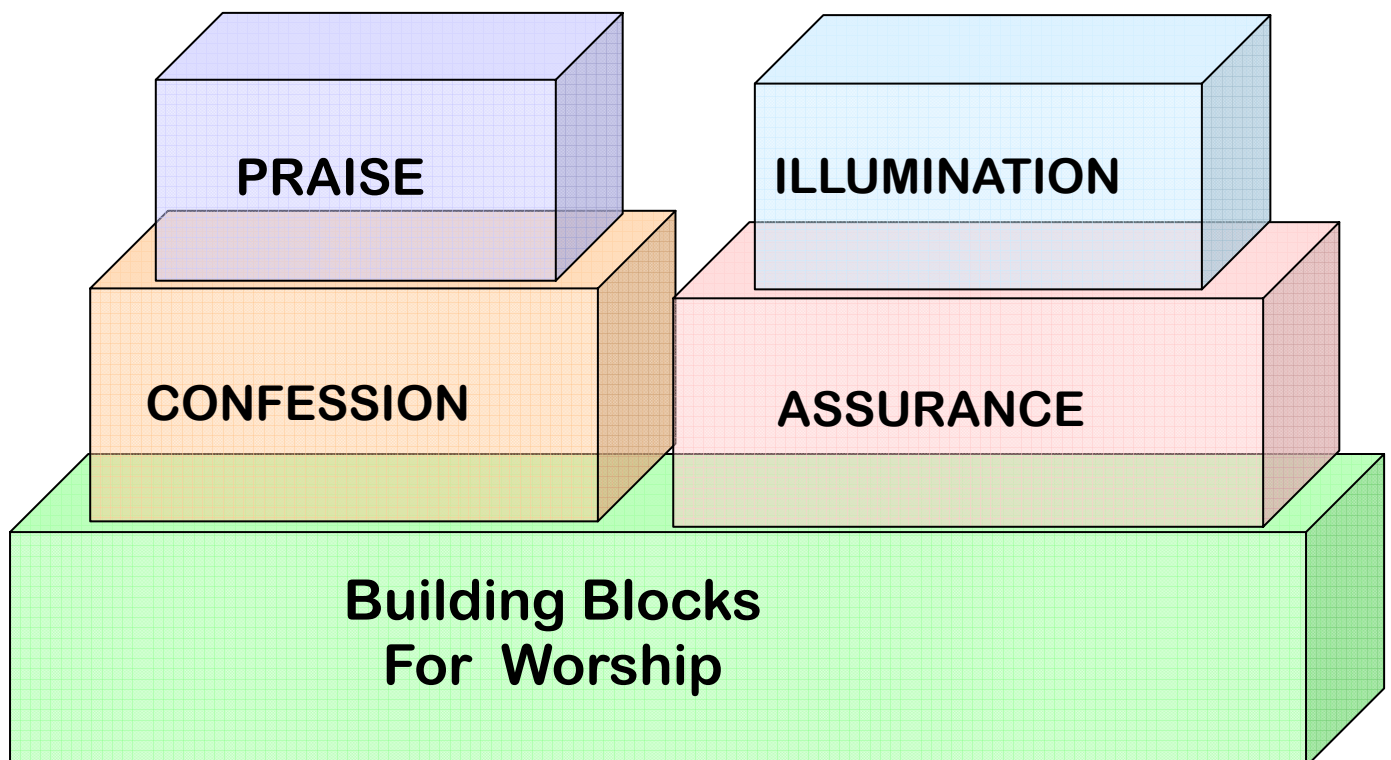
It is believed that without the illumination of the spirit the word has no effect and that faith is higher than human understanding. Therefore, the inward illumination of the spirit is necessary to understand what is being re-

vealed in the word.

The illuminated text not only says something to the reader, but does something to him in conjunction with the text and presses him to act.

In Matthew 16 it says: "let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven".

May we always be open to God's word and be a beacon of light to others.



**Property Committee News** Judy McClain

**Roll Call for Veterans**



Calling all Veterans! We want your names! The Property Committee is discussing updating the Veterans Plaque that hangs in the Narthex, to the left as you enter the front doors. Bob

Fairbanks suggested that the plaque be updated as it has been quite some time since it was last done. Bob has volunteered to coordinate this project. So any members, past or present, who served in this country's armed forces, please give your

name to Bob Fairbanks. You can contact Bob at (716)933-7540 or [rmfairbanks@roadrunner.com](mailto:rmfairbanks@roadrunner.com). Thanks, Bob for calling this to our attention and coordinating it. Thank you to all our veterans who served to preserve our freedoms.

**Announcements, Thank you notes, Concerns**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** . . .begins Sunday, March 13. Remember to "spring" ahead one hour!

**Easter Sunrise Service** - 6:30 a.m. Chestnut Hill Cemetery



**Thank you note:** From J. Norris: I wanted to thank you for my prayer cloth. I absolutely love it.

**Keep in your prayers:** Anna Burdick, Betty Cornelius, Jo Dunbar, Margret First, Joe Matthews, Wilda Hill



**Nursery Schedule**

March	6th	Sharon Hill-McLarney
	13th	Cindy Keeley
	20th	Jessie Wyant
	27th	Kari Kloss
April	3rd	Julie Pagett
	10th	Emily Woodhead
	17th	Shirley Longbothum
	24th	Kristin Woodhead

## March 2011 Dates to Remember

- |       |   |  |  |
|-------|---|--|--|
| 03/03 | Worship Committee, 6 p.m.   | 03/20  | Sunday School, 10 a.m.   |
| 03/06 | Sunday School, 10 a.m.<br>Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m.<br>OGHS promotion begins                           |  | Worship Service, 11 a.m.<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent                           |
|       | 03/07 Bible Study, 10 a.m.  | 03/21  | Bible Study, 10 a.m.<br>"Soup and Study" Lenten Gathering, 6 p.m.                    |
| 03/08 | Session, 7 p.m.   | 03/22  | Presbytery Meeting, Springville FPC, 4 p.m.  |
| 03/09 | Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.   | 03/23  | Food Pantry open 10-12 and 5-6:30 p.m.   |
| 03/13 | Sunday School, 10 a.m.<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent<br>Daylight Saving Time begins | 03/27  | Sunday School, 10 a.m.<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m.<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent |
| 03/14 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.<br>"Soup and Study" Lenten Gathering, 6 p.m.   | 03/28  | Bible Study, 10 a.m.<br>"Soup and Study" Lenten Gathering, 6 p.m.                    |
| 03/15 | PWNY Personnel Committee, 12:30 p.m.  | <b><i>It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.</i></b>                        |  |
| 03/16 | USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)  | \$200 can provide a water sanitation system for a family in Central America. |  |
| 03/17 | Mission Committee, 6 p.m.   |  |  |

## April 2011 Dates to Remember

- |       |  |       |  |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 04/03 | Sunday School, 10 a.m.<br>Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m.<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent |       | Palm Sunday  |
| 04/04 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.<br>"Soup and Study" Lenten Gathering, 6 p.m.                                  | 04/18 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.   |
| 04/06 | Portville Community Food Pantry<br>Committee, 6 p.m.   | 04/19 | PWNY Personnel Committee, 12:30 p.m.   |
| 04/10 | Sunday School, 10 a.m.<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m.<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent               | 04/20 | USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)   |
| 04/11 | Bible Study, 10 a.m.<br>"Soup and Study" Lenten Gathering, 6 p.m.                                  | 04/21 | Mission Committee, 6 p.m.<br>Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m.   |
| 04/12 | Session, 7 p.m.  | 04/22 | Good Friday Observance, noon – 3 p.m.  |
| 04/17 | Sunday School, 10 a.m.<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m.   | 04/24 | Easter Sunrise Service, Chestnut Hill<br>Cemetery (regardless of weather), 6:30 a.m.<br>Sunday School, canceled<br>Worship Service, 11 a.m.<br>Info to Cso for May/June newsletter |
|       |  | 04/25 | Bible Study, canceled  |
|       |  | 04/27 | Food Pantry open 10-12 and 5-6:30 p.m.   |

## Birthdates to Remember

### March 2011

3/11 Lauri Gardner  
 3/11 Mary Lou Harrison  
 3/18 Peter Tigh  
 3/19 Kathlyn Gardner  
 3/22 Dick Wurster  
 3/23 Stephanie Hill  
 3/28 Marissa Dunbar  
 3/30 Christine Pagett



### April 2011

4/2 Ray Carlson  
 4/5 Lila Pollock  
 4/9 Tom Pollock  
 4/10 Lucas Hellwig  
 4/10 Judy McClain  
 4/14 Marilyn Hale  
 4/16 John Pagett  
 4/21 Nick Hellwig

**One**  
great hour  
of sharing

\$65 can buy a treadle pump to help  
a farmer irrigate fields.

*It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.*



Volunteers for the month of: March 2011



Date	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Greeters and Ushers	Norm & Connie King	Steph & Joe Hill	Barb & Bob Fairbanks	Sharon Hill-McLarney
Liturgist	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Ray Carlson	Eric Talbot	Ronda Pollock
Acolyte	Communion Sunday			
Prayer Family	Anna Burdick	Russ Burton	Ray Carlson	Tom & Mary Ann Clark

Elder for the month: Stephanie Hill



## Volunteers for the month of April 2011



	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
<b>Greeters and Ushers</b>	Cso Woodworth		Randy & Judy McClain	Eric & Sara Talbot
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stephanie Hill		Ray Carlson	Judy McClain
<b>Acolyte</b>	Communion Sunday			
<b>Prayer Family</b>	Coni Coletti	Betty Cornelius	Denny Dorman	Russ Downey

Elder for the month : Barb Fairbanks

*It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do.*

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -  
PORTVILLE, NY**

19 North Main Street  
Portville, NY 14770

Voicemail: 933-6426  
Email: portville.presbyterian@gmail.com

Sunday School: 10:00 am  
ages 3 to adult  
Worship Service: 11:00 am

**Website:**

[www.portville-presbyterian.org](http://www.portville-presbyterian.org)

