

## Message from Rev. Hale

It doesn't seem possible that we will observe the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11, and that's all the date you have to say and most will know immediately where they were and what they were doing, and just *which* September 11 is being referred to, because for most of us, there is no other that will command such emotion and attention without hesitation.

I was in my office at church, putting together something called *Wednesday Re-Creation*. Weekly, I would create a guided meditation for those who kept a 6:30 a.m. discipline of introspection and prayer in our sanctuary. That copy is a stark reminder of the tragedy that changed all of our lives that Tuesday morning.

As tragic as it was, it united this country and our world for a time in a very positive way. We found strength together and comfort and hope. Differences among us became secondary as we reached out to one another. Ten years later, it seems we are more divided than ever.

With permission granted, I've reprinted the words to a hymn written on the day of September 11, 2011, by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. They go with the tune we know as "*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*." I hope these words find their healing way into our lives. Ten years have melted away, but not the divisions that keep us apart. May this *prayer* for healing be a blessing to you.

*And may God's peace be with us all,*

*Marilyn*

### "O God, Our Words Cannot Express"

O God our words cannot express the pain we feel this day.

Enraged, uncertain, we confess, our need to bow and pray.

We grieve for all who lost their lives, and for each injured one.

We pray for children, husbands, wives, whose grief has just begun.

O Lord, we're called to offer prayer for all our leaders, too.

May they, amid such great despair, be wise in all they do.

We trust your mercy and your grace; in you we will not fear!

May peace and justice now embrace! Be with your people here!

**Inside this issue:**

Lectionary	Page 2	Condolences	Page 5	Birthdays	Page 9
Congregational Care News	Page 2	Elder Thoughts	Page 6	July Volunteers	Page 9
Mission News	Page 3	Thank you / Prayers	Page 7	Announcement	Page 9
Food Pantry	Page 4	Announcements	Page 7	August Volunteers	Page 10
Christian Ed	Page 4	Dates to Remember	Page 8	Announcement	Page 10

**Lectionary for September / October 2011****Sept. 4 – 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Exodus 12:1-14  
 Psalm 149:1-9  
 Romans 13:8-14  
 Matthew 18:15-20

**Sept. 11 – 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Exodus 14:19-31  
 Psalm 114:1-8 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
 Romans 14:1-12  
 Matthew 18:21-35

**Sept. 18 – 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Exodus 16:2-15  
 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
 Philippians 1:21-30  
 Matthew 20:1-16

**Sept. 25 – 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Exodus 17:1-7  
 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
 Philippians 2:1-13  
 Matthew 21:23-32

**Oct. 2 – 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
 Psalm 19:1-14  
 Philippians 3:4b-14  
 Matthew 21:33-46

**Oct. 9 – 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Exodus 32:1-14  
 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
 Philippians 4:1-9  
 Matthew 22:1-14

**Oct. 16 – 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Exodus 33:12-23  
 Psalm 99:1-9  
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
 Matthew 22:15-22

**Oct. 23 – 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12  
 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
 Matthew 22:34-46

**Oct. 30 – 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Joshua 3:7-17  
 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
 Matthew 23:1-12



**On Sunday, Sept. 11 we will return to our 11:00 am worship service.**

**BRUNCH, sponsored by the Congregational Care Committee, will be served at 10 am. Let's all gather together in the dining room for food and fellowship before worship!**

## Mission Committee News

Vicki Schmidt / Cso Woodworth / Stephanie Hill

### Mission Committee Updates

There has been a change on Mission Committee. . . Vicki Schmidt is now the chair of the committee. Thank you, Vicki, for assuming this leadership role. Your mission committee has been busy!

**Special Olympics scarves** are being created by knitting- and crocheting- members. If you want to join the fun, bags of yarn and guidelines are available at church or see Peg Dunbar, Barb Fairbanks or Vicki Schmidt.

**A return trip to the Gulf Coast** is being planned for Feb 5-11. There are currently 7 members of the congregation who indicated their willingness to return to continue the rebuilding efforts in the New Orleans area . If you would like to join the work crew, see Stephanie Hill. Fundraising efforts for the trip are in full swing. Donations for this

trip are being graciously accepted. Envelopes have been placed in the pew racks for this purpose. In addition to your donations the committee will be applying for a grant that will require friends and family participation. If our grant is accepted, there will be more information about how you can help in the November / December newsletter.

**Our Pentecost Offering** was a wonderful success thanks to you! Our goal was \$800 and \$900 was collected with a portion (\$360) being donated to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center.



**The Peacemaking Offering** will take place from Sept 11 through Oct 2, World Communion Sunday. The theme for the 2011 Offering

is "A Harvest of Justice Is Sown in Peace" (James 3:18). The goal for this offering has been set at \$700. Our portion (25%) of the Peacemaking Offering will be donated to assist local veterans with educational needs. Stay tuned for more information during the minutes for mission in the worship service.

Donations from the **Jack Shepherd Memorial Mission Fund** have been made to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund to aid in cleanup efforts in Joplin, MO as well as Drought and Famine relief for Somalia and Kenya.

Over the summer months, our church participated in the Portville Women's Auxiliary's **collection of school supplies** and how generous you are! We, as a church, collected **25** backpacks, **9** packs of pens, **9** packs of markers, **13** packs of crayons, **17** packs of pencils, **12** packs of colored pencils, **33** one-subject notebooks, **6** packages of loose

leaf paper, 7 composition books, 4 dividers, 9 packages of highlighters, 28 folders, 11 glue sticks, 3 glue, 10 boxes tissues, 13 rulers, 4 erasers, 4 safety scissors, 7 individual packets of post-it notes, 4 packs of index cards, 2 book covers, 2 hard pencil boxes, and 1 pack of colored pens. Many thanks to

Cso Woodworth for coordinating this hands-on mission project for our congregation.

On Aug. 20, around \$1300 worth of school supplies were given out to 113 area students.

50 backpacks alone were given out! This year saw



an increase in high school children requesting school supplies. What a generous community we live in! The auxiliary already has plans in place for next year's drive.

Our church certainly exemplifies Jesus' words that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Acts 20:35

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

*by Stephanie Hill*

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

As we begin a "new season," we are going to continue our "old way" of bringing a specific food item to church each week. Thank you to everyone who was able to bring food items during the summer months. The items you bring in help to keep our pantry shelves stocked.

Please clip the following list of food needs to keep with you as you grocery shop.

FOR THE WEEK OF:	WE WILL BE COLLECTING:
Sept. 4	Spaghetti
Sept. 11	Mac & Cheese
Sept. 18	Spaghetti Sauce
Sept. 25	Egg Noodles
Oct. 2	Spaghetti
Oct. 9	Cream Soup
Oct. 16	Cake Mix
Oct. 23	Spaghetti Sauce
Oct. 30	Canned Pumpkin

**Christian Education News**

**Connie King**

It is a great time of year to welcome everyone to the fall season as well as to the beginning of Sunday School. As we await the fall colors to begin, it is a little reprieve from the heat. It is

exciting to have the crisp, cool days of fall soon upon us. The Christian Education Committee met in late August with positive attitudes and strength of spirit to set the program into motion.

Thank you to Stephanie and Rachel (Co-chm.) and Rev. Hale for all your support.

**OPENING DAY** for Sunday School is Sunday, September 18, at 10 a.m. Kari

Kloss and Julie Pagett have once again agreed to team teach all the kids with the "Live B.I.G." curriculum. It has lessons, music, and motion incorporated into the learning. The adult class lead by Norm King and Sharon Hill-McLarney are following the lectionary with a new lesson each Sunday. It is called "Feasting on the Word". Everyone is welcome to join the class any or all Sundays.



**MAKE YOUR OWN SUNDAE:** An invitation is extended to ALL of the congregation on Sunday, September 18,

at 10:30 a.m. downstairs in the dining room to help kick off opening day. Ice cream, toppings, and sprinkles will be provided to make your own sundae. So stop down before church and join in the fun, food, and excitement. Have A Happy Sundae!

**CHILD FUND INTERNATIONAL:** On the third Sunday of each month we will be using Children's Time during worship to bring information about Sunday School's mission of support for Aidee. Aidee is our Bolivian child that we have "adopted" through C.F.I.

She corresponds with us, and there is a bulletin board with her letters on it. Stay tuned for more information on this project.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

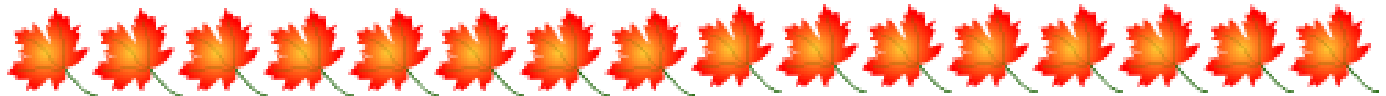
**Sept. 18--Opening Day:**

Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Make Your Own Sundae at 10:30 a.m.

**Oct. 9--NO SUNDAY**

SCHOOL (Columbus Day weekend)

We hope to see all the children, young and young at heart, as we participate in and support our Sunday School. See you September 18 as we grow in faith together. WELCOME BACK!



Our heart felt condolences to Shirley and Ron Longbothum on the death of Shirley's sister, Cindy.



Our heart felt condolences to Ken, Barb and Will on the death of their daughter and sister, Carrie.



Our heart felt condolences to Russ Burton and family on the death of his great-granddaughter, Zoey-Rose.



## Elder Thoughts Marilyn Hale

At our July Session meeting, I gave our Elders some “homework,” asking them to write down some *tips* on being an Elder. We had an inspiring sharing of this assignment in August and I asked if we could print them in the newsletter. Here are the first of those responses. We will bring you the others in the next edition. I thank God for each of you and for the dedication of our elders who have been called to lead this Body of Christ in our ministry of Christ’s church. God is good!

*“The more you put into being an elder, the more you get out of it. Do what you’re best at but also get out of your comfort zone—it’s amazing what you’ll learn about yourself, the support of our congregation and God.”*

*Judy McClain*

*“As an elder, I believe it is important to understand*

*the workings of the church and its Book of Order. The elders are responsible for keeping the workings of the church in order and providing a means by which the congregation can have input into the church life. The Session can carry out the hopes and wishes of the church and its congregation by helping to provide leadership in all areas of the workings of the church.”*

*Norm King*

*“These are my tips for elders:*

- *Schedule committee meetings; brainstorming together inspires great ideas.*
- *Open your committee meetings with prayer.*
- *Lead by example. Be a regular at worship. Make a pledge.*
- *Be present at church functions. Encourage others.*

*These are the things I re-*

*mind myself:*

- *My call to be an elder was ordained by God.*
- *The talents and gifts I bring to this call are from God.*
- *I want everything I do and say to honor God.*
- *My advice, especially to myself—Seek God first in all things!”*

*Stephanie Hill*

*Being an elder is a new responsibility that I have taken on this year. Marilyn and I had a conversation once about how the Holy Spirit tugs at your heart and pulls you to worship. I feel this connection with the Holy Spirit is what causes us to become active members of the church, answer the call to volunteer, join committees and to lead.*

*I feel I have grown and benefited in many ways just by attending this church. I now feel it is time that I give back and contribute*

*my time and efforts as best I can. # I have a lot to learn but with*      *the support of the other elders as well as the entire congregation I look forward*      *to serving this church.*

*Coni Coletti*

## Thank You and Continued Prayers

From Ron and Shirley Longbothum” *“Thank you all for your prayers, well wishes, and notes of sympathy and love.”* Shirley's sister, “Cindy” , Cynthia Trautman Lesher, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on July 6, 2011.

Prayers: Please continue to keep in your prayers; Joe Matthews who is now home from the hospital; Dick Wurster, who is regaining his strength; Betty Cornelius, Jo Dunbar, Margaret First and Wilda Hill.



**Get Ready . . . Get set . . . G O . . .  
back to Sunday School !**

**September 18, 2011  
Sunday School classes for ages 4 to adult  
will meet at 10 a.m.**

**Come celebrate “back to” Sunday School  
and make your own sundae !**

## Mission Support for Dr. Martha Sommers

Through the Jack Sheppard Memorial Mission Fund our church supports Dr. Martha Sommers, a family physician and mission co-worker, serving in Malawi. To learn more about her work in Malawi please visit her web page provided through PCUSA. Her web site address is: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/missionconnections/sommers-martha/> .

This is where you can read through Martha's biography, view some pictures, and read through the letters that have been written to help interpret her ministry. These letters will give you a good idea of what to pray for, as well as help you learn about Martha's particular work.

## September 2011 Dates to Remember

09/04	Worship Service and Communion, 9:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	09/21	USDA food pick-up at Olean Food Pantry
09/08	PWNY Transition Team, 1 pm			
09/11	<b>“Welcome Back!” Brunch, 10 a.m.</b> <b>Worship Service, 11 a.m.</b>		09/25	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.
09/15	Mission Committee, 6 p.m.		09/26	Bible Study, 10 a.m.
09/18	<b>Sunday School, 10 a.m.</b> Worship Service, 11 a.m.		09/27	Presbytery Meeting, Camp Duffield, 4 p.m.
09/19	Bible Study, 10 a.m.		09/28	Food Pantry open 10-12 and 5-6:30 p.m.
09/20	PWNY Personnel Committee,			

## October 2011 Dates to Remember

10/02	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. World Communion Sunday Peacemaking Offering	10/17	Bible Study, 10 a.m.
10/03	Bible Study, 10 a.m.	10/18	PWNY Personnel Committee, 12:30 p.m.
10/05	Portville Community Food Pantry Committee, 6 p.m.	10/19	USDA food pick-up at Olean Food Pantry
10/09	No Sunday School Worship Service, 11 a.m.	10/20	Mission Committee, 6 p.m.
10/10	Columbus Day observed Bible Study canceled	10/22	Presbytery Day, North PC, Williamsville
10/11	Session, 7 p.m.	10/23	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.
10/16	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.	10/24	Bible Study, 10 a.m.
		10/26	Food Pantry open 10-12 and 5-6:30 p.m.
		10/30	Sunday School, 10 a.m. Worship Service, 11 a.m.
		10/24	Bible Study, 10 a.m.

## Birthdates to Remember

### September Birthdays

9/2 Barb Klingbeil  
 9/6 Betty Cornelius  
 9/7 Stephanie Morris  
 9/7 Sara Talbot  
 9/11 Bob Fairbanks  
 9/11 Chris Hellwig  
 9/23 Duncan Deschler  
 9/23 Sean Gardner  
 9/24 Lindsay Gardner  
 9/26 Randy McClain  
 9/27 Eric Talbot

### October Birthdays

10/2 Carey Shields  
 10/2 Kristin Woodhead  
 10/6 Cindy Keeley  
 10/7 Kelsea Gardner  
 10/9 David Dunbar, Jr.  
 10/10 Ron Pollock  
 10/11 Betty Weed  
 10/22 Val Tigh  
 10/24 David Dunbar  
 10/25 Barb Bliven  
 10/30 Shirley Longbothum

## ***Peacemaking Offering - October 2, 2011***



### Volunteers for the month of September 2011



Date	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25
<b>Greeters and</b>	Bob and Barb Fairbanks	Coni Coletti / Jess Wyant	Mary Ann Clark	Cso Woodworth
<b>Liturgist</b>	Diana Dunbar	Shirley	Ray Carlson	Jess Wyant
<b>Prayer Family</b>	Wilda Hill	Julie and Chris Jones	The Keeley Family	Cyndy Kennedy
<b>Elder for the month:</b>				



## Volunteers for the month of October 2011



Date	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30
Greeters and	Joan Vaine / Cso Woodworth	Jess Wyant	Kathy and Mark Hendrix	Norm and Connie King	Karl and Anita Shuey
Liturgist	Ronda Pollock	Joe Hill	Eric Talbot	Ray Carlson	Jess Wyant
Prayer Family	Norm and Connie King	Barb Klingbeil	The Kloss Family	Emily Long	Christine and West Long

Elder for the month :

**LOOK  
AT  
THIS!**

**Worship services time  
returns to 11 am on September 11.**

**LOOK  
AT  
THIS!**

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PORTVILLE, NY

19 North Main Street

Portville, NY 14770

Voicemail: 933-6426

Email: portville.presbyterian followed by  
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)

