



## Message from Rev. Hale

With one foot still lingering at the stable, waiting for the wise men to come, we're also ready to move on; catch that first wave rolling into the New Year! I saw a Christmas tree tossed to the curb on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>! Must be time for all of us to catch up to that hasty end to the season; time to pack up, fold up and clean up.

Mary and Joseph already took their infant child to Jerusalem; followed the time honored rituals of their faith and then went on to begin life as a family in Nazareth. It's a good beginning for any "moving on" in our lives, to take time and "honor," *acknowledge with a sense of respect for*, what it is that keeps our lives steady and grounded in the midst of change; whether in changing seasons marked with celebrations or in changing circumstances, those which are good and hoped for or those that are challenging and hard to cope with.

Take some time with the Lord of your life. Find a "ritual" that fits into some quality "time-out" to honor the faith that God has given you. Think about the place God has in your life; the times you have been "close" with God; the *places* where you sense God especially near. Even as there is never a "disconnect" with God—God *is always* present with us—there are special times and places where *we* have found a nearness. Go, "take off your shoes" there, and spend some time before moving on.

Ready or not, we can't help *but* move on into this New Year. We're still humming Christmas carols, maybe, but just so you know, Ash Wednesday is a mere 6 weeks ahead, waiting for us!

*Wishing you a "Steady" New Year,*

*one grounded in the steadfast faith and love of our God,*

*Marilyn*

[Psalm 100]

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## Lectionary for January and February 2015

### Jan. 4 - Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7–14  
Psalm 147:12–20  
Ephesians 1:3–14  
John 1:(1–9) 10–18

### Jan. 6 Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1–6  
Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14  
Ephesians 3:1–12  
Matthew 2:1–12

### Jan. 11– Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1–5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1–7  
Mark 1:4–11

### Jan. 18 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20)  
Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18  
1 Corinthians 6:12–20  
John 1:43–51

### Jan. 25 - Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1–5, 10  
Psalm 62:5–12  
1 Corinthians 7:29–31  
Mark 1:14–20

### Feb. 1 - Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15–20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1–13  
Mark 1:21–28

### Feb. 8 - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21–31  
Psalm 147:1–11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16–23  
Mark 1:29–39

### Feb. 15 - Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1–12  
Psalm 50:1–6  
2 Corinthians 4:3–6  
Mark 9:2–9

### Feb. 22 - First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8–17  
Psalm 25:1–10  
1 Peter 3:18–22  
Mark 1:9–15

## Mission Committee News

Cso Woodworth / Vicki Schmidt

It was with great joy that we welcomed Marjorie and Steve Doty to worship, on October 19, 2014. After services, the Congregational Care Committee hosted a coffee hour giving the congregation time to connect with Steve and Marjorie on a more personal level. The Doty's shared that their daughter, Leah, has also joined Wycliffe Bible Translators and was in the process of solidifying donations to support her missionary work. Our church will be

supporting Leah in her mission work with an annual donation to Wycliffe. We are looking forward to hosting Leah on January 11 for a Minute For Mission when she will update the congregation on the preparation she has completed to become a Wycliffe Bible Translator.

The Harvest Sunday baskets were delivered to the two Portville families in time for them to prepare and enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving

feast. A huge "THANK YOU" goes out to Julie Pagett and the Sunday school students for coordinating this collection effort.

The annual Ladies Night Out, on December 11, collected 63 children's books that were delivered to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center by Barb Fairbanks. Thank you to Barb for organizing the night out, for the games and for the delivery of the books.

Vicki Schmidt and Barb Fairbanks coordinated our annual participation in the Gift Tree. Tags, with the desired gift items, were prepared and available shortly after Thanksgiving. All gifts were wrapped, with tags attached, were returned in time for Barb and Vicki to prepare them for delivery to the parents. In addition to the presents, gift cards were provided to the parents to purchase gifts and needed items. I am so grateful for the giving spirit of this congregation. Thank you!



Mark your calendars for the

Annual Fun Fleece Festival. This event will be on Feb. 16 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. A light dinner will be served because as you all know that wherever there are Presbyterians gathered, good food is there as well. We will again be making tied fleece blankets for the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. When a child goes to the Center they are

provided with comfort items such as a fleece blanket, a book to call their own, etc. Fleece (kits or by the yard) can be purchased locally at either JoAnn's or Wal-Mart. Please plan on coming to share in some wonderful fellowship with some of the fastest tying fingers in Portville.

Support was sent to the following organizations through the Jack Shepard Memorial Mission Fund: Wycliffe Translators (\$500), PC(USA) Mission Challenge (\$500), Pfeiffer Nature Center Adopt a Tree (\$125), Kevin Guest House in Buffalo (\$200), Elena Delgado's Water=Life: Haiti Water Filter Project (\$100) and Cattaraugus Community Action Homeless Services (\$500). Your support of the Hunger Fund provided funding to the following organizations: Warming House(\$300), Genesis House (\$300), Salvation Army (\$250), Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center (\$250), and Erica Schmidt (\$250).

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Erica Schmidt will be arriving in



Burkina Faso, a small country in the northwestern section of

Africa.

She has accepted a two year assignment with the Peace Corps and will be living in an outlying community where she will work until March 2017. There are many sectors of the Peace Corps and Erica will be working in the Community Economic Development section. She will be working with local people helping them start new small businesses in agriculture. If you wish to "follow Erica", she has been writing a blog and hopes to continue this throughout her stay. Below is a link to her blog site <https://edstakesontheworld.wordpress.com/>. If you join her blog, you can keep in touch by leaving comments for her there. Please keep Erica in your prayers and join us in wishing her all the best in this adventure.

**THE FOOD PANTRY . . .**

*from your grocery cart to our shelves!*

*by Stephanie Hill*

We were able to give each family visiting the food pantry a special holiday food package in November and December – thanks to the generosity of the Portville community – and to the members of our church who faithfully bring in food items each week.

On the right is the list of food items we will be collecting in January and February:

FOR THE WEEK OF:	WE WILL BE COLLECTING:
Jan 4	Mac and Cheese
Jan 11	Spaghetti Sauce
Jan 18	Egg Noodles
Jan 25	Creamed soups
Feb. 1	Canned Tomatoes
Feb. 8	Spaghetti Sauce
Feb. 15	Cake Mix
Feb. 22	Canned Corn

***YOU REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***

**Christian Education News    Connie King**

Did you see the "Light"? Nothing is as bright as the "son" of God. Our Advent program held at 10 a.m. downstairs on November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 was taught by Diana Dunbar. She showed us ways of the Light of Life, Light to Understanding, Light of Comfort, and the Light of Service. Each Sunday approximately 35 shared breakfast, a lesson, Bible verses, and a craft. The whole church family joined in for the fun, food, and fellowship. It was a delightful time for our church family to come together.

There were take-home gifts

each Sunday including the legend of the sand dollar, a red/green/white candle, and a rock with starlight on it. Everything was meaningful. The craft projects included making a beaded tree ornament, a wooden star wall hanging with decorated greenery and bow, and a ribbon tree ornament. Thanks to Diana's insight and lessons, we can now light our paths and not be in darkness. Thank you, Diana, for sharing your time, talents, and teaching. Also, thank you to the many people who brought a wide variety of foods each week. Diana decorated the tables

downstairs with festive red and green, lights, and pine. Rev. Hale hung the many bright gold stars to grace our beautiful sanctuary. Again, thank you to Stephanie and the Christian Ed. Committee for coordinating this program.

This past fall our Sunday School class has been very busy with mission work. Thank you to everyone for your generous support of the two fundraisers. Julie said they raised enough money from the bake sale to send Pamela from Bolivia \$50 for her Christmas gift. They used the surplus money raised to fill two

boxes for Operation Christmas Child for one girl and one boy. The star sale was very successful, and the class sent \$50 to Pamela for her birthday gift which is February 5.

Thank you to Julie and the class for all your energy. They are a vibrant part of our church. In November

the kids collected food for the Harvest Sunday project. Remember the interesting "Pamela" trivia game on the screen they played with the congregation? We were quizzed on Bolivian traditions, fireworks at midnight, carols, feast on Christmas day, parade, shoes filled with candy, and

the three Kings taking the Jesus figurine from the nativity to the church. The congregation paid attention so we got most of the questions correct.

Happy New Year 2015 to all!

REMINDER: No Sunday School on January 4.

### **Worship News** Anita Shuey

Rejoice! Yes, Christmastide continues through January 6th. Those 12 days of Christmas include Sunday worship services with carol singing and "the rest of the story!" Our congregation will celebrate Epiphany during worship on Sunday, January 11th. The coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles is the Epiphany text. Our Di-

rectory for Worship, in the Book of Order, notes Epiphany as "a day for commemorating God's self-manifestation to all people." That's good news for our world!

The Lord's Supper will be offered on January 4th and February 1st. Communion is a time for reconciliation with Christ and each other, as

well as a time to reflect on our lives as we serve the God we love. It's "I'm gonna' live so God can use me" time!

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. This season of spiritual discipline takes us on the journey to Easter. God is with us all the way!



September 28, 2014  
Celebrating the baptism of  
Eliana Grace Spehar  
Daughter of  
Jesse and Heidi Spehar  
and sister to Lucy Spehar

Welcome, Eliana Grace!



## January 2015 Dates to Remember

01/01 New Year's Day! [Office Closed]	01/14 Bible Study, 10 a.m.
01/04 Sunday School, canceled	Mission Committee, 6 p.m.
Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m.	01/15 Christian Education Committee, 6 p.m.
Confirmation Class, canceled	01/17 Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
January/February newsletter distributed	Worship Committee, 9 a.m.
Elder for the month: Vicki Schmidt	01/18 Sunday School, 10 a.m.
01/05 PWN Y OMT, noon (S. Hill)	Worship Service, 11 a.m.
01/06 PWN Y CRRR, 1 p.m. (M. Hale)	Annual Meeting of the Congregation
01/07 Bible Study, 10 a.m.	Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.
01/08 Food Pantry Committee, 6 p.m.	01/21 Bible Study, 10 a.m.
01/10 Property Committee, 8:30 a.m.	USDA foods delivered to PCFP (J. Hellwig)
01/11 Sunday School, 10 a.m.	Session, 6 p.m.
Worship Service, Epiphany Sunday, 11 a.m.	01/24 PWN Y, Faith United Kenmore, 10 a.m.
Leah Doty, Wycliffe Bible Translators	01/25 Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour following worship	Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Worship Service at The Pines, Olean, 2:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.
Confirmation Class, canceled	01/26 Pick up produce @ Olean FP, 11 a.m. (Hale/Hill)
	01/28 Bible Study, canceled

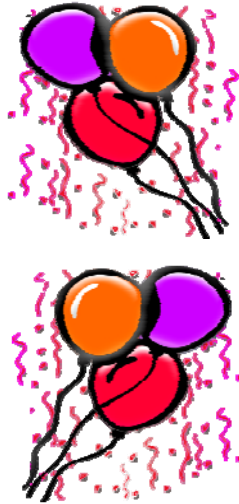
## February 2015 Dates to Remember

02/01 Sunday School, 10 a.m.	Worship Service at The Pines, Olean, 2:30 p.m.
Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m.	Confirmation Class, canceled
Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.	02/16 8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Fun Fleece Festival, 5:30 p.m.
Elder for the month: Barb Fairbanks	02/18 Bible Study, canceled
02/02 PWN Y OMT, noon (S. Hill)	Session, canceled
02/04 Bible Study, 10 a.m.	USDA foods delivered to PCFP (J. Hellwig)
02/08 Sunday School, 10 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 7 p.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.	02/22 Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.	Worship Service, 11 a.m.
02/11 Bible Study, 10 a.m.	Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.
Mission Committee, 6 p.m.	Info to Cso for March/April newsletter
02/14 Property Committee, 8:30 a.m.	02/23 Pick up produce @ Olean FP, 11 a.m. (Hale/Hill)
Happy Valentine's Day	02/26
02/15 Sunday School, 10 a.m.	02/25 Bible Study, canceled
Worship Service, 11 a.m.	

## 2015 Birthdates to Remember

January

3 Courtney Schmidt  
 3 Dan Schmidt  
 10 Shelley Pollock  
 17 Jack Pagett  
 20 Joseph Long  
 20 Alex Woodhead  
 22 Emily Woodhead  
 28 Jack Lorenz  
 29 Joe Matthews  
 31 TY Hoagland



February

2 Jim Boyer  
 6 Ray Roulo  
 13 Barb Fairbanks  
 13 Terry Keeley  
 16 Ali Tigh  
 16 Gary Woodhead  
 17 Adam Hellwig  
 24 Marie Hildebrand

## Condolences / Thank you notes / Baptism



Our heartfelt sympathy  
 and prayers for God's  
 comfort to the family of  
 Donald A. Wormer, M.D.

August 26, 1927 - October 31, 2014

**Thank  
 you!**

How do I ever adequately say  
 "thank you" for your Christmas gift?  
 I continue to offer my thanks to  
 God for you. The life we are blessed  
 to know together, gathered here in the love of  
 Christ is forever the best gift of all!  
 Ever grateful, *Marilyn*

**LOOK  
 AT  
 THIS!**

**Annual Rummage Sale**  
**January 17 from 8:30 am - 2 pm.**  
**Volunteers are needed to help . . .**  
**Please see Barb Fairbanks**

**LOOK  
 AT  
 THIS!**

### Change of Addresses:

Joe Matthews  
 520 Martha Ave.  
 Apt. B  
 Olean, NY 14760

Annette (King) and Jason Payne  
 and Lauren & Andy  
 3504 White Water Lane  
 McKinney, TX 75070

### Save the Date:

**Feb. 16th for Fun Fleece Festival**

**5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

**Light Dinner Provided**



## Volunteers for January and February 2015



Date	Jan 4	Jan 11	Jan 18	Jan 25
<b>Greeters and Ushers</b>	Jess Wyant Russ Burton	Dan / Vicki Schmidt		Cso Woodworth
<b>Liturgist</b>	Shirley Longbothum	Stephanie Hill		Ronda Pollock
<b>Acolyte</b>	Communion Sunday	Megan Pagett	Zach Kloss	Christine Pagett
<b>Prayer Family</b>	Bob/Barb Fairbanks	Will Foust	Kathlyn Gardner	Kelsea Gardner

	Feb. 1	Feb. 8	Feb. 15	Feb. 22
<b>Greeters and Ushers</b>		Dean / Eva Travis		
<b>Liturgist</b>		Joe Hill	Cso Woodworth	
<b>Acolyte</b>	Communion	Jack Pagett	Hannah Kloss	Megan Pagett
<b>Prayer Family</b>	Sean/Lauri Gardner	Rev. Hale	Mary Lou/ Ike Harrison	Jacque/Ed Hellwig

**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)

