



Message from Rev. Hale

It seems such a huge task, this *ingathering* in the wake of Christmas that “was”—*already*, while at the same time a New Year comes rising full-faced like that Christmas Eve moon that paused only seconds on the horizon before its steady climb. What to say? What thoughts to ponder? What news to share worthy of your listening?

First, thanks to give for Advent’s rich blessing through Diana’s gifted, faith-filled lessons and the fellowship gathered as Connie coordinated delicious breakfasts. Those four Sunday mornings were phenomenal!

And then, more thanks to give to Anita and the dedicated ensemble, and Bob and Vicki who filled our Christmas Eve worship with beautiful carols, and Hannah’s dance that seemed the Spirit’s own invitation to receive all the blessing that night’s celebration of Christ’s birth offers.

Lights outside and the front door illuminated; lights inside with the beautiful luminaries, faithfully attended each service; gifts gathered and given to the children “sheltered” by the STCAC in Olean; another Christmas Season of blessings given, blessings shared, “*thanks-be-to-God*” for hearts filled with the Spirit!

And there in that great-faced-moon of a New Year? I pray we look upon the faces of one another with a sense of care and fellowship and sharing of this life of faith Christ calls us to that *continues to grow*. May we be blessed to fulfill God’s will for our lives and all our life together as a New Year opens before us!

We who set our hope in Christ...live for the praise of his glory! [Eph. 1:12]

Always giving thanks for you & our life together;

All ways, to God be the Glory!

Marilyn

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Lectionary for January / February 2016

Jan. 3 - Second Sunday after Christmas

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

Jan. 10 - Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 17 - Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Jan. 24 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Jan. 31 - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

Feb. 7 - Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]

Feb. 14 - First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Feb. 21 - Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Feb. 28 - Third Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Mission Committee News

Cso Woodworth

The Harvest Sunday Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to the two selected families. Thank you Jack Pagett for reminding the congregation of when the purchased food items were due. The recipients of the Thanksgiving baskets expressed their gratitude for the food items.

Twenty-two gifts for the Gift Tree were purchased by members of the congregations, wrapped by Barb Fairbanks and company, and delivered to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. The gifts were distributed to children in the area by the staff at the Advocacy Center. Thank you for giving with your heart to this hands-on Mission project.

Ladies Night Out, a collaborative event between the Congregational Care Committee and the Mission Committee was a resounding success. 16 women attended this night out at Good Times. 66 books were collected and given to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. When a child is referred to the Center they are provided with some comfort items such as a fleece blanket (some made during our annual Fun Fleece Festival) a book, and other comfort items that the area community have donated to the Center.

The 9th Annual Fun Fleece Festival will be held on Monday, January 18 from 1 to 3

pm at the church. We will be making Fleece blankets for the Child Advocacy Center. All are welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship as we work at making the fleece blankets which will provide some comfort to a child who has been a victim of child abuse. Light snacks will be provided. Fleece kits are available at JoAnn's or Wal-Mart. Come . . . spend a couple of hours with us and know that the love with which you made a blanket will provide a child with some warmth and security.



The Sunday school class, under the guid-

ance of Julie Pagett, will again be taking charge of the Souper Bowl of Caring donations. Our church is already registered with the national organization. The Souper Bowl of Caring collection will be on Feb. 7. Members of the congregation will be asked to make a donation of canned soup and a dollar. All proceeds of this collection will be donated to the Portville Community Food Pantry.

The following received donations for the Jack Shepard Memorial Mission Fund: Wycliffe Bible Translators (supporting Margie and Steve Doty and Leah Doty), Mission Challenge (supporting Dr. Martha Sommers) and Pfeiffer Nature Center Adopt a Tree program. And from the Hunger Fund the following local organizations received donations: Warming House, Genesis House, and the Salvation Army.

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:

YOU REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

FOR THE WEEK OF:	WE WILL BE COLLECTING:
Jan.3	Mac and Cheese
Jan. 10	Rice (1 # bags)
Jan. 17	Egg Noodles
Jan. 24	Tuna
Jan. 31	Jell-O
Feb. 7	Canned Tomatoes
Feb. 14	Egg Noodles
Feb. 21	Cake Mix
Feb. 28	Tuna

Worship News Anita Shuey

Joyful New Year to you and all the world! Our congregation will continue to rejoice during Sunday morning worship services with carol singing and the rest of the story of Jesus coming to be with us! We will celebrate Epiphany during worship on January 10th. The coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles is the Epiphany text. It's all good news! Come and enjoy this special time together

Family Gathering Time during worship focuses on our life as a family of God. Each of us can encourage, support and care for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. In January, we will be constructing our Church Family Tree. Your history, long or short, with 1st Presbyterian Church is important to us. The Church Family Tree will be one way we can get to know our

church family's roots, our past and our present, and each other. Sharing your significant life events on the leaves of this church family tree will be a way of proclaiming the good news of our life together. Enjoy!

Remember these dates:

- January 3rd and February 7th – The Lord's Supper will be served during morning worship. 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.
- February 10th – Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. This time of spiritual discipline takes us on the journey to Easter. God is with us all the way.

Come and worship. . .
the God of Love has invited you!

News from Burkina Faso Erica Schmidt

Happy Holidays from Burkina Faso! The holidays are definitely different here; it's in the 80s and instead of snow storms, we have dust storms. Besides the weather, things have been going pretty well here! I have been teaching English three times a week to a class of 6th graders. It's been an adventure, that's for sure, but definitely enjoyable.

Besides teaching, I had a liquid soap training with one of the women's groups I work

with. I taught the women how to make liquid soap and price it to make a profit. The women can now sell the liquid soap in the market to supplement their families' incomes. I have been working on starting other projects in the upcoming months, including making hard soap, food transformations and a women's rights formation. That's all that's been going on over here! Toulouse, Gaston (new puppy) and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sunday School News **Connie King**

Everyone enjoyed our Advent season with the theme "Come Let Us Adore Him." These carols had us travel through time to see how these songs originated. The words came from many different thoughts and inspirations in the songwriter's mind. These carols tell a story or have us respond to the words. We explored these tunes and sang them with a new creative meaning. During the four weeks, the themes were "Adore Him, Hear Him, Receive Him, and Tell of Him."

Thank you to Diana Dunbar for doing our Advent lessons on the songs of "Silent Night," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing," "Joy to the World," and "Go, Tell It on the Mountain." Thank you for your indepth meaning of these Christmas carols. their background, and the messages they give to us. Thank you to Anita Shuey for playing piano for us to sing these carols during our Advent learning hour. Many thanks to these two ladies for helping us sing for joy, sing praises to God, and sing to the Lord. Thank you all for coming to be a part of this season. We averaged 35-38

people each Sunday for a wonderful breakfast, lesson, piano playing, singing, crafts, fun, and fellowship. Our crafts were a tea light snowman, salt dough cookie cutter ornament, glitter ornament ball, and a beaded snowflake ornament. Also, many thanks to those who made and brought casseroles, muffins, donut holes, breads and other goodies, juice, and coffee. Thank you to those who helped in the kitchen in any way.

The kid's Sunday Evening School and Confirmation class will resume on Sunday, January 10, 2016, at 5 p.m. The adults finished their booklet, and no one has selected another lesson booklet to facilitate the class at this time. February 7 is Souper Bowl Sunday at church. Please support the kids for this mission project in bringing cans of soup and \$1 to put into the giant pot. Easter is early this year. As the Lenten season approaches, Rev. Hale will prepare for the Lenten Soup and Study sessions. Watch the bulletin for announcements and dates for these gatherings.

Think of January as the month for cleaning out, for new beginnings, and for lengthening days. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016!

Thank You

* From my heart this *Thank You* to all the very generous hearts of this *
* congregation for your Christmas gift. Christ's life among us is the best Gift we *
* have all received! May God bless you! *Marilyn* *

January 2016 Dates to Remember

01/01	New Year's Day!		Sunday School/Confirmation Class
01/03	Sunday School and Confirmation Class, canceled Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. Barb Fairbanks - Elder for the Month January/February newsletter distributed	01/18	Pines Worship, 2:30 p.m. MLK, Jr. Day - Office closed 9 th Annual Fun Fleece Festival, 1-3 p.m.
01/05	PWNY COM, 9:30 a.m. (M. Hale)	01/20	Bible Study, 10 a.m. USDA foods delivered to PCFP (J. Hellwig) Session, 6 p.m.
01/06	Bible Study, 10 a.m.	01/24	Worship Service, 11 a.m.
01/09	Property Committee, 8:30 a.m.	01/26	Sunday School /Confirmation Class Pick up produce @ Olean FP, 11 a.m. (Hale/Hill)
01/10	Worship Service, Epiphany Sunday, 11 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Class 5:00 pm Worship Committee	01/27	Food Pantry open 10-noon and 5-6:30 p.m.
01/13	Bible Study, 10 a.m. Mission Committee, 6 p.m.	01/30	PWNY, Faith United Kenmore, 10 a.m.
01/14	Food Pantry Committee, 6 p.m.	01/31	Worship Service, 11 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday School /Confirmation Class
01/16	Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.		
01/17	Worship Service, 11 a.m.		

February 2016 Dates to Remember

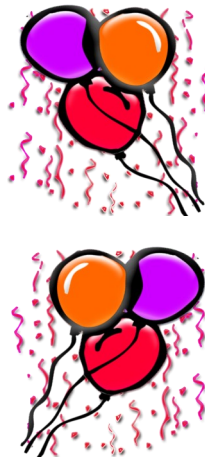
02/02	PWNY COM, 9:30 a.m. (M. Hale)		Session, 6 p.m.
02/03	Bible Study, 10 a.m.	02/21	Worship Service, 11 a.m.
02/07	Worship Service and Communion, 11 a.m. Vicki Schmidt - Elder for the Month Sunday School /Confirmation Class		Sunday School /Confirmation Class Info to Cso for March/April newsletter
02/10	Bible Study, 10 a.m.  Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m.	02/24	Pick up produce @ Olean FP, 11 a.m. (Hale/Hill)
02/13	Property Committee, 8:30 a.m.	02/24	Food Pantry open 10-noon and 5-6:30 p.m.
02/14	Worship Service, 11 a.m. Sunday School /Confirmation Class Pines Worship, 2:30 p.m.	02/28	Worship Service, 11 a.m. Sunday School /Confirmation Class March/April newsletter distributed
02/15	President's Day - Office closed		
02/17	Bible Study, 10 a.m. USDA foods delivered to PCFP (J. Hellwig)		

Lent Easter
Holy Week
 Ash Wednesday Good Friday
 Maundy Thursday

January / February Birthdates to Remember

January

Jan. 3 Courtney Schmidt
 Jan. 3 Dan Schmidt
 Jan. 16 Pat Kennedy
 Jan. 17 Jack Pagett
 Jan. 20 Joseph Long
 Jan. 25 Will Foust
 Jan. 29 Joe Matthews



February

Feb. 5 Wanda Hollamby
 Feb. 6 Ray Roulo
 Feb. 13 Barb Fairbanks
 Feb. 13 Terry Keeley
 Feb. 16 Gary Woodhead
 Feb. 17 Adam Hellwig
 Feb. 28 Shirley Scott

Stewardship News Judy McLain

Four Principles of Biblical Stewardship

By Hugh Whelchel

“Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.”

- C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

“What does stewardship look like in our lives today?” Unfortunately many Christians today only associate the idea of stewardship with sermons they have heard about church budgets and building programs.

At the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics, the idea of biblical stewardship is about something much more expansive. It is where the concepts of faith, work and economics intersect.

3. The principle of accountability.

A steward is one who manages the possessions of another. We are all stewards of the

resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care, and one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given us. This is the maxim taught by the Parable of the Talents. God has entrusted authority over the creation to us and we are not allowed to rule over it as we see fit. We are called to exercise our dominion under the watchful eye of the Creator managing God’s creation in accord with the principles God has established. Like the servants in the Parable of the Talents, we will be called to give an account of how we have administered everything we have been given, including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority. We will all give account to the rightful owner as to how well we managed the things God has entrusted to us.

Your talent is
 Gods gift to you
 What you do
 with it
 is your gift
 back to God



Volunteers for January and February 2016



Date	Jan 3	Jan 10	Jan 17	Jan 24	Jan 31
Greeters and Ushers	Cyndy/Pat Kennedy	Bizzy Woodhead	Connie/Norm King	Coni Coletti	Kathy/Mark Hendrix
Liturgist	Barb Fairbanks	Kathy Hendrix	Mark Hendrix	Norm King	Carly Painter
Acolyte	Communion Sunday	Zach Kloss	Christine Pagett	Jack Pagett	Hannah Kloss
Prayer Family	Walt/Lois Atkinson	Barb Bliven	Jim/Rachel Boyer	Russ Burton	Ray Carlson

Elder of the Month: Barb Fairbanks

	Feb. 7	Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 27
Greeters and Ushers	Judy/Randy McClain	Bob/Barb Fairbanks	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Eva Travis
Liturgist	Kathy Hendrix	Judy McClain	Buffy Pratt	Jess Wyant
Acolyte	Communion Sunday	Megan Pagett	Zach Kloss	Christine Pagett
Prayer Family	Tom/Mary Ann Clark	Coni Coletti	Denny Dorman	Peg/Dave Dunbar

Elder of the Month: Vicki Schmidt

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PORTVILLE, NY

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Portville, NY 14770

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

Sunday School: 5:30 pm
ages 3 to adult
Worship Service: 11:00 am

Website:
www.portville-presbyterian.org