



Message from Rev. Hale

It's daunting to look across the *expanse* of a blank sheet of paper and wonder what meaningful words could fill the space. How will each letter be drawn together to make those words; where will they come from; whatever will begin to shape the conversation we are called to keep?

Stand in the quiet of a sanctuary just emptied of Christmas Eve worshippers and imagine all the words that filled the place moments before! And not just those spoken and sung and offered in greeting; imagine if you can adding to that all the words that were unspoken in thoughts and in prayers and all the words tethered together like the string on a kite as gathered memories floated about in the dark vaulted ceiling or danced with candle light. Right there you know there is no end; know that even in the silence all the words are still there and more besides as they are added to all the others from before!

It is then that letter by letter the words come together, there in the that space, that "holy" space, set apart by the life that comes within its walls; life drawn by the Spirit wittingly or not that will touch the Spirit, knowingly or not; life that brings all those words that mix with others that speak aloud too, the name of *God* as *Love* and *Mercy* and *Forgiveness* and *Compassion* and..... *Everlasting!*

In the beginning was the Word, forever to be heard as *Eternal Love*; forever the conversation I pray we keep!

We'll open this New Year with those words.

*Ever grateful for the Life we share,
Marilyn*

Inside this issue:

Lectionary	Page 2	Worship News	Page 4	Birthdays / Celebration	Page 6
Mission News	Page 2	Dates to Remember	Page 5	Food Pantry	Page 6
Christian Ed	Page 3	Rummage Sale	Page 5	Volunteers / Baptism	Page 7

Lectionary for January / February

Jan. 7
Epiphany
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 14
2nd Sunday after Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139: 1-6; 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Jan. 21
3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62: 5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 28
4th Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Feb. 4
5th Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147: 1, 11; 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 11
Transfiguration of the Lord
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Feb. 14

Ash
Wednesday

Feb. 18
1st Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Feb. 25
2nd Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-17
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Mission Committee News Julie Pagett

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, a full holiday meal was provided to two local families in time for Thanksgiving. Thank you to Jack and Megan Pagett for coordinating the **HARVEST SUNDAY** project this year.

This year's **CHRISTMAS GIFT PROJECT** centered on creating Family Fun Night baskets which included games, snacks, drinks and various gift cards donated from the congregation of our church. The families who received the baskets were surprised and grateful! Thank you so much to all who contributed to this mission project!

A big thank you to Barb Fairbanks and Karl

Shuey for volunteering their time to work at the **KIDS' CHRISTMAS SHOP** at the River's Edge United Methodist Church on December 2nd. Our church bought and donated \$150 worth of gifts for the community event, which saw 28 children purchase 273 gifts!

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE Take a look through your closet and shelves for old items you may no longer need or want... It's rummage sale time! The sale will take place on January 13th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with proceeds used for local mission projects. Any donated items should be clean

and in working order. Please... NO clothing!

Items may be left in the downstairs Sunday School room at the end of the hall. *Volunteers are needed to work the event. If you are interested in helping, a sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex.*

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING This annual mission project will again be chaired by Hannah Kloss. Cans of soup and cash donations will be collected on February 4th. Reminders will be posted in the upcoming

bulletins.

This year will mark the 11th year for the annual **FUN FLEECE FESTIVAL!** We will be meeting again in the basement of the church on February 19th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Snacks and beverages will be provided. If you can cut fabric and/or tie a knot... you're qualified to join us!!

Christian Ed News Connie King

"JOY" was found this Advent season by all of us who attended the program on November 26, December 3, 10, and 17, 2017. Taught by Diana Dunbar, she showed us how to experience joy in Jesus, Others, and You! Finding joy in our lives can be in very simple things. The tables were beautifully decorated for this festive Christmas season including JOY centerpieces. The attendance ranged between 35-54 each Sunday.

Following church a wonderful breakfast/brunch of casseroles, muffins, donut holes, breads, fruit, and juice began in the dining room. Thank you Norm K. for being our coffee maker each week. Thank you to all those who made and brought the many delicious variety of foods and helped with kitchen clean-up.

Our attention was heightened by Diana's Bible verses and challenges of the program and lessons. The fun crafts for all ages

included making a JOY banner, snow globe, picture frame, and more. As a group we made four stockings filled with cards, small items, and goodies for church members who could not attend. Did you keep your JOY journal? What did JOY mean to you this Advent season? Thank you for your participation which made this Advent program a success.

The Confirmation class will resume on Sunday, January 21, 2018, at 9 a.m. Sunday School for the Elementary and Intermediate classes will meet on February 18, 2018. (These two classes will NOT meet in January.) The other dates (third Sunday of the month) that these classes will meet are March 18, April 15, and May 20 at 9 a.m. Bible Study on Wednesday mornings will resume as usual.

February 4 is Souper Bowl of Caring with Hannah Kloss as the chairperson. Please

Christian Ed News cont. Connie King

bring your cans of soup and dollars to put into the giant pot. We want to beat last year's collection! We are all helping the Mission Committee for this event.

Easter Sunday is April 1 (no fooling). As the Lenten season approaches, Rev. Hale will prepare for the Lenten Soup & Study program. Watch the bulletins for detailed announcements concerning the dates and sign-ups for these gatherings that will occur after Ash Wednesday.

Our CFI girl, Pamela, received a monetary Christmas gift and a February birthday gift from our church. Thank you to the Mission Committee for overseeing that. All of us continue to send cards and letters to Pamela throughout the year. Consult the bulletin board for Pamela's recent pictures and communications to our congregation.

Keep JOY in your heart.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Worship News Anita Shuey

“Now the Work of Christmas Begins”
by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their
flocks,

the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people!
to make music in the heart.

The season of Epiphany begins on January 6th. We will celebrate Epiphany in morning

worship on Sunday, January 7th at 10 a.m. We celebrate the coming of Christ to the Gentiles – the Magi, those kings from afar, those “others”, not the chosen Jews. God comes to us, no matter who we are. We bow down and worship in this “epiphany”, a moment of sudden revelation, this insight, this “aha moment”. God is with us – Immanuel.

Worship equips us for the work of Christmas. In this body of Christ, 1st Presbyterian Church of Portville, we find our place, our gifts, our calling and our mission. We discern how we will do the “work of Christmas”, individually and corporately. In our own experience of being, we need to be found, healed, fed, freed, rebuilt, and at peace enough to sing from our hearts. We can be the Light we experienced on Christmas Eve.

Dates to Remember January 2018

01/01	New Year's Day!		USDA foods delivered to PCFP
01/03	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.		(J. Hellwig)
01/07	Worship Service and Communion, Epiphany Sunday 10 a.m. January/February newsletter distributed	01/21	Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation
01/08	Finance Committee Meeting, 4:15 p.m.	01/23	Pick up produce @ Olean FP, 11:00 a.m. (Hale/Hill)
01/09	PWNY COM, 9:30 a.m. (M. Hale)	01/24	Food Pantry open 10-noon and 5-6:30 p.m. No Bible Study
01/10	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	01/28	Mission Committee, 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
01/11	PC Food Pantry Committee, 6:00 p.m.		
01/13	Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.		
01/14	Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. Annual Reports Due		
01/15	MLK, Jr. Day - Office closed		
01/17	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.		

Dates to Remember February 2018

02/04	Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service and Communion, 10:00 a.m. Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday		11 th Annual Fun Fleece Festival, 1 - 3 p.m.
02/06	PWNY COM, 9:30 a.m. (M. Hale)	02/21	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. USDA foods delivered to PCFP (J. Hellwig) Session, 6:00 p.m.
02/07	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.	02/25	Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. Info to Cso for March/April newsletter
02/10	Property Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m.	02/27	Pick up produce @ Olean FP, 11:00 a.m. (Hale/Hill)
02/11	Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. 	02/28	Food Pantry open 10-noon and 5-6:30 p.m. No Bible Study
02/14	Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service		
02/18	Sunday School/Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. First Sunday of Lent Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.		
02/19	President's Day - Office closed		

churchWIDE
RUMMAGE
SALE



RUMMAGE SALE
Sat. Jan 13 from 9 am-1 pm
Proceeds to benefit:
Local Mission Projects
Workers Needed
See Barb Fairbanks

Find
Bargains
Here!



Birthdates to Remember

January

- Jan. 3 Courtney Schmidt
- Jan. 3 Dan Schmidt
- Jan. 7 Sandra Coletti
- 1/10 Shelley Pollock
- Jan. 16 Pat Kennedy
- Jan. 17 Jack Pagett
- Jan. 20 Alex Woodhead
- Jan. 22 SJ Gardner
- Jan. 22 Emily Woodhead



February

- Feb. 5 Wanda Hollamby
- Feb. 6 Ray Roulo
- Feb. 6 Amy Spehar
- Feb. 13 Barb Fairbanks
- Feb. 13 Terry Keeley
- Feb. 16 Gary Woodhead
- Feb. 28 Shirley Scott

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.

YOU REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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

FOR THE WEEK OF	WE WILL BE COLLECTING:
January 1	Mac and Cheese
January 7	Rice (1# bags)
January 14	Egg Noodles
January 21	Tuna
January 28	Jello
February 4	Canned Tomatoes
February 11	Egg Noodles
February 18	Cake Mix
February 25	Tuna

Celebrating 20 years Ordination and Installation as Minister of F.P.C.P.





Volunteers for January /February 2018



	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Greeters and Ushers	Stephanie/ Joe Hill	Buffy Pratt/ Coni Coletti	Connie/Norm King	The Pagett Family
Liturgist	Carly Painter	Julie McLarney Pagett	Buffy Pratt	Ronda Pollock
Acolyte	Communion	Megan Pagett	Hannah Kloss	Christine Pagett
Music Tech	Anita Shuey	Anita Shuey	Vicki Schmidt	Kari Kloss

Elder of the Month: Cyndy Kennedy

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Greeters and Ushers	Bob/Barb Fairbanks	Randy/Judy McClain	Cso Woodworth	Kari Kless Wanda Hollamby
Liturgist	Kathy Hendrix	Bob Fairbanks	Sharon Hill McLarney	Judy McClain
Acolyte	Communion	Zack Kloss	Jack Pagett	Megan Pagett
Music Tech	Anita Shuey	Anita Shuey	Joe Hill	Joe Hill

Elder of the Month: Connie King

Celebrating the Baptism of . . .



Mallorie



**Plan on attending our
SAVORY SOUPS luncheon
with Annual Congregational Meeting
following worship service
January 21**




**SWEET TREATS
Sunday, Feb. 11
Fellowship Time
Following Worship**



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* 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 *
*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -
PORTVILLE, NY**

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Sunday School: 9:00am
ages 3 to adult
Worship Service: 10:00 am

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