



Message from Rev. Hale

Just two weeks ago, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter and the full moon were aligned in a straight row in the early evening south east sky. It caught my attention as I was cutting through the school parking lot on the way to Park and Shop one night. It was a spectacular sight, a unique, once-in-a-lifetime alignment of the three planets with a full moon as it rose up into the midst of them! But it lasted for only a few days, and then it moved on.

Only a week ago, we celebrated Christmas and so quickly on its heels, New Year's Eve. Families, able to gather this year, have come home, and already returned again to their homes. We're still turning our Christmas lights on, but not for much longer. By the time you read this newsletter, the wise men will have come and gone, made their way to Bethlehem and *returned home by another road*, and our children will be trudging back to school, with teachers and staff attending to the routine.

All the anticipation and preparation and longed-for reunion and celebration of another Christmas Season has moved on. We're not quite into the "memory phase" of what has been coming and then arrived and now has gone over the far horizon, all in space of these past two weeks, but it won't take long!

Whether wanted or not, *we've moved (or been moved) on!* We always come to that moment when we face the inevitable "end" of the beautiful Christmas celebration and I'll admit, I'm one of the last to let it go! Yet a consolation thought keeps reaching out to catch up with *and overtake* all the "*moved on*" that pulls us so practically and determinedly along.

It's a simple *we've moved in*, as in moving "in" our faith; burrowing into our faith deeper as we hear the familiar texts with "new" ears; experiencing our faith together more deeply as we discovered new ways to share the season; understanding our relationship

Cont. on pg. 2

Inside the issue:

Minister's Message	Pg. 1 & 2	Hands-on Projects	Pgs. 4-5	Birthdates	Pg. 6
Lectionary	Pg. 2	Christian Ed News	Pg. 5	Condolences/Thank You Notes	Pg. 6
Mission News	Pgs. 2-3	Food Pantry News	Pg. 5	Church Calendar	Pg. 7

Lectionary for January / February

January 2

2nd Sunday of Christmas

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

January 9

Baptism of the Lord

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

January 16

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

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

January 23

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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

January 30

4th Sunday after Epiphany

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

February 6

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 13

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

February 20

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11
Psalm 37: 1-11; 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38; 42-50
Luke 6:27-38

February 27

Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

with God in new ways *as the Spirit within* is connected to every thought and desire and defeat and joy our annual New Year's inventory raises.

We've moved in, dear folks, "in" our faith, this gift of the knowledge of God's love; incarnate in the baby whose birth we have celebrated another time; alive within our hearts where the Spirit finds its home and guides us and keeps us as another year moves us on.

Looking forward to a new year of fulfilling God's will through our life together,
Marilyn

Mission News Cso

The Christmas Angels (that means you) have been very busy perfecting the art of giving with their hearts these past two months. First you provided the needed ingredients for a Thanksgiving dinner through our annual Harvest Basket. Then you stepped up to the plate and so generously donated personal care items for students at Portville Central school! (Take a read on the number of Personal Care Items was delivered to Portville Central School in December by Judy on page 4). As if that tug at your heart strings was not enough, you reached even deeper and purchased items to donate towards our participation in Presents for Panther. Your gifts were boxed up picked up by school person-

Mission News cont.

nel, and combined with the community and school donations to Present for Panthers to ensure that every needy student in the school was able to have a joyous Christmas. (Be certain to also check out the Presents for Panthers pictures on page 4.) We do live in a community that gives and takes care of those in need.

And yet your giving has not stopped! Have you checked out the book donations to the Child Advocacy Center? If you haven't noticed, there is a bookcase at the head of the pre-school/nursery hallway getting filled, each passing Sunday, with more and more books. This hands-on project will be an on-going one for our congregation. Judy McClain is coordinating this project and will deliver books to the Child Advocacy Center. I can't wait to learn how many books she boxed up and delivered! Stay tuned for a book count! Thank you for keeping those books coming in.

But wait! There is still more . . . still more of your donations to bring you up-to-date on. After months of reaching out to the Olean General Hospital, Kathy was able to finally make a contact regarding the donations from our Baby Layette hands-on project. (Check out the Baby Layette count on page 4 as well). She was able to deliver the items and get them into the hands of the Maternity Floor on December 28th.

Other upcoming hands on Mission Projects include The Souper Bowl of Caring and the Fun Fleece Festival. Thank you to Tim for coordinating our Souper Bowl of Caring collection efforts this year. Stay tuned to hear more from Tim in a Minute for Mission during worship. (And read more from Tim on page 5.) Also, a thank you to Connie who has volunteered to coordinate the Fun Fleece Festival. Details of the how, and the when will be forthcoming.

And last but not least, the following donations were made from our various Mission Funds.

Mission Trip Fund: \$2000 to Remote Area Medical to assist with paying cost incurred for hosting RAM—(food, housing for out of town volunteers, etc.)

Jack Shepherd Memorial Mission Fund: \$750–Wings–Flights of Hope; \$400 LEEK; \$1000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help with the Mid–West Winter Tornadoes.

Hunger Fund: \$300 to the Salvation Army in Olean, \$300 to the Cattaraugus County Dept. of Aging to provide assistance to Portville Seniors with their needs (heat, food, medicines, etc.)

Your generous hearts and kind spirits inspire me! Thank you for giving what you can; when you can.

Personal Care Items Judy

A little congregation so lively and quick...
 Sprang to their sleighs...
 dash away, dash away all...
 to stores nearby...
 filled their baskets with personal care items and...
 What to our wondering eyes should appear

- 26 bars soap
- 17 chapsticks
- 17 pkg feminine products
- 11 toothbrushes
- 10 deodorants
- 5 boxes tissues
- 5 bottles shampoo
- 5 pkg dental floss
- 4 tubes toothpaste
- 4 pkg nail clippers
- 4 bottles hand lotion
- 4 earphones
- 1 pkg razors
and
- 1 bottle body wash



were delivered to Portville
 Central School
 two weeks before Christmas...

Thank you to all!

and
 May you be blessed as you bless others...

Baby Layette items donated to OGH. . .

- 21 Baby Blankets
- 14 Sleepers
- 2 bath sets
- 1 Baby Cup
- 54 Bibs
- 1 Crib Sheet
- 1 pkg Baby Wipes
- 1 Pkg. Diapers
- 8 sock/bootie sets
- 1 hat



Thank you, Kathy Hendrix!

Presents 4 Panthers Stephanie



111 gifts
 to PCS
 students
 donated .
 . .



And using
 funds from our Rummage Sale Mission
 Fund, 39 Spirit T-Shirts were ordered
 through Carpy's and given to students at
PCS.



G.a.B.—Gift-a-Book
 Donated books are given to
 the Southern Tier Child Ad-
 vocacy Center in Olean to
 provide an opportunity for
 each child to be able to
 choose a book and a fleece
 blanket that they want.

Click the link to learn more:
[Southern Tier Child Advocacy
 Center - Allegany County, New
 York](#)



SM The Annual Super Bowl of Caring Campaign Help Us Tackle Local Hunger

By: Tim

Support our very own Portville Community Food Pantry. Let's All Play Ball in the Souper Bowl of Caring. This is not a spectator sport!

WHAT: The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national campaign that works to fight hunger and poverty. For over 30 years, the Super Bowl of Caring initiative has inspired food drives and fundraising to support local community food banks. Our congregation has been an active participant over the last several years. Each month the Portville Community Food Pantry (PCFP), and its partners, help those in need to meet basic nutritional requirements by providing dry goods and fresh foods. Contributions given as a result of this campaign are an important annual source of support to the PCFP. Last year, our congregation generously donated 152 cans of soup and donated \$642 to the campaign.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Once again, we are asking for your help in the fight against hunger with donations of cans of soup, monetary donations, or both. Together we can make a difference. The big soup kettle (used last year) and a box for monetary contributions will be present in the narthex to place your donations.

WHEN: Each year the Super Bowl of Caring event takes place around the time of the big NFL football game. This year we've planned the campaign for **Sunday February 6th and 13th.**

Christian Education News Stephanie

Here we are starting a new year —2022! And continuing our Sunday School program that began in September 2021. Our Fall classes were well attended and brought new life back to our classrooms! Our Advent Program brought in-person activities as we shared the names of Jesus in anticipation of the Greatest Gift!

The preschool/K and elementary classes will meet on January 23 and 30 and February 20 and 27 for the Winter Session. Classes begin at 9 a.m. and students should wear masks. Classrooms will be sanitized prior to each class. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Food Pantry News Stephanie

We were busy at the food pantry in November and December serving more than 30 families each month. Thanks to the PCS Chapter of the National Honor Society, we had a huge variety and quantities of food items. Special thank you to Randy McClain for overseeing the organization of all that food! Stroehmann's donated enough turkeys to offer to our larger families. We have also been able to give gift certificates from local grocery stores so our families can enjoy some of their favorite holiday foods. Thank you to all those who bring in food items and make donations. We do make a difference in the Portville community!

Birthdates to Remember



Jan 2 Richard
 Jan 3 Dan
 Jan 7 Sandra
 Jan. 7 Riley
 Jan 10 Owen
 Jan 17 Jack
 Jan 20 Alex
 Jan 22 SJ
 Jan 22 Emmy
 Jan 27 Jean
 Jan 30 Mazey



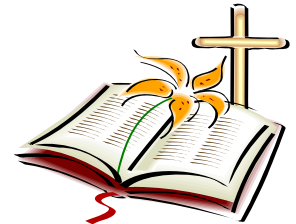
Feb 2 Max
 Feb 5 Pamela Alejandra
 Feb 5 Wanda
 Feb 6 Ray
 Feb 6 Amy
 Feb 10 Briar
 Feb 13 Barb
 Feb 13 Terry
 Feb 22 Amelia



Condolences and Thank You Notes



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for God's
 comfort and peace
 to Stephanie and Joe and family
 on the loss of Stephanie's mother:
 Donna M.
 October 20, 1929 - December 23, 2021



There is no gift greater to me than our life together, gathered in the love of God; called in the name of Christ. Your kindness and support and generosity are a reflection of the beautiful Spirit in our midst. It's a humbling, heart-felt *thank you* to you all for your Christmas card and gift.

Marilyn



A huge **Thank You** to Megan for her contribution in the creation of our virtual Christmas Eve Service. Using her creative eye, she wove together the videos and pictures into a spectacular virtual service.



To view her work follow this link: <https://youtu.be/-TKa-C-pjCQ>



**Dates to Remember
Elder of the Month: Mark**

- 1/02 Worship with Communion, 10:00 a.m.
- 1/09 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Committee year end reports due
- 1/12 Bible Study, 10.00 a.m.
Mission Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 1/13 Food Pantry Committee meeting,
6:00 p.m.
- 1/16 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 1/19 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
Session meeting 4:00 p.m.
- 1/23 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Congregational Annual Meeting
following worship service
- 1/24 Food Pantry prep
- 1/25 Food Pantry prep
- 1/26 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. to noon
- 1/30 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.



**Dates to Remember
Elder of the Month: Cso**

- 2/02 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
- 2/06 Worship Service with Communion
- 2/09 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
Mission Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 2/13 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 2/14 **Happy Valentine's Day**
- 2/16 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
Session meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 2/20 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a..
- 2/21 Food Pantry prep
- 2/22 Food Pantry prep
- 2/23 Food Pantry, 9:00 to noon
- 2/27 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -
PORTVILLE, NY**

19 North Main Street
PO Box 765
Portville, NY 14770

Voicemail: 716-933-6426
Email: portville.presbyterian followed by @gmail.com

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

Website:
www.portville-presbyterian.org