



Message from Rev. Hale

*"For now,
we see in a mirror, dimly,
but then we will see face to face.
Now I know only in part; then I will know fully,
even as I have been fully known." [I Cor. 13:12]*

These past few days we've been seeing "dimly" as we peer at our beautiful world through the haze of smoke coming from the Canadian wildfires. Today out my window, the normally blue-rising-hill that frames the other side of the valley is not even visible! It's unsettling to see and to know that there are people experiencing worse consequences and to imagine all the destruction of wildlife and forests and natural habitats that is taking place.

Yet, life carries on. Birds are chattering. Just outside my window there's dappled light in the woods, showing a palette-full of greens—so many "expressions" of *green*. And down below in town, there are hordes of cars piling through Portville, as many going west into Olean as are coming east *away from Olean*, and all intent on their mission of getting wherever they are going—away from May and June and forward now into a July that starts with the bang of fireworks!

Let's hit the pause button for the few moments it will take us to leaf through this newsletter and re-connect with all the life we shared, *"just yesterday, it seems!"* Pause and remember Bob and Barb, Buffy, and most recently, Kathy and Mark, all who have lost loved ones during May and June. Pause and remember all the special events that filled our life together: Mother's Day. Sunday School Open House. PENTECOST CELEBRATION. Picnic With Olean Presbyterian Folks. Ray Service & Reception. Ava's Baptism. Father's Day. Hannah's & Mac's Wedding. Ordination of Elders.

Pause, and thank God for each other and the mutual care we have for each other—the mutual care we have for all of God's people and creation, as we seek to be faithful followers of Christ in this place. Pause one last time before you read this newsletter, and thank God for July and August and the *summer respite* they offer to relax and unwind and renew these busy lives we have—in body, mind and spirit, may God bless you!

Thanks be to God, dear friends, for all that brings our lives together!

Marilyn

Inside the issue:

Minister's Message	Pg. 1	Personal Care / Gift-a-Book	Pg. 5	Birthdays	Pg. 7
Lectionary	Pg. 2	Property News	Pg. 5	Remote Area Medical	Pg. 8
Session News	Pg. 2	Christian Ed News	Pg. 6	Picture Collage	Pg. 9
Mission News	Pg. 3	Condolences	Pg. 6 & 7	Church Calendar	Pg. 10

Lectionary for July and August 2023**July 2**

Genesis 22:1–14
 Psalm 13
 Romans 6:12–23
 Matthew 10:40–42

July 9

Genesis 24:34–38; 42–40;
 58–67
 Psalm 45:10–17
 Romans 7:15–25a
 Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

July 16

Genesis 25:19–34
 Psalm 229:105–112
 Romans 8:1–11
 Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

July 23

Genesis 28:10–19a
 Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24
 Romans 8:12–25
 Matthew 13:24–30,
 36–43

July 30

Genesis 29:15–28
 Psalm 105:1–11, 45b
 Romans 8:26–39
 Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

August 6

Genesis 32:22–31
 Psalm 17:1–7
 Romans 9:1–5
 Matthew 14:13–21

August 13

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28
 Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b
 Romans 10:5–15
 Matthew 14:22–33

August 20

Genesis 45:1–15
 Psalm 133
 Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

August 27

Exodus 1:8–2:10
 Psalm 124
 Romans 12:1–8

Session News - Judy - Clerk of Session

Thank you to **Mark** and **Joe** , **Class of 2020 Elders**, as your terms are closing. Your service to Session and the congregation is appreciated.

The new **Class of 2026 Elders**—**Kari** and **Steve**—were ordained June 25 during worship. Ordination of elders is a special occasion in the life of the church with the laying on of hands of all elders present. There was a coffee hour reception after worship to honor Kari and Steve. Their first official duty to serve as elders was to serve the cake! Thank you for answering the call Kari and Steve to serve our congregation as elders!

The Session approved purchasing an AED unit for the church with funds from the Building Improvement and Preservation Fund. There will be an in-person AED/CPR training class at the church in the near future for interested members of the congregation. More information will be available soon with a sign up list for the class.

The **Post Pentecost Picnic** held at War Veterans Park in Olean on June 3 was a wonderful success! There was a total of 60 people who attended from the Olean Presbyterian Church and the Portville Presbyterian Church. There was a lot of delicious food and fabu-

Session News cont.

lous fellowship visiting with each other. And what a fun game–Who Am I?–a name label with the name of a famous person was put on each person’s back. Then throughout the picnic that person had to ask others questions to figure out whose name was on the label on their back. This created a lot of good conversations and laughs.

The Carillon that was donated by the Atkinson Family in memory of their daughter, Debra Atkinson, was updated by The Sound Track in Allegany with funds from the Memorial Fund. The carillon is once again playing beautifully for the church and community to enjoy. Thank you, Tim , for coordinating this project.

Mission News - Cso Woodworth

The Mission Committee is looking for recommendations, from you, for organizations that provide services/assistance to youth in our area to donate our 40% from the Pentecost offering. If you are aware of a local organization, that we do not already support, please contact the church and let us know. The committee will decide in August where to send this year’s Pentecost Offering.

We also voted to discontinue the collection, cleaning, and sending of medicine bottles. Please read Tim Alexander’s article on the ending of this Mission Project.

The committee voted to financially support Remote Area Medical (coming Sept. 9–11, 2023 to the Olean YMCA) with a \$1500 donation from our Mission Trip Fund. When RAM was here two years ago, the clinic saw the most patients came their Dental Clinic. Unfortunately they were not able to provide dental services to all who were in need. This year, RAM has recruited dentists from outside our immediate area to assist with the need to dental services. Our donation will to help cover the expense of hotel rooms for the volunteer out-of-town dentists during their two day dental service marathon.

We also agreed to support a new local **ongoing hands-on Mission Project**. In March the African American Cultural Development Center, in Olean NY, had on loan from the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Department the exhibit titled: **Journey to the North: New York’s Freedom Trail Banners**. Members of Rev. Hale’s Bible study (and a few tag-alongs who learned through the grapevine) visited this exhibit. Mar

Mission News - cont.

Through that visit we (yes, I was one of the “tag-alongs”) learned about the Center and the work that needs to be completed to be fully open to the public.

The **African American Cultural Development Center** has a long list of work that needs to be completed. Working with Della Moore, a room-by-room list of work that needed to be completed on the first floor was developed. Session approved our church's participation in this ongoing Mission Project. We will be scheduling work days at the Center soon. Each work session will have jobs of varying skill levels. This will include anything from cleaning and wiping down cabinets to repairing small holes in the flooring where pipes came up through to sanding woodwork to laying down laminate floors. Each scheduled work day will have a items from the list which was created with Della that will be tackled. As with any house repairs there are some items that need to be completed before other work can be done. Stay tuned for when this hands-on Mission work will begin. This is similar the “Christmas in April (in July)” projects many of you may have participated in the 1990’s – 2006, except this will not be just a one day event but rather an ongoing one so that the Center’s director, Della, can offer the programs and informational displays she has so thoughtfully developed.

Medicine Bottle Collection Ends - Tim

It was Geoffery Chaucer, the 14th century English writer, who was credited with the saying “All good things must come to an end”. After years of cleaning, packaging, and sending used medicine bottles to the Matthew 25 Ministries located in Cincinnati, Ohio, our participation in the program has come to an end. We thank those who have dedicated the time and effort to process and send thousands of medicine bottles for reuse to our disadvantaged brethren internationally.

Several factors contributed to the decision to move on from the medicine bottle reuse effort. Chief among the decision was the inability to efficiently and effectively meet requirements to ensure a *certified clean and uncontaminated container* was issued for reuse. Approximately 25% of all bottles turned in were routinely rejected for reuse based on appearance alone. And shipping costs have steadily increased over time. Transportation costs alone are enough to challenge the cost effectiveness of reuse.

Not all is lost. Although we won’t be reusing the bottles, there is hope they can be recycled and turned into other usable products. This will require a little effort by all of us to see that the bottles are placed into the recycling “waste stream”.

Medicine Bottle Collection Ends - cont.

Again, thank you to those who participated in the medicine bottle reuse effort in the past. We will continue to seek out missions that support the disadvantaged and promote a sustainable planet.

Personal Care Items / Gift-A-Book - Judy

The **Personal Care Item Collection** items were delivered to Portville Central School for students and families in need. This included the following: 9 tubes toothpaste, 8 toothbrushes, 1 dental floss, 2 bottles of body wash, 4 deodorants, 1 hand lotion, 1 nail polish, 1 pkg. of nail files, 5 boxes tampons, and eye drops. A total of 33 items! THANK YOU!

The **Personal Care Item Collection** area has a new look! A beautiful baker's rack is in the Quilt Room for your donations. Check it out and fill those shelves! The baker's rack was donated by Kimberly with special delivery by Bob and Barb! Thank you Kim! Thank you Bob and Barb!

Gift-a-Book: The most recent **Gift A Book** (G.A.B.) children's book collection totaled 69 books that were delivered to the Child Advocacy Center in Olean. THANK YOU! to everyone who donates books to this on-going mission project. New books are already on the shelves in the back hall of the church!

Property Committee News - Norm

Have you noticed how nice the church looks inside and out? Thank you to those on the Sanctuary cleaning list who vacuum the carpet and make everything look nice for worship. There are still open dates on the Sanctuary cleaning list which can be found in the Quilt room on the easel. Our thanks to Sue , Bill, Connie , Tim, Judy, Barb and Marilyn for weeding, thinning out, and mulching the church gardens. The flowers and bushes look so beautiful with your care.

And our thanks to Mark for mowing the lawn. Continuing on the lawn care front, the church is going electric with their lawn care tools. Session approved the purchase of the following Ryobi yard



Property Committee News cont.- Norm

tools: battery operated lawnmower, leaf blower, and edger. All these tools will create less noise pollution, and no longer be emitting carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds.

Everyone's work makes our church look inviting and well loved.

Christian Education - Judy

The 2022-2023 Christian Education year was a huge success! The Spring session of classes was held April 23, April 30 and May 14. The Open House and Ice Cream Social were held on May 21. The classes were visited by members of the congregation. May 21 was also Teacher Appreciation and Student Recognition during worship. The following teachers were presented with hanging flower baskets in appreciation: Bizzy , Amy , Carly , Diana , Rev. Hale, Tim , Anita and Julie. Each Sunday School class made a little presentation during worship.

The Sunday school students were presented with certificates of participation and The Scoop Ice Cream Stand \$5 coupons. Bibles were presented to third graders Ellianna and Ian and fourth grader Garry . Thank you to the Christian Education Committee for all your time and support!

And now to wish everyone a wonderful summer! See you in September!

Our heartfelt condolences to Bob and Barb
on the death of Bob's brother,
Tim.

September 9, 19XX - May XX, 2023



Our heartfelt condolences to Buffy
on the death of her father,
William "Cal" .

April 18, 19XX - June XX, 2023



Birthdates to Remember



Jul 1 Troy
 Jul 2 Evelyn
 Jul 2 Sue
 Jul 5 Julie
 Jul 5 Anita
 Jul 7 Ainslie
 Jul 7 Cyndy
 Jul 11 Kathleen
 July 12 Mia
 Jul 14 Vicki
 Jul 14 Saylor
 Jul 16 Eva
 Jul 19 Isabelle
 Jul 23 Karl
 Jul 28 Ronda
 Jul 30 Sandy



Aug 2 Sharon
 Aug 5 Hannah
 Aug 17 Ed
 Aug 18 Addison
 Aug 24 Joe



Our heartfelt condolences to Kathy and Mark
 on the death of Kathy's father,
 William "Bill" .

November XX, 19XX - June XX, 2023



Remote Area Medical (RAM) Free Medical Clinic

Location:

JCC - Olean Campus

Dates / Start times

September 9 - 6 am

September 10 - 6 am

Free medical service sponsored by : RAM and Bona Responds, JCC and Olean YMCA.

- ♦ **Dental:** cleaning, fillings, and extractions
- ♦ **Vision:** eye exams with glasses made on site, testing for glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy
- ♦ **Medical:** General medicine. (i.e. Prevention: Breasts exams, diabetes screening, physicals, women's health, and more.)
- ♦ Services are offered on a **FIRST COME FIRST SERVE** basis.
- ♦ **NO** Proof of Residency or Income required!
- ♦ **BRING** all medications with you and **TAKE** all medications as you normally do.
- ♦ Bring your own food and drinks.

All patients will have the option of receiving DENTAL and MEDICAL **OR** VISION and MEDICAL care on the same day.

Time will not permit receiving **DENTAL** and **VISION** on the same day.

NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED

Please consider volunteering to assist with this event. I (Cso) have volunteered for two of these clinics. My first experience was greeting people as they entered and providing clinic options and directions to them. My second experience was working in the Optical area. This area had several "jobs" to choose from. . .help with frames selection for patients, keeping the tables restocked with frames, data entry, and being a runner where you take the frames and the lens script to their on-site lab where the script is filled and lenses put into the frames and completed glasses are picked up.

Volunteers can begin arriving at 5 a.m. There will be coffee, water and lunch available to all volunteers. Link to sign up to volunteer: <https://volunteer.ramusa.org/> (or go to ramusa.org and click on the Volunteer link at the top of the page. **Be certain to select the Olean, NY Clinic (September 9- 10). Hope to see you there!**



Celebrating

Baptism, Sunday School,
Pentecost, Post Pentecost
Picnic, Church Garden
Clean-up, and New Elders!





07/02 Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.

July/August newsletter distributed

Barb/Cso/Diana – Elders for the Month

07/04 *Independence Day!*

Church Office Closed



07/08 Rummage Sale, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

07/09 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

07/10 Lectionary Group (MKH), 10:00 a.m.

07/10 Jamestown PNC (MKH), 6:00 p.m.

07/11 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:00 a.m.

07/15 Oldham Graveside Service (MKH)

07/16 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

07/19 Session, 4:00 p.m.

07/23 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

07/24 Food Pantry Prep Day

07/25 Food Pantry Prep Day

07/26 Food Pantry open 9:00 a.m. – noon

07/30 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.



08/06 Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.

– Elder for the Month

08/09 Mission Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

08/13 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

08/16 Session, 4:00 p.m.

08/20 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

08/21 Food Pantry Prep Day

08/22 Food Pantry Prep Day

08/23 Food Pantry open 9:00 a.m. – noon

08/27 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

September/October newsletter info due



**Annual
Rummage
Sale**

**July 8 from 9 am - 2 pm
Benefits local missions**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PORTVILLE, NY

19 North Main Street

P.O. Box 765

Portville, NY 14770

Voicemail: 716.933.6426

Sunday School: 9:00 am - ages 3 to adult

Please check web site for dates when Sunday School meets.

Worship Service: 10:00 am

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Website:

www.portville.presbyterian.org

