



Message from Rev. Hale

*"I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right
is acceptable to him." [Acts 10:34]*

This is part of the package of Scripture that comes to us on Easter; part of the "good news" we will hear in worship that morning. The Apostle Peter was telling the amazing story of Jesus, talking to people who did not know who Jesus of Nazareth was. This is how he began, maybe hoping to get their attention so they would stop and listen to him long enough to meet the Christ he had known—the *living Christ* he carried in his heart through the Holy Spirit.

And just to remind us all that "fearing" God is having *respect* for God, recognizing that God is GOD. It is not "fear" as in being afraid of an abusive, overbearing, cruel, All-Powerful God; a worship-and-bow-down-or-else kind of God! A relationship based on fear has none of God in it.

"Fearing God", having respect for God, is an overpowering *sense* of the Lord of the Universe who is present and active and in ultimate control of all life. Doing what is "right" in God's eyes may be a reasoned response, yet can we see that "rightness" coming *from within us as a response*, driven by our desire to *honor* God who has been revealed to us; a response—an overflowing, spontaneous reaction coming from honor?

Take just a few more steps on this journey. If we look into the heart of honor, there will be love. Maybe not lovey-dovey love, oozing over, sweet love, but a deep seeded love that seeks no harm but healing; that seeks not to oppress but to be empowering; that does not look out only for itself but ever looks up and considers the other. This is the love Jesus brought to us as he revealed to the world the heart of God. This is the principle he calls us to live by.

There's a lot of turmoil in our world. There's a lot of God in our world, more than we are able to recognize; more than some are *willing* to recognize. Be open, to loving and serving our "impartial" God and sharing the good news Christ brings to your life.

Come celebrate that life you know Easter morning. We honor God with our worship. We honor God as we respond to others with Christ's love.

*Easter blessings with love,
Marilyn*

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Lectionary for March and April 2015

March 1
Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

March 8
Third Sunday in Lent
Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 15
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 22
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 29
Palm Sunday
Mark 11:1-11
Philippians 2:5-11
Psalm 118:1-2;19-29
Isaiah 50:4-9a

April 5 Easter Sunday
Resurrection of the Lord
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2;14-24
Isaiah 25:6-9
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

April 12
Second Sunday after Easter
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 19
Third Sunday after Easter
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 26
Fourth Sunday after Easter
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Mission Committee News

Cso Woodworth / Vicki Schmidt / Stephanie Hill

One of the Mission Committee's ongoing hands-on mission projects has been the collection of personal care items. Portville Central School has indicated that they are in need of deodorant and soap as personal care items to give to students. Although we are currently concentrating on these items, please know

that any personal care item (shampoo, tooth paste, tooth brushes, etc) that you donate will gladly be accepted by the school. The school is very appreciative of the support you offer to your school community.

Our church will again be participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Thank you to

Stephanie Hill for volunteering to chair the offering. Minutes for Mission for OGHS will be given on Mar, 1, 8, 15, and 22 with the offering being taken on March 22. The goal for this offering has been set at \$1000. Offering envelopes can be found in the church pew racks for your use.

Three members of our

church, Stephanie and Joe Hill, and Vicki Schmidt will again be participating in a Mission trip offered through the Presbytery of Western NY to New Jersey to continue with the rebuilding of areas affected by Superstorm Sandy. The trip is scheduled for April 19 -24, 2015. There are still slots available for anyone interested in going along. Contact the church office if you are interested in going along with them. They will be working alongside the Lend-A-Hand crew from Pennsylvania.

A \$500 donation was made to Interfaith Caregivers from the Jack Sheppard Memorial Mission Fund.

Fun Fleece Festival

Fun Fleece Festival was moved to Sunday Feb 22 because of water freezing at the water meter causing pipes to burst. On Sunday Feb. 22, fourteen church and community members created 17 blankets. These tied blankets were donated to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. A heart-

felt thank you to those that were able to attend and help create the blankets.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Feeding the hungry, helping people build up their own livelihoods, responding to disasters - these are all ways that **One Great Hour of Sharing** will change lives, change communities - and change the world.

When you give to OGHS, you're helping to provide those in need with safe water and food, relief for those affected by crisis and catastrophic events, and the tools necessary to improve their lives.

You can make a gift to OGHS on any Sunday in March, using the special offering envelopes in the pew racks. Please give generously to help others find resilience, hope and faith in the face of challenging circumstances. Thank you!

Partnering With Leah Doty Wycliffe's Newest Bible Translator

Back on January 11, 2015,

Leah Doty (Steve and Margie Doty's oldest daughter) came to worship and shared with the congregation her back story on deciding to follow in her parents' and grandparents' footsteps in becoming a Wycliffe Bible translator. Following worship, Congregational Care hosted a reception for Leah where many had an opportunity to personally talk with her. This link (<http://blog.wycliffe.org/2015/02/11/learning-the-value-of-internships/>) to the Wycliffe blog tells of Leah's journey in determining the direction of her life's calling.

Through the Jack Sheppard Memorial Mission Fund, our church has committed to support Leah financially. She recently sent an email asking for prayers that the remaining monthly financial commitment be fulfilled before her scheduled departure to Thailand on March 6. Please check out the Mission Committee bulletin board for more information on Leah. Please keep Leah in your prayers.

THE FOOD PANTRY . . .

from your grocery cart to our shelves!

by Stephanie Hill

Sharing brings JOY!

Thank you for continuing to bring a food item each week! To the right is the list of food items we will be collecting in March and April:

FOR THE WEEK OF:	WE WILL BE COLLECTING:
March 1	Soup
March 8	Tuna
March 15	Mac and Cheese
March 22	Pork and Beans
March 29	Cake Mix
April 5	Cream soup
April 12	Egg Noodles
April 19	Green Beans
April 26	Corn

Christian Education News

Connie King

Think spring! Soon the snow will be melted with the little flowers sprouting, and there will be green again. There is always something to look forward to, and it is just around the corner.

On Souper Bowl Sunday, February 1, the kids collected 90 cans of soup and \$145 for the Food Pantry. Thank you to all who donated to this fun project.

The class is learning about David and Goliath and the

idea that even though we might not be faced with a 9-foot Philistine giant, we do face problems that seem like a giant. They talked about problems they face and how God is always with us to give us things in our lives to help fight our "giant". Also, Hannah Kloss and Christine Pagett meet with Rev. Hale for the Confirmation Class on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m.

The Lenten Soup & Study gathering began on Feb. 23rd at 7 pm. We will con-

tinue with the Monday dates and time for March 2, 9, 16, and 23. The study guide, "Looking at the Cross" is provided for each person. Rev. Hale is leading the study, and we hope to see you there for learning, food, and fellowship.

Dates to remember: No Sunday School or Confirmation Class on March 8, 29, and April 5. Last day for Sunday School is May 17 with an Open House hosted by the class. Watch for more information later.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME . . . begins Sunday, March 8.
 Remember to "spring" ahead one hour and change your batteries!



Worship News Anita Shuey

Lent and Easter give us many opportunities for meaningful worship. On all five Sundays in March, there will be a worship bulletin insert drawing our attention to our sanctuary's stained glass windows, where symbols of Lent and Easter are beautifully presented. Viewing and understanding these symbols can offer an added dimension to our journey through Lent to Easter.

On April 2nd, Maundy Thursday, at 6 p.m., there will be a congregational dinner followed by Com-

munion. The sanctuary will be open for guided prayer and meditation from noon to 3 p.m. on Good Friday, April 3rd.

April 5th will be a joyous day with Easter Sunrise being celebrated at 7 a.m. with a service at Chestnut Hill Cemetery. Breakfast at Sprague's will follow this service. More "Alleluia's" will ring out at the 11 a.m. Easter service! Communion will be shared as our congregation brings in Easter, transforming our congregational sacred space from darkness to light.

Light is a powerful symbol! Many of us remember having sung songs of light.

"Jesus is the Light in a weary world...", "I want to walk as a child of the Light" and "This little light of mine" are part of that repertoire. On April 26, we will celebrate Acolyte Sunday, recognizing our light bearers and concentrating on the significance of the Light. Come and join in all these celebrations of worship. It's time to let our "little lights shine".

Holy Week Services

April 2 – Maundy Thursday
Seder meal and Communion, 6 p.m.

April 3 – Good Friday
The sanctuary is offered for personal prayer and meditation, 12-3 p.m.

April 5 – Easter
Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.
Chestnut Hill Cemetery
Our tradition is to gather at Sprague's Restaurant for breakfast following this service.

Worship Service, 11 a.m.

2015 Easter Flowers Order Form

Description	Qty	Price	Total
Lilies - 6" pot		\$15	
Mums - 6½" pot Circle color preference: yellow, white, purple, lavender		\$15	
Tulips - 6" pot Circle color preference: red, pink, yellow		\$12	
Daffodils - 6" pot		\$12	

Orders are due, with payment, by Sunday, March 29.
Please make checks payable to the church.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

March 2015 Dates to Remember

03/01 Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Worship Service and Communion,
11 a.m.
2nd Sunday in Lent
OGHS promotion begins
Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.

03/02 PWNV Outreach Ministry, noon (S. Hill)
Lenten Soup & Study, 5:30 p.m.

03/03 PWNV CRRR (M. Hale)

03/04 Session, 6 p.m.

03/08 Sunday School / Conf. Class, canceled
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
3rd Sunday in Lent
Daylight Saving Time begins

03/09 Lenten Soup & Study, 5:30 p.m.

03/11 Mission Committee, 6 p.m.

03/14 Property Committee, 8:30 a.m.

03/15 Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.,



4th Sunday in Lent
Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.

03/16 Lenten Soup & Study, 5:30 p.m.

03/18 USDA foods delivered (J. Hellwig)

03/20 **Happy Spring!**

03/22 Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
5th Sunday in Lent
OGHS Offering Dedication
Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.

03/23 Produce @ Olean FP, 11 a.m.
Lenten Soup & Study, 5:30 p.m.

03/24 Presbytery, Cleveland Drive PC, 4 p.m.

03/25 Food Pantry open 10-12 and 5-6:30
p.m.

03/29 Sunday School / Conf. Class,
canceled
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Palm Sunday



April 2015 Dates to Remember

04/02 Maundy Thursday Meal & Service, 6 p.m.

04/03 Good Friday Observance, 12-3 p.m.

04/05 Easter Sunrise Service, TBA
Breakfast @ Sprague's Restaurant
Sunday School / Conf. Class, canceled
Worship Service and Communion, 11
a.m.
Easter Sunday

04/06 Church office closed

04/08 Bible Study, 10 a.m.
Mission Committee, 6 p.m.

04/11 Property Committee, 8:30 a.m.

04/12 Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.

04/13 PWNV Outreach Ministry, noon (S. Hill)

04/14 Nominating Committee



04/15 Bible Study, 10 a.m.
USDA foods delivered (Jacquie Hellwig)
Session, 6 p.m.

04/16 PCFP Committee, 6 p.m.

04/19 Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.
Mission trip to PPBNJ (04/19-04/24)

04/22 Food Pantry open 10-12 and 5-6:30
p.m.

04/25 Presbytery Day, North PC, 9:30 a.m.

04/26 Sunday School, 10 a.m.
Worship Service, 11 a.m.
Acolyte Recognition
Confirmation Class, 4 p.m.
Info due for May/June newsletter

04/29 Bible Study, 10 a.m.

March / April Birthdates to Remember

March

3/4 Leland Yehl
 3/11 Mary Lou Harrison
 3/17 Russ Burton
 3/19 Kathlyn Gardner
 3/21 Hazel Whitney
 3/23 Stephanie Hill
 3/30 Christine Pagett



April

4/2 Ray Carlson
 4/9 Tom Pollock
 4/10 Lucas Hellwig
 4/10 Judy McClain
 4/14 Marilyn Hale
 4/16 John Pagett
 4/25 Buffy Pratt
 4/29 Lila Pollock



“Looking at the Cross”

Being Reformed

Congregational Ministries Publishing
 Presbyterian Church (USA)

2015 “Soup and Study”
 Lenten Gathering

Mondays, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

February 23

March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

Volunteers for the month of March 2015

Date	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Greeters and Ushers	Coni Coletti/ Jess Wyant	Cyndy/Pat Kennedy	Connie/Norm King	The Kloss Family	Cso Woodworth/ Shirley Longbothum
Liturgist	Buffy Pratt	Kari Kloss	Stephanie Hill	Norm King	Christine Pagett
Children's Time	OGHS	OGHS	OGHS	Sunday School	Rev. Hale
Prayer Family	Lucas Hellwig	Abby Hendrix	The Hendrix family	Stephanie and Joe Hill	Lerin Hill

Elder for the month: Stephanie Hill

Volunteers for the month of April 2015

	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Greeters and Ushers	Coni Coletti/ \Jess Wyant	Pagett Kids	Sharon Hill- McLarney	Shirley Longbothum
Liturgist	Sharon Hill-McLarney	Jess Wyant	Julie McLarney Pagett	Hannah Kloss
Children's Time	Shirley Longbothum	Carly Woodhead	Barb Fairbanks	Sunday School
Prayer Family	Wilda Hill	Julie and Chris Jones	The Keeley Family	Cyndy and Pat Kennedy

Elder for the month : Anita Shuey



If you have any bed risers that you no longer need or see any at garage sales please consider buying/ donating them to the church. They will be used to raise the tables up for the Fun Fleece Festival.

**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