



## Message from Rev. Hale

How is it as we look for a way to move forward we tend to look back, scrape together the loose ends of the past, mound them up and then tamp them down again, level them off into a smooth firm base as if from there to launch away or build upon or centered, dig down in to plant?

March and April welcome us! At last we can do more than imagine our way going beyond what has seemed a relentless winter filled with one storm produced drama after another! At last the insidious lull of *ordinary time* that slipped in unheralded as the wise men once more *slipped away* from Bethlehem, yields the sacred keeping of our lives to the Season of Lent, and then Holy Week, and then the winter-turned-to-spring climax of our faith and belief—the Easter celebration!

There's so much so near to anticipate and embrace and we are *so ready*, ready to run like the wind and find an empty tomb and with Mary, make the discovery of a lifetime that never gets old. *Christ is alive! Alleluia! He is risen*, we'll say. And then echo together, *he is risen indeed*, as if it's the first time we've made that connection, come to that realization, found freedom and joy in those words that sets everything in life new and hopeful and secure!

With Easter's celebration, we're ready to launch away or build upon or plant anew these lives of ours drawn to Christ, Christ alive and present with us. In the coming weeks, we'll be scraping together those past loose ends, making our way through Lent and Holy Week.

That "way" begins this Wednesday night with a service at 7pm. With sacred texts and ashes, we'll keep the time honored rituals of the season that will all too quickly bring us to the day's first Easter celebration on Chestnut Hill at 6:30 am! Looking forward to the scraping and mounding and tamping and wishing you all the blessings of the season...

Marilyn

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## Lectionary for March / April 2019

**March 3**

**Transfiguration of the Lord**

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

**March 10 – 1st Sunday in Lent**

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

**March 17 – 2nd Sunday in Lent**

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

**March 24– 3rd Sunday in Lent**

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

**March 31– 4th Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**April 7– 5th Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 125  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

**April 14– Palm Sunday**

Luke 19:28-40  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:14-23:56

**April 21– Easter**

Isaiah 65:17-25  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Acts 10:34-43  
Luke 24:1-12

**April 28– 2nd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 50  
Revelations 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

## Mission Committee News Julie

### MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

The **ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE** in January netted a total sales amount of \$989. As always, a big thank you goes out to Barb and the many volunteers who help to set up and run this annual mission project!

Hannah again delivered an inspiring Minute for Mission cheer for our annual **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** drive. Her efforts helped to bring in one hundred and ten cans of soup and a whopping \$442 in cash donations to benefit the Portville Community Food Pantry.

This year marked the 12<sup>th</sup> year for the annual **FUN FLEECE FESTIVAL**. A big thanks to all 19 participants who came out to help make 25 fleece blankets to be donated to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. A special thanks to our participants from Jonah's Attic; and to Vicki Schmidt for coordinating this ecumenical hands-on Mission Project!

**CAMPERSHIPS** are again available for this upcoming summer season and the church will pay the full-cost of any Christian-based camp children of our congregation would like to attend. Camp Duffield in Delevan, NY has week-long summer camps for children from 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. It's a wonderful experience! Check out their website at [www.campduffield.net/summer\\_camps](http://www.campduffield.net/summer_camps) for more information. Campership applications will be available in the Quilt Room. Also, this year marks the next Presbyterian Youth Tri-

ennium at Purdue University from July 16<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> for high-school students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade through graduated seniors. Again, the cost of the event will be picked up by the church. You can check out more information regarding this special event at [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org). Applications for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium are available in the church. Please see Julie.

### CORRESPONDENCE

We received a letter from our Wycliffe Bible Translators, Steve and Margie. Steve recently attended a conference about a new way of translating that compares oral versus written translation methods. To learn more about what understanding he came away from the conference with, please stop by the Mission bulletin board by the backdoor of the church to read their full letter. *There are many more thank you notes and newsletters on the bulletin board from people and organizations the mission committee has been able to help. Take a moment and check it out!*

### DONATIONS

A \$400 donation from the Hunger Fund was made to the Masonic Temple for their new handicapped bathroom project. In addition, a \$300 donation was made to both the Royal Family Kids Camp and the Ronald McDonald House, a \$500 donation was made to the Miriam Center for Hope and Healing, and a \$500 donation was made to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance... all from the Jack Shepard Memorial Mission Fund.



One Great Hour of Sharing

\* Special Offering \*

Hunger-Disaster-Development

Jesus' ministry was among those who were most vulnerable. He preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. One Great Hour of Sharing helps us share this same good news to those same vulnerable people in our world today: those who are hungry, who are suffering from disaster, who are dealing with oppression and injustice in society.

Beginning March 10, through our Minute for Mission, you will hear about the three programs supported by OGHS: the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Self-Development of People. A gift to OGHS enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

The Mission Committee has set a goal of \$800 for the congregation's gifts to OGHS. Special offering envelopes are available in the pew racks on March 10, 17 and 24; the offering envelopes will be in your bulletins on March 31, the Sunday our gifts will be dedicated to One Great Hour of Sharing. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

## Christian Ed News Stephanie



Sunday School classes met on February 3 and 10 and will meet on March 3 and 10.

The **Nursery Class** continues to have great attendance – all 7 were at Sunday School in February. We read the story of Joseph and his “special coat” and learned that jealousy made Joseph’s brothers do some unkind things to him. In the end, Joseph forgave his family. We also learned about Moses and how his sister protected him – just like the kiddos in our class protect and keep their younger siblings safe!

The **Elementary Class** is learning about things that happened in Jesus' life. We read the story about "the last will be first and the first will be last." "The Widow's Mite" was a story we read about the old woman giving only two coins which was all she had. In richness she gave the most. The class learned about different money amounts and coin values from actual coins, silver dollars, and paper money. Each was given \$1 to put into the Offering – because that was all they had! Looking forward to Easter, we are discussing a fun project for all the congregation to see!

The topic of discussion at the **Acts 29** gathering in February was how the things we do, whether positive or negative, can have an effect on those around us. Ideas were offered on how to be the "positive" in someone else's life, even if they are strangers. Take note of the saying on the wall in the lounge area adjoining the dining room; it reflects the conversations and ideas shared at their meeting.

The **Lenten Soup and Study** will be held on Sundays following worship on March 17, 24, 31 and April 7. All are welcome to join us for a light lunch and fellowship. If you plan to stay for the study portion, a participant’s book will be provided for you – **Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple** by Adam Hamilton. A signup sheet is available in the Narthex.



**Daylight Savings Time begins March 10!**  
Set your clocks forward 1 hour, on Saturday night.

*Thank you from the Food Pantry*

*for your generosity on*

*Souper Bowl Sunday.*

*110 cans of soup and*

*\$442.00 were donated*

*to the Portville Community*

*Food Pantry.*



## Worship News

April 18th  
Maundy Thursday  
Service  
5:30 p.m.  
Together gathering in  
the dining room for  
Shepherd's Pie Supper  
Followed by a  
Communion Service.



April 21 @ 6:30 a.m.  
Sunrise Service  
Chestnut Hill Cemetery  
(regardless of weather)  
Please plan on going to  
Sprague's for  
breakfast after the  
Sunrise service.

## Jasmine Church Mouse

It's me again, Jasmine, the church mouse. The cold weather in January and February was pretty hard for me. I managed to find a spot in the furnace room to keep warm, until the furnace quit one Sunday morning and I had to relocate to keep warm. Fortunately there are lots of nooks and crannies to hide in.



I've been keeping my ears open for news about people in the congregation. I heard that Ray fell and broke his kneecap...ouch! I miss seeing him and Joyce in worship. And Sandy had shoulder surgery and Coni is having knee surgery. I'm not sure if I have shoulders and knees. I'll have to find some smart high school student to research that question for me. I'm usually more concerned about getting my tail caught in a door. You humans are lucky you don't have to worry about that.

I had fun at the congregational meeting...lots of great crumbs from Joe's homemade breads and at the Fun Fleece Festival – they had cheese for a snack, one of my favorite foods. Those blankets looked so warm and comfy. I'm sure the kids who receive them will love them. Christine won the "Starburst Stacker" contest at the last Acts 29 meeting. That was fun to watch. Did you know that Buffy welcomed a new beagle into her home - a little sister for Buster. Guess Marcy is still in training – she chewed right through Buffy's charger cord. Oops! I'm sure it was an accident and she didn't mean any harm. Speaking of new additions to families, Lucy, Ellie and Briar welcomed a new little brother, Owen, in January. I just love having so many little ones in worship. Their giggles make me want to giggle. Hee! Hee!

Be watching for my visit to the Sunday school classes this month so I can introduce myself in person.  
Love . . . . Jasmine

## Dates to Remember March 2019

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>03/03 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.<br/>Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.<br/>March/April newsletter distributed</p> <p>03/05 PWNV COM (Hale), 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>03/06 Ash Wednesday/Service, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>03/09 Property Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>03/10 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.<br/>Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.<br/>Daylight Savings Time Begins</p> <p>03/13 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.<br/>Mission Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>03/14 Christian Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>03/16 Presbytery Meeting at Maryvale, 10 a.m.</p> <p>03/17 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.<br/>Rev. Dr. Marv Abrams, guest minister<br/>Lenten Soup &amp; Study, after worship</p> | <p>03/20 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.<br/>Session, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>03/24 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.<br/>Lenten Soup &amp; Study, after worship</p> <p>03/27 Food Pantry open 10-noon and<br/>5-6:30 p.m.<br/>No Bible Study</p> <p>03/31 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.<br/>OGHS Offering Collection<br/>Lenten Soup &amp; Study, after worship</p> |
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### March Food Pantry Item :



**Tuna**



**60 cans are handed  
out on a monthly basis.**

## Dates to Remember April 2019

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>04/02 PWNV COM (Hale), 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>04/03 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>04/07 Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.<br/>Lenten Soup &amp; Study, after worship</p> <p>04/10 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.<br/>Mission Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>04/11 PC Food Pantry Comm. Meeting,<br/>6:00 p.m.</p> <p>04/13 Property Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>04/14 Palm Sunday/Worship, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>04/17 No Bible Study</p> <p>04/18 Maundy Thursday Supper and<br/>Communion , 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>04/19 Good Friday Self-Guided Prayer and<br/>Meditation, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.</p> | <p>04/21 Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.,<br/>Chestnut Hill Cemetery, (Breakfast at<br/>Sprague's following)<br/>Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>04/24 Food Pantry open 10-noon and<br/>5-6:30 p.m.<br/>No Bible Study</p> <p>04/28 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.<br/>May/June newsletter info due</p> |
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### April Food Pantry Item:



**Mac and Cheese**

**60 boxes are handed  
out on a monthly basis.**

# Birthdates to Remember

## March

- Mar. 4 Leland
- Mar. 11 Lauri
- Mar. 17 Russ
- Mar. 19 Kathlyn
- Mar. 23 Stephanie
- Mar. 30 Christine



## April

- Apr. 1 Dash
- Apr. 9 Tom
- Apr. 10 Lucas
- Apr. 10 Judy
- Apr. 11 Nicole
- Apr. 14 Marilyn
- Apr. 16 John
- Apr. 25 Buffy
- Apr. 26 Josh
- Apr. 27 Karen



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

### Congregational meeting



Sunday School Classes



... And hearty Presbyterian – No heat on Sun-

day, Feb. 17  
Not an issue...  
blankets and  
coats solved the



## Volunteers for March/April 2019

	March 3	March 20	March 17	March 24	March 31
<b>Greeters and Ushers</b>	Buffy	Cindy	Mike/Jean	Troy/Amy	Wanda Kari
<b>Liturgist</b>	Vicki	Megan	Buffy	Kathy	Anita
<b>Acolyte</b>	Communion	Mark	Vicki	Megan	Stephanie
<b>Music Tech</b>	Judy	Judy	Joe	Vicki	Kari

**Elder of the Month: Stephanie**

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
<b>Greeters and Ushers</b>	Buffy Coni	Stephanie / Joe	Kathy / Mark	Troy/Amy
<b>Liturgist</b>	Stephanie	Megan	Buffy	Jess
<b>Acolyte</b>	Communion	Mark	Julie	Jack
<b>Music Tech</b>	Joe	Judy	Kari	Vicki

**Elder of the Month: Judy**

### 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: 9:00am  
 ages 3 to adult  
 Worship Service: 10:00 am

**Website:**  
[www.portville-presbyterian.org](http://www.portville-presbyterian.org)

