



Message from Rev. Hale

“...in like a lion / out like a lamb!”

Guess you know when I am writing this! Beautiful winter wonderland surrounding us, but.....! Coping without power clicks on a reality check mechanism: the plight of Puerto Ricans *still* without power / the abysmal living conditions of the hundreds of thousands of refugees displaced by war and ethnic cleansing / the “future” of the homeless in this country as we cut back on spending for social programs.

These are all human beings who have been in a month’s long and year’s long struggle without the amenities of powered utilities. Yet even more significant, these are “powerless” people, the very ones we disciples of Christ, we children of God have been entrusted by God to identify with and reach out to.

So *in reality*, I am not “coping” without power....I am living very well and feeling guilty for the lifestyle I am so dependent upon! A day or two or three without power rates “nothing” on the coping scale! It’s an inconvenient, invaluable reality check here in the Season of Lent which asks us each year to check our pulse—the indwelling heartbeat of God’s love we rely upon.

“...in like a lion / out like a lamb!”

*In like a lion....*the pride of our hearts bared and exposed as we let go again and check the direction our life is taking, looking up to see where Christ is: ‘way over there / or not even in sight / or right ahead, leading the way!

*Out like a lamb...*that blessed Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world: my sin I am prone to when I can’t see beyond the horizon of my own needs / “our” sin when we become complacent with the way things are for any who are powerless!

See you Easter morning.....Marilyn

Inside this issue:

Lectionary	Page 2	Memorial Service	Page 5	Condolences	Page 7
Mission News	Page 2	Birthdays	Page 6	Easter Flower Order	Page 7
Worship News	Page 4	Food Pantry	Page 6	Daylight Savings Time	Page 7
Dates to Remember	Page 5	Christian Ed News	Page 6	Volunteers	Page 8

Lectionary for March / April

March 4
3rd Sunday of Lent
Exodus 20 1:17
Psalm 19
Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2"13-22

March 11
4th Sunday of Lent
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 18
5th Sunday of Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 107:1-3; 17-22
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 25
Palm Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15; 47

April 1
Easter Sunday
Acts 10; 34-43
Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18

April 8
2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 15
3rd Sunday after Easter
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3: 3-7
Luke 24: 36b-48

April 22
4th Sunday after Easter
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

April 20
5th Sunday after Easter
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
JOHN 15:1-8

Mission Committee News

Julie Pagett / Vicki Schmidt

The **ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE** took place over the course of two Saturdays in January this year. The first day of the sale was extremely cold and resulted in a lower than expected turnout. The decision was made to hold the sale again the following Saturday. The total sales from both days amounted to \$1,085. A big thank you to Barb Fairbanks for running the sale. Her efforts go above and beyond and we are very grateful to her!

This year's **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

"Coach", Hannah Kloss, delivered an inspiring Minute for Mission on Sunday, January 28th.

"Alright team, ***huddle up!*** We have to ***de-fend*** our community and ***crush*** hunger. This is a problem we must ***tackle*** together. We are about to ***roll out*** our Souper Bowl of Caring. There will be no ***fumbling*** for we must ***block*** this rival we call hunger from getting any worse. So ***hold*** on to your wallet, ***rush*** out to your local store, and purchase some soup. Next Sunday, let's all make some ***gains*** by giving back. On February 4th, bring a can or ***four***, a dollar or more, and let us ***score*** our highest ***points*** yet for Food Pantry."

One hundred and thirty-three cans of soup and \$149 in cash donations were collected

on February 4th. Way to go “Coach Hannah”!

This year marked the 11th year for the annual **FUN FLEECE FESTIVAL**. Despite the small crowd, fourteen blankets were made to donate to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. The One Great Hour of Sharing dedication will take place on Palm Sunday, March 25, this year. **One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world!**

CORRESPONDENCE

We received a letter from our Wycliffe Bible Translators, Steve and Margie Doty. After a three-week visit with family here in the United States, they are busy back in Thailand. They are preparing for a training workshop to learn how to check other translators’ work. Please stop by the Mission bulletin board by the backdoor of the church to read their full letter and see the

photos they sent from their recent trip back to the US. *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!*

Medicine Bottle Collection The mission committee is still collecting medicine bottles to send to Matthew 25: Ministries. Our goal is to send them bottles that they, in turn, can send along with medication to developing countries to aid in improving their medical care. It is important that we adhere to M25M’s rules so that this can happen.

- Remove ALL labels (even on caps), leaving NO glue or residue.



If removing the glue is extremely difficult, please just recycle these uncooperative bottles.

The bottles to the left could not be sent for the following reasons: milky residue for previous medicines, glue remnants left on bottle, and label left on bottle cap.

- Wash bottles and plastic caps in very hot water and dish soap. This will remove all remnants of your medication and leave the bottles clean.
- Rinse and dry thoroughly.
- Replace cap and bring to church.

This is what our church then does with your bottles:

- Sort by color, size, and type.
- Place in large Ziploc bags marked "Clean Bottles". (If you are bringing several
- bottles to church at once, it would save us time if you would sort them.)
- Box and mail them to Matthew 25: Ministries



On March 1, 5 boxes containing 1637 medicine bottles were mailed to Matthew 25: Ministries.

Worship News Anita Shuey

Our Lenten journey began on Ash Wednesday which fell on Valentine's Day this year. Some hustled children off to school with enough valentine cards for each class member and teacher. Hearts and lace were reminders that an "I love you!" and a "Be mine!" might be appropriate depending on the circumstances. The "how, when, and where" of communicating the "love" message is central, for we humans are complex with a capacity to love deeply. This year, February 14th was full of broken hearts as young lives were lost. When love dies, we experience darkness. So many are hurt, angry, shattered and grieving, wanting to whisper "I love you" one more time to their precious ones.

"Angels where you soar up to
God's own light,
Take my own lost bird on your
hearts tonight;
And as grief once more mounts
to heaven and sings,
Let my love be heard, let my love be heard
Whispering in your wings."
by Jake Runestad

It is a mourning season, a wilderness, for many. May we open our arms to hold and

our hearts to listen. We trust that God gives strength, hope, love and peace. As we journey through Lent we can deepen our relationship with God as we worship and live in this Body of Christ that we call 1st Presbyterian Church of Portville. The ashes we received on Ash Wednesday were crosses; we are marked with God's sign. It says "I love you and you are mine!".

Special services during Holy Week will include:

- * **Palm Sunday** on March 25th, 10 a.m.
- * **Maundy Thursday** meal and communion on March 29th, 5:30 p.m.
- * **Good Friday** meditation and prayer on March 30th, noon to 3 p.m.
- * **Easter Sunrise Service** on April 1st, 7:00 a.m., at Chestnut Hill Cemetery, followed by breakfast at Sprague's, and
- * **Easter Morning worship**, April 1st, 10 a.m.

"For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

Dates to Remember January 2018

<p>03/04 Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m. March/April newsletter distributed Stephanie Hill – Elder for the Month</p> <p>03/05 Lenten Soup and Study, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>03/06 PWNVY COM (Hale), 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>03/10 Property Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>03/11 Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. Daylight Savings Time Begins</p> <p>03/12 Lenten Soup and Study, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>03/14 Mission Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>03/18 Sunday School/Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>03/19 Lenten Soup and Study, 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>03/21 USDA foods delivered to PCFP (J. Hellwig) Session, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>03/25 Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service/Palm Sunday, 10:00 a.m. One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday</p> <p>03/27 Pick-up Produce (Hills)</p> <p>03/28 Food Pantry open 10-noon and 5-6:30 p.m. No Bible Study</p> <p>03/29 Maundy Thursday Supper and Communion, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>03/30 Good Friday Self-Guided Prayer and Meditation, 12-3 p.m.</p>
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Dates to Remember February 2018

<p>04/01 Easter Sunrise Service at Chestnut Hill Cemetery, 7:00 a.m. (Breakfast at Sprague's following) No Confirmation Class Worship Service and Communion, 10:00 a.m. Connie King – Elder for the Month</p> <p>04/03 PWNVY COM, 9:30 a.m. (M. Hale)</p> <p>04/04 Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>04/08 No Confirmation Class Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>04/11 Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>04/12 PC Food Pantry Comm. Meeting, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>04/14 Property Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>04/15 Sunday School/Confirmation Class,</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>04/18 Bible Study, 10:30 a.m. USDA foods delivered to PCFP (J. Hellwig) Session, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>04/22 Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>04/24 Pick-up Produce (Hills)</p> <p>04/25 Food Pantry open 10-noon and 5-6:30 p.m. No Bible Study</p> <p>04/29 Confirmation Class, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. May/June newsletter info due to Cso</p>
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**Memorial Service for
Dennis R. Dorman
May 12, 2018 @ 2:00 pm
Followed by a reception
in the church dining room.**



Birthdates to Remember

March

Mar. 4 Leland Yehl
 Mar. 11 Lauri Gardner
 Mar. 17 Russ Burton
 Mar. 19 Kathlyn Gardner
 Mar. 23 Stephanie Hill
 Mar. 30 Christine Pagett



April

Apr. 1 Dash Hellwig
 Apr. 9 Tom Pollock
 Apr. 10 Lucas Hellwig
 Apr. 10 Judy McClain
 Apr. 11 Nicole Woodhead
 Apr. 14 Marilyn Hale
 Apr. 16 John Pagett
 Apr. 25 Buffy Pratt
 Apr. 26 Josh Painter
 Apr. 27 Karen McCartney

THE FOOD PANTRY . . . *from your grocery cart to our shelves!* by Stephanie Hill



YOU REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

A special thank you to everyone who helped make our Souper Bowl of Caring collection of soup and donations

our best ever!

Here is the list of food items we will be collecting in March and April.

FOR THE WEEK OF	WE WILL BE COLLECTING:
March 4	Cake/Brownie Mix
March 11	Cereal
March 18	Egg Noodles
March 25	Spaghetti
April 1	Canned Tomatoes
April 8	Cereal
April 15	Egg Noodles
April 22	Spaghetti
April 29	Tuna

Christian Ed News Connie King

Between a snowflake or two, the rain, and a little sunshine, spring is trying to break through early. Greenery is right around the corner and ready to be seen by all.

Thank you to Hannah Kloss for her collection of the soup and dollars on Souper Bowl Sunday. We appreciate all her hard work that benefits the Food Pantry. The last count was 133 cans and \$149 collected. Last year's count was 79 cans.

The Lenten Soup & Study gathering began on Monday evening, February 19, at 5:30 p.m. The other dates are February 26, March 5, 12, and 19. Rev. Hale selected the study guide "John--the Gospel of Light and Life" by Adam Hamilton

along with a DVD for the class. Thank you to Rev. Hale for leading us through "the light." As in the past, there are delicious soups, breads/rolls, and desserts preceding the sessions with everyone enjoying the fellowship time. It is a time to reflect during this Lenten season.

The Confirmation class and the Bible Study have been meeting as usual. On February 19 (third Sunday of the month) the Elementary and the Intermediate classes met. Also, they will meet in March, April, and May. Ask Drake W. and Anna K. about "leaven and unleavened" bread! Check out the "Jonah and the Whale" door display in the downstairs classroom. Enter if you dare!



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for God's comfort and peace to the family of Vicki and Dan on the loss Vicki's mother
 Dorothea Sophia Feuchter Green
 December 23, 1931–February 10, 2018



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for God's comfort and peace to the family of Amy and Troy Spehar on the loss Amy's grandmother



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for God's comfort and peace to the family of Paul Dorman and Dawn Lynn on the loss of their father,
 Dennis R. Dorman
 August 11, 1931– January 26, 2018

2018 Easter Flowers Order Form

Description	Qty	Price	Total
Easter Lilies - 6" pot 6+ blooms per plan		\$17.95	
Mums - 6½" pot (Extra Large) Circle color preference: yellow, white, purple, lavender		\$17.95	
Tulips - 6" pot Circle color preference: red, pink, yellow		\$14.49	
Daffodils - 6" pot		\$14.49	



Orders are due, with payment, by Sunday, March 25.
 Please make checks payable to the church.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME . . . begins Sunday, March 11.
 Remember to "spring" ahead one hour
 and change the batteries in your
 smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Volunteers for March / April 2018

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
Greeters and Ushers	Connie /Norm King	Lucy / Heidi Spehar	Buffy Pratt	Randy /Judy McClain
Liturgist	Carly Painter	Norm King	Ronda Pollock	Stephanie Hill
Acolyte	Communion Sunday	Hannah Kloss	Christine Pagett	Zack Kloss
Music Tech	Anita Shuey	Kari Kloss	Kari Kloss	Joe Hill

Elder of the Month:

	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Greeters and Ushers	Cyndy /Pat Kennedy	Buffy Pratt	Mark Hendrix	Kari Kloss / Wanda Hollamby	Carly Painter
Liturgist	Jess Wyant	Mark Hendrix	Megan Pagett	Joe Hill	Christine Pagett
Acolyte	Communion Sunday	Jack Pagett	Hannah Kloss	Megan Pagett	Christine Pagett
Music Tech	Vicki Schmidt	Hannah Kloss	Judy McClain	Hannah Kloss	Judy McClain

Elder of the Month:

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -
PORTVILLE, NY**

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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

