



## Message from Rev. Hale

There was a drawing on the front page of the last issue of the “Cornerstone” of the tall, six foot signpost Steve Langworthy built. The post was filled with signs Mary had lettered, indicating the “way” we would be keeping our *Journey of Faith* throughout the Lenten into Easter Season!

Prophetically, (tho’ the Lenten Season is all about striking out into the wilderness to connect with the *essence* of our being—that *inner sense of ourselves* that seeks to be in relationship with God) the initial signpost pointed us towards the “Wilderness!” And soon enough, we found ourselves there, *every single one of ourselves* including the billions of all the “selves” we are, spread across all the nations of this dear world of ours!

On Sunday, March 15, Session gathered in an initial discussion about the effect the COVID 19 virus was having and what our response would be. The following Sunday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, was the last worship service that gathered us together in the sanctuary—all *twelve of us!*

We could fill up page after page of analogies, (links), to the *wilderness* experience we’ve encountered in the past few weeks. But I find an urge to move on, past the obvious, carried, perhaps, by the “*Winds of the Spirit*” our sturdy signpost announced.

“*I am about to do a new thing,*” the voice of God spoke through the Prophet Isaiah. “*I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*” [Isaiah 43:19]

We have been forced, sometimes it seems *dragged kicking and screaming*, to adapt to *new things and new ways* of living our lives. Because everything is changing so quickly and because it is happening on this overwhelming global scale, and because we like to *think about* change and *plan for it* and *control it* as *we let it unfold*....well, we’re letting go because we *had to* and slowly catching up with our *want to* and there are glimmers of light shining ahead reflecting on *what if we could*.....?!

God didn’t make this wilderness that has engulfed us all. But can we look up and begin to focus on our God who will always “*make a way*” for us to *find our way*? Always “*our way*” offered with thanksgiving in our hearts, *to God!*

Be safe on this journey dear friends, and share the love of God within you along the way!

*Marilyn*

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## Lectionary for May / June 2020

May 3  
4th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25  
John 10:1-10

May 10  
5th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

May 17  
6th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

May 24  
7th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

May 31  
Day of Pentecost  
Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13  
John 7:37-39

June 7  
Trinity Sunday  
Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Matthew 28:16-20

June 14  
2nd Sunday of Pentecost  
Genesis 18:1-15  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
Romans 5:1-8  
Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21  
3rd Sunday after Pentecost  
Genesis 21:8-21  
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17  
Romans 6:1b-11  
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28  
4th Sunday after Pentecost  
Genesis 22:1-14  
Psalm 13  
Romans 6:12-23  
Matthew 10:40-42

## Mission Committee News Julie McLarney Pagett

**MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS :** The last meeting for the Mission Committee was back in March. Boy, how time flies and how things change! At that meeting, Lynn Corder, the PCS Elementary Principal and Summer Recreation Coordinator, was our guest. He spoke with us about the summer rec program and their need for funds to help feed the children participating in the program. The mission committee agreed to donate up to \$1,000 as a supplement to additional funding they are able to secure for their needs.

Our One Great Hour of Sharing collection netted \$750. Considering the physical distancing challenges we are facing, that is still a commendable amount. Thank you to all who contributed to support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Contributions can still be made by sending a check to Barb Fairbanks, however please make your checks out to the church.

We also discussed Royal Family Kids Camp and our support of this worthy organization.

After Nancy Murphy's presentation in February, Megan and I discussed with Nancy the possibility of our volunteering at their camp. We were subsequently offered a job and were really looking forward to going. Of course with the pandemic, things have changed. Although the situation is obviously evolving, RFKC has pushed back the week of their camp to August 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> in hopes they will still be able to give their campers a chance to come to camp. Nancy mentioned how much they rely on this week of love and acceptance and are in hopes it will be able to occur. We will keep you updated!

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Steve and Margie Doty, who are back in Houghton, NY, were scheduled to be visiting our church on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> however, those plans have obviously been put on hold. They are continuing their work within the confines of our new "virtual" world. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

**DONATIONS:** A \$300 donation was made to Camp Penuel and a \$600 donation was made to the Royal Family Kids Camp... all from the Jack Shepard Memorial Mission Fund.

### **Food Pantry News** Stephanie Hill - Coordinator

The good news from the Portville Community Food Pantry — we are alive and well — and adjusting to social distancing! Beginning with our distribution on March 25, we contacted each food pantry family by phone and took orders for a food package specific to their needs. Food packages were delivered to cars in the church parking lot with gloves and masks on and as much social distancing as possible. Everyone appreciated our efforts to be safe and the process worked well. We distributed food on April 22 using the same procedure, although we learn a little each time and make adjustments! Our plans, at least for May 27 and June 24, are to follow this procedure of taking orders by phone and delivering to cars, and in some cases right to their door.

We are serving approximately 30 families each month.

One hitch in procuring supplies each month is the limitation on the quantities you can buy at one time. We have been able to place orders through Jim's Park and Shop, thanks to a very generous gift from Bethel Lutheran Church, Portville. Pasta, spaghetti sauce and canned vegetables are well stocked for 3-4 months. Our ongoing monthly needs are for Mac and cheese, soups and tuna. Donations can be left at the back door, or you can call Stephanie (716-933-6150) or Marilyn (585-307-0887). Also, anyone who needs assistance with food can call Stephanie or Marilyn — please leave a message!

**Worship News** Diana Dunbar**A Journey of Faith**

The musings of an isolated worshipper...

I am the chair of the worship committee. It is my pleasure to work with the very “faith filled” members of this committee. When I was asked to send something in for the newsletter, I struggled to find the words to send. So, I started thinking about these beautiful people that I work with and found myself uplifted by their gifts and spirits. I thought I would share these thoughts with you.

I was handed the baton from Anita Shuey who continues to serve with me. She is a creative lovely person that can use words to spark imagination, introspection, and inner growth. I cannot tell you how many times I have felt inspired by her comments, ideas and certainly her faith. Anita lives her faith and can speak truth to those who listen.

Coni Coletti has served on this committee for a long time. She reminds us that she doesn’t sing, but I think her love for her church and love for her God shouts louder than any song sung in our church. She is a businesswoman that thinks of the practical side of things. How this comes in handy when planning events. Coni’s faith is rooted deep within.

Cyndy Kennedy is the group’s positive spark. Always ready with a smile, a hug, and a comment that makes us laugh; she is our sunshine. Her heart sings with her faith. Cyndy offers ideas and is not afraid to express kindness in her actions.

Wanda Hollamby is our hands and feet. She is the first to volunteer to do any task needed to be done. She has practical wisdom and is a creative thinker. Her faith is apparent with her actions. I have come to appreciate her quiet manner and see the strength within her. Then there is our newest and youngest member, Megan Pagett. Marilyn always jokes that we must tell Megan the things we need to remember because her brain is the youngest on the committee. That is true, but Megan is more than just a memory keeper. She helps us remember that worship is for all and brings focus to our mission statement. Her fresh faith lets us be open and inclusive to all that worship. She represents the youth and the young at heart.

Then there is our fearless leader, Marilyn, who directs our focus toward our Lord. She is someone that facilitates and leads without stepping on ideas or the thoughts of others. Her faith shines from within. She models what we should all aspire to. She looks at worship holistically helping us to worship with our minds, our senses, our emotions, and our hearts. Her beautiful sermons have kept us grounded and strengthened during an uncertain and difficult time. Where would we be without this gentle soul with such giant faith? Before social distancing changes our lives, the worship committee chose the theme of

traveling “On Our Faith Journey.” It does not surprise me that this was picked. These beautiful people walk their faith journey every day.

Each of us is on this journey of faith. Worship is our outward expression of our love for God. This can be in prayer, scripture reading, song, art, dance, writing, supporting loved ones, hugging our children, gardening, searching for God’s presence, and so much more... Let us look for ways to share our worship with our Lord. Know that worship will again brings us physically together but until then, let us meet God where we are.

God be with you till we meet again;  
By his counsels’ guide, uphold you;  
With his sheep securely fold you.  
God be with you till we meet again.

[Chorus]

Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet,  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;  
When life’s perils thick confound you,

Put his arms unfailing round you.  
God be with you till we meet again.  
[Chorus]

God be with you till we meet again;  
Keep love’s banner floating o’er you;  
Smite death’s threat’ning wave before you.  
God be with you till we meet again.  
[Chorus]

*Text:* Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

*Music:* William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

### **Christian Ed Committee** Stephanie Hill

The Christian Ed Committee met on March 5 to plan for the spring session of Sunday School classes, setting dates of April 19, 26 and May 3. We also planned our yearend activities for May 17 beginning with an Open House at 9 a.m. Participation certificates, gift Bibles to third graders and teacher recognition would take place during worship on that Sunday as well. Little did we know at the time that all our plans would go by the wayside as the corona virus brought a new normal to our daily lives — social distancing!

I am confident that at the right time, we will gather and celebrate together!

Our Lenten Soup and Study that began on March 1 was able to meet four of the five scheduled dates. The program started on a high note with close to 40 participants for the first two Sundays, dropping to 20 on March 15, only 12 on March 22, and the final class on March 29 was canceled. There was great praise for the study book and DVD, [The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus](#), by Adam Hamilton. Both book and DVD are available to borrow; contact Stephanie or Marilyn if you are interested. A huge thank you

to Marilyn for leading our Lenten study. The soup, bread and desserts were exactly what you would expect from our good Presbyterian cooks — outstanding! Thank you to all who contributed.

Our plans also included recognizing our high school graduates on June 21. Our Portville Central School graduates are Ainslie Gardner and Neleha Weideman. We will celebrate this milestone in their lives when we are “together” again!

Our college graduates are **Sophia Hendrix** (Master of Arts in Speech–Language Pathology, Montclair State University, December 2019) and **Clara Hendrix** (Bachelors in Sociology and Bachelors in Psychology, Ohio University, May 2020). Congratulations to Sophia and Clara (and Kathy and Mark)!

Thank you to all who keep us connected with the weekly “Joys and Concerns” — and to Julie, who keeps our Sunday School connected throughout the year!

### **Property Committee** Norm King

The Property Committee has not meet in person since the beginning of the Covid-19 Virus outbreak. However, things have been taking place within the church. The flooring project on the main floor has been approved and will be commencing when the contractor is available to begin the project. This, of course, is contingent on the Covid-19 restrictions and regulations. So, it is temporarily on hold. The lighting and ceiling project in the dining area and education wing is moving ahead with careful social distancing and the fact that the contractor is working alone with no other people. There is new lighting in the education wing classrooms and bathrooms. In addition, new lighting has been installed in the dining area. The project will be ending as all the materials have been delivered and are being installed.

The sidewalk–driveway project was approved by the session and will begin as soon as the contractor can begin work again. This is all contingent on the Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions.

Along with the projects in the works and coming to completion, a lot of painting has been taking place in the hallways and on the ceilings. The prep work and painting is being done by Barbara Fairbanks, Stephanie Hill, and Vicki Schmidt. They have been practicing safe distancing and are watching out for each other. Some more painting will be done in the future once all the lights and fixtures are completed.

The committee members are certainly looking forward to the end of the current situation and getting back to a more "normal" situation.



## May and June Birthdates to Remember

### MAY

May 7	Erica Schmidt
May 8	Carol Everitt
May 16	Heidi Hellwig Spehar
May 18	Mike Kessler
May 18	Lucy Spehar
May 20	Oliver Woodhead
May 23	Bizzy Chaffee
May 31	Coni Coletti

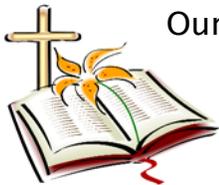


### JUNE

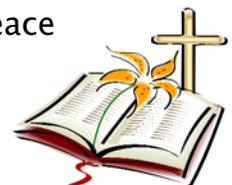
June 9	Walt Atkinson
Jun 10	RJ Pollock
Jun 13	Joan Vaine
Jun 20	Cheryl Kriner
Jun 20	Steve Langworthy
Jun 26	Allan Scott
Jun 26	Neleha Wiedemann
Jun 29	Zackary Kloss



Our warmest congratulations to Bizzy and Brad Chaffee  
On the birth of their son, Bradley Wayne Chaffee.  
Bradley was born on March 24th, at 4:11 p.m. weighing in at  
10 lbs. 10.5 ounces and 21.5 inches tall.



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for God's comfort and peace  
To the family of Ivan (Ike) Harrison, father,  
brother, grandfather, great grandfather, and uncle.  
May 29, 1929 – April 23, 2020.



## Dining Room Ceiling Job!



## Jasmine Church Mouse

Hi Everyone,

From what I understand, mice can't get the coronavirus, but I didn't want to take any chances. So, I have learned to "social distance" myself from the few people who have come into church, especially since I couldn't find a mask to fit my cute little face. But, every time I found a quiet place to relax, Harvey pulled down another ceiling tile to put in a new one. (Harvey is the guy working at church putting in new lights and the new dining room ceiling.) I got real nervous one day when he pulled down a tile and found this up in the ceiling. I'm sure it wasn't intended for me – probably for those pesky chipmunks! I guess I like Harvey because he didn't put it back up in the ceiling (and because he left me some cheese curd from his lunch one day).



I sure miss everyone; hope to see you soon.

In the meantime, stay well and know that I am thinking of you.

Love,  
Jasmine



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

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