



Message from Rev. Hale

Jesus said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,
and let the one who believes in me drink.....
out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."

Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive. [John 7:37...]

After years of unrelenting drought in Southern California, the deserts bloomed this spring in the wake of an unusually wet winter. It was reported that there hadn't been such a beautiful abundance of flowers for over 6 long years! The phenomenal germination of dormant seeds from that last bloom in 2017 was visible from space as the brown soil filled with new growth. People *flocked into the desert* to absorb the beautiful color and return of life to the barren landscape.

Long ago, the Prophet Isaiah described the coming of God's redemption to the Hebrew people as a desert erupting with the beauty of flowers springing up from the desolate soil.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly...and rejoice with joy and singing! For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. [Isaiah 35:1,6]

It is believed that Jesus was referring to this passage from Isaiah when he spoke of the "rivers of living water" flowing from our hearts; these hearts drawn by God to faith and belief in Christ; these hearts filled with the Spirit, the promised abiding presence of the Risen Christ within!

It is the Spirit within our lives that brings the renewing, refreshing "waters" to flow across the arid, lifeless landscapes around us; the deserts of hunger and poverty and social bias and injustice, of a world filled with the victims of addiction and violence and war.

May we let every new blossom of this reluctant Spring that appears, be a reminder of the *rivers of living water* Christ envisions flowing from our lives. May we remain committed to him and his engagement with the dispossessed-suppressed-suffering people who are a part of our lives. May we be reliant upon the Spirit within us who keeps our hearts open to his call upon us. And may we ever be grateful for the life we have found in him, this Christ who has "quenched our thirst" as we live in fellowship with each other, Christ who calls us share what we have with others.

*On the eve of Pentecost, grateful for our well-watered life together,
Marilyn*

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Lectionary for March/April

May 7

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

May 14

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

May 21

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 28

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

June 4

Trinity Sunday
Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11–13
Matthew 28:16–20

June 11

Genesis 12:1–9
Psalm 33:1–12
Romans 4:13–25
Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26

June 18

Genesis 18:1–15 (21:1–7)
Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19
Romans 5:1–8
Matthew 9:35—10:8 (9–23)

June 25

Genesis 21:8–21
Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17
Romans 6:1b–11
Matthew 10:24–39

Mission News

One Great Hour of Sharing Update – Tim

The Mission Committee and your Church thanks you for your generous donations received over the 2023 **One Great Our of Sharing Campaign**. We have sent \$1,260 to the “Big Church” in support of the One Great Hour of Sharing Missions. Your generosity will support our Presbyterian Church Programs that: work to relieve hunger; advance the development of people and their communities and assist those impacted by natural and human caused disasters.

Jesus teaches that generosity is a central virtue of our Christian life. Academics and scientists have studied and documented the many benefits to giving. Giving: makes you happy; elicits feelings of gratitude; and engenders a social connection with others. We thank you again because you give out of love, and not obligation. You give to show that you care, and because you give to those who need it most.

Our thanks and gratitude to Tim for leading us through our thought-provoking minutes for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. And no sooner have we “closed the books” on **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering than we roll into our minutes for our **Pentecost Offering**. And

Mission News cont.

our thanks goes out to Kari for leading this special offering. As you listen to Kari's Minutes for Pentecost, you will hear that our donations sent to PCUSA are allocated to programs that support and help youth to begin life with a solid foundation of faith. The Pentecost Offering supports these PCUSA programs: Young Adult Volunteer Programs, Presbyterian Youth Triennium, and Educate a Child, Transform the World.

The Mission Committee was able to fill the pulpit on the April "Faith on the Fifth" with the Program Manager, Dave Chambers, from the **Child Advocacy Center**. His presentation was live-streamed on our church's Facebook group, First Presbyterian Church of Portville, NY. (You can join the group through your account by doing a search for First Presbyterian Church of Portville, NY . . .or use this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/5754764014632057/>.) The Child Advocacy Center has an office in Olean and Wellsville as well as a mobile unit with which their services can be taken to anywhere within Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties. Their mission is to provide a coordinated, multidisciplinary investigation and treatment approach to child abuse victims. Prior to the Center being formed, child abuse victims had to endure telling their story to police, social workers, medical staff, mental health workers etc. in various locations. The Child Advocacy Center changed that practice by having a place where that process takes place with one specially trained person in a welcoming, child-friendly interview room. They are able to provide a coordinated response from expert professionals to reduce stress throughout the investigation and intervention process. They work with all the necessary agencies (police, prosecutors, social workers, advocates, medical and mental health professionals), and other necessary specialist to develop a coordinated plan of action.

Dave mentioned that one of the most heart-warming moments through the entire intake process is when a child gets to select a fleece blanket of their own to keep. One cannot even begin to understand the trauma these children have endured, so imagine the comfort a child must feel. . . to be able to wrap themselves in the warmth of one of our blankets, made with loving hands, and know for a time that they are safe.

The average number of children served at the Child Advocacy Center is: **300**. Let that sink in for a moment! Those 72 fleece blankets that were made during our 16th annual Fun Fleece Festival were certainly much needed. When the fleece blankets were delivered, Dave informed Connie and me, that Child Advocacy Services was down to their **LAST 4** fleece blankets.

Mission News - cont.

While writing this article, I decided to do a little digging into how many fleece blankets the Fun Fleece Festival Mission Project has made over the past 16 years for the Child Advocacy Center. . . And with my handy dandy calculator in hand I scooted down to the church and reviewed hard copies of our church newsletter, The Cornerstone. From 2008 to 2023 our church AND community members made **463 tied fleece blankets**. Well done! First Presbyterian Church and Portville Community!

Congregational Care



The Portville Presbyterian Church and the Olean Presbyterian Church are having a picnic together! Let's share food and fellowship together! It will be **Saturday, June 3 at Noon at War Veteran's Park** at the corner of East State St and Front St in Olean (across from Bradner Stadium.) **Please sign up in the Narthex by May 21** if you plan on attending. Once there is a total count of how many are attending then there will be a **sign up on May 28, for dish to pass** for those who are attending. Hot dogs and a gluten free/vegan tossed salad entree, coffee and water will be provided. Attendees may bring their own beverage of choice (pop, etc.) if you prefer something else to drink.

The pavilion has been rented in the event of less than perfect weather.
Hope to see you there!

Hot Off the Olean Community Theater Presses!!

THANK YOU to all who attended OCT's production of The Sound of Music!!! We're excited to share the following awards given to cast and crew members who went above and beyond!

- ◆ Kari won the Golden Robe for her continuous positive energy & commitment to the show!
- ◆ Jake & Angie won the Gus Napoleon "Good Person" award for all their help and hard work throughout the entire production!
- ◆ Xandre won the Shortie Trench Coat for his excellent stage crew work!

Sunday School News - Judy

LENTEN SOUP AND STUDY Our Lenten Soup and Study program, led by Rev. Hale, was held after worship for six Sundays; February 26–April 2. This study used Adam Hamilton’s book and DVD, Simon Peter Flawed but Faithful Disciple. There was great learning, insight and discussion.

The soup lunch featuring four different soups each Sunday included one gluten free vegan choice along with breads, crackers, and desserts, provided a delicious setting for fun fellowship. About 20 people attended each Sunday. “Thank you!” to Rev. Hale leading the study and everyone who made soups and helped in the kitchen!

Sunday School Open House—May 21

On May 21st, the Sunday School teachers and students will be in their classrooms to show and explain displays on what they have been learning this year. It is always so interesting to see and hear our young Presbyterians explain what they know about Jesus and the Bible! There will again be an **Ice Cream Social** in the dining room for everyone to enjoy! How much fun is ice cream in the morning!! This special Sunday continues in worship with Teacher Appreciation, Student Recognition and Third Grader Bible presentation.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS



The ASL class will resume May 7 after worship! The class had been on a hiatus during Lent but is eager and willing to resume learning ASL from Julie. Julie makes the class interesting and fun. Our church is blessed to have had this program this year. Everyone is welcome to join the class at any time.

Property Committee News

Mark has purchased and installed two carbon monoxide detectors in the downstairs portion of the church and two new smoke detectors in the church. Thanks, Mark for the updates in protecting all who use the church. The Property Committee is now looking into the replacement of some lights in the sanctuary.

The Carillon has not been working for quite some time. Before leaving Joe Hill talked with Tim about looking into what it would take to get the carillon up and working again. And true to Tim’s thoroughness, he came up with a solution that will cost the church under \$1000 rather than upwards of \$3000. Stay tuned for more news on this exciting update to our carillon. . . I can hardly wait to hear those bells tolling again!

Summer Camperships



Summer Camping season is just around the corner. And as in years past, the Mission Committee is again offering Summer Camperships to help defer the cost of sending our youth to summer Christian camps. If your child attends one of the summer camps offered at **Duffield Camp and Retreat Center**, the church, with funds from the Jack Shep-

pard Fund, will pay for half the cost of a camp. Registration forms and camp brochures of summer camps scheduled at Duffield Camp are available on the table in the Quilt Room. Spending time at camp can be a wonderful way to connect with others while enjoying the beauty of nature.

Parents can register and pay for a Duffield camp online through Duffield's website (campduffield.net/summer-camps.html) and provide a copy of their receipt to be reimbursed for half the cost of the camp. Applications to Duffield Camps need to be submitted (on line or mailed in) by June . The Registration site also has a downloadable Camp Checklist!

Additionally, parents can select a different Christian Camp for their child to attend. The amount that would be paid for that selected camp experience would be no more than **half for the cost** of the camp if the cost is below \$320 and up to a maximum of \$160 if the cost is \$320 or greater.



...a fun place to play and learn!

HERE'S THE SCOOP!

Everyone is cordially invited to the

Sunday School Open House

HERE'S THE SCOOP!

and

Ice Cream Sundae Social

Sunday May 21, 2023

Starting @ 9:00 a.m.



Birthdates to Remember

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- May 8 Carol
- May 16 Heidi
- May 18 Mike
- May 18 Lucy
- May 20 Oliver
- May 23 Bizzy
- May 31 Coni



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- June 9 Walt
- Jun 10 RJ
- Jun 12 Tim
- Jun 13 Joan
- Jun 19 Kathleen
- Jun 20 Cheryl
- Jun 20 Steve
- Jun 26 Allan
- Jun 26 Neleha
- Jun 29 Zackary

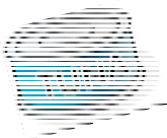


Food Pantry News - Randy



A big "THANK YOU!" to the classes at Portville Elementary for holding a food drive in March. They collected **541** food items! Their collection focused on pasta, macaroni and cheese, tuna, peanut butter, cereal, and brownie mixes. The food pantry committee appreciates your support. **Five Hundred Forty One Thank You!** PCS ROCKS!

Food insecurity IS real and in y(our) neighborhood! Your food and monetary donations help keep the Food Pantry supplied. In March, 38 family households for a total of 94 people were served and in April, 36 households for a total of 96 people were served.





- 05/01 Clergy Retreat (MKH) through Wed, May 3rd
 05/06 Kloss Bridal Shower, 11:00 a.m.
 05/07 Worship Service & Communion, 10:00 a.m.
 Vicki S – Elder for the Month
 May/June newsletter distributed
 05/08 Lectionary in Silver Creek (MKH), 10:00 a.m.
 05/09 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:00 a.m.
 05/14 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 Mother's Day
 05/17 Session Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
 05/21 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
 Open House with Ice Cream Social
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 05/22 Food Pantry Prep
 Jamestown PNC (MKH), 6:00 p.m.
 05/23 Food Pantry Prep
 Presbytery in Olean (MKH), 5:00 p.m.
 05/24 Food Pantry open 9:00 - noon
 05/28 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 Pentecost Offering Dedication
 05/29 Memorial Day, Church Office Closed



- 06/03 Post Pentecost Picnic with Olean Presbyterian Church at War Vets Park, 12:00 pm
 06/04 Worship Service and Communion, 10:00 a.m.
 Barb – Elder for the Month
 06/06 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:00 a.m.
 06/10 Ray's Memorial Service, 10:00 a.m.
 06/11 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 06/14 Mission Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
 06/17 Kloss/Gleason Wedding Rehearsal
 06/18 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 Father's Day
 Kloss/Gleason Wedding, 2:00 p.m.
 06/21 Session, 4:00 p.m.
 06/25 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 Info to Cso for July/August newsletter
 06/26 Food Pantry Prep
 06/27 Food Pantry Prep
 06/28 Food Pantry open 9:00 a.m. - noon

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PORTVILLE, NY

19 North Main Street
 PO Box 765
 Portville, NY 14770

Voice: 716-933-6426
 Email: portville.presbyterian followed by @gmail.com

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

Website:
www.portville-presbyterian.org