



Message from Rev. Hale

*Then Jesus took the bread,
and after giving thanks, he broke it
and gave it to his disciples saying, this is my body,
which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. [Luke 22:19]*

Oftentimes it's a Bible verse that leads the way into a message, some particular passage from any one of the lectionary readings that will guide our coming worship each Sunday in November and December. A verse can provide a "path" to follow as we look both back and ahead at this life we share—we *people of the Word*—people who look to God's Word to inform our lives. But this newsletter message came in its own way, apart from our lectionary but every bit A PART of this *Life* we experience together as the *Body of Christ*!

It came with "echo" of *the bread Christ blesses and breaks and gives to us* as we welcomed back our Sunday School children and dedicated our teachers, celebrated Children's Sabbath with books and popcorn, learned CPR and the operation of the new AED hanging on the hallway wall downstairs, and clutched warm cups of mulled cider on a cold October Sunday up at Pfeiffer.

It came as *bread dearly shared* with the deaths of Russ Burton and Ed Gardner and Holly Fischer; as the *bread of fellowship* broken with the Burton family and the family and all the community who gathered for Holly's funeral.

With that same bread, we welcomed Rev. Dr. Dorothy Pearman to the pulpit one Sunday, and celebrated Faith on the Fifth with Kathy leading the service and Randy bringing the message on the Food Pantry on another.

We said a sad farewell to Connie and Tim Alexander as they make the move to Johnstown, Pa.; welcomed Houghton music student, Linden Foster who came and played the organ for a service, and with the whole Portville community, welcomed anew the sound of Westminster bells chiming away the time again from the bell tower!

Jesus took the bread...this is my body, which is given for you...do this in remembrance of me He said. With sadness and with thanksgiving, assured of his presence with us and anticipating the celebration of his birth near at hand:

Thanks be to God, dear friends, for the bread of Christ we share! Marilyn

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Lectionary for November/December 2023

November 5
Micah 3:5–12
Psalm 43
1 Thessalonians 2:9–13
Matthew 23:1–13

November 12
Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25
Psalm 78:1–7
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
Matthew 25:1–13

November 19
Judges 4:1–7
Psalm 124
1 Thessalonians 5:1–11
Matthew 25:14–30

November 26
Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
Psalms 95:1–7a
Ephesians 1:15–23
Matthew 25:31–46

December 3
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1–9
Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19
1 Corinthians 1:3–9
Mark 13:24–37

December 10
Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1–11
Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13
2 Peter 3:8–15a
Mark 1:1–8

December 17
Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 6:1–4, 8–11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24
John 1:6–8, 19–28

December 24
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16
Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26
Romans 16:25–27
Luke 1:26–38

December 31
First Sunday of Christmas
Isaiah 61:10–62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4–7
Luke 2:22–40

Portville Community Food Pantry—Randy

The food pantry is busier than ever! Going into November there are 121 individuals on the food pantry client list. This is an increase of 17 people since January. There is so much need. The amounts of many food items purchased are going to have to be increased to keep up with the demand.

Randy McClain, Coordinator of the PCFP, presented a message about the Portville Community Food Pantry for the Faith on the Fifth (Sunday) worship service October 29. Be sure to check the First Presbyterian Church of Portville NY Facebook Group for the entire message and service. The equivalent of 8,000 meals have been provided to food pantry clients January–September 2023! What would these families do if there wasn't a food pantry?!?! There is much need for assistance with food insecurities that some members of our community are facing! And there are so many that respond to answer that need from our community! Blessings abound! It is an ongoing need/response each and every month. It does not end, it increases—especially during the winter months with higher heating costs. Have you made food or monetary donations to the food pantry already?

Food Pantry News cont.

THANK YOU! Please, seriously consider, making a food and/or monetary donations if you have not done so in the past. Stop and think about how you would feel opening up empty cupboards. What's your favorite non-perishable food? Donate that to the food pantry—it's probably someone else's favorite too!

(Deuteronomy 15:11) For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land."

Christian Education News - Judy

Sunday school classes have added a happy hum in September and October. Classes will be held November 12 and 19. The teachers, Bizzy, Amy, Carly, Diana and Rev. Hale, were commissioned during worship service on September 17. Bibles were also presented to Wyatt, Avery, and Carter.

Diana is preparing the **Advent** program with the theme "What Do We Give Jesus." The Advent program will be held in the dining room 9:00–10:00 a.m. for four Sundays Nov. 26–Dec 17. Please plan on attending! It's a special time of learning and fellowship!

There will be an Adult Sunday school class held during the winter session in January, February and March. Dates and more information will be coming in the near future. The sign up sheet for the Adult Sunday school class is located in the Narthex.

Mission Committee - Cso

During the Remote Area Medical Clinic, held on September 9 & 10 in Olean, NY, I volunteered at the Optics Clinic. Patients visiting Optical were provided with free eye exams, free frames (of their choice) and lenses. If bifocals were needed, they had the choice of receiving two free pairs of glasses (near and far vision) or they could get bifocals with the understanding that their frame and prescription would be sent to RAM's lab in Tennessee and the glasses would be mailed to them.



During the clinic that was held, 342 patients were registered with \$143,745 in medical services provided.

Peace and Global Witness Offering: WOW! This congregation took the Peace and Global Witness Coloring Sheet Challenge to heart. The challenge was . . . “For Each colored coloring sheet returned an additional \$5 would be donated to our Peace and Global Witness Offering.” In the end, 51 (Yes . . . you read that right!) were returned during our Peace and Global Witness Offering Campaign. . . Even some of our Sunday School children participated. All of the returned coloring sheets are posted on our Peacemaking Tree in the hallway before the dining room. It is such an uplifting and amazing sight to see whenever you walk by it. . . Thanking God for your participation. And that’s not where your giving ended for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Our goal was set at \$950. . . The final total donated was \$1360. The recipient of our 25% (\$340) was the African American Center for Cultural Development. To provide continued support for the Center an additional \$160 was added from the Mission Challenge Fund to bring our donation for the Center to \$500. The Mission Committee is ever grateful for you and your giving hearts.

Presents For Panthers: We will again be participating in Portville Central School's annual “Presents For Panthers” gift collection for students attending the school. Thank you to Kathy Hendrix for taking the lead in this Mission Project. Announcements about the types of toys/gifts to purchase will be coming before the traditional Black Friday Sales begin.

The following donations we approved by the Mission Committee:

Hunger Fund: Olean Salvation Army – \$400; Pfeiffer Nature Center – \$450 (as a sponsor of their Christmas Wreath Sale);

Jack Shepherd Memorial Mission Fund: Wycliffe Bible Translators supporting Steve and Marjorie Doty – \$750; and supporting Leah Doty – \$750; PC USA Mission Support sponsoring Rev. Cheryl Barnes in her mission work in Malawi – \$500; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance providing assistance with the Hawaii Wildfires – \$1000 and earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria – \$1000.

The rehab work at the African American Center for Cultural Development continues. Touch up painting has been completed. Julie and John Pagett have installed the vinyl laminate flooring in the kitchen as well as replaced some huge masonry blocks that supported the kitchen sink with some much smaller risers. The pictures in this newsletter will tell the story for you.

Take a peak at the pictures that reflect all the Mission Work YOU were involved with!

Please consider joining the Mission Committee for “**when we all do a little it adds up to a lot**”.

Property News - Norm

The church lift is up and safely running again without making any noise. It was repaired recently, and we give thanks to Steve for making some connections and calls to get it fixed.

The Adopt-A-Room list is almost filled. The lists are posted on the Quilt Room bulletin board and also inside the back door on the bulletin board. If you feel the urge to write your name in on a space that needs filled in, please do. Thank you to all those who have filled in their names to help keep the entire church clean and beautiful for all. The regular Sanctuary Cleaning List is posted in the Quilt Room as usual. Be certain to check to see if you are signed up to do the weekly cleaning and run the sweeper on the carpet. Many thanks to all for your constant helping maintaining the church inside and out!

Worship News - Diana

The holidays are fast approaching which brings with it many traditions. This includes our Advent program again this year starting on November 26th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. It will run for four consecutive Sundays. The program is actually starting one week early because the last Sunday of Advent this year falls on Christmas Eve. My plans are to be with my children out of town on that day. So, we will get a jump start a week early and be finished on December 17th.

This is an intergenerational program for all ages which will include scripture, lessons, activities, crafts and fellowship. There will be something for everyone. Breakfast and coffee will be served at 9:00 am and while you enjoy the good food, we will learn and create some fun memories. There will be a sign up sheet for helping with the breakfast; so watch for that. The title of this program is..."What is on God's wish list this year?"

Join us for fun, food, and fellowship to kick off this holiday celebration together!

September / October in Pictures



Portville Community Food Pantry Display for Faith on the Fifth on October 29th. Thank you to Randy McLain for providing more insight on the impact and mission of the Food Pantry.

September / October in Pictures



Peace and Global Witness Coloring Sheet Challenge!



1st Day of Sunday School - Registration and Snacks

Annual Pfeiffer Nature Center Visit



Neither wind nor cold temperatures kept these hearty Presbyterians from their annual pilgrimage to the Pfeiffer Nature Center. Thank you to Diana for all preparation made for a delicious meal, engaging projects, and wonderful fellowship as we give thanks and remember God's hand at work in our lives creating and re-creating.



African American Center for Cultural Development Rehab Progress



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Thank you, John and Julie.
Looks fantastic!



Our heartfelt condolences to
Sean and Laurie upon the
death of Sean's father, Edward.
December 15, 1935 - September 5, 2023.



Our heartfelt condolences to the family
Harold "Russ".
March 17, 1939 - September 13, 2023.



Our heartfelt condolences to Bob
Upon the death of his wife, Holly.
December 16, 1954 - October 4, 2023.



Birthdates to Remember

November

Nov. 3 Megan
 Nov 6 Leah
 Nov 10 Anna
 Nov 10 Emma
 Nov 11 Tim
 Nov 14 Mary Ann
 Nov 17 Connie
 Nov 18 Mark
 Nov 19 Bob
 Nov 25 Jess
 Nov 28 Mary



December

Dec 7 Diana
 Dec 10 McKenzie
 Dec 10 Cso
 Dec 13 Norm
 Dec 21 Kari



Remember to turn back your clocks one hour.
 Daylight Savings Times ends
 on Sunday, November 5 at 2:00 am

Thank you ❤️

I would like to thank my family, my church family, friends,
 and community members for the incredible kindness and love
 they have given me since the passing of my wife Holly.
 She was well loved and will be missed.

With much thanks, Bob.



- 11/04 Holiday Rummage Sale, 8 – 11 a.m.
 11/05 Worship Service/Communion, 10 a.m.
 Barb –Elder for the Month
 11/06 Lectionary (MKH)
 11/07 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:00 a.m.
 11/08 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
 Mission Committee Mtg, 6:00 p.m.
 11/11 **Veterans Day**
 11/12 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 Harvest Sunday Items Due
 11/13 Food Pantry Prep Day
 11/14 Food Pantry Prep Day
 11/15 Food Pantry open 9:00 a.m. – noon
 11/19 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 11/22 No Bible Study
 11/23 **Thanksgiving Day**
 11/26 Advent Program, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 11/29 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.



- 12/03 Advent Program, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.
 1st Sunday of Advent
 Steve – Elder for the Month
 12/05 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:00 a.m.
 12/06 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
 12/10 Advent Program, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 2nd Sunday of Advent
 12/11 Food Pantry Prep
 12/12 Food Pantry Prep
 12/13 Food Pantry, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Session, 4:30 p.m.
 12/17 Advent Program, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 3rd Sunday of Advent
 12/20 Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
 12/24 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 4th Sunday of Advent
 Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.
 12/25 **Christmas Day**
 12/27 No Bible Study
 12/31 Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 January/February newsletter info due



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PORTVILLE, NY

19 North Main Street

P.O. Box 765

Portville, NY 14770

Voicemail: 716.933.6426

Sunday School: 9:00 am - ages 3 to adult

Please check web site for dates when Sunday School meets.

Worship Service: 10:00 am

Follow us on Facebook!

Our Website:

www.portville.presbyterian.org