



Message from Rev. Hale

*“For where two or three are gathered...
in my name, I am
there among them.”* [Matt. 18:20]

September comes with this abiding Scripture pinned to all the sticky notes that define the days it brings to us; sticky notes that say *school begins*, and *Fall begins*, and *mums* and *pumpkins* and *bright red and orange leaves on the hillsides*, and *empty hummingbird feeders*, *heavy dew* and *spider webs glistening in the morning sunshine*, *ripening apples* and *shriveling tomato vines*.

In the midst of a sea of all that September brings we bob along, glad now for the familiar “returns” of the season that “anchor” our lives, even as we know we are drifting farther away from summer—even as we know September is not quite the same as *we would like it to be!*

All around the lengthening litany of how our lives have been changed over the past six months from what *we would like it to be*, Christ pins his sticky notes that say; *where two or three gather*, and *in my name*, and *I am*, and *there among them*. You just catch one phrase, *where two or three*, or *there among*, and you see and hear all the rest of those words “return” to that place within you that that needs *anchoring*.

Two or three...there even with just you and the thoughts you carry as you reflect on events of the day that was or the one lying ahead—*Christ there with you and your thoughts*.

There as you think of a friend, or drive to an appointment, or start school again, *there* as you are missing your children scattered far away, *there*, as you listen to the news. Christ is there with the “two” of you—*you and that thought* of another...a friend, a loved one, a stranger whose life path has intersected with your own in some way.

Christ is here in our lives as we would *like them to be* and here *as they are!* Hold that thought in with the others you keep and that keep you, there in that deep place within where our lives long for a steady hand. See the hand of our Creator offering up all the beautiful gifts of this changing season and touch a sense of *keeping* that is always there.

*Grateful for the Life that gathers us all,
Marilyn*

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Lectionary for September / October 2020

September 6–23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 12:1–14
Psalm 148
Romans 13:8–14
Matthew 18:15–20

September 13–24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 14:19–31
Psalm 114
Romans 14:1–12
Matthew 18:21–35

September 20–25th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Exodus 16:2–15
Psalm 105: 1–6, 37–45
Philippians 1:21–30
Matthew 20:1–16

September 27–26th Sunday In Ordinary Time

Exodus 17:1–7
Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16
Philippians 2:1–13
Matthew 21:23–32

October 4 – World Communion Sunday

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b–14
Matthew 21–33–46

October 11–28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 32:1–14
Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23
Philippians 4:1–9
Matthew 22:1–14

October 18–29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 33:12–23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1–10
Matthew 22:15–22

October 25– Reformation Sunday

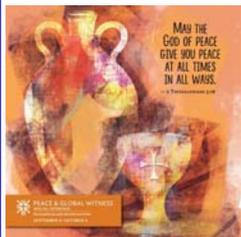
Deuteronomy 34:1–12
Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17
1 Thessalonians 2:1–8
Matthew 22:34–46



Mission Committee News

Julie McLarney Pagett

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING: It's that time of year when we focus our mission

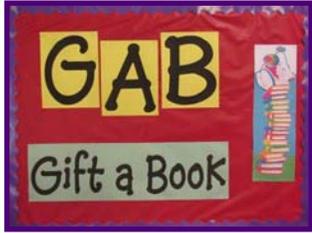


efforts on the Peace and Global Witness Offering. This year's theme, *"May the God of peace . . . give you peace in all times, in all ways."* comes to us from 2 Thessalonians verse 3:16. The Mission Committee has set our goal at \$750. Our portion of 25% of the collected offering will be sent to the

African American Center for Cultural Development in Olean, whose mission it is to value, promote and integrate the rich and diverse history and culture of the Southern Tier Region of New York State through the celebration of the talents, lives and history of the African Americans in our region. Your gifts can be sent either to the church at **19 North Main Street, P.O. Box 765, Portville, NY 14770** or to our Treasurer, Barb Fairbanks at **P.O. Box 53, Portville, NY 14770**. Please give generously!

GIFT-A-BOOK: Once again, in observance of International Literacy Day we will be collecting books for the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center. If you are able to get out (remember

the great prices at Ollie's) or order online, please remember how important reading is to our youth (and to adults!). Not only does reading add to our knowledge, but it is a wonderful activity especially as we are socially distancing ourselves. As you collect your books, please just hold on to them for the time being. The logistics of getting the books to church are still being worked out. You can watch for more information in the bulletin and/or Joys and Concerns. Thank you for helping in this hands on mission project.



MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES BOTTLE COLLECTION: Have you been collecting your medicine bottles during our time of physical distancing? If you have a bagful of bottles, washed and with the labels completely removed, you can email the church or call/text (716)378-9434 to schedule a pick-up by Megan Pagett, who is in charge of this on-going mission project. There is also a laundry basket at the church's back door where bottles can be dropped off at your own convenience. Thank You for your ongoing support!!!



ROYAL FAMILY KIDS CAMP The amazing staff at Royal Family Kids Camp all pulled together to celebrate the campers who unfortunately could not attend this year's camp which was cancelled due to COVID. They compiled care packages and ventured out in a car caravan to deliver them to all the excited children to let them know they were not forgotten! Our mission committee donates annually to this wonderful camp and the amazing work they do.

ONGOING MISSION PROJECTS: COVID-19 has definitely put everyone's regular routine off the rails, however many of our ongoing, hands-on mission projects are coming back online. Eventually, we **WILL** be back in worship together and all those currently empty mission baskets in the Narthex awaiting our happy return will need to be filled. As you are out and about (keeping a safe distance and wearing your mask!) please consider, if you are able, collecting **PERSONAL CARE** and **BABY CARE ITEMS** which are part of our ongoing mission projects. Thank you so much!

MISSIONARY NEWS : Back in the beginning of July, we included a recent newsletter from Steve and Margie Doty. If you remember, they are now back in the United States and are teaching a few classes, both online and in person, for Houghton College. They will remain in the U.S. through 2021, but hope to eventually get back to Southeast Asia. They are enjoying visiting with family. Steve has had some minor health setbacks and they ask for continued prayer for him. Any more updates from our mission workers will be

Mission Committee News cont. Julie McLarney Pagett

included in the Joys and Concerns until we can get back to our beloved church again.

DONATIONS : Three donations were made from the Jack Shepard Memorial Mission Fund in August: \$300 to the Kevin Guest House and \$500 each to the Southern Tier Child Advocacy Center and Presbyterian Disaster Relief for the COVID-19 Response. Continue to be vigilant and stay safe everyone!

Property Committee News Norm King

The Property Committee has not met recently, but can report that the bee situation has been resolved and that no further items are under consideration. The church is in good shape for now until we begin worship again.

September and October Birthdates to Remember**September Birthdays**

Sep 4 Eliana Spehar
 Sep 7 Sara Talbot
 Sep 11 Bob Fairbanks
 Sep 11 Chris Hellwig
 Sep 12 Jesse Spehar
 Sep 22 Wyatt Hosmer
 Sep 23 Sean Gardner
 Sep 24 Lindsay Gardner
 Sep 24 Kathy Kern
 Sep 26 Randy McClain
 Sep 26 Drake Wiedemann
 Sep 27 Carly Painter
 Sep 27 Eric Talbot
 Sep 28 Jacquie Hellwig

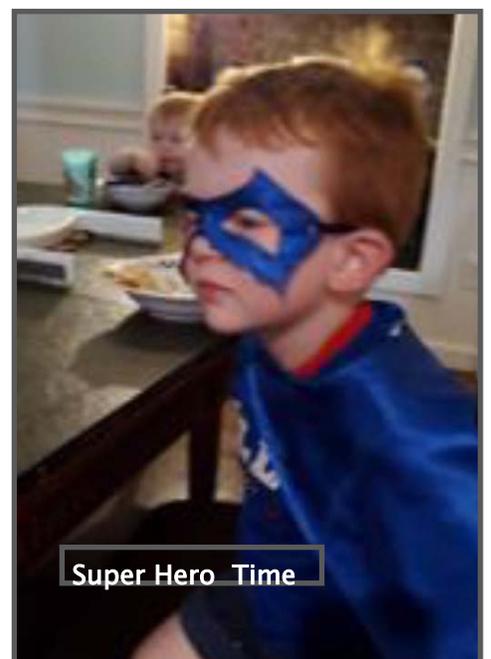
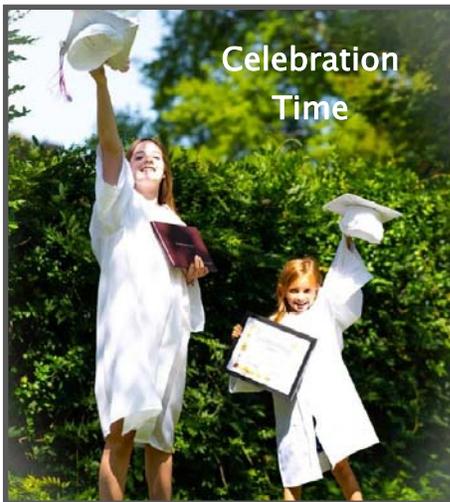
**October Birthdays**

Oct 2 Kristin Woodhead
 Oct 3 Charles Hildebrand
 Oct 6 Cindy Keeley
 Oct 7 Kelsea Gardner
 Oct 10 Ron Pollock
 Oct 10 Avery Woodhead
 Oct 12 Carol Miller
 Oct 14 Dave Coletti
 Oct 30 Shirley Longbothum



Reminder: Daylight Savings Time ends November 1st at 2 a.m.
Set your clocks back 1 hour and change
the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Some July and August Pictures from Joys and Concerns



And We've Gone to the Dogs - some doggie pictures submitted by our congregation



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