



Message from Rev. Hale

*"...and give to God
the things that are God's."* [Matthew 22:21b]

Seems like our summer was a particularly *active* one here in the life of the church. And that is "church" as this beautiful place that gathers us in worship and fellowship and *work*, understanding that each one of those nouns that serve to define our life together are "gifts" – from God!

God has given us the faith that stirs the desire within us to come together for worship, and the desire to be in fellowship with one another, and the desire to work – to fulfill the *desire* we have to be a part of Christ's mission entrusted to us, a mission that is expressed corporately as this church and as individuals claimed by the heart of Christ to daily *follow* him as his disciple.

With desire comes commitment. On July 30, Session led our worship, sharing their faith as they lifted up their "call" as Elders – what that commitment to serve this Body means in their lives and the responsibilities that office brings as they explained the "work" that each committee they lead on Session does.

It requires the commitment of every one of us to fulfill the many tasks it takes to be Christ's "church" in this place. We're a small "Body" with many opportunities among us to support the life we find here.

I thank God for the many hats that are worn upon the hallowed heads of this congregation! I thank God for new responsibilities people have taken on! The Mission Committee consistently reminds us from time to time that when *everyone gives a little, it adds up to a lot!* Each of us has something to give, some part of the "me"-among-the-"us" to contribute to the life of this church as together we support one another, ever responding to the love of God spoken *in word and deed* here among us.

Thanking God for the dedication of our Elders.

Thanking God for the desire in the hearts to be here.

Thanking God for the love of Christ among us....Marilyn

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Lectionary for September / October 2023**September 3**

Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 105:1-9a
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28

September 10

Exodus 12:1-14
 Psalm 119:33-40
 Romans 13:8-14
 Matthew 18:15-20

September 17

Genesis 50:15-21
 Psalm 103:1-13
 Romans 14:1-12
 Matthew 18:21-35

September 24

Jonah 3:10-4:11
 Psalms 145:1-9
 Philippians 1:21-30
 Matthew 20:1-16

October 1

World Communion Sunday
 Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalm 25:1-9
 Philippians 2:1-13
 Matthew 21:23-32

October 8

Exodus 20:1-20
 Psalm 80:7-15
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 Matthew 21:33-46

October 15

Exodus 32:1-14
 Psalm 23
 Philippians 4:1-9
 Matthew 22:1-14

October 22

Exodus 33:12-25
 Psalm 99
 I Thessalonians 1:1-10
 Matthew 22:15-22

October 29

Reformation Sunday
 Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
 Psalm 1
 I Thessalonians 2:1-8
 Matthew 22:34-36

Session News - Judy

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN? The Faith on the Fifth worship service "Where Do You Fit In?" on July 30th was presented by the Session. The message was illustrated with the church family as puzzle pieces and how each person of our "family" is a puzzle piece who fits together to be part of the church as volunteers, committees and session. Each session member presented something about the committees with scripture references to help everyone to better understand the church body and encourage them to how they can be a part of it. After worship there was a brunch in the dining room to continue sharing thoughts and questions. "Thank you!" to Diana for coordinating this Faith on the Fifth and making the beautiful puzzle bookmarks, table centerpieces and other puzzle activities and décor.

COMMUNION SERVICE : Session has elected to return to the elders serving communion again starting September 3. This is another step to moving forward to resume this sacrament as it was to pre Covid. Communion elements will be prepared with the utmost care and attention to sanitary practices. The prepackaged sealed communion cups with wafers will be available for those who would like to continue using those. This will be an individ-

Session News cont.

ual choice of how to partake of this sacrament.



AED Training : An AED has been purchased for the church as approved by Session. Now there will be two training classes on September 12 and 13 for a total of 14 people who have signed up for this opportunity. The fee for these classes is being paid for by the Mission Trip Fund as it is believed that these certified people may at some time be called to help others in a medical emergency whether it be within our church or out in our community or beyond.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to be trained and certified to use an AED!

Christian Education News - Judy

The Christian Education Committee has organized the Fall session. Sunday School classes will be **September 17 and 24, October 8 and 29, and November 12 and 19** for PK/K taught by Bizzy Chaffee, Young Elementary taught by Amy Spehar and Older Elementary taught by Carly Painter. "Thank you Bizzy!" "Thank you Amy!" and "Thank you Carly!" for once again volunteering to teach our young Presbyterians. There are 24 children on our roster! This is so exciting and we look forward to seeing each and every one of them Sunday mornings. On **September 17** the classes will meet 9:00–9:30 a.m. in their classrooms and then will come together for cookies and milk in the dining room 9:30–10:00 a.m. Everyone in the congregation is invited to this time in the dining room for cookies and coffee too! This will be a wonderful multi-generational gathering to come together to share summer stories and plans for fall. The CE committee would like to also have an Adult Sunday School class. If anyone is interested in being a facilitator for an Adult Sunday School class please see Kari Kloss or Judy McClain. Weekly Bible Study will be led by Rev. Hale. Dates and time will be announced for this.

Portville Community Food Pantry News - Randy

The Portville Community Food Pantry continues to be busy responding to the food needs of the residents of the Portville community. There are so many stories the clients explain how their income sources and assistance eligibility are changing in addition to the increased food prices that are causing dire circumstances for their meals. The clients of the food pantry are always so appreciative of the variety of basic foods and the assortment of "extras" that are available for them. And now for a few months those "extras" include farm fresh produce from Canticle Farms. The fourth Wednesday of each month on Food

Pantry Day, Stu Frost, from St. Mary's Church, delivers the freshest beautiful produce from Canticle Farms that includes different kinds of peppers, squashes and greens, such as kale, romaine, leafy lettuce, and basil, parsley and other herbs. Also, there are tomatoes, garlic, and onions! It's a banquet of colors, smells and tastes! Thank you to St. Mary's for the purchase of shares at Canticle Farms that makes this possible!

Some suggestions for food items that are needed: (A.) **Canned mixed vegetables**, (B.) **Canned peas**, (C.) **White rice** (1# bags or boxes), (D.) **Pastas** (spaghetti, elbow, rigatoni, egg noodles, etc.), and (E.) Spaghetti sauce.

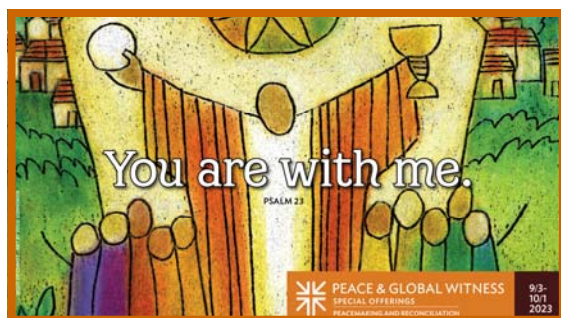
Some recent statistics for the food pantry:

- ♦ **May**—served 39 households totaling 107 people that included 22 senior citizens, 53 adults and 32 children.
- ♦ **June**—served 33 households totaling 90 people that included 20 senior citizens, 45 adults and 25 children.
- ♦ **July**—served 35 households totaling 91 people that included 19 senior citizens, 45 adults and 27 children.
- ♦ **August**—served 34 households totaling 94 people that included 19 senior citizens, 47 adults and 28 children.

No two months are alike.

As always—thank you to everyone who helps with the monthly shopping to purchase food. THANK YOU! to everyone who supports the food pantry with food item donations and monetary donations!!!

Mission News - Cso



"Peace is active, not passive . . . Peace is doing, not waiting" As we work to share Christ's peace with one another, let's share that peace with those beyond our doors, beyond our communities and beyond our borders. The Peace and Global Witness Offering provides the tools and resources for us as we join together, connected as active peacemakers."

The Season of Peace begins this Sunday, September 3rd, with the kickoff (ironic that I use a football metaphor when I'm not that much into that sport . . .) of the Peace and Global Witness Offering. On September 10th, the Offering envelopes will be in the pews; during the September 17th Service, there will be a Minute for Peacemaking, and on October 1, the Peace and Global Witness Offering will be received. If you wish to make your donation

Mission News - cont.

prior to this date, please use the Offering envelopes in the pew racks and place it in the Offering Plate at the back of the Sanctuary.



And the “**coloring sheet challenge**” for adults and children are again available for the congregation. A variety of coloring sheets will be on a table in the dining room (you won’t miss it if you go through the dining room and up the stairs to the Sanctuary). For every completed coloring sheet turned in by Oct. 1, 2023, five dollars (\$5.00) will be donated to our Peace and Global Witness Offering. Our Peace and Global Witness Offering goal is \$950. Our portion of the total collected is 25%. The Mission Committee will select a local organization to receive our portion at our next meeting.

In other news, the Mission Committee approved the donation of our portion of our Pentecost Offering (\$484) to the **Prospect Elementary School’s Christmas Gifts for Kids** program located in Salamanca. (Their program is similar to our local Presents for Panthers)

The following donations were also approved: \$450 from the **Hunger Fund** to **Pfeiffer Nature Center’s WoodsWalk**; the committee also agreed to again pay the \$25 registration (from the **Rummage Sale Mission Fund**) for any member of our congregation who wishes to participate in the WoodsWalk.

A dedicated group of volunteers (Tim , Marilyn, Steve and Cso) have been chipping away at the African American Center for Cultural Development’s Work List. Changes were made to the original list as work began at the Center. Items on the list that have been completed include repairing the Pantry Ceiling by adding trim to the area and painting the ceiling, adding baseboard trim at the bottom and painting it, and painting the walls of the pantry. Thank you to Marilyn, and Steve for helping to get this off the “To Do” list. Steve was also able to repair the peeling/curling veneer on one of the bathroom doors. He added some finishing touches by, first removing mold from where the door had gotten wet and then applying some matching stain and polyurethane to the door.

The floors were sanded in the Theater Room and Tuskegee Hall by Tim, Marilyn and Steve. And the steps to the second floor were sanded by Marilyn and Cso. Our thanks to Kevin from A1 Rentals for only charging for one day’s rental of the drum sander instead of the 2 days that it was used. As he said, “Anything for Della!” These two rooms and the steps have been cleaned top to bottom (walls, woodwork, and floors all dusted and washed). Next steps for these areas will be to apply coats of polyurethane to them. If anyone has

done this before and is willing to help out, please let me know. I know there are others who might want to learn how to do this as well.

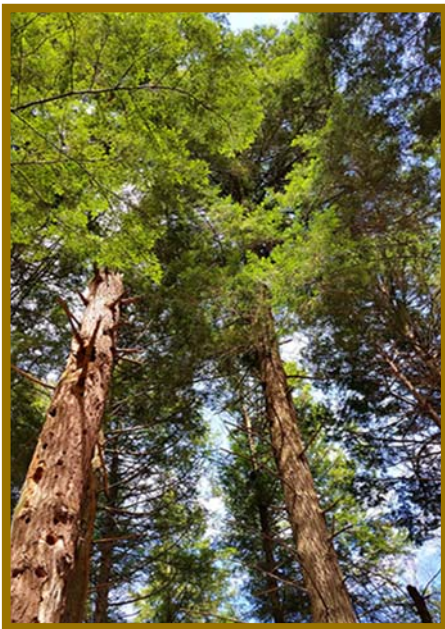
Volunteers are also needed to help wipe down the Café, Kitchen, Lift Room Foyer, and Bathroom from the dust created during sanding. This includes wiping down all the furniture, walls and floors (basically everything in each room needs to be dust free). If you are willing to help with this, please let me know with times and dates that you are available. We will have to work around when polyurethane is being applied to the floors in the Tuskegee Hall and Theater Room.

Property News - Norm

ADOPT – A – ROOM CLEANING LIST Once again the Property Committee is proposing an "Adopt-A-Room Cleaning List" for some of the church rooms and areas. This has worked out well in the past. Some rooms or areas might need to be cleaned often or as needed. You might keep an eye on your room as to the need. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the next few Sundays. Perhaps you and a partner can do a room for the year. We are hoping your room/area could be done during August or by the end of September for a fall cleaning. Cleaning supplies are in the janitor room downstairs.

The final **Cleaning List** will be posted in the Quilt Room and downstairs by the back door. Questions may be directed to Norm. Thank you for signing on to help keep our church building clean.

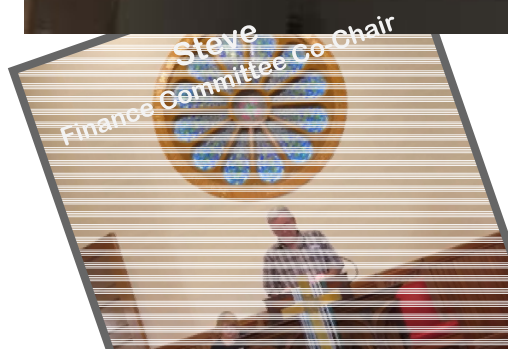
Worship News cont. - Diana



Family Fun at Pfeiffer : The Worship Committee wants to invite you to our annual adventure at **Pfeiffer Nature Center** on **October 22nd** after worship. We are hoping that the foliage will be exceptional and the fellowship warm. We will share a light meal. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex before the event, if you would like to help with lunch. We are planning to share a program and enjoy a walk on the trail if you are able. We hope that you will join us! Come to church that Sunday in your outdoor clothes and hiking shoes. You might want a blanket or even a pair of gloves depending on the weather.

FUN...FOOD...FELLOWSHIP...

Faith on the Fifth Photo Gallery



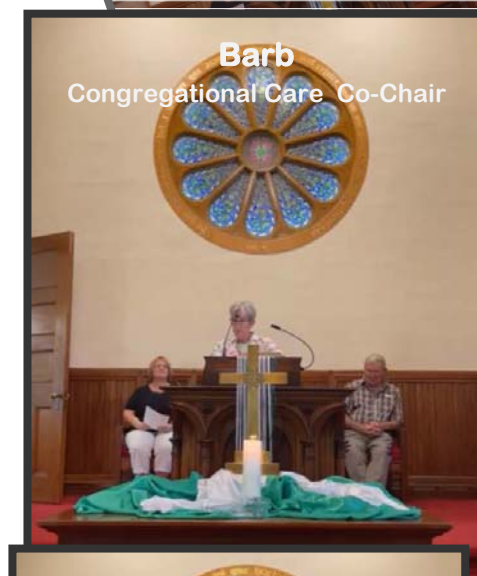
Steve
Finance Committee Co-Chair



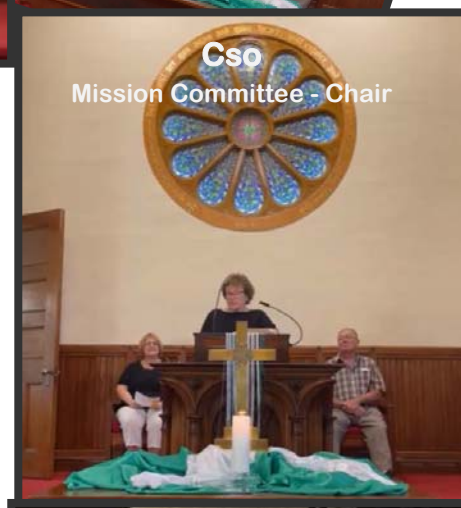
Norm
Property Committee Chair



Judy
Christian Ed - Chair
Congregational Care Co-Chair



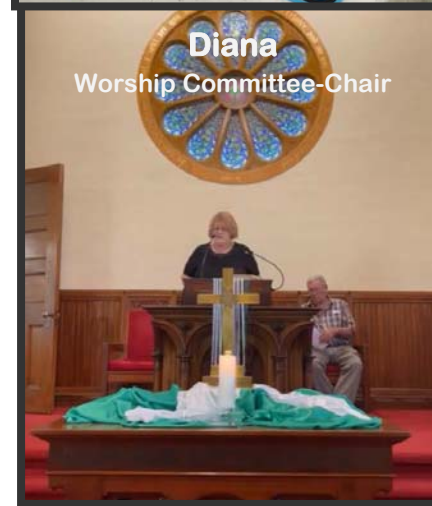
Barb
Congregational Care Co-Chair



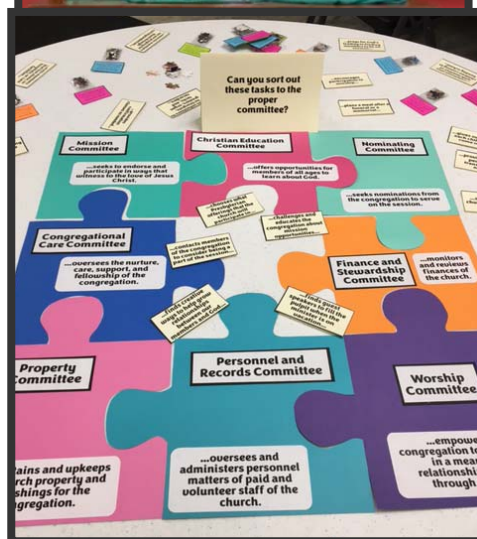
Cso
Mission Committee - Chair



Mark
Finance Committee Co-Chair



Diana
Worship Committee-Chair



African American Center for Cultural Development Rehab Progress



Second Floor Reading Room
Pink Walls - spackled /sanded



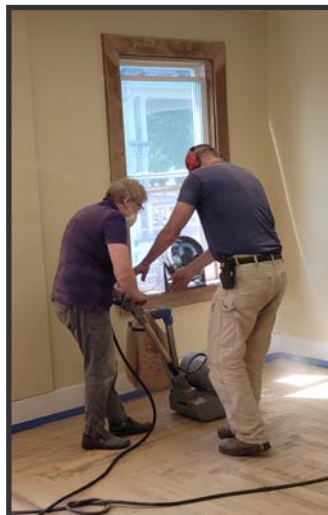
Walls primed and painted light blue



Baseboard installed



Dust barriers put up . . . Tim guiding Marilyn as she tries her hand using the drum sander.



Cso with her Dremel



Steve vacuuming up some of the dust . . .



Steve, Tim, Cso, Marilyn . . .
After a day of working at the Center...



Results of our two Saturdays of working . . . steps and 2 rooms sanded . . . Picture on the left shows what the floors will look like after applying polyurethane



Birthdates to Remember



Sept 2 Terry
 Sept 4 Eliana
 Sept 11 Bob
 Sept 11 Chris
 Sept 12 Jesse
 Sept 22 Wyatt
 Sept 23 Sean
 Sept 24 Lindsay
 Sept 24 Kathy
 Sept 26 Randy
 Sept 26 Drake
 Sept 27 Carly
 Sept 28 Ava



Oct 2 Kristin
 Oct 3 Charles
 Oct 6 Cindy
 Oct 7 Kelsea
 Oct 10 Ron
 Oct 10 Avery
 Oct 12 Carol
 Oct 15 Connie
 Oct 21 Brodie
 Oct 30 Shirley



Our heartfelt condolences to
 Randy and Judy
 on the death of Randy's brother, Ricky.
 January 28, 1958 - August 9, 2023



Our heartfelt condolences to Rev. Marilyn Hale
 on the death of her brother-in-law,
 Rev. Dr. Terry.
 August 6, 1946 - August 12, 2023





09/03 Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.
 Sep/Oct newsletter distributed
 Elder for the Month – Barb

09/04 *Labor Day*; Church Office Closed

09/09 RAM at YMCA through 09/10

09/10 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 Rev. Dr. Dorothy Pearman - Guest Minister

09/12 AED Training Session, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

09/13 AED Training Session, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

09/17 Opening Day of Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

09/18 Lectionary (MKH), 10:00 a.m.

09/20 Session, 4:30 p.m.

09/24 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

09/25 Food Pantry Prep Day

09/26 Food Pantry Prep Day

09/27 Food Pantry open 9:00 a.m. – noon



10/01 Worship Service/Communion, 10:00 a.m.
 Elder for the Month – Diana
 World Communion Sunday/PGW Offering

10/03 PWNV COM (MKH), 9:00 a.m.

10/08 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

10/11 Mission Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

10/15 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

10/18 Session, 4:30 p.m.

10/22 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 Pfeiffer Gathering After Worship

10/23 Food Pantry Prep Day

10/24 Food Pantry Prep Day

10/25 Food Pantry open 9:00 a.m. – noon

10/29 Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 (Faith on the Fifth)
 Reformation Sunday
 November/December newsletter info due

Remote Area Medical (RAM)
Free Medical Clinic
Location:
Olean YMCA

Dates / Start times
September 9 - 6 am
September 10 - 6 am

**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