

LISTEN to the ChurchMouse

Presbyterian Church in New Scotland

2010 New Scotland Road

Slingerlands, New York, 12159

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“Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary”

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Pastor's Column

Pentecost is the day we remember the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples. The sound of a great wind was heard, and fire danced over their heads, and people from all over the world could understand what was being said in their own languages. This is one of the challenges the church faces in the 21st century. How do we share God's way with those outside our circle so they can hear God's word *in their own language*?

By this, I don't mean that we change or compromise the message of the gospel. In some ways, the church has taken on too much of the language of the world. For example, we have bought in to the idea of "success" as the world defines it: more money and more people. Corporations may preach that bigger equals better, but the church defines success as being faithful.

We believe that God is at work in every time and every place. Our job is to notice where God is already at work, and to call attention to it.

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples and other followers gathered together, and they devoted themselves to prayer. That is how they prepared for the arrival of the Holy Spirit. And when the Spirit arrived that Pentecost morning and filled them up, three-thousand people heard God's word and began to follow the Way of Jesus. God's power produces results beyond human imagining!

As we move into the long, green season of summer, I find myself thinking back to Pentecost, and wondering, "Are we on

fire for God?" "Has the Spirit caught us yet?"

The thoughts and feelings at work in us are, in many ways, the Spirit speaking. What is the Spirit saying to you?

This summer be open to what the Spirit is saying, muted as it may be. Make a note of what you are thinking and hearing. Those things we feel, think, and hear – individually and collectively – become the grist for our conversations and ministry this fall.

Have a great summer. See you in worship.

Faithfully,
Holly

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To God we raise our
Heart and voice
And, giving praise
Now, we rejoice.
Keep us
Safe within your care.

Be with our loved ones
Everywhere.

Take our
Open hearts, we pray—

Give them Your
Own grace each
Day. Amen

Edmundite Missions

Session Digest for April 2 Meeting, by
Bonnie O'Shea

1. Carol Wickham is willing to serve on the Nominating Committee; congregational meeting will be Sunday, April 23.
2. Saturday, April 22 there will be a Gamblers Anonymous regional event held downstairs in the Church from 1:00-4:00; Building request approved
3. Buildings and Grounds update:
 - a. doing a walk-through of the Manse on April 2; will determine needs before able to rent again
 - b. Sanctuary project: cracks have been repaired and a few new spots have been marked for further repair/work
 - c. Potholes in the driveway: getting estimates, work to occur once the weather warms up
4. Will ask Buildings and Grounds to look into getting "Hidden Driveway" signs for New Scotland Rd.
5. Discussed joint worship dates with Delmar Presbyterian Church and Voorheesville Methodist for Holy Week and Easter; Easter sunrise service scheduled at Thacher Park overlook; everyone is invited back to New Scotland for an early breakfast
6. Clean-up Day is scheduled for April 29th, before the Pork Dinner takes place
7. Kevin Lamica found a postcard from 1908 that shows the interior of the New Scotland Presbyterian Church; will try to put this on display somewhere
8. Presbyterian Rainbow (LGBTQ group in Albany Presbytery): sent request inquiring if we want our church to be listed in their publications and on their website.

We have done so in the past, and will carry this forward.

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Session Digest for April 30 Meeting, by
John Griffin

1. Buildings & Grounds items:
 - Manse has new tenants effective 5/1
 - Hidden Driveway road signs not approved, but east entrance to parking lot potholes repaired by NYSDOT
 - Spring clean-up on 4/29 – dry well for new gutter downspout on cemetery side of sanctuary installed
2. Congregational Life Committee:
 - May 21 - Laity Sunday / Presbyterian Heritage Day
 - Children's Day - 6/11
 - Joint summer services discussed
3. Memorial Day parade / discussion of whether we will be participating; ask congregation if anyone is willing to coordinate
4. Voorheesville Playground - donation jar will be put out

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Worship at Rensselaerville

On Sunday, July 2, we will be meeting at Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church for a joint worship service. The Rev. Holly Cameron will preach a sermon entitled "Who Is My Disciple," addressing the summer theme: "Finding a Way Forward: Is There a Path to Healing?". The service is at 11:00 a.m. After the service, everyone is invited for a picnic luncheon.

Directions: Rensselaerville Presbyterian Church is located on Main Street at Methodist Hill Road in Rensselaerville. Rensselaerville is about 18 miles away from our church. Follow Route 85 West and arrive in the middle of town. Turn left on Main Street, and the church is about a block away, on the left. The trip takes about 25 minutes from our church. We will try to have a few cars leaving our parking lot at 10:15 a.m. for anyone who decides to ride up at the last minute.

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Joint Services with Voorheesville

On Sunday July 23 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship at the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville with the Rev. Holly Cameron presiding.

On Sunday July 30 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship at the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville with the Rev. Holly Cameron presiding.

On August 6 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship at New Scotland Presbyterian with Pastor Gary Kubitz presiding.

On August 13 at 10:00 a.m. we will worship at New Scotland Presbyterian with Pastor Gary Kubitz presiding.

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Giffy's Chicken BBQ!

We have our fifth Giffy's Chicken BBQ on Tuesday, July 11, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. As usual, we hope everyone will take some tickets to sell ahead of time (\$11 pre-sale; \$12 at the door). Tickets can be picked up at the church office during the week, or from Dan

Coons on Sundays. There are also several ways to volunteer to help that day, from setting up, to being in the ticket tent, to being in the meal tent. There are sign-up sheets in the church lobby. If you like to bake cookies, we can use homemade cookies; they need to be big enough so two will fit in a snack-size bag. You bring the cookies to church by 9:00 a.m. July 11, and we will bag them up!

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Thank You!

To Charlie and Shirley Unser, who donated a color printer and scanner to the church office.

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Building Fund

Our Buildings & Grounds and finance Committee work hard to keep our property and bank accounts in good shape. In April, our long-time tenants moved out, and our realtor informed us that the manse needed painting and a bathroom overhaul to be in good condition for renting. We have done those projects at a cost of about \$4,100. A couple of weeks later, we discovered the dishwasher at the church was failing and too old to fix, so a new dishwasher was installed just hours before the Spring Supper, at a cost of about \$3,500. With these large items coming so close together, our Building Fund could use some replenishing. We have received a challenge from one of our members: they will match every dollar given up to \$500. Please prayerfully consider if you can make a donation to help replenish the Building Fund. Envelopes are in the pew racks and on the narthex table.

May 21st was Presbyterian Heritage Sunday. It was also Laity Sunday in our church. These are some of the things we shared

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THE BOOK OF THE CHURCH

by
Hunter smith
(Sunday School)

The bible is the book of the church. It is full of stories of God's people. They are old, old stories. Some of them are thousands of years old.

The Bible begins with stories of Adam and Eve and so many others who lived before Jesus was born. The stories in the last part of the Bible are about Mary, Joseph, Jesus and so many others.

If you listen to the stories and think about them, you will remember them one by one. When you read the Bible for yourself, you can think about the stories again and know that we are all part of God's family. The people in the bible stories are like uncles, aunts, and cousins to us.

In the Old Testament, Moses had a hard job to do for God. He was the leader of God's people and his job was to teach the people God's laws. The rules helped the people to stay healthy, to get along with one another, and to worship God. Moses said that the most important rule was to remember there is only one God and he said, "Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." And he reminded them to "teach these words to your children," and the grown-ups did that.

God has given these laws to the church too. We are God's people. We can read stories in the Bible about Moses and the people obeying God's laws. Then we remember that we belong to God's family too. And we remember to love God every day

God keeps his promises and God wants us to keep our promises too. One night is a barn in Bethlehem; a baby was born to Mary and her husband Joseph. He was God's Promised One. His name was Jesus.

Jesus grew up in Nazareth where Joseph taught him to be a carpenter. He went with his family to Jerusalem to the Temple once a year. Jesus was baptized by his cousin John in the Jordan River. Later, Jesus preached and taught and healed the sick. He was kind and good. God was always with him.

His enemies killed him one Friday afternoon, and his friends put his body in a tomb. On Sunday morning they found the tomb empty! Jesus was alive!

God's laws and promises are forever. They are for all of us everywhere in the world. No one is far from God's loving kindness.

These stories and many more are all in the Bible. When you hear them and read them, you will know the stories well enough to tell them to others.

AMEN

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can be seen as a cross with flames. But it also has "hidden" symbols in the cross.



The cross is a symbol of Jesus Christ and of the Christian Church. The cross in the seal is a stylized Celtic cross.

The flames remind us of the burning bush when God talked to Moses. The flames also remind us of the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples.

Now look for the hidden symbols. Look for a dove, an open Bible, a triangle, and a fish.

The crosspiece forms an open book. This symbolizes the Bible and reminds people of how important the Bible is to Presbyterians. The flames suggest a triangle to represent the Trinity. The middle part of the dove looks like a fish. The fish is a symbol that early Christians use to represent Jesus and to identify themselves as followers of Jesus.

AMEN

..... Cindy Brickman

Snippets from *Our Heritage*

1787 – A mission church was organized on the New Scotland frontier by the Presbytery of Suffolk. The first building was erected in 1891

1795 – They called their first pastor

1796 – Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated for the first time

1834 – There was a week long revival meeting led by the lay people and as a result 64 new people were taken into the church

1876 to 1879 – Rev. James McClure wrote the first history of the church and presented it during a centennial celebration of the Declaration of Independence. (It was his family that recently gave us the furniture which is in the entrance hall.

1899 – The first public chicken supper was served. The Sunday School and the Junior Christian Society were organized. This became the Youth Fellowship in 1942.

1937 – Miss Jane McLaughlin (Jane Blessing) was elected treasurer for the first of 47 consecutive years

1960 – The Rev. Charlie Rice suggested that the communion at the center be removed, opening the area to a full view of the communion table. While Rev. Lester Page was here he did the art work on the rail depicting the symbols for the 12 apostles.

1947 – A dinner and reception was held in honor of our servicemen. The brass

cross and candlesticks were dedicated to these men

1948 – The Voorheesville Presbyterian Church merged with our church. That is where our tiffany stained glass window came from.

1950 – The Men's Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast was first held.

1958 – The first church telephone was installed in Rev. Page's office, which was also the first study office in the church.

1959 – The average Sunday School attendance was 68 children. There was a time after that when the Sunday School roll reached over 100 children.

1967 – The Youth Fellowship prepared the worship furnishings for the chapel area downstairs in memory of Margie Eveleth and it was dedicated to her. Margie died when she was 17 years old.

1980 We first began having summer union services with the Voorheesville Methodist church.

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.A.C. Youmans, grandfather of Sam Youmans was the interim pastor from 1937 to 1941.

Lois Wands Herrick was our first woman elder. She was our Clerk of Session for 21 consecutive years.

At the time of the founding of the church the hamlet of New Scotland had a population of approximately 100 persons. From the scan records we

presume there was a small general store, a blacksmith shop and 4 saloons. The minister would go to the saloons and gather the men for church. The women, of course, were already there.

Thirty-five pastors have served this church. This does not include the Reverend Doctor Frank Rhodes, who attended our church after the retirement. He had been pastor of the Amsterdam for 36 years and was known as "The Old Sky Pilot." His sermons were memorable, and each time I heard him I thought it would be the last one, but he continued until his late '90'ss. I remember John Griffin watching him, ready to grab him when it looked like he might be ready to fall over. He had a wonderful booming voice.

Two members of our church have become ministers: Frederick Widman, son of Fred & Dorothy Widman, and Jay Gage, son of Joe & Beverly Gage.

These are just a few facts of this church that we are honored to be a part of.

Dorothy Kohler

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Doing Faith

Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going, but going anyway. A journey without maps. [As the theologian] Paul said ... doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.

... Frederick Buechner

New School Playground

“Friends of the Voorheesville Playground” is raising money to build a new playground at the elementary school in the Spring of 2018. The current playground is 26 years old, so is overdue for an update. The fundraising goal to build and maintain the new playground is \$200,000. Many efforts are being made all around town to raise the funds – all businesses, community organizations and civic groups have been asked to help with this project. There will be a donor wall at the playground and everyone who gives at least \$500 will have their names listed.

We would love to have our church recognized in our community in this way! Beginning Sunday, May 21, we will have a bucket in the church lobby to collect donations for the playground. If you plan to donate individually, we hope you will consider donating through our church so that we can reach our goal of being listed on the donor wall!

If you have questions, or need information, our own Dan Coons is part of the “Friends of the Voorheesville Playground” or you can go to their website at <http://www.voorheesvilleplayground.org>

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He who wants milk should not
sit on a stool in the middle of
the pasture expecting the
cow to back up to him.

*He becometh poor that dealeth with a
slack hand:
But the hand of the diligent maketh rich.*
Proverbs 10:4

Thank You to these People

Thank you John Griffin for your hard work in trying to get the old dishwasher repaired and for having a new one installed less than 24 hours before the pork supper started. You performed a miracle!

Thanks to the Norris Family for removing the stone wall in front of the church.

Thanks also to Homer Warner for his work in re-grading the hill in front of the church.

We are fortunate for so many people in our congregation who step up to the plate when needed. Thank you all!

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“Summer Flowers”

*Behold the flowers of June!
How fair and bright their buds appear,
as, opening to the summer air,
our eyes and hearts they cheer!*

*Who would have thought there could
Abound
such beauty and delight
beneath the cold and wintry ground
that hid those flowers from sight?*

*The power which made and governs all-
the mighty power of God –
alone could life and beauty call
out of the lifeless sod.*

*And he, who from the winter’s gloom
can summer thus disclose,
shall one day make the desert bloom,
and blossom as the rose.*

...Anonymous

MEMORIAL DAY

Tomorrow is Memorial Day, a day set aside each year to remember and honor those who have contributed so much to the fabric of American life, the soldiers, the visionaries, and the ordinary citizens who have served, often at great sacrifice.

A few of us, privileged to grow up in small-town America, may remember when Memorial Day was called Decoration Day, on a special day in May, often on the 30th in the North, but possibly other days in the South, where the custom of decorating graves of Civil War soldiers with flowers and flags, probably started.

Throughout America, these practices continue today, a national holiday since 1971.

At the gravesite of a veteran, we may stand and offer thanks in prayer, and even let a few tears fall, but the veteran many not know what we say. As the poet said, "Silence sounds no worse than cheers, when death has stopped the ears."

So, thank first, a living veteran who can hear your words, but even more important, share your gratitude with those who still serve. In modern warfare, a soldier's career may span a number of deployments in harm's way, and with each deployment, the odds of survival go down.

On this day we often hear the expression, "Freedom is not free!" It raises the questions "What are its true costs?" and "What price are we willing to pay?"

The most famous poem from WWI speaks to these concerns...

In Flanders Field, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place.
And in the sky, the larks still bravely
singing,
Fly, scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago we lived,
Felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Field.

America's Flanders Fields lie in many places: at Arlington, outside of Washington;

along the Normandy coasts of France; amid the Tuscan hills of Italy; at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and even in Saratoga.

Against a backdrop of flags and flowers, ceremonies of remembrance will be held, and everywhere, the mournful tones of "Taps" will float upon the quiet air.

We create monuments and memorials to remind us of wars, long gone, and to honor those who served there. Veterans are drawn to memorials in Washington, to relive, as they choose, days of long ago.

The most somber and heart-wrenching memorial there must be, is the Vietnam Wall. Seeing the names of more than 56,000 American dead, carved in the dark, marble wall make one realize what a tragic waste of human life wars are. Sadly, history seems to teach there is no alternative.

In time, there will probably be memorials to Iraq and Afghanistan.

It looks like we'll be decorating the graves of veterans for a long, long time.

And who knows, perhaps in some quiet moment, we may hear again across the years ...

"In Flanders Fields, the poppies blow..."
The closing words today are from one of Frank's veterans charities—

"They answered their country's call to arms,

Into the battle they did go.
Where their final destination was,
No one will ever know.
May their final resting place,
Under some unknown sod,
Be forever hallowed, for it is known
Only unto God."

On this Memorial Day, and every day, may you truly enjoy the many blessings of freedom, secured for us by the sacrifices of America's heroic veterans.

..... Bill Morrison

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"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

..... Mahatma Gandhi

HELD IN
YOUR



Make this heartwarming handprint gift to give your dad or another special man on Father's Day.

What you need:

- Tempura paint (any two colors besides white)
- A paper plate
- Two paintbrushes
- Your dad's hand
- White cardstock
- Paper towels
- A pen



What you do:

1. Place paint on the paper plate.
2. Paint your dad's palm and the insides of his fingers with one color of paint. Set his hand in the center of the cardstock and press down. Let dry.
3. Paint your palm and fingers with the other color. Place your hand in the center of your dad's. Let dry.
4. Write a loving message to your dad on the blank sections of the cardstock.
5. Give your dad the gift — and a hug!

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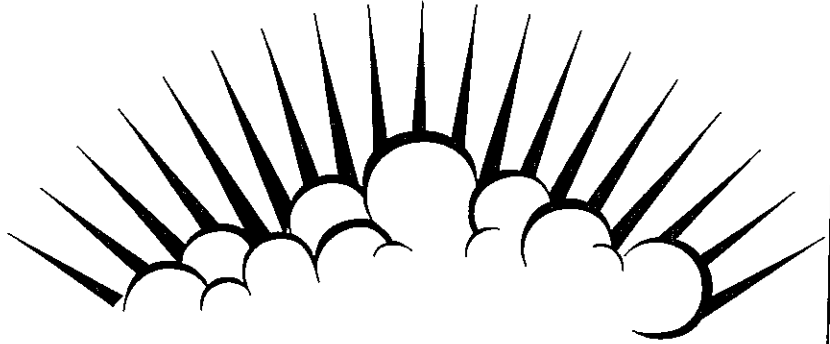
Address Service Requested.



Our heavenly Father

Father's Day is the perfect time to remember God, our heavenly Father. What does the psalmist say about him?

Directions: Complete Psalm 89:26 by placing the correct vowels in the blanks.



"H_ w_ll c_ll _ _ t t_ m_,"

'Y_ _ _ r_ m_ F_th_r, m_

G_d, th_ R_ck m_ S_v__r.'" "

Ps_lm 89:26, N_V

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