

Listen to the ChurchMouse

Presbyterian Church in New Scotland

2010 New Scotland Road

Slingerlands, New York 12159

The Reverend Holly S, Cameron – Pastor

Church telephone – 518-439-6454

Pastor’s office – 528-478-0796

Email: newscotlandpc.rr.com

“Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary:

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Happy 2018!

This is the last newsletter that will be distributed by bulk mail. We are grateful to all who have responded over the past few months to let us know how you would like to continue to receive the newsletter: either by first-class mail or by e-mail. We are sending this issue as a hard copy, and also by e-mail. You can always see the latest newsletter on the church's website. If you asked to receive the newsletter electronically and have not received it in your e-mail, or, if you want to change your delivery preference, please contact the church office by e-mail, newscotlandpc@nycap.rr.com, or by phone, 518-439-6454.

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Winter Policy

We generally do not cancel activities at church, unless the roads or our parking lot are impassable, or if authorities are recommending that folks stay off the roads.

We know that conditions can vary from house to house, road to road, and neighborhood to neighborhood, so we encourage everyone to be cautious, and *never* venture out if you feel unsafe. If you have committed to do something at church that day, it is okay to call and say that you cannot be there. There is nothing so important that it cannot be delayed until the weather is better. The most important thing is that everyone stay safe and do not put yourself at risk by traveling when you feel uncomfortable about the conditions.

If we need to cancel a church activity, the church office has an e-mail list, and the Session has an emergency calling tree. In the event of cancellation, you should receive a phone call, unless you've told us you would rather be notified by e-mail.

If a day looks questionable and you are not sure, feel free to call the church or the pastor.

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To Shake or Not to Shake?

During cold and flu season, we sometimes get concerned about shaking hands when passing the peace during worship. If this is a worry, please feel free to pat people on the shoulder, give them a "fist bump," or just keep your hands in your pockets and offer a smile and a nod. We want everyone to feel welcome, and also recognize the concern to stay healthy. There are bottles of hand sanitizer throughout the church building, so use them freely!

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The secret of contentment
is the realization that life
is a gift not a right.

But Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we carry nothing out.

1 Timothy 6:6,7

Session Notes

Session met on Sunday, January 7, 2018

We reviewed the financial from 2017 and had a few questions for our bookkeeper before finalizing them for the year. In addition, Session reviewed the proposed budget for 2018, and approved it.

In light of our projected budget shortfall, we may wish to have a "Gift Giving Sunday" again this year. And should we need a "Gift Giving Sunday" for Building and Grounds, we have been notified of a \$200 matching gift.

Session reviewed our calendar for providing Fellowship after services on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Holly shared that she will be talking with both Delmar Presbyterian Church and Voorheesville Methodist Church about possible joint activities for Lent and Easter. (Note: Ash Wednesday is soon: February 14 and Easter is April 1.)

We approved a request from The Friendship Singers to use of our church for their public Christmas concert performance on Wednesday, December 19, 2018. We will ask for volunteers to assist with parking that night.

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Our Prayers

During the holiday season, we wrote our prayers on paper doilies and put them on the church Christmas tree, so it looked like it was covered in snowflakes.

When the Christmas tree came down, the snowflakes were strung together, and are now hanging on the sanctuary windows. We invite you to take a few minutes to read the prayers of our congregation. The snowflakes will be up until Lent.

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Annual Report

The annual meeting of the congregation was Sunday, January 28. During the meeting we reviewed the Annual Report for 2017. A few mistakes were noticed and have been corrected. Final copies of the Annual Report are available to pick up any time. They are on the table in the narthex (under the bulletin board)

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Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday February 4, is Super Bowl Sunday and we are part of the "Souper Bowl of Caring." This offering began in 1990 by the youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina. They were inspired by the prayer of seminary intern: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." On Super Bowl Sunday, the youth invited everyone in the church to offer one dollar that would go to help people who are hungry.

Since 1990, the offering has spread across the country and over \$100 million has been given to soup kitchens, food pantries, and other charities. The money we collect goes to the

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors" fund for the Town of New Scotland. Thanks for your generous giving!

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Music Concert

The Mendelssohn Club will perform "A Little Sunday Music," FREE, at the Bethlehem Public Library, Sunday, February 11, at 2:00 p.m. All are invited!

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Lenten Study

Once again we will have a special study on the Sundays of Lent. Our theme this year is to reflect further on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Included in the study is a DVD on the life of Martin Luther. We begin Sunday, February 18, after coffee hour, and will meet for five Sundays, February 18 – March 18. All are welcome!

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Friday Fish Fry

New Salem Fire Department hosts "Fish Fry Fridays" during Lent February 16 to March 23, 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Dinner choices include fresh haddock, shrimp, homemade clam strips, macaroni and cheeses or hot dog; baked potato French fries, homemade coleslaw; coffee, tea, or lemonade. Homemade New England or Manhattan clam chowder, and dessert are also available.

Adults \$9; kids \$5
For take-out, call 518-765-2244
Firehouse is at 694 New Salem Road

Thank You From Our Church Staff

Dear NSPC Session –

Thank you so much for the beautiful Poinsettia.

It is a Joy and blessing to be working at New Scotland again.

Good health and much joy in 2018.

Regards, Lisa



Dear Session & Congregation –

I wrote my first thank you before receiving this amazingly generous gift –

You are special people and I wish everyone a healthy and joyous New Year !

Lisa

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A great big thank you to the best congregation a church organist could hope for! (I'm referring to my Christmas tip)

Sincerely,
Ryan

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Dear Congregation of New Scotland Presbyterian Church

Thank you for the generous gift! I feel blessed & appreciated for my time here at NSPC!

Happy New Year to All,
Vicki

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I would like to thank the congregation of New Scotland Presbyterian Church for thinking of me on the holiday season. The card and gift was very generous and I hope everyone has a great New Year.

Kevin Lamica
Church Sexton

Dear New Scotland Church,

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. It is a blessing to be with you in god's ministry, and I look forward to a Happy New Year in serving our community together.

In Christ's Service,
Holly

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Pastor's Column

Easter is early this year, which means Lent is early! Lent is the 40-day season preceding Easter, meant to be a time for Christians to prepare our hearts and minds for the great good news of Easter. Historically, believers made an effort to do something special to get ready for Easter, like giving up eating expensive meat one day a week and giving the money saved to the poor. In modern times, people sometimes give up a treat, like chocolate; whenever they are wishing for that treat, they turn their thoughts to God instead. I've read that we think about food around 20 times a day – do we think about God that much? I often take a media fast during Lent – giving up television or internet time to make more room for prayer or reading or just being quiet.

Jesus tells us that the marker of our faith is how we are serving others – the hungry, the homeless, the sick, the lonely, the stranger, the prisoner. So, Lent is a good time to take on some commitment to reach out to someone in need. Jesus showed us that our faith is

not so much what we think or say about God, our faith is about our relationships.

So, Lent is also a good time for us to be together with our neighbors! This Lent we will again share worship services with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Delmar. We begin our Lenten journey together on Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 7:00 p.m. We will worship at Delmar Presbyterian, 585 Delaware Avenue. Pastor Karen Pollan and I will lead the service where we reflect on our relationship to God, set our intention for the Lenten season, and receive the imposition of ashes.

I hope to see you there, and I wish you all blessings and peace for a Holy Lent.

+Holly

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Special and Beautiful People

*Look how God made me!
Look at my special smile!
Everyone is special,
With different smiles,
And different skins.
We are all like
Beautiful flowers,
Like beautiful rainbows
And feathers
That fall so gentle
Onto our hands
That look at us!
God made us so special!
We are beautiful people,
And we should share our smiles
All of the time!*

Mattie J.T. Stepanek
January 1995
Age 3 ½

Happy Birthday Mary Jane Ewart

Maturity

The warm, bright light of Mary is needed at this cold time
And behold, Nebraska has sent east her daughter to serve.
She is a 'Preacher's kid' knowing the way of the holy sign.
Serving as a nurse and teaching this art at Yale with verve.

She consorted with a Canadian biochemist entering parenthood
With Robert, Margaret and three grandchildren part of her flock.
Her good humor and tale telling skills speak of Wales' good
Influence with her firm rule in P.E.O. and as her church's rock.

She is a tad short of one hundred years and this day will come

In the uplifting, guiding presence of Altamont's Meadowdale
Where the great escarpment oversees to assure that good is done.
She shows the noble character of the Williams clan to prevail.

As intelligent, strong, kind, charming, wisely serving as Mary,

With word 'special' not enough to define her awesome nature.
But with these words we strive to wish her a happy and merry
Further step into elder-hood on her 97th birthday, so mature!

Carl George and Chris Cameron

7 January, 2018

In celebration of a birthday of a wise and wondrous woman

What My Church Means to Me

To me, this church is my centering place, a place of peace and of love. Not only from God but the very people who attend here. I find peace every time I walk through the doors; quietness, a place of tranquility and serenity. It is a place I must come to restore my soul and find guidance for my daily life.

I am thankful for the people here who support me and truly care about my well-being. Your love has helped us (Homer and me) to overcome some of the unpleasant happenings in our life. You have given us strength, support and love to continue on in life and to heal our bodies and our minds. For this we thank all of you.

This church gives me a chance to live the life that I feel God has ordained me to live and a way to support this building and all who enter here. I am also mindful of our neighbors far and near who need our prayers and help. May we never forget these people.

I have always attended smaller churches so I suppose that is one

reason I am comfortable here. I know everyone which helps me reach out very easily to those in need within this congregation. I pray that we will never forget those who are no longer able to get out to visit us here in this sanctuary. Life goes on but may we always remember those who came before us; the hard working people who built this church up to what it is today: a well-kept building, maintained by love and hard work, as well as a congregation that works well together. May it always be so.

Sandra W. Warner

11/12/17

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Hope Haiku

*Gentle and peaceful ...
We are the children of one God.
Yet so many faiths.*

*True, we are different ...
Unique mosaic of life.
Still, we are the same.*

*United we are ...
The festive fabric of life.
Divided we fall.*

...Mattie J.T. Stepanek
September 13, 2001
Age 11

What New Scotland Presbyterian Church
Means to Me

I first started attending New Scotland Presbyterian Church in the fall of 1988. I remember leaving home to go to church but wasn't sure which church we would be attending. The Methodist is less than a mile from our house. Brenda's grandmother had suggested the Delmar Presbyterian Church because we had a relative who was a member. But we had also scaped out this wonderful, small old fashioned church so it was that morning we decided to come here.

Our children attended Sunday School that 1st Sunday and Ryan told us he liked this church. So with the kids "stamp of approval" this became our church home. We took up "residences" in the 3rd pew there and that is where I am comfortable, at home.

Not too many weeks passed before Greg Pike visited us on Cheshire Ct. and invited us to become members. We didn't hesitate.

So next year marks our 30th anniversary as members of this lovely old church.

Our church is full of history. I am proud to be a part of the legacy that began in the late 1700's. I am also proud of how well our physical building has been lovingly cared for. There are many church structures, much newer than ours, which haven't been maintained as well.

And although the physical Building is not nearly as important as the spiritual life of our congregation, I am proud of our lift that enables all our church family to move to the dining room from the sanctuary.

I am proud that when my daughter got married on the hottest & most humid summer day of 2011, we have air conditioning in our church. I am grateful for our building & grounds committee that the decisions to freshen up the paint & make the necessary repairs when needed. When I come to worship, I feel comfortable; the church is clean and well. It is a pleasant experience to just walk through our front doors. I believe prospective members are impressed with a well maintained church.

I feel we have an obligation to our predecessors and our rich heritage, to continue to maintain not only spiritual life here in New Scotland but also our church building for future generations: Something to consider when you consider your pledge for 2018.

Kevin J. Dwyer
November 19, 2017

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God plus one
is always a majority!

...If God be for us, who can be against us!
Romans 8:31b

—8—

New Scotland Presbyterian Church
A Warm and Welcoming House of Worship

We continue to give thanks for our commitment to our lovely church nestled at the foot of the Heldeberg escarpment, in the town of New Scotland. As a daughter of a Scotsman, it's a pleasure to share my heritage with him and our church.

I attended this church as a little girl with my parents and siblings, going to Sunday School, and participating in Christmas pageants and church suppers. But since graduating from high school and going away to college, I attended a number of other churches with friends, my husband, and then as a family with my children.

A few years ago, I started driving my father to church after he had hip surgery. I found myself sitting here in the pews of the New Scotland Presbyterian Church, listening to the choir and mingling with its members during services and fellowship after Sunday services. Many of the faces were familiar to me, though their children, too, had moved on in many cases.

During those mornings, I was truly embraced by this congregation and I found a church community where I was comfortable and looked forward to attending on a regular basis. Now I find myself once again participating in Christmas activities and church suppers!

As John, Sandy, and Kevin have already mentioned before me, the New Scotland Presbyterian Church is a warm, welcoming house of worship that fills your hearts and souls with hope and love. We may be a small congregation, but we have big hearts...

Bonnie O'Shea
November 25, 2017

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Winter Luck

*Snowflakes...
They come down so slow,
And sometimes so fast,
Looking like pretty stars
Falling down, down, down
To the ground.
Little stars with little holes,
Bigger stars with bigger holes,
They are all cuddly snowflake stars.
Snowflakes of tiny snows,
Snowflakes of the bigger snows,
I will catch you on my hand
Or on my tongue
And make a wish...
I will make a wish on
My falling snowstar,
And then have good luck
All day, all night, all Ever...*

...Mattie J.T. Stepanek

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"Whatever the surprise of the future, Jesus will never be surpassed."

...Ernest Renan

Birthdays

We hope each of you who have had a birthday since the last newsletter had a happy time and have a wonderful year. Happy Birthday to those celebrating in the month of February:

6th.....Jane Thornton

8th.....Betsy Bates

9th.....Grace Brandow

Holly Cameron

13th...Wendy Wiest

16th...Kevin Dwyer

18th...Wendy Kohler

21st...Bonnie Griffin

22nd...Ann Putnam

28th...Sharon Hildebrandt

Tamara Caruso

+ + + + +

We wish a Very Happy Birthday to these people celebrating in the month of March:

1st.....Anthony Scaccia

4th.....Carol Fuglein

Matthew Fuglein

5th.....Deann Della Penta

Jackie short-Dougan

6th.....Ruth Von Haug

8th.....Patricia Whitbeck

9th.....Brianne Dwyer Roberts

Kathy Rudd

10th...Timothy Thornton

11th...Patricia Lemieu

12th...Catherine Nicholson Russell

14th...Sandra Warner

15th...Frances McCormick

17th...Mark Rudd

Daniel Joyce

18th...Leland Wright

Stephen P. Kohler

19th...Jordyn Claire Miller

20th...Kristine Norris

23rd...Emily Kohler

Erin Kohler

27th...Lois Ambuhl

+ + + + +

Wedding anniversaries

We wish a very Happy Anniversary to this couple celebrating in the month of February:

February 6, 1988

Debra & Randall Craft

+ + + + +

We wish a very Happy anniversary to these couples celebrating in the month of March:

March 5, 2008

Carol & Frank McGowan

March 25, 1961

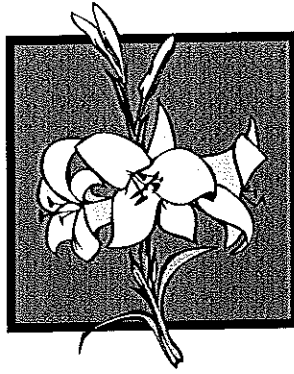
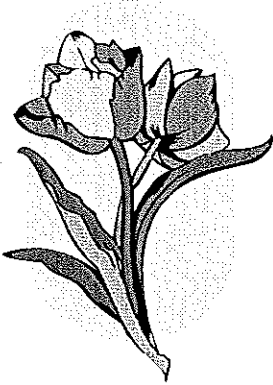
Arlene & Jake Herzog

March 26

Patti & tom DeLorenzo

March 26, 1984

Lynn & Van Kohler



EASTER PLANTS

If you would like the church to purchase a plant for you to place in the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday Worship Service, please fill out this form and return to **Bonnie Griffin** by Sunday, **March 11**.

YOUR NAME _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS _____

Please check the kind(s) of plant desired.

Lily

Mum

Tulip

Azalea

Hyacinth

Plants come in assorted colors this year.

Please check one of the following.

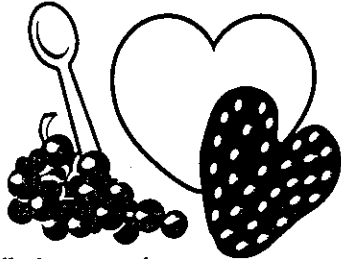
_____ I will pick up plants(s) after service.

_____ I will not pick up plant(s). You may take it to the church's homebound.

The cost per plant is **\$10.40** delivered to the church. Please make your check payable to **Bonnie Griffin**, 288 New Salem South Rd., Voorheesville, NY 12186.

Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!

PRESBYTERIAN IN NEW SCOTLAND
2010 NEW SCOTLAND ROAD
SLINGERLANDS, NEW YORK 12159

Address Service Requested.



Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love.
How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

*Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here:
(12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12th
letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.*

(1) You really like ice cream! _____

(16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. _____

(21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. _____

(4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. _____

(11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. _____

(17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. _____

(6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. _____



"Honor _____ and



_____, and _____ your

_____."

Matthew 19:19, NIV

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