

Listen to the ChurchMouse

Presbyterian Church in New Scotland
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“Original Landlord still offering Sanctuary”

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The question we must ask our heart is, "Am I comfortable under the eye of God? Or is God getting to close?" We are strange and lovely creatures. We can ache for God tremendously yet find ourselves getting nervous if God gets too close. After all, the closer God gets, the more we hear the call to be divinized. It is both exciting and frightening to hear that call.

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...MacRina Wiederkehr

Pastor's Column

The Christian focuses on two celebrations; Christmas, When God is born into the world in the flesh of a baby, and Easter, when God is resurrected into a new flesh. For a good part of the year, we prepare and celebrate these two holy days. But most of the year is called "Ordinary Time," when we are invited to consider Jesus' words and actions.

Jesus called his first disciples with the invitation to follow him. And we are still invited to follow Jesus' teachings and ways. For most of February, we'll be hearing Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount, and thinking about what his vision of the Kingdom Heaven means to us now.

Just as February ends, we will start the season of Lent. Lent is the 40-day season preceding Easter, meant to be a time for Christians to prepare our hearts and minds for the great 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 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 about 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 for us to be together with our neighbors! This Lent we will again share worship with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Delmar. We begin our Lenten journey together on Ash Wednesday, February 26, at 7:00 p.m. We will worship at Delmar Presbyterian, 585 Delaware Avenue. Pastor Karen Pollen and I will lead the service where we reflect our relationship to God, set our intention for the Lenten season, and receive the the imposition of ashes.

The Re. Larry Deyss will be leading us through a book study on creation care for Sundays in Lent. More details about that are in this newsletter.

I hope to see you soon, on the ordinary days and when we start this year's Lenten journey.

Faithfully
+Holly

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The Daily Gift

*You know what?
Tomorrow is a new day,
And today is a new day.
Actually,
Every day is a new day.
Thank you, God,
For all of these
Special and new days.*

Mattie J.T. Stepanek

Winter Policy

We generally do not cancel activities at church unless the roads or our parking lot are impassible, or it 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 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 a day looks questionable and you are not sure, feel free to call the church or the pastor.

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Annual Report

The annual meeting of the congregation was Sunday, January 26. During the meeting we reviewed the Annual Report for 2019. If you did not get a copy, they are on the table in the narthex (under the bulletin board), and can be picked up at any time.

Photo Directories

Our new directories arrived in January, and have been in the church lobby to be picked up. If you haven’t yet received a copy, please contact the church office.

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Lenten Study

Once again we will have a special study for the Sundays of Lent. Our theme is continuing to reflect on creation care. The Rev. Larry Deyss will be leading us reading the book, Climate Church, Climate World. Larry has purchased copies of the book, and they are available now, so please see him if you are interested. We begin Sunday March 1, after coffee hour, and will meet for five Sundays, March 1 – March 29. All are welcome!

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Grounded Lesson

***Life is a treasure.
People should enjoy it.
Even if digging
To it, or through it,
Is a challenge.***

Mattie J.T. Stepanek
February, 2000

Session Digest

1/5/20 Meeting

Minutes were accepted & approved from the 12/08/19 meeting

Cameron will be our delegate to the 01/25/20 Presbytery Meeting at the Korean Presbyterian Church

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Building & Grounds Report

Repairs were made to Carillon system & PA system issues corrected

New septic tank & all underground plumbing was done to prepared for parking lot paving & striping

Manse tenants moved out

One downstairs room needed to be sanded and refinished

Wind storm on 10/11/19 blew off a number of shingles – insurance claim in the works

Heating pipe froze prior to church supper, causing damage to floors & ceiling – insurance claim in the works

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2020 budget approved

Next meeting 02/02/20

Respectfully submitted
John Griffin

February Birthdays

We wish a very happy birthday to everyone celebrating in the month of February:

- .6thJane Thornton*
- 8thBetsy Bates*
- 9thGrace Brandow
 Holly Cameron*
- 16th ...Kevin Dwyer*
- 18th ...Wendy Kohler*
- 21th...Bonnie Griffin*
- 22nd ...Ann Putnam*
- 28th ...Sharon Hildebrandt
 Tamara Shaw*

March Birthdays

We wish a very happy Birthday to everyone celebrating in the month of March:

- 1stAnthony Scaccia*
- 4thCarol Fuglein
 Matthew Fuglein*
- 5thDeann Della Penta
 Jackie Short-Dugan*
- 6thRuth Von Haugg*
- 8thPatricia Whitbeck*
- 9thBrianne Dwyer Roberts
 Kathleen Rudd*
- 10th ...Timothy Thornton*
- 11th ...Patricia Lemiex*
- 12th ...Catherine Nicholson Russell
 Meredith Coons*
- 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

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February Wedding Anniversaries

We wish a very happy anniversary to this couple celebrating in the month of February:

February 6, 1988

Debra & Randall Craft

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March Wedding Anniversaries

We wish a very happy anniversary to this couples celebrating in the month of March:

March 5, 2006

Carol & Frank McGowan

March 25, 1961

Arlene & Jake Herzog

March 26

Patti & Patti DeLorenzo

March 29, 1984

Lynn & Van Kohler

(If you have a birthday or anniversary that is not listed, please contact Holly Cameron or Dorothy Kohler)

Litany for the Lord's Day

5th Sunday in Ordinary - February 9

Isa. 58:1-9a (9b-12); Ps. 112:1-9 (10)

1 Cor. 2:1-12 (13-16); Matt. 5:13-20

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 16

Deut. 30:15-20; Ps. 119:1-8\

1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matt. 5:21-37

Transfiguration of the Lord – February 23

Exod. 24: 12-18; Ps. 2 or Ps. 99

2 Peter 1:16-31; Matt. 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday – February 26

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12

Ps. 51:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6; 10

Matt. 6:1-6; 16-21

1st Sunday in Lent – March 1

Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Ps. 32

Rom. 4:1-11; Matt. 4:1-11

2nd Sunday in Lent – March 8

Gen. 12:1-4a; Ps. 121

Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

3rd Sunday in Lent – March 15

Exod. 17:1-7; Ps. 95

Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

4th Sunday in Lent – March 22

1 Sam. 16:1-13; Ps. 25

Eph. 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

5th Sunday in Lent – March

Exod. 37:1-14; Ps. 130

Rom. 7:6-11; John 11:1-45

THIS MONTH IN MISSION
February 2020

Pennies for Haven (Homeless, not hopeless.)

For the month of February there will be a box in the Narthex, by the main door where our congregation is encouraged to deposit spare change to support the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless.

“In recognition of the dignity and value of every human life, the mission of the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless (IPH) is to address the needs of the homeless and low-income community by providing a continuum of services to encourage self-sufficiency, empowerment, and stability.” From the IPH website

“Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless (IPH) builds stronger communities. We empower individuals and families who are homeless or facing homelessness, giving them the tools to be self-sufficient.” From the IPH website

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**LANGUAGE IS THE EXPRESSION OF THOUGHT.
EVERY TIME YOU SPEAK,
YOUR MIND IS ON PARADE.**

*A good man out of good treasure of his heart forth
That which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure
Of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil:
For of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.*

Luke 6:45



Time

Her white veil shelters Her from the light.
Her golden, shimmering drape conceals Her.
Her voice, soft, speaks of wrong and right.
Her names, Hylia, Farore, Ciela and more

Are written on the mists and clouds of time,
Quite visible substances but impossible to touch.
This goddess enwraps us to charm and mime
Past, future and now on the Isle of Nonsuch.

I know a woman residing there bearing 99 years,
This expanse of time mysterious and sacred,
This number* speaking to the good and fears
Of each passing moment from dawn to bed

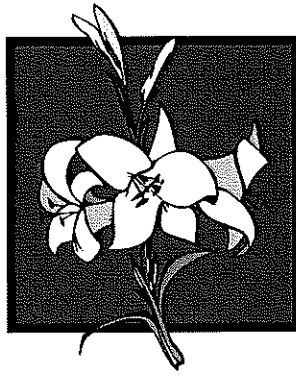
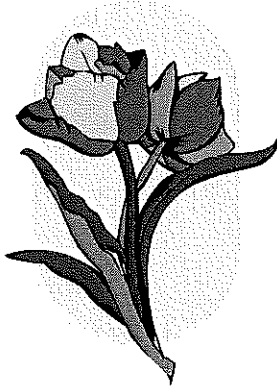
But even during the wanderings of dreams
When we explore the wild and unexplainable.
You have ventured far to learn of many themes
That life displays and we dine at your table

To sup of your wisdom, wide, deep and salvific
Gained in the company of the Great Goddess.
I thus sense your radiant presence as true and pacific
And ask that you continue wise and vital to truly bless

Us in your association with Time and in Her grace.
I pray that you be vibrant and hold long this place.

* The digital root of all multiples of 9 is 9, i.e. $9 \times 9 = 81$ and $8 + 1 = 9$

Carl J. George
January 5, 2020
In celebration of Mary Ewart's 99th Birthday



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 15**.

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 churches homebound.

The cost per plant is **\$10.50** delivered to the church. Please make your check payable to **Bonnie Griffin**, 288 New Salem South Rd., Voorheesville, NY 12186.