

***LISTEN* to the ChurchMouse**

Presbyterian Church in New Scotland

2019 New Scotland Road

Slingerlands, New York 12159

The Reverend Holly S. Cameron – Pastor

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“Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary”

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“Christ’s death becomes the rod, the cudgel that breaks the necks of the fears that are the enemies of my peace; his Word becomes the staff by which he holds on to me and rescues me from danger.”

...Sinclair B. Ferguson, *Deserted By God!*

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You can accomplish more in one hour with God than in one lifetime without Him.

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...With God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:26b

- 8...Easter Flower Order Form

Lenten Study

We are in the midst of a special study for the Sundays of Lent. Our theme this year is to reflect further on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The first two Sundays, February 18 and 25, are being led by the Rev. Larry Deys, on "Reformation and the God of Creation." The following Sundays will be a DVD on the life of Martin Luther. We are meeting on Sundays after coffee hour, through March 18. All are welcome!

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Friday Fish Fry

New Salem Fire Department hosts "Fish Fry Fridays" every Friday during Lent, through March 23, 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Dinner includes fresh haddock, shrimp, homemade clam strips, macaroni and cheese or hot dog; baked potato or French fries, homemade coleslaw; coffee, tea, or lemonade. Homemade New England or Manhattan clam chowder, and dessert also available. Adults \$9; kids \$5. For take-out, call 765-2244. Fire house is at 694 New Salem Rd.

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Men's Communion Breakfast

All men and boys are invited to the 68th annual Men's Communion Breakfast, Sunday, March 25. Worship service is at 7:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, followed by breakfast and program. The speaker is Ivan Gotham, Chair of the New Scotland Community Food Pantry. Please join with us as we worship and enjoy the fellowship of this event.

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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Holy Week Services & Activities

We are delighted to share worship with our neighbors during Holy Week. We begin the week with midday 30-minute prayer and communion services, alternating between our church and Delmar Presbyterian, 585 Delaware Avenue. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are evening services, also alternating between us and Delmar. On Holy Saturday, the sanctuary at Delmar

is open for quiet prayer and reflection. On Easter Sunrise, we join with Delmar Presbyterian and the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville at the Thacher Park overlook, followed by breakfast in Voorheesville, 68 Maple Avenue. Please plan to join us for this special week of services. Here is the schedule:

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March 25: Palm Sunday

7:00 a.m. Men's Communion Service in the sanctuary
7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast and Program in the dining room
10:00 a.m. Worship Service and NO Sunday School

March 26: Monday of Holy Week

12:15 p.m. Midday Joint Communion Service at New Scotland.

March 27: Tuesday of Holy Week

12:15 p.m. Midday Joint Communion Service at Delmar Presbyterian.

March 28: Wednesday of Holy Week

12:15 p.m. Midday Joint Communion Service at New Scotland.

March 29: Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Joint Service to celebrate communion and strip the church, as we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Worship is with Delmar at Delmar Presbyterian.

March 30: Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Joint Worship Service to commemorate the crucifixion and acknowledge

that innocent suffering continues to happen in our world. Worship is with Delmar, at New Scotland.

March 31: Holy Saturday / Great Vigil of Easter

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Sanctuary at Delmar Presbyterian will be open for quiet prayer and reflection.

April 1: Easter Sunday

6:00 a.m. Joint sunrise service with Delmar Presbyterian Church and the First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville meeting at New Scotland Presbyterian Church to process to Thacher Park Overlook.

6:15 a.m. Service at Thacher Park Overlook.

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at Voorheesville Methodist.

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and NO Sunday School. Remember to bring a loose flower to transform the barren cross into a symbol of new life.

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Flu Season

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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Finance Information

As of February 20:

Income to date\$17,251.29

Expenses to date\$16,434.70

Net Income\$816.59

Endowment Fund withdrawals so far this year (to meet expenses): \$5,000

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Session Notes (Unofficial)

Session met on Sunday, February 11, 2018

- Approved the 2017 Annual Statistical Report, and noted that all churches are now required to have a Youth Protection Policy. We have examples and will be creating a policy for our church.
- Approved baptisms for Charlotte Kathryn Youmans on April 8, and Teagan Grace Riedy on May 13.
- The historic sign in front of the church is being refurbished by the Town Historical Society.
- We've noticed evidence of critters downstairs and have hired a pest control company to set traps and install steel wool to try to keep them out of the building.
- Finance Committee transferred \$5,000 out of the endowment fund to cover expenses so far this year.
- Cindy Brickman will finish teaching Sunday School at the end of this school year. We would

like a nursery worker for infants and toddlers, and a Sunday School teacher for school-age kids.

- Ivan Gotham, Chair of New Scotland Community Food Pantry, will be the speaker for the Men's Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast on March 25.
- We agreed to help Rensselaerville Presbyterian when they host presbytery meeting June 5.
- We are talking with Rensselaerville and Delmar about the possibility of sharing an intern.
- Next meeting is Sunday, April 8, after coffee hour.

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Pastor's Column

Lent is the oldest season observed by the church, and Easter is the oldest holiday of the church. The first followers of Jesus were Jewish, and the thing that made them Christians was their belief that Jesus was God's Messiah and had been resurrected from the dead. Since these first followers were Jewish, they observed the Sabbath on the seventh day, as they always had, and then on the first day of the week, they celebrated the resurrection. So, each Sunday became a kind of "little Easter" to observe the resurrection. And, each year, Easter was celebrated just after the Passover, to commemorate the events of Jesus' last week.

So, those were the first distinctly-Christian forms of worship: to celebrate the resurrection each Sunday, and to observe Easter each year. Because the

resurrection was being celebrated every week, the church decided to do something special to prepare for Easter. And so they instituted the time of Lent: forty days leading up to Easter. You might notice that the Sundays in Lent are not part of the forty days – that's because on these Sundays we are still celebrating the resurrection, just as the very first followers did.

Every year as Lent begins, we hear how Jesus went out into the wilderness for forty days as he prepared to begin his ministry. This is the basis of the forty days of Lent. In early Christianity, new believers were baptized on Easter; so Lent became the time of preparation for baptism. It is now a time to be intentional about listening for God's word to us.

And so we follow Jesus' example of getting out of our routine (going out into the "wilderness") in order to hear more clearly what God is saying. It might seem counter-intuitive for us to stop our daily lives in order to find God – after all, God could break into our existence any time, and wouldn't that get our attention even more, if God suddenly appeared in the middle our living room? But, God is always waiting for us to take a step toward God. God wants us to come out of a sense of desire, not out of fear.

Lent is a time for us to consider again our desire for God. Mother Theresa said if you want to know God better, you should smile. "Smile at each other; smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other—it doesn't matter who it is—and that will help you grow up in greater love for each other." What can you do

this Lent that will make you smile at others?

+Holly

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April Birthdays

We wish a very Happy Birthday to these people celebrating in the month of April:

3rd*Erik Craft*
 14th*Carol McGowan*
 16th*Cynthia Griffin*
 19th*Noah Thornton*
 Ashley Parker
 21th.....*Wally Throop*
 22nd*Robert Rudd*
 28th*Emily Norris*

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April Anniversaries

We wish a very Happy Anniversary to these couples celebrating in the month April:

April 4, 1964
Mardell & Paul Steinkamp

April 6, 1973
Ruth & Richard Von Haugg

April 22, 1994
Daisy & Tom Elmendorf

April 22, 1995
John & Deb Blakley

April 22, 1995
Lisa & Ray Youngman

April 22, 2011
Denise & Mike Riedy

April 30, 1966
Janet & Rodger Willey

April 30, 1983
Diane & Frank Bode

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Litany for the Lord's Day

March 4 – 3rd Sunday in Lent
Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 19;
1 Cor. 18-25; John 2:13-22

March 11 – 4th Sunday in Lent
Num. 21:4-9; Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22
Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 18 – 5 Sunday in Lent
Jer. 31:31-34; Ps. 51:1-12 or
Ps. 119:9-16; Heb. 5:5-10; John 3:14-21

March 25 – Palm/Passion Sunday
Palms: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion: Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16
Phil. 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-1-15:47 or
Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

March 26 – Monday of Holy Week
Isa. 42:1-9; Ps. 36:5-11;
Heb. 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

March 27 – Tuesday of Holy Week
Isa. 59:1-7; Ps. 71:1-14
1 cor. 1:18-31; John 12:30-36

March 28 – Wednesday of Holy Week
Isa. 50:1-9a; Ps. 70
Heb. 12:1-3; John 12:21-32

March 29 – Maundy Thursday
Ex. 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14
Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19; 1cor. 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 30 – Good Friday
Isa. 52:13-53; Ps. 22 Heb. 10:16-25
or Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

March 31 – Great Vigil of Easter
Gen. 1:1-2:42; Ps. 136:1-9, 23-26
Gen. 22:1-18; Ps. 16;
Ex. 14:10-31:15:20-21;
Ex. 15:1b-13, 17-18; Isa. 55:1-11
Isa. 12:2-6; Prov. 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6
Ps. 19; Ezek. 36:24-28; Ps. 42 and 43
Ezek. 37:1-14; Ps. 143;
Zeph. 3:14-20; Ps. 98; Rom. 6:3-11
Ps. 114; Mark 16:1-8

April 1 – Resurrection of the Lord/Easter
Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 cor. 15:1-11 or
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or
Mark 16:1-8
Easter Evening: Isa. 25:6-9; Ps. 114
1 Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

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“Wind of God”

Tiny breeze or mighty wind,
swirling around as God commands.
Hats go flying. Branches bend.
Little seeds spread through the lands.

God almighty makes the wind;
great big gusts can shape the sands.
Awesome is the power of God,
when even wind obeys his plans.

...MaryAnn Sundby

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“Be who God meant you to be and you
will set the world on fire.”

...St. Catherine of Siena

God's Mysterious Ways

"God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform." The oft-quoted words, from a hymn by English poet William Cowper, come with an unsubstantiated yet powerful back story.

Cowper, who struggled with depression, decided to commit suicide one night. He called a cab to go to the Thames River, planning to drown himself. Such dense fog arose that the driver got lost and finally stopped to let his passenger out. To Cowper's surprise, he was at his own door! He concluded that God had sent the fog to spare his life. The hymn he wrote in response continues:

*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy and shall break
in blessings on your head. ...*

*His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour.
The bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.*

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**The hardest secret
for a man to keep is
his opinion of himself.**

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly; according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3

Sound of Rain

*Angel's footsteps
Gently dancing
From the Heavens.
Tiny drop-prints
Of wetness touch
Around the earth,
Reminding us of
Important things,
Like Jesus washing
The Apostle's feet.*

Mattie J.T. Stepanek
January 1998

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Created Bonds

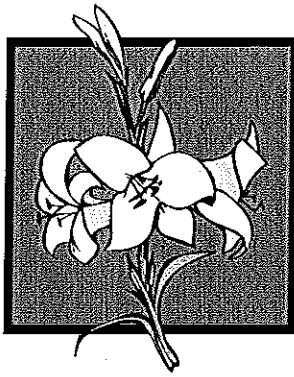
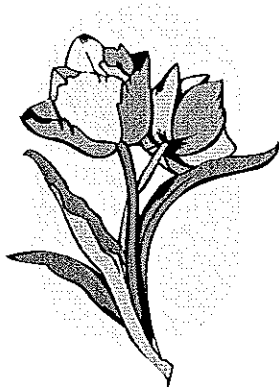
*Just like a real family,
Kin helps us to live
Our lives peacefully.
And we help them to live
Peacefully in return,
Because we are
Family and kin, together,
It is good to have family.
It is even better to have kinship
Within and beyond family.
For it is not blood
That creates a bond...
It is the unique
Relationship of mutual
Goals of love, and
Our celebration of life.*

Mattie J.T. Stepane
May 2000

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- "We live and die: Christ died and lived

...John Stott



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.