

Listen to the ChurchMouse

Presbyterian Church in New Scotland

2010 New Scotland Road

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“Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary”

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Our newsletter editor is still recovering, so, once again this edition comes from the church office.

Pastor's Column

What a blessing it is to come through the season of Lent and the glory of Easter morning! The resurrection reminds us that new life can emerge even when things are dead and buried. We see that in the blossoming of Spring all around us, too! After the long, cold winter, new life springs forth with green leaves, yellow forsythia, red tulips, and pink magnolia trees (just to mention a few things I passed on my way to church this morning)!

In church, we are always looking for new life, too. One of my colleagues has said, “Anxiety is the energy of anticipation.” Our anticipation may be that something bad is coming, or that something wonderful is coming. Since we are a community of faith, I believe that something wonderful is always coming. Of course, old things may die away, but we know our God is always bringing new life. And new life is a wonderful thing.

There are many signs of life and new life in our community in the coming weeks! This month we have the Mendelssohn Club concert on May 5, a baptism on May 12, the Spring Supper on May 18, and a Creation Care Group on May 19. We are also taking appointments for a new photo directory! Information about these events is included in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to June events as well, so mark these on your calendar: Celebrating membership anniversaries on June 2; having our third conversation for “Moving Forward Together” also on June 2; the Women's Communion Breakfast on June 9; and the end of the Sunday School year with Children's Day on June 16! Also in June, the Friendship Singers (who have held Christmas concerts at our church recently) will be having their Spring Concert on Friday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Delmar Reformed Church.

Pastor's Column cont'd

I am excited for all the activity and new life around New Scotland. See you in church!

Faithfully,
+Holly

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Mendelssohn Club Concerts

We are lucky to have two opportunities to see the Mendelssohn Club of Albany in concert this month! On Sunday, May 5, at 3:00 p.m., the men will be at our church for "An Afternoon of Music." Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Tickets can be purchased in the church office, or at worship on Sunday. We will host a reception with light refreshments after the concert.

On Friday, May 17, 7:30 p.m., the Mendelssohn Club of Albany presents "Great American and Collegiate Songs," at Chancellor's Hall. Tickets are \$22, but \$18 for a group. If you would like a group ticket, please see John Griffin.

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Annual Spring Supper

Saturday, May 18, is the Annual Spring Supper, an event to raise funds for the church and to feed our friends in the community (generally a few hundred meals are served up). The menu is: roast pork, mashed potatoes, cooked carrots, sauerkraut, green bean salad, rolls, and pie for dessert. The dining room will serve dinner from 4:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Of course, we need everyone to help make the dinner a success! There are many ways to help, including: make the

green bean salad, peel potatoes and carrots, set up the dining room, prepare baked goods to bring in, waiting tables, working in the kitchen, helping in the parking lot, and clean-up crew at the end.

As you can see, your time and talents are needed to make our dinner a success! In addition to the satisfaction of offering your gifts, all the workers at the dinner get to eat for free! This year we ask all church workers, who are able, to park your car at the New Scotland Town Hall. This keeps our church parking lot open for paying customers. If you need someone to drive your car down to the Town Hall, just come to the church parking lot and let us know. See you at the dinner!

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This Month in Mission- May 2019

by Mardell Steinkamp

CROP Walk

On Sunday May 5, we will have a special collection to support the CROP Walk in Albany to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

Twenty five percent of the funds raised will go to hunger-fighting programs in our local community. The remainder will go to grassroots development efforts around the world to help provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs

This Month in Mission-cont'd

Clothes Drive

Again this year we will be collecting men and women's gently used summer clothing for the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless in Albany. A collection box will be located in the narthex by the front door from May 19th to June 13th.

If you have other clothing that is not in good condition or out of season and you want to get rid of it, please put it in the big blue box behind the church.

Mother's Day Cards

We still have a few Mother's Day cards from Healthy Women Healthy Families available for a free will offering. This program is part Presbyterian Mission. Funds collected support Presbyterian partner churches' programs around the globe that promote health, education and development of women and children. By participating in the annual Healthy Women Healthy Families Mother's Day Project, Presbyterians honor women in their lives with cards and donations that in turn provide prenatal and essential obstetric services, trauma healing and psychosocial support, early-childhood health and nutrition programs, health and hygiene education, fistula repair surgery, disease prevention and medical services and more to families in dire need.

Collection for the Town of New Scotland Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund

For the months of May and June there will be a jar located in the narthex under the mission bulletin board to support the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund which is a part of Senior Services.

Funds are used to help New Scotland seniors in times of need. Some of the needs met have been emergency house repairs and fuel oil.

So please put loose change, bills or checks in the jar to provide aid for our senior neighbors.

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Session Notes (unofficial)

by Mardell Steinkamp

The Session met on April 7th 2019; here is some of what we did:

- Daniel Coons was installed as Deacon on Sunday, March 31st.
- We approved two baptisms: April 28th for Tristin Lucas Kirk and May 12th for Cody David Roberts.
- Approved Sunday May 5th at 3:00 p.m. for the Mendelssohn Club concert at our church. Proceeds will be split 50/50 between the club and our church.
- Approved Saturday May 18th for Annual Spring Roast Pork Supper.
- The date for the third "Moving Forward Together" discussion was changed to Sunday, June 2nd.
- On June 2nd we will celebrate the 50th membership anniversaries of Debbie Fuglein and Ruth Von Haugg and the 65th anniversary of Evelyn Fuglein.
- We are beginning the process of getting a new picture directory.
- New Personnel Committee policies were discussed.
- New Child Protection Policy (first reading) was discussed; the denomination requires all churches to have a policy in place.

Session Notes-cont'd.

- Financial Statements were reviewed; we have taken \$5,000 out of the endowment so far this year to help with expenses. We have been blessed with some extra gifts from family and friends of those who have passed away.
- A prayer letter will be sent to State Street Presbyterian Church in Schenectady in recognition of their 150th anniversary.
- The next Session Meeting will be Thursday, May 9th at 6:00 p.m.

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Celebrations!

We love to celebrate with you! If your special day is not listed, please contact the church office: 518-439-6454.

May Birthdays

We wish a very happy birthday to these people celebrating in the month of May

- 8.. *Gregory Griffin*
- 13... *Jane Norris*
... *Manny Wiest*
- 25... *Bonnie O'Shea*
- 27... *Lori Benedict*
... *Randall Craft*
- 28... *Margaret Throop*
- 30... *Jasmine Wiest*
- 31... *Barbara Van Zetten*

May Anniversaries

We wish a very happy anniversary to these couples celebrating in the month of May

- May 6, 1978
Bonnie and John Griffin

- May 8, 2004
Lori and Timothy Benedict

- May 26, 1984
Jane and John Norris

- May 28, 1960
Shirley and Leland Wright

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Back by Popular Demand!
by the Rev. Larry Deyss

Well, maybe that is a bit of an exaggeration; however some folk who gathered for the book study "Eco-Reformation – Grace and Hope for a Planet in Peril" have indicated interest in a follow- up group. Your pastor and I have set the date of Sunday, May 19, 2019 at noon, following worship and fellowship, for interested folk to gather and discuss our next steps.

As a way of "jump starting" that process I am attaching a copy of "A Way Forward for Creation Care" (pages 5 & 6). This document was presented by the Peacemaking Task Force to the Presbytery at its meeting on March 26, 2019 where it passed unanimously and received strong positive comments for being a timely and helpful document for the Presbytery and congregations.

How appropriate it is in this continuing season of Easter for us to be gathering to talk about new life and hope that is present in this season as we move ahead with the positive work of creation care as the people of New Scotland Presbyterian Church.

All are welcome to the May 19th gathering.

A Way Forward for Creation Care

We believe that care of the earth is an urgent moral, theological, spiritual issue of our time.

We believe that we are living during a kairos time in which God calls us to act while the window is still open for averting even greater damage to the earth and all that is in it.

We believe that our faith is instructed by biblical texts that remind us: the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it; that we are to till and tend; we are to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with the Lord; we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

We believe that the Creator God loves the whole of Creation and, as God loves, we are called to love.

We believe that God so loves the world that God came to us in Christ to be our Savior.

We believe that God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that world might be saved through him.

We believe that the Church is called to witness its faith in God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer who calls us into the work of reconciliation, so that peace and justice may be manifested throughout God's creation.

We believe the above statements are true. Yet we also know that we can feel overwhelmed by the task at hand and do not know where or how to begin. We know the forces of evil and darkness are strong, making us feel that whatever we might do is too little in the face of the enormity of the problem. We can become discouraged, depressed and defeated before we start. Such is the power of evil. However, in Christ's name we pray for strength, grace and a way forward to act on faith and to stand with God in acts of love and caring for creation.

We believe that God is with us and calls us out of crippling fear and into empowering hope.

We believe that faith and hope are treasures not to be buried out of fear, but rather are a means which strengthen and lead us into action.

We believe as people of faith, that every action has its beginning in prayer and then moves forward to do the work of Christ in the world.

We believe our actions need to flow out of four keys areas as we live the faith: worship, education, stewardship and witnessing. We offer the following, not as solutions, but as a beginning in a way forward for creation care:

Worship -

That in our daily prayers we give thanks for the wonder of creation and ask God's guidance in honoring God by honoring God's good creation.

That in our Lord's Day Worship we weave creation care into liturgy via hymns, prayers of confession, prayers of petition, thanksgiving and sermons being mindful of the many references to the earth in the scripture and their use in preaching.

Education:

That In our education programs we engage in learning more about what the Scripture has to say in words of hope and of challenge and that we be open to earth care in our study, discussion, planning and practice.

Stewardship (Caring & Conservation)

That we examine our current use of energy and seek to reduce our use of fossil fuels as we practice conservation in the various areas of our life.

Witness:

That we lift up our voices and promote those things that manifest our faith in God and our desire to protect the earth, thus honoring God, the earth and all that is in it.

Therefore, as members of the Peacemaking Task Force of Albany Presbytery we recommend the following actions:

- That the Albany Presbytery affirm, by voice vote, the above statements.
- That the Presbytery of Albany be mindful of the various statements and writings produced by the General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and seek to live in the spirit of the continuing work of Creation Care. For further information see www.pcusa.org/earth-care-congregations
- That in our life as the Presbytery of Albany, we witness to the importance of Creation Care by regularly folding into the work of the Presbytery Worship, Education, Stewardship and Witness that strengthens and supports the work of Creation Care recognizing the urgency and importance that we engage in timely action now.
- That the Presbytery and its churches and members be open and supportive of community organizations working for Creation Care and that we seek and support ecumenical and interfaith linkages for the larger work of the people of God.
- That the Presbytery of Albany encourage our churches and members to lift up prayers and actions which reflect love of God, love of neighbor and love of the earth, which is God's good creation, and thereby honor God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Peacemaking Task Force of Albany Presbytery

Dear Church Family and Friends,

We are in the process of filling appointments for our new picture directory. I am hoping for 100% participation. A photo directory is one of the most important ways that we have to know one another and to welcome new members into our community. Our album is as important to our church family as your family photo album is to you in your home. You will also find the family roster very useful for phone numbers and addresses. Just like your family portrait, our family church album will become a very important keepsake in the years to come.

Thank you for being a part,
The Rev. Holly S. Cameron

Photography Dates at our Church

Wednesday, June 5, 1:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 6, 1:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Please make your appointment by signing up on Sunday after church on May 12th,
May 26th, or June 2nd.

You can also sign up on line at <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yq9jnekm/>

or call Life Touch directly at 1-866-756-0281 (M-F, 9-5 p.m.)
or Bonnie O'Shea at (518) 439-9433.

We encourage you to bring a meaningful item, such as your pet, favorite team shirt, instrument, etc. We want your picture to tell your family story. You can also schedule to have generational portraits taken. They make wonderful gifts and become a treasured keepsake!

Bring a non-perishable "Feed the Need" item to the photo shoot and you will receive an additional \$5 off your purchase.

Thank you in advance for being part of this important ministry!
We look forward to seeing YOU in pictures!

As a thank you, each family receives a free 8 x 10 portrait and Directory. There is no obligation or pressure to purchase.

Invite your friends to come and have their portraits taken as well.