



# **LISTEN** to *The ChurchMouse*

*New Scotland Presbyterian Church*

*April 2024*

*"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"*



## ***Our Church's Impact*** by Rev. Holly Cameron

**A** favorite phrase in church circles right now is "all churches are in transition." I think it means that all churches are learning what it means to be church in a post-pandemic world. We all had to pivot in 2020 to learn how to be church when we could not be in the same room together. We all had to figure out how to stay connected by electronic means, and how to worship while apart. Now that the pandemic is past, we have to re-learn how to be together in person, and how to continue an online presence. An ongoing question that all churches are considering is "how can church be relevant in the 21st century?"

Our Presbyterian Foundation Representative, Rose Niles, has challenged us to share our stories of our church's impact. Many of us have personal stories of how our church touches our lives. And many have stories of how we see our church having an impact in our community. In the past few weeks, we have started to share some of our stories in worship.

Here is a story from Bonnie O'Shea:

*It has been a difficult year for many of us, especially my family as we mourn loved ones who have passed away in recent months. We are challenged even more so this week, as we learned of Margaret's unexpected passing. I take this opportunity to speak of the love and support that comes from the heart of this church – its people. Each and every person here has been connected to me deeply, and brings me the strength to move forward, and reminds me to do the same for others. I gladly share what I have*

*with the church, whether it's my time or my financial support, in order to maintain it and the community that is its core.*

And here is a story I shared:

*A few months ago, a frantic mom came into my office. Her family lives in the trailer park next to church and she explained the school bus had to stop across the street, so the kids had to cross two lanes of traffic to get home. This was frightening for the kids and the parents. She said, "Is there anyway the school bus can turn around in the church's parking lot, so the kids come off the bus on this side of the street?" I said, "of course," and she looked stunned. "Really?" she asked. "Of course," I said. "We want to be a good neighbor, and we certainly want the kids to be safe." When I told the Session, they all said the same thing. "Of course. We want to be a good neighbor. We want the kids to be safe!" We are blessed to be in such a caring and giving church, longing to love our neighbors.*

What are your stories of what our church means to you? What brings you joy in our church? What is meaningful to you in being part of our church family? Where do you see our church making a difference? I would love to hear your stories as we seek to shine our light through the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

Faithfully, +Holly



April's Mission Collection . . .

## One Great Hour of Sharing

*Restoring hope, feeding the hungry, and empowering the oppressed*

In a world of disaster, hunger and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

For more than fifty years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need through supporting One Great Hour of Sharing. The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly.

## A Spring Nature Walk at Heldeberg Workshop

The Earth Care Congregations of Albany Presbytery invite you to join us for a 60-90 minute gentle (slow) walk to see the Spring flowers in bloom!

We're offering two dates, Wednesday, April 24 and Saturday, April 27. Both walks will start at 10:00 am at Heldeberg Workshop, located at 353 Picard Road in Altamont.

Our walk will be guided by our own Dorothy Matthews, who will point out different species of flowers and answer any questions.

Since it can be damp and rainy in April, we recommend hiking boots, or shoes that can withstand a bit of mud if the weather is inclement. We will plan to walk if it's drizzling and misty, but will cancel if it is a total rain out.

If interested, please RSVP to [Office@NewScotlandPC.org](mailto:Office@NewScotlandPC.org) so we can let you know if the walk ends up cancelled due to a complete rain out.

Unfortunately, this walk is not handicap accessible. You may want to carry a walking stick, but it isn't necessary to do so. And of course, be sure to dress for the day's weather forecast. We will take our time and proceed slowly.

Don't miss out on these mornings of exploration, learning, and fun in the great outdoors.

Heldeberg Workshop offers a wide variety of spring, summer and fall learning programs for all ages, including archery, fossil hunting, K-9 search and rescue, acting classes, scavenger hunts, and much, much more.

The Heldeberg Workshop is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing "An Adventure in Learning." It is chartered by the Board of Regents and is located on over 240 acres at the foot of the Heldeberg Escarpment in the Town of New Scotland.



Every gift makes a difference in the life of someone who deserves God's love and support.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT  
03.02.22-04.17.22





# *In Loving Memory*

*Of Margaret Elizabeth Ewart, 1964—2024*

**M**argaret Elizabeth Ewart died Thursday, March 21, 2024. Margaret placed family, friends, the arts, nature and travel at the forefront of her 59 years of life. Beloved daughter of Dr. Mervyn and Mary Ewart, both deceased, Margaret's unexpected death leaves a tremendous void in the lives of her brother Robert (Julie) Ewart and their children Melissa, Anne and Michael Ewart; feline family members Henry, Myfanwy and Angharrait; and extended family and friends around the world. A graduate of Voorheesville High School and Hampshire College, Margaret was a gifted artist who captured the beauty of local landscapes and wildlife through her paintings, and most recently applied her talents to theatre sets for local productions.

While she called the Albany area home throughout her life, Margaret was a prolific traveler whose lengthy list of global destinations included Ghana and Nicaragua, the Galapagos Islands, Wales and Ireland; the latter two the countries from which her parents' ancestors emigrated. Margaret's adventurousness extended to food, and she was always delighted to try unique ethnic specialties. She also loved to cook and leaves behind a large and eclectic collection of recipe books.

Margaret's travels were enhanced by her great facility with languages, and she was proficient in French, Spanish and most recently, Welsh. After her father's death in 2009, she and her mother began to learn Welsh together,



and while the pandemic curtailed many activities, they continued their Welsh language studies through active participation in virtual classes that also expanded their network of friends.

In recent decades, Margaret was a devoted caregiver for both of her parents. Her loving care allowed both to enjoy a high quality of life until their deaths.

Margaret was also passionate about environmental issues. She advocated to protect endangered animal species, grow native plants and practice recycling through multiple forums. Those included the New Scotland Presbyterian Church and her Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO) chapter, for which she held many leadership positions and devoted countless volunteer hours to charitable initiatives, from bringing groceries to immobilized seniors to leading art classes for children.

Margaret was a faithful friend, and many of her friendships were lifelong. Her gift for friendship extended to animals, and her pets -- all rescued, or adopted from shelters -- became cherished members of her family.

Funeral services were held on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 11:00 am at New Scotland Presbyterian Church, 2010 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands. Donations in her honor may be made to the New Scotland Presbyterian Church, PEO International, or the World Wildlife Fund.





# Prayer List

The prayer list is maintained by the Deacons. If you have questions about anyone on the list, or would like to add or remove someone from the list, contact Tamara Shaw, [CliftonRun@gmail.com](mailto:CliftonRun@gmail.com).

- Marie Bailey ..... (Tamara Shaw’s mom)
- Laurel and Mark Beavers
- Melanie Thornton Capraro ..... (Karen & Tim Thornton’s daughter)
- Danny Carroll ..... (Chris Gordon’s brother)
- Linda Caruso ..... (Tamara Shaw’s friend)
- Jim Clark ..... (Homer Warner’s friend)
- Randy Craft ..... (Debbie Craft’s husband)
- Phil Darcy ..... (John Relyea’s friend)
- Dom DeCastro ..... (Pat Hammond’s family member)
- Melanie Dykstra ..... (Betsy Bates’ friend)
- Family and friends of Margaret Ewart
- Evelyn Fuglein
- Family of Lois Hessberg ..... (Former Presbytery Moderator)
- Family of Barbara Johnson ..... (the Rev. Earl Johnson’s wife)
- Jimmy Kelly ..... (Bill Kerr’s nephew)
- David Kinerson ..... (Larry Deyss’ brother-in-law)
- The Rev. Kate Kotfila ..... (retired pastor of Albany Presbytery)
- Steven Lampone ..... (Brian Nopper’s nephew)
- Aidan Lawson ..... (Robin Shufelt’s friend)
- Stephanie Markus ..... (Robin Shufelt’s friend)
- Martha Oden
- Family of Joe Rizzo ..... (Pat Hammond’s friend)
- The Rev. Bill Shram ..... (Interim pastor in Albany Presbytery)
- Brad Simon ..... (Tim & Christine Gordon’s family member)



*Gracious and loving God, we lift up all those facing difficulties this day.  
Give them the hope and courage they need today and every day.  
Comfort their pain, calm their fears, and surround them with Your peace.*

- Please also extend your prayers for:
- the people of Israel, Gaza, & the Middle East
  - the people of Ukraine
  - our military personnel and their families.



### April Anniversaries

### April Birthdays

Erik Craft..... 4-3  
 Cynthia Griffin ..... 4-16  
 Jason Russell..... 4-18  
 Noah Thornton ..... 4-19  
 Wally Throop ..... 4-21

Mardell & Paul Steinkamp..... 4-4-64  
 Ruth & Richard Von Haugg ..... 4-6-73  
 Daisy & Tom Elmendorf..... 4-22-94  
 Deb & John Blakely..... 4-22-95  
 Lisa & Ray Youngman..... 4-22-95  
 Denise & Mike Riedy..... 4-22-11  
 Diane & Frank Bode..... 4-30-83



Those fabulous gentlemen of the Mendelssohn Club will be performing their Spring concert on Friday, May 17 at 7:30 pm, Chancellors Hall, NYS Education Building. This year, their 115th season, the Club will present songs from favorite Broadway musicals, and feature guest baritone Joseph Han, Assistant Professor at SUNY Schenectady. For group ticket discount, see John Griffin.

### St. Matthew's Church BBQ

25 Mountainview St., Voorheesville

**Tuesday, April 30, 4-7:00 pm**

Pulled Pork or BBQ Chicken

Mac&Cheese		Roasted Potatoes
Coleslaw	<b>\$15</b>	Coleslaw
Corn Bread		Corn Bread
Cookie		Cookie

**Prepaid orders required.** Contact: Peggy McQuade, [st.mattswelcome@gmail.com](mailto:st.mattswelcome@gmail.com)  
**Deadline for orders is April 21.**  
 Catered by Frese's

Voorheesville/New Scotland

### Volunteer Day

**Saturday, May 18, 9:00 — 12:00 pm**

Help seniors and other neighbors in need with yard work, or help spruce up our environment!

**Sign up by May 10 at**  
**[NewScotlandKiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:NewScotlandKiwanis@gmail.com)**

*Organized by the Town of New Scotland,  
New Scotland Kiwanis  
& Voorheesville Key Club.*



On March 30 we held a community Easter egg hunt. We were blessed to have 14 kids join us for the fun. The sun was shining and the kids had a great time. Thanks go out to Bonnie O'Shea, Catherine Russell, and the Brady/Stefaniak family for all their work in putting this event together.

## NSPC is Once Again Certified as a PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation

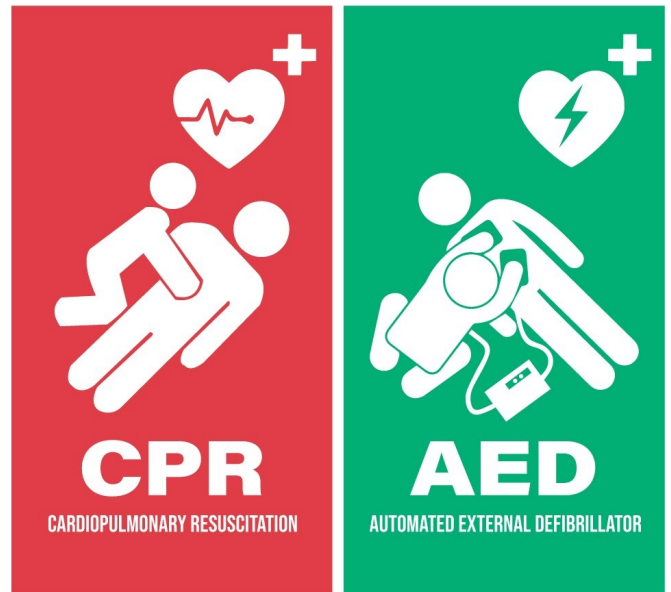
We are proud to announce that our status as an Earth Care Congregation has been renewed again this year. This status speaks to the serious commitment that our church has made to care for God's earth.



To become an Earth Care Congregation, our congregation affirmed an Earth Care Pledge to integrate environmental practices and thinking into our worship, education, facilities, and outreach.



On Easter we all decorated the barren cross with flowers to make it a symbol of new life!



## AED/CPR Training

In 2016, we installed our Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which can be used in an emergency when someone is having a heart problem. It's time for a refresher class on how the unit works. On Sunday, April 28, after coffee hour, we will review the AED unit, and learn CPR. Alexandra and Mitchell Donovan are our instructors. All are welcome and encouraged to be part of this important training!



## March 2024 Session Meeting

Session met on March 14<sup>th</sup> and discussed a number of topics.

It was reported that our church has received the designation of being an Earth Care Congregation for the second year in a row. We are one of four churches in Albany Presbytery, along with the Glens Falls, Albany Westminster, and Delmar churches.

Though we had been notified at the time, we officially received information from Archtop, who had wanted to buy part of our property for installation of a building to house fiber-optic equipment for supplying internet to the area. Since our last meeting with their representatives, Archtop has withdrawn their proposal and will look elsewhere. A question was raised as to whether we wanted to reach back out to Archtop's President about the project. Session unanimously voted to accept Archtop's decision and not reach out to them.

There was a request from the family of Lois Hessberg to hold her funeral at our church this Spring. Lois was a former Moderator of Albany Presbytery. That request was approved.

There has also been a request to hold a baptism on June 16<sup>th</sup> for Ari Van-Robert Young, the newborn son of Randy Young and Rachel Ambuhl. That request was also approved.

CDC has made recent updates to their guidelines, and the Session voted in favor of removing the blue tape along the pews and remove social distancing guidelines. We will continue to keep the collection plates at the back of the church as many of us now donate online.

Session also approved our first Easter Egg Hunt on church property. It will be held on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. All children are welcome to attend, and may wish to bring a friend!

Children's Day is going to be held on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. We hope that many of our members will be present that day to support our youngest church members.

As a follow-up to our visit with Rose Niles and brainstorming ideas to be an outward-

looking church in our community, we discussed ways that we could potentially promote our church activity. We are planning to hold more chicken barbeques, and to begin hosting a Flea Market with antique vendors, to be held on the first Saturday of each month for six months. Jane Norris will start lining this up, and we hope to have the first event on May 4. We are thinking of incorporating a garage sale component for certain months, as well. The day after the

Session meeting, a couple of us met with John Fong, who is running programs in the presbytery to boost church membership. In addition to our Easter Egg Hunt, we decided to create an invitation for each member of the church to invite another person to Easter Services this year. A small gift will be provided to guests. Anyone who has additional ideas are invited to share them with Reverend Cameron or any Session Elder.



### SESSION MEETING



### Equal Exchange (Fair Trade) Order

We are getting ready to order items for the Equal Exchange (Fair Trade) table downstairs. Please let Mardell Steinkamp know what items you like to buy, and she will be sure to include them. You can see Mardell at church or text her at 518-441-1834.



*Surprise! Another set of adorable twins!  
It's pretty easy to see that this is Finance Secretary Sarita Winchell  
(on the right) with her sister Lydia.*



## ***Building on Generosity Workshop***

**O**n Monday, April 22, our Presbyterian Foundation Representative, Rose Niles, will be with us for our second meeting focusing on stewardship and generosity. We'll start gathering about 5:30 p.m. for a light supper and then Rose will lead us in creating a mission statement and vision plan. Generosity grows from clarity of mission and vision. All are welcome and encouraged to join us in deep discernment of our mission and vision to live into resurrection hope and joy.



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April 2024*



*"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"*

The Rev. Holly S. Cameron..... Pastor  
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