



LISTEN to *The ChurchMouse*

New Scotland Presbyterian Church
July 2022

"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"



A Call to Responsibility by the Rev. Holly Cameron

Last month I traveled to Washington DC for the Poor People's Campaign March. As I mentioned last month, the Poor People's Campaign was started in 1968 by Martin Luther King, Jr., when there were about 50 million people in our country living in poverty. Fifty years later, about 140 million people are living in poverty – almost three times as many! So the Rev. William Barber, II revived the Poor People's Campaign.

At the march there were speakers from every state, to tell their stories of working multiple jobs, of not having health insurance, of not being able to get a job because of their gender identity, of being able to make ends meet until their spouse died, of being fired because they needed to go to the bathroom during work hours, of having companies dumping hazardous waste in their neighborhood, of politicians and employers making policy based on profits instead of well-being. I believe the idea of having speakers from every state was to show that the poor are not just in the South, or just in urban ghettos, or just those who live way out in the sticks. The poor are everywhere.

In a way, that was what brought hope to the day. Because when you are struggling, or can't get a job, or are being beaten down at work, or can't get the healthcare you need, or are mourning the loss of a family member, or can't believe that a totally unfair law has been passed, it can feel like you are all alone. And if you are alone, despair sets in, and change seems impossible. It was hopeful to be gathered with thousands of people, hearing these stories, and knowing that, together, we can bring change for those who suffer.

In his book, [The Gospel for the Person Who Has Everything](#), Bishop Will Willomon notes

that throughout the Bible, those who are prosperous are entrusted with great responsibility. The poor are always the responsibility of the rich. And in the Bible, to be "rich" simply means that you own something – that you have a roof over your head, and enough food for each day.

In the Bible it is not the responsibility of widows and orphans to fend for themselves. There is nothing in the Bible

about the "deserving" or "undeserving" poor, but there is often talk about the "undeserving rich."

In the Bible the poor are the responsibility of the rich simply because the poor are powerless, and the rich are powerful. We, who live in a part of the world that controls 80% of the world's resources – in a country where less than 20% of the world's population consumes over half of the world's resources – need to hear that call to responsibility.

The poor are everywhere. And the Bible says those of us who have a roof over our heads and enough food to eat every day, are responsible for them. Jesus said those who follow him should feed the hungry, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, visit those in prison, and welcome the stranger.

Jesus invites us to follow him, because a full life is found not in being rich, but in giving ourselves wholly to God, and following God's way. We do that by coming together as a community. It is in community that we find support to share our stories of struggle. It is in community that we listen to the stories of brokenness around us. It is in community that we ask for God's help so we may serve those who are suffering.

It is God's strength, God's purpose, and God's courage working through us that makes all the difference in our lives and in the world.





Tired of snail mail taking forever to send you your copy of *The Churchmouse*? Sign up to receive it via email and you'll get it much sooner and save the church a stamp! Hard copies are also available in the church lobby. Contact the office if you'd like to make the switch!

History Cabinet Hits a Home Run!

Kevin Dwyer became a New York Mets fan in 1969 and Ryan adopted his father's passion for the Mets and baseball in general. The history cabinet now houses just a portion of their memorabilia and collectibles. Ryan and Kevin share a wealth of knowledge of statistics and trivia about "America's national pastime." Father and son have enjoyed many trips to the old Shea stadium, and more recently, Citi Field, to see their favorite team in person and they watch the games on TV together when schedules allow.

The baseball collection will be on display during the summer months. We would love to share another member's collection/hobby for the months of September through November. Advent through epiphany features the church's Christmas decorations. January through March will be another opportunity to share a collection. Brenda Dwyer is available to help set up.

Children's Day 2022

Sunday School came to an end for this year on June 5th and the children displayed a banner they had been working on using a variety of felt pieces, buttons, sequins, pipe cleaners and glitter. They had learned a number of lessons this year about Jesus welcoming all people to hear the word of God, no matter what their status, ethnicity or religion. Their banner reflects that love for all people and they wanted any person entering our church to feel that love as well.

Joint Summer Worship Schedule



We will join with our neighbors at First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville for worship this summer as follows:

July 24 & 31

First United Methodist Church
68 Maple Avenue, Voorheesville
Rev. Holly Cameron leading

August 7 & 14

New Scotland Presbyterian Church
Pastor Quincie Yamin leading

Please mark your calendars!



The 2022 Children's Day Banner

The Daily News & The Good News

by Larry A. Deyss, Pastor in the Pew

Reading the morning paper can get your day off to a bad start, however we must read it to be an informed citizen because a healthy democracy depends upon it. Reading the news often brings us several stories of pain and suffering as seen in the Ukraine and here at home with the shooting in Uvalde Texas, killing 19 students and 3 adults. We are left with deep feelings of grief, pain and anger. That shooting was followed by the killing of ten people at a Tops Store in Buffalo. It is almost a daily occurrence to learn about another life taken by a shooter. We ask, "How many more will die by gun violence before we will take meaningful steps to reduce this madness, this scourge upon the lives of innocent children?"

The news brings us other accounts of pain and suffering, some of it in more slow motion, such as the destruction of the earth with climate change that continues largely unabated.

The daily news also brings us stories of hope and progress, but often those accounts seem to be fewer in number. No wonder we want to finish the news with reading Beetle Bailey or Blondie and Dagwood.

Given the daily diet of painful and troubling news, how are we to maintain a balance in our lives? How do we keep from being totally weighed down and driven into despair and hopelessness? How does one keep from throwing up their hands and saying, "I am done!"



My response is that in addition to reading the daily news, we also need to read "The Good News," also known as The Gospel. It is called The Good News because it speaks about the sovereign God who is at work in us and in creation itself. God speaks to us through the scriptures and God also speaks to us through Creation.

In addition to a morning prayer time with scripture, it is important to take time just sitting and being present to Creation. For me, that means morning coffee while I watch birds at the feeder. There is something about birds that raises in us delight, joy and peace. In birds we come to see the richness and beauty of creation, and we become mindful of the larger creation of which we are all a part. In contemplation we come to realize the richness and mystery of life and in that awareness we are moved to care for the earth and each other.

It is important for us to be kept current with what is happening in the daily news. It is only by being informed and active citizens that we will be able to keep this Republic. However, as important as information is, it will not be enough to keep our hearts, souls and minds healthy and grounded in the larger reality, so we have the strength and grace to do the work that we need to do and are called to do. For that, we need daily prayer, which keeps us open to God who is present in our lives and present through all of Creation.

*The church office
will be closed
on Tuesday, July 5.
Wishing you a safe
and happy
4th of July!*



Challenging Times for Church Finances

Summer is always a challenging time financially for the church as people take time away from worship to gather with friends and family, and go on vacation. While you are enjoying that time away, our church staff is still working hard, and monthly bills still need to be paid.

The big picture is that our church is facing a challenge right now as a few of our regular income sources have dropped off. As of this writing we have had to take four drawdowns from our endowment fund to help pay our bills this year, for a total of \$17,000. And July is a month with extra expenses as our quarterly payroll taxes are due.

Our Financial Secretary, Sarita Winchell, provides more details here:

Like so many churches, our Church is under real financial pressure. To understand why, it is helpful to understand what constitutes the big pieces of our financial puzzle. Below is a short summary.

The total amount of money on hand at the Church is called Equity, which is the sum of all the Church's asset funds (cash in the checking account, the Endowment Fund, the Winne/Bender Trusts and the Memorials Fund) minus any outstanding liabilities. For January 1, 2022, this number was \$118,654.39. As of June 1, 2022, the equity number was \$92,274.46 for a **loss of \$26,379.93**. Although \$92,274.46 is still

a fairly healthy number, the Church needs to recognize that this change in position has happened.

Why has this happened? First, the budget approved by the Church includes a \$35,894 deficit. This means that even though expenses and revenue may be incurred as planned, there is a **built in need** for more revenue to be received, or less expenditures made than what is presented in the budget. If that "extra revenue" is not received, even if expenses do not exceed the budget, the only way

to cover costs is to draw down from the Church's investments, or spend less than what is budgeted. Through May 31, 2022, expenditures have exceeded revenue by **\$13,076.08**.

Second, not only has the Church pulled money out of investments to cover the deficit in the budget, there has been an incurred loss in investments due to financial market activity. Total investment accounts through May 31 have decreased by **\$13,303.85** due to draw downs and market activity.

The budget shortfall of **\$13,076.08** plus the investment portfolio change of **\$13,303.85** equals **\$26,379.93**, which is the total decrease in the Church's equity through May 31, 2022.

Please take a moment to support our church with your financial gift. Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you soon!



Thanks
for Your
Support!

Attention T-Coil Hearing Aid Users

We are looking to upgrade our mic system and our hearing assist devices. We are learning about hearing systems with "T-coils" and wonder how extensively they might be used. If you have a hearing aid with a t-coil (sometimes called a t-loop, or telephone switch option) we would love to hear from you! Please let our Buildings & Grounds Chair John Griffin or the Rev. Cameron know if you might find a T-Loop system at church helpful to your worship experience



July Anniversaries

- Albert & Kristen Miller7/7/212
- Jennifer & Bill Crawford.....7/8/95
- Brenda & Kevin Dwyer 7/23/77
- Brianne & Garrett Roberts7/23/11
- Joseph & Barbara Huth7/26/98

July Birthdays

- Kelsey Roberts7/4
- Jack Scaccia 7/7
- Janet Willey7/20
- Lynn Kohler7/20
- Teagan Riedy7/24
- Rebecca Crawford7/25
- Debbie Fuglein.....7/26
- Jim Nicholson, Jr.....7/26
- Grovene Phelps7/29
- Raebeth Vosburgh7/29
- Debra Craft.....7/30
- Lisa Youngman7/30
- Kristin Gordon 7/31



This adorable little girl is none other than Corinne Weeks!



Thanks for playing, Corinnee!

Who's Next?!

PRAYER LIST

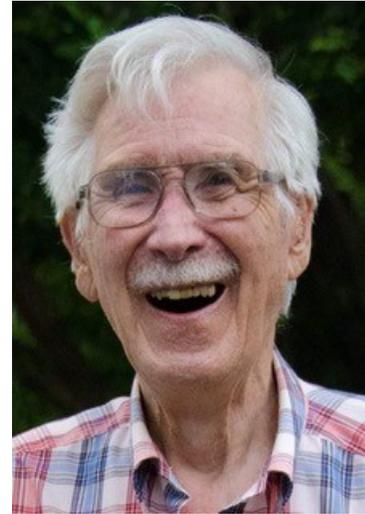
- Lisa Allendorph
- Laurel & Mark Beavers
- Melanie Thornton Capraro
(Karen & Tim Thornton's daughter)
- Bill Carroll
(Chris Gordon's father)
- Danny Carroll
(Chris Gordon's brother)
- Linda Caruso
(Tamara Shaw's friend)
- Amy Chew
(Holly Cameron's friend)
- Randy Craft
(Debbie Craft's husband)
- Carole Elmendorf
- Carl George
(Christine Cameron's husband)
- Dot Geyer
(Judy Riopelle's friend)
- Wendy Hijos
(Sharon Hildebrandt's friend)
- Joe Huth
- Lynn Illingworth
(Beth Illingworth's father)
- Aidan Lawson
(Robin Shufelt's friend)
- Linda Mabie
(Peg Throop's friend)
- Michael Manss
(Robin Shufelt's friend)
- Tony Merritt
(Tim & Christine Gordon's in-law)
- Gerald Minor
(Joyce Schork's brother)
- Joyce Schork
- Bob Wagner
(Don Wagner's brother)
- Shirley Wright
- Euni Yang
(Pastor Charlie Yang's wife)

We Mourn the Loss of . . .

Cynthia Whitney Brickman *October 20, 1939 — April 30, 2022*



Samuel Adelbert Youmans *July 8, 1921 — May 9, 2022*



Cynthia Whitney Brickman, beloved wife of the late Raymond Brickman, died on April 30, 2022 at age 82. She was graduated from Albany High School and went on to complete her BS degree at the State University at Albany.

Cynthia married her husband in 1965 and they relocated to Bergenfield, NJ where she enjoyed her time as a Sunday school teacher.

She moved back to the Albany area in 1988 to spend her retirement years closer to her family. Cynthia had a wonderful, warm smile that could light up a room. She cherished her cats, Lovey and Sophie, appreciated nature, the Bible and children. She was a member of both the Helderberg Reformed Church and more recently, our church.

Cynthia is survived by her sisters, Gloria Frantzen and Pamela Connell, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and their families.

Memorial contributions may be made to the New Scotland Presbyterian Church on our web site, NewScotlandPC.org and note that your gift is in Cynthia's memory.

Sam Youmans of Voorheesville, beloved husband of the late Kathryn Elizabeth (nee Sofield) Youmans, died on Monday, May 9, 2022 at age 100. He was raised on the family dairy and poultry farm, Youmans Farms in New Scotland.

After Youmans Farms was sold, he established his own building improvement service. He was active in the New Scotland Kiwanis Club, Senior Citizens and was a charter member of the New Scotland Historical Association. He was recently honored for 84 years of membership in our church, where he served on many boards and committees over the years.

Sam is survived by his daughter, Donna Clark and her husband, John; by two sons, David Youmans and his wife, Sharon, and Timothy Youmans and his wife, Margene; by his daughter-in-law Mary Youmans, and by nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the New Scotland Presbyterian Church on our web site, NewScotlandPC.org and note that your gift is in Sam's memory.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Session Meeting Notes – June 2, 2022

We met via Zoom and discussed a number of things.

The Clerk of Session reported on the recent deaths of Cindy Brickman and Sam Youmans.

We then discussed the Presbytery Officer Training program that most of Session and Deacons attended; those who weren't able to log on to the program that day can access it through a recording the Presbytery made for that purpose.

There have been two presbytery meetings since we last met. A few items from those meetings: the Bethany Church has merged with the Loudonville Church. The Bethany Church building will be sold and they are looking for a new home for an 8-foot by 3-foot stained glass window of Jesus. It was also noted that Elder Robert Trawick has been installed as the new Executive Presbyter for Albany Presbytery. He shared his hopes and dreams for our presbytery, including to build up communication, to streamline processes, and to recognize that all churches are in transition. Lastly, the Rev. Amaury Tañón-Santos will be the incoming presbytery moderator this fall, serving a two-year term.

We granted the use of our Fellowship Hall on July 11, to the local chapter of PEO. Also, the Gamblers Anonymous group that met in our church for ten years will no longer be using our building for meetings.

There was a short report on this year's CROP Walk from our Mission Committee: Rev. Cameron, Jim Nicholson, Mary Jean Riley, and Gene Urgento walked from our church.

The Deacons reported that they delivered 27 Easter plants with the help of some others, and are ready to provide home communion to those who cannot come to church in person. They also reported that Rachel Crawford and Sean Gordon graduated from college this May.

Congregational Life Committee reported that Children's Day would be held on June 5, with a presentation of a banner made by the children during Sunday School that announces all people are welcome in our church. They also decided to hold our celebration of Membership Anniversaries in the fall, rather than in June as originally planned.

Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that they have updated the temperature, smoke, and water sensors in the building as part of our insurance coverage. They are

looking for a contractor who can address the crumbling crenelated parapet on top of the steeple. It was also noted that we have been getting feedback from our lavalier microphone in the sanctuary, so we are looking to upgrade that

part of our sound system. In addition, we are investigating an upgrade to our hearing assist devices, including a "loop" system that works with existing hearing aids of guests.

As for our month-long trial with the consultant who worked to build the Church's presence on Facebook, Session is not sure that spending money on this is a good use of our funds. We will look into other possible funding resources.

The book discussion group was set for Tuesday, June 14, to discuss Dirt: the Ecstatic Skin of the Earth, written by William Bryant Logan. Fourteen people from six churches have been participating in our recent book discussions.

Our summer Joint Service schedule is set with First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville. Sundays, July 24 and 31 will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Methodist Church with the Rev. Cameron leading worship. Sundays August 7 and 14 will be held at 10:00 a.m. at New Scotland Presbyterian with Pastor Quincie Yamin leading worship.

Pastor's Report: the Rev. Cameron had a very productive book study leave in May and thanks the congregation for that time. She reported that she prepared and officiated at the funeral for Cindy Brickman during that first week of leave. She was invited to the Poor People's March in Washington, D.C. on June 18th and the Rev. Kathi Jones agreed to fill the pulpit that day. The Rev. Cameron also reported on the plans being made for Sam Youmans' funeral on June 13.

We noted that our financial situation at church is challenging right now. Our income sources are down and we have had to take three



SESSION MEETING



Given in memory of Sam & Kay Youmans

thank you

This lovely oil painting was gifted to New Scotland Presbyterian Church on June 13, 2022 by the children of Samuel A. and Kathryn E. Youmans in loving memory of their parents. Sam and Kathryn are survived by their daughter, Donna Clark (John) of Ledyard, CT; two sons, David Youmans (Sharon) of East Greenbush, NY and Timothy Youmans (Margene) of Winchester, VA. A heartfelt “thank you” goes out to Donna, David and Timothy for their thoughtfulness in sharing this beautiful depiction of our church. We will treasure it.



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 New Scotland Presbyterian Church
 July 2022



“Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary”

The Rev. Holly S. Cameron.....Pastor
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 Pastor’s email address.....Pastor@NewScotlandPC.org
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Presbytery Retirement Party for Dan Rogers

On Wednesday, July 6 from 5-8:00 pm, join Albany Presbytery to celebrate Dan Rogers’ retirement.

Dan was the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery through 2020, and we never had a chance to celebrate him! Brown’s Brewing in Troy, 417 River Street, Troy; \$15 dinner buffet, cash bar. RSVP Requested, call Judy at 217-840-3316.

Centennial Birthday Wish

Betsy Bates’ mother is turning 100 on July 19, and the family is hoping to have 100 cards sent to her. If you would like to send a card, note that you are from New Scotland Presbyterian and a friend of Betsy’s. Mail to: Eleanor Gifford, 27 Pearl St, Gloversville NY 12078.

Session Meeting Notes

(continued from page 7)

withdrawals from our endowment fund so far this year to cover expenses, for a total of \$13,000 (note: subsequent to this meeting, a fourth drawdown was taken). There are a few factors contributing to our current difficulties, and our Financial Secretary, Sarita Winchell, agreed to work with the Rev. Cameron to put more information out so the congregation is aware.+

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39.