



LISTEN to *The ChurchMouse*

*New Scotland Presbyterian Church
March 2022*

"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"



Lent: An Opportunity to Trust in God *by the Rev. Holly Cameron*

Lent is based on the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness. Luke tells us that Jesus fasted for those forty days. He gave up food and companionship and the rhythm of his everyday life. So, in Lent, we think about what kinds of things we might give up. Maybe it's a habit we'd like to step away from; maybe it's a fast from the overwhelming words of the media or social media; maybe it's a fast from frivolous entertainment, shows, or games; maybe it's a fast from purchasing. Hundreds of years ago, Christians gave up eating meat on Fridays, and gave that money to the poor. So, part of our giving something up is to make space for something else. Maybe we spend more time writing, or visiting, or reading – something to feed our own souls, something to connect us with those who are feeling disconnected.

Whatever we make of this Lenten season, Jesus' story reminds us that when we change our routines, we can feel a little lost, like we are in the wilderness. The wilderness is the place the Israelite slaves experienced God in the parting of the Red Sea. The wilderness is the place where Moses brought them commandments from the mountain. So we are reminded that while the wilderness may feel a little lonely, we are never really alone in our wilderness. Wilderness is the place that God meets us, God saves us, God tells us what God dreams for us. Even in our darkest hour, angels are nearby to wait on us, just as they did for Jesus.

The invitation of Lent is to see if we can deepen our trust in the presence of God. On the first Sunday of Lent, we were invited to

make a card. On one side, we wrote down something that is important and that we feel confident of God's support – it could be the love of our family; could be our job; could be our relationship with God. After we wrote down that thing, somewhere on that side we wrote the word "Trust." We trust that God supports us in the thing we wrote down.

Then we flipped the card over. On that side of the card, we wrote down one thing that seems difficult to trust to God right now. Maybe it's a particular relationship, a decision about job or school, something challenging at work or at home, something that seems uncertain – something that feels like, "I have to fix this; I have to make sure this comes out in the right way." When we wrote down that thing, somewhere on that side of the card we wrote "Mistrust."

Then we considered: Why is it easier to trust God with one thing and not the other? What makes the challenging one different? Are they really that different, or might it be possible to trust God a little more with that hard one?

If you weren't with us, I hope you will make your own card. All of us are invited each day during Lent to pull that card out for a moment or two – and give thanks for the thing you already trust God with; and say a prayer for the thing you are having a hard time trusting God with.

Lent is the opportunity to sit with God, to let God speak to us about what is meaningful to and what we are struggling with as we journey from the desert to the cross.

Our Lenten journey is a reminder that God love never leaves us. "Return to me," says the Lord, "and I will return to you" (Zechariah 1:3).
Lenten Blessings, +Holly

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Guilderland Blood Drive

Tuesday, March 15

Senator Hinchey is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive on **Tuesday, March 15 at the Guilderland Public Library (2228 Western Avenue) from 1-6pm.**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade and is in a national blood crisis. This blood drive is one step to address that crisis and help our community by donating blood.

Appointments are recommended and masks are required. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit this web address: www.redcrossblood.org/give.



Arlene and Jake Herzog..... March 25, 1961
 Tom and Patti DeLorenzo March 26, 1966
 Van and Lynn Kohler..... March 29, 1984

Collecting Metal Pull Tabs!

We continue to collect for “Pull Together for Children and Families,” sponsored by Ronald McDonald house. Pull tabs and metal bottle tops from soda cans, glass bottles, soup cans, pet food cans, tennis ball cans....anything that has a metal pull tab or bottle top is collected and sold to a local recycler and redeemed for money that helps families with seriously ill or injured children. We collect them here at NSPC and deliver them to the local chapter in Albany. There is a plastic container on the narthex table outside the office where you can leave your contributions to this worthy cause.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Seeks Support for Humanitarian Response to Ukraine

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has launched an appeal for funds to help support the Church’s humanitarian response to the war started when Russia attacked Ukraine. The situation is on pace to become Europe’s largest refugee crisis this century with more than 900,000 having already fled Ukraine to neighboring countries.

Ellen Smith, World Mission’s regional liaison for Eastern Europe, said she is hearing of desperate situations with refugees who have few places to go. Some are living in metro stations amid the growing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Smith added that the situation is “unifying Ukraine in ways we have never seen . . . I fear for their safety but am in awe of their courage.”

“We are grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations asking how they can help,” she says. “As the violence continues, the number of people being displaced internally and fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day.”

This information is excerpted from the PCUSA Mission website, to read the entire article, visit www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-church-u-s-a-seeking-support-for-humanitarian-response-to-ukraine/

To contribute make your check payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line. Mail to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700; or call (800) 872-3283. You can also donate online.

March 2022 Lectionary Readings

March 6 — 1st Sunday in Lent

Focus scripture Deuteronomy 26:1–11
 Additional scriptures Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16
 Romans 10:8b–13
 Luke 4:1–13

March 13 — 2nd Sunday in Lent

Focus scripture Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18
 Additional scriptures Psalm 27
 Philippians 3:17–4:1
 Luke 13:31–35

March 20 — 3rd Sunday in Lent

Focus scripture Isaiah 55:1–9
 Additional scriptures Psalm 63:1–8
 First Corinthians 10:1–13
 Luke 13:1–9

March 27 — 4th Sunday in Lent

Focus scripture Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32
 Additional scriptures Joshua 5:9–12

Historical/Display Collections Wanted

The display in the history cabinet is changed three or four times a year. If you have a collection you would like to feature, Brenda Dwyer will assist in setting it up. Our church family enjoys sharing your interests! Call Brenda at 518-466-9504.

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Albany
CROP HUNGER WALK

MAY 1, 2022

ALBANY, NEW YORK

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

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.

The Crop Project began in 1947 when farmers were asked to donate food and seed crops to our hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. The first CROP Hunger Walks took place in Bismarck, North Dakota (1969), and York, Pennsylvania (1970). Since then, CROP Hunger Walk events have been held in hundreds of communities, large and small, raising millions of dollars to eradicate hunger and poverty.

If you would like to start a walking team or register as an individual to walk, call the Capital Area Council of Churches at 518-462-5450 or Kitt Jackson, Chair, Albany CROP Walk Committee, at 518-439-9771.

Prayer Requests

- Laurel & Mark Beavers
- Family of Sue Cameron(Holly Cameron’s stepmother)
- Melanie Thornton Capraro(Karen & Tim Thornton’s daughter)
- Danny Carroll(Chris Gordon’s brother)
- Linda Caruso(Tamara Shaw’s friend)
- Family of Francis Coons(Dan Coons’ father)
- Randy Craft.....(Debbie Craft’s husband)
- Coach Jim Duncan.....(Robin Shufelt’s friend)
- Carl George(Christine Cameron’s husband)
- Holly Huth(Joe Huth’s daughter-in-law)
- Aidan Lawson(Robin Shufelt’s friend)
- Ed Lyons.....(Robin Shufelt’s friend)
- Tony Merritt.....(Tim & Christine Gordon’s in-law)
- Family of Ray Milhan(Dorothy Kohler’s friend)
- Mary-Jean Riley
- Reinhold Scholz.....(Robin Shufelt’s friend)
- Joyce Schork
- Jessie White(Robin Shufelt’s friend)
- Shirley Wright
- Euni Yang(Pastor Charlie Yang’s wife)
- Sam Youmans



May you be wrapped up in God’s love. Found deep in His everlasting wings, carried and kept, safe and cherished. May the healing power of Christ breathe across your being now.

- For our military personnel and their families.
- For doctors, nurses, first responders, police officers, firefighters, and all families dealing with COVID-19.
- For students, teachers, staff, administration, and parents as children return to school.

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, see or e-mail Sandy Warner (warnerho@nycap.rr.com) or any of our Deacons.



Anthony ScacciaMarch 1
Carol Fuglein.....March 4
Matthew Fuglein.....March 4
Deann Della Penta.....March 5
Ruth Von HauggMarch 6
Patricia WhitbeckMarch 8
Brienne Dwyer RobertsMarch 9
Kathleen RuddMarch 9
Timothy Thornton.....March 10
Catherine Russell.....March 12
Meredith Coons.....March 12

Sandra Warner.....March 14
Frances McCormickMarch 15
Mark RuddMarch 17
Daniel JoyceMarch 17
Leland Wright.....March 18
Stephen KohlerMarch 18
Jordyn Claire MillerMarch 19
Kristina NorrisMarch 20
Emily Kohler.....March 23
Erin KohlerMarch 23



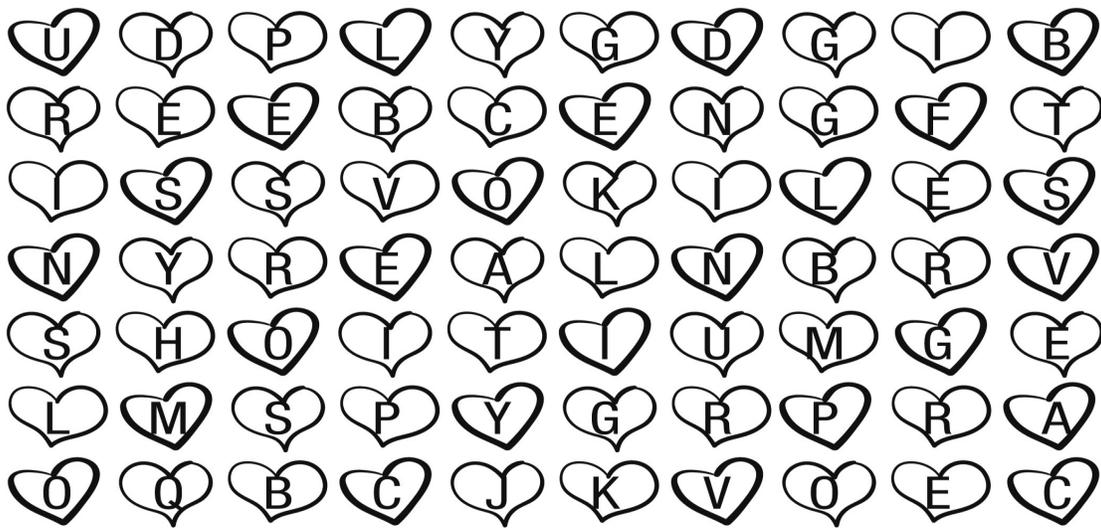
**Well if it isn't Mary Ewart, who just passed her 101st birthday!
Thanks for playing, Mary! Who's next?!**



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.



Above all, love each other D , because love
 over a multitude of . Offer
 to one another without
 . Each of you should use whatever
 you have received to others, as faithful
 stewards of God's in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

February 3 Session Meeting Notes

— There was a small correction in the 2022 budget. The pension line will increase \$27.

— A Congregational meeting will be held on Feb 13 to accept a nomination for a third at-large member of the 2022 Nominating Committee. It came to light after the first Annual meeting that a voted in member was not eligible because he was still serving as a Deacon.

— Jane Norris reported on the January 22 Presbytery meeting. Points of interest included:

- Nominating continues to move forward with posting for General Presbytery position.
- The dissolving of Hoosick Falls Presbyterian Church has been completed as of Dec 26, 2021. The final distribution of funds was made to Hoosick Falls area not for profits (Cemetery Assn., Historical Assn., Rescue Squad, and Town Band) and to Albany Presbytery to be distributed to churches in need.
- Three Ministers retired and one moved for this area to a church in NYC. Three Ministers were welcomed; one serving at Amsterdam, one as the interim for Hebron and one at large. A lovely retirement tribute

was given to long time Pastor Linda Martin of Broadalbin Presbyterian Church

- The Youth Triennium had been planned for this summer but has since been cancelled.
- The Anti-racism Task Force reported on their continuing work. Members in the task force had participated in a counter protest in response to a white lives matter protest held the day before. The protests were held in Chatham NY. Discussion followed.

— Homer Warner has agreed to be the temporary moderator of Deacons. The Deacons currently have only six people serving.

— Carol Fuglein has agreed to keep the sign by the front door up to date.

— Delmar Presbyterian Church invited our congregation to participate in Ash Wednesday service at their church.

— Thank you to Kevin and Cindy whose terms will end when we install new officers. Also, a heartfelt thank you for agreeing to the extra year of service during the Pandemic. Manual of Operations binder can be brought in for recycling or kept as a souvenir.

New Officers Elected

Our new officers were ordained and installed on Sunday, March 6.
Thank you for stepping up to leadership roles in the church!

Session

Class of 2022

John Griffin
Jane Norris
Vacancy

Session

Class of 2023

Margaret Ewart
Mardell Steinkamp
Sarita Winchell

Session

Class of 2024

Dorothy Kohler
Bonnie O'Shea
Vacancy

Deacons

Class of 2022

Dan Coons
Patti DeLorenzo
Tamara Shaw

Deacons

Class of 2023

Robin Shufelt
Homer Warner
Vacancy

Deacons

Class of 2024

Alexandra Donovan
Vacancy
Vacancy



New Scotland Presbyterian Church
 2010 New Scotland Road
 Slingerlands, NY 12159

Is Lent in the Bible?

“Is Lent in the Bible?” is a common question. While the Bible doesn’t specifically mention Lent, it does give us examples of 40 days of fasting periods. The Lenten season is inspired by the Bible story of Jesus in the wilderness, where He fasted and prayed for 40 days, rebuking the temptations from Satan with perfect faith and obedience to God the Father.

- **Mark 1:12-13** At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.
- **Matthew 4: 1-5** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”



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 Newsletter Managing Editor..... Dorothy Kohler



2010 New Scotland Avenue, Slingerlands, NY 12159

New Book Discussion

*“Rescuing the Planet :
 Protecting Half the Land
 to Heal the Earth,”*
 by Tony Hiss.

We begin Tuesday, March 15, at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. We will meet for six to eight sessions, usually Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. The first session starts at 2:30, but the rest are planned for 2:00 p.m.

The book is widely available in the Albany Public Library system, or at your favorite bookseller.

If you are interested, please see the Rev. Cameron



Fish Fry Fridays are Back for 2022!

March 18 & 25
 April 1 & 8

4:30—7:00 pm,
 or until sold out

Fresh haddock, French fries, homemade coleslaw and homemade New England clam chowder, cocktail and tartar sauce.

New Salem Fire Department
 694 New Salem Road, Voorheesville

Take Out Only
Fish \$15; Chowder \$5