



## LISTEN to *The ChurchMouse*

*New Scotland Presbyterian Church  
May 2022*



*"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"*

### **Faith Offers Hope in the Midst of Struggle** *by the Rev. Holly Cameron*

"How long, O Lord? How long?" This is a cry common to the psalmists, and others, in scripture (Psalms 13, 74, 79, 80, 89, for example). Those writers had various circumstances to deal with: often they were in the midst of war, seeing the walls of their city torn down, buildings set on fire, the Temple being torn down. Sometimes they were crying out to God because they saw all the wrongdoing in the world: they cried out that evil seemed to be taking over, that their leaders were making policies that hurt those who were most vulnerable: the widow, the stranger, the orphan. They cried out because they could see suffering and no relief in sight. Sometimes the writer cried out because they were broken-hearted, and felt God had abandoned them.

We know all too well how those writers felt. We see the news every day, and it is always the tragedies that get top billing. We are now watching in horror the terror of war. We hear about how the rich and powerful seem to get a different kind of justice than those who have no resources. We see policies that keep poor people on the margins, living near toxic waste, or in the path of nature's wrath. Our world today has people as cruel and uncaring as the world when the psalmists wrote, thousands of years ago.

And yet, even in the psalms where the writer is suffering, they often will remember that God is a God of goodness and comfort and healing.



**FROM OUR  
PASTOR**

In psalm 37 it says, "Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb . . . . Commit your way to the Lord; trust in God, and God will act." And in Psalm 130 it says, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in God's word I hope . . . for with the Lord there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem." The psalmists are saying, in effect, "I can see that this world is a hard world, but I know you are a good God, and that is why I am calling out to you. I am asking you to intervene in these bad times, and bring some goodness to this hard place."

We make that plea as we watch the bad news of the world, and often when we are struggling with difficulties in our own lives: "how long, O Lord," until my test results come back; "how long, O Lord," until my treatments are over; "how long, O Lord," do I have to think about masks; "how long, O Lord," until my loved one comes back from military duty; "how long, O Lord," until I am fully healed; "how long, O Lord," until I feel like myself again. How long?

The psalms remind me that I am never alone in whatever struggle I'm facing, and remind me that, even when the world is full of bad news, God is always bringing good news. When Job cried out to God, to ask why there is so much pain and difficulty in the world, he heard God's reply, and then Job realized that such questions are too big for human beings. We can ask the questions, but we cannot fully understand the answers. Our faith helps us to remember that, while we live in a world of good and evil, of pain and pleasure, God gives us

*(continued on page 2)*



**Please make a note that the  
Church office will be closed  
Tues., May 3 — Fri., May 6.**



## Voorheesville Memorial Day Parade

The 73rd Annual Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by the American Legion Voorheesville Post 1493, will be held on Saturday, May 28.

The theme for this year's parade is **"75th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force."**

The line-up for the parade will start 9:00 am on Scotch Pine Drive and the parade will kick off promptly at 10:00 am.

The ceremony will be held at the Village Park behind the Legion Hall immediately following the parade. The parade awards will be given out at the end of the ceremony. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony completes.

(continued from page 1)

grace for living in between the good and the difficult, even without the full answer. Our faith also gives us strength so that we are not undone or overcome by the evil of the world. Our faith offers us hope in the midst of struggle. I rely on the scriptures to hear that message, but it comes in other ways, too. Most recently, I heard it in a poem, "Instructions on Not Giving Up," by Ada Limón. Keep the faith. +Holly

### *Instructions on Not Giving Up* by Ada Limón

*More than the fuchsia funnels  
breaking out of the crabapple tree,  
more than the neighbor's almost obscene display  
of cherry limbs shoving their cotton candy-colored  
blossoms to the slate sky of Spring rains,  
it's the greening of the trees that really gets to me.  
When all the shock of white and taffy,  
the world's baubles and trinkets,  
Leave the pavement strewn  
with the confetti of aftermath, the leaves come.  
Patient, plodding, a green skin  
growing over whatever winter did to us,  
a return to the strange idea of continuous living  
despite the mess of us, the hurt, the empty.  
Fine then, I'll take it, the tree seems to say,  
a new slick leaf unfurling like a fist to an open palm,  
I'll take it all.*

## This Month in MISSION

The mission in May is for the Pentecost Offering. The Pentecost Offering is a Christian discipline of stewardship in which, through revenue sharing the whole church witnesses to Jesus' injunction that "whoever welcomes one of these little ones, welcomes me." It just makes sense – dollars and cents.

The Pentecost Offering is unique in that each congregation directs 40% of what they receive for ministries which benefit children at risk within their own communities.

The remaining 60% supports mission through advocating for children at risk (10%), guiding youth by supporting ministries like the



Presbyterian Youth Triennium (25%), and supporting Young Adult Volunteers serving in communities around the world (25%).

Our 40% will be given to The South End Children's Café in Albany. The mission of the South End Children's Cafe is to impact food security, address food equality and food justice, enhance academic success and positively influence the physical and mental health of children by offering free, healthy meals along with homework help, academic enrichment, mentoring, exercise and participation in the arts.

~Mardell Steinkamp, Mission Chair

## Buds on the Elderberry Bushes *by Larry A. Deys, "Pastor in the Pew"*

Looking to see what bird it was in the bush, my binoculars focused not only on the bird, but also the very tiny buds that were forming at the tips of the bushes. I was surprised to see the elderberry bush was forming buds. That struck me more than learning the bird was a Junco. What was even more surprising to me was my sense of elation that spring was coming! After a long hard winter, and the rigors of Covid, a new day was coming upon us. Buds, a sign of new birth, of newness, and of hope.

It is wonderful how buds could evoke such strong and pleasant feeling of hope. But hope is what we have been waiting for all along. One of the side benefits of birding, besides delight in the beauty and wonder of many species, is becoming more aware of the natural world and being filled and lifted by its beauty and wonder. We are drawn into a deeper awareness of the unfolding rhythm of nature, a rhythm that points beyond itself to the larger rhythm of the Creator God whose work is beyond our full comprehension. All we can do is sing the *Doxology*, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

It is by such experiences that we are renewed inwardly for the outward work of Creation Care, a work that has many facets and dimensions. If our work of "Creation Care" is done without the awareness of beauty and wonder around us, and the mystery beyond us,

then we may very well be drawn to the fear and anger that is so much a part of our society and even part of some who work on the issue of climate change.

We must not become a joyless and hopeless and angry people who are always seeing what is wrong without also seeing what is right, good and beautiful. Such a stance will not help us or the cause.

Maybe what we need to do more of is to share stories of beauty and wonder and of the things that delight and feed us. Maybe what we need to do as part of our creation care work is to help people to regain their hearts and souls by being more aware of the awesome beauty and wonder of nature and of Creator behind and beyond it all.

The work we are doing is important and we need more people to be about that work, however we will not win them to the cause by focusing on fear. Fear does not motivate people for long and it certainly will not sustain them for the long haul. What will sustain us are things of awe and beauty which lead us into thanksgiving for life and for all of creation. Such experiences fill and feed us and move us into a greater love of Creation. It is love that is the true driver.

In many ways, being aware of Creation and delighting in it and being about the work of creation care is nothing less than a spiritual journey through which we are sustained by wonder, beauty and grace.



**Thursday, May 5**

**Honoring Sam**

PRAY  
GOD'S GLORY  
*Across the Earth*

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

On Easter Sunday, we celebrated Sam's 84<sup>th</sup> membership anniversary during worship. He has asked us not to give him any gifts, but, instead would appreciate people making donations to our church in his honor. Make a notation on your check or online that your gift is in honor of Sam and mail to New Scotland Presbyterian Church, 2010 New Scotland Rd., Slingerlands NY 12159; or give online by the link on our website at [www.newscotlandpc.org](http://www.newscotlandpc.org)

# 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. Call or text 518-573-7736 or email, CliftonRun@gmail.com.*

- Lisa Allendorph
- Laurel & Mark Beavers
- Cynthia Brickman
- Melanie Thornton Capraro ..... (Karen & Tim Thornton’s daughter)
- Danny Carroll ..... (Chris Gordon’s brother)
- Linda Caruso ..... (Tamara Shaw’s friend)
- Randy Craft ..... (Debbie Craft’s husband)
- Gina Domermuth ..... (Alexandra Donovan’s friend)
- Frank Donnelly ..... (Kevin Dwyer’s friend)
- Family of Enid Ewart ..... (Margaret Ewart’s aunt)
- Carl George ..... (Christine Cameron’s husband)
- Dot Geyer ..... (Judy Riopelle’s friend)
- Wendy Hijos ..... (Sharon Hildebrandt’s friend)
- 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)
- Gerald Minor ..... (Joyce Schork’s brother)
- Joyce Schork
- Charles Sullivan ..... (Alexandra Donovan’s friend)
- Gene Urgento
- Sandy Vosburgh
- Ted Whitbeck
- Shirley Wright
- Euni Yang ..... (Pastor Charlie Yang’s wife)
- Sam Youmans



*Heavenly Father, We lift up all those who are facing various illnesses. 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 extend your prayers for:

- the people of Ukraine.
- our military personnel and their families.
- doctors, nurses, first responders, police officers, firefighters, and all families dealing with COVID-19.
- students, teachers, staff, administration, parents and children as the school year continues.

*May Birthdays*

*Gregory Griffin.....5/8*  
*Debbie Perez.....5/10*  
*Jane Norris.....5/13*  
*Holly Stefaniak.....5/17*  
*Bonnie O'Shea.....5/25*  
*Randy Craft.....5/27*  
*Margaret Throop..... 5-28*

*May Anniversaries*

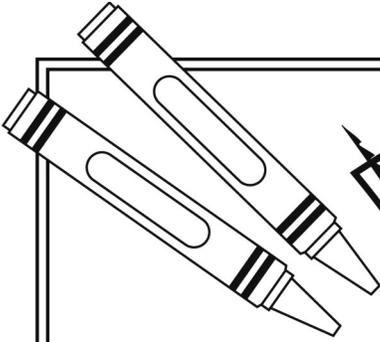
*Bonnie & John Griffin..... 5/6/78*  
*Debbie & Bob Perez..... 5/10/80*  
*Jane & John Norris..... 5/26/84*  
*Scott & Shirley*  
*Wright..... 5/28/60*



**The “Reveal”**

Yes, that adorable little boy is none other than Wally Throop, who celebrated a birthday on April 21! Thanks for playing, Wally!





# PUZZLE

## WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



*Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.*

A	C	D	M*	N*	O*
E	F	G	P*	R*	S*
H	I	L	T*	U*	Y*

“ \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_

and your \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

the \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ has

\_\_\_\_\_ .”

\_\_\_\_\_ 5:16, NIV



Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV

## Session Meeting Notes

Session met on Wednesday, April 6 and discussed a number of topics.

Officer Training for the presbytery was offered via Zoom, hosted by our pastor, and led by the Rev. Earl Johnson. Current officers are asked to watch, and any officer is welcome to view the recording and borrow the books that were referenced.

Helderberg Workshop will use our building for teacher training on Tuesday, June 7, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

We are in the process of updating the Manual of Operations, including contacts, communion servers, committees, and our calling tree.

John Griffin was our delegate to the last presbytery meeting, and he noted some grant opportunities in the presbytery. Holly will follow-up.

Personnel Committee has been meeting for staff reviews, and is pleased to say we changed Carolyn Barrett's title to "Office Manager," and we changed Ryan Dwyer's title to "Music Director."

Congregational Life Committee also recently met and approved the order for the Sunday School curriculum for next year, started discussions about updating our directory again, and discussed how we wish to celebrate milestone anniversaries that we missed during the past two years and how to roll those into the anniversaries we wish to celebrate this year. We also would like to change the milestone marker from 50 years and five year increments, to 25 years and five year increments. More information to follow! Sam Youmans will be celebrating his 84<sup>th</sup> year as a member of our church on Easter Sunday. He does not want any gifts but suggested donations may be made in his honor to the Presbyterian Church of New Scotland instead. Children's Day will be celebrated June 5.

Buildings and Grounds reports that they have contacted New Scotland Paving to restripe our parking lot.

The Deacons met and reported on the Easter flower orders through Mary-Jean Riley, and announced that Alexandra Donovan is now coordinator for the flowers for Sunday worship. There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board if

you would like to purchase flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one. Tamara Shaw is now maintaining the Prayer List each week.

Review of the financial statements show our endowment fund is down, this is largely due to the world situation. April is a

month with extra expenses because we pay quarterly payroll taxes, so we will let folks know about this being a good time to give a little extra, and about Sam's request for donations.

Covid -19 protocols for our church were discussed again and voted on. We have voted to make masks optional while following CDC guidelines: as long as Albany County is in the Green Zone, in a low level of community spread, masks are optional. If numbers go up significantly, the church will make adjustments per the CDC recommendations. We will keep communion the same, using the small individually packaged cracker and juice, and we will still sit for most singing. We will begin to invite the congregation to join in singing the Gloria Patri and the Doxology.

Pastor's Report: The Rev. Cameron emailed a link to the Joint Prayer Service for Ukraine. She will be taking three weeks of study leave in May. On May 8 we will welcome Pastor Bob DeFelice to our pulpit, May 15 will be the Reverend Murphy Ashley, Jr., and May 22 will be Nina Nichols, M.Div. The Reverend Cameron also reported that the Book Study group will soon finish discussion of Rescuing the Planet by Tony Hiss; she is pleased to note we now have 14 people from 6 different churches in the group.



## SESSION MEETING





## Mendelssohn Club Spring Concert Schedule

Those fabulous gentlemen of The Mendelssohn Club will be performing a benefit concert at New Covenant Presbyterian Church (916 Western Avenue, Albany) on Wednesday, May 4 at 7:30 pm.

And it is a tradition that they perform at the Albany Tulip Festival at the Lake House in Washington Park each spring (at no cost to attendees). This year it is on Saturday, May 7 at 11:30 am, just prior to the crowning of the Tulip Queen and her Court.

To round out their spring concert schedule, The Mendelssohn Club will present their Spring Concert, *A Night of Romance*, with Guest Artist Williams Octet on Friday, May 13 at 7:30 pm at Chancellor's Hall (89 Washington Avenue, Albany).

If you would like to purchase tickets, the price is \$20; \$22 at the door. Contact Mendelssohn Club member John Griffin for more information, 518-765-2288; cell: 518-265-3194.



*The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,  
to the one who seeks him;  
it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.  
Lamentations 3:25-26*



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*"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"*

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