



LISTEN to *The ChurchMouse*

New Scotland Presbyterian Church

May 2023

"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"



Upcoming Events

by The Rev. Holly Cameron

Thanks so much for the Easter card from the congregation! It was a lovely surprise to open the card and find so many signatures and good wishes. I know plans are underway to celebrate my 25th anniversary on June 4, and I'm looking forward to that milestone! On June 11 we will celebrate the end of the Sunday School year with Children's Day. On June 18 we will remember my predecessor, the Rev. Gregory Pike, and his 18 years of ministry at our church.

This month, we have several events coming up. For the whole month of May, we are collecting clothes for our Spring Clothing Drive. Sunday, May 7, is the Albany CROP Walk. Last year four of us carpooled down and walked together. If you are interested in walking, let me know.

On May 21, Albany Presbytery has invited all the Presbyterian Churches to worship together. So, we will not have worship at our church on May 21, in order that we can join our fellow

Presbyterians for worship at Hamilton Union in Guilderland. This means our potluck coffee hour will be on the fourth Sunday this month, May 28.

Right now, we are in the midst of the 50 days of the Easter season. The season lasts until the day of Pentecost, which is considered the "birthday" of the Church. On Pentecost the wind of the Holy Spirit blew into Jerusalem, and tongues of flame were seen dancing on the head of each disciple. So, we wear red that day to celebrate the flames of the Spirit. Everyone is invited to wear something red to church on Pentecost, Sunday, May 28.



Keeping the Faith in Humanity *by The Rev. Holly Cameron*

While we plan for so many fun events around the church, we are aware of the increasingly bad news in our world. Most recently we've heard about people who believe everyone is a threat. So much so that they are willing to shoot anyone who makes a mistake. This is what happens when we believe the news that says everyone is a danger, everyone is a threat, and we must protect ourselves from anyone we don't know.

A couple weeks ago, we read the story of two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. A stranger joined them along the way and asked about the latest news from Jerusalem. The couple explained how their teacher, Jesus, had

been executed, and there were rumors that he might have been raised from the dead. When evening came, the couple asked the stranger to join them for dinner. When the stranger blessed and broke the bread, the couple realized this was no stranger, it was their friend, the risen Christ. I wonder if such a stranger would be welcomed now.

Last week, a friend told several of us about running errands with her husband. They pulled off the highway into a gas station, and a car followed them. A man got out of the car and said, "I noticed your tire is flat." All of us

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This Month in Mission

The Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost offering is a Christian discipline of stewardship in which, through revenue sharing, the whole church is witness 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 congregations direct 40% of what they receive for ministries which benefit children at risk. The remaining 60% supports mission through child advocacy (10%), youth ministry (25%), and Young Adult Volunteer opportunities (25%).

Our 40% will be given to The South End Children's Café in Albany. The mission of the South End Children's Café 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 the arts.

Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, will be celebrated on May 28 this year. The word has its roots in the Greek word "pentecoste," which means "50th day." Pentecost is a major festival in the Christian church and is celebrated by believers on the Sunday that falls on the 50th day of Easter (the seventh Sunday after Easter Sunday).

In the New Testament, Pentecost was the occasion of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ and therefore became a feast commemorating this occasion. Across denominational lines, Pentecost is an opportunity for Christians to honor the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and celebrate the birth of the church. The traditions differ between church dominations, with some celebrating the holiday more significantly than others. Some decorate their churches with the color red to represent the "power and fire of the Spirit;" in others, congregants are encouraged to wear red colored clothing. ~Mardell Steinkamp, Missions





Albany Presbytery Invites You . . .

On Sunday, May 21, Albany Presbytery has invited all congregations to a worship service for the whole presbytery at 10:00 a.m. at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, 2291 Western Ave, Guilderland.

We will not have worship at New Scotland on May 21, and our pot luck fellowship hour has been moved back to May 28.

We hope everyone will take the opportunity to worship with our larger presbytery!

Voorheesville Memorial Day Parade

Don't You Just LOVE a Parade?!

The 74th Annual Memorial Day Parade sponsored by the American Legion Voorheesville Post 1493 will be held Saturday, May 27, 2023, at 10:00 am. The theme for this year's parade is "***The Korean War.***" The line-up will start 9:00 am and the parade will kick off promptly at 10:00 AM. A 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.



The Book of Hope

A Survival Guide for Trying Times

By Jane Goodall & Douglas Abrams

If you want a book that is a delight to read, gives you information and hope for living in our world today, then this is a book that you owe it to yourself to read.

Jane Goodall is a world renowned naturalist, teacher and speaker with a deep love and passion for the earth and all that is therein.

The book is essentially an interview, or actually more of a conversation, between Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams as Jane talks about her life and work spanning several decades. It is not only about what she has learned and accomplished, it is actually much more. It is essentially an invitation to hope.

Jane says: "Probably the question I am asked more often than any other is: Do you honestly believe there is hope for our world? For the future of our children and grandchildren? And I am able to answer truthfully, yes."

The first section in her book opens with a discussion of "What is Hope? In section two she discusses her four reasons for hope. Section three is about becoming a messenger of hope.

The fact that she is an accomplished scientist who does things from a strong and credible base, and whose works and accomplishments are known and celebrated, tells me that her intellect, passion, and wisdom are to be trusted and lived in hope.

We are planning to meet to discuss this book in early June. Please see me or Holly if you are interested. ~Larry Deys, Pastor in the pew



We are blessed to have members and friends who do lots of work behind the scenes to keep our church running well and looking good. In recent weeks **Sandy Warner, Brenda Dwyer, Diana Bremm, Homer Warner, and Bob Fuglein** have all been working on cleaning out flower beds and broken tree limbs. Homer also built a shelf in the parking lot storage closet. **Reilly and Son Funeral Home** donated six flower stands to our church. And **Barbara Huth's cousins, the Huttons**, donated a lovely antique Bible. Thanks to everyone who takes such good care of our church!

PRAYER LIST

Kerry and Sherry Back
(Pat Klose Hammond's brother and sister-in-law)

Laurel & Mark Beavers

Rev. Holly Cameron

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)

Family of Carole Dwyer
(Kevin Dwyer's sister-in-law)

Gina Domermuth
(Lexi Donovan's friend)

Diane Dyer (Wayne Shatraw's aunt)

Mark Elmendorf (Carole Elmendorf's son)

Evelyn Fuglein

Family of Kenneth Hallenbeck
(Scott Wright's brother-in-law)

Rev. Earl Johnson
(Retired Pastor from Johnstown)



Dorothy Kohler

Family of Lois Kohler
Dorothy's Kohler's sister-in-law

Aidan Lawson (Robin Shufelt's friend)

Michael Manss (Robin Shufelt's friend)

Stephanie Markus (Robin Shufelt's friend)

Max's Dad (Matthew Nopper-Shatraw's friend)

Jim Miller (Rev. Bruce Miller's son)

Gerald Minor (Joyce Schork's brother)

Vickie Richeson
(Mary-Jean Riley and Gene Urgento's sister)

Manny Sanchez
(Sandy Warner's brother-in-law)

Family of Joseph Sapienza
(Peg & Wally Throop's relative)

Shirley Schenmeyer
(Pat Klose Hammond's friend)

Andrew Thornton
(Tim and Karen Thornton's grandson)

Gene Urgento

Shirley Wright

Euni Yang
(Pastor Charlie Yang's wife)

Please also extend your prayers for:
— the people of Ukraine and Sudan
— our military personnel and their families.
doctors, nurses, first responders, police officers, firefighters,
and all families dealing with COVID-19.

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

CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

May 7, 2023

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

The 43rd annual Albany CROP Hunger Walk, now known as the John U. Miller Memorial CROP Hunger Walk, will take place on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at the First Lutheran Church at 181 Western Ave., Albany 12203.

Registration begins at 12:30pm in the church hall, with music in the sanctuary until the Opening Ceremony at 1:15. The walk officially steps off at 1:30pm, with a choice of 1-mile or 3-mile loops.

The funds raised will support local (25%) and global (75%) hunger relief efforts.

If you are interested in walking, please contact the Rev. Cameron.

April Session Report

We welcome Holly Stefaniak as an Elder to Session! In addition, the Clerk of Session reported that we installed Tamara Shaw as a Deacon for a second term on March 19.

Dorothy Matthews led a gentle Nature Walk on the property of Heldeberg Workshop on Tuesday, April 25.

We can report that the Deacons delivered 18 Easter plants to the homebound and others who could use an extra bit of cheer. Also, Reilly and Son Funeral Home donated flower stands to the church which may be used for the display of wreaths for any funeral services.

New Scotland Presbyterian is hosting a memorial for the Rev. Greg Pike on Sunday, June 18th, during our regular service. We will be planting and dedicating a hydrangea at the front of the church building. We are currently exploring options for a marker. We will follow with a special Fellowship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. His family has been invited, as well as the Presbytery Executive and Clerk.

The Congregational Life Committee reports that there were about 50 people at the Easter Sunrise Service at Thacher Park, and about 20 came for our Easter breakfast. Thanks to Bonnie O'Shea, Bob Fuglein, Diana Bremm, and Holly & Adam Stefaniak for the breakfast!

On Sunday, May 21, at 10:00 a.m., Albany Presbytery is hosting an all-presbytery worship at Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church in Guilderland. All the churches in the presbytery are invited to worship together that morning. The Session voted to accept the invitation, so we will not worship in our church on May 21.



SESSION MEETING

Letters went out to friends and members of the Church inviting them to participate in the Rev. Cameron's 25th anniversary celebration on Sunday, June 4. This committee also reports that we will celebrate Children's Day on Sunday, June 11, and begin

Sunday School in the Fall on Rally Day, September 10.

Mission Committee is planning on a seasonal clothing drive again this spring to support the Interfaith Shelter, the City Mission, and St. Peter's volunteer program which assists patients with limited means. And they are hoping to get a number of volunteers to participate in the CROP Walk on May 7.

Building and Grounds has contracted to remove the tree stump from the pine tree that was blown down in February. We have paid the architect firm, John G. Waite Associates, and are waiting for their plans for replacing the crenellated parapet on the steeple. In addition, we noted the "operator" on the lift that automatically opens and closes the door on the main level is failing. Sometimes the door closes slowly as it should, but sometimes it lets loose and the door closes quickly. Please be aware if you are entering or exiting the lift on that level.

Finance reports that the Rev. Cameron spoke with White Wolf about purchasing a small color printer for the church office and they made recommendations; the committee approved the purchase. We also are scheduling a time to meet with our Presbyterian Foundation rep.

Our next Session meeting is Thurs., May 25.



Spring Clothing Drive

During the month of May we are having a clothing drive, collecting women's, men's and children's gently used summer clothing. There is a collection box in the lobby. The clothing will then be sent to the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless in Albany, the Patients-in-Need Closet at St. Peters Hospital and the Capital City Mission.

If you have clothes that are worn, torn or stained, you can deposit them in the blue box in the parking lot of the church. You can also deposit bedding, towels, curtains, shoes etc. This saves an extra burden on the landfills and the church is paid a small sum for the contents of the box.

~Mardell Steinkamp



Easter 2023



This adorable little girl is none other than Holly Stefaniak, who recently joined our Session Class of 2025. Thank you for your service to the church, Holly!

Who's Next?!

May Birthdays

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

May Anniversaries

- Bonnie and John Griffin 5/6/78*
- Debbie and Bob Perez..... 5/10/80*
- Holly and Adam Stefaniak .. 5/22/04*
- Jane and John Norris..... 5/26/84*
- Shirley and Scott Wright..... 5/28/60*



Please make a note that the Church office will closed for vacation May 23 through May 31.

Celebrating 25 Years with New Scotland Presbyterian!



Karen and Tim Thornton have been members of our church for twenty-five years! We celebrated with them on Sunday, April 23.



Keeping the Faith in Humanity

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immediately assumed that it was some kind of scam and were worried for our friend. She went on to say that they looked and saw the tire was, in fact, low, and the stranger helped them get the spare out of their trunk and changed the tire for them. When he was done, my friend said, "Please, let us pay you something to thank you everything you've done." The man said, "No, you allowed me to be kind today, so I thank you."

Not every stranger is a threat. Not every story is a scam. We need our faith to remind us that the good news was happening 2,000 years ago. And the good news is still happening now. *Keeping the Faith, +Holly*

Voorheesville Public Library presents . . .

Food: Fear, Faith & Fellowship

Food means many different things to each of us. It can be easy to develop tunnel vision and forget about the complexity of how food can bring value to our lives. Reorienting our consideration of food can impact a variety of other issues that plague our society.

Ultimately, food is the key to a satisfying and fulfilling life for ourselves and our neighbors. Author Vanessa Kovarovic will lead a discussion of her book, *Food: Fear, Faith & Fellowship*. Copies of her book will be available to purchase at the event. Light refreshments will be served. Please register with Sarah Clark, 518-765-2791.



Mendelssohn Club Spring Concert Schedule

A local institution for over a century, this highly acclaimed male chorus is the longest continuously performing arts group in the Capital Region. Contact Mendelssohn Club member John Griffin for discounted group tickets of \$20. He can be reached at 518-265-3194.

Tulip Festival performance is May 13 prior to the crowning of the Tulip Queen at approximately 11:30 am at the Washington Park Lakehouse Stage, Albany.

Spring Concert, Folk Music — Songs of the People. Friday, May 19 at 7:30 pm, Chancellors Hall at the NYS Education Bldg. Guest Artist: The Kennedys.



Ever since the creation of the world, his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made.

Romans 1:20



Financial Snapshot as of April 19

Please note that receipts include a one-time bequest of \$7,970

Donations & Receipts.....	\$ 44,776
Expenditures:	\$(52,151)
Total Deficit:.....	\$ (7,375)

April was a month with extra expenses as we paid quarterly payroll taxes. If you haven't made a gift recently, or could give a little more, this is a good time to do so. Heartfelt thanks for all you do to support our ministry!



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"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"

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