



# LISTEN to *The ChurchMouse*

*New Scotland Presbyterian Church*

*November 2023*

*"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"*



## **"Words to Live By"** by the Rev. Holly Cameron

When the world is crazy and everything is out of control, we turn to scripture to be reminded that God has been involved in the world from the very beginning and is still present now. All along, God has been telling us the best ways to live in this world.

A few weeks ago in worship, we read the Ten Commandments. The Hebrew word we translate as "shall not" can be taken in different ways. It could mean "must not," like putting a restriction on something we wish we could do. Or it can be translated "will not," like a description of what God already sees.

In other words, maybe God is saying, "I will be your God, and you will be my people; and here is what I imagine my people will look like. In fact, this is how other people will be able to recognize that you are my people. Because you will not have any other gods but me; and (just as I will not abandon you) you will not abandon me—you will step away from all your human busy-ness every seven days, to spend time with me; and, even though you are free to do whatever there is to do, you will not do those terribly destructive things like killing others, or lying about them, or stealing their stuff, or being envious of what they have."

I love the idea that God has a vision of what we, God's people, will look like, and we have the choice to live up to God's expectations. God gave us ten practices for living in loving ways: 1) Remember God is love. 2) There is only one God. 3) Say God's name with love. 4) Take time to rest and pray to God. 5) Parents and children, love and care for one another. 6) Respect all living things. 7) Keep your promises to one another. 8) Respect what belongs to someone else. 9) Tell the truth about others. 10) Be content with the good things in your life.

I have a friend who boiled the Ten Commandments down to one word each: 1) worship, 2) wonder, 3) humility, 4) presence, 5) gratitude, 6) compassion, 7) faithfulness, 8) generosity, 9) honesty, and 10) simplicity.

God has given us these words as touchstones to help us navigate the difficulties of this world. Spending time with God's Word grounds us and shapes us, so we can be reminded of the presence of God and withstand the craziness of the world.

Recent news of the world has been challenging. In my daily reflection I found additional words that encouraged me. This is a poem written by my colleague, the Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes, on [unfoldinglight.net](http://unfoldinglight.net).

### **"We Are Not Powerless"**

*When evil falls like a hailstorm / and  
cruelty pounds living beings into the  
Earth, / when the cloud of ash descends /  
with its broad wings and thoughtless  
talons, / and we seem so small and feel  
so helpless, / we are not. / We are  
remnants of the light of creation, / little  
heavens in whom the mighty grace of  
God / throbs like nuclear power. / Frail  
and faulted as we are, / we are vessels  
of the Spirit of Life, / stewards of the  
peace of God. / In our hope burns a  
greater power. / Our good will joins an  
energy field / that moves mountains. /  
We cannot gauge the quantum of hope /  
that shimmers, unseeable, in our hope. /  
We trust, and our hope / defeats the  
powers that would have us despair. /  
Radiant with love, even before the  
dawn, / the victory is ours.*

May the Word of God continue to speak to each of us and all of us.



## Our November Mission . . .

### Capital Area Council of Churches Emergency Overflow Shelter

CACC's mission is to be a refuge of last resort during the coldest months of the year; to provide simple hospitality; a bed, and a meal on a daily basis; and to serve people who have no other shelter options in Albany County. In addition, we refer guests to other service providers to offer options for housing, employment, counseling, entitlements, and addictions and health services.

It is our belief that all people, regardless of a person's circumstances and behaviors, have a human right to obtain shelter from deadly weather and dangerous street-living.

The Emergency Homeless Overflow Shelter is operated by the Capital Area Council of Churches (CACC) and is located at the First Lutheran Church on Western Avenue. Established in 2001, the shelter is open from mid-November to April and houses up to nineteen men each night, including those drug, alcohol, or otherwise impaired.

The Overflow Shelter prides itself on being a home to the men of Albany who do not have one of their own. For the past 13 years they have met, housed and cared for a number of individuals that would have otherwise spent the winter nights outdoors.

While other homeless shelters in Albany turn or send away those who are drug or alcohol impaired, the CACC's shelter does not. They welcome them in the same as any other guest without alerting the police or hospitals beforehand. The environment is a safe and comforting one and problems rarely arise.

Even though the Emergency Homeless Overflow Shelter is the only shelter in Albany that will take in guests who are impaired, they also open their doors to men in the community who are getting back on their feet. These are men who have been looking for or holding down jobs and appreciate the shelter for providing a home in the interim when they cannot afford one. Much the same as other homeless shelters across the nation, the shelter is always appreciative of donations.

## October 4 Barbecue

We are pleased to report that our chicken and rib barbecue raised about \$1,200. We discussed adding another dinner in the spring and try to generate more buzz and income for the church.



*Holly Stefaniak, Diana Bremm and Rev. Cameron worked the parking lot, expertly directing people as they arrived to pick up their meals.*



*Everything was handled expeditiously. Our team worked together like a well oiled machine, so wait times were short.*

# Back to BASICS™

By Larry Deys, Pastor in the Pew

It is no secret that we are living in very anxious and divisive times. The question is, "How do we move beyond all of this?" What can we do to shift things, if not in the world then certainly in our own lives and communities?

In Jesus' day there were so many laws that the people could not remember them all. Thus the scribe asks Jesus "Which commandment is first of all? Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all with all your heart, and with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all of your strength. The second is this; you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (Matthew 22:37-40)

How do we go about living out this commandment on love? My wife and I have a little magnet on our refrigerator with a quote from Thomas Merton, which reads:

*The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise, we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them.*

I think that Merton is very insightful. Some times in our interactions we dismiss people because we deem that they are not on the same page. They disappoint us, or offend us, because they are not a clone of ourselves.

Everyone we meet is a person with a soul. Each of us, whether we realize it or not, is a child of God. And every child of God should be treated with respect, kindness and graciousness, since this is how God deals with us. As children of God, we are called to embody and live out the Gospel. Jesus' teaching on Love is not easy. It is something that we can only grow into through practice.



## 2023 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

We are delighted to host this year's Community Thanksgiving Worship service!

**Sunday, November 12, at 7:00 pm**  
**New Scotland Presbyterian Church**  
 2010 New Scotland Rd, Slingerlands

The congregations of St. Matthew's and First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville will join together with us to celebrate Thanksgiving worship.

We will have a joint choir to sing at the service. Please see Ryan Dwyer if you are interested in singing.



The Rev. Charles Onyeneke, Parochial Vicar of St. Matthews Church, will offer the message. Born and raised in Nigeria, he holds Bachelor degrees in philosophy and theology a Master of Arts degree in theology with concentration in moral theology. He was ordained to the priesthood in September 2020 at Albany's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

An offering will be taken to support the ministry of Family Promise, which helps families without homes. You can learn more about them here: <https://www.familypromisecr.org/>





## PRAYER LIST

**Tim & Susan Albright**  
(friends of our church)

**Sherry Back**  
(Pat Klose Hammond's sister-in-law)

**Laurel & Mark Beavers**

**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**  
(Lexi Donovan's friend)

**Mark Elmendorf** (Carole Elmendorf's son)

**Evelyn Fuglein**

**Family of Eric Johnston**  
(Grace Thompson's husband)

**Aidan Lawson** (Robin Shufelt's friend)

**Carolyn & Jeremy Lundy**  
(Chris Cameron's neighbors)

**Stephanie Markus** (Robin Shufelt's friend)

Please also extend your prayers for:

- the people of Lewiston, Maine
- the people of Israel, Gaza, and the Middle East
- the people of Maui and Afghanistan
- the people of Ukraine and Sudan
- our military personnel and their families.



**Family of Fran McCashion**  
(Corinne Weeks' friend)

**Debbie O'Shea**  
(Bonnie O'Shea's sister-in-law)

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

**Denise Riedy**

**Joe Rizzo**  
(Pat Klose Hammond's friend)

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

**Brad Simon**  
(Tim & Christine Gordon's family member)

**Tracy Skinner**  
(Holly & Adam Stefaniak's sister-in-law)

**Gene Urgento**

**Family of Bob Wagner**  
(Don Wagner's brother)

**Family of Euni Yang**  
(Pastor Charlie Yang's wife)

**Sharon Youmans**  
(David Youmans' wife)

*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.*

## Sacred Harp Singing School & Participatory Community Sing Sunday, November 5, 2:00 pm

**L**earn about and participate in America's oldest hymn tradition hosted by the Albany Sacred Harp. Started in colonial New England and surviving in the rural South, Sacred Harp singing is known for its driving rhythms, full loud voices, and archaic melodies and harmonies. At this participatory workshop, you will learn to read and sing from shape note



notation, an ingenious 200 year old variation on traditional music notation that enables participants to sight sing in harmony even if they cannot read music. This event is sponsored by New Scotland Historical Association and will be held at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center on Rt. 85 in New Salem. The program is free and open to the public.



# Blessing of the Animals



The October 1, 2023 Blessing of the Animals was well attended and resulted in the top two pictures being included in *The Altamont Enterprise*.

Top left photo by *Enterprise* photographer Michael Koff. All other photos courtesy of Bonnie O'Shea.

Music director Ryan Dwyer gave a fun and rousing performance of *All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir*. It was a gorgeous day and a really great time was had by all!







# November

## Birthdays

David Morrison.....	11-6
Robert Batchelder.....	11-7
David Bode.....	11-8
Martha Oden.....	11-10
Pat Innicki.....	11-11
Archie Munro.....	11-15
Jonathan Fuglein.....	11-15
Daisy Elmendorf.....	11-16
Kaitlyn Rickson.....	11-17
Corbin Smith.....	11-25
Emily Thornton.....	11-27
John Griffin.....	11-30

## Anniversary

Debbie & Robert Fuglein.....11-25-83



## Congregational Life Committee Report October meeting *by Bonnie O'Shea*

**W**e have an updated list for our Trunk or Treat event at the New Salem Firehouse on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. We have five cars attending, along with others from the firehouse, the Hilltowns, and St. Matthew's Church.

We have updated our Active Members rolls, and are making plans to celebrate Milestone anniversaries of membership in the church. We will be celebrating Diane Bode, Ryan Dwyer, Dan Coons, Holly Stefaniak, and Brenda and Kevin Dwyer.

Our joint Thanksgiving Service with St. Matthew's and The First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville will take place on Sunday, November 12 at New Scotland Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Cameron is going to be starting a new member class soon. She would also like to reinstate a Bible Study group. If you are interested in either, please see her.

Brenda Dwyer is leading a group in making hymnal angels after fellowship on November 19. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

The deacons are proposing a "Nativi-tea" the second week of December to which they will be inviting people to tea downstairs in the Fellowship Hall, decorated with nativity sets. Their goal is to make sure any homebound members are able to attend by providing them with transportation. If anyone would be interested in helping with this special holiday project, please see Brenda Dwyer.



## October Session Meeting *by Bonnie O'Shea*

We had a lovely joint meeting with the Deacons and covered many agenda items. We have determined our Nominating Committee for this year: Brenda Dwyer is the Deacon's rep, with Kevin Dwyer, Deb Fuglein, Peg Throop, and Sandy Warner as members at large. Sarita Winchell and Bonnie O'Shea will serve as Session co-chairs.

We reviewed upcoming dates and some to mention here are November 12, 7:00 pm, The Joint Thanksgiving Service held at our church with our neighbors from St. Matthew's and First United Methodist. Sunday, November 19 we will be making Hymnal Angels after Fellowship with Brenda Dwyer; Sunday, November 26 is Laity Sunday and we would love to have some of our church family participate with readings. Just let Dorothy Kohler or Bonnie O'Shea know. And December 3 will be our annual decorating the Christmas tree after Service. December 19 we will be hosting the Friendship Singers for their annual Christmas concert. Sunday, December 24 we will have our 10:00 service but are looking for input from the congregation as to the preferred timing of our Christmas Eve Service. Our traditional time has been at 7:00 pm, but we realize some might prefer earlier, so we are seeking feedback about possibly holding the Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 or 5:00. Please let any Session member or Rev. Cameron know your thoughts on the subject.

Our Annual Meeting has been set for Sunday, January 28, after worship and we hope everyone will be able to attend and participate.

Our Chicken BBQ raised about \$1,200, and we discussed adding another dinner in the spring and try to generate more buzz and income for the church.

The Church website is getting an update and if anyone has pictures showing our church community in action, we'd love to add more recent pictures to the site.

We have some updates on the Archtop Fiber easement project. Both the Church and the company have signed the letter of intent, and they are in the process of taking measurements of the property. They have also agreed to pay for \$1,500 worth of legal fees. Session agreed that we should have an attorney examine the contract first, then we will schedule a Congregational meeting to share thoughts and comments before a decision would be made.

Our Earth Care Team updated us on the event recently held at the Kelly Adirondack Center which was facilitated by Westminster Presbyterian Church and attended by members of our church, Stillwater Presbyterian, and Delmar Presbyterian. There were discussions about what individual churches have done, what projects and goals they have set, as well

*(continued on page 8)*

### Hymnal Angel Workshop

Our own angel, Brenda Dwyer is going to teach us how to craft a hymnal angel after worship in the fellowship room on November 19. All ages welcome! Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Don't miss this fun event!







**Sunday  
November  
5**



*Fall Back -  
Daylight Savings Time Ends*

### **New Book Discussion Begins November 7**

**W**e will meet on Zoom for five consecutive Tuesday sessions beginning November 7, at 2:00 pm to discuss "Climate Courage: How Tackling Climate Change Can Build Community, Transform the Economy, and Bridge the Political Divide in America," by Andreas Karelas. Books are available now for \$15. See the Rev. Cameron for more information.



**LISTEN** to *The ChurchMouse*

*New Scotland Presbyterian Church  
November 2023*



*"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"*

The Rev. Holly S. Cameron.....Pastor  
Pastor's office phone number:..... 518-478-0796  
Pastor's email address.....Pastor@NewScotlandPC.org  
Church office phone number ..... 518-439-6454  
Office email address: ..... Office@NewScotlandPC.org  
Newsletter Managing Editor .....Dorothy Kohler



2010 New Scotland Road, Slingerlands, NY 12159

### **Session Meeting**

*(continued from page 7)*

as determining our hopes, what next steps to take and what are the barriers we face going forward. It was very well received and participants agreed that it should become an annual event each fall.

Session discussed the size of our current Session, and recognizing the size of our church, that we will move to rewrite our by-laws to seek two members of the congregation in each yearly class, rather than the current three.

Our next meeting will be held on December 7 at 5:30 pm on Zoom.