



LISTEN to *The ChurchMouse*

*New Scotland Presbyterian Church
October 2022*



"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"



The Horse's Prayer by the Rev. Holly Cameron

Autumn has always been my favorite season with its sunny days and cool nights, and the beauty of the changing leaves. It seems appropriate that we begin our fall schedule at church each year by celebrating the Season of Creation, a time to recognize the wonder of this world, with its deep oceans, vast prairies, majestic mountains, and animals of every size and shape. We also celebrate the creation beyond our world, remembering that God made the whole cosmos. There have been amazing photos shared from the James Webb telescope in recent weeks, which show us the beauty beyond our world. The Season of Creation helps us to have a sense of awe for where we live, and reminds us that God created us to take care of everything God has made.

I love to go to county and state fairs. They remind me that there are lots of people who take care of what God has made. The buildings with vegetables, fruits, plants and flowers on display remind me there are gardeners around us, tilling the land and bringing us delicious food and beautiful arrangements to delight our stomachs and our eyes. The barns full of chickens, rabbits, sheep, goats, cows, and horses remind me there are people who love God's creatures, not just the ones we keep as house pets, but all kinds of animals. The Season of Creation reminds us that the love and care we have for plants and animals comes from God, who made them all and pronounced them good. God loves all the things made by God's hand. The psalms tell us that all creation is in relationship with our Creator, and all

creation sings praise to God.

So, I was struck by a poem that is posted in a horse barn at the Eastern States Exposition, that imagines the relationship between God and animals. Here is "The Horse's Prayer:"



*To Thee, Master,
I Offer My Prayer . . .*

Feed me, water and care for me, and when the day's work is done, provide me with a shelter, a clean, dry bed, and a stall wide enough for me to lie down in comfort. Talk to me. Your voice often means as much to me as the reins. Pet me sometimes, that I may serve you more gladly and learn to love.

Do not jerk my reins, and do not whip me when going uphill. Never strike, beat or kick me when I do not understand what you mean, but give me a chance to understand you. Watch me, and if I fail to do your bidding, see if something is not wrong with my harness or feet.

Examine my teeth when I do not eat. I may have an ulcerated tooth, and that you know is very painful. Do not tie my head in an unnatural position.

And finally, oh my master, when my useful strength is gone, do not turn me out to starve or freeze, or sell me to some cruel owner to be slowly tortured and starved to death; but do thou, my master, take my life in the kindest way, and your God will reward here and hereafter.

You may not consider me irreverent if I ask this in the name of Him Who was born in a stable. Amen.

Celebrating . . .

50 YEARS of MEMBERSHIP

Sunday, October 2

We will finally have the opportunity to celebrate the members of our church who have been members for fifty years or more. The Covid-19 restrictions put a hold on our plans two years ago, but now we are ready to celebrate with a public acknowledgment in our October 2 Sunday morning service, followed by festivities in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us!

Our October Mission

The Mission Collection for October 2022 will be for Peace and Global Witness. This Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission with those around the corner and around the world, as active peacemakers, at all times in all ways.

The 2022 theme for the offering and the devotions is from the book of Isaiah: You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace (55:12 ESV). This year's devotions cover four areas of peace work: climate change, non-violence, the intersection between race and poverty and issues of immigration and migration.

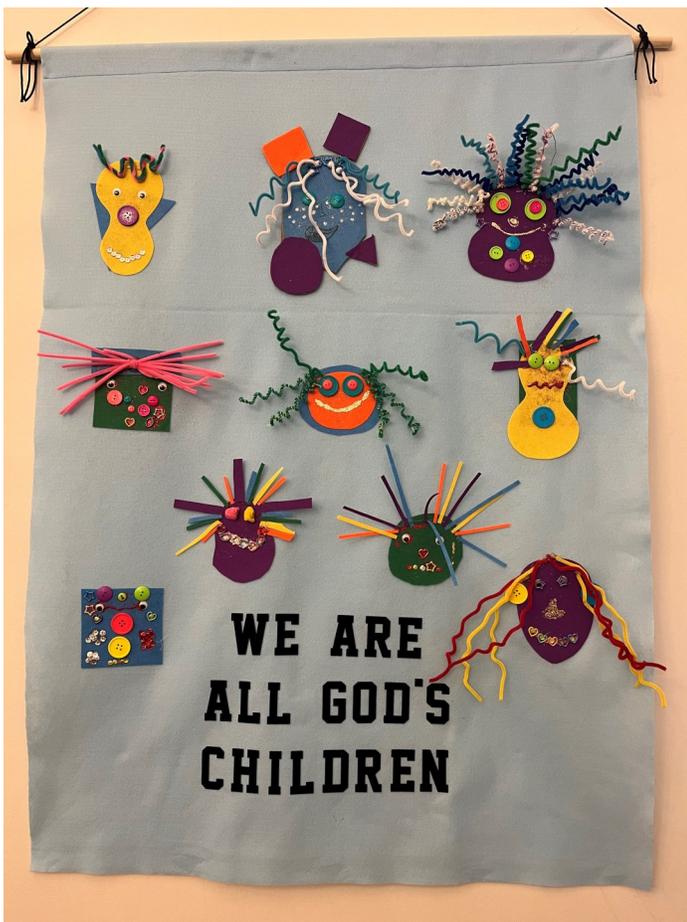
Our congregation keeps 25% of the monies collected, which we will be giving to Five Rivers Environmental Education Center.

25% will go to Presbytery and Synod peace and mission and 50% to the Presbyterian Mission Agency peace and reconciliation ministries.



During the month of October we will be having a clothing drive. We will be collecting women's and men's gently used winter clothing which will be sent to the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless in Albany and the Patients-in-Need Closet at St. Peters Hospital. There will be a collection box in the lobby.

If, when you are going through your winter clothes and come to some that are more than gently used (worn, torn or stained) you can deposit them in the big blue box in the parking lot behind the church. You can also use the blue box to deposit many clean but worn out items which might otherwise go into the trash: clothing, belts, blankets, drapes, hats, hand bags, paired shoes, sheets, sneakers, towels, and stuffed animals. This saves an extra burden on the landfills and the church is paid a small sum for the contents of the box.



Thanks to our Sunday School children for the lovely banner, now hanging in the church sanctuary, reminding us that "We are all God's children!"

It All Begins With Awe *by Larry Deys, Pastor in the pew*

As I sit with morning coffee in the backyard for a time of contemplation and watching birds, a House Wren lands in the elderberry bush ten feet from me. It goes about its work of gleaning the branches with a considerable amount of energetic twittering which continues for quite some time. Soon other birds come to the feeders and then, as if on cue, burst into flight.

Feelings of awe and delight pass through me. I feel more alive for what has taken place before me, which I am grateful to have witnessed.

Once again I am reminded it all begins with awe. Awe fills us with wonder, making us aware in a new and deeper way that it is good to be alive and experience the richness of creation.

It occurs to me that awe is the antidote for the affliction that has fallen upon us in these tremulous and stress-filled times in which we can so easily be consumed by the anger and craziness we experience daily. Craziness is part of the reality in which we live, however it is not the whole of reality and it is important to remember that. There is also that which awakens awe, lifting, renewing and sweeping away the staleness of life, so we are infused with beauty and wonder.

Awe breaks us open to the grace that is all around us, but to which we are often blind until it strikes us, flooding us with illumination. In that moment of awe we are fully alive and we are caught up in mystery.

Actually the world is filled with mystery, but

we are often too busy to see it because we are consumed with the duties, cares and frustrations of daily life. When this pattern

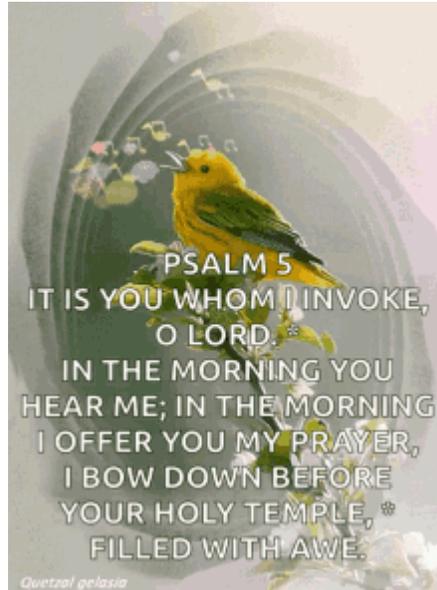
continues unabated we find ourselves tired, drained and the heaviness of life settles in upon us and pulls us down. So what are we to do? We need to discover the spiritual practice of daily prayer and contemplation.

Worship on the Sabbath is important, very important, however it is not intended to be the only spiritual nourishment that we have for the week. During the days of the week we need the support and strength of daily prayer. We need a time of sitting in silence and of contemplation,

while being present to oneself and the larger natural world around us. One can do this by using a book of daily prayer, or by using the Presbyterian Daily Prayer app on your phone. You may choose to read a section of the Bible or read a psalm, or you may simply sit, quietly watching birds and being present to the sounds of nature.

During your quiet contemplative time you might feel uncomfortable with silence because it may feel strange. Or something might come to mind that you feel you need to do right now. However, if you stay with the quiet, you will come to feel more settled and at peace. Silence gives way to awe as we become aware of the mystery of this world and the glory of creation in which we are immersed.

We are given a gift beyond our full understanding and it all begins with awe.



Save
the
Date

On Sunday, November 20, we will have Laity Sunday. This means the whole worship service will be led by you! If you are willing to take part — to read a prayer, or offer a thought related to being thankful, please see Bonnie O'Shea or Dorothy Kohler. The next meeting of Congregational Life Committee is Sunday, October 23 after worship.

Go Solar for Electricity

Last year, New Scotland Presbyterian Church enrolled in a community solar farm run by Solstice and we invite interested members and friends to do the same. We chose to switch over to community solar because we want to lessen our carbon footprint and save on our bills. You can do that, too! Solstice donates \$100 to New Scotland Presbyterian for every friend of the church that joins, on top of the \$100 enrollment bonus that you will receive when you join.



When you go to this link, you can press “Reserve your spot now” and create an account. Or, you can press “Learn more first,” fill out the information, and someone from Solstice will reach out to answer your questions about community solar, and you can see if it is right for you. This community solar program services a wide array of people, from renters to homeowners and even small businesses. If you are already on a solar farm you can switch over to Solstice. We encourage you to use the link below and set up an appointment with their helpful phone team to learn more.

There are roughly 40 remaining spots available on their current New York project, so act soon if you are interested. You may also refer friends or family throughout New York and Solstice will also donate \$100 to our church for each person that joins the solar farm through the link above.

If you do not want to contact Solstice by computer you can call to speak with someone from the Solstice team at 866-826-1997

We hope you will join us in this opportunity to support the church and do good for the planet!

To watch the video, “How Does Community Solar Billing Work,” go to: <https://solstice.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Solstice-CS-Guide-HighQuality.pdf>

Congregate Dining Program

Congregate noon meals are now being served at the Osterhout Community Center on Wednesdays and St Matthew’s Church on Thursdays. All seniors are welcome and are encouraged to attend. This is a wonderful way to see old friends and make some new ones.

Reservations should be made by 1:00 pm the day before the meal by calling 518-439-9038. There is a suggested contribution of \$3.00, but it is voluntary, confidential and purely optional. The meals are supported by the Albany County Department for the Aging, the New York State Office for Aging, the Administration for Community Living and CDPHP.

Over Wintering Calla-Lily Bulbs

Thanks go out to Joe Huth for sharing calla-lily bulbs with the congregation. He has provided directions on how to winter the bulbs, as follows:



In our climate, calla-lily bulbs cannot be left in the ground during the winter. These are the steps to take for over wintering.

1. Dig up the bulbs after the foliage has yellowed or after a frost. Brush off excess soil. If dug earlier, leave in a sunny spot and wait to let the leaves yellow. This will let nutrients move into the bulbs.
2. Cut off leaves, leaving an inch or so of the stem.
3. Spray the bulbs with “Wilt-Proof.” This is not a necessary step, but it is helpful.
4. The internet suggests packing the bulbs in slightly damp peat moss, but packing them in shredded paper works just as well.
5. Store the bulbs in the cellar or where the temperature is about 50 degrees.
6. Replant when the soil warms up.

The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, October 11 in observance of Columbus Day.

October Anniversaries

- Leah & James Nicholson 10/4/81
- Pat & Ted Whitbeck 10/12/99
- Francis & Robert McCormick 10/18/57
- Jane & Bruce Thornton 10/24/64
- Bonnie & Brendan oO”Shea.. 10/25/80
- Pam & Harry Thornton 10/28/02

October Birthdays

- Colin Roberts 10/1
- James Bradley 10/1
- Mardell Steinkamp 10/2
- Reed Gordon 10/2
- Jake Herzog 10/3
- Jennifer Crawford 10/4
- Rachel Crawford 10/6
- Tara Joyce 10/8
- Alexandra Donovan 10/8
- Tim Gordon 10/9
- Robin Shufelt 10/12
- Tom Elmendorf 10/14
- Randall Miller 10/15
- Michele Von Haugg..... 10/22
- Leah Nicholson 10/27
- Jacob Norris..... 10/28
- Sarita Winchell 10/31

History Cabinet Challenge

Fall is in the air and kids are back to school. The history cabinet is decorated for autumn with colored leaves, apples and Bibles.

“The B-I-B-L-E , yes, that’s the book for me!” How many remember learning that song in Sunday school?

Our church library has a large collection of Bibles. The history cabinet is showcasing several of these through the end of November. The large antique Bibles are from the 1800’s- look for the dates.

The children’s Bibles are from the bookshelves in the downstairs nursery. Find the ceramic mouse holding a Bible.

There is also a quick Bible verse reference in the display. Do you know where to find.....?

Nativity sets will be featured during Advent and Christmas.

Anyone interested in sharing a collection January-March? ~Brenda Dwyer



CAN YOU ...

GUESS WHO!?

*And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient
to death — even death on a cross.*

Philippians 2:8

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

- Laurel & Mark Beavers
- The Rev. George & Lynn Blakesley (Johnstown pastor and his wife)
- Sean & Sandy Cameron..... (Christine Cameron's brother and sister-in-law)
- 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)
- Tina Coons (Alexandra Donovan's aunt)
- Family of Robin Coughtry (a friend of the church)
- Randy Craft (Debbie Craft's husband)
- Carl George..... (Christine Cameron's husband)
- Dot Geyer..... (Judy Riopelle's friend)
- Family of Eleanor Gifford..... (Betsy Bates' mother)
- Billy Hauf (Mary-Jean Riley's partner)
- Holly Huth..... (Joe Huth's daughter-in-law)
- Joe Huth
- Amy Klun..... (Holly Cameron's sister-in-law)
- Stephen Kohler..... (Dorothy Kohler's son)
- Family of Ron Kusel (Debbie Fuglein's friend)
- Gary Liedtke (Holly Cameron's cousin)
- Michael Manss (Robin Shufelt's friend)
- Stephanie Markus (Robin Shufelt's friend)
- Dorothy Matthews
- Gerald Minor (Joyce Schork's brother)
- Vickie Richeson..... (Mary-Jean Riley and Gene Urgento's sister)
- Mary-Jean Riley
- Chris Tracy (Alexandra Donovan's friend)
- Family of Andrew Wood (Jane Norris' brother-in-law)
- Shirley Wright
- Euni Yang..... (Pastor Charlie Yang's wife)



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.



SESSION MEETING

Session passed motions that allow PEO to hold their meetings on any first or third Monday each month if nothing else is on our church calendar, and Heldeberg Workshop was approved to meet the third Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall.

Father Rick Lesser of St. Matthew's Church has invited New Scotland Presbyterian, First United Methodist Church of Voorheesville, and Al Zahra Islamic Community on Rt. 155 for a joint Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 pm at St. Matthew's Church. Session accepted the invitation and hopes that many of our members will join our neighbors that evening.

Session approved our hosting a Christmas concert by the Friendship Singers on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 pm. The concert is free and will be in our sanctuary.

Congregational Life Committee reports that they have a meeting coming up on Sunday after worship. They are hosting a celebration of members who have been members for 50 years or more on October 2. They will also be discussing Christmas service on December 25, the Sunday morning after our Christmas Eve service. It will be more informal than our typical Sunday services, and will include carols. It was also noted that we have not had much interest in having a Trunk-or-Treat event this year, so we will not schedule it.

The Deacons report that Homer Warner will be the representative for the Nominating Committee this year. The Deacons and Session are required to meet together once a year, so we will invite them to join us at the next Session meeting, October 27.

Dorothy Kohler and Bonnie O'Shea volunteered to be co-chairs of this year's Nominating Committee.

The Mission Committee reports that the fall clothing drive to be held in October will support two organizations: Patients-in-Need Closet at St. Peter's Hospital and the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. Men's and

women's seasonal clothing is to be collected. Look for the collection box in the church lobby.

Building and Grounds report that they met with NYS Landmarks Conservancy Sacred Sites Grant Program representative, Ann Friedman, on August 29. She examined the crenellated parapet at the top of the steeple. Her agency is meeting October 14 and she will be asking them if they can cover part of the architect's fee involved in repairing the parapet. She also noted a portion of the roof will need to be repaired in the upcoming years. Her agency may also be able to provide some grant money for those repairs. In addition, our sound system is better after some tweaking by Pro Sound Associates; they also provided the church with a new headset microphone for the Rev. Cameron. People report improved sound during services.

Finance Committee reports that Cindy Brickman's bequest has been received by the church.

Solstice Solar has a new local project underway, so there are open more spots for members of the church if they are interested in signing up for solar as their electric source.

The Rev. Cameron co-officiated with Rabbi Greg Weitzman at the wedding of Carley Perez and Andrew Kauffman on Sunday, September 18, at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown. Carley is the daughter of Debbie Perez.

The Rev. Cameron will be moderating at Jewett's Annual Meeting on September 25.

The Rev. Cameron will be using up vacation days in October and November.

Free Program Sponsored by New Scotland Historical Assn.

From Dutch Jenever and Colonial Rum to Empire Rye: The Story of Distilling in NYS

Pioneer craft distiller and co-founder of the Albany Distilling Company, John Curtin will discuss the fascinating history of distilling in New York and our region from its colonial beginnings to the recent emergence of farmhouse and craft distilling.

Tuesday, October 4 at 7:30 pm at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center, Rt. 85 in New Salem.

**Sunday, October 2
4:00 pm**

*New Scotland
Presbyterian Church
2010 New Scotland Road
Slingerlands, NY 12159
518-439-5464
www.newsotlandpc.org*



Bring your pets, or photographs of your pets if transporting them is a challenge, and join us for a short outdoor service followed by light refreshments.

**BLESSING
OF THE
ANIMALS**

*New Salem Volunteer Fire
Dept. Auxiliary Presents . . .*

FALL VENDOR & CRAFT FESTIVAL

**Saturday, October 15
10-2:00 pm**

*More than 40 Local Vendors,
Crafters & Artisans*

- * Hand made crafts & furniture
- * Health & Beauty
- * Food & Beverages
- * Face Painting
- * Jewelry & Art
- * Photography
- * Cosmetics

694 New Salem Road, Voorheesville



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"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"

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