



LISTEN to *The ChurchMouse*

*New Scotland Presbyterian Church
September 2022*

"Original Landlord Still Offering Sanctuary"



Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World by the Rev. Holly Cameron

It is an interesting time in the life of the church. All churches had to shift when the lockdown came in 2020. We had to learn how to worship without being in the sanctuary, and we had to learn how to meet without being in the same room. Every crisis is an opportunity to adjust and adapt, to learn and grow. And, through this pandemic, all of us have learned new skills, and adjusted to different ways of communicating.

Now we have to adjust again. As our world opens up more and more, we have to consider again how we are called to do ministry. I think every church is realizing we cannot just go back to how things were before the pandemic. We all have a greater online presence and need to consider how that will continue to be part of our life together. Many people who regularly come to church in person have expressed gratitude that they have our online recorded worship for the occasions when they are under the weather or traveling. Being online is one more tool for our church life.

Even as our tools may change, we realize that the message of the church never changes. We are to love God and serve our neighbors. We are to grow in, and deepen, our relationship with God through our whole life, and to share God's love with others. The message never changes, but how we share the message and live out the message shifts as the culture shifts.

When I was growing up, church was always done in person. There were a few TV preachers, but even they were being filmed in front of large crowds. Now, everyone checks online before going anywhere in person. In-person gatherings still matter, but how we engage other media has shifted. Churches have learned to use the media tools of our



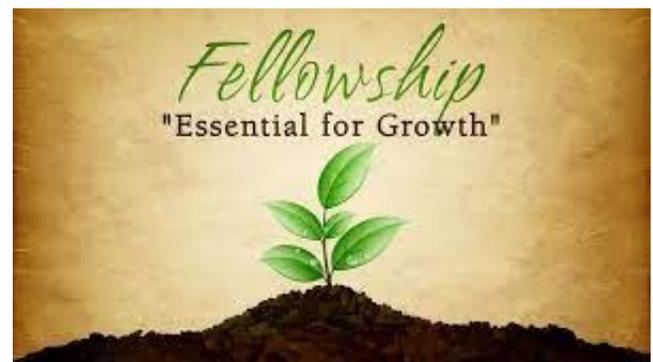
**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

culture, but I believe the church is also called to stand against the culture. We use the tools of media, not to get the biggest ratings or the most subscribers, but to offer welcome to those the culture is leaving behind.

There is so much to consider as we seek to serve our ever-changing world. How do we use the tools of media to truly serve and honor God? How do we build community in this online culture?

The good news is our God is always inviting us to something new. Even thousands of years ago, God said, "See, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19). Our challenge is to continue to follow God's call so that church is not just a place where we think about God, but experience God, so we can share that experience with others. In a world where we are drowning in words, people are still looking for a place of real hope, a place where they can be known, a place where they can find meaningful connection. That is what the church is always meant to be.

~Faithfully, +Holly



**Coffee and fellowship hour
resumes on September 11
following worship!**

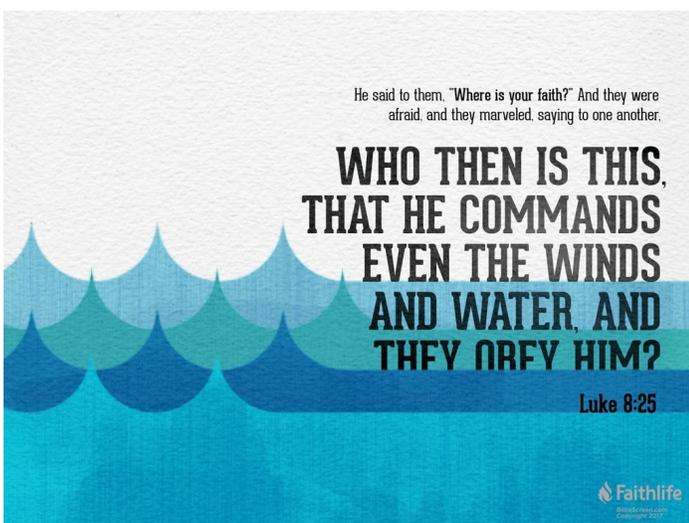


Welcome to the families and children who will be participating in Sunday School this year! Our first class session will be Sunday, September 11th, and will once again begin with four lessons focusing on the Season of Creation.

We have a wonderful curriculum that provides a complete resource of study information, suggestions, and printed materials that parents may look at ahead of time or at any point during the year.

As in previous years, we will gather together for worship at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary and then, following the children's sermon, the children will go the classroom where we will listen to the Bible stories and share creative ways to learn the lessons. We hope many of you will plan to join us as we grow in our relationship with our God who loves us so much.

We hope to see you on September 11th!
~Bonnie O'Shea and Rev. Holly Cameron



The Mission Collection for September 2022

The Theological Education Fund of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)

The fund is the best hope of ensuring the church of Christ is prepared to serve long into the future. Gifts to this fund help ensure every church has a seminary-trained pastor.

The fund is housed at the Presbyterian Foundation and is the sole source of denomination-wide funding for seminaries in the PC (USA).

Seminaries are good stewards of the funds we provide. Research shows that 91 percent of Presbyterian seminary graduates are employed in the fields they've been called to serve in within one year. Presbyterian seminary graduates also have less debt than their peers at other seminaries, giving them more flexibility to follow the call of God, no matter where it might lead.

We need these graduates – and need more individuals to see a clear path to seminary. Out of the current clergy serving in Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations, 85 percent will likely retire in the next decade. The next generation of seminarians is energized, enthusiastic and ready to serve, and it is our vision to use the Theological Education Fund to buoy their service to the church.

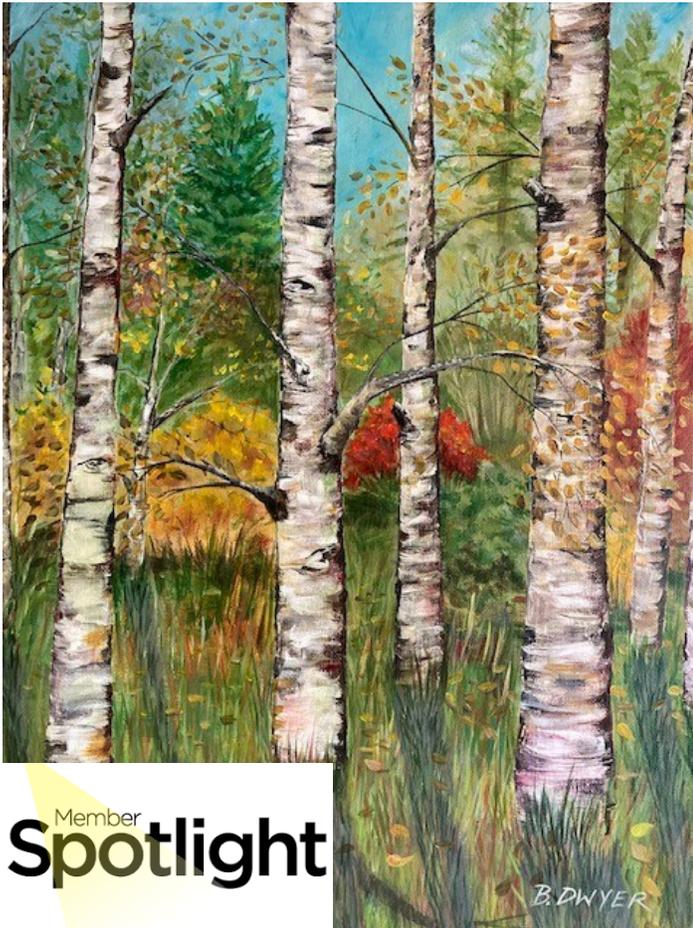
The first Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) theological seminaries were founded in 1794 and 1812. Over the years, additional theological institutions were established, today there are twelve seminaries carrying on the Presbyterian tradition of providing educated leadership for congregations from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Rim.



The Mission Committee is in need of new members. If you are interested or have any questions about what we do, please ask any of its members- Mardell Steinkamp (chair), Mary and Margaret Ewart, or Rev. Holly Cameron.

Birch Trees in Autumn

Acrylic on canvas by Brenda Dwyer



Member
Spotlight

The hallway gallery at the Voorheesville Public Library will be adorned with acrylic paintings by artist Brenda Dwyer during the month of September. *Birch Trees in Autumn* is one of 16 of her paintings that will be displayed.

Brenda has a BA degree in fine arts and taught art for 29 years. "I always thought of myself as a crafts person rather than a painter," she said. "When I retired from teaching, my daughter, Brie, bought me paints and canvases for Christmas and said, 'Okay Mom, start painting!'"

Brenda enjoys painting landscapes, florals and even abstract paintings. "I choose a color palette but don't have a definite direction until I start laying down paint. I like the freedom abstract allows."

Three of the paintings that will be on display at the library were painted with the edge of a credit card — no brushes!

So before you check out that book . . . check out the gallery!



The Burning Bush
Ex 31-12

Listen to the
Voice of Creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Each year from September 1 to October 4, Christian families unite for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for creation. We are co-creatures, and part of all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is Listen to the Voice of Creation.

September 11, Fauna & Flora Sunday

Job 39:1-8, 26-30; Psalm 104:14-23
First Corinthians 1:10-23, Luke 12:22-31

September 18, Storm Sunday

Job 28:20-27; Psalm 29
First Corinthians 1:21-31; Luke 8:22-25

September 25, Cosmos Sunday

Proverbs 8:22-31; Psalm 148
Colossians 1:15-20, John 6:41-51

October 2, Ocean Sunday

Job 38:1-18; Psalm 104:1-9, 24-26
Ephesians 1:3-10; Luke 5:1-11

Fall Activities

It's that time of year when we begin to plan for our fall activities and the Congregational Life Committee would like to know how many families would be interested in participating in holding our Trunk-or-Treat this year. Bonnie O'Shea is in contact with the New Salem Fire Department to see if they are interested in co-hosting again this year. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, or you can let Bonnie know directly.

FUNERAL PLANNING

Checklist

Our August newsletter included an article about end-of-life planning. It included a long list of areas to consider as we think about helping our families in a sad and difficult time. Among those items is preparing a healthcare proxy, a durable power of attorney, and completing a will. There are many other preparations related to accounts, titles, obituaries, and details for the funeral home, and final services. You may want to refer back to that article.

As promised, the insert for this newsletter is a checklist for planning both the funeral service and other items. We hope this will be a useful tool for you and your loved ones. Talk with those closest to you and make your wishes known. You are welcome to make a copy of the funeral planning sheet and give it to the Rev. Cameron as well.

Your family will thank you for your thoughtfulness in their time of sorrow.

**PRAISE BE TO THE GOD AND
FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST, WHO HAS BLESSED US IN
THE HEAVENLY REALMS WITH EVERY
SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN CHRIST.**

- EPHESIANS 1:3 -

heartlight.org

Congregational Life Committee

Meeting Notes

The Congregational Life Committee met on August 28th and discussed a number of items.

First, Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 11th, with our first four lessons based on the Season of Creation. We are also asking if anyone would help out this year as substitute teachers. Church members may contact Bonnie O'Shea if they are interested.

We are also hosting our annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 2, at 4:00 p.m. As in previous years, the service will be outside on the back lawn, and light refreshments will be shared with attendees.

We are also looking at who has interest in having Trunk-or-Treat this year. The New Salem Fire Department is doing the same, as we have partnered with them each time we did this event. They have a busy October and will discuss if they want to add one more event at the firehouse. Stay tuned for more updates.

We also reviewed and updated our Welcome pamphlet.

We discussed starting up the adult Bible Study group again, too. Please let Rev. Cameron know if that is something you'd be interested to participating in.

This fall we are planning on celebrating milestone anniversaries of church members. Details are still being worked out, but stay tuned for information. We typically celebrate fifty-year anniversaries, and then each five year increment after that, but we decided to begin celebrating at twenty-years of membership.

This year we will hold two celebrations: the first for members who have been part of the congregation for fifty years or more, then a second for members who have been part of the congregation for twenty years or more.

Lastly, we decided to have a Laity Sunday on November 20. This is a service that is completely led by members of the congregation. If you are interested in participating, let Dorothy Kohler or Bonnie O'Shea know.

Our next meeting will be September 25th following the morning service. All are welcome to join us!

September Anniversaries

Tamara & Stephen Shaw 9-3-18
 Shari & William Edwards 9-4-93
 Sarita & John Winchell 9-9-72
 Rebecca & Randy Miller 9-10-11
 Patricia & Daniel Joyce 9-20-97
 Judee & Albert Miller 9-18-??
 Christine & Tim Gordon 9-20-97

September Birthdays

Debbie Perez 9-7
 Jaclyn Kohler 9-8
 Evelyn Fuglein 9-10
 Shari Edwards 9-15
 Christine Gordon 9-16
 Frank Bode 9-17
 Shirley Wright 9-18
 Van Kohler 9-18
 Dawn Scaccia 9-19
 Laurel Beavers 9-22
 Donna Wittig 9-22
 McKinley Riedy 9-27



*Prayer is the
 avenue through
 which we involve
 god in every
 detail of our
 lives.*



Drive Through Food Drive

September 13, 4-7:00 pm

This food drive benefits the food pantries of Guilderland, St. Madeleine Sophie, Altamont and New Scotland.

In addition to non-perishable food items, they are particularly in need of shampoo, laundry detergent, deodorant, garbage bags, mouthwash, toilet paper, paper plates, paper towels, tooth paste, tooth brushes, and hand soap.

Items may be dropped off at the Guilderland YMCA, 250 Winding Brook Dr, Guilderland, NY 12084.

There is a flyer on the bulletin board with more information.

PRAYER LIST

<i>Family of Mary Bassler</i>	(Homer Warner's sister)
<i>Laurel & Mark Beavers</i>	
<i>Family of Rosemary Beavers</i>	(Mark Beavers' mother)
<i>Judy Cameron</i>	(Holly Cameron's mother)
<i>Melanie Thornton Capraro</i>	(Karen & Tim Thornton's daughter)
<i>Bill Carroll</i>	(Chris Gordon's father)
<i>Danny Carroll</i>	(Chris Gordon's brother)
<i>Linda Caruso</i>	(Tamara Shaw's friend)
<i>Amy Chew</i>	(Holly Cameron's friend)
<i>Nick Cohen</i>	(Mary-Jean Riley's friend)
<i>Randy Craft</i>	(Debbie Craft's husband)
<i>Carl George</i>	(Christine Cameron's husband)
<i>Dot Geyer</i>	(Judy Riopelle's friend)
<i>Billy Hauf</i>	(Mary-Jean Riley's partner)
<i>Holly Huth</i>	(Joe Huth's daughter-in-law)
<i>Joe Huth</i>	
<i>Stephen Kohler</i>	(Dorothy's Kohler's son)
<i>Ron Kusel</i>	(Debbie Fuglein's friend)
<i>Aidan Lawson</i>	(Robin Shufelt's friend)
<i>Linda Mabie</i>	(Peg Throop's friend)
<i>Michael Manss</i>	(Robin Shufelt's friend)
<i>Stephanie Markus</i>	
<i>Dorothy Matthews</i>	
<i>Tony Merritt</i>	(Tim & Christine Gordon's in-law)
<i>Gerald Minor</i>	(Joyce Schork's brother)
<i>Vickie Richeson</i>	(Mary-Jean Riley & Gene Urgento's sister)
<i>Mary-Jean Riley</i>	
<i>Family of Janet Willey</i>	
<i>Shirley Wright</i>	
<i>Euni Yang</i>	(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.

It's very clear to see that this is the ever lovely Brenda Dwyer!



Session Meeting Notes



SESSION MEETING

Session met on August 25th and discussed a variety of items.

Approval was given for PEO to use the building on September 19th.

Session discussed whether it might be time to begin Fellowship after services, and the vote was in favor of doing so. We will begin hosting coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 11.

Mission Committee reported that they will host a fall clothing drive throughout October. They will be accepting both men's and women's clothing. The Mission Committee also shared their updated brochure with the Session.

Buildings and Grounds Committee shared that they are meeting with a representative from the New York Landmarks Conservancy on Monday, August 29th, to look at steeple repairs.

There was an update from Solstice, the solar company that many of our church members joined in 2021. It appears that everyone who signed up is now on a solar project. A new project is expected this fall if there are other family members and friends who would like to sign-up. More information will be coming soon.

The Church received a \$1,000 grant from the presbytery to help offset COVID losses. This grant money was given by the Hoosick Falls congregation when they closed last year.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 22nd.



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