Presbyterian United Church of Schaghticoke, NY March/ April 2025 A brick house with a white door

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**The Year 2025- Living Intentionally Because God Is Intentional With Us.**

1 Thessalonians 5:11NRSV

**11**Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Welcome to Presbyterian United Church of Schaghticoke newsletter.   
As we gather this month, let us reflect on God’s gift of being intentionally in our world, our lives, our daily activities. Lent began on March 5 so we will finish our Lenten work by April 6. Then we will dive into the Palms and Passion of April 13 and conclude with Resurrection on Sunday April 20. Through this time, we have approached the recorded text asking “why”! Why did Jesus do this miracle, this sign, this activity. The book of John provided our miracles and signs that are specific to John- so we looked at those particular events. We learned there was always a reason- usually a 2 or 3-fold reason, but always was revealing his own divinity and closeness to God his Father. These miracles and signs continue to remind us that God himself is intentional with us always.

**Pastor’s Place: Something to Think About:** John 2: 1-11 is Jesus’s first miracle/sign. He changed water into wine at a wedding for a family friend. Several of his newly called disciples were with him as well as his mother. The wine ran out at the worst possible time. Mary went to Jesus and encouraged him to step in and rescue the family from ridicule and he reluctantly he did. This miracle begins with the divinity of Jesus and builds from that premise. We learn that Jesus is not water but the best wine we will ever taste. Another of the miracles John writes about is the biggest, most magnificent and frightening of all. He purposely allowed his friend to die and then to demonstrate his divinity he raised him to life. Divinity is on display as well as his human pain. Its almost as if he is saying, “even this event- resurrecting Lazarus will not be enough to bring the people around to understanding who” Jesus was and is. But this miracle is the foreshadowing of his own death and resurrection in just a few weeks. It also may have been the switch that opened the door to the betrayal by Judas. God is so intentional in all ways. And because Jesus is God in human form- he too is intentional- meaning he knows what each choice he makes will lead too. It reminds us that we often think we made a decision on our own, but if we could stand back far enough to see the whole picture we may see how our choice will lead to other choices and actions to bring about what ever outcome that has been set in motion.

**Pastor’s Place: Coming Up- Mary sister of Lazarus loved Jesus. Not the romantic but the agape love of worship and nurturing. She knew Jesus had purpose beyond what was visible. She had listened to him very carefully. She caught the nuances the disciples missed. She like Jesus’ mother and Mary of Magdala knew the and knowledge of impending doom Jesus and they also knew Jesus was experiencing love and compassion so deep it was balancing the impending doom.**

**Judas came late to the team. He had skills with money and so he held the purse for all of them. He was fully committed to the call Jesus made to come and follow – for the kingdom of God was at hand. Judas intensely wanted Jesus to be the Messiah- the savior of the world as they knew it and he had a box already for Jesus to fit in. It did not really occur to him that what he was working for was not what Jesus was working for. Judas wanted to Jesus on the throne of Jerusalem- and rout out all the roman soldiers and all those who were not Jewish. Then the new kingdom would be a reality for everyone. I, think Jesus was well aware of Judas’ plan, and he intentionally allowed it to unfold just as it was set in motion to do. And it did.**

**What pain and distress he must have experienced trying to keep his hands off of something he may very well be able to stop and if he didn’t, he knew it would lead to his death. I believe he had great compassion for Judas, that he loved him as he loved the others. Have you ever experienced this type of event?**  
**Work and Worship at Presbyterian United Church of Schaghticoke**   
  
**Sunday Worship:** Every Sunday10:30 AM: 165 Main Street, Schaghticoke, NY 12154. Join us for uplifting worship and a educational and inspiring message from Rev. Lynne Hardy

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Wednesdays 11- 12 noon in dining room area of the downstairs. We are currently working on the Psalms: An All-in-One Study on God’s Song Book. Together we dive deeper into the Psalm exploring it as Jesus may have read it and then looking at the historical time it was written in. All are welcome!

**Community Monthly Meal:** Ministry Highlight below. Second Saturday of each month from September to May at 5 pm. Meals are prepared by volunteer groups from the community. It’s a great time to come together with friends, family and maybe your neighbor and enjoy good food and conversation. All are welcome

**Vacation Bible School-** Magnify and a possible Reboot of What A Mess!:

When is the last time you were left to clean up a mess you didn’t make all by yourself- a friend helped but he disappeared soon after your dad came home and saw the mess. You know your father is very disappointed and that you must find a way to clean up the mess even if your friend didn’t help. The kids had a fun time creating a mess and then we told the story of the boy who throughout the week was reluctant to ask his father for help cleaning it up. He finally gave in and asked his dad for help and his dad said- “All you needed to do was ask.” The kids asked for help cleaning up their large mess and within that mess they found Jesus. So two lessons here: Jesus is often in the mess with us and God waits for us to ask for help. But he is always there keeping his eye on us.

**Ministry Spotlight:** This month I want to focus on the ministry work that is done by the congregation every day. I can’t name what you have done to minister to another- but I can tell you about how you minister to me – even if you are not aware you do. I will name 3 things I see from you that are evidence of your work. 1. You listen, and you hear what it is that is needed. Whether it is physical work or a calming hand and a receptive ear- you provide. 2. You follow through on things I am not able to do. You make a phone call to check in on someone – or you visit someone- or you share a story, a picture or a gift just wen it is needed. 3. You speak highly of this family of faith in the community and people see and hear that. You amaze me. Thank you congregation and friends of the congregation who walk the walk and talk the talk.

**Prayer Requests:** WE have an active prayer circle, and we often lift people up in prayer in worship. We also have a list of folks we are always praying for in our bulletin each Sunday. If you have a prayer request, a joy, a concern, please reach out to Pastor Hardy with a name and a need but keep it general so we protect people’s privacy. You may also leave a prayer request in the offering dishes at the back of the church. If you are in worship- we encourage you to speak the needs aloud when we are setting up for Prayers of the people. If you need a visit from the pastor or a member of the congregation, please contact Pastor Hardy at 518-753-6277- leave your message and she will call you back.

**A Ministry opportunity:** Sylvia Bunk, our retired organist, has moved to assisted living and could use regular visits- and cards and calls- 26 Rockrose Way, Apt 222, Ballston Spa, NY 12020; 518-450-1016.

Kay Van Wie is not able to drive as her eyesight has diminished to the point of the doctor telling her no driving- hence she is not able to come to church as she once did.   
These two women have been mainstays of this church – and they could use the ministry of visits or calls on a regular basis. Let’s set up a process and share the work.

**Volunteer Opportunities**: We are always looking for volunteers to help with various church activities including cleaning the sanctuary, making goodies for bake sales and making soup for soup sales. If you have an idea for anything – classes, work to do, event to have speak up and share. We are always willing to try something new. If you’re interested in serving, please let Pastor Lynne Hardy by phone 207-319-5307 or email- [lenhardyny@gmail.com](mailto:lenhardyny@gmail.com).

May 2 and 3 are the days we set aside for the garage/yard/indoor sale. Donations will be accepted from April 28- May 1, 2025. I will be I the building everyday from noon to 5 pm so you may bring your clean gently used donations items to the side door of the church. Please be sure you are able to carry it into the building. No big furniture. If you have something small bring it and I will look at it. Donations can range from clothing, small appliances that work and are clean, lamps and clean folded bedding- preferably in a labeled bag, old jewelry, trinkets, Knick knacks, paper back books- no children books- clean toys in good repair and puzzles. If you want to know if we will take it- bring it and I will let you know or call me 207-319-5307 and ask. We also will take sporting equipment in good repair, tools and fishing stuff. All funds raised will go to fund repairs to our building. We will also have a bake sale on Saturday. Sale opens on May 2- at 12 noon - 5 pm and reopens Saturday May 3 at 8:30- 4pm.   
  
**Stay Connected**: Follow us on social media via  
• Facebook: Schaghticoke United Church  
• Website: presbyterianuntiedchurchschaghticoke.com  
For more information about our church, services, and events, please visit our website or contact the church office 518- 753-6277 or 207-319-5307.

**Upcoming Calendar of Events Month of March- June 2025**

Session meets on the second Sunday of each month after church with the congregation every other month in the dining room over coffee hour. Next meeting is our annual meeting so we will be reviewing reports and discussing the 2025 budget and plans for the year.

Holy Communion or The Lord’s Supper- or the Sacrament of Communion occurs during worship on the first Sunday of every month.

Bible Study Every Wednesday Dining Room 11- 12 noon.

Indoor Walking Club Monday’s 11- 12 in the dining room.

Sewing Club- Tuesday 11-2 pm in the dining room.

Tai Chi Club- Saturday 9-10 in dining room

Monday Evening Yoga with Kelsey Richards- 6:30- 7:30- $10 per class pay instructor at Presbyterian United Church, 165 Main Street. Schaghticoke, NY

Wednesday 10- 11am Yoga with Sharon Gavitt. Pay instructor 5 classes for $30 or $10 walk in fee. Session 2- April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Same arrangement- Sharon Gavitt 10-11 am Wednesdays at Presbyterian United Church, 165 Main Street. Schaghticoke, NY

Living with Cancer Support Group with Ted Wright- 3rd Monday of month call 240-595-4511 to contact.

Easter Worship April 20- 10:30 am.

April 28- May 1- Prep for Community garage sale at the church- indoors and outdoors. Seeking donations of clothing in good repair- clean, household linens, curtains, dishes in good shape, pots and pans, small appliance working, soft cover books, puzzles, clean working toys, costume jewelry, tools. No hygiene products- soaps or hair cleansers- or used perfumes or lotions. This will benefit the church funds for building and other needs. May 2nd 12- 5 pm - May 3rd – 8:30- 4 pm tag sale.

May 6- 16- Lynne will be away.

May 10- Community Meal- Last till October- HV Jr National Honor Society- Taco Bar and Brownie Ice Cream Sundars.

May 11 – Mother’s Day- Julie will be away.

May 18- Julie will be away.

June 5 – Potential New Date- postponed from April 25, 2025- Mental Health First Aid for Adults; A Mental Health Association of NY Free training offered by Community Life Support. Free. Register by calling 207-319-5307  or at the door for 8 hour class with morning light refreshments and lunch at noon. Open to all- encouraging teachers and community leaders, churches, fire departments and rescue squad attendance.

June 14- Strawberry Fest- Volunteers are always needed to help with parking in small blocks of time- also for setting up and taking down set-ups. Call Liz Baker 518- 461-2155.

**Closing Blessing:** May God’s grace and peace be with you this month. We look forward to seeing you at our services and events!   
  
God be with you until we meet again!

Reverend Lynne Hardy.

**Upcoming for the Community :**

**A poster with a flower and text

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**![A menu board with a pig and text

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**A person looking at another person

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