Presbyterian United Church of Schaghticoke, NY May and June 2025 

**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 in the weeks up to and after Pentecost- we will meet the disciples and then Paul and learn about their intentional work in the world. They traveled as Jesus Great Commission intended- into all the known world and shared what they had personally experienced in their walk with Jesus. We will get up close and personal with some of those experiences and answer a question on my mind.

**Pastor’s Place: Something to Think About:** Here is a question I have been personally pondering over the last month or so. Do I know Jesus or do I know about Jesus? There is a distinction to make here and it is an important one when it comes to our faith and its particular practices. Knowing about something- means you have hearsay and or facts about an idea, a concept, a person, a proposal or any number of other things- but you have no personal skin in the game. You don’t actually know- how hot a stove is until you feel it yourself- how cold the snow and ice are until you feel it yourself, the pain of a broken bone or a heart attack – until you experience it yourself. So it is with Jesus and the way he is for us in the world even today. Until we experience a moment or event or something out of the ordinary, we cannot claim to actually know Jesus. Have you experienced Jesus in an up- close and personal way?

**Pastor’s Place: Our worship in this post Easter time is focused on the intentional ways Jesus with the Holy Spirit helped the disciples move from a place of pure panic- afraid for their own lives to true followers of Jesus. They were asked to take all their personal knowledge and experience and share it in the communities around them. To go from place to place to be sure those early followers heard the news of resurrection and a new way of believing. They had three mandates:**

**Matthew 28:18- 20- Go into the worlds and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything he had commanded.**

**John 13:34-35: To love one another as Greatness in his kingdom is found in serving others, exemplifying this through His own Life and actions.**

**And a fourth that encompasses all of these – when you break bread and drink from a cup remember me and all you have learned.**

**From the day of his resurrection to his ascension into heaven he walked the world continuing his teaching and supporting the disciples of all they had learned. And he left them with the word- recorded by Matthew in Chapter 28: 20- I am with you always till the end of the age. What did this mean to the disciples and what can it mean for us? We know that all Jesus did in his lifetime was intentional- and this ending is no different. He left them with the reassurance that no matter where they were- what they were encountering He- Jesus was with them and his guidance was ever available through prayer. He wanted to convey that even when they faced persecution and hardships and even horrible deaths- they were fulfilling the mission set by Jesus. His intentional acts were how he empowered the disciples by giving them authority as he had. Next, he wanted to intentionally communicate his work was to go on- through them with the aide of the Holy Spirit- without a time limit nor a boundary to be found. Intentional actions led to the first 2 centuries of following the way. And here we are 2025 years later still seeking that connection by fulfilling the mission of Jesus.**

**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 October through December and March through 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 to attend and if you have a group that would like to volunteer to prepare and serve a meal- give us a email – ebaker50@yahoo.com

 **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 time around I want to shine a light on those who are always ready to bake or make something for a bake sale. I have had the pleasure of enjoying a multitude of items that I would never have made or purchased myself but when they come to the bake sale- I do make sure I taste everything. All of you have your talents that is for sure- and then there are the ones who try new things. We fulfill the Presbyterian nature of our being when food is involved. So thank you bakers and makers- bake sales are special because of what you put into them. And we raise some funds for the needs of the church.

**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.

With the Strawberry Fest next in line – how would we best contribute to the festival? Volunteers are always needed for various tasks or we could have a pie sale or raffle. Or do nothing at all. It really is up to you all. We will discuss at the May session meeting May 21 after church.

**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.

April 12- Living Well Health Fair- Sponsored by Community Life Support – A gathering of health care professionals and other practitioners and groups to provide us with the most up to date information for living our best life. 10- 3pm at the HVCS gym.

June 5- 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.

May 6- 16- Lynne will be away.

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 Events Around our Community:**

Valley Falls Library- has a new director Julia Weston and she is building programs for the community:

Adult Exercise Class- Noon on Tuesday and Thursday contact 518-753-4230 for info and to register.

A Seed Library is available to the public.

June 14- Village Wide Garage Sale in Valley Falls – no clothes. Donations call 518-753-4230.

Valley Falls Methodist Charge Chicken BBQ after yard sale.

Memorial Day Service- May 24th- on front lawn of library

Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays 10 am

Middle School Bricks and Boards- Fridays 2 pm

Valley Falls Game Society- Every other Tuesday- call 518-753-4230 for information

Monthly Bird Walk in Valley Falls- 9:30 am every second Thursday of the Month.

May 23rd Rensselaer County Career Center Opportunity 9am- 11 am.

Victor Lodge Chicken BBQ’s have resumed- and drive through event by registration only May 17 4-6 pm. Wednesday is the last day to reserve your ticket. Call- 518-368-7228- or email Donnie Barton at donniebjv@aol.com-

Victor Lodge Breakfasts are continuing on May 18th. -Open to the public- 7:30- 10: 30 am.

May 17th Ice Cream Social – by reservation only- at Chrissy’s for families and children with autism. 9- 11 am.

