Dear Friends,

Welcome, Warmer Weather! We are in the winding down of the Easter Season, but we continue to celebrate the resurrection as an anchor of our faith.

So much to share.

We recently held a church retreat, which was very successful. The two main themes were connecting people to local mission opportunities and being more intentional about welcoming and connecting guests to our church.

I am excited that the young people challenged us to continue to fill the mission boxes in the fellowship hall.

We are in for a new challenge.

I was given a local idea by the Council on Aging that we can all join in with. They requested birthday cards for people who receive Meals on Wheels. Many of the recipients live alone and have a shortage of personal contact beyond their delivery persons. If we could prepare happy birthday cards to be distributed to these folks, they could be delivered with their meals on their birthdays. To this end, if you would commit to doing a birthday card or two each week and maybe just a "thinking of you" card as well, we could bring a spark of happiness to people's lives. Essentially the cards have no person listed and the envelope will have "Happy birthday" or "Thinking of you" on it. And then the from section can be a greeting with either your signature or the name of the church or both.

This will be our Young People Challenge for the next two weeks. Will you accept?

We have a box in the fellowship hall to put your cards in when you bring them.

Marlene and I will be going to the Festival of Homiletics (Preaching) held in Minneapolis this year. We will be blessed during our time there to have dinner with Father Tony Salim, who served at St. Joseph's in our community.

And on May 23, the Presbytery of Western New York will meet at our church in the late afternoon and evening. During that time, Betsy Cashing, our current Moderator, will oversee her last meeting. And I will be installed as the new Moderator of our Presbytery. I am deeply moved by how many in our church are working to make this a special day.

On Pentecost, May 28th, is our annual "Festival of Music," which promises to be a blessing to our community. Invite a friend to enjoy this celebration and let the Spirit soar.

Please mark on your calendars. June 3rd from noon till 3pm at War Vets Park is an all-church picnic with the Portville Presbyterian Church. Please see the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall for what to bring. More details will be coming shortly. As time goes by, I hope to see us move toward more cooperation with our neighbors.

June 4th brings one of my favorite sacred events, a baptism. We will baptize Carson Haynoski during worship. What a blessing for our church.

On June 9th at 2:00pm, there will be a committal service for Mary Daugherty at McKean Memorial Park in Lewis Run. The address is 7965 Route 599 Mt Alton Rd. This is near Bradford Airport.

And finally, summer worship hours begin July 2nd and continue through Labor Day. We will worship at 10am and return to 11am worship on September 10th.