



# THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – BIG FLATS, NY --- MARCH 2015

Founded 1827 ----- “Pride In Our Past – Faith In Our Future”

(607) 562-8048 ----- /www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/

“Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he  
walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he  
blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”  
Teresa of Avila



*As often as you did it for one  
of my least brothers, you did  
it for me.*

We often think of Lent as a time to focus on Christ’s journey to the cross and the salvation and forgiveness it provides. And that is good. Yet we see in the Gospel of Mark a Jesus who call us to not just observe but to pick up our crosses and follow. To take up a cross, a sacrifice, a presence, a selflessness, a forgiving for others is what we are called to do. How often do we empty ourselves of our egos and our needs to focus on this?

“Then Jesus called the crowd and his disciples to him. “If any of you want to come with me,” he told them, “you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me. For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for me and for the gospel, you will save it.” (Mark 8:34-35 Good News Translation)

Peace in Christ,

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

February temperatures were often frigid, but they were never a match for the warm love and fellowship in our community of faith. Together we shared ups and downs, triumphs and losses. We opened our hearts to help those in need of food, comfort, and better housing. We are truly a community of faith!

# Circle of Love

February's highlights included:

- Our church family showed its generous nature during the month of February. Thanks to all for the successful drive for soup and money to help fight hunger on **Souper Bowl Sunday**, February 1, and then on **Blanket Sunday**, February 15, as we donated to Church World Services for blankets for people around the world in disaster areas. On February 22, we continued our "**Pennies from Heaven**" tradition of support for Habitat for Humanity. What wonderfully generous responses to God's generosity to us!
- Our fund-raising pancake breakfasts have proven to be a big hit! Our patrons have enjoyed terrific food and a chance for fellowship with other diners. Thank you, **Jenny Dean** and many hard-working volunteers!!
- Our Property Committee and many other volunteers have been very busy as of late. Thanks to all who have pitched in!
- On Ash Wednesday, February 18, we started our Lenten journey together at a very special potluck supper. Those who wished were able to receive ashes from **Rev. Rick** as a reminder that we are indeed "Children of God."
- Webmaster **John Farr** has been working to update our church website. The roll-out date for our redesigned site has been set for March 15. Thank you, John, for all you do!



Many in our church family are in need of our prayers. The sympathy of our church family is extended to **Cathy Neally** and her family on the passing of Cathy's brother, **Joe Neally**, and to **Peg Shockner** and her family on the loss of husband **Dick Shockner**. In our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Larissa & Miranda Page**, **Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew)**, **Joyce & Sam Dean**, **Reva Soutar**, **Nick Rudnick**, **Emma Gardner**, **Flora Berke**, **Irene Hoey**, **Lydia Middaugh**, **Jackie McMann**, **Ginnie Schweizer**, **Dudley & Marie Shea**, **Ruth Price (Rev. Rick's mother)**, **Marge Larocque (Gigi's mother)**, and others who are dealing with ill health, surgery, loss, or life changes. Please continue to pray for our servicemen and women and their families and for peace in our troubled world.

***Do you have a special joy or concern that you would like to share with our Big Flats Presbyterian Church community? See Rev. Rick or Bill Howells, and we will include your news in our Joys/Concerns column.***

### LENTEN ECUMENICAL DINNER PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

The Horseheads, Big Flats, Elmira Heights Ecumenical Council has announced plans for a series of Wednesday evening Lenten programs to be held at area churches. The program each evening will consist of dinner, prayer, and presentation. All profits will go to support **Heifer International**, a non-profit organization working to eradicate poverty and hunger. The cost for dinner has been set at **\$4.50, with a \$10.00 maximum per family**. Gatherings will begin promptly at **6:00 PM**. and will end at **7:00 PM**.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
February 25	St. Matthews Episcopalian – HHDS	Jon Knight	"Cows"
March 4	First United Methodist – HHDS	Wanda Copeland	"Bees"
March 11	First Presbyterian – HHDS	<b>Rick Price</b>	<b>"Goats"</b>
March 18	Big Flats United Methodist (Hillview)	Rhonda Kouderick	TBA
<b>March 25</b>	<b>First Presbyterian – Big Flats</b>	Lenny Fuller	"Donkeys"

**NOTE:** Volunteers will be needed to help as we host the dinner on **March 25**. Sign-up sheets will be posted – please pitch in. Many hands make light work! Questions?? – see **Ann Slowik**

## NEW WEBSITE TO BE UNVEILED MARCH 15TH!

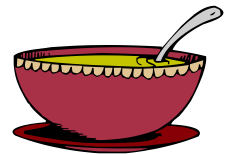
While there's something to be said for tradition, after seven years our website was long overdue for a major upgrade in design and technology. The new design has a modern look and is more adaptive to newer devices such as tablets and smart phones. It is also more open and dynamic, because any authorized user can easily contribute content without any special tools or experience. Check it out on March 15th, and let us know what you think!



[www.bigflatsfirstpres.org](http://www.bigflatsfirstpres.org)

### SUNDAY SOUP -- SIMPLY SUPERB!

Delicious and nutritious homemade soup will be available after church each Sunday, through the end of March. The soup is a reminder of what we can do for others. A donation of just **\$4.00** will bring a quart of our world-famous Big Flats goodness right to your table. Find out what good is – you won't be sorry! Sign-up sheets for those willing to serve as "Soup Chefs" are posted on the church house bulletin board. Volunteers would be most appreciated. Minier's has kindly given us the quart-size containers to use. Please contact **Ann Hayes (562-8523)** if you don't find enough to use in the church kitchen. We have a limited number of those containers so we ask that you take only 6-8 for soup use only.



Questions?? – See **Barb Horn or Ann Hayes**

### NOTICE – PLANS FOR CHURCH HOUSE USE

Any plans for use of the church/church house should (please!) be approved/cleared with **Rev. Rick** and/or the Property Committee. Those plans should also be related to **Gigi Price** by the chairperson of the committee through which the request is generated so that she can record them on the Church Calendar. Thank you for your cooperation!

## FUND-RAISING DINNERS PROPOSED

Our Worship Committee has begun to explore the idea of putting on regular fund-raising dinners. One idea proposed is to have a set menu, to be served on a regular evening each month (for example the, third Saturday, etc.). Teams could be set up to work on alternate months, so the work doesn't always fall on the same people. The committee would like to know if there is interest in pursuing this, or other such plans. Please give feedback regarding this to **Nancy Compton, Barb Horn, Rev. Rick**, or any Worship Committee member.



## NEEDED: SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF OUR BANNERS



After more than eight years of faithful service as our Banner Coordinator, **Duane Welch**, has announced his intention of retiring from this post. We are looking for a volunteer to assume this responsibility (a team of two or three would also be welcomed). The work involves selecting banners from our collection to compliment the various highlights of our Christian year (Advent, Easter, etc.) and hanging them in our sanctuary. ***There is no climbing involved!*** The work of raising and lowering the banners is all done while standing on the floor. The job of our next coordinator will be made easier through use of a new organization manual which Duane has assembled. This resource includes photos of all our banners and an explanation of the system used to store and locate them, as well as suggestions on which banners can be used at various times throughout the year. Duane will be happy to train and work with his successor and can answer any questions you may have. Please consider stepping forward to serve our congregation in this important capacity. ***Please see Rev. Rick or Duane Welch if you would like to volunteer.*** The next scheduled banner change comes at Easter, and the Easter banners usually remain in place until Pentecost.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our church has been a hive of behind-the-scenes activity recently, as Property Committee members and other willing volunteers have been hard at work on a number of projects.

Our shoveling/snow-blowing team (**Scott French, Bill Howells, Steve Johnston, and Joe Pangia**) have kept our parking lot, sidewalks, and access ramp clear and safe for use by our congregation on Sundays, as well as for all the various groups that use our church building during the week.

**Pat Fitzgerald, Scott French, and Steve Johnston** have made a number of lighting system repairs and improvements. A tall step ladder was purchased recently, making the job of working on ceiling fixtures much safer.

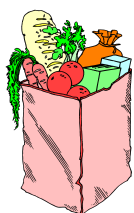
Thanks to the work of **Duane Welch**, a "Banner Manual" has been developed. This resource book covers the organization and use of our collection of display banners. One section includes photos (by **Bill Howells and Pat Fitzgerald**) of our entire banner inventory.

**Nancy Pangia** has headed a major effort to clean up and organize a number storage areas throughout our facility. **Nancy** and her many helpers – **Stacie, Emily & Hannah Belosky, Nancy Compton, Pat Fitzgerald, Bill Howells, Phil Hubbard, Steve Johnston, Cathy Neally, Rev. Rick, and Pat Seem** – have been hard at work in a number of cluttered and often ignored areas. These include the storage loft and closet located in the choir robing area, the nursery and nursery anteroom, the upstairs and downstairs Sunday school classroom closets, and our basement. The team discarded a large amount of out-of-date and unused materials and arranged each area for safe and efficient use. This ambitious project will continue through the next few months. Talk to **Nancy Pangia** if you would like to lend a hand.



## FOOD PANTRY PARTICIPATES IN \$1,000,000 GIVEAWAY

Once again this year, our church will participate in a special fundraising drive to help our Food Pantry. In this drive, the Big Flats Pantry will receive a portion of **\$1,000,000** proportional to every dollar and food item that is collected locally. The Feinstein Foundation is sponsoring the drive. Can you help? Contributions of money or food items will be gratefully accepted. Further details will be announced during morning worship. Questions? - **Julie Spangenberg-Jolley (524-6143)**.





## NEWS NOTES



**Interested in Membership?** Everyone is always welcome here at the First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats, whether they be friends or members. But, if you are thinking about joining our church and would like to learn more about membership and what it means, please talk to **Rev. Rick**. All are welcome!

**Sign-up Sheets Posted:** A number of sign-up sheets have been posted on the bulletin board in our Church House. Please consider pitching in to prepare soup, host coffee hour, provide bulletins or flowers for Sunday services, volunteer to work on a church dinner, volunteer to help with a pancake breakfast, etc.

**Cookie Suppliers Needed:** It happens – there are Sundays when no one has signed up to host our Coffee Hour. Our Worship Committee would like to ensure that refreshments are still available on those Sundays. We would be very appreciative of donations of bags of cookies and other Coffee Hour treats. We will then store these and use them as needed. Cookies may be left in our kitchen. Questions?? – See **Barb Horn, Ann Hayes, or Barb Gilbert**

**Congregation responds to February Drives:** Our 'Souper' Bowl Sunday collection resulted in the donation of some **sixty-two food items** and **\$120** in cash for our Food Pantry. Our Blanket Sunday drive netted **\$205** to provide warmth and comfort for disaster victims. Thanks to all who contributed so generously!

### PANCAKE BREAKFASTS CONTINUE -- NEXT SLATED FOR MARCH 14

Our fund-raising Pancake Breakfasts have proven to be a big hit! They are becoming a fixture in the Big Flats community. **We served nearly one hundred people during our breakfast on February 14.** Eager diners have flocked to our Church House for gourmet breakfasts of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and beverages. We thank all who have helped to make these meals so successful.

Our next breakfast is slated for **Saturday, March 14, from 8:00 – 10:00 AM.** Our last breakfast for this season will be held on **April 11.** The cost for each meal has been set at \$6.00. There will be no charge for those under five years old.

This series of meals is an ambitious project for our little church, and it takes a lot of help to ensure success. Sign-up sheets will be posted for each meal. Please do your part by pitching in to help and also with your patronage. Questions?? Talk to **Jenny Dean.**



**NOTES**



**FROM OUR MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

**FROM THE CHOIR LOFT** There is still time to join us to learn the anthems for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We'll save you a seat. Rehearsal is **at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings.**

**FROM THE BELL CHOIR** The **Handbell Choir** has begun working on music for Lent and Easter. We are changing our rehearsal schedule. Starting on February 25, we will meet on **Wednesday afternoons at 5 PM** to accommodate our present ringers.



## **DONATE TO OUR CHURCH ELECTRONICALLY!**

Our church now has an easy and safe way to donate electronically using your smartphone. All you need is one of the many free QR (quick response) code reader Apps available for your smartphone equipped with a camera.



To donate, first print this page (works best if nothing is printed on the back side). Then, just open the camera and point it at the QR code below. The APP will read the code and take you to the First Presbyterian Church donation page on the Presbyterian Mission Exchange website. You may have to navigate through a few prompts but it's worth the effort!

Once you reach the church's page, click the **GIVE NOW** button. You'll see a dropdown menu to choose which fund you would like your donation to go to along with options for one-time or recurring gifts. You can donate using your credit card or direct transfer from your bank (you'll need your bank account number and routing number).

Use this easy way to donate when you can't make the service, forget your donation envelope or don't have cash or checks handy. Also friends and family can contribute when they visit our church.

Mark Slowik



# PHOTO GALLERY







## WEEKLY EVENTS

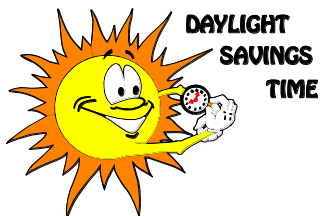
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Sunday School and Nursery Care
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00	Food Pantry is open
	6:30	Boy Scout Troop #87 ( <i>note: scouts meet on the first Wednesday of each month and then on subsequent Tuesdays</i> )
WEDNESDAY	5:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal

## SPECIAL EVENTS

March 1	Holy Communion
March 4	(Wed.) Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at First United Methodist (Horseheads) – 6:00 PM
March 8	Daylight Savings time begins – set clocks ahead one hour before retiring on Saturday, March 7
March 8	Girl Scout Sunday -- current or former Girl Scouts encouraged to wear uniforms or pins
March 11	(Wed.) Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at First Presbyterian Church (Horseheads) – 6:00 PM
March 14	(Sat.) Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser– 8:00 - 10:00 AM
March 18	(Wed.) Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at Big Flats United Methodist (Hillview) – 6:00 PM
March 20	(Fri.) First day of Spring!
March 25	<b>(Wed.) Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at Big Flats First Presbyterian – 6:00 PM</b>
March 29	Palm Sunday
March 29	“Pennies from Heaven” collection during morning worship
March 29	Information due for the April <b><u>RED DOOR</u></b>

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on March 15
Property Committee	Wednesday, March 18 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesday, March 18 – 7:00 PM



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 7 – WE KNOW THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR CHURCH!**



## GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY – MARCH 8



The Girl Scouts of the USA will be celebrating their 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday on March 12. Girl Scout Sunday has been set for **March 8<sup>th</sup>**. Scouts and former scouts are encouraged to wear uniforms, badges, pins, etc. to mark the occasion.

### PICTURES WANTED !!

We are seeking pictures, preferably digital photos, of children/families/friends in our church that can be scanned for a Power Point presentation during our next **Children/Youth Sunday**. Although this special Sunday is three or four months away, it will really make the planning process much more efficient if pictures are submitted throughout the year. Pictures can be given to **Gigi Price** on a disc or may be e-mailed to her at [gprice@stny.rr.com](mailto:gprice@stny.rr.com). Thanks, in advance, for your help.

