



# THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – BIG FLATS, NY --- MARCH 2014

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

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

As most everyone knows I have had diabetic retinopathy for approximately 35 years. Ultimately in 1984 it left me functionally blind – unable to read, drive, or see much of anything. Through several surgeries I was gifted with restored, yet limited vision. The restored sight enabled me to drive, read and function adequately. Lately, because of age, the retinas aren't quite what they used to be. Reading is more difficult. Driving has become more dependent on my quality of vision any given hour of any given day, and often weather is a factor. Recently, during inclement weather, ***imagine that!*** I had a Clergy Council Meeting. I looked out and realized my vision was good for driving. There have been other days I would have just not gone to the meeting because of poorer vision. I realized in that freeing moment that “life is truly a momentary existence”. We must appreciate the present and its gifts.

Lent is about transformation. It is not so much about us making changes – giving something up, but rather allowing the changes of life to transform us into new creatures. Richard Rohr says, “This is the real “try harder” that applies to Lent and its ultimate irony is that it is not a ‘trying’ at all, but an ultimate surrendering, dying and foundational letting go. You will not do it by yourself but it will be done unto you (Luke 1:38) by the events of your life.”

My prayer is that this Lenten Season will be a transformational time for all of us and a time of revelation. It should not be so much about changes we make but rather a discovery, or rediscovery of what was always there and true, our Christ-selves.



*Michaelangelo - God Creates Man  
- Sistine Chapel, Rome, Italy*

**“My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not “mine,” ....”**

(Galatians 2:20 - The Message)

Peace,

## ARTHUR EDWARD JENKINS (1934 - 2014)

Artie Jenkins passed away on February 13, 2013, at the age of seventy-nine (born May 5, 1934). He was a good, decent man, and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Artie and Marilyn were married for over fifty-eight years. Artie was very proud of his family, his friends, and his service in the United States Army (1957-1967). We will all remember his quiet, pleasant manner and his wonderful smile. Artie was an important part of our faith circle, and he will be missed by all of us.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

# Circle of Love

February temperatures were often cold, but they were never a match for the warmth of the 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!

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**, on February 2, and then on **Blanket Sunday** on February 16, as we donated to Church World Services for blankets for people around the world in disaster areas. What a wonderfully generous response to God's generosity to us!
- Speaking of generosity – thanks to an anonymous donor, we now have a number of large-print edition Bibles available for use during Sunday morning services. Our ushers will be happy to see that you have a copy to use.
- 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!!
- On Sunday, February 9, we were pleased to welcome **Janice Ruthann (Ruth) Rhodes** into membership in our church.
- Also on February 9, we dedicated our new choir robes. What a spiffy group of singers!
- We were thankful for a very special coffee hour on Sunday, February 23, as we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Jack and Barb Horn**. Congratulations to the Horns and a very special thank you to the **Austin family** for a wonderful reception.



Many in our church family are in need of our prayers. The sympathy of our church family is extended to **Marilyn Jenkins** and her family on the passing of Artie Jenkins. In our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Greg Page's father, Ann Slowik's brother (Rob Vanderbrand), Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Flora Berke, Art Devenport, Glen Bates, Irene Hooey, Hank Fitzsimmons, Lydia Middaugh, Jackie McMann, Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea, Dick & Peg Shockner, 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 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.*

**Dear Friends,**

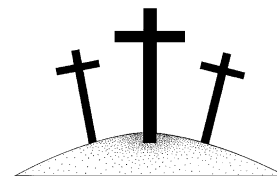
**We are so very thankful for your cards, prayers, kind thoughts, and loving support.**

**Thank you so much,**

**Marilyn Jenkins and Family**

## 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 (**cost will be \$4.50 – \$10.00 maximum per family**), prayer, and presentation. All profits will go to support the Food Bank's 'Backpack Program.' Gatherings will begin promptly at **6:00 p.m.** and will end at **7:00 p.m.**



This year's theme is "**Jesus' Last Week.**"

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SPEAKER(S)</u>
March 12	St. Matthews Episcopalian – HHDS	Elizabeth Boesen
March 19	First Presbyterian – HHDS	Wanda Copeland
March 26	Our Savior Lutheran – HHDS	Jon Knight
<b>April 2</b>	<b>First Presbyterian – Big Flats</b>	Rhonda Kouderick/Louise McIntosh
April 9	First United Methodist – HHDS	<b>Rick Price</b>

**NOTE:** Volunteers will be needed to help as we host the dinner on **April 2**. Sign-up sheets will be posted – please pitch in. Many hands make light work! Questions?? – see **Ann Slowik**



### POT LUCK DINNER TO BEGIN OUR OBSERVANCE OF LENT – MARCH 5

On Ash Wednesday, **March 5, at 6:00 PM**, our church will mark the beginning of the season of Lent in a special way. We will have an informal gathering and pot luck supper. Please bring a dish to pass -- place settings will be provided. Following the dinner, **Rick** will distribute oil/ashes to those who wish. Don't have time to prepare a dish? Decide to come at the last minute? No problem! All are welcome!

### PANCAKE BREAKFASTS CONTINUE -- NEXT SLATED FOR MARCH 8

Our fund-raising Pancake Breakfasts have proven to be a big hit! They are becoming a fixture in the Big Flats community. 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 8, from 8:00 – 10:00 AM**. Our last breakfast for this season will be held on **April 12**. The cost for each meal has been set at \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. 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**.



### 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.



## 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** or **Barb Gilbert**

**Sunday Soup -- Simply Superb!** Delicious and nutritious homemade soup will be available after church each Sunday, through the end of March. 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. Questions?? – See **Barb Horn**

**Congregation responds to February Drives:** Our 'Souper' Bowl Sunday collection resulted in the donation of some **fifty-two food items** and **\$325.85** in cash for our Food Pantry. Our Blanket Sunday drive netted **\$305** to provide warmth and comfort for disaster victims. Thanks to all who contributed so generously!

**Youth Fun Night Planned:** A series of Youth Fun Nights is being planned. The date for the first get-together has been set for **Friday, March 28**. The evening will feature a variety of games and refreshments. Further details will be announced during morning worship. Questions?? – See **Cathy Neally** or **Ann Slowik**

**New links added to Prayer Chain:** We are blessed to be part of a caring, supportive faith community. One of the means by which we strive to show that care and support comes through our Prayer Chain. Through the Prayer Chain, concerns, sorrows, and other needs are shared and lifted up for prayer. A call to one of the links in the chain leads to all members of the chain lending their prayers of support. Our Prayer Chain has recently been updated. Copies of the updated chain are available in our sanctuary. Contact **Nancy Compton (562-3903)** if you would like to join in this important ministry or if you would like more information.

### PRAISING VOICES -- A CHOIR FOR OUR YOUTH

Thursdays -- 6:15 - 7:00 PM -- In our sanctuary

Questions ??? -- Contact **Mary Ellen Rudnick -- 562-3757 -- [merudnick@hotmail.com](mailto:merudnick@hotmail.com)**

### 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)**.





## USHERS NEEDED

Here's an opportunity to serve our congregation while enjoying a guaranteed parking space, a chance to meet and greet others, and the experience of helping our worship service flow smoothly -- just a few of the many perks that come with service as an usher. We're looking to expand our pool of ushers. Our present group of dedicated ushers has been willing to "go the extra mile" and serve for multiple months during the year -- this dedication is most appreciated! We would like to give others a chance to experience the pleasure of usher service by volunteering to take an occasional month of acting as the "face" of our church on Sunday mornings. Those who wish to volunteer or would like more information should speak with **Dave or Jan Stafford**.



## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Lent is rapidly approaching. If you cannot regularly participate with the choir, but would like to sing during Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter, **COME ALONG!!** We will be working on that special music starting soon. For further details: see the organist. Rehearsals are 9:30-10:15 Sunday morning. No going out on dark, snowy nights, no Saturday afternoons - just one 45 minute rehearsal on Sunday morning when you're headed for church anyway. Just come a little early, have a cup of "Joe," and join us. You just might like it! We'll save you a seat.

## GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY – MARCH 9

The Girl Scouts of the USA will be celebrating their 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday on March 12. Girl Scout Sunday has been set for **March 9th**. Scouts and former scouts are encouraged to wear uniforms, badges, pins, etc. to mark the occasion. If you have any memorabilia from your scouting days that you would like to display in the Church Hall, please bring it in on March 9. For more information please contact **Pat Silvernail**



## PRESBYTERIAN ARTISANS GROUP FORMED

Our Presbyterian Artisans meet on **Friday mornings, from 9:00 – 12:00** in large room of our Church House. If you would like to spend some quality time working on your project(s) or would like to start a new one, join us. There is no cost. If you have a skill you would be willing to share with others, let us know. We'll try to hook you up. At this time we have quilters, a watercolor painter, a scrap booker, and a knitter.

We have tea available, and someone usually brings a snack. This is a good opportunity for fellowship. We would love for all of our "creative" people to join us. We'll save a seat for you!

Questions – call **Cathy Neally at 562-8001**.

## MISSION TEAM SEEKS INPUT



Our Mission Team is looking for ideas for projects that will expand the "mission" role of our church. To that end, a suggestion box has been placed in the rear of our sanctuary. The team welcomes your ideas about areas of need and projects that will reach out to others, both locally and beyond our area. The Mission Team meets regularly to consider requests for funding and other kinds of support. The team is eager to hear your ideas!

Questions?? **Dave Stafford** chairs the group, and **Rocky Peters** serves as the team's liaison to our Church Session.

# PHOTO GALLERY





### WEEKLY EVENTS

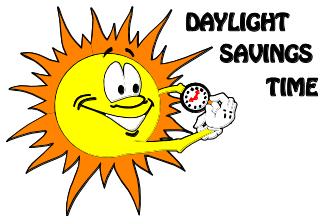
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Sunday School and Nursery Care
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00	Food Pantry is open
	6:30	Boy Scout Troop #87
THURSDAY	6:15 – 7:00	<i>Praising Voices</i> Rehearsal
FRIDAY	9:00 – 12:00	Presbyterian Artisans Group meets

### SPECIAL EVENTS

March 2	Holy Communion
March 5	Ash Wednesday – Potluck Dinner – 6:00 PM
March 8	(Sat.) Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser– 8:00 - 10:00 AM
March 9	Daylight Savings time begins – set clocks ahead one hour before retiring on Saturday, March 8
March 9	Girl Scout Sunday – current or former Girl Scouts encouraged to wear uniforms or pins
March 12	(Wed.) Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at St. Matthews Episcopal (Horseheads) – 6:00 PM
March 19	(Wed.) Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at First Presbyterian Church (Horseheads) – 6:00 PM
March 20	First day of Spring!
March 26	(Wed.) Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at Our Savior Lutheran (Horseheads) – 6:00 PM
March 28	(Fri.) Youth Fun Night – details to be announced
March 30	“Pennies from Heaven” collection during morning worship
March 30	Information due for the April <b><u>RED DOOR</u></b>

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on March 16
Property Committee	Wednesday, March 19 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesday, March 19 – 7:00 PM



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 9. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 8 – WE KNOW THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR CHURCH!**