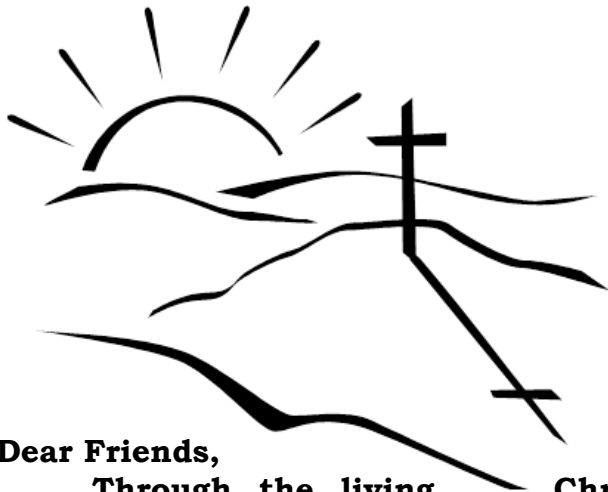


# THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY – APRIL 2014

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

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



“We miss the point if we [don’t make Easter] a life-changing commitment. We fail to realize that Easter demands as much of us now as it did of the apostles then. Most of all, we miss the very meaning of the Easter that we are each dealing with in our own lives in our own time.” *John Chittier*

Dear Friends,

Through the living Christ we experience resurrection in all of creation. Resurrection is in the hopeful echo that returns from even the loudest cry of despair. Resurrection is the whisper of peace within the shout of violence. Resurrection reminds us that life is abundant and that even paths through death can lead us to new life.

Someone once said fear of death never helped someone live longer but it kept them from living. This Easter morning there was “An Empty Tomb”. How do we as Christians live life without a physical presence? Can we rise to the Easter challenge? Like the first disciples are we frightened to enter an empty tomb because of the challenges that lie within it? If we enter the tomb despite our fears and clothe ourselves with the linens of Christ, can we then leave ready to serve our world? Are we willing to struggle to find Christ and then be ‘little Christs’ in the world? Do we view the church and the body of Christ as separate entities? When we are dead and gone what will Big Flats Presbyterian be known for — a place that cared for its widows, strangers to our doors, the handicapped, broken people seeking peace, and the poor in our community? Will we strive to empower our children with a spirit that is peaceful and respectful of others? Or, will we be remembered as a sepulcher of dead dogma, doctrines and traditions?

Let us remember that the resurrection tells us that “Love is Alive” in all circumstances.

Keep seeking. Keep knocking. Peace and Blessed Easter,

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Spring has been very late this year, but, whatever the weather, faith and warm fellowship are always in season at our little church! Some of our March highlights included:

- On Ash Wednesday, March 5, 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 of our mortality. It was a very special evening.
- We marked the 102nd Anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America on Sunday, March 9. Scout **Emily Austin** read our New Testament scripture passage, and we had a very special Coffee Hour, thanks to **Lynn Austin** and **Pat Silvernail**.
- Our fund-raising pancake breakfasts continue to be a hit. The season's last breakfast will be held on **Saturday, April 12**. Thanks to all who work so hard to ensure our success!
- Our first "Kids Night Out" on March 28, was a great success. Special thanks to **Cathy Neally**, **Ann Slowik**, and many volunteers for their enthusiasm and hard work!
- Finally, as spring arrives, our Sunday soup sales end. We truly appreciate the efforts of our soup makers: **Nancy Compton**, **Joyce Dean**, **Ann Hayes**, **Karen Perreault**, and **Rocky Peters**. Thank you to all those who bought soup and helped support this special project.

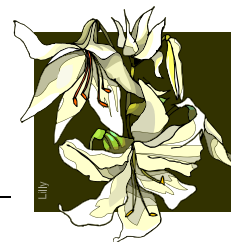


# Circle of Love

Many in our church family are in need of our prayers. The sympathy of our church family is extended to **Kent Gobin** and his family on the passing of Kent's mother. 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 Hooley**, **Hank Fitzsimmons**, **Lydia Middaugh**, **Jackie McMann**, **Ginnie Schweizer**, **Pat Seem**, **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.*

**EASTER PLANTS:** Those who wish to place Easter plants in our church "in memory of" or "in celebration of" should contact **Dean's** at **562-8120**. The cost per plant is \$15.00.



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Thursday, April 17 (7:00 PM)** – in our Sanctuary – Maundy Thursday Service

**Friday, April 18 (12:00 Noon)** – Good Friday ecumenical service at Horseheads United Methodist Church

**Sunday, April 20 (7:00 AM)** – Sunrise Service at Miller Cemetery (next to our church) – breakfast to follow

**Sunday, April 20 (10:30 AM)** – in our Sanctuary – Easter Service with Holy Communion

## EGG HUNT TO FOLLOW EASTER SERVICE

# don't miss the big egg hunt

help make this annual tradition such a success. Also, please plan to join us for all the fun following morning worship on Easter Sunday!

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held after Church on **Easter Sunday, April 20**. Christian Ed leader **Stacie Belosky** has asked for donations of wrapped candy and non-food items to fill the eggs. Donated items can be left in the church kitchen. This is always a fun event for our children. Please do what you can to

## 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 a few 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.



## HELP US "SING A JOYFUL SONG"



There is still time to join our great choir for the Palm Sunday/Easter season. We have spies in the congregation and we **KNOW** that there are those of you out there sitting in the wrong place. The pews in the choir loft are every bit as comfy as those in the congregation. If you insist on "hiding your candle under a bushel," there is nothing we can do except to continue to extend to you a most sincere invitation to join us. Singing with us for the Easter season would provide a wonderful opportunity for you to see "how things work." Then you could decide whether or not you wanted to "become a fixture." Our choir members are, indeed, faithful, but everyone needs a week or two off from time to time. We understand that, but it be so much easier on us if we had a few more members to "carry the load." Thanks for your consideration.

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

During morning worship on Easter Sunday, **April 20**, we will conduct a special food drive to participate in a national challenge to fight hunger. 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.



Questions? - **Julie Spangenberg-Jolley (524-6143)**.

## FIRST "KIDS NIGHT OUT" – FUN FOR ALL!

The watchword was **FUN!!** as over twenty eager youngsters and enthusiastic adult volunteers got together for a night of games, prizes, food, and fellowship on Friday, March 28. **Ann Slowik, Cathy Neally**, and many helpers hosted an evening of *Bingo, Minute-To-Win-It*, and other fun games. This was the first in a series of "Kids Night Out" events, and judging by the enthusiastic response, all who participated are looking forward to more terrific evenings. The next "Kids Night Out" is scheduled for **Friday, April 25, from 6:00-8:00**. **Ann and Cathy** are always looking for volunteers and will be happy to answer your questions.





## PROPERTY COMMITTEE PLANS SPRING CLEAN-UP WORK PARTY

Our Property Committee has announced plans for a Spring Clean-up Work Party. The date and time have been set for **Saturday, April 26, from 9am to noon**. The main focus of the morning will involve clearing some brush and other clutter from the Welles property tree line, as well as cleaning up around the outside of our church building. We need all the help we can get for this ambitious project, and we would really appreciate it if you could lend a hand!

Questions?? See **Steve Johnston, Property Committee Chairman**, or any member of the committee.

## FINAL 2013/2014 BREAKFAST SLATED FOR APRIL 12

From **Jenny Dean, Membership/Breakfast Committee Chairperson**: "Huge Thank Yous" to all that have helped during this Pancake Breakfast season. Thank you to the Setter-Uppers, Decorators, Coffee Makers, Flapjack Flippers, Egg Flippers and Mashers, Cleaner-uppers and Cashiers, too! This project could not get off the ground without your help and dedication. We are even able to work in a few laughs now and then!!

Our last breakfast for this season will take place **Saturday, April 12, 8:00 - 10:00 AM**. The cost for each meal is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. There is 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. Please do your part by pitching in to help and also with your patronage. Questions?? Talk to **Jenny Dean**.



## BUTTON CLUB TO MEET APRIL 9

The Elmira Button Club will have its first meeting for 2014 on **Wednesday, April 9th, at 11:00 AM** in the church hall. We have an interesting project on the agenda--we will be making pictures out of buttons. We have the supplies, we just need to know if you are coming!

All are welcome. At our business meeting, we will be discussing upcoming events and collecting annual dues (\$3). Bring a lunch, we will supply dessert and lots of conversation.

**Pat Silvernail, 562-8409**

## QUILT PROJECT UNDERWAY

Some of our skilled quilters have started work on a fundraising project for our church. **Jenny Dean, Nancy Compton, Anne Hayes, Robin Fitzgerald, Karen Perreault, and Dottie Warren** have been busy making squares (the goal is 144!) for a quilt that, when pieced together and finished, will be raffled off later this year. Watch for updates and more information about the raffle as this project progresses. Thank you, quilters, for your gifts of materials, time, and talent!



## 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)**

# 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

April 2 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical Dinner (our church will host) – 6:00 PM
April 6	Holy Communion
April 9 (Wed.)	Elmira Button Club meeting – 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
April 9 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at First United Methodist (HHDS) – 6:00 PM (Rev. Rick to be guest speaker)
April 12 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast fund-raiser – 8:00 - 10:00 AM
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 17 (Thurs.)	Maundy Thursday Service in our sanctuary – 7:00 PM
April 18 (Fri.)	Good Friday service at Horseheads Methodist Church -- 12:00 noon
April 20	Sunrise Service at Miller Cemetery (next to our church) – breakfast follows– 7:00 AM
April 20	Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion
April 20	Easter Egg Hunt following morning worship
April 20	Feinstein Foundation collection during morning worship – to benefit Food Pantry
April 25 (Fri.)	Kids Night Out (details to be announced) – 6:00 - 8:00 PM
April 26 (Sat.)	Spring Clean-up Work Party – 9:00 - noon
April 27	Information due for the May <b><u>RED DOOR</u></b>
April 27	“Pennies from Heaven” collection during morning worship

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on April 13
Property Committee	Wednesday, April 16 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesday, April 16 – 7:00 PM

### TO CONTACT OUR CHURCH:

**TO WORSHIP WITH US: Sundays at 10:30 AM – 95 Main Street, Big Flats, NY**

**TO CALL US: (607)562-8048**

**TO MAIL US: First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats, P.O. Box 454, Big Flats, NY 14814**

**TO VISIT US ONLINE: /www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/**