



THE RED DOOR

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

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

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

“Knowing the correct password – saying ‘Master, Master’, for instance – isn’t going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience – doing what my Father wills. I can see it now – at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, ‘Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.’ And do you know what I am going to say? ‘You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don’t impress me one bit. You’re out of here.’”

Matthew 7: 21-23 The Message

“If I speak God’s Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing”

1 Corinthians 13:2 The Message



Dear Friends,

I’d like to share a story with you that I heard while in Lancaster, PA. A farmer was plowing his field one day, minding his own business when a person ran up to him and asked him if he was a Born Again Christian. He told the person, “I can tell you anything I want, but if you want to know the truth about me ask my neighbor.”

The Gospel of Matthew is so full of parables, sayings that serve as reminders that talk, labels, and *religiosity* are cheap. There is truth to the saying that ‘actions speak louder than words’. We need to tell, retell, and really think on these stories so that we can remember that humility is tantamount.

Through the years the label *Christian* has been tossed around far too lightly. What exactly does being a *Christian* mean? I believe that Jesus meant to advise us that it’s easy to say we’re *Christian* or Born Again, but it’s far harder to actually live it. Jesus told us that our lives must be an example by our actions. Acting like a *Christian* is very difficult because of our humanity. We must be careful how we judge others, how we measure others as being *Christian*. We may find out in retrospect that those we thought for sure to be less desirable, or pharisaical, even, may well be closer to God already.

Peace,

“It is really so simple! The main thing is to love your neighbor as yourself. Once you do that, you will discover at once how everything shall fall into place.”

Dostoyevsky “The Dream of a Ridiculous Man”

“I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see. I sought my God, but my God eluded me. I sought my brother and I found all three.”

William Blake

Circle of Love

JOYS AND CONCERNS

September brought both happiness and sorrow into the life of our church. It was a month filled with worship, praise, music, and fellowship, and it was also a month that brought sorrow, as we grieved together over losses of family members and were touched by the needs of many in our congregation.

Some of this month's highlights included:

- Our Sunday School reopened this month. Our wonderful youngsters are going to have an exciting year under the guidance of **Stacie Belosky** and a group of very dedicated teachers!
- Our adult choir returned on September 7. We are truly blessed - our choir (and Director **Nancy Compton**) deserve our thanks for all they do to make each Sunday special!
- Rev. Rick's September sermons (using the Gospel of St. Matthew) have given us fresh insight into the nature of grace and forgiveness.
- Our Handbell Choir will soon be "up and ringing!"
- Our children have been collecting "Pennies From Heaven" for over fifteen years! This collection, taken during morning worship on the last Sunday of each month, benefits those served by Habitat For Humanity.



The sympathy of our faith community is extended to the **Page family** on the passing of **Greg's father, Ed Larcom**, to the **Slowik family** on the passing of **Ann's brother, Rob van den Brand**, and to the **Horn family** on the passing of **Barb's brother, Eugene Drinkwine**.

Among our other concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Stewart and Ann Potter, Jan Stone, Ruthann Rhodes (Joyce Dean's sister), Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Flora Berke, Glen Bates, Irene Hooey, 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 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.



FALL RUMMAGE SALE – OCTOBER 11

Our Fall Rummage Sale will be held on **Saturday, October 11, from 9:00 - 2:00**. The bag sale starts at 1:00 PM. Please try to bring rummage donations by Wednesday, October 8th, so volunteers can have time to sort/price. If donations need to be brought after that date please contact **Linda Lincoln** at **562-7601**.



We need people for set-up Tuesday, October 7, especially those who can help with table moving and with carrying boxes up from the basement to be sorted. We will meet at the church at **2:30 on October 7** for a few hours of work. We will also be working on **Tuesday evening, beginning at 6:00 PM**. Workers are also needed for marking items on **Wednesday, October 8**, and for working during the sale. Other needs are for baked goods to be sold on October 11. Finally, we need as many folks as we can get for tear-down on **Saturday after 2:00 PM**.

Our sale is truly a win – win – win event – a chance to recycle your un-needed items; a chance to help raise funds for our church; a chance for everyone in our community to buy quality items at bargain prices! Please consider spending a few hours of your week to make this sale successful.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE SET FOR OCTOBER 5

On Sunday, October 5, we will join with Christians around the world in celebrating Worldwide Communion, an annual service promoting Christian unity and harmony. A special feature will be the use of breads from a variety of cultures and traditions in the communion service. **Nancy Compton** is coordinating this effort.

Please plan to join us for a very meaningful morning on October 5. All are welcome!

4TH ANNUAL QUILT FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCED

Our church is holding its fourth Quilt Fundraiser. This year's project is truly a labor of love, made by the combined talents of our church's incredible quilters, and it is absolutely beautiful! The 90" X 90" queen-size quilt is a striking example of the famous "Log Cabin" pattern. The drawing will be held on Sunday, December 7. Raffle tickets are available during coffee hour and will also be sold at Minier's in November – \$2 per ticket or three for \$5. **Please sign up with Gigi Price to help sell tickets.** If you would like to sell tickets to friends and/or co-workers, you can get a flyer and tickets from Gigi. Thank you for all of the work that has gone into this quilt and all the work that will be done by selling, etc. Please contact **Gigi Price** with any questions **737-0441**.



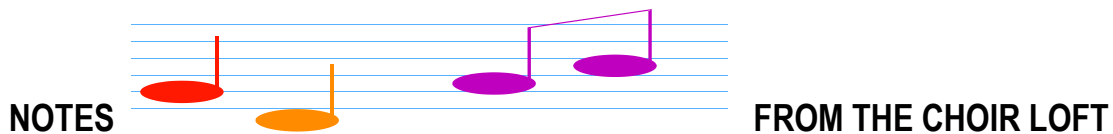
Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP DRIVE TO START SOON

Stewardship Season will soon be here. Please keep an eye out for your pledge letter and give prayerful consideration to your response. As we approach our 187th Anniversary, let our stewardship – time, talent, and financial support, toward the church reflect our pride in our past and continued faith in our future.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Our Sunday School classes have resumed. Classes are held during morning worship and are open to youths from pre-K through grade eight. The Christian Education Committee would like any and all volunteers to help with Sunday school, nursery, and upcoming events. Please see **Stacie Belosky** or call her at **857-2210**.



The adult choir has started the fall season with all regular members present and/or accounted for. If you would like to join the ranks, please present yourself on **Sunday mornings at 9:30 sharp**, and if you see a choir member who appears to be lost (aimlessly wandering, perhaps following the smell of coffee) latch onto him/her and drag him/her along. We rehearse from 9:30 (SHARP) to about 10:10, then proceed to the coffee pots for a swallow or two before service begins.

The 'TRAINED' handbell ringers (often better known as "ding-a-lings") will start rehearsal in earnest as soon as our music arrives. We will plan to play for Thanksgiving, Advent/Christmas, and Lent/Easter. We will need approximately seven ringers each time there is a performance. Since everyone who is trained is also retired, we have decided to rehearse in the afternoon. That will mean no nighttime excursions in the winter months. The date rehearsals start will be announced soon. Questions: see **Nancy Compton**

WORSHIP COMMITTEE PLANS "SAINTS IN OUR LIVES" PROJECT

Our Worship Committee has announced plans for a "Saints In Our Lives" project to take place in October and which will culminate on All Saints Sunday, November 2. During the month of October we will be asking those in the congregation to make chain links honoring those special persons who have been "Saints" in their own lives. These links will then be assembled and displayed in our sanctuary.

SUNSHINE CLUB NEEDS MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

For a number of years, members of our "Sunshine Club" (name coined years ago by **Peg Halm**) and other willing and wonderful volunteers have provided meals and visits to members of our faith family during times of grieving, illness, recovery from surgery, and other such times of need.

Ann Hayes serves as coordinator of these efforts. We are called upon for help quite often, and we need reinforcements! If you are willing to be listed as a meal provider or can help in any other way, please contact Ann (**562-8523**) or put your name on the sign-up sheet on our church bulletin board. Thanks so much to those who have helped in the past. It is so appreciated when illness is overwhelming one's daily life.



CROP WALK – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

LOCAL



MISSION

The *Annual Chemung County CROP Walk* is scheduled for Sunday, **October 19 at 2:00**, beginning at **Trinity Episcopal Church**, in Elmira. CROP Walks raise funds to alleviate hunger at home and around the world. **Carolyn Gridley** will be walking and is coordinating our church's support efforts. She asks that all funds pledged to the walk be given to her by Sunday, October 12, so that she can turn in the money on the day of the walk.

For more information about the Chemung County CROP Walk, contact:

Rev. Susan Husted (607)767-6024

Dear Church Family,

We truly appreciate all of the cards, kind words and expressions of sympathy that we received from our wonderful church family following the passing of Greg's dad, Ed Larcom. It was comforting to know that so many people cared.

We miss you all!

Greg and Sherry Page

5688 Nash Drive

Pipersville PA 18947

215-766-7126

psupages@verizon.net



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.

Please use the form below to submit names of individuals, couples, or families in need of funds to ease the burdens that life throws our way at times.



Taking action on an individual level is no less important than work done by any global organization. Extend your hand to those in need using this form. They will be grateful and you will be fulfilled. (Please do not list organizations unless specifically local to our congregation and our Church.)

Your Mission Committee

Recipient(s) in need: _____

Definition of need: _____

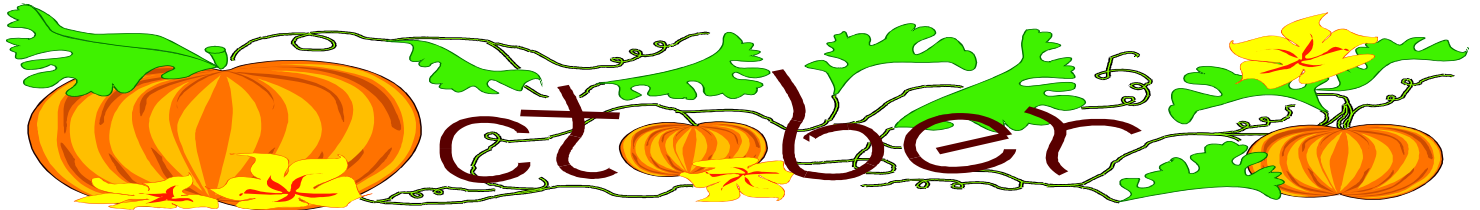
Amount suggested: \$_____ Suggested by (Optional)_____

(Place completed form in Mission Team Box in the rear of our sanctuary)

PHOTO GALLERY



Thank you to all who make our church so special!!



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Sunday School & Nursery Care
MONDAY	10:00 AM	Presbyterian Artisans Group meets
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Food Pantry is open
	6:15 – 7:00 PM	PraiSING Voices Rehearsal
	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop #87

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 5	Holy Communion
October 7 (Tues.)	Set up for Rummage Sale – 2:30 PM
October 7 (Tues.)	Set up for Rummage Sale – 6:00 PM
October 8 (Wed.)	Price items for Rummage Sale – 9:00 AM - ?
October 11 (Sat.)	Rummage Sale – 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
October 11 (Sat.)	Rummage Sale Cleanup – 2:00 PM
October 19	Crop Walk – 2:00 PM @ Trinity Episcopal Church, Elmira
October 26	Information due for the November <u>RED DOOR</u>
October 26	“Pennies from Heaven”

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	October 12 – following morning worship
Property Committee (Wed.)	October 15 – 6:00 PM
Session (Wed.)	October 15 – 7:00 PM

PROVIDERS NEEDED FOR FLOWERS, BULLETINS AND COFFEE HOUR

Some of the things that make for special Sundays at our church include: flowers for our sanctuary, special bulletins for our worship services, and the warm fellowship of our wonderful coffee hours. **Sign-up sheets** have been posted on the bulletin board in our Church House – please help keep Sundays special at Big Flats First Presbyterian.



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT – ELIZABETH ENCIE RHODES

Ed & Katie Rhodes welcomed **Elizabeth Encie Rhodes** into their family on August 4th at 11:26pm. She weighed 7 lbs 13.9 oz and measured 19 1/2" long. Elizabeth is Katie's great grandmother's name and Encie is Ed's grandmother's name. They all are home and doing well as they adjust to being a family and functioning on less sleep!

They are very grateful for all of your care, concern, well wishes & prayers for their baby girl.