

THE RED DOOR



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY – APRIL 2015

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

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

*“Jesus walked this lonesome valley.
He has to walk it by Himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for Him,
He had to walk it by Himself.*

~ ~ ~ ~

*We must walk this lonesome valley,
We have to walk it by ourselves;
O, nobody else can walk it for us,
We have to walk it by ourselves.”*

Hymn



Eichenberg's *Christ of the Homeless*

Dear Friends,

Our Lenten season started with Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist during which he experiences the indwelling of the spirit of God. Soon after Jesus found himself wandering the desert wilderness symbolic of his suffering with us. Christ became a wounded healer who is able to feel the pain and suffering of the world. Jesus walks with us through our brokenness. Through Jesus we, too, have the capacity to become healers. As we journey through the Lenten Season and Holy Week let us not celebrate Easter as Jesus' escape from suffering and injustice. Rather let us realize his need to not let suffering and injustice be the final word. Let us practice resurrection in our everyday lives. Know that there is hope through Jesus Christ.

“The Spirit does indeed fill Jesus with authority and healing power, but does not make him a superman; it participates in his weakness, his suffering, and his death on the cross.”
Jurgen Moltmann

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Rick".

Circle of Love

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! We have had a very meaningful Lenten season.

Some of our March highlights included:

- Our fundraising pancake breakfasts continue to be a hit. The season's last breakfast will be held on **Saturday, April 11**. Thanks to all who work so hard to ensure our success!
- On Wednesday, March 25, our church hosted one of the area Lenten Ecumenical Dinners. What a success! We served a large, enthusiastic crowd, and they raved about the dinner! Thanks go to **Chef Ann Slowik** and the kitchen crew for a terrific meal, and to the legendary "**Big Flats Bakers**" of our church who provided the desserts.
- On Sunday morning, March 29, Rev. Rick presented a check for **\$1400** to our local chapter of **Habitat for Humanity**. This is the latest in a series of contributions we have made to the Habitat group over the past two decades. Funds are collected by our young people during "Pennies from Heaven" time on the last Sunday of each month.
- Thanks to **Karen Perreault**, who presented us with a beautiful quilted altar cloth/bible bookmark set that she recently completed. We will be using this set throughout the upcoming summer and fall.
- Finally, as spring arrives, our Sunday soup sales end. We truly appreciate the efforts of our talented soup makers. Thank you to all who provided this wonderful home-made goodness and thanks also to those who bought soup and helped support this special project.



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 Marilyn's sister. In our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Joyce & Sam Dean, Stephen French, Pat & Tom Seem (daughter Erin), Gigi Price, Larissa & Miranda Page, Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew), Reva Soutar, Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Flora Berke, Irene Hooley, 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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Thursday, April 2 (7:00 PM) – in our Sanctuary – Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3 (12:00 Noon) – Good Friday ecumenical service at Horseheads United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 5 (7:00 AM) – Sunrise Service at Hillview Methodist Church – breakfast to follow

Sunday, April 5 (10:30 AM) – in our Sanctuary – Easter Service with Holy Communion

 don't miss the
big egg hunt

EGG HUNT TO FOLLOW EASTER SERVICE

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held after Church on **Easter Sunday, April 5**. This is always a fun event (rain or shine!) for our children. Please plan to join us for all the fun following morning worship on Easter Sunday! All are welcome!

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 or ipad camera. Just read the QR bar code (at right), click on the GIVE NOW button, and use the dropdowns to make a donation. (For those wishing to donate online, there is also a GIVE NOW link on our church website www.bigflatsfirstpres.org which is very easy to use.)



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 18, 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.

SPAGHETTI DINNER SLATED FOR APRIL 30

Our church is planning a fundraising dinner for **Thursday evening, April 30**. The menu will feature spaghetti and meatballs, salad, beverage, and choice from a variety of desserts. We will charge **\$6.00** per person, with a maximum of **\$12.00** for a family. Take-out meals will be available. It will take help from everyone to make this a success. Details will be announced during morning worship and sign-up sheets will be posted for volunteers. **Nancy Compton** is coordinating this event.



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. Thanks, in advance, for your help.



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

During morning worship on Easter Sunday, **April 5**, 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)**.



BULLETIN BOARD UPDATE: Recently the original copy of the sheet on our bulletin board that was used to sign up to provide flowers, coffee hour, and bulletins was inadvertently lost. We have attempted to reconstruct this page, but some names and dates may be missing. Please check to see that your sign-up information is correct (some folks may need to sign up again). Questions?? Talk to **Gigi Price**

HYGIENE KIT PROJECT SET FOR APRIL 19

Once again this year, our church will be providing a number of Hygiene Kits to help disaster victims. The kits are filled with a variety of personal care items and are distributed by the Church World Services organization. Our Mission Team has provided funds to purchase items for the kits, and we will be filling the kits "assembly-line fashion" following morning worship on April 19. Rev. Rick will be taking the kits to Horseheads Presbyterian the following week for use by the CWS organization. We can really use some help in filling the kits. Please join us on the assembly line on April 19 – all are welcome!



RUMMAGE SALE SET FOR MAY 30

Please mark your calendar and start saving your rummage items for our Spring Rummage Sale. The date has been set for **Saturday, May 30**. We are hoping for our most successful sale ever! Details will be announced during morning worship and in the May edition of **THE RED DOOR**.

CHURCH WEBSITE UPDATED

Thanks to **John Farr**, our church webmaster, our church website has undergone a major upgrade. The new design has a modern look, is very easy to navigate, 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. Thank you, John, for your hard work and technical expertise!

Check us out at:

www.bigflatsfirstpres.org



FINAL 2014/15 PANCAKE BREAKFAST SLATED FOR APRIL 11

Our Pancake Breakfasts continue to be the premier gourmet experience of the greater Big Flats area. Discriminating breakfast buffs know that our combination of wonderful food, friendly service, and great prices just can't be beat. Thanks to all who have helped make these events so successful. Our last breakfast for this season will take place **Saturday, April 11, 8:00 - 10:00 AM**. The cost for each meal is \$6.00 for adults. 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**.

MEALS APPRECIATED: Thanks to those who have provided meals for Sam Dean. There will be no set schedule for further meals, although it is very much appreciated by Sam when a meal appears at the door. Joyce is unable to prepare meals at this time. Prayers are still appreciated by both! Call **Ann Hayes (562-8523)** with questions or to volunteer.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 2 (Thurs.)	Maundy Thursday Service in our sanctuary – 7:00 PM
April 3 (Fri.)	Good Friday service at Horseheads Methodist Church -- 12:00 noon
April 5	Sunrise Service at Hillview Methodist Church – breakfast follows– 7:00 AM
April 5	Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion
April 5	Feinstein Foundation collection during morning worship – to benefit Food Pantry
April 5	Easter Egg Hunt following morning worship
April 11 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast fundraiser – 8:00 - 10:00 AM
April 18 (Sat.)	Spring Clean-up Work Party – 9:00 - noon
April 26	Information due for the May <u>RED DOOR</u>
April 26	“Pennies from Heaven” collection during morning worship
April 30 (Thurs.)	Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser – 5:00 PM

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on April 12
Property Committee	Wednesday, April 15 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesday, April 15 – 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/