



THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY

Founded 1827 ----- "Pride In Our Past – Faith In Our Future"

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

"You would think these Jewish leaders and these Pharisees were Moses, the way they keep making up so many laws! And of course you should obey their every whim! It may be all right to do what they say, but above anything else, don't follow their example. For they don't do what they tell you to do." *Matthew 23:2-3*

"What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say." {Ralph Waldo Emerson}

Judgement of others is less about others and more about self. I am most surprised by one's actions when he/she is constantly preaching what is wrong and how to right it. I am often *advised* by the well-meaning that *this* or *that* is the law I should preach, teach or rule the church by. I am then reminded of these two stories. As followers of Jesus we are encouraged that leadership be humble. I struggle always to practice what I preach. I, too, fall short. Surely, we all judge things to be right or wrong but certainly we must be careful not to be rash in our judgements.



Some time ago, I saw a peanuts comic strip that had Snoopy on top of his doghouse with a flock of baby birds. The time had come for the baby birds to learn how to fly, and Snoopy was their teacher. Snoopy flapped his ears and walked to the end of the roof of the doghouse. He leaped into the air and continued to flap his ears. Unfortunately he landed right on his head. He got back up onto the roof and shared this lesson: "Do as I say to do and not what I do."

Peace! Have a safe and blessed summer!



Circle of Love

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The last month has been very special in the life of our little church. It is truly amazing to think of all that goes on in our community of faith!

- Our Spring Rummage Sale, held on Saturday, May 30, was a huge success, raising over **\$1500!** Thanks to all who worked to make it happen!
- This month we were blessed to welcome two new members, as long-time attendees and choir members **Bob and Jean Tedrich** were formally recognized into membership in our congregation. Congratulations and welcome!
- Work has been completed on our parking lot project. The Welles Land parking area has been paved, and our main parking lot has had applications of crack filler, sealant, and traffic control paint. Thanks to **Pat Fitzgerald, Kathy Johnston, and Jill Knight** for heading up the planning and fund-raising necessary to make this important work happen. Additional contributions to the parking lot fund are always welcome.
- On Father's Day, June 21, we met to worship, eat, and socialize at our annual church picnic, held at the Big Flats American Legion. We discussed the use of the word "family" as a verb during **Rev. Rick's** message and then enjoyed a wonderful array of delicious picnic fare. Masters of the grill, **Rocky Peters, Dom Scaringe, and Mark Slowik** kept the burgers and hot dogs coming, and the legendary "**Big Flats Bakers**" provided an amazing variety of delicious side dishes and desserts. Thanks go to **Mark and Ann Slowik**, event coordinators, and to all our volunteers for making this such a special day!
- The highlight of our June 28 service was, as always, a terrific slide show featuring photos of the past year. A special thank you goes to **Gigi Price**, who prepared this show -- we loved sharing these memories of a wonderful church year!
- Congratulations to our graduating high school seniors, **Calvin Halm, Joe McGill, Olivia Piazza, Elizabeth Rich, and Tyler Stevens** and to our college graduates, **MacKenzie Kriel and Amanda Slowik**. Best wishes for continued success from our entire church family!



The sympathy of our congregation is extended to **Duane and June Welch** and their family on the passing of daughter-in-law **Cathy Welch**. In our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Rev. Rick, Joyce & Sam Dean, Pat & Tom Seem (daughter Erin), 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.

Friends,

We would like to thank our church family for the many cards, phone calls, prayers and other kind expressions of sympathy that we received on the passing of our daughter-in-law, Cathy Welch. Cathy and our son Craig were married in Big Flats First Presbyterian in 1986, and it was very fitting that her funeral service and interment were held here in Big Flats, with Rev. Rick presiding.

Thank you again for your sympathy and your love.

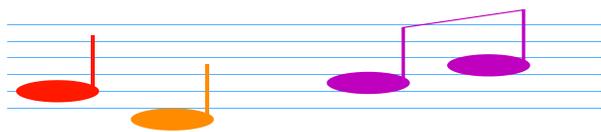
Duane and June Welch and family

RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE



Thanks again to all who worked to make our Spring Rummage Sale so successful. **Co-chairs Linda Lincoln, Nancy Pangia, Donna Stevens**, and a host of willing volunteers worked together to raise over \$1500 for our church! We are especially thankful to the **leaders and scouts of Troop 87** who did a great deal of “muscle” work in setting up tables and bringing sale items from the church basement so that they could be organized and made ready for the sale.

We are starting to plan for our next sale. Our Fall Rummage Sale is scheduled to take place in October. We ask you to start saving items that could be sold (fall and winter clothing, holiday decorations, etc. are especially welcome). **Please keep these items at home until September, when we will start collecting for the October sale.** Watch for more rummage news in the September issue of **THE RED DOOR**.



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT



On Sunday, June 14th, the Choir celebrated another wonderful musical year with our annual end-of-year picnic at the home of **Pat and Robin Fitzgerald**. Everybody brought a dish to pass, hamburgers and rolls were furnished, and the Fitzgerald's supplied appetizers, drinks, utensils, and their absolutely beautiful back porch for the occasion. Tours of the garden

were led by Pat, and the pool was available for anyone brave enough to struggle into a bathing suit (turns out no one was!). We had a wonderful time of fun, fellowship, and laughter. Many thanks to the Fitzgerald's for hosting us once again. Join us in the choir next year. We'll save you a seat.



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

First Presbyterian is thankful for all the gifts that our church family gives to us. If you are able to pledge on a regular basis, might you be ready to take the next steps? Have you ever considered lifetime gifts? Are you willing to leave a legacy of kindness and love for your church?

Planned gifts can be made by naming the First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats as a beneficiary in wills, insurance policies, IRA's and more. If you are interested in such giving you are encouraged to talk to your estate planner or attorney. A **Presbyterian Foundation 'Ministry Relations Officer'** can help. Having an experienced gift development officer discuss with you your goals and the options available can be helpful. Your **Ministry Relations Officer** can be located by calling **800-858-6127**, option #3.

You have proven time and again that one person **can** make a difference. Please consider making a difference for years to come.

Thank you – The Stewardship Committee.

PHOTO GALLERY



First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats, NY

JULY – AUGUST 2015



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY 9:30 – 10:30 AM Morning Worship
TUESDAY 12:00 – 2:00 PM Food Pantry is open

SPECIAL EVENTS / MEETINGS

July 5 **Tom Seem** will lead our morning worship service.
July 12 **Sylvie Farr** will lead our morning worship service.
July 26 **Eunice Nayo** and **Dave Stafford** will lead our morning worship service.
August 2 Holy Communion
August 16 Worship Committee meets following morning worship
August 30 Information due for the September **RED DOOR**
September 13 Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

SPECIAL SUMMER SERVICES PLANNED

Our summer worship hours will start on **Sunday, July 5**, and will continue through Sunday, **September 6**. The special summer starting time of **9:30** will allow us to experience the joy of worshipping together and still have time for other summer activities.

Tom Seem (July 5), **Sylvie Farr** (July 12) and **Eunice Nayo & Dave Stafford** (July 26) will be filling the pulpit during some of our July services, as Rev. Rick and Gigi take some time for medical issues, vacation, and family weddings. Our summer services are going to be full of “musical treats” as we have made arrangements for some very special folks to provide summer music for us. Some you know and some will be new to you. **Carrie Hooper, Paul Holland**, and a number of other wonderful vocal and instrumental talents will gladden our hearts as they make our spirits soar each week.

Summers are always special at Big Flats First Presbyterian. Come and share our spirit!

July 5 - September 6

Morning Worship 9:30 AM

FROM THE EDITOR: This issue of **THE RED DOOR** covers the months of July and August. Our next newsletter will be the September, 2015 issue. Have a great summer! Thank you for your support and continuing interest in our publication.