



THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – BIG FLATS, NY ----- NOVEMBER 2015

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

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

*If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is "thank you,"
that would suffice. --- Meister Eckhart*

Dear Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! I send my love to all and appreciate your love and support for me, my family and our community. Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday because it is one we can all celebrate - whether Christian or Moslem, American or African, male or female, gay or straight, our thankfulness is something we have in common because we are the family of God.

We return thanks to our mother, the earth, which sustains us. We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water. We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases. We return thanks to the corn, and to her sisters, the beans and squash, which give us life. We return thanks to the bushes and trees, which provide us with fruit. We return thanks to the wind, which, moving the air, has banished diseases. We return thanks to the moon and the stars, which have given us their light when the sun was gone. We return thanks to our grandfather He-no, who has given to us his rain. We return thanks to the sun, that he has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye. Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in who is embodied all goodness, and who directs all things for the good of his children. An Iroquois [Confederacy] Prayer (from the 1800s)

Thanksgiving is not only a time to thank our creator for all we have been given. It is also a time to show our thanks by working to make our world a better place in which to live. Someone once said, "We human beings are quick to say, "Why me?" whenever something bad happens to us, but we rarely ask the same question when good fortune befalls us." In a world that is full of constant chaos we are thankful for the constant force of God's love. St. Paul said, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God."

Peace and Thanks,

**Oh, Heavenly Father, we thank thee for food and remember the hungry.
We thank thee for health and remember the sick.
We thank thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.
May these remembrances stir us to service,
That thy gifts to us may be used for others.
Amen.**

Written by 'Dear Abbey's' mother Pauline Phillips



Circle of Love

JOYS AND CONCERNS

As we approach Thanksgiving time and the beginning of Advent, we are reminded of all we have for which to be thankful in our church. We are surely blessed to be part of a warm, vibrant, and caring community of faith. As always, October was a very busy month in our little church. Some of the month's highlights included:

- Our Fall Rummage Sale was very successful, raising **over \$1700!** Thank you, **Linda Lincoln, Nancy Pangia, Donna Stevens, Ann Slowik**, all our volunteers, those who donated items, our legendary Big Flats Bakers, and those who patronized our sale. A special thank you goes to the **scouts from Troop #87** who provided the "muscle" in moving sale items from the basement and helping to set up tables and other sale equipment!
- **Carolyn Gridley** coordinated our efforts in this year's Crop Walk. On October 18, with the support of donations from our congregation, Carolyn raised **\$365** to help eradicate local and world hunger. Thank you to Carolyn and to all those who supported this wonderful cause.
- Thank you to **Dave Stafford** for leading our worship service on Sunday, October 18.
- Congratulations to **Tom & Pat Seem, Galer & Karen Perreault, Pat & Robin Fitzgerald, Chris & Teresa Dean, and Sam & Joyce Dean** who have recently welcomed new grandchildren (and great-grandchildren) into their families!



As we give thanks for our many blessings, let us take time to reach out to those in our community who need our help and support. In our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Peter Middaugh, Rev. Rick, Dottie Hoos, Joyce & Sam Dean, Larissa & Miranda Page, Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew), Reva Soutar, Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Flora Berke, Irene Hooey, Lydia Middaugh, Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea, 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.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SET FOR NOVEMBER 7

Our church will be holding a series of fund-raising Pancake Breakfasts on Saturday mornings during the next few months. The first breakfast is slated for **Saturday, November 7, from 8:00 - 10:00 AM**. Subsequent breakfast dates are tentatively scheduled for **December 12, January 9, February 13, March 12, and April 9**. The cost for each meal has been set at **\$7.00**. ***There will be no charge for those under five years old.***

This series of meals is an ambitious project for our little church, and we are going to need 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**.



I am pleased that our congregation has been pleased with the coffee hours this fall. If you would like to bring a plate of cookies, doughnuts, or fruit, it would be most welcomed by all. Just let us know what Sunday you can best support us in this effort. Thank you to all who have helped make this possible.

Ann Hayes -- 562-8523.



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 188th Anniversary, let our stewardship – time, talent, and financial support toward the church – reflect our pride in our past and continued faith in our future.

MEN TO FIX THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

Calling all breakfast gourmets! It's time for that once-a-year culinary experience! That's right ---- the men of our church are getting ready to prepare and serve our annual **Thanksgiving Day breakfast (8:00 AM, November 26)**. We are looking for (more than) a few good men to help set-up, prepare, serve, and clean up after our annual feast. Sign-up sheets will be posted in early November, and we could really use your help. All are welcome to attend as good food, fine fellowship, and music will make for a special Thanksgiving morning. Please sign up to pitch in! All are welcome to attend. This is one event that you do not want to miss! **Let's reach out to others on this special day --please bring an item (or more) of canned food for our Food Pantry when you come for breakfast.**



5TH ANNUAL QUILT FUNDRAISER UNDERWAY

Our church is holding its fifth 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 drawing will be held during our annual **Silent Auction on Sunday, December 6**. Raffle tickets are available during coffee hour and will also be sold at Minier's in November – **\$2 per ticket or three for \$5**. Thank you to all who have worked on this project!

Questions? See **Karen Perreault, Ann Hayes, Robin Fitzgerald, or Nancy Compton**.



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Soon we will begin work on Advent and Christmas music. It would be wonderful to have a truly FULL choir loft for this special time of year (and all the other times as well). Please consider joining us for rehearsals at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings. If you want to join us just for the holidays, you will be very welcome indeed. However, be warned! You might like it and decide to stay with us, in which case we would be jubilant.

The Hand Bell Choir rehearsals are on hold for a while due to unforeseen circumstances. Be patient, however! Hopefully the bells will reappear soon.



TROOP #87 NEWS

In October our troop leader, **Bob Byland**, was awarded the National Scoutmaster award, and the Scouts staged a ceremony that was fit for such an honor! In other news, the troop wrapped up a record year for popcorn sales, assisted with setting up for our Church Rummage Sale, and have recently registered a number of new Scouts and adults (some from as far away as Watkins Glen!). Finally, at press time they were in the late planning stages for a "Tent and Treat" event and campout to be held on the Welles land on Halloween night. This is an outreach effort for kids in the local community, and a great opportunity for fun! It will feature spooky lights, fog machines, Blow ups, streamers, sounds of Halloween, a camp fire, and learning stations for compass and map reading, canoe/boating safety, tool safety, and there will also be plenty of candy! Hours for the outreach event will be Oct 31st from 5:50PM to 8PM, or Treat hours for Big Flats, NY. If you have a chance, stop by to meet the Troop!



Scouts queuing up to receive instructions and assist with moving the "Rummage".

SILENT AUCTION PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 6

Here's a chance to do some early holiday shopping and help our church budget. Please prepare your baked goods, holiday treats, crafts, etc. for sale at our Silent Auction, which will follow our morning worship service on Sunday, **December 6**. A special fellowship luncheon is also being planned to coincide with this event.



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"SHOWER FOR MARY" & "GIFTS FOR JOSEPH" MISSION EFFORT ANNOUNCED

For the past fourteen years, our congregation has generously supported our "Shower for Mary" local mission effort during the season of Advent. In this program we have collected a variety of items for personal care and other needs for women and children served by the **Salvation Army Safehouse**. The Salvation Army Safehouse provides a comprehensive program for victims of domestic violence. Services offered include emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, information/referrals, hotline services, justice system information and accompaniments, support group, and community education. For information: call **732-1979**.



Four years ago we expanded our outreach efforts through a "Gifts for Joseph" program to help men served by the **Samaritan Center**. The Samaritan Center has been assisting individuals and families in need with emergency food, clothing, and prescription drug assistance for over thirty years. This program also facilitates enrollment to Medicaid, Family Health Plus & Child Health Plus and provides referrals to other resources and support services for longer term solutions. The Samaritan Center is located at **380 Main St., Elmira (734-4898)**.

We need your support! Your donated items (**unwrapped please**) can be placed in the collection bins located in the rear of our sanctuary and in the narthex each Sunday throughout the Advent season (**November 29 - December 20**).

Needs for the Safehouse ("Shower for Mary"):

These donations are for women/children and include the following:

- Gift sets for women (perfumes, soaps, lotions, etc.) ~ Watches for women
 - Radio Alarm Clocks
 - Craft items for teenagers (water color paints, bead sets, etc.)
 - Family and children board games ~ Activity books (children & adult)
 - Gift cards (\$10-\$20 recommended – grocery or general merchandise)
 - Paper towels, napkins, paper plates
 - Family oriented DVD's
 - Journals / pen sets ~ Stationary gift sets / stamps
 - Personal items such as hair brushes ~ deodorant ~ hairspray
 - Towels ~ Twin sheet sets ~ pillows (new)
 - New (packaged) underwear, bras & socks (all sizes – women and children)
 - Disposable diapers (size 3/ 4/ 5 / 6) ~ baby wipes ~ sippie cups ~ pacifiers
 - Cash or check donations (made payable to **Salvation Army Safehouse**)
- Due to limited space we cannot accept used household items, clothing or furniture.**
Please be assured our residents' needs are being met in this area.

Needs for the Samaritan Center ("Gifts for Joseph"):

These donations are for men and families and include the following:

- Cleaning supplies (unopened)
- Can openers (non-electric)
- Diapers & baby items (unopened)
- Food (non-expired -- unopened)
- Linens -- blankets, pillows, towels, single/twin sheets, etc. (new)
- Men's personal care items -- razors, deodorant, shaving cream, etc. (unopened)
- Paper Products -- paper towels, toilet paper, etc. (unopened)
- Underwear, socks, hats (new)
- Seasonal clothing -- all sizes (new or gently used)

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity in supporting our Advent outreach mission. What a wonderful way to experience the true meaning of Christmas! **Bill Howells and Bev Miles** are coordinating our "Shower for Mary" and "Gifts for Joseph" programs and can answer any questions (**962-1146**).

PHOTO GALLERY



Happy Thanksgiving



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAYS	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Sunday School and Nursery Care
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Food Pantry is open
	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop #87

SPECIAL EVENTS

November 1	Daylight Savings Time ends
November 1	Holy Communion
November 7 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 - 10:00 AM
November 14 (Sat.)	"Scouting for Food" – benefits our Food Pantry
November 26 (Thurs.)	Thanksgiving Breakfast – 8:00 AM
November 29	First Sunday of Advent
November 29	Information due for the December/January <u>RED DOOR</u>
November 29	"Pennies from Heaven"

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	November 15 – following morning worship
Property Committee	November 18 (Wed.) – 6:00 PM
Session	November 18 (Wed.) – 7:00 PM

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCK BACK BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 31.

Standard Time

