



THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – BIG FLATS, NY --- MARCH 2016

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

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

HELP WANTED

We have entered into an important transitional period in the life of the First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats, and a number of opportunities have become available to serve our church family in the upcoming months.

- People who are can make outreach visits and calls to those in our congregation family who are ill, shut-in, or otherwise unable to worship with us each week.
- Guest speakers to fill our pulpit.
- Worship leaders to conduct parts of our Sunday service such as “Joys/Concerns” when we have outside guest speakers.
- Committee work – Worship, Property, Mission Team, Stewardship, and Finance committees are always looking for help.
- Kitchen help at various breakfasts and dinners.
- Folks who are willing to host our fellowship coffee hours each Sunday.
- Providers of flowers for our sanctuary and sponsors of Sunday bulletins.
- Financial support is always a need.

Qualifications for any and all of the above include a loving heart and a willingness to be of service to our community of faith.

Interested applicants may contact any member of our Church Session (see list below) to volunteer or for additional information.

Please consider how you can help our church and our congregation.

OUR SESSION MEMBERS: Kirk Allen (Moderator), Joyce Dean (Clerk of Session), Pat Fitzgerald, Scott French, Luke Gromer, Tom Halm, Barb Horn, Kathy Johnston, Jill Knight, Stewart Potter, Gigi Price, Mary Ellen Rudnick, and Ann Slowik.

Circle of Love

JOYS AND CONCERNS

This winter's temperatures have been up and down but can never match the warm love and fellowship in our community of faith. This month we celebrated the career of our wonderful pastor, and we started on our Lenten journey. We opened our hearts to help those in need of food, comfort, and better housing. We are truly a community of faith!

Recent highlights included:

- On January 31, we celebrated the baptism of **Lucas Michael Knight**, son of **Michael & Jill Knight**. Congratulations!
- On February 7, we celebrated Rev. Rick's ministry in a special worship service and dinner.
- On Ash Wednesday, February 10, we started our Lenten journey together at a very special potluck supper. Those who wished were able to share Lenten and faith stories and to receive ashes as a reminder that we are indeed "Children of God."
- Our church family showed its generous nature during the month of February. Thanks to all for the successful drive for soup and money to help fight hunger on **Souper Bowl Sunday**, February 7, and then on **Blanket Sunday**, February 14, as we donated to Church World Services for blankets for people around the world in disaster areas. On the last Sunday of each month we continue our "**Pennies from Heaven**" tradition of support for Habitat for Humanity.
- Our fund-raising pancake breakfasts have proven to be a big hit! Our patrons have enjoyed terrific food and a chance for fellowship with other diners. Thank you, **Jenny Dean** and many hard-working volunteers!!
- Our Session members begun their important work of finding our new pastor. They need our support and prayer.



In our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Peter Middaugh, Joyce & Sam Dean, Larissa & Miranda Page, Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew), Reva Soutar, Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Flora Berke, Irene Hooley, Lydia Middaugh, Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea, Marge Larocque (Gigi Price'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 any Session member or Bill Howells, and we will include your news in our Joys/Concerns column.

FEBRUARY 7 – A SPECIAL SUNDAY

February 7 marked Rev. Rick's last Sunday as our pastor, and over one hundred seventy-five people joined together to honor him at our worship service and at a retirement dinner afterwards. Our worship service featured a moving thank you message from Rev. Rick, some truly inspirational music from our choir, and a very successful "Souper Bowl" collection for our Food Pantry. We closed our worship service by participating in a very meaningful Holy Communion and then joined in a fellowship circle and sang "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

A wonderful retirement dinner and program followed our service. Chef **Ann Slowik** and her "Kitchen Crew" outdid themselves in providing a fabulous meal! Everything was terrific – the food, special decorations and table settings, the slide show (thank you Gigi!), and the many tributes to Rick and Gigi. The Prices will be sure to enjoy the special deck rocking chairs that were presented at the close of the program!

Thank you to all who made this day possible in planning for the event, for the special bulletins (thanks, **Duane Welch and Barb Horn!**) setting up, preparing and serving the food, cleaning up after, and in just being part of the love that was felt by all on this very special occasion.

NOTE: We would appreciate donations to cut the costs of Rick's luncheon and Rocking Chairs. Donations may be mailed to the church or placed in the offering plate. Please indicate the purpose of the donation on your check or envelope so that it can be recorded in the correct account. Thank you.



SUNDAY SOUP -- SIMPLY SUPERB!

Delicious and nutritious homemade soup will be available after church each Sunday, through the end of March. The soup is a reminder of what we can do for others. A donation of just **\$4.00** will bring a quart of our world-famous Big Flats goodness right to your table. Find out what good is – you won't be sorry! Sign-up sheets for those willing to serve as "Soup Chefs" are posted on the church house bulletin board. Volunteers would be most appreciated. .



Questions?? – See **Barb Horn or Ann Hayes**

IT'S PER CAPITA TIME!



Each year the church must pay a fee to our Presbytery for each member. This year that individual member fee is **\$44.00**. Our total per capita amount for 2016 is **\$5984**. These monies are used to fund outreach programs, disaster relief, the resource center for the churches, and Camp Whitman programs. In your offering envelopes box, you will find a "Per Capita" envelope. It would be great if we could all pay our individual per capita assessment and, if possible, a little more. Just ten cents a day would really help to meet our budgeted goal. If anyone would like to start a "matching" drive/challenge, please let the Finance Committee or Session know of your willingness. Thanks for your help in balancing our budget. By the way, contributions (money, stock, etc.) can be made directly to our church's Reserve Fund. If we can "grow" this fund it can generate enough interest each year to make a major impact on our budget. See **Mark Slowik** for more information.

CONGREGATION RESPONDS TO FEBRUARY DRIVES

Our 'Souper' Bowl Sunday collection resulted in the donation of over **\$631** in cash and food items for our Food Pantry – the highest amount ever received! Our Blanket Sunday drive netted **\$315** to provide warmth and comfort for disaster victims. Thanks to all who contributed so generously!



QUILTERS PREPARING FOR 2016 RAFFLE!

Our 2015 Quilt Raffle was very successful. Ticket sales for our beautiful quilt, made by members of our congregation, raised over \$1100 to help our church budget. Our quilting group is starting to make plans for this year's project. Those who want to participate in piecing a quilt top for the church as a raffle quilt this year should call **Ann Hayes (562-8523)** or **Nancy Compton (562-3903)** to volunteer. Thank you.



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

A sincere and heart-felt THANK YOU to those who have stepped up to help the choir during the hiatus of several of our members. The anthem on Rev. Rick's last Sunday was just beautiful, and it was due to the lovely LARGE choir. We even had two visitors from another church who wanted to help us! We still have room in the choir loft for more of you who have been desiring to join us. We rehearse at 9:30 PROMPTLY, in the sanctuary on Sunday morning. Please join us. We'll save you a seat.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Dave Stafford, our Mission Team chair, was recently approached by "Habitat for Humanity" as part of their effort to secure volunteer help. Our church has, of course, supported Habitat's work for many years through our monthly **Pennies from Heaven** collection. Habitat is now seeking volunteers for construction work and ancillary support. The construction work takes place at set times during the week. The pertinent details on how one can become a volunteer appear in the letter that Dave received (below).

Hi Dave,

I wanted to thank you for taking the time to talk on the phone with me. If anyone in your congregation would be interested in volunteering with us, they can call our office at 607-734-1361.

The volunteer opportunities that we have are construction volunteers to work on our build site, non-construction volunteers to work on our build site to help with organization, office volunteers, and committee volunteers. The committees that we have include our family selection committee, fundraising committee, and construction committee.

Our construction site is active on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9am-2pm. We are currently working on a home for a family in Elmira.

Anyone can feel free to give us a call or check out our website www.chemungcountyhabitat.org

Thank you,

Emily Black

Volunteer Coordinator

Chemung County Habitat for Humanity

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS CONTINUE -- NEXT SLATED FOR MARCH 12

Our fund-raising Pancake Breakfasts have proven to be a big hit! They have become a fixture in the Big Flats community. Eager diners have flocked to our Church House for gourmet breakfasts of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and beverages. We thank all who have helped to make these meals so successful.

Our next breakfast is slated for **Saturday, March 12, from 8:00 – 10:00 AM**. Our last breakfast for this season will be held on **April 8**. The cost for each meal has been set at \$7.00. There will be no charge for those under five years old. Your patronage at our breakfasts is most welcome!

This series of meals is an ambitious project for our little church, and it takes a lot of help to ensure success. Any donations to our Pancake breakfasts would help immensely. We would appreciate donations of time to come and help (sign-up sheets are posted before each breakfast). We would also welcome monetary donations to help offset the cost of eggs, sausage, etc. Those who would like to donate to our breakfast project should see **Jenny Dean**. Jenny can also answer any questions about our breakfast project.



PHOTO GALLERY





WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00	Food Pantry is open
	6:30	Boy Scout Troop #87

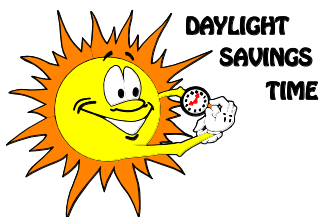
SPECIAL EVENTS

February 28	Cathy Neally and Phil Hubbard will lead our worship service
March 2	(Wed.) Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at St. Matthew's Episcopal (Horseheads) – 6:00 PM
March 6	Tom Seem will lead our worship service
March 9	(Wed.) Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at Our Saviour's Lutheran (Horseheads) – 6:00 PM
March 12 (Sat.)	Breakfast fundraiser – 8:00-10:00 AM
March 13	Rev. Ted Cooper will lead our worship service
March 16	(Wed.) Lenten Ecumenical Dinner at Big Flats First Presbyterian – 6:00 PM
March 20	Palm Sunday – Rev. Gary McCaslin will lead our worship service
March 24	Holy Thursday service – 7:00 PM
March 27	Easter Sunrise service at Miller Cemetery (next to our church) – breakfast to follow – 7:00 AM
March 27	Easter Sunday service with Holy Communion – Rev. Gary McCaslin will lead our worship service
March 27	Pennies from Heaven collection
March 27	Deadline for articles for April <u>Red Door</u>

NOTE: Volunteers will be needed when our church hosts the Lenten Dinner on **March 16**. Sign-up sheets will be posted – please pitch in. Many hands make light work! Questions?? – see **Ann Slowik**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on March 6
Property Committee	Wednesday, March 2 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesday, March 2 – 7:00 PM



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 13. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 12 – WE KNOW THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR CHURCH!