

OCTOBER – 2016



THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH – BIG FLATS, NY

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

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

Dear Friends,

First of all, I want to thank you for the warm welcome I have received. It is truly an honor to be serving as your Interim Minister. As you can imagine, I have been spending the last couple of weeks settling in and learning more about the workings of your church. I am looking forward to getting acquainted with each one of you.

I plan to be in the office Monday through Thursday, 11 am to 3 pm. If you wish to meet with me, please call in advance. I might be out on a pastoral visit, of which I plan to do many. And if you, or someone you know, would like a visit don't hesitate to call.

The interim time between two ministries is a dynamic and rich time of transition. Intentional interim ministry is a relationship I am entering into with your congregation promising to be present, to reflect, to lead, to coach and guide. My understanding is that ministry is a shared enterprise and that ministry is not what a minister does, but rather is a relationship entered into with a congregation.

I look forward to this time together and pray that with faith in the power of the Holy Spirit and with our discernment, insights and efforts, the First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats will continue to reflect the love of Jesus Christ and to be a blessing to the community for years to come.

Peace,
Pastor Beth

Office – 607-562-8048
Pastor Beth's – 617- 510-3883



JOYS AND CONCERNS

September was a very special month for our little church. We welcomed our new Interim Minister; we remembered a heartbreaking day in our nation's history and pledged to move forward with hope and love; we celebrated the joy of worshipping and spending time together as a community of faith.

Circle of Love

Some of this month's highlights included:

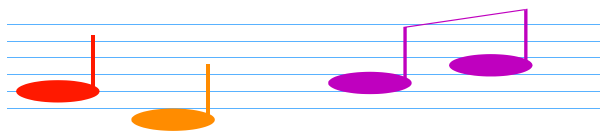
- We are pleased that **Rev. Beth Frigard** has accepted the call to serve as our Interim Minister. We are happy to welcome **Pastor Beth** into our church family, and we welcome her leadership during this period of transition.
- Our adult choir and our handbell choir returned on September 11. We are truly blessed - our choir (and Director **Nancy Compton**) deserve our thanks for all they do to make each Sunday special!
- Many thanks to veterans **Jack Horn (USMC)** and **Galer Perreault (USN)** for leading us in a ceremony to honor our flag and our great nation as we joined together to remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001.
- Special thanks to **Ann and Mark Slowik** for hosting a wonderful fellowship luncheon to welcome **Pastor Beth** on September 11.
- Thanks, also, to **Duane Welch, Ann Hayes, Mary Scaringe, Barb Gilbert**, and all those who work to make our weekly Coffee Hour social times so special!
- Our beautiful 2016 **'Basket of Logs'** quilt has received rave reviews! It is truly a work of art! Be sure to help sell (and buy!) tickets for our raffle.
- Congratulations to **Laura Beth Green** and **Shawn Steinhower** on the birth of daughter **Savannah Rose**, on September 5. Congratulations, also, to proud great-grandparents **Sam and Joyce Dean** and grandparents **Kathy and Steve Johnston**.



The sympathy of our faith community is extended to **Barb Gilbert** and her family on the passing of Barb's sister, **Eleanor VanVranken**, on September 11. In other concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Brandon Davis (nephew of Sheila French and Lisa McGill)**, **Denise Wiskowski (sister of Debbie French)**, **Peter Middaugh, Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew)**, **Heinz Weissenbuehler, Reva Soutar, Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Flora Berke, Irene Hooley, Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea, Marge Larocque (Gigi Price's mother)**, and others who are dealing with ill health, surgery, loss, or life changes.

We also ask for prayers for **Kevin Green**, who has been deployed to join our forces in Iraq. We pray for the safe return of **Kevin** and all those who serve our nation. 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 faith community? See Pastor Beth or Bill Howells, and we will include your news in our Joys/Concerns column.



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

So far, our small but very faithful choir has done beautiful work **BUT** our folks **DO** get sick, they **DO** visit relatives, they **DO** take vacations, and so forth. You have no idea what the addition of a few more voices would mean to us. Besides being a blessing to us and the congregation, you would receive the heavenly blessing of "making a joyful noise unto the Lord" as we all just strive to enhance the beauty of our worship experience. Please think about it. We'll save you a seat.



SIXTH ANNUAL QUILT FUNDRAISER UNDERWAY

Tickets are available each Sunday during Coffee Hour for our annual quilt raffle. The price for this beautiful 'Basket of Logs' patterned quilt is **\$2 each or three for \$5**. We will also have a sign-up sheet available on Sundays for those of you who would be willing to help us sell tickets. You will have the opportunity to be available during two hour intervals at Minier's Grocery on three Fridays – October 28, November 4, and November 11 from 10:00 – 4:00 pm. Everything will be set up for you. All you need to do is haul in the money from shoppers eager to win the quilt.

Remember that this is a major fund-raiser for our church. We have done very well in previous years. Please help us to make this a successful year as well. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to buy and to sell tickets.

Questions? See **Ann Hayes, or Nancy Compton**.



FALL RUMMAGE SALE – NOVEMBER 5

Our Fall Rummage Sale will be held on **Saturday, November 5, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**, with lunch served and a bake sale. Our reduced-price **Bag Sale** will take place at **1:00 PM**.

Donations of sale items are most welcome. We have some room to store sale goods in the church basement, but it would save a great deal of work if items could be held at home and then brought in from **Sunday, October 30, through Tuesday, November 1**. At that point they can be left in the Sunday School classroom area, thus saving our volunteers from making many additional trips up and down the basement steps.

If you need access to the church, call **Linda Lincoln at 562-7601**.

We are going to need volunteers for setting up, working at the sale, taking down, and a variety of other jobs. Many hands make light work! **Sign-up sheets will be posted.**

The sale of baked goods during our rummage sale is always very popular (and profitable!). Donations of baked items will be most appreciated. Baked goods can be brought to church on Friday afternoon (Nov. 4) or early Saturday morning (Nov. 5).

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.

Sale coordinators **Linda Lincoln, Nancy Pangia, and Donna Stevens** will be happy to answer your questions.

SERMONS & MUSIC AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

Thanks to our church webmaster, **John Farr**, we now have the opportunity to listen to sermons, choir anthems, and other special moments from our weekly services on our church website. It's a great way to catch up with a service you may have missed or to revisit a message or a musical moment. Just go to our website, www.bigflatsfirstpres.org, and click on the **AUDIO** link at the top of the page. We hope that you will enjoy using this new website feature.

www.bigflatsfirstpres.org



PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

A number of “behind the scenes” projects take place each month at our church. Some of the work done in September included:

- Our committee continues to follow a monthly and seasonal schedule of maintaining our facilities and making improvements that add to the safety, energy efficiency, and attractiveness of our church building and its grounds.
- Our lawns get weekly attention from **Scott and Sheila French**, and **Pat Fitzgerald** works to keep our mulched beds free of weeds.
- A special thank you to **Pat Seem** for the lovely fall decorations that grace our front door!
- Repairs were made to a number of seams on the rubberized roof over our Church House. Thanks go to **Steve Johnston, Brett Barney, and Jeremy Barney!**
- We are in hopes that our annual problem with (annoying, but, fortunately, harmless!) box elder beetles will be greatly alleviated this coming winter thanks to a preventative spray treatment applied by **Pest Solutions**, of Horseheads.
- **Pat Fitzgerald** reports that our boiler system passed its required safety inspection on September 16.
- Our committee has been able to replace our current office copier with an updated model at a greatly reduced cost. **Sheila French**, our liaison with the machine supplier, deserves a big thank you for her diligence and negotiating skills! The new machine will be installed in October.
- Our St. Pauley used clothing shed has, at times, been filled to overflowing. We have been in contact with the St. Pauley organization to ensure that pickups will be made more frequently. Special thanks go to all those volunteers who work each month to keep our collection shed in good order.



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.

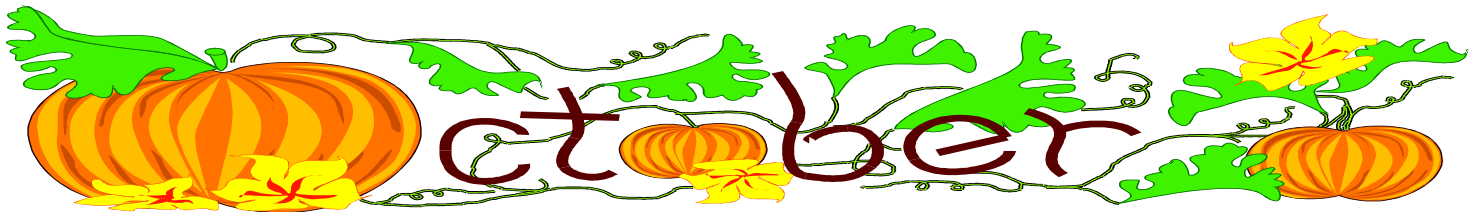
FIND SOME GREAT READING IN OUR LIBRARY!!

With over 500 books and other materials in our collection, our Church Library serves as a valuable resource to all in our church family. We have books that are inspirational, educational, and enjoyable for all ages and interest levels. We are open each Sunday following morning worship. Pay us a visit if you are looking for some great reading. **Lou Norris and Betty Apicello** will be happy to help you find something special! We look forward to your next visit.



Special People -- A Special Church!





WEEKLY EVENTS

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 2	World Communion Sunday
October 23	Tom Seem will lead our worship service
October 23 – 28	Pastor Beth will be out of town attending an Interim Minister training seminar
October 30	Information due for the November RED DOOR
October 30	“Pennies from Heaven”

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Property Committee (Wed.)	October 5 – 6:00 PM
Session (Wed.)	October 5 – 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	October 30 – following morning worship

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – OCTOBER 2

On **October 2**, we will join our fellow Christians in celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. To symbolize this special global ceremony, we will be sharing “Breads from around the World.” Music Director **Nancy Compton** and members of our choir will provide breads from a variety of world cultures as a way to remind us of the universal faith which links us together. Please plan to worship with us on **World Communion Sunday!**