



THE RED DOOR

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

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

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

Dear Friends,

Fall has most certainly arrived and settled in. The vibrant colors have faded to a lovely more muted hue. To me, it always seems a good time to sit back and reflect on our lives, to recall where we have been, who has walked with us, what we have learned, how over the years we have grown, and yes, continue to grow. I trust that as the years pass we grow in wisdom, in love, in compassion and yes, in patience and in appreciation. It can be sad or melancholy time, but most I find that I am filled with gratitude.

I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to get to know many of you as I settle into your church home. It

has truly been a blessing. I am grateful for my week studying The Art of Transitional Ministry at Princeton Seminary and pray that it will prove to have been of value to the church and its future.

This is not just a season for reflection, it is a season to look ahead to celebration, to Thanksgiving and to Christmas, to times with family and friends. I am hopeful that together we can focus on the celebration and help one another to alleviate the frenzy and the stress that can so easily detract from the joy.

We are people of joy and of light and of endless possibilities.

This season may the peace of Christ be with us and the love of God sustain us we look back with appreciation and look ahead with boundless hope.



Peace,

Pastor Beth

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 we give thanks for our many blessings, let us also take time to reach out and hold in our prayers those in our community who find the holiday season difficult because of issues of loss, loneliness, and stress.

As always, October was a very busy month in our little church. Some of the month's highlights included:

- Our first 2016-17 Pancake Breakfast was a big success! Thanks go to **Sarah Cory**, our chairperson, and to the many willing volunteers who made for a very special morning.
- We had a special joy on October 16! **Nancy Compton, our Director of Music**, was received into membership in our church. Nancy does so much for our church, and it is wonderful to have her "officially" join us! Congratulations and welcome!!
- A new copier was installed in our church office this month. This updated model will be more efficient and reliable than our previous unit, and it is estimated that it will save our church over \$700 per year in operating costs. **Sheila French**, our liaison with the machine supplier, deserves a big thank you for her diligence and negotiating skills! Thanks also, to **Tom Seem and Duane Welch** for their technical expertise in configuring the copier to meet our needs!
- Thank you to **Tom Seem** for leading our worship service on Sunday, October 23.
- A great deal of "behind the scenes" work is necessary to keep our church humming. Special thanks to **Pat Fitzgerald** for coordinating repairs to our refrigerator and to **Kathy and Steve Johnston** for installing a new faucet fixture in our ladies room.
- Congratulations **Sam & Joyce Dean** who have recently welcomed great-grandson **Samuel Richard Dean** (parents **Jason Dean & Lynn Piper** and grandparents **Scott & Eileen Dean**) into their family!



Among our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Blake Manuel (eye surgery)**, **Marilyn Jenkins (passing of her brother-in-law, Bob)**, **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 Hooey**, **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 faith community? See Pastor Beth or Bill Howells, and we will include your news in our Joys/Concerns column.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SET FOR NOVEMBER 19



Our sixth Pancake Breakfast season got off to a successful start on Saturday, October 15. We will be holding a series of these delicious fund-raisers on Saturday mornings during the next few months. In addition to our regular menu, each month will highlight a "specialty" pancake. The next breakfast is slated for **Saturday, November 19, from 8:00 - 10:00 AM**, and our "specialty" pancake flavor will be **pumpkin spice**. Subsequent breakfast dates are tentatively scheduled for **December 17, January 21, February 18, March 18, and April 15**. The cost for each meal has been set at **\$6.00**. ***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 **Sarah Cory**.



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. In this, our 189th Anniversary year, let our stewardship – time, talent, and financial support toward the church – reflect our pride in our past and continued faith in our future.

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. Items 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 (562-7601)** or **Nancy Pangia (562-3234)**.

We are going to need volunteers for setting up, working at the sale, taking down, and a variety of other jobs. **See this month's Calendar Page for a schedule.** Many hands make light work! **Sign-up sheets have been 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.



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 24)**. Muffins will be supplied by the women of our congregation. **Paul Holland** (and his guitar) will join us. 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.



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.

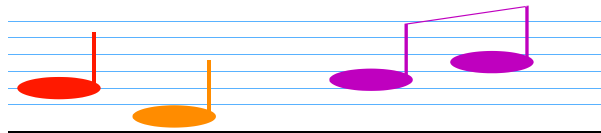
SIXTH ANNUAL QUILT FUNDRAISER UNDERWAY



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 two Fridays –**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.



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

The choir is seeking a few able bodied (not necessarily gorgeous) voices to fill in the space left open by our regulars who will be away during the holidays. The pay? Good fun and fellowship every Sunday morning at 9:30, the knowledge that you have contributed to beauty in our service to God, and a generous reward in the hereafter. We'll save you a seat.



PASS-A-DISH LUNCHEON PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 4



Our Worship Committee will host a Pass-A-Dish Luncheon following morning worship on **Sunday, December 4**. In addition to wonderful food and warm fellowship, the winning ticket in this year's quilt raffle will be drawn.

In past years, we have held a fund-raising Silent Auction on the first Sunday of December. Anyone willing to coordinate such an event during this luncheon should talk with **Pastor Beth or Barb Horn**.

Full details about the luncheon program will be announced during morning worship and in next month's **RED DOOR**.

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

For the past fifteen 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**.



Five 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 27 - December 18**).

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)
- Cash or check donations (made payable to **The Samaritan Center**)

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** is coordinating our "Shower for Mary" and "Gifts for Joseph" programs and can answer any questions (**962-1146**).

PHOTO GALLERY



Happy Thanksgiving

A decorative graphic for Thanksgiving. It features the words "Happy Thanksgiving" in a colorful, bubbly font. Below the text are illustrations of pumpkins, corn cobs, and autumn leaves.



November

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

November 1 (Tues.)	Set-up for Rummage Sale – Time To Be Announced
November 2 (Wed.)	Price items for Rummage Sale – 9:00 AM - ?
November 3 (Thurs.)	Boy Scout Troop #87 Committee meeting
November 5 (Sat.)	Rummage Sale – 9:00 – 2:00
November 6	Daylight Savings Time ends
November 6	Holy Communion
November 11 (Fri.)	Veterans Day
November 12 (Sat.)	"Scouting for Food" – benefits our Food Pantry
November 19 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 - 10:00 AM
November 24 (Thurs.)	Thanksgiving Breakfast – 8:00 AM
November 27	First Sunday of Advent
November 27	Information due for the December/January <u>RED DOOR</u>
November 27	"Pennies from Heaven"

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Property Committee	November 2 (Wed.) – 6:00 PM
Church Session	November 2 (Wed.) – 7:00 PM
Worship Committee	November 27 – following morning worship

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCK BACK BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 5.

Standard Time

