



MARCH / APRIL 2019

# THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY

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

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

## REV. DENISE STONE ORDAINED AND INSTALLED AS OUR PASTOR (A Final Report from our PNC)



The work of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) finally came to a very successful end with the beautiful and meaningful Ordination and Installation Service which was held for **Rev. Denise D. Stone** at our church on Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 3 p.m.

All of the members of the Geneva Presbytery as well as the members and friends of the congregation were invited to attend both the service and wonderful dinner reception afterwards.

We were very pleased to see several members of our church-sponsored **Scout Troop #87** and their leaders in attendance at the service.

Moderator **Rev. Katherine Griffis** guided the members of the Administrative Commission and the other participants in the service as **Pastor Denise** was first ordained as a Presbyterian Minister and then installed as Pastor of our church.

Pastor Denise's spouse, **Valerie Stone**, provided special music by playing "**Great is Thy Faithfulness**" arr.

By Marilyn Ham on the piano.

The meditation, "**It's a Brand New Day!**" was delivered by **Rev. J. Robert Gray** who is a friend of Pastor Denise's from Ohio. His wife, Jan, was also in attendance as well Valerie's parents and Pastor Denise's in-laws, **William and Marilyn Stone** of Geneva, Ohio.

Prior to the Prayer of Ordination, the Moderator invited all Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Elders to come up and lay hands on Pastor Denise.

Before the Charge to the Congregation, the Moderator invited **William and Marilyn Stone** up to the front to place a beautiful red stole (a gift from them) around Pastor Denise's neck and over her robe.

**Pastor Denise** then proceeded to preside over the formal Communion service. Pastor Denise ended the service with a Benediction.



Rev. Katherine Griffis & Pastor Denise



Rev. J. Robert Gray, Pastor Denise & Valerie Stone

The PNC wants to extend many thanks to the Worship Committee and all of the many others who helped to make this special service and reception everything we had hoped it would be.

The next step for the PNC will be its formal dissolution. This will be addressed by the Session and later affirmed by the congregation.

As chairperson of the PNC, it has been my sincere pleasure to have been asked to guide a committee of such dedicated, thoughtful and always hopeful members on this journey which led us to our wonderful new Pastor Denise. We always knew God was guiding us.

Those committee members were: **Jenny Dean, Ann Hayes, Pat Fitzgerald, Sheila French, Rocky Peters and Mark Slowik.** Rehana

**Stanley** was our liaison with Presbytery.

With Faith Always,  
**Pat Seem** -- PNC Chairperson

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

# Circle of Love

This winter's temperatures have been up and down, but they can never match the warm love and fellowship in our community of faith. As we worshiped together we also opened our hearts to help those in need of food, comfort, and better housing, and we began a new phase in our faith journey as we welcomed our new pastor, **Rev. Denise Stone**. We are truly a community of faith!

Recent highlights included:

- **A HUGE THANK YOU** to our PNC for all their hard work!!!!
- Our church family continues to show its generous nature! Thanks to all for the successful drive for soup and money to help fight hunger on **Souper Bowl Sunday**, February 3, and then on **Blanket Sunday**, February 10, as we donated to Church World Services for blankets to help people around the world in disaster areas. On January 27 and February 24, we continued our "**Pennies from Heaven**" tradition of support for Habitat for Humanity.
- We celebrated Scout Sunday on February 3. It was wonderful to see these fine young people and their adult leaders!
- Our fund-raising monthly suppers and pancake breakfasts have proven to be a big hit! Thank you, **Ann Slowik, Donna Stevens**, and many hard-working volunteers!
- Our super snow shoveling crew of **Mary Churchill, Scott French, Sheila French, and Bill Howells**, have kept our parking areas and sidewalks clear of snow and ice throughout the winter months.
- In February and March we were pleased to have wonderful worship leaders and speakers in our pulpit. The thanks of our congregation goes to **Rev. Jane Winters, Lynda Lowin (from The Potter's Hands Foundation), Rehana Stanley, John Farr, Scout Troop #87, Bill Powell, and Mary Churchill**.
- Special thanks to **Nancy Compton** who crafted a beautiful robe stole, and to **Sherri Kriel**, who created a stunning framed work of art as welcome gifts for our new pastor. The gifts were presented on behalf of our congregation during the reception following Pastor Denise's Ordination service.



Among our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Barb Gilbert, Judith Gilbert, Karen & Galer Perreault, Alissa Jolley, Cindy Smith (sister of Pat Seem), Henry and Joyce Schurr, Neal Gummo, Martin Gromer, Steve French, Cindy & Ed Leisenring, Brandon Davis (nephew of Sheila French and Lisa McGill), Denise Wiskowski (sister of Debbie French), Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew), Reva Soutar, Nick Rudnick, Ginnie Schweizer, Marie Shea, Dorothy Bartlett**, and others who are dealing with ill health, surgery, loss, or life changes. Please remember our shut-ins. 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 Denise or Bill Howells, and we will include your news in our Joys/Concerns column.***

### HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Sunday, April 14 (10:30 AM)** – in our Sanctuary – Palm Sunday Service

**Thursday, April 18 (7:00 PM)** – in our Sanctuary – Maundy Thursday Service

**Friday, April 19 (12:00 Noon)** – Good Friday ecumenical service -- Time/Place TBA

**Sunday, April 21 (7:00 AM)** – Sunrise Service – breakfast to follow -- Time/Place TBA

**Sunday, April 21 (10:30 AM)** – in our Sanctuary – Easter Service with Holy Communion



**EASTER PLANTS:** Those who wish to place Easter plants in our church "in memory of" or "in celebration of" should contact **Dean's** at **562-8120**. The cost per plant is \$15.00.

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL STUDY ANNOUNCED

All are invited to join **Pastor Denise** in a **Lenten Devotional Study** group. The group will meet **9:30-10:30 AM**, beginning on **Sunday, March 10**, and continuing through **Palm Sunday, April 14**. The book we will explore is ***A Way Other Than Our Own***, by Walter Brueggemann (ISBN 978-06642-6169-6). Pastor Denise has ordered ten copies, which may be purchased from her or through the internet (<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/0664261698/a-way-other-than-our-own.aspx>). The cost for the book is **\$8.45**.



## EGG HUNT TO FOLLOW EASTER SERVICE



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held after Church on **Easter Sunday, April 21**. We are asking for donations of wrapped candy and non-food items to fill the eggs. Donated items should be left in the church kitchen by **Palm Sunday, April 14**. This is always a fun event for our children. Please do what you can to help make this annual tradition such a success. Also, please plan to join us for all the fun following morning worship on Easter Sunday!

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Property Committee continues to be very busy. Recent projects have included:

- **Tom Seem** donated and installed a new phone system and answering machine.
- The switch for a bank of lights in fellowship hall was repaired.
- The sanctuary thermostat has been replaced and the boiler was serviced to solve the low temperature problem.
- Flat roof repair to solve the intermittent leak problem is tentatively scheduled for the spring. **Russ Minier** recommended an experienced professional, Hale Roofing, and donated \$1000 towards the repair, estimated at approximately \$2500.
- Committee members **Mary Churchill, Jenny Dean, and Sheila French** performed weekly cleaning of sanctuary, kitchen, restrooms, fellowship room, and offices.
- Our Snow Shoveling Team worked to keep our parking lots and walkways cleared of snow and ice.
- Water-stained ceiling tiles were replaced in the main Church House room.
- Committee members set up before (and cleaned up after) Pancake Breakfasts, Wednesday evening Suppers, and the Ordination Sunday program and reception.
- Committee members helped to install a display of our church's history.
- Committee members helped to relocate the church library and convert the room into an office for Pastor Denise.



## COFFEE HOUR – A BIG FLATS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TRADITION

Among the many things that make Sundays so special in our church is the chance to visit and chat during our Social Hour, which follows the worship service each week. Thanks to all those who have hosted and provided treats for these wonderful times of fellowship! Volunteers are needed to help continue this tradition. If you would like to bring a plate of cookies, doughnuts, or fruit, it would be most welcomed by all. A sign-up sheet is posted on the church bulletin board (unsure about hosting Coffee Hour?? – **Ann Hayes** is willing to work with you). Just let us know what Sunday you can best support us in this effort. Thanks again to all who have helped make this fellowship ministry possible. Questions? – Talk with **Ann Hayes** – 329-0451.

# **First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats**

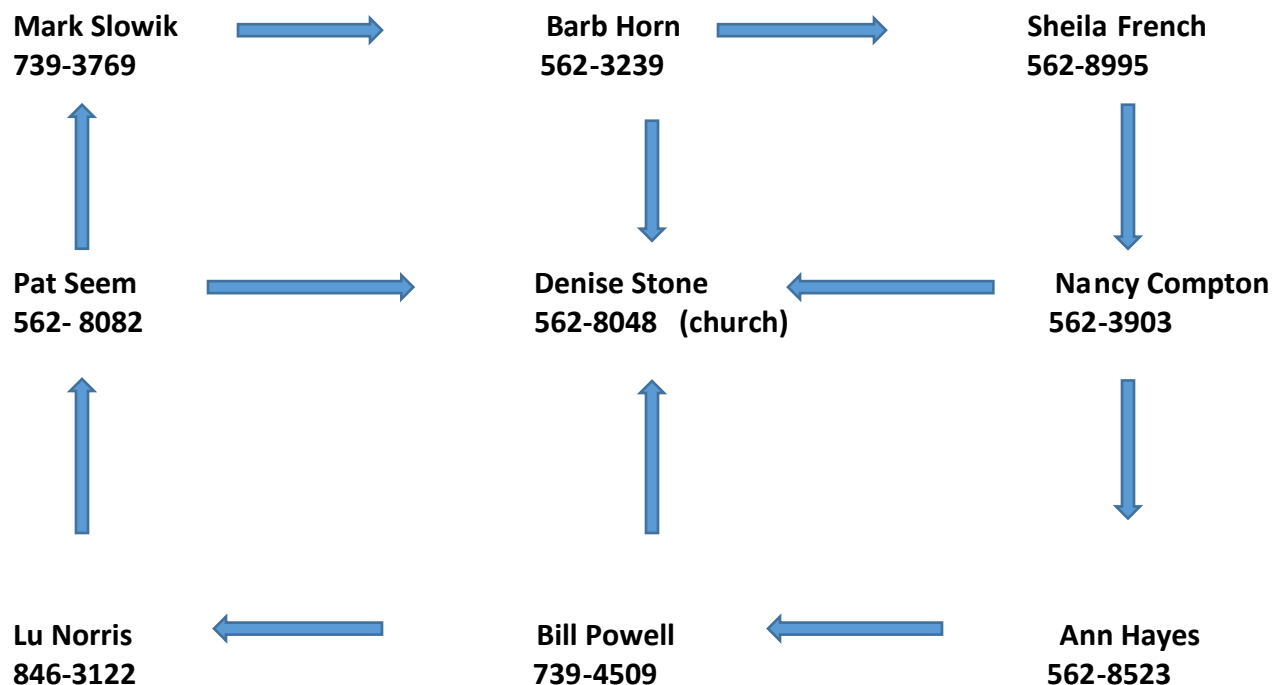
## **PRAYER CHAIN**

Here's how the PRAYER CHAIN works .....

When you receive a call on the PRAYER CHAIN, the person calling you will ask you to pray about a specific situation, person or family. Long explanations are not necessary. Just state the facts as you understand them. Your responsibility is to call the next person on the chain – following the directional arrows. The person who begins the PRAYER CHAIN is also responsible to call the minister. If voice mail picks up any call, explain the situation needing prayer, then call the NEXT person on the chain. Continue this pattern of calling and leaving messages until you speak to a real person and that person carries on.

**ANYONE CAN START THE PRAYER CHAIN!!!!!!** All you have to do is call any chain member, explain the concern, and the chain will be activated. If you have a question, just call a chain member.

Please keep this paper near your phone so you can find it quickly when you need it.



### **SOME RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS:**

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Barb Gilbert</b>                | Serious fall – now receiving medical treatment at Bethany Manor |
| <b>Galer &amp; Karen Perreault</b> | House Fire and subsequent life disruption                       |
| <b>Lu Norris</b>                   | Recovering from knee damage suffered in auto accident           |



# PHOTO GALLERY



*Rev. Jane Winters and Our Newly-installed Elders  
John Farr, Donna Stevens, and Sherri Kriel*



Our congregation was pleased to welcome Scouts and adult leaders from **Scout Troop 87** to our church on **Scout Sunday**, February 3. The scouts helped conduct our worship service, and their parents hosted our Coffee Hour.



*Wanda Lowin  
Potter's Islands Foundation*





### 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

### ASH WEDNESDAY POTLUCK SUPPER

**MARCH 6 – 6:00 PM**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

**PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS**

### SPECIAL EVENTS

March 3	Holy Communion
March 6 (Wed.)	Ash Wednesday Potluck supper and informal devotional service – 6:00 PM
March 13 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner -- Time and Place to be announced
March 16 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 – 10:00 AM
March 17	Worship Committee will meet
March 20 (Wed.)	Property Committee & Session will meet
March 20 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner -- Time and Place to be announced
March 27 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner -- Time and Place to be announced
March 31	“Pennies from Heaven”
April 3 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner -- Time and Place to be announced
April 7	Holy Communion
April 10 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner -- Time and Place to be announced
April 14	Palm Sunday
April 14	Worship Committee will meet
April 17 (Wed.)	Property Committee & Session will meet
April 18 (Thurs.)	Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 PM
April 19 (Fri.)	Good Friday Service -- Time and Place to be announced
April 21	Easter Sunrise Service – breakfast to follow -- Place to be announced-- 7:00 AM
April 21	Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion
April 29	Pennies from Heaven collection
April 29	Deadline for articles for May/June <b><u>RED DOOR</u></b>

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on March 17 & April 14
Property Committee	Wednesdays, March 20 & April 17 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesdays, March 20 & April 17 – 7:00 PM

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 9 – WE KNOW THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR CHURCH!**

