



MARCH / APRIL 2020

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/

Friends,

As we enter into this time of Lent, I ask that you reflect on the past month as we've looked at the concept of Justice.

During Lent our hearts and minds turn ever more towards Jesus and his Journey to Jerusalem; his journey to the cross.

Let us remember how Jesus gave all of himself for us. Often we are asked to give up something for Lent. This year I'd like you to consider what you can GIVE for Lent. It might be money, but it also might be some of your time volunteering.

The idea of justice and the call of Lent can and should come together in our walk with God. How will you respond?

Blessings,
Pastor Denise

What if we took
Lent as a chance
to stop, breathe,
ask who we really
are, what are we
doing with our
time on this planet,
and what might
we actually be
willing to die for?

Circle of Love

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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. We are truly a community of faith!

Recent highlights included:

- A warm welcome to **Valerie Stone**, our new Director of Music!
- 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 2. On **Blanket Sunday**, February 9, we donated to Church World Services for blankets to help people around the world in disaster areas. On January 26 and February 23, we continued our "**Pennies from Heaven**" tradition of support for Habitat for Humanity.
- We celebrated Scout Sunday on February 9. Our scouts conducted a color guard ceremony and also led parts of our worship service. It was wonderful to welcome these fine young people and their adult leaders!
- Our fund-raising monthly suppers and pancake breakfasts have proven to be a big hit! Our breakfast/dinner season has ended for this year. 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.
- We are proud of our very own **Tom Seem**, who was the producer of the CBS News presentation of the Democratic Candidates Debate, in Charleston, SC, on February 24.
- On February 26, started our Lenten journey with a very special Ash Wednesday potluck dinner and service. A time of good food and fellowship was followed by a short devotional program and the distribution of ashes to those who wished to receive them. Thank you, **Pastor Denise** and our wonderful cooks!



Among our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Dorothy Hoos**, **Neal Gummoe**, **Alissa Jolley**, **Cathy (Neally) Hubbard**, **Marilyn Jenkins**, **Mary Ellen & Nick Rudnick**, **Ginnie Schweizer**, **Cindy Smith (sister of Pat Seem)**, **Henry and Joyce Schurr**, **Martin Gromer**, **Cindy & Ed Leisenring**, **Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew)**, **Reva Soutar**, **Marie Shea**, 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

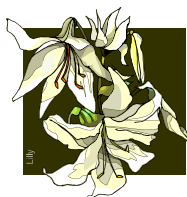
Sunday, April 5 (10:30 AM) – Palm Sunday Service with Holy Communion

Thursday, April 9 (7:00 PM) – Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 10 (12:00 Noon) – Good Friday ecumenical service – @ Horseheads United Methodist

Sunday, April 12 (7:00 AM) – Sunrise Service – breakfast/coffee hour to follow

Sunday, April 12 (10:30 AM) – 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.

MUSIC NOTES



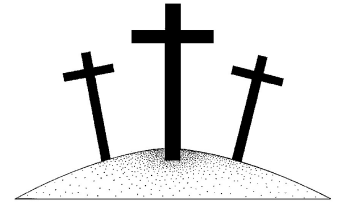
Greetings! I have had a wonderful first month of service as the Music Director. I look forward to many more. Everyone's encouragement has been so appreciated. I hope everyone has enjoyed learning about, listening to, and singing the African American Spirituals that have been presented this month. They are comprised of simple words but with deep meanings about humanity and our walk with God.

The Lenten season is oft viewed as a time of contemplation and introspection, a season during which we exam our relationship with Christ and find ways to deepen our relationship with God. As we enter this season of Lent, my prayer is that each Sunday there will be a musical offering that you hear or sing that will allow you to clearly hear the message of God's love for you and will go with you throughout your week. At the end of this season of Lent, may we be prepared to welcome our Risen Savior with praise and thanksgiving on Easter morning.

Valerie Stone, Director of Music

LENTEN ECUMENICAL DINNER PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

The Horseheads Ministerial Association has announced plans for a series of Wednesday evening Lenten programs to be held at area churches. The program each evening will consist of dinner (**cost to be announced**), prayer, and presentation. All profits will go to support the Food Bank's 'Backpack Program.' Gatherings will begin promptly at **6:00 p.m.** and will end at **7:00 p.m.**



This year's theme is "**Entering the Passion of Jesus.**"

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>SPEAKER(S)</u>
March 4	St. Matthews Episcopal – HHDS	Rev. Denise Stone
March 11	First United Methodist – HHDS	Rev. Aaron Frank
March 18	First Presbyterian – HHDS	Rhonda Kouterick
March 25	First United Methodist – HHDS	Rev. Laura Daly
April 1	First Presbyterian – Big Flats	Rev. Wanda Copeland
April 10	First United Methodist – HHDS	All Pastors (Good Friday service at 12:00 noon)

NOTE: Volunteers will be needed to help as we host the dinner on **April 1**. Sign-up sheets will be posted – please pitch in. Many hands make light work! Questions?? – see **Ann Slowik**

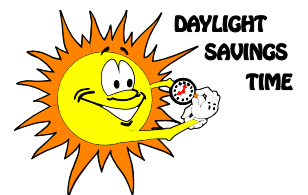
EGG HUNT TO FOLLOW EASTER SERVICE



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held after Church on **Easter Sunday, April 12**. 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 5**. 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!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 7. WE KNOW THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR CHURCH!



PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

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

- Installed a new sanctuary circulating pump motor in our boiler room.
- Monitored gas and electric power usage and continued investigating ways to make our church more energy-efficient.
- Monitored water softener operation and salt usage.
- Worked with Pastor Denise to rearrange pews in sanctuary.
- Secured railings on steps in our narthex.
- Installed new part on our power washer.
- Fluorescent fixtures in our Church House, Kitchen, and Office areas have been converted to LED lighting (contractor was Ed Rhodes).
- Reorganized south basement storage area resulting in safer and more efficient use of this space and improved storage and access to tools and equipment.
- Installed new closer mechanism on Church Street outer door.
- Began looking at ways to increase involvement of scouts and leaders from Troop #87 in the life of our church.
- Our Snow Shoveling Team worked to keep our parking lots and walkways cleared of snow and ice.
- Committee members set up before (and cleaned up after) Pancake Breakfasts, Wednesday evening Suppers, and other church events.
- Property members periodically check our flat roof to make sure that drains are free of debris.
- Volunteers from our Property Committee clean our sanctuary, restrooms, kitchen, offices, and social areas each week. Additional help is always welcome (see **Sheila French**).
- Each month we give continued attention to our list of scheduled maintenance items.



The Property Committee would like to give a special thank you to **Pat Fitzgerald** for his many years of dedicated service as our leader! Pat stepped down from his role at the beginning of January. **Mary Churchill** is our new chairperson.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY – MARCH 14

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

SPRING CLEANING OF OUR KITCHEN, RESTROOMS, AND AUDITORIUM

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 – STARTING AT 10:00 AM

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

PLEASE JOIN THIS GROUP EFFORT

THANKS, IN ADVANCE, FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Questions? – see **Mary Churchill, Sheila French, or Jenny Dean**

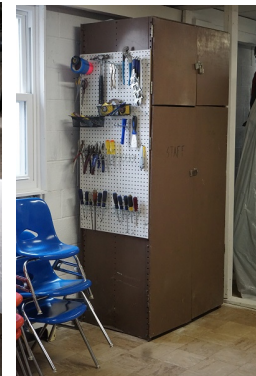
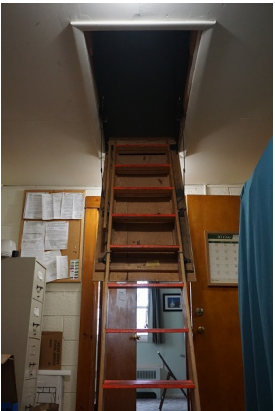
COFFEE HOUR – A BIG FLATS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN TRADITION

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**.

WHAT IS IT -- WHERE IS IT?

Here are some photos of places in and around our church. How many can you recognize? (Answers below)



Top Row: Inside our used clothing shed; Food Pantry; South basement ladder storage; Storage under the stage

Middle Row: Access to storage loft in choir robing area; Banner storage off east hallway; Basement sump pump; East side of original stone wall under sanctuary

Bottom Row: Earthen basement under sanctuary; Circulating pumps for our heating system; Tool storage in basement; Main electrical panel



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday School
	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship
WEDNESDAY	6:30 PM	Weekly Bible Study (will resume April 22)
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Food Pantry is open
	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop #87
SATURDAY	10:00 AM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal

SPECIAL EVENTS

March 1	Holy Communion
March 4 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner – St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church (Pastor Denise will speak) – 6:00 PM
March 8	Daylight Savings Time begins
March 8	Pastor Denise on vacation – Rev. Jane Winters will lead worship service
March 11 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner – Horseheads United Methodist Church – 6:00
March 14 (Sat.)	Church Clean-up Day
March 15	Worship Committee will meet
March 18 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner – Horseheads Presbyterian Church – 6:00
March 18 (Wed.)	Property Committee & Session will meet
March 25 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner– 6:00
March 29	“Pennies from Heaven”
April 1 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner – Big Flats Presbyterian Church – 6:00
April 4 (Sat.)	Scouting for Food – area scouts collect items for our Food Pantry
April 5	Palm Sunday with Holy Communion
April 9 (Thurs.)	Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 PM
April 10 (Fri.)	Good Friday Service -- Horseheads United Methodist Church – 12:00 noon
April 12	Easter Sunrise Service – breakfast to follow -- Place to be announced– 7:00 AM
April 12	Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion
April 12	Worship Committee will meet
April 15 (Wed.)	Property Committee & Session will meet
April 26	Pennies from Heaven collection
April 26	Deadline for articles for May/June <u>RED DOOR</u>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on March 15 & April 12
Property Committee	Wednesdays, March 18 & April 15 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesdays, March 18 & April 15 – 7:00 PM