



THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY

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

[/www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/](http://www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/)

Hello Members and Friends of Big Flats First Presbyterian Church,

I had hoped by now I would be writing a note to you saying how great it was to see everyone in Church on Nov. 1st.

Unfortunately, that is not the case. While that can be disappointing for all of us, we still have opportunities to connect with each other - electronically, by phone and by mail.

I want to encourage all of us to continue to find bright moments in each day where we are reminded of God and God's love for us.

As we approach Thanksgiving and Advent, I also want to encourage each of us to reimagine what our holiday celebrations can look like so that they continue to have deep meaning and bring joy to each of us and our family and friends.

Know that you are prayed for and loved.

This is my command - be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 (NLT)

Blessings,
Pastor Denise

JOYS AND CONCERNS

There is so much uncertainty in our world today, but we can be sure of the wonderful love which binds us together as a community of faith. Thank you to all who have kept us together and are keeping us strong!

Circle of Love

- **Pastor Denise and Valerie** have made our Sunday Zoom services and our Tuesday/Thursday midday devotions so very special and meaningful.
- **Julie Spangenberg-Jolley** and her Food Pantry team continue to serve those in need
- Our Church Session, our Worship Committee, our Property Committee and our Financial Team work behind the scenes to enable our church to function.
- Our “Get Back Together” committee has worked to plan for the safe resumption of services in our sanctuary and has established guidelines and implemented cleaning protocols to keep us safe in the future.
- Our **Car Parade**, on September 9, brought much joy to those who participated – both those who were visited and those who made up our caravan. We are going to hold another Parade on Saturday, November 7, and all are welcome!
- Our Tuesday night study (via Zoom) of **Early Christianity: Challenges That Shaped the Church** was very interesting and informative. Thank you, **Pastor Denise**, for leading us, and thank you to all who took part. Watch for news about a new study in the near future.
- Thanks to scouts and adult volunteers from our church-sponsored **Troop #87** for conducting a number of leaf-raking and clean-up sessions on our church grounds!
- Thanks to all those who work behind the scenes for the good of our church and congregation!

Among our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Dorothy Hoos, Neal Gummo, Alissa Jolley, Cathy (Neally) Hubbard, Marilyn Jenkins, Mary Ellen & Nick Rudnick, 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.

CAR PARADE – NOVEMBER 7

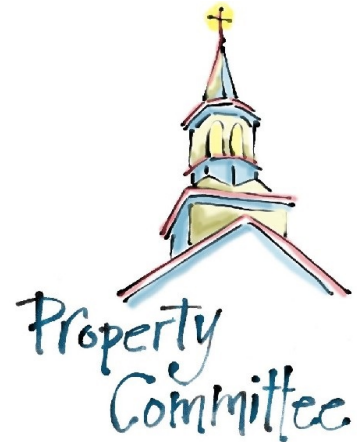
On **Saturday afternoon, November 7**, we will be meeting at our church parking lot at 1:00 PM. We are going to travel in a “Car Parade” to visit members of our faith community who are shut in or whom we have not seen during our ZOOM services. We will parade by their homes, honk our horns and wave, and share our love with these special folks. We will be staying in our cars throughout this event, so all should feel safe in participating. Please join our parade on Saturday afternoon, November 7, at 1:00.

QUESTIONS?? – Contact **Pastor Denise (562-8048)** or **Ann Slowik (207-7862)**

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Property Committee has worked throughout the fall to continue to keep our building and grounds in tip-top shape! A number of ongoing projects and recent initiatives have included:

- Weekly mowing and weeding
- Trimming and debris removal around shrubs and trees
- Regular inspections and maintenance of our roof, basement, sump pumps, dehumidifier, and exterior lighting
- Working on our chime system -- thank you, **Tom Seem** and **John Farr**.
- Monitoring of security camera near St. Pauley used clothing shed
- Painting our outside ramp
- Continued monitoring of utility usage and insurance costs
- Continued assessment of condition of church steeple and exploration of repair financing options
- Coordinating with "Get Back Together" re-opening committee to prepare our building for the safe resumption of services
- Securing recognition from the Big Flats Town Board as a historical site.
- Removal of air conditioner from Pastor's Office
- Continued attention to our scheduled



Thank you to all our hard-working volunteers and supporters!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – STILL IMPORTANT

Even though we are not, at present, worshipping in our sanctuary, the regular mission of our church continues and needs help from all of us. Budget items such as salaries, utilities, insurance, and maintenance supplies are on-going expenses which call for our continued financial support.

To donate to our church:

Electronically: Go to our website ([/www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/](http://www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/)) and click on the "Give Now" button

By Mail: **First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats**
P.O. Box 454
Big Flats, NY 14814

Thank you, in advance, for your support of our church and its mission.

PLEASE WORSHIP WITH US!

MIDDAY DEVOTIONS VIA ZOOM – TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT NOON

We will gather via **Zoom** on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Noon for a brief devotion and time of prayer.

(NOTE: on Tuesday, September 1, we will meet at 11:00 A.M.)

Zoom URL: <https://zoom.us/j/745507880?pwd=ZHg4THhGbXBQbFpxVTcwRHpHcG5VZz09>

If you need or want to join by phone, you can call in to one of these numbers:

+1 646 558 8656 US +1 301 715 8592 US +1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: **745 507 880**

Password: **275053**

We will meet like this every Tuesday and Thursday at noon until we can meet in person again.

SUNDAY WORSHIP -- 10:30 A.M.

via Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube Live.

Zoom URL: <https://zoom.us/j/705292707?pwd=SWxkR3BwSW9HaFQrK2dTZnFOQ0JMdz09>

If you need or want to join by phone, you can call in to one of these numbers:

+1 646 558 8656 US, +1 301 715 8592 US, +1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: **705 292 707**

Password: **174036**

The Bulletin and words for the Hymns will be displayed on the Zoom page during the service.

We will also be streaming to Facebook Live and YouTube Live.

You can find the Bulletin for the Worship Service on the Notes tab of our Facebook page and the Bulletin is sent out in our weekly email notices.

NOTE: If you have announcements you would like included in the Bulletin / on the Zoom display, please provide those to Denise and/or Valerie by Saturday morning each week.

Denise's Email is pastordenisestone@gmail.com

Valerie's Email is music2mnstry@aol.com.

