



October 21, 2024

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats,

With a mix of emotions, I write this letter to inform you that I submitted my resignation as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats to the Session on October 20, 2024. After much prayer, contemplation, and soul-searching, I have decided that it is time for me to step down from my pastoral duties in our congregation.

As you are all aware, my health has consumed a great deal of my time and attention over the last few years, this past year in particular. Because of my need to focus on my health I am unable to perform the duties of your Pastor at the level that you deserve.

During my time as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats, I have been blessed to witness the growth and transformation of the members of our congregation. Together, we have experienced joys, sorrows, challenges, and victories. We weathered the storm of COVID together through our online Worship. We shared grief together. We served together. We worshipped together. We have participated in Worship with other area Presbyterian Churches together. We have sought to be the Church God has called us to be in Big Flats.

I am deeply grateful for the support, love, and trust you have shown me throughout my time with you. The memories forged within these walls and the relationships formed will forever hold a special place in my heart.

On an administrative note, Session will need to complete some steps and the church will need to hold a Congregational Meeting to make my resignation official. The Presbytery of Geneva, Committee on Ministry, will be assisting us throughout this process.

We have scheduled a Congregational Meeting for November 17, 2024, for the Congregation to approve my resignation.

It is my intention that my Sunday will be January 26, 2025, and my last day as your Pastor will be January 31, 2025. On a related note, Valerie Stone intends to remain as your Director of Music.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor, Rev. Denise D. Stone*

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Cc: Presbytery of Geneva, Committee on Ministry (*via email*)