



MARCH / APRIL 2018

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/

Dear Friends,

We are well into the somber season of Lent, but a joyous early Easter is around the corner, and of course Spring is on the way!! And I am aware of a renewed energy and sense of purpose growing here at First Presbyterian Church Big Flats.

Yes, you are in transition, the Pastor Nominating Committee is hard at work, and you could be just sitting back and anxiously waiting, but that is not your way. No, not at all. The past Session meeting made that perfectly clear. There is work to be done, people to be cared for, love to be shown, here and now.

It reminds me of one long cold snowy winter in Boston as I walked by the Public Garden. It was early March and Spring seemed so far away. The Garden looked so lifeless and bleak beneath the gray sky. But I had just read of the thousands of bulbs planted there, and thought about what was going on beneath the snow. I could almost feel the stirring and rumbling of those impatient bulbs preparing to burst forth. I feel that same energy here as one idea after another is shared and enthusiasm grows. And here the soil is so fertile. This church is blessed with people with such big hearts.



What we are talking about are relationships, partnerships and purpose, but also about joy and fun and friendships all things that draw people in, that make people want to be a part of such a community.

I don't know if many of you have seen The Boston Public Garden in Spring, but it would take your breath away. May it be the same here as your Spring arrives.

I am reminded of the words of Frederick Buechner, writer, theologian and Presbyterian minister:

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

God bless you on this journey.

Pastor Beth

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:

- Our church family showed its generous nature during the month of February. Thanks to all for the successful drive for soup and money to help fight hunger on **Souper Bowl Sunday**, February 4, and then on **Blanket Sunday**, February 11 & 18, as we donated to Church World Services for blankets to help people around the world in disaster areas. On Sunday, February 25, we continued our "**Pennies from Heaven**" tradition of support for Habitat for Humanity.
- We celebrated Scout Sunday on February 4. It was wonderful to see these fine young people and their adult leaders!
- Our fund-raising pancake breakfasts have proven to be a big hit! Our patrons have enjoyed terrific food and a chance for fellowship with other diners. Thank you, **Sarah Cory**, 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.
- On Wednesday evening, February 21, our church hosted the first of this year's Lenten Ecumenical services. Thank you to **Chef Ann Slowik** and all our volunteers who set up for the dinner, served our 57 guests, and cleaned up afterwards. Special thanks for to our legendary "**Big Flats Bakers**" for the wonderful array of delicious desserts!



The sympathy of our church is extended to the family of **Irene Hooley**, a good friend of our congregation, who passed away on February 14. Among our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Lance Muir, Cindy & Ed Leisenring, Phil Hubbard, Brandon Davis (nephew of Sheila French and Lisa McGill), Denise Wiskowski (sister of Debbie French), Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew), Heinz Weissenbuehler, Reva Soutar, Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardner, Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea, Dorothy Bartlett**, and others who are dealing with ill health, surgery, loss, or life changes. Please remember our shut-ins, and please continue to pray for our servicemen and women and their families and for peace in our troubled world. Please remember our shut-ins, and 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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday, March 25 (10:30 AM) – in our Sanctuary – Palm Sunday Service

Thursday, March 29 (7:00 PM) – in our Sanctuary – Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 30 (12:00 Noon) – Good Friday ecumenical service at Horseheads First United Methodist Church (Broad Street)

Sunday, April 1 (7:00 AM) – Sunrise Service at Miller Cemetery (next to our church) – breakfast to follow

Sunday, April 1 (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 ECUMENICAL DINNER PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

The Horseheads, Big Flats, Elmira Heights Ecumenical Council 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 will be \$5.00**), 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.**

Theme: **"FASTING"**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Pastor Presenter</u>
February 21	Big Flats Presbyterian	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Theme: Fasting in humility Be aware of practicing your piety before others	Rev. Rhonda Kouterick
February 28	Horseheads Presbyterian	Joshua 5:2-12 Theme: Fasting as appreciation New food for the Promised Land	Rev. Wanda Copeland
March 7	St. Matthew's Episcopal	Luke 4:1-13 Theme: Fasting in faith Jesus' fasting and temptation in the wilderness	Rev. Laura Daly
March 14	Horseheads Presbyterian	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Theme: Fasting as repentance Rend your hearts and not your clothing	Rev. Beth Frigard
March 21	First United Methodist	Acts 11:1-12 Theme: Fasting for reconciliation Peter's vision of clean and unclean food	Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond

EGG HUNT TO FOLLOW EASTER SERVICE

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held after Church on **Easter Sunday, April 1**. 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, March 25**. 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!



PANCAKE BREAKFASTS CONTINUE -- NEXT SLATED FOR MARCH 17



Our fund-raising Pancake Breakfasts have proven to be a big hit! Eager diners have flocked to our Church House for gourmet breakfasts of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and beverages. We thank all who have helped to make these meals so successful.

Our next breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday, March 17, from 8:00 – 10:00 AM**. Our last breakfast for this season will be held on **April 21**. The cost for each meal has been set at \$6.00. There will be no charge for those under six years old. Your patronage at our breakfasts is most welcome!

This series of meals is an ambitious project for our little church, and it takes a lot of help to ensure success. Any donations to our Pancake breakfasts would help immensely. We would appreciate donations of time to come and help (sign-up sheets are posted before each breakfast). We would also welcome monetary donations to help offset the cost of eggs, sausage, etc. Those who would like to donate to our breakfast project should see **Sarah Cory**.

RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE: Yes, we will be having a Spring Rummage Sale!! Details of date and time will be announced during morning worship services and via e-mail.

PNC UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has the ultimate responsibility for nominating a minister to the congregation for election as our next pastor. The work of the PNC involves many different tasks and responsibilities as we work our way through the call process. A great number of these tasks involve direct contact with the Presbytery of Geneva's Committee on Ministry which is referred to as COM. Our PNC has been assigned a COM liaison, **Rehana Stanley**. We are planning to have her attend our worship service and coffee hour in early March. She will be explaining a bit about herself and her COM work. In addition, she will want to meet our members so she can become more familiar with our church. The better she gets to know all of us, the better she will be able to guide us in the call process.



I want you all to know that the PNC is meeting weekly, and every member is working very hard so that together we can produce a quality Ministry Information Form (MIF). Once completed and approved by both Session and Presbytery, the MIF will be entered on the Church Leadership Connection for potential candidates to view.

PNC member **Jenny Dean** has enlarged a copy of the flow chart which reflects the different steps in the call process, and PNC member **Sheila French** has mounted the chart on the bulletin board in the church house for all to see. We strongly encourage all members of the congregation to look at this chart so as to better understand how the call process works. It is a lengthy process.

As we proceed through the various required tasks on the chart, we will mark a large X through each box once that task has been completed. This will allow all of you to see what the PNC has already accomplished while at the same time allowing you to see what we still have ahead of us to complete.

At this point in the call process, I want you all to know that the PNC has determined that we will only be able to seek a part-time pastor. We understand that this news might come as a surprise to some of you.

I asked PNC member **Mark Slowik** to please determine what kind of salary our church can afford to pay a new pastor. Mark had to use both the Presbytery of Geneva Minimum Salaries for 2018 chart and also our church budget to determine a minimum and maximum salary for us (the PNC) to enter on our MIF. We are only allowed to enter one minimum and one maximum salary on the MIF. Mark determined that our minimum salary will be \$25,000 and our maximum salary will be \$30,000. These are salaries which are able to be supported by the church budget while still keeping the church viable. We are pleased to tell you that our Session has approved these salaries.

Please pray for the PNC, and also remember that it is "God's own choice" who will be our next pastor.

With faith and hope,

Pat Seem

PNC Chairperson

(PNC Members: **Jenny Dean, Pat Fitzgerald, Sheila French, Ann Hayes, Rocky Peters, Pat Seem, and Mark Slowik**)

PARKING LOT REPAIR FUND DRIVE CONTINUES

Our church parking lot will need to be repaved in 2018, at a cost of more than \$11,000. A "Parking Lot Repair Fund" has been established to raise the money needed for this critical project. Donations can be sent directly to the church or can be placed in the offertory plates each week. Donations should be marked "Parking Lot Fund" and directed to the attention of **Barb Horn**, our church Financial Secretary. Thank you, in advance, for your generous support.

Thinking About Service on Boy Scout Sunday

Service is helping, giving, contributing,
doing a good turn daily,
doing what needs to be done.

It is about integrity, unity,
and being in community.

It is about caring, putting others first,
and denying one's self.

And for this you may feel blessed,
gratified, enlightened, fulfilled,
surrounded by a blend of colors:
the red of a heart, the green of our loyal troops,
the yellow of the sun and the gold of that which
is of high value.

And you may hear the sound of a siren
speeding to give aid,
or of an office with folks working together,
or maybe the sounds of birds chirping,
or simply whispers, and maybe quiet,
and just maybe at times
even the doleful sound of taps.

But there are distractions
that keep us from being of service;
maybe the distraction is simply ourselves,
or business to be done,
or electronics, video games and such,
or school, or shiny stuff,
or whatever is outside the window.

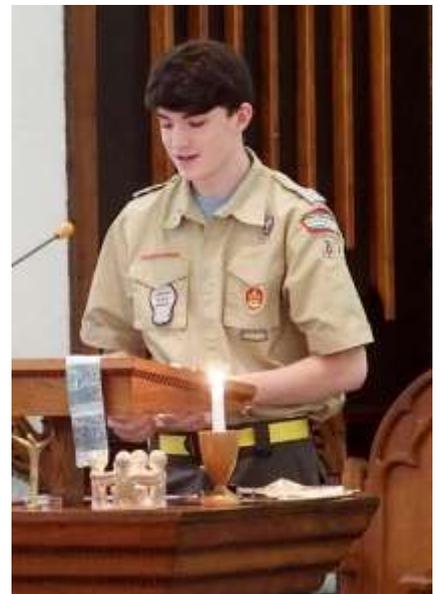
But to be of service is our calling
and our goal.

It is what gives color, sound,
and purpose to our lives,
and it is our duty, at all times,
to help others, and "try and leave this world
a little better than you found it." *
as we obey the Boy Scout rule.

**By the Boy Scouts and the congregation on Scout Sunday
First Presbyterian Church Big Flats,
February 4, 2018**

*Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, the father of scouting.

Our congregation was pleased to welcome Scouts and adult leaders from **Troop 87 & Crew 87** to our church on **Scout Sunday**, February 4. The scouts helped conduct our worship service, and their parents hosted our Coffee Hour. During the service, Pastor Beth, the scouts, and the congregation shared some thoughts on the notion of 'service.'



MARCH

April

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



SPECIAL EVENTS

March 4	Holy Communion
March 7 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner at St. Matthews Episcopal Church (Horseheads) – 6:00 PM
March 14 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner Horseheads Presbyterian Church– 6:00 PM (Pastor Beth will be the speaker)
March 17 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 – 10:00 AM
March 21 (Wed.)	Lenten Ecumenical dinner at First United Methodist Church (Horseheads) – 6:00 PM
March 25	Palm Sunday
March 25	Pennies from Heaven collection
March 29 (Thurs.)	Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 PM
March 30 (Fri.)	Good Friday Service at First United Methodist Church (Horseheads) – 12:00 noon
April 1	Sunrise Service at Miller Cemetery (next to our church) – breakfast to follow – 7:00 AM
April 1	Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion
April 21 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 – 10:00 AM
April 29	Pennies from Heaven collection
April 29	Deadline for articles for May/June <u>RED DOOR</u>

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on March 18 & April 15
Property Committee	Wednesdays, March 21 & April 18 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesdays, March 21 & April 18 – 7:00 PM

EDITOR'S NOTE: This edition of **THE RED DOOR** covers two months – March & April. Our next issue will be published in late April. Updates will be sent via e-mail.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 11. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 10 – WE KNOW THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR CHURCH!