



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/)

Notes from Pastor Denise

As we are moving into Fall and the upcoming Holiday Season, I have been enjoying the change of colors in our area. The colors and the scenery have been breathtaking.

Around every turn I am reminded of God's power and majesty. I am in awe at the gifts from God as evidenced in creation.

This brought to mind the hymn I learned as a child - *He's Everything To Me*.

This song is based on Psalm 8. Verses 3-4 say, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?"

God does care. The God who created the universe saw fit to give of God's self in the form of Jesus Christ so that we could enjoy eternity in God's presence.

There is much about the world that is in need of grace and mercy. Yet knowing that though Fall will give way to Winter, unless Christ returns before this, we know that Spring will come again with the promise of renewed life.

May the changing of the seasons remind you of God's love and care. May you be reminded that God loves you.

Blessings,
Pastor Denise



JOYS AND CONCERNS

The approach of the holiday season serves as a reminder that we are surely blessed to be part of a warm, vibrant, and caring community of faith. As we give thanks for our many blessings, let us also take time to reach out and hold in our prayers those in our community who find the holiday season difficult because of issues of loss, loneliness, and stress.

Circle of Love

As always, fall is a busy time in our little church. Some recent highlights included:

- Our “Shared Blessings” local mission outreach group continues to work to help others. Future plans will be announced during morning worship.
- A great deal of “behind the scenes” work is necessary to keep our church humming. Special thanks to **Pat Fitzgerald** and our Property Committee for all they do for all of us!
- On Sunday morning, September 8, we had a wonderful Rally Day service and picnic luncheon. Thanks to all who made this such a special time!
- On September 8, we honored and celebrated **Joyce Dean**, who has stepped down from her role as Clerk of Session, following forty-five years of devoted service. Thank you Joyce!!!!
- On September 15, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism, as we welcomed **Brantley Dean** into the Christian community of faith. Brantley’s parents are **Brian and Ann Dean**.
- On Saturday, September 28, members of our congregation served a luncheon at the Elmira Community Kitchen. Funds for the meal were provided by our **Mission Committee**. **Chef Ann Slowik** coordinated our efforts. Over one hundred meals were served.
- On October 6, we observed World Communion Sunday. Our communion service featured a variety of breads from nations around the world.
- Our 2019-2020 Pancake Breakfast season got off to a fine start on Saturday, October 12. This is our ninth year of serving delicious morning meals. Please contact **Donna Stevens** to see how you can help.
- Our Handbell Choir has been rehearsing each Saturday morning, under the direction of **Valerie Stone**. New members are always welcome (no experience needed!). See Valerie for more information.
- Our **Adult Sunday School** meets before morning worship each week, and our **Weekly Bible Study** group gets together each Monday evening. Talk to **Pastor Denise** for more information about taking part in these stimulating sessions.



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

THANKSGIVING COFFEE—BAGEL--FELLOWSHIP TIME PLANNED

We are changing the format of our **Annual Thanksgiving Morning Fellowship** time this year. On Thanksgiving morning, November 28, we are going to gather at **8:00 AM** for a social time with coffee, beverages, bagels, etc.. Pastor Denise will lead a short time of reflection on the meaning of Thanksgiving. **Paul Holland** (and his guitar) will join us. All are welcome to attend, as good food, fine fellowship, and music will make for a special Thanksgiving morning. This is one event that you do not want to miss!



Hello Everyone,

Our fearless and talented choir has started off the season with enthusiasm and is looking forward to bringing you exciting and inspiring Advent/Christmas music. We will be fortunate to have soloist **Carrie Hooper** with us on Christmas Eve, along with, if all goes as planned, a violinist and additional singers as well.



I'm hoping you read this in time so as not to miss the **Nov. 3rd** service which will debut this year's **Big Flats Presbyterian Bell Ringers** under the expert direction of **Valerie Stone**. They will play a rousing arrangement of ***When the Saints Come Marching In***. Valerie is working the participants hard and is rehearsing other music with them, including Christmas selections to be performed during advent. It is not too late to join in the fun with the group!! It meets on Saturday mornings at 10:00.

Blessings,
Jean

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE TO START SOON

Stewardship Season 2019 will soon be here. Please keep an eye out for your pledge letter and give prayerful consideration to your response. In this, our 192nd Anniversary year, let our stewardship – time, talent, and financial support toward the church – reflect our pride in our past and continued faith in our future.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Recent Property Committee projects have included:

- Installation and programming of our new electric sign
- Weekly mowing and weeding
- Weekly cleaning of our church interior
- Regular inspections of our roof
- Removal of air conditioner from Pastor's Office
- Evaluating need for improved lighting in our sanctuary
- Installation of new "donation door" in our St. Pauley used clothing shed
- Monitoring of security camera near our clothing shed
- Evaluating our water softener in regards to its efficiency, need for service, and possible replacement
- Replacing ballasts and fluorescent tubes in our kitchen and social room
- Continued attention to our scheduled maintenance list items.



Your help and financial support are always welcome. See **Pat Fitzgerald** or any committee member to find out how you can become involved.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3. BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCK BACK BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 2.

Standard Time



CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT BIG FLATS PRESBYTERIAN

A very special holiday season is in store for our community of faith. Events include:

DECEMBER 1 – HANGING OF THE GREENS – Our “Hanging of the Greens” celebration will be held on Sunday, December 1. We will decorate our Christmas tree, and we will join together to sing Christmas Carols. **It would be great if each person could bring a special ornament to hang on our tree!**

DECEMBER 8 – SILENT AUCTION – Our annual fundraiser and luncheon

DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held at **7:00 PM**, on **Tuesday, December 24**. There will be special music throughout the service. It will be a truly joyful evening for all!

The Christmas season is always special at Big Flats First Presbyterian Church! Please plan to share this wonderful time with us. All are welcome.



POINSETTIAS: Those who wish to place Christmas poinsettias in our church “in honor of” or “in memory of” should contact Dean’s at 562-8120. The price is \$15.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

The Big Flats Community Food Pantry, housed in our church, relies on the generous support of our local community to help fulfill its mission of service to those in need. This December, we will once again ask members of our church family to help. We will be seeking donations of fruit for holiday fruit baskets, and we will be also looking for volunteers to “Ring the Bell” at Miniers Supermarket during the day on **Tuesday, December 24**. Please help our Big Flats Community Food Pantry. Sign-up sheets will be available in church on December for bell ringing and for fruit donations. .

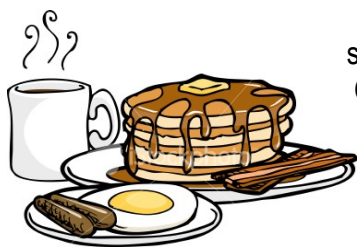
SILENT AUCTION SET FOR DECEMBER 8

Here's a chance to do some holiday shopping and help our church budget. This year's **Silent Auction** will take place on **Sunday, December 8**. Please prepare your baked goods, holiday treats, crafts, etc. for sale at our auction, which will follow our morning worship service. **Ann Slowik** has planned a special fellowship luncheon to coincide with this event. Please join us!



PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Our ninth Pancake Breakfast season began on **Saturday, October 12**. We will be serving pancakes, eggs, and all the fixings on the second Saturday morning of each month, October through April, from 8-10:00 AM. Our second Pancake breakfast for the 2019-2020 season will take place on Saturday morning, **November 19**, and our third breakfast will be served on **Saturday, December 14**. Dates for future breakfasts, along with complete details will be announced. **Donna Stevens** coordinates our breakfast program. We need volunteers (and patrons!).



NEW SIGN INSTALLED

Our church is now sporting a new electronic sign. The new sign was purchased using Memorial Fund donations that were given in loving memory of long-time and much-loved member **Barbara Gilbert**. Our Property Committee was responsible for this project. Special thanks to **Jenny Dean**, who coordinated sign acquisition, and to **Scott French and Steve Johnston**, who installed the sign. **Bill Howells** has been programming the sign messages, and he would be happy to show others how to do this.



A NOTE OF



RALLY DAY SURPRISE

I am still in AWE on Rally Day that happened on Sunday, September 8th! I resigned my duty as Clerk of Session in September after over 45 years. (I had informed them before but nobody had come forward until Jenny took over, temporarily). So I was at the meeting where they talked about and planned the Rally Day!! How to get people to attend with a regular service and a pot luck picnic afterwards.

I bugged my family all summer to please attend that day and help us celebrate starting a new year. The day came and Sam and I dressed (warm) for a picnic and I made two salads. The day arrived and in the bulletin was a spot for Rally Day! "Why is she still talking Rally Day when it's here?" So I did not pay attention when Rev. Stone started talking about it until I heard "retire and 45 years" and she called me up front. I was so surprised!! I was presented with a beautiful piece of glass with an angel carved in it and a gorgeous glass vase to be left at church for our flower arrangements--can you imagine how I felt...completely surprised.

Then, the picnic turned out to be a full blown luncheon!! I got gifts--a pair of Green Bay boots, and lovely Green Bay sweater and sweat shirt. Everyone knows I am a Green Bay fan. And I thought my family attended because I had asked them too--first time they all did what I asked.

I took home a bunch of cards. I love cards., and after I settled down, proceeded to open all the cards and read them. To my SURPRISE, money started falling out! I cried, I could not believe all the attention.

I learned my job under Marcy Punnett, the hard way, and served many years with him, then Rev. Linda Slamon, then Rev. Rick Price and four interims. I enjoyed the job but at 85 decided I was too slow, can't hear and someone else should take over with our new pastor and have the privilege of serving their church.

I cannot thank individuals, but I know all of you and love my church friends and family,

Thank you all so very much. I have been well blessed and so glad to be a member of such a great church.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL,

E. Joyce Dean, Retired Clerk

'SUPER SUPPER' PLANS ANNOUNCED

In upcoming months, our church will sponsor a number of mid-week 'Super Suppers.' Dinners will be served from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 PM**. Price is **\$8.00 per adult - \$5.00 for kids** 10 and under – take outs available – call ahead at **562-8048** and we will have it ready for you. See **Ann Slowik** to volunteer to help with our "Super Supper" program.

Menus for our first two suppers include:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Meatloaf and Mashed Potatoes

Peas or Green Beans

Homemade Rolls and Bread

Homemade Dessert

Coffee/Tea/Milk

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Chicken Pot Pie

Salad

Homemade Rolls and Bread

Homemade Dessert

Coffee/Tea/Milk

SHARED BLESSINGS UPDATE

Shared Blessings is our local mission outreach program. Notes about recent Shared Blessings activities include:

- Our Shoe Drive continues. We are collecting used shoes, sneakers, etc. as a fundraiser. Last year's campaign raised over \$800. **Donna Stevens** can answer your questions.
- Shared Blessings was successful finding donations of furniture, clothing and money for a Habitat Family that is getting ready to move into their new home.
- Shared Blessings is looking for any local family who is need of clothing or other household items. Please contact **Ann Slowik** at **607-739-3769** if you know of any family in need of any help, especially during the holiday season
- Don't forget our **Silent Auction, December 8**. We are looking for baked goods and goodies for the Auction tables.
- We enjoyed working with our Mission Team in preparing and serving a luncheon at the Elmira Community Kitchen on September 28 – we are hoping to do it again!



Thanks goes to those who have offered to do coffee hour this past month. Please let us continue to enjoy those few minutes to share news and friendly conversation with those with whom we worship. Coffee tastes better with a nibble of a cookie. Look for the sign-up sheet! Questions? – Talk with **Ann Hayes -- 562-8523**.





THANKSGIVING PIES FOR SALE!

Our church will be selling a variety of delicious homemade pies this Thanksgiving season. **Chef Ann Slowik** is taking orders now through November 24 (**PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**) for pies to be ready for you to enjoy at Thanksgiving. Please use the form below to order and e-mail it to Ann. There will also be a drop-off box in church for orders.

Big Flats Presbyterian Church
607-562-8048 or Email orders to AMSLOWIK@STNY.RR.COM
Homemade Thanksgiving Day Pies
Pre-Order Sheets - Frozen Par-Baked Pies
Reheating Instructions Attached

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Apple Crumb - Small - \$ 5.50 _____ Large - \$ 11.00 _____

Cherry - (Real Cherries not from a can)

Small - \$7.50 _____ Large - \$ 15.00 _____

Pecan - Small - \$ 5.50 _____ Large - \$ 11.00 _____

Pumpkin - Small \$ 5.50 _____ Large \$ 11.00 _____

Chocolate PB - Small - \$ 9.50 _____ Large - \$19.00 _____

"SHOWER FOR MARY" & "GIFTS FOR JOSEPH" MISSION EFFORT ANNOUNCED

For the past eighteen years, our congregation has generously supported our "**Shower for Mary**" local mission effort during the season of Advent. In this program we have collected a variety of items for personal care and other needs for women and children served by the **Salvation Army Safehouse**. The Salvation Army Safehouse provides a comprehensive program for victims of domestic violence. Services offered include emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, information/referrals, hotline services, justice system information and accompaniments, support group, and community education. For information: call **732-1979**.



Eight years ago we expanded our outreach efforts through a "**Gifts for Joseph**" program to help men served by the **Samaritan Center**. The Samaritan Center has been assisting individuals and families in need with emergency food, clothing, and prescription drug assistance for over thirty years. This program also facilitates enrollment to Medicaid, Family Health Plus & Child Health Plus and provides referrals to other resources and support services for longer term solutions. The Samaritan Center is located at **380 Main St., Elmira (734-4898)**.

We need your support! Your donated items (**unwrapped please**) can be placed in the collection bins located in the rear of our sanctuary and in the narthex each Sunday throughout the Advent season (**December 1 - 22**).

Needs for the Safehouse ("Shower for Mary"):

These donations are for women/children and include the following:

- Gift sets for women (perfumes, soaps, lotions, etc.) ~ Watches for women
 - Radio Alarm Clocks
 - Craft items for teenagers (water color paints, bead sets, etc.)
 - Family and children board games ~ Activity books (children & adult)
 - Gift cards (\$10-\$20 recommended – grocery or general merchandise)
 - Paper towels, napkins, paper plates
 - Family oriented DVD's
 - Journals / pen sets ~ Stationary gift sets / stamps
 - Personal items such as hair brushes ~ deodorant ~ hairspray
 - Towels ~ Twin sheet sets ~ pillows (new)
 - New (packaged) underwear, bras & socks (all sizes – women and children)
 - Disposable diapers (size 3/ 4/ 5 / 6) ~ baby wipes ~ sippie cups ~ pacifiers
 - Cash or check donations (made payable to **Salvation Army Safehouse**)
- Due to limited space we cannot accept used household items, clothing or furniture.**
Please be assured our residents' needs are being met in this area.

Needs for the Samaritan Center ("Gifts for Joseph"):

These donations are for men and families and include the following:

- Cleaning supplies (unopened)
- Can openers (non-electric)
- Diapers & baby items (unopened)
- Food (non-expired -- unopened)
- Linens -- blankets, pillows, towels, single/twin sheets, etc. (new)
- Men's personal care items -- razors, deodorant, shaving cream, etc. (unopened)
- Paper Products -- paper towels, toilet paper, etc. (unopened)
- Underwear, socks, hats (new) & Seasonal clothing -- all sizes (new or gently used)
- Cash or check donations (made payable to **The Samaritan Center**)

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity in supporting our Advent outreach mission. What a wonderful way to experience the true meaning of Christmas! **Bill Howells** is coordinating our "Shower for Mary" and "Gifts for Joseph" programs and can answer any questions (**962-1146**).



WEEKLY EVENTS

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| SUNDAY | 9:15 AM | Adult Sunday School |
| | 9:30 AM | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 10:30 AM | Morning Worship |
| MONDAY | 6:30 PM | Weekly Bible Study |
| TUESDAY | 12:00 – 2:00 PM | Food Pantry is open |
| | 6:30 PM | Boy Scout Troop #87 |
| SATURDAY | 10:00 AM | Bell Choir Rehearsal |

SPECIAL EVENTS

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| November 2 | Daylight Savings Time ends |
| November 3 | Holy Communion |
| November 9 (Sat.) | Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 - 10:00 AM |
| November 11 | Veterans Day |
| November 10 | Worship Committee will meet |
| November 13 (Wed.) | Fundraising “Super Supper” – 5:00 – 7:00 |
| November 13 (Wed.) | Property Committee & Session will meet |
| November 19-25 | Pastor Denise will be away (no handbell choir on 11/23) |
| November 24 | “Pennies from Heaven” |
| November 28 (Thurs.) | Thanksgiving Coffee/Bagel Fellowship – 8:00 AM |
| December 1 | First Sunday of Advent – Holy Communion |
| December 1 | ‘Hanging of the Greens’ – we will decorate our tree and sanctuary |
| December 8 | “Silent Auction” following morning Worship |
| December 11 (Wed.) | Fundraising “Super Supper” – 5:00 – 7:00 |
| December 14 (Sat.) | Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 - 10:00 AM |
| December 15 | Congregational meeting to elect Session Elders (following morning service) |
| December 15 | Worship Committee will meet |
| December 18 (Wed.) | Property Committee & Session will meet |
| December 24 (Tues.) | Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service – 7:00 PM |
| December 28-31 | Pastor Denise will be away (no handbell choir on 12/28) |
| December 29 | “Pennies from Heaven” |
| December 29 | Deadline for articles for January/February <u>RED DOOR</u> |

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Property Committee | November 13 (Wed.) & December 18 (Wed.) – 6:00 PM |
| Church Session | November 13 (Wed.) & December 18 (Wed.) – 7:00 PM |
| Worship Committee | November 10 – & December 15 — following morning worship |