



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/)

A Note From Pastor Denise

It is my hope that you have had a Wonderful Christmas Season and that the start to the New Year promises good things ahead for you and your family.

As I reflect over the last 10+ months as your Pastor I am humbled by your faith in God and in the dedication that I see in each and every person at FPC Big Flats. We have so many people who see a need and step in to take care of whatever it might be. It is a beautiful thing to see. Thank you to everyone for all that you do.

As we move into the New Year as a family of faith at First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats, I also hope that you will make attending Worship and serving in the church and in our community a priority. Take time to invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us in Worship each week.

In 2020, let us dream together new ways to reach people around us for Jesus Christ. Let us dream together new ways to care for the people we meet. Let us dream together and Let Us Serve the Lord our God!

Blessings,
Pastor Denise



ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 26

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place following the worship service on January 26. The **Annual Report** will be presented, and we will act on a number of items of important church business.

NOTE: Committee Chairs should submit end-of-year reports to Bill Howells as soon as possible.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Many people worked very hard to make Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas a truly joyous time for our community of faith. We are very thankful to have such dedicated and caring friends in our congregation. Highlights of the last two months include:

- We had a special color guard ceremony on Sunday, November 10 as Veterans **Pat Fitzgerald (US Navy) and Bob Tedrick (US Army)** helped us to remember those who have served our nation in the past, as well as those who are currently serving.
- Thanks to **Pastor Denise and Valerie Stone** for providing the delicious pastry and casserole treats which helped make our Thanksgiving breakfast so special! Special thanks go to **Paul Holland** for sharing his wonderful music with us!
- Special thanks to the scouts and adult leaders from Troop #87 for setting up our beautiful outdoor nativity scene. This is the second year that this manger (constructed by our scouts) has been on display.
- Thanks go to all who worked to make our December 8 Silent Auction and luncheon so successful.
- Our "Super Suppers" and "Pancake Breakfast" fundraisers are off to a great start! Thanks to all who have helped!
- On December 15, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism, as we welcomed **Spencer Matthew Wood** into the Christian community of faith. Spencer's parents are **Matthew and Mackenzie Wood**.
- On Christmas Eve, many volunteers from our congregation rang the bell at Miniers Supermarket to raise funds for the Big Flats Community Food Pantry. Thanks to all!
- On Friday, December 27, members of our congregation served a luncheon at the Elmira Community Kitchen. **Chef Ann Slowik** coordinated our efforts. Nearly eighty meals were served.
- We bid a very fond farewell to **Jean and Bob Tedrick!** Jean has done a terrific job as our Director of Music, and we will miss Bob's rich voice in our wonderful choir.
- And thank you to **Pastor Denise, Jean Tedrick, Valerie Stone**, our wonderful choirs, and all who made the Christmas Eve Service so joyous and so meaningful. Special thanks to **Joyce Dean** for the stunning display of poinsettias!

Circle of Love



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.

ELDERS ELECTED

On Sunday, December 15, our congregation met and elected members to our Church Session. **Ann Hayes and Steve Johnston** were named to serve three-year terms as Elders on our Session. Congratulations and thank you for your willingness to serve! Thank you, also, to elders **Jenny Dean, Pat Fitzgerald, and Bill Powell** who will be leaving session following their terms of faithful service!

Our new elders will be installed/ordained during morning worship on Sunday, January 12, 2019. They will assume their new duties when our session meets on January 15.

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MUSIC NOTES FROM JEAN

Dear Friends,

I know what you are thinking—*O no, not SHE again!* I just have some words of thanks to say.

First of all, I want to thank you for the lovely and delicious luncheon last Sunday. I was truly overwhelmed by your generosity. But, additionally, I want to say thank you to the very dear choir members, who patiently did what I asked of them most of the time, even if it wasn't always the best thing to do! Thank you to Nancy Compton for her wise counsel when I followed her in this position. Thank you to Denise, who was a joy to work with in planning music for the services and who gives excellent sermons. Thank you to Valerie, for singing in the choir and for donating her time and expertise in leading the bells. Actually, I want to say thanks to every member who attends this church and gives so much to keeping it going—for example, publishing this *Red Door*, mowing grass, cleaning the church, attending to upkeep on the church property, cooking wonderful food for the church and community, providing delightful coffee hours, working in the Food Pantry, sitting on committees which make vital decisions, giving financial support—goodness, the list could just go on and on. When we moved to NY state in 2014, we tried a number of churches and both agreed that Big Flats Pres was the most warm and inviting church. It continues to be so, and with the appearance of Denise and Valerie, I feel strongly that it will remain that way going forward and will attract new members.

So, I wish you the best. And again, thank for my time being your church musician. We intend to keep in touch and will see some of you at the dinner on Jan. 8!

Love and Blessings,

Jean

SUPER SUPPERS AND PANCAKE BREAKFASTS ARE A HIT!

SUPER SUPPERS: This is the second year for a series of fund-raising meals which endeavors to provide a delicious meal each month (Dec. – Feb.) at a reasonable price. Meals are served from **5:00-7:00 PM on the second Wednesday** of each month, with the cost set at **\$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children**. Take-out meals are also available. Our kickoff meal in November was a Meatloaf Supper, followed by a Chicken Pot-Pie Dinner in December. Our next dinner, set for **January 8**, will feature Roast Beef, and we will close our season with Roast Turkey on **February 12**.

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS: Well into our ninth season, our fund-raising Pancake Breakfasts continue to be a big hit! Enthusiastic patrons have flocked to our Church House for gourmet breakfasts of pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit cup, and beverages. Our next two breakfasts are scheduled for **Saturday, January 11, and Saturday, February 8, from 8:00 - 10:00 AM**. The cost for each meal has been set at **\$6.00**. There is no charge for those under six years old.

WE NEED YOU! Providing these wonderful, high-quality meals is an ambitious project for our little church, and it takes a lot of help to ensure success. Sign-up sheets will be posted for each meal. Please do your part by pitching in to help and also with your patronage. Questions?? Talk to **Donna Stevens (Pancake Breakfasts)** or **Ann Slowik (Super Suppers)**.



“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 2

Go AFC! Go NFC! It doesn't matter which team you are supporting. Here's a way that everyone can be a champion! Each year our church participates in **“Souper” Bowl of Caring Sunday**. Wear your favorite team apparel and bring cans of soup (other canned goods and cash are also gratefully accepted) for the benefit of those who are served by our Food Pantry. We will be passing around the soup kettle on **Sunday, February 3**, and we hope that you will join us in helping those in need.





BLANKET SUNDAY SET FOR FEBRUARY 9

For some fifty years, the Church World Service Blanket Program has helped in making life more bearable for those who have been affected by a disaster, such as flooding or fire. We will be taking a special collection on **Sunday, February 9**. Every \$10.00 that we give can provide a good wool or cotton blend blanket (quantity purchase keeps costs down). Please support our church's participation by donating to this very worthy cause during morning worship on February 9.

ADVENT MISSION DRIVES VERY SUCCESSFUL

Our congregation responded with great generosity to our 2019 Advent mission drives. Our **"Shower for Mary"** is an important effort which helps victims of domestic abuse at the **Elmira Salvation Army's Safehouse**, and our **"Gifts for Joseph"** program helps men (and families) served by the **Catholic Charities Samaritan Center**. Both of these drives were extremely successful, overflowing a station wagon with donated items on delivery day! We also had a number of monetary donations.



Thank you to all who participated in this vital outreach. **Special thanks to our Mission Committee for a generous cash donation to both these programs.**

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Recent Property Committee projects have included:

- Our water softener was replaced with a refurbished unit. This has resulted in improved water pressure and water quality. **Chemung Softwater, of Elmira**, did this work at a discounted price resulting in considerable savings (over \$1000!) to our church budget.
- We have been monitoring our heating system and have had to replace couplers in one of our pump motors.
- Volunteers from Scout Troop #87 and members of our Property Committee and congregation completed our fall property cleanup.
- Our snow shoveling team has worked to stay ahead of two recent snow and ice events.
- We have contracted with **Ed Rhodes** to upgrade the lighting in our Church House, Kitchen, and Office areas. Fluorescent fixtures will be converted to LED lighting.
- **Pat and Tom Seem** coordinated Christmas decorations and lighting.
- 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 scheduled maintenance list items.



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

FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW PLACES

Dorothy Hoos

Appleridge Senior Living – C-513
168 Miller Street
Horseheads, NY 14845
(607) 767-6190

Dorothy Warren

48 Grover Lane
East Northport, NY 1173
(607) 377.6459

June Welch

Brightview Senior Living
1507 High Acre Drive Apt 312
Westminster, MD 21157

PHOTO GALLERY



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

January



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

January 5	Epiphany Sunday – Holy Communion
January 5	We will put away Christmas decorations
January 8 (Wed.)	Roast Beef Dinner (fundraiser) – 5:00 – 7:00 PM
January 11 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 – 10:00 AM
January 12	Ordination/Installation of Elders
January 12	Worship Committee will meet
January 15 (Wed.)	Property Committee & Session will each meet
January 26	Pennies from Heaven
January 26	Annual Congregational Meeting following morning worship service
February 2	Holy Communion
February 2	“Souper” Bowl Sunday – collection for Food Pantry
February 2	Scout Sunday
February 9	Blanket Sunday collection for Church World Services
February 8 (Sat.)	Pancake Breakfast – 8:00 – 10:00 AM
February 12 (Wed.)	Roast Turkey Dinner (fundraiser) – 5:00 – 7:00 PM
February 16	Worship Committee will meet
February 19 (Wed.)	Property Committee & Session will each meet
February 23	Pennies from Heaven
February 23	Deadline for articles for March/April <u>RED DOOR</u>
February 26	Ash Wednesday – beginning of Lent

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on January 12 & February 16
Property Committee	Wednesdays, January 15 & February 19 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesdays, January 15 & February 19 – 7:00 PM