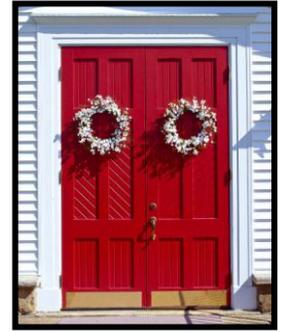


# THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY – MAY 2013

(607) 562-8048 ----- /www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/

Founded 1827 ----- “Pride In Our Past – Faith In Our Future”



It's May and Easter is still in the air. Often I get caught up in all the Easter celebration -- people all around, family gatherings, choral presentations, the hustle and bustle of church, exuberance and excitement. I so enjoy singing or chanting, whatever you want to call it, "This is the day the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it" from the back of the sanctuary. And when you helped me declare during the meditation, "We will rise with Christ", I felt that in some way we were actually experiencing resurrection and new life.

One of my favorite sounds is that of the little babies and children in the congregation, cooing, giggling and chattering in the background. This is new life in Christ fleshed out in our congregation, our family.



As a community of faith we must never give up. When Winston Churchill was asked to speak at the Harrow School in England his very short speech consisted partly of this, "Never, never, never, never give up. Never give up. Never give up." And then he sat down. During some very dark times during WWII this became England's rally cry. In the light of resurrection this rally cry can come to mean new life, new breath, new spirit, new days, each day and forever more.

May God bless us all with new possibilities, new hope, and renewed faith as we continue our Easter journey.

"The resurrection gives my life meaning & direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances." -- *Robert Flatt*

"Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time." -- *Martin Luther*

Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Rick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

# Circle of Love

Easter is always a special time for our little church, and this year was no exception. Our Lenten season was marked with very meaningful worship services and beautiful music. Our Holy Week featured a festive Palm Sunday service, a very spiritual Maundy Thursday experience, a joyous Easter Sunrise Ecumenical Service and breakfast (held at the Horseheads UMC) and a wonderful Easter Sunday time of worship and praise. Soul-lifting music, inspiring messages, a beautifully decorated sanctuary, the joyful sounds of our children as they hunted for Easter eggs, and a wonderful coffee hour combined to make Easter Sunday a day to remember! Special thanks to **Barb Horn** and the Worship committee, **Nancy Compton** and the choir, **Stacie Belosky** and Christian Education, **Ann** and **Mark Slowik** and kitchen helpers (wow -- what a fabulous Easter morning coffee hour buffet!), **Joyce Dean** for the beautiful flowers, and, of course, **Reverend Rick** for making it all so meaningful.

Some of last month's highlights include:

- Thank you to all who participated in the **Feinstein collection** for the Food Pantry on Easter Sunday. This year's campaign raised nearly **\$400** in cash and food donations to help those served by our local pantry.
- Saturday, April 13, was the date of our sixth and final fundraising breakfast for the 2012-2013 season. What a terrific project this has been. Thanks to **Jenny Dean**, the Membership Committee, and to all our wonderful volunteers (and patrons, too) for making these morning meals so successful! Be sure to watch for news of our return next fall!
- On Sunday, April 14, we honored **Dorothy Bartlett** on her **100th birthday**. Congratulations, Dorothy! Special thanks to all who made this a special day in the life of our church!
- Our teenagers worked to help others in April. They assembled and packed one hundred Hygiene Kits to support Church World Service Outreach. Thanks to all who participated in this mission effort!
- Congratulations to **George (Hank) Fitzsimmons**, who turned **99** on April 26.!



In our concerns this month, we ask that you remember in your prayers **Peg Halm, Art Devenport, Nick Rudnick, Emma Gardiner, Irene Hooey, Hank Fitzsimmons, Flora Berke, Art Jenkins, Jackie McMann, Lydia Middaugh, Suzanne Ports** (daughter of **Barb Gilbert**), **Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea, Alice VanHorn, Dick and Peg Shockner, Ruth Price** (**Rev. Rick's mother**), **Marge Larocque** (**Gigi's mother**), and their families, along with others who are dealing with ill health, loss, or life changes. Please think of our shut-ins and those who are in nursing homes or assisted care facilities. Please continue to pray for our servicemen and women and their families and for wisdom for the leaders of our world.

***Do you have a special joy or concern that you would like to share with our Big Flats Presbyterian Church community? See Rev. Rick or Bill Howells, and we will include your news in our Joys/Concerns column.***

To My Wonderful Church Family,

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for making my 100th Birthday Celebration so special. I cannot find words to fully tell you how touched I was by all the love and good wishes I received. Thank you for the cards, the wonderful luncheon, and, most important, for your love. I am truly blessed.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Bartlett



## SPRING RUMMAGE SALE COMING MAY 4

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be held on **Saturday, May 4, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**, with lunch served and a bake sale. Our reduced-price **Bag Sale** will take place at **2:00 PM**.

We are going to need volunteers for setting up, working at the sale, taking down, and a variety of other jobs. We will be setting up tables on **Tuesday afternoon, April 30, at 3:00 PM**. Organizing and pricing items for the sale will take place on **Wednesday, May 1, starting at 9:00 AM** and, if needed, on **Thursday, May 2, also at 9:00 AM**. We will be cleaning up after the sale on **Saturday, May 4, at 3:00 PM**. Extra workers are requested to come for setup on **Tuesday** and for cleanup on **Saturday**, both at **3:00 PM**. Many hands make light work!

I would like to make an appeal to the youth of the church to give of their time to make this project more fun and successful! Call me if you want to help out in a special way. Thank you to those willing workers who assist. For assistance with a pickup of treasures, call me before Friday, May 3rd. **Ann Hayes, 562-8523 or 329-0451**.

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

I would like to thank everyone for the continued support in my transition into the Chair position of the Property Committee. The void left by Tom Rhodes is enormous, but with the continued support of the remaining members and the recruitment of a few new members, I truly believe that we will be ok. I have some fresh ideas, some of which have already been shared with the Committee, and some that I am still working on. I have placed a recruitment flyer in the church house with my number if anyone is interested in joining our group.

I have hung a request sheet up by the events calendar in the church house. The purpose for the form is to enable anyone to suggest a project, or let us know of any maintenance issues that need to be taken care of. That way no one has to chase us down to communicate a request. I will check the sheet every week and deal with whatever needs to be dealt with. Some things will have to go before the Committee at the monthly meeting; other minor maintenance issues will be taken care of in a timely fashion.

We will be having several "work bees" this summer. The projects will be advertised in church in advance, in hopes that we will get plenty of help. We do have a good time while we get the work done. All are welcome -- no experience is necessary.

We need to thank **Pat Seem** for getting the topsoil delivered to the front yard. While feeling under the weather, she made the calls, and was there to help **Bill Howells** and **Rev. Rick** spread it and seed it. **Scott French** then rolled it. Within a couple of weeks we should see the fruits of their labor with some new grass. Special thanks go to **Jason Thresher**, of **Thresher Septic Service**, for donating the load of topsoil.

Our Session recently approved the restoration of our stained glass windows. The request for permission to have the windows restored is now in Presbytery's hands. We do not anticipate any difficulties with the request, and, as soon as we hear back, we will start the process. If all goes well, we could have all of the windows fixed and reinstalled by sometime in July.

Thanks again for your support and God bless,  
**Steve Johnston**, Property Committee Chair



## DAILY PRAYER APP NOW AVAILABLE

The **Office of Theology and Worship** of the **Presbyterian Mission Agency** has developed an iPhone / iPad app for daily prayer. This app contains daily readings from the Psalms, as well as from the Old and New Testaments.

Follow this link <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/daily-prayer/> and select "**Get it now**" to purchase the Daily Prayer App.



## PICTURES WANTED !!



We are seeking pictures, preferably digital photos, of children/families/friends in our church that can be scanned for a Power Point presentation on June 9, during **Children/Youth Sunday**. It will really make the planning process much more efficient if pictures are submitted as soon as possible. Pictures can be given to **Gigi Price** on a disc or may be e-mailed to her at [gprice@stny.rr.com](mailto:gprice@stny.rr.com). Thanks, in advance, for your help.

## TROOP #87 NEWS

Although there were no camping trips in April, it was a very busy month. The Scouts participated in a new Spring Food Drive in conjunction with the Lions Club and other local Scouting units to benefit the Big Flats Food Pantry. There was



also an Eagle Ceremony for **Phil Brodinski** (pictured here with proud parents), a Court of Honor, visiting guest speakers on Ornithology and Orienteering, and a District awards dinner where Senior Patrol Leader **Jon Addiego** (pictured) accepted the 2013 Klondike trophy on behalf of the Troop and the "Superior Smurfs" patrol. Jon also did a fine job as Master of Ceremonies in recognition of Phil's Eagle award. Coming up in early May there will be a three day "Gizmo" campout at Camp Gorton. As part of our tradition, a "Gizmo" is a campout where the patrols compete to build a particular project such as a bridge or a hobo shelter. This year, for the first time,



they will build chariots! At the end of March there is "Waterworld", our traditional campout on the Byland's property on Seneca Lake. Throughout there will be much learning, advancement, camaraderie, and fun!

## SCOUT FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS!

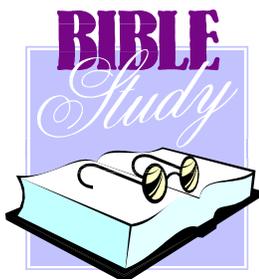
Our church was really humming with activity on Saturday morning, **April 27**. Scouts from Big Flats area troops and packs conducted a Spring Food Drive to benefit the Big Flats Community Food Pantry, which is housed in our church. The scouts collected food from Big Flats area residents and brought the donated cans, boxes, and jars to our church for processing. There they were aided in their efforts by volunteers from the Big Flats Lions Club and other willing workers who unpacked, sorted, and shelved the donated items. The drive resulted in the donation of **1,439 items** for the benefit of Food Pantry patrons. Thanks go to all who donated, to the scouts for their energy and commitment, and to the Lions Club and all others who worked to make this such a successful drive!



## BIBLE STUDY TO START MAY 9

Since the Reformation, the *Epistle of James* has vexed theologians and scholars. The debates have worked to suppress the status of James in the canon. Quite simply, The *Epistle of James* has not gotten the respect it deserves. Martin Luther once called it the "epistle of straw." Let's journey through this controversial book and see what it has to offer for our lives.

The first meeting of our Study Group will be held in the Church Office at **10:00 AM on Thursday, May 9**. All are welcome.



## LIONS TO SPONSOR FREE COMMUNITY DINNER MAY 16

A free community dinner will be held in our Church House on **Thursday, May 16**. The **Big Flats Lions Club** will host the event. Dinner will be served from **4:30 - 6:00 PM**. There is no charge for the dinner, and all are invited to attend.





## PRAISING VOICES DIRECTOR STEPS DOWN

**Mary Ellen Rudnick** has announced her retirement after serving as director of Praising Voices, our youth choir, for the past ten years. Mary Ellen organized the group in 2003, and has been its sole director. The choir originally performed as the **Songsters**, then as **Amazing Grace**, and now as **Praising Voices**. Original group members are now in college or beyond! Over the past ten years our congregation has been truly blessed by the joyful spirit and enthusiasm of these wonderful youngsters, and we have also been blessed to have such a talented and hard-working director..

Thank you, Mary Ellen, for your talent, for your enthusiasm, for your hard work, and for your tireless devotion to our children! Praising Voices will end its season when they sing on Mothers Day, **May 12**.

## WANTED: YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR

Our church is seeking a director for Praising Voices, our youth choir. The group usually rehearses one night during the week and sings during our morning worship services on various Sundays throughout the school year. Interested persons should speak to **Barb Horn**, Worship Committee Chair, or to **Nancy Compton**, our Director of Music. **Mary Ellen Rudnick**, who is retiring as director, will be glad to answer any questions regarding the position.

## LIBRARY TORCH IS PASSED



**Shirley Minier** has served as Librarian and Chairperson of our Library Committee since the library was established in the fall of 2002. Funds to purchase the initial collection, bookshelves, and various pieces of equipment were donated in memory of Shirley's husband, **Samuel Minier**. Shirley recently moved to State College Pennsylvania. On behalf of our entire church family, we would like to thank Shirley for her many years of devoted service. Shirley, you have been the heart and soul of the library, and we will miss you!

The library will continue to be a vital part of our church and its mission. We are pleased to announce that **Jennifer (Minier) Schmieg** has agreed to serve as our new Library Chairperson. Thank you, Jennifer, for your committment!

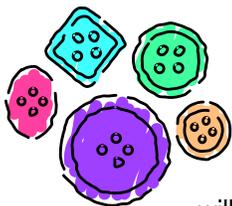
## MISSION TEAM SEEKS INPUT

Our Mission Team is looking for ideas for projects that will expand the "mission" role of our church. To that end, a suggestion box has been placed in the rear of our sanctuary. The team welcomes your ideas about areas of need and projects that will reach out to others, both locally and beyond our area. The Mission Team meets regularly to consider requests for funding and other kinds of support. The team is eager to hear your ideas!

Questions?? **Dave Silvernail** chairs the group, and **Rocky Peters** serves as the team's liaison to our Church Session.



## BUTTON CLUB NEWS



The Elmira Button Club will not be meeting in our church hall in May. Club members will be attending the New York State Button Society Annual Show at the Treadway Inn in Owego, May 3-5. We will be back in the Church Hall on June 12th. For more information, see **Pat Silvernail**.

The **Middletown Historical Society Museum, 41 Main St., Addison** will host a button program at **7:00 PM, on May 8**. **Pat Silvernail** will give a presentation on the history of buttons and will display her own collection. There is no charge to attend the program.

## PIEROGI SALE ANNOUNCED FOR MAY 19



Here's a chance for a real taste treat! We are now taking orders for authentic pierogies (filled pastry turnovers), made under the direction of our own Chef **Ann Slowik**. Fresh cheese-and-potato filled pierogies will be sold for \$5.00 per package of six pierogies and will be available for pick-up following morning worship on **Sunday, May 19**. The pierogies may be cooked right away (directions included) or frozen for later use.

The deadline for ordering pierogies is **Wednesday, May 15**. You can order using the form inserted in your Sunday bulletin or by

printing the order at the bottom of this page. Boxes for collecting orders may be found in our sanctuary and on the coffee counter. Orders will be paid for when picked up on May 19.

The pierogies will be prepared on **Saturday, May 18**, in our church kitchen. Volunteers will be needed to roll out and cut dough, to fill the pierogies, and to wrap the packages. Sign-up sheets will be posted. Please pitch in to make this a successful fundraiser

Questions? Speak to **Ann Slowik**.

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## PIEROGI ORDER FORM

Fresh pierogies (with cheese and potato filling) will be sold in packages of six -- cost is **\$5.00** for each package. Pierogis may be cooked right away (directions included) or frozen for later use.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PACKAGES (6 to a package) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL @ \$5.00 per package = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (to be paid at time of pick-up)

Last day for placing orders -- **Wednesday, May 15**.

Pick up orders following morning worship on **Sunday, May 19**.

# PHOTO GALLERY





## WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 AM	Morning Worship with Sunday School and Nursery Care
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Food Pantry is open
	6:30	Boy Scout Troop #87
THURSDAY	6:30 – 7:15	<i>Praising Voices</i> Rehearsal ( <b><u>May 2 and May 9 only!</u></b> )

## SPECIAL EVENTS

May 1 (Wednesday)	Set up for Rummage Sale – 9:00 AM - ?
May 2 (Thursday)	Price items for Rummage Sale – 9:00 AM - ?
May 4 (Saturday)	Rummage Sale – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
May 5	Holy Communion
May 9 (Thursday)	The <b><u>Epistle of James</u></b> Bible Study group to meet -- 10:00 AM
May 12	Mothers Day
May 15 (Wednesday)	Last day for pierogi orders
May 16 (Thursday)	Lions Club Free Community Dinner -- 4:30 - 6:00 PM
May 18 (Saturday)	Volunteers will be preparing pierogies
May 19	Pick-up day for pierogi orders
May 23 (Thursday)	The <b><u>Epistle of James</u></b> Bible Study group to meet -- 10:00 AM
May 27	Pentecost Sunday -- Bill Howells will lead worship service --try to wear something <b>RED</b>
May 26	Sunday of Memorial Day weekend -- Memorial Day observed Monday, May 28
May 26	“Pennies from Heaven” collection during morning worship
May 26	Information due for the June <b><u>RED DOOR</u></b>
May 30 (Thursday)	The <b><u>Epistle of James</u></b> Bible Study group to meet -- 10:00 AM

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on May 12
Property Committee	Wednesday, May 15 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesday, May 15 – 7:00 PM



## CHURCH PICNIC SET FOR JUNE 16

Mark your calendar for a culinary adventure and a time of worship, fellowship, fine food, and fun! This year our annual church picnic will be held at the Big Flats American Legion picnic pavilion. The date is **Sunday, June 16**. Sharpen your taste buds and watch for more details next month.