



THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY – JUNE 2017

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

[/www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/](http://www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/)

Dear Friends,

We have reached a point in our Interim period in which we are called to envision the future of this church. We have touched on it before, but now we really have to settle in to the task. We do it not just because it is required by the Presbytery, but because we need to do it for ourselves. Actually this process of envisioning the future should be done by a church every five years. Even when no change of pastor is involved change is inevitable and unavoidable. If the church hopes to stay relevant, and engaged with the world, as it is called to be, it must be awake to the world's needs and its own calling and potential.



Lately I have been pondering the word *imagination* and have come to see how valuable it is, more important even than reality. I think that Albert Einstein was correct in his observation that **“reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one, and that “imagination is everything. It is the preview for life’s coming attractions.”**

Why is imagination so essential? For one thing imagination ignites passion. For individuals as well as for churches there is a connection between passion and purpose. I first realized this when my passion for poetry led to my years of leading poetry programs. Passion and purpose superseded survival and responsibility. And isn't it possible to be both passionate and responsible?

And it is essential because imagination and thoughts create our future. I quote from a piece in the Huffington Post, “When we stay immersed in what is directly in front of us at all times (i.e. our current reality), we continually create the same challenges, problems, and experiences over and over again. But, when we venture into our imagination to focus on the reality that we want to experience, the energy is set in motion and magnificent change can occur.”

And **imagination stimulates creativity and innovation.** Some of the most influential and innovative creations have come from the simple act of imagining something more beneficial, more accessible, more expansive, and more lovely. Someone had to be able to imagine street lights, the automobile, vaccines, and reaching to the stars. The list is endless.

And imagining can be magical. Just watch a child at play. I am reminded of the poem by Billy Collins, *On Turning Ten*. “At four I was an Arabian wizard. I could make myself invisible by drinking a glass of milk a certain way.” How amazing would our world be if we all experienced that same joy and wonder on a day-to-day basis?

And finally, sometimes “the world is too much with us;” to quote Wordsworth, another poet. Again from the Huffington article, “By falling into the trap of ‘what is’ and believing that this is just the way the world

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works, we become a victim and relinquish our true creative power. **Our imagination and thoughts create our future.** It's long been said that 'thoughts become things' and our imaginative muscle is the very thing that helps make that possible. When we stay immersed in what is directly in front of us at all times (i.e. our current reality), we continually create the same challenges, problems, and experiences over and over again. But, when we venture into our imagination to focus on the reality that we want to experience, the energy is set in motion and magnificent change can occur. Choosing to use our imaginative muscle as a means of creation provides hope. And where there is hope there is ultimately an opportunity for transformation and change."

I invite us all to activate and exercise our imaginations, to dare to dream. What good things might the future hold for First Presbyterian Church Big Flats and how can we make them a reality? What do we want to create in the life of the church and in our own lives? The possibilities *are* endless. We have the power to create so much more and it is up to us to use our imaginations to do so, and indeed we have our Creator God cheering us on.

Share your imaginings in person, by phone, note or email. Do not keep them to yourselves. And let us be united by our hope and dreams for the future, that they become a new reality.

Blessings,

Pastor Beth

Serf-Walls, Lamisha,(life coach), Five Reasons Imagination is More Important Than Reality, Huffington Post Blog, 11/4/2014

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Circle of Love

May was another busy month at The First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats! The month was filled with activities, wonderful music, and the warm fellowship that makes each Sunday so special for our community of faith.

Our Spring Rummage Sale, held on Saturday, May 6, was very successful, raising over **\$800**. Thanks to sale coordinators **Linda Lincoln and Donna Stevens** and to all who worked to make it such a great event!

Our celebration of Mother's Day, May 14, was highlighted by a message from speaker **Bill Powell**. On Sunday, May 21, we observed Youth Sunday. Our worship leaders were **Emily Belosky, Hannah Belosky, and Ty Gromer**. Thanks to all who make our Sundays so special!

Our Property Committee has been very busy! See the article on page three to find out what the committee has been up to this spring.

On Sunday, May 28, we remembered those who have given their lives in service to our nation. Veterans **Pat Fitzgerald (U.S. Navy) and Mark Slowik (U.S. Army)** led us in a flag ceremony, and our choir sang a special anthem, "**Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones.**" Thanks to all who helped remind us about the true meaning of Memorial Day.

The sympathy of our congregation is extended to **Sylvie and John Farr** and family on the loss of Sylvie's brother, **Peter Middaugh**, and to **Gigi and Rick Price** and family, on the passing of Gigi's mother, **Marge Larocque**. Among other concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Phil Hubbard, Brandon Davis (nephew of Sheila French and Lisa McGill), Wendy Fought (niece 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, Irene Hooey, Ginnie Schweizer, Dudley & Marie Shea**, 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.



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.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS

The Property Committee has been very busy this spring. Recent projects have included:

- We replaced our lawn tractor (thirty eight years old!) with a new Cub Cadet. Thanks go to **Steve Johnston** for finding us an affordable model and for handling all the details surrounding the purchase.
- **Scott and Sheila French** continue to do a great job in mowing our church grounds and Welles Land property. Many thanks!
- Thanks, also, to **Pat Fitzgerald and Mary Churchill** who spread mulch around the front and sides of our church.
- The committee has contracted with Pest Solutions, of Horseheads, to spray to control insects this summer and to minimize our annual infestation of box elder beetles this upcoming fall and winter.
- Our church cleaner, **Ann Stein**, does a terrific job. If you see her, a smile and word of appreciation would be most appreciated!

Projects on our schedule include:

- We hope to replace two of our toilets with taller, 'comfort height' units soon, thanks to funding from **Duane Welch**.
- We will be trimming bushes and continue to maintain our exterior grounds.
- We plan to paint the church sign, porches, and red door (paint bought by **Tom and Pat Seems**).
- We will deal with fascia board repair and porch concrete work.
- We are going to re-wire the spotlights on our church sign.

It's a busy season for our committee and we hope to get as much completed as possible. Donations of funds and service are always welcome! See **Pat Fitzgerald**, or any committee member, to find out how you can help.

RUMMAGE SALE A SUCCESS!

Thanks again to all who worked to make our Spring Rummage Sale so successful. **Co-chairs Linda Lincoln and Donna Stevens** and a host of willing volunteers worked together to raise over **\$800** for our church! We are especially thankful to the **leaders and scouts of Troop 87** who did a great deal of "muscle" work in setting up tables and bringing sale items from the church basement so that they could be organized and made ready for the sale.

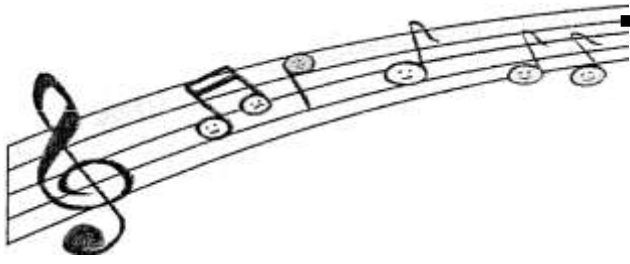
There are no plans at this time for any future Rummage Sales. Therefore, please do not bring any rummage items to the church until further notice, as we have no way to dispose of these (a real inconvenience for our volunteer staff!). Watch for more rummage news in future issues of THE RED DOOR.

BOOK DISCUSSION SLATED FOR JUNE 3

On Saturday, June 3, our church will host Presbytery book discussion on racism featuring the book, **Waking Up White**. This group will meet in our Fellowship Hall from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. You may choose to purchase the book, but even if you have not read it, you will be sure to enjoy the discussion. ALL ARE WELCOME!

PARKING LOT REPAIR FUND DRIVE BEGINS

Our church parking lot will need to be repaved in 2018, at a cost of more than \$10,000. Property chair **Pat Fitzgerald** has announced the establishment of a **"Parking Lot Repair Fund"** 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.



**A FUNDRAISER for FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of
BIG FLATS MUSIC FUND**

A Patchwork of Music

Recital by Samara Farr Gromer,
family, friends and students Sunday,
June 4th at 3:00 p.m.

The Red Door Church, 95 Main St. Big Flats

featuring French horn solos, duets, brass trios, singing, drumming and

The Corning Brassworks

A MIXTURE OF CLASSICAL AND MODERN MUSICAL STYLES

reception following in the church Fellowship Hall

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC AND A GOOD CAUSE!

THE MUSIC MUST CONTINUE AT FIRST PRES.!

JUNE

NOTE – Our 2017 Summer Worship Schedule will begin on Sunday, June 25. Summer worship services will be held at 9:30 AM

WEEKLY EVENTS

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| SUNDAY | 9:30 AM | Choir Rehearsal (June 4 & 11) |
| | 10:30 AM | Morning Worship (changing to 9:30 AM on June 25) |
| TUESDAY | 12:00 – 2:00 PM | Food Pantry is open |
| | 6:30 | Boy Scout Troop #87 |

SPECIAL EVENTS

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| June 3 (Sat.) | Presbytery book discussion on racism featuring the book, <u>Waking Up White</u> , – 9:30 AM |
| June 4 | Pentecost Sunday (wear something RED) and Holy Communion |
| June 4 | A Patchwork of Music fundraising recital by Samara Gromer and friends – 3:00 PM |
| June 11 | Last choir appearance until September |
| June 18 | At the Big Flats American Legion – Worship Service – followed by annual Church Picnic |
| June 25 | Morning Worship at 9:30 AM |
| June 25 | “Pennies from Heaven” |
| June 25 | Information due for the July/August RED DOOR |

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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| Worship Committee | Meets following church service on June 11 |
| Property Committee | June 21 – 6:00 PM (Wednesday) |
| Church Session | June 21 – 7:00 PM (Wednesday) |

ANNUAL PICNIC TO BE HELD JUNE 19

Our annual Church Picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 18** at the **Big Flats American Legion** (45 Olcott Road South). This will be a special time of worship and Christian fellowship. The day will start with a worship service at **10:30 AM**, and our annual Church Picnic will follow. It is very helpful in planning the event if we know how many to expect -- sign-up sheets will be circulated during morning worship services. Families are asked to bring a dish to pass, your own table service, and a dessert to be shared (don't worry if this is a problem, we will have plenty to go around!) The church will provide grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, condiments, and soda pop for the youth. The Worship Committee is seeking help in putting the event together. Sign-up sheets for detailing the variety of tasks involved in preparing, conducting, and cleaning will be circulated in church -- please pitch in to help make this our best picnic ever! This will be a “rain or shine” event. Please plan to join us for this very special time together!

