

MAY/JUNE 2019



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,

This is my first Red Door article, and I've debated what it was that I wanted to say in this first article. My plan for these articles every other month is to let you know what's going on or tell you about an upcoming sermon series (such as the one I just started on the resurrection appearances of Jesus that will run through Pentecost). As far as upcoming events to tell you about, I am encouraging our session and our church to find ways to participate in the Big Flats community days - possibly hosting another ice cream sundae social.

But I thought for my first article as your new pastor that I would tell you a few random details about myself.

I'm originally from Louisville Kentucky. I've lived in Cincinnati and Columbus Ohio.

I have four older brothers. I'm the baby of the family and the only girl. I am kind of a nerd. I like Star Wars and Star Trek - Star Trek more than Star Wars.

When I worked as an intern in a prosecutor's office in southern Indiana, I appeared on the news magazine *48 Hours* - actually appeared on it twice because they showed the same episode more than once.

I like to watch sports, specifically baseball, college basketball, football, and yes, even golf. I like to play golf although I haven't in a few years.

My wife Valerie and I have two daughters and five grandchildren - four granddaughters and one grandson. Hopefully you will be seeing them periodically throughout the year as they come to visit.

My parents are both deceased and Valerie's parents live in Harpersfield Ohio. It's just south of Geneva on the lake in Ohio.

I love to chat and have theological and philosophical conversations. I love to laugh and to get to know people, so feel free to stop by or schedule appointment so we can just sit down and get to know one another. I also like to eat so we can go out for lunch, too.

If you have questions about anything feel free to ask me. I am excited about being your pastor, and I look forward to continuing the journey that we have started.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Denise



BARBARA L. GILBERT (1930 - 2019)

Barbara L. Gilbert, beloved member of our congregation, passed away on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at the age of 88. Barb was a vibrant part of the life of our church. She sang in our choir, worked at countless dinners and breakfasts, helped organize rummage sales, prepared communion elements, hosted coffee hours, visited shut-ins, and so much more! She was a wonderful Christian who was loved by all in our faith community. Barb will be missed by all.



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Circle of Love

We serve a risen Savior!

Easter is always a special time for our congregation, and this year was no exception. Our Lenten season was marked with very uplifting worship services and beautiful music. Our Holy Week featured a festive Palm Sunday service, a very spiritual Maundy Thursday experience, a joyous Easter Sunrise Service and social time, and a wonderful Easter Sunday time of worship and praise. Soul-lifting music, inspiring messages, a beautifully decorated sanctuary, 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 **Pastor Denise, Jean Tedrick** and the choir, **Ann Slowik and Donna Stevens** and kitchen helpers (wow -- what a fabulous Easter buffet!), **Joyce Dean** for the beautiful flowers, and all who worked to make this such a meaningful time.

Some of our recent highlights included:

- Our Lenten Devotional Study group was very enjoyable and provoked much thoughtful discussion. Under the leadership of **Pastor Denise**, the group explored the book, **A Way Other Than Our Own**, by Walter Brueggemann
- Saturday, March 16, was the date of our final fundraising breakfast for the 2018-2019 season. What a terrific project this has been. Thanks to **Donna Stevens**, the Breakfast Committee, and all our wonderful volunteers (and patrons, too) for making these morning meals a success! Be sure to watch for news of our return next fall!
- The Big Flats Community Food Pantry, housed in our church, received **some 4,000 items** as a result of recent drives conducted by area **Boy Scouts** and by **Tops Markets**. Thank you to all who helped us feed others!
- Our Property Committee has planned a very ambitious program of spring and summer projects. See Chairman **Pat Fitzgerald** or any committee member to find out how you can become involved.
- Our local mission program, **Shared Blessings!**, announced its next project. See page five for details.



The sympathy of our church is extended to the family of **Barbara Gilbert**. Among our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Judith Gilbert, Karen & Galer Perreault, Alissa Jolley, Cindy Smith (sister of Pat Seem), Henry and Joyce Schurr, Neal Gummo, Martin Gromer, Steve French, Cindy & Ed Leisenring, Brandon Davis (nephew of Sheila French and Lisa McGill), Denise Wiskowski (sister of Debbie French), Alan Giglio (Pat Fitzgerald's nephew), Reva Soutar, Nick Rudnick, Ginnie Schweizer, Marie Shea, Dorothy Bartlett**, 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.

RUMMAGE SALE JUNE 8

Our Spring Rummage Sale has been scheduled for **Saturday, June 8, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**, with lunch served and a bake sale.

We are going to need rummage donations, baked goods, and volunteers for setting up, working at the sale, taking down, and a variety of other jobs. We will be setting up tables on **Tuesday evening, June 3 (time TBA)** and **Wednesday, June 4, starting at 9:00 AM**, and we will then continue working to organize and price items for the sale. If needed, this work will continue on **Thursday, June 5, also at 9:00 AM**. We may also be working on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. We will be cleaning up after the sale on **Saturday, June 8, at 2:00 PM**. Extra workers are needed for setup on **Wednesday morning** and for cleanup on **Saturday**.



Our sale is truly a win – win – win event – a chance to recycle your un-needed items; a chance to help raise funds for our church; a chance for everyone in our community to buy quality items at bargain prices! Please consider spending a few hours of your week to make this sale successful.

Linda Lincoln and Donna Stevens are coordinating our sale and will be happy to answer your questions. Call Linda at **562-7601** if you need access to the church to bring in your sale items.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Property Committee continues to be very busy.

Recent projects have included:

- Weekly cleaning of our entire facility.
- The latch on the outside door lock in the Pastor's Study was secured.
- Loose wiring under the sanctuary was tacked up.
- The church power washer is being serviced so as to be ready for cleaning our siding this summer.
- The sanctuary spotlight over the pulpit was replaced with LED bulbs and the angle was adjusted for proper highlighting.
- The group effort of church members and our scout troop accomplished spring clean-up of church property in time for Big Flats annual brush pick-up.

The goal is to make this an annual event, accumulating brush in the trees over the summer and fall until the following spring.

Upcoming projects include:

- Flat roof repair to solve the intermittent leak problem.
- Kitchen and Church Street entry locks will be re-furbished / re-keyed.
- Both parking lots will be sealed.
- A window air conditioner will be purchased and installed in the Pastor's Office.
- Summer mowing and outdoor maintenance is underway.

A number of our projects will be costly (especially the roof and parking lot work), but are extremely important. Any and all contributions to our Building Fund will be gratefully received. Thank you for your support!



DOOR LOCKS TO BE REPLACED

A number of our key-holders have experienced problems with our kitchen and Church Street entrance doors. To address this situation, we have contracted with a local locksmith to refurbish and re-key the locks and to make new keys. The work is scheduled to be done on Monday, May 6.

Because of the re-keying process, **current keys will no longer work in the new locks**. These keys may be discarded after May 6. Anyone who needs to possess a key to our facility should see **Property Chairman Pat Fitzgerald** to get one of the new keys. **Jenny Dean**, who lives across from our church, will always have a key available for anyone who needs access to the building.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCED

There will be a special Congregational meeting after our worship service on Sunday, May 19, for the purpose of dissolving the Pastor Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend.



THANK YOU TROOP #87 !!!!

On Wednesday evening, April 17, a number of scouts and adult volunteers from our church-sponsored Scout Troop #87 worked together to give our property a spring clean-up. The group spent over two hours raking leaves, removing dead branches and debris, and cleaning up around shrubbery plantings. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WERE INVOLVED** in this service to our church.

PENTECOST SUNDAY -- JUNE 9

CATCH OUR SPIRIT -- WEAR SOMETHING RED!!

FOLLOW US (AND SPREAD THE WORD)

We encourage everyone to follow our church by "Liking Us" on Facebook and exploring our website (www.bigflatsfirstpres.org). Webmaster **John Farr** maintains and regularly updates our website, and **Pastor Denise** has breathed new life into our Facebook page with the addition of a number of news articles, prayers, and inspirational messages.

Follow these links and check us out!!



SHARED BLESSINGS NEWS

*Our Shared Blessings mission outreach program has announced plans for a joint project. We will be working with the congregation of the Hillview United Methodist Church to fund and create "UMCOR Kits." These Layette Kits and Birthing Kits will be distributed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief. We are asking for donations of supplies and/or money to help produce as many kits as we can. **Ann Slowik** can answer any questions you may have about this project.*

Thanks, in advance, for your support. A listing of kit needs appears below.

UMCOR KIT REQUIREMENTS

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- DO NOT wash any of the items as they will be considered used. Please remove all packaging.
- All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items - nothing more.
- DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional material in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Layette Kit Items

- **6 cloth diapers** – pre-folded or plain diapers only - no disposable diapers
- **2 shirts** - undershirts or onesies
- **2 wash cloths** - infant size only - no adult wash cloths
- **2 gowns or sleepers**
- **2 diaper pins** - must have protective plastic closures - no regular safety pins
- **1 sweater or jacket** - must open from the front - may be hand knitted, crocheted or sewn - hooded sweatshirts are acceptable
- **2 receiving blankets** - 30" x 30" or 30" x 32" sizes only - no crib blankets please

Assembling Directions

Lay one of the receiving blankets flat on a table. Set aside the diaper pins and place all remaining items on top of the blanket. Fold the blanket around the items and secure the bundle with the diaper pins. Attach \$2 per kit for postage.

Birthing Kit Items

- **1 small bar soap 1 oz. to 2 oz. size** - do not remove from original packaging - small bars such as those found in hotels are acceptable
- **1 pair sterile gloves** - surgical, latex or thin rubber gloves are acceptable
- **1 square yard of clear plastic sheeting** – must be 4 millimeters thick – plastic trash bags and shower curtains are not acceptable
- **3 12-inch long pieces of cotton string** - must be clean - secure the pieces of string by bundling and tying them together - no yarn please
- **1 single edge razor** - must be covered in paper or cardboard to keep it from causing injury - regular shaving razors are not acceptable
- **2 receiving blankets 30"x 30" or 32"x 32" size** - no thermal or fleece blankets please
- **1 plastic bag one-gallon size sealable bags only**

Assembling Directions

Fold the plastic sheeting and blankets so they will fit easily into the plastic bag. Lay the loose items on top of the blankets and plastic sheeting. Slide all items into the plastic bag. Squeeze as much air out of the bag and then seal it. Attach \$2 per kit for postage.

PHOTO GALLERY



MAY / JUNE

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

May 5	Holy Communion
May 12	Mother's Day
May 19	Following morning worship – Congregational meeting to dissolve Pastor Nominating Committee
May 26	Sunday of Memorial Day weekend
May 26	"Pennies from Heaven" collection during morning worship
June 2	Holy Communion
June 4 (Tues.)	Scout Troop #87 will set up tables for Rummage Sale – our help needed – time TBA
June 5 (Wed.)	Set up / Organize / Price items for Rummage Sale: 9:00 AM - ?
June 6 (Thurs.)	(If necessary) Price items for Rummage Sale: 9:00 AM - ?
June 8 (Sat.)	Rummage Sale: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
June 9	Pentecost Sunday
June 9	Choir's last appearance until September 8
June 16	Father's Day & Church Picnic
June 30	"Pennies from Heaven" collection during morning worship
June 30	Information due for the July/August RED DOOR
July 7	Summer Worship Schedule begins – Morning Worship at 9:30 AM

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on May 12 & June 16 (tentative dates)
Property Committee	Wednesdays, May 15 & June 19 – 6:00 PM
Session	Wednesdays, May 15 & June 19 – 7:00 PM



CHURCH PICNIC – JUNE 16

This year the church picnic will be at **10:00 on Sunday, June 16**. The picnic will be held at the **Liz Farr Pavilion** in the new section of **Big Flats Community Park**. Enter the park from Winters Road by the walking track near route 352. Go to the end of the drive, and you are there.

As usual, please bring a dish to pass and your place settings. Hamburgers, hotdogs, buns and condiments will be provided. See you there!

NOTE – Our 2019 Summer Worship Schedule will begin on Sunday, July 7. Summer worship services will be held at 9:30 AM. We will return to our 10:30 worship time on Sunday, September 8.