



THE RED DOOR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIG FLATS, NY

Founded 1827 ----- "Pride In Our Past – Faith In Our Future"

www.bigflatsfirstpres.org/

Hello!

I must tell you that I LOVE being your Pastor. Not only have the people of First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats ("FPC Big Flats") made Valerie and I feel very much at home with you, you have served and pitched in for things around and at church in a variety of ways. I am excited to be working with you all.

On Father's Day we had a special service and picnic in the Community Park. Even though it was rainy day there were at least 35 people of all ages in attendance. We had a great time.

At that Service I asked people to list goals or ministry ideas that they have for FPC Big Flats. We had 27 separate suggestions. While there was some overlap in the ideas, over half of them were focused on outreach.

Here are a few of those suggestions:

- Increased External Visibility and Publicity
- Social Justice involvement (i.e. Potter's Hand, CASA, etc.)
- Have a float in next year's Community Days Parade
- Have a Booth at next year's Corning Pride Festival
- Keep working towards being more "open and affirming"
- Offer clinic for Flu Shots
- Translate success of Troop 87 into membership and energy for the church
- Car Wash
- Everyone asked to bring a guest on a designated Sunday

It is exciting to see all of these ideas, in addition to suggestions for Bible Studies and Social Activities in the evenings (for those working during the week). We will be trying to implement some of these ideas in the coming months. So keep your eyes open for information about those!

While this is not really for July or August, I want to let you know about something planned for early in September. On the second Sunday in September we will be having a Rally Day as we kick off our fall programs and return to the 10:30 hour for Worship (we switch to 9:30 a.m. for the summer on July 7th). We want everyone who attends FPC Big Flats to be there on that Sunday. AND we would like for folks to invite a guest (or two) to join them. We want to have everyone together for Worship and for a Church Pot Luck picnic following the Service. More information about this will come to you later in the summer.

Keep thinking of ways that we can reach out to our community as well as to care for one another. Feel free to send suggestions to me at my church email address (pastorbfpres@empireaccess.net).

Don't forget to check out our [Facebook Page](#) and [Website](#) for information about activities and words of encouragement.

I pray that you will have a fantastic summer and that you will continue to make Sunday Worship attendance a priority! If you cannot be at church on a particular Sunday, we have begun broadcasting our services via Facebook Live. These will start each Sunday morning following our sharing of Joys and Concerns – around 10:35. Check it out!

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Denise



JOYS AND CONCERNS

The last two months have been very special in the life of our little church. It is truly amazing to think of all that goes on in our community of faith! The weather is beginning to heat up, but it is cool in comparison with the warmth of our spirit!

- Special thanks to **Joyce Dean** for providing flowers for all our ladies on Mother's Day, May 12.
- Scouts from our church-sponsored **Troop #87** served as our color guard as we honored America on Memorial Day Sunday, May 26.
- Our Spring Rummage Sale, held on June 8, raised over **\$1300**. Thank you **Linda Lincoln, Donna Stevens, Ann Slowik**, and many willing volunteers who helped set up, price, clean up, cook/bake and work at our sale!
- On June 9, we celebrated Pentecost Sunday with a wonderful service and by wearing **red** to show our spirit!
- On Father's Day, June 16, we met to worship, eat, and socialize at our annual church picnic, held at the Big Flats Community Park. Following our worship service, we enjoyed a wonderful array of delicious picnic fare. Masters of the grill, **Rocky Peters and Mark Slowik**, kept the burgers and hot dogs coming, and the legendary "**Big Flats Bakers**" provided an amazing variety of delicious side dishes and desserts. Thanks go to all our volunteers for making this such a special day!
- Our music ministry makes our spirits soar! Our choir members are resting their voices until the fall, and we eagerly await their return. We thank **Director Jean Tedrick**, and each choir member for all you do to make each Sunday special!

Circle of Love

Among our concerns this month, we ask for prayers for: **Mary Ellen & Nick Rudnick, 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, 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.

WEEKLY SERVICES ON FACEBOOK LIVE

The First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats has begun live-streaming our weekly services on **Facebook Live!** Find our **Facebook Live** video on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. (9:30 July 7 through September 1) by going to our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-of-Big-Flats-New-York-155280817870120/>) and scrolling to the top of the feed. You should see a video playing, which you can **watch** on mobile or desktop. Click the video to enter viewing mode. You can engage with the video by leaving a comment or question the same way you would normally comment on a post.

Written transcripts of Pastor Denise's sermons are also available through our **Facebook Page** and **Website**.

Stones to Hold Open House: Pastor Denise and Valerie invite all to attend an Open House and picnic on Thursday, July 4, starting at 2:00. The Stones live at 114 Smith Road, Pine City, NY.

SHARED BLESSINGS NEWS

Shared Blessings, our local mission initiative, is looking for volunteers to hand out summer picnic lunches for kids each Friday during July (July 5, 12, 19, 26) from 11:30 – 2:00. Almost 8000 children in Chemung County are enrolled in free or reduced priced meals during the school year, and many have no lunch available when school is not in session. The state provides a lunch at several different parks in Elmira, and we are set up to pass out lunch bags at Blandford Park (Harriet Street, between E. Church and E. Water Streets). **Ann Slowik** is coordinating this effort and can answer questions.

Shared Blessings will again be conducting a used shoe drive. This program helps other countries develop entrepreneurial experience as well as providing shoes at a low cost to their communities. The **Shared Blessings** program will also benefit by getting paid for the shoes. Last year's campaign raised over \$800 to help our local mission efforts. **Donna Stevens** is coordinating this program, and will be happy to answer questions.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Property Committee continues to be very busy.

Recent projects have included:

- Continued maintenance/mowing of church exterior grounds.
- Continued weekly cleaning of building interior.
- Coordinated with Troop 87 regarding construction of new shed on Welles property.
- Weekly set-up for Coffee Hour, Food Pantry, and Troop 87.
- Roof inspection & consultation with Hale Roofing – project has been completed to our satisfaction
- Wiring was updated to accommodate a window air conditioner which was purchased (thanks, Tom & Pat Seem!) and installed in the Pastor's Office.
- Set-up and take-down for church rummage sale. Also loading of truck which took excess rummage after the sale.
- Sold office chairs at rummage sale.
- Installed new bookcases in church study.
- Shelved church library collection in new bookcases.
- Replaced lighting ballast in church study.
- Repaired/repainted wall holes in church study.
- Re-hung pictures/artwork in church study.

Upcoming projects include:

- Both parking lots will be sealed.
- Continued summer mowing and outdoor maintenance.
- Committee is investigating possibility of getting an electronic sign for the front of the church.
- Committee is also investigating installation of a "video doorbell" to connect kitchen door with Pastor's Office.

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!



FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT ELMIRA PIONEERS GAME

Saturday, July 20th 7:05 p.m.

ALL MEMBERS OF CONGREGATION RECEIVE \$6 TICKETS (\$2 SAVINGS)

FIRST 1,000 PEOPLE RECEIVE A FREE T SHIRT & THERE WILL BE POST GAME FIREWORKS!

SATURDAY JULY 2016 7:05 PM AT DUNN FIELD

A sign-up list has been posted in Fellowship Hall for anyone interested. You will need to sign up by July 7th (and give your \$6 to Pastor Denise).

BARBARA GILBERT MEMORIAL SERVICE ANNOUNCED

A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of **Barbara Gilbert**, who passed away on February 27, 2019, will be held in our sanctuary on Wednesday, August 7, at 11:00 A.M. A meal will be served for family and friends following the service.

MUSIC NOTES – SUMMER ARTISTS ANNOUNCED

From Jean Tedrick, Director of Music: Summer is here! The choir is taking a much deserved break, but that doesn't mean the musical offerings stop. My thanks to **Robin and Bob and Nancy** for finishing off so well the month of June, and you won't want to miss the summer kick-off on July 7 with the newest addition to our choir, **Valerie Stone** singing for us. Our beloved and former choir member **Carrie Hooper**, who is now directing the choir at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Horseheads, will sing an arrangement of the spiritual *Deep River* on July 28. We will be graced twice—July 21 and August 25-- with vocal solos by musician **Paul Holland**, director of Barb Horn's Common Time Choral Group and director of Music at North Presbyterian Church in Elmira. **Missy Hopper**, a soprano from the United Church of Painted Post, has graciously offered to sing for us on August 4. On other weeks we will make use of talented musicians within our own walls! So please come and prepare to be inspired not only by Pastor Denise's excellent sermons, but by the summer music program as well!



SCOUTS CONSTRUCT STORAGE BUILDING

On Saturday, June 8, a number of parents from **Troop #87**, our church-sponsored scout troop, spent the day building a large shed to store camping gear and other supplies. The shed, measuring some 8' X 16' is located on the northern edge of our church Welles Land property. Project materials were donated by a number of local businesses and agencies. Many of the shed components were pre-built in parent workshops and brought to the site for assembly. The group spent over twelve hours working on the actual construction day. Scouts from **Troop #87** were involved in the planning of the project and will be painting and outfitting the shed, but they were not allowed to be part of the construction crew due to age guidelines concerning the use of power tools.

Elder John Farr, who serves as our liaison with **Troop #87** made a photo record of the construction. Photos and a time-lapse video of the work party are available for viewing on our [Facebook Page](#) and [Website](#).

THANK YOU COFFEE HOUR PROVIDERS!

A big **THANK YOU** to all those who have been involved in preparing and providing such wonderful Coffee Hours following our morning services this past year! These social times give us the chance to visit and connect with each other and are part of what makes our church so special. **Ann Hayes**, our coordinator, will be looking for volunteers when our Coffee Hours resume in September. Talk to Ann about helping to keep this special tradition alive.

RUMMAGE SALE A SUCCESS!

Our Spring Rummage Sale, held on Saturday, June 8 was very successful, raising over \$1300 to help our church budget. Special thanks go

- To **Linda Lincoln, Donna Stevens, and Ann Slowik** who coordinated the sale and the food service.
- To members of **Troop #87** for the terrific job done in setting up tables and bringing sale items up from our basement.
- To the legendary "**Big Flats Bakers**" who provided all the wonderful treats for our bake sale.
- To all our hard-working volunteers, to all those who donated sale items, and to our patrons.

It takes a great deal of work and cooperation to make for a successful sale. Thanks to all who made our sale a success!



Thank You Choir for another year of Blessed Music!





WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY	9:30 – 10:30 AM	Morning Worship
TUESDAY	12:00 – 2:00 PM	Food Pantry is open

SPECIAL EVENTS

July 7	Holy Communion
July 5, 12, 19, 26	Our volunteers will distribute lunches to children at Blandford Park (Feed the Children program)
July 17 (Wed.)	Property Committee meeting
July 20 (Sat.)	Faith and Family Night Elmira Pioneers Game at Dunn Field – 7:05 p.m.
July 28	Bill Howells will lead our Morning Worship service
July 28	“Pennies from Heaven”
August 4	Holy Communion
August 7 (Wed.)	Memorial Service for Barbara Gilbert – 11:00 AM
August 18	Worship Committee will meet
August 21 (Wed.)	Property Committee and Session meetings
August 25	“Pennies from Heaven”
August 25	Information due for the September/October RED DOOR
September 1	Morning Worship at 9:30 AM
September 2	Labor Day
September 8	Morning Worship and Holy Communion at 10:30 AM

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Worship Committee	Meets following church service on August 18
Property Committee	July 17 and August 21 – 6:00 PM (Wednesday)
Church Session	August 21 – 7:00 PM (Wednesday)

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.