

# Ilion Presbyterian News

July 2017

Pastor Rick Riggle

90 Morgan St. Phone 315-894-2070 Fax 315-894-3807

Church email: [fpcilion@gmail.com](mailto:fpcilion@gmail.com)

Church website: [www.ilionpresbyterian.com](http://www.ilionpresbyterian.com)

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## Pastor's Thoughts

*But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' [d] 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.*

*"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. (Luke 15)*

We all know the story of the prodigal son. We all know the characters. The father there waiting and watching, the lost son contrite and broken asking for forgiveness. The older brother sure he has been wrong and angry about it.

I want us to think about the older brother for a bit, a celebration is going on, a great party for his brother, who made many mistakes, but who has come to his senses and come home. Meanwhile the older brother stands outside and complains that the party is not for him, that his father isn't fair or isn't doing it the way it ought to be done.

We all think the lost brother is the only one who is lost, but the truth is we can be right at home and be the most lost of all. Have the whole kingdom at fingertips, a magnificent feast, and not even be able to enjoy it because we are too busy being mad, or hurt or just plain stubborn.

Why aren't you coming to the party? Did someone hurt your feelings, did someone say the wrong thing, or do something you didn't agree with. We have all sorts of reasons for being angry and holding grudges, meanwhile we are missing the party. Do we really think that is what God wants for us? Is that really how we think God wants us to be?

God loves us all so much more than we can imagine, and God has forgiven us for our deepest and darkest sins. Perhaps it is time for us to forgive one another, maybe even ourselves. To stop being stubborn older brothers and start being grateful repentant prodigal children.

As the song says, "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home." I don't know why you aren't here, I don't know what happened or how it came about, but I know this. There is a party going on for all of us. I hope you will come.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor Rick



On June 27th our church hosted a wonderful barbecue. Although the weather was not conducive to cooking out it was a very successful event. We want to thank Sam Cardona for being our cook for this event. Much fun, food and

fellowship was enjoyed. We even provided food for vegetarians and thank all those who donated a dish to pass. There were at least 50 people in attendance and it was good to see members and guests attend. A basket was available for a special collection for our renovation fund and we are happy to report that \$351.00 was deposited into our Renovation account. We thank everyone for their generosity. It would be difficult not to mention a huge thank you to George Gullis for organizing this event. Great job George! Thank you to all those who helped set up and clean up. We hope to host more of these events. Have a great summer everyone!

*We Remember in our prayers...*

**Prayer List:**

- ◆ Men and women who protect us and our freedoms.
- ◆ Cody Adams, Kim Bigelow, Jake Cooper, Mel Darling, Beverly Doolen, Dave & Jane Jacquays, Betty Karabanoff, Dr. Aimee, Barbara Maley, Steven Maley, Pauline Martin, Joan Matteson, Pat & Marge Moylan, Peg Olson, Jan Orendorf, Mike Orendorf & family, Steve Price, Bea Raux, Ginny Reynolds, Henry Rocker, Sheri Rohrer, Fred Sullivan, Angela Traglia, Diane (Selwood) Williams.



**Liturgical Ministers for July**

**July 2 Communion**

Reader: Jean Smith  
 Greeter: Sami Pulver  
 Usher: Mary Jean Scudder/Communion Set-up  
 Coffee Hour: Sarah Circle  
 Servers: Jean Smith, Sami Pulver, Nancy White, Sue Thomas

**July 9**

Reader: Lee Maley  
 Greeter: Jean Smith  
 Usher: Jan Orendorf  
 Coffee Hour: Jan O.

**July 16 – Ilion Days Service at the Gazebo**

Participant – Lee Maley  
 Bring your lawn chair

**July 23**

Reader: Joan Matteson  
 Greeter: Warren Lennox  
 Usher: Mary Jean Scudder  
 Coffee Hour: Mary Jean Scudder

**July 30**

Reader: Sami Pulver  
 Greeter: Sandy Eldredge  
 Usher: Janet Darling  
 Coffee Hour: Janet Darling

**Congratulations**

to Zachary Williams who received scholarships this past weekend from the Masons & the Royal Arch Masons at their Annual celebration at St. John’s Day at the Masonic Care Community. Zack is the grandson of Sandra & the late Richard Eldredge and has been worshipping with us this summer while staying with Sandy while he works at the Masonic Medical Research Lab on the MCC campus.





We are looking for someone(s) to chair a Church Rummage Sale to be held during the Ilion Days Village-Wide Garage Sales. This year the date is July 15. Sign-up deadline is July 11. This means we have to decide right away & start gathering our “goodies” to bring to the church. Help will be available. Please speak to George if you are interested in participating. We will need folks to man the tables during the day. The Sales officially begin at 9am & run til 3 or 4 in the afternoon.

#### RENOVATION NEWS

Our current projects have been temporarily put on hold. This is because we have been requested to secure the services of structural engineer to assess the foundation of the church before we encapsulate the walls. The engineer will be at our facility on Thursday, June 29.

The first project to be done upon clearance of the engineer will be to apply spray foam to the walls in the dining area. Upstate Spray Foam is waiting to do this job. The second job will be installing the framing for the walls. R.B. Construction is waiting patiently to do this job. The wood is already in our basement.

The next project will be phase II of the electric program.

Considering all the beautiful rainbows we have been seeing in the valley recently, I thought it would be appropriate to share one of Marge Moylan's beautiful poems.

#### **THINK OF RAINBOWS**

If only they were mine to give,  
I'd wrap a rainbow every day  
And send it to you just to see you smile.  
For rainbows speak of promise,  
Passing safely through the storm,  
Think of rainbows when you need some help to  
go that extra mile.

A rainbow is a sign of hope,  
A hint of brighter days to come,  
A bridge to take you to a better place.  
When storms hang on the horizon  
And dark clouds are moving in,  
Think of rainbows, let a rainbow put a smile back on your face.



The First Presbyterian Church  
90 Morgan Street  
Ilion, New York 13357-2260  
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