

Ilion Presbyterian News

November 2018

Pastor Rick Riggle

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The last few weeks you have heard a few people share their stories about how far we have come here at First Presbyterian. The basement gets closer to being finished, we have new ministries and new outreaches into the community and all of that is a result of your stewardship. Your giving of time, talent and treasure make it possible for us all to be faithful to God's call here in Ilion.

We have come a long way since I got here just a bit over 2 years ago, but friends there is so much farther we can go, so much more we can do, so much needs to be addressed.

Your session has begun to discuss these things, because we are almost at that crossroads between what we have done, and what is next. We want you to have a say in our decision making; so if you have any ideas, anything you would like for us to try, any work that this church could do please let me or one of the session members know what your ideas are. This is God's church and it is our church and so we decide together.

As you think of what comes next here, I hope that you will be in prayer for this church, for your session and for your pastor as we seek to lead you into the future. As you pray for us, I also want you to prayerfully consider stewardship and what you can do to be a part of that journey. How can you give more time, how can you share more talent, and yes how might you share more of your treasure, the blessings God has given you to bless others.

We will be offering our pledges to God on November the 11<sup>th</sup>; as always I know you will be generous in this, because you are always generous in all things. You inspire me and help me to keep looking forward.

Friends, the future is bright because God is good. I can't wait to see it with you.

Pastor Rick

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On Wednesday, October 10, 2018, our friend, Jeanne Williams Bennett attended New York StateWide Senior Action Council's annual convention. This year's theme was "Improving the Quality of Retirement for Future Generations". Throughout the day, experts in various fields spoke to us about a wide variety of topics pertaining to senior issues. The following articles are a summary of the presentations that she heard.

New Medicare Cards

By now, if you are in Medicare, you should have received your new Medicare card. If not, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to obtain one. Do not worry if you haven't received one. Your old card number can be used throughout all of 2019. Your physician will continue to be reimbursed and will be sent your new number so he/she will have that on file.

Once you get your new Medicare card, destroy your old card and start using your new card right away. If you lose your card, call Medicare, and they will replace it. However, you will keep the same new number (i.e. they won't continue to give you additional new numbers).

There are a lot of Medicare scams right now. Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. Medicare will never call and ask you to give them personal or private information to get your new Medicare card and number. Remember: Medicare NEVER calls you unless you have called them, and they are returning a call. Also, it's OK to give them personal information if you have called them.

Annual Medicare Open Enrollment - October 15 to December 7

It's the perfect time to do a "Medicare Check-up" and make sure that you are in the right Medicare insurance plan for your situation. Learn about the coverage options available to you, and compare existing plans to see what fits your needs best. For more information, please visit Medicare.gov.

During the open enrollment time, when marketing, companies canNOT offer free meals, send unwanted emails, or go into senior housing and go door to door urging people to join. Furthermore, they cannot offer you cash, or mugs, or doughnuts and mugs to get you to join their plans.

Social Security Beneficiaries to Receive a 2.8% COLA Increase in 2019

The federal government announced that Social Security beneficiaries will receive a 2.8% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2019. The increase, while modest, is the largest retirees have seen in seven years. There is a new congressional group, the Expand Social Security Caucus, committed to expanding, protecting and strengthening Social Security for all Americans. One of the goals is to change the current COLA formula to a CPI-E (Consumer Price Index - Elderly) because the Elderly spend more on health care, prescriptions drugs, etc.

Patient Advocates Program Telephone Teach-ins

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am

StateWide Senior Action offers FREE Teach-ins. I have participated in a couple in the past and found them to be very informative and valuable. This is done through your telephone, After the speaker has finished the presentation, the line is opened up for participant questions and comments.

Information about how to dial into these sessions is posted on the website www.nysenior.org or call StateWide at 800-333-4374.

Upcoming Teach-ins

Tuesday, 11/13 - **Medical Marijuana in New York State**

Speaker: Mischa Sogut, *Legislative Director*, NYS Assembly Health Committee

Wednesday, 11/28 - **Your Rights as a Patient in NYS**

Speaker: Ruth Leslie, *Director*, Division of Hospitals and Diagnostic and Treatment Centers; Office of Primary Care and Health Systems Management; NYS Department of Health

Thursday, 12/13 - **Oral Health and Older Persons**

Speaker: Albert Cantos, *DDS, FAAOM, FSCDA, Clinical Assistant Professor*, SUNYAB School of Dental Medicine

Jeanne shared more information which we will have in our December newsletter.



DEACONS' NEWS

- A reminder that there will be a special NOISY COLLECTION on every 5th Sunday in a month. The next month's 5th Sunday is December 30th. Remember to bring your loose coins!! We have an empty but large soup pot to collect any and all pocket change you can bring in for offering time. This will be used for a special project, not yet selected.

Prayer List:

- ◆ **Men and women who protect us and our freedoms.**
- ◆ Cody Adams, Dorothy Allison (Rick's M-I-L), Bob Bailey, John Burdick, Linda Cate, Mel Darling, the Devereese Family, Clifford Dibble, Beverly Doolen, David Flanagan, Mary Franklin, Marilyn Hext, Dave & Jane Jacquays, Norma Kelly, Dr. Aimee, Christine Lawrence, Bill Lennox, Barbara Maley, Kim Maley, Steven Maley, Marty March, Joan Matteson, Pat & Marge Moylan, Patrick O'Connor, Peg Olson, Gary & Jan Orendorf, Mike Orendorf & family, Leah Passalacqua, Josh Petty, Steve Price, Sami Pulver, Bea Raux, Millie Ritter, Henry Rocker, Dale Rohrer, Jane & Bob Smithson, Aiden Townsend, Angela Traglia, Diane (Selwood) Williams, Ricky Wilson & mom, Gretchen



PAW WALK SUMMARY

Another successful PAW walk took place at the Presbyterian Home on September 29. Approximately a little over \$30,000 was raised in total. Again, we are very appreciative of all the support in our church. Thank you very much. We have an awesome fan base rooting on the PIPS who never fail to please. The PIPS are true friends who every year rally the troops in the fight against Parkinson's. Marge and I are very grateful for their commitment and dedication. What would we do without Mrs. PIP (You know who we're talking about) and yes, John THE BARBER Seymour. John, whether he knows it or not, is an honorary PIP and at this year's walk wore many hats. He sang our National Anthem and was the DJ for the event, He did not disappoint. If the crowd present didn't know John beforehand they know him now. He sure generated a lot of enthusiasm which helped everyone, Parkies and non-Parkies to wear smiles on their faces for the entire morning,

So PIPS and all your supporters stay tuned for next year's walk. As long as we can help people to understand the many issues faced by families affected by Parkinson disease we know we are doing our job! We are Parkinsonians on the move.

Keep the Faith,
Marge & Pat

Liturgical Ministers for November

November 4 Communion

Reader: Joan Matteson
Greeter: Lynn Backus
Usher:
Coffee Hour: Class Act
Servers: Sue Thomas & Jean Smith
Communion set-up:

November 11 Pledge Sunday

Reader:
Greeter: WT Lennox
Ushers:
Coffee Hour:

November 18

Reader: Jean Smith
Greeter: Sandra Eldredge
Usher:
Coffee Hour: The Choir

November 25

Reader: Steve Getman
Greeter: WT Lennox
Usher:
Coffee Hour:



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90 Morgan Street
Ilion, New York 13357-2260
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
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Ilion, NY 13357



Christmas Poinsettias will be available for memorials or in honor of loved ones again this year. Orders should be in the office by Dec. 10 at the latest. The cost this year will be \$7.50. Plants are available in Red, White, Pink or Marble and are in a 6.5" pot.

Donations may also be made, in any amount, to the various funds of the church: Music Fund, Organ Fund, Renovation Fund, Memorial Fund or Deacons' Fund.

You may use this form to order:

YOUR NAME _____

PHONE # _____

HOW MANY _____ WHAT COLOR(S) _____

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF (Please specify which)

OR A DONATION TO WHICH FUND – IN MEMORY/HONOR OF

SUNDAY UPDATE ON RENOVATION PROJECT 9/30/18

CURRENT. FUTURE WORK. FUTURE USE.

CURRENTLY WE ARE WORKING TO COMPLETE THE THE BATHROOM AND DINING ROOM AREAS.

THE BATHROOM NEEDS SOME PAINTING, INSTALL TWO COMMODOES, THE DOORS AND DIVIDERS IN THE "PRIVATE" AREAS (ONE OF WHICH IS HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE) AND THE FINISHING TOUCHES LIKE TRIM, BABY CHANGING TABLE, PAPER HOLDERS AND SO ON.

IN THE DINING AREA MOST OF THE FINISHED FLOORING HAS BEEN INSTALLED, AND THAT ALSO INCLUDES THE BATHROOM. I INVITE YOU WHO ARE ABLE TO GO DOWNSTAIRS AND CHECK-IT-OUT! THE DINING AREA ALSO NEEDS SOME FINISHING TOUCHES LIKE INSTALLING AND PAINTING DOORS AND TRIM AND BASE-BOARD TRIM.

THE SOUND SYSTEM AND CLOSED CIRCUIT TV SYSTEM IS ALSO NEARLY COMPLETE. WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR THE CAMERA TO BE INSTALLED UP THERE IN THE BALCONY. THEN PASTOR RICK CAN BE SEEN AND HEARD DOWNSTAIRS AS WELL AS RECORDED AND DELIVERED TO WHO KNOWS?

THE INTERIOR OF THE MAIN STAIRWAY TO THE BASEMENT (MORGAN ST) NEEDS MUCH WORK. THE STAIRWAY NEAR THE PARKING LOT ENTRANCE NEEDS FINISHING TOUCHES LIKE SMOOTHING THE WALLS AND CEILING, PAINTING, INCLUDING THE STAIR TREADS AND RISERS AND INSTALLING A FOLDING DOOR AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS.

WE ARE ALSO PLANNING AND DESIGNING THE NEW KITCHEN. WE ARE EMPHASIZING "WORK AREAS" WHERE LESS "BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER" WILL BE KEY. TWO RECESSED ELECTRIC WALL OVENS AND A WALL MOUNTED MICROWAVE WILL BE IN ONE AREA. THE SIX-BURNER GAS COUNTER TOP COOKING UNIT AND GRILL WILL BE ANOTHER WORK AREA BASICALLY WHERE THE OLD STOVE AND OVENS WERE. THE CENTER ISLAND WILL REMAIN IN THE SAME AREA AS THE PREVIOUS ONE BUT HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO ALLOW BETTER ACCESS AROUND IT.

TWO COUNTER TOPS WILL BE MADE OF A GRANITE COMPOSITE WHILE TWO OTHER TOPS WILL BE STAINLESS STEEL.

MOST OF THE KITCHEN CUPBOARDS AND CABINETS AND TWO COUNTER TOPS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED AT THE HERKIMER LOWE'S STORE AT A COST OF ABOUT \$42,000. THE COST OF THE GAS COUNTER TOP COOKSTOVE AND GRILL PLATE HAS BEEN OFFSET BY A \$1,300 CONTRIBUTION FROM DICK LONG AND A SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR HAS BEEN DONATED BY MARION BRUINS. THANK YOU BOTH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

TWO INDEPENDENT ELECTRICIANS WILL BE BIDDING ON REPLACING ALL THE OLD ELECTRIC LINES IN THE KITCHEN AND INSTALLING NEW CABLING THAT WILL MEET NATIONAL AND LOCAL CODES.

BIDS SHOULD BE HERE NEXT WEEK FOR ALL STAINLESS STEEL PRODUCTS SUCH AS COUNTER TOPS, RANGE HOOD, TABLE, WALL COVERING, ETC.

BLUE PRINTS AND INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE V.P.L. ARE COMPLETE AND WILL BE DELIVERED HERE ON WEDNESDAY AT 11:00 AM BY DON EHRE, ARCHITECT FROM BOULDER CONSULTANTS. STEVE METRAS, PRESIDENT OF VICTORY LIFTS CO. WILL ALSO BE HERE TO REVIEW THE PLANS WITH DON AND US. MEMBERS OF THE B & G COMMITTEE ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

THE COST OF THE LIFT AND INSTALLATION, APPROXIMATELY \$50,000 PLUS, HAS BEEN COVERED BY A VERY GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION FROM THE LENNOX FAMILIES. THANK YOU SOOOOO MUCH !!

THE END OF THE REBUILDING PROJECT IS NEAR. IN 2019 WE WILL COMPLETE THE PROJECT WITH THE FINAL INSTALLATION OF THE V P L, A UTILITY ROOM INCLUDING A SHOWER, TOILET, WASHER / DRYER AND A LAVATORY. AND A BACK-UP GENERATOR TO SUPPLY ELECTRICITY IN THE EVENT OF A POWER OUTAGE.

NOW, HAVING SAID ALL OF THAT, I ASK YOU; WHAT DO YOU SEE OUR FUTURE AS?

WILL WE EXPAND OUR LUNCH PROGRAM TO INCLUDE HOT MEALS? HOW MANY TIMES A WEEK?

WILL WE BE A PLACE OF SHELTER IN A COMMUNITY DISASTER? MAYBE A SHELTER WITHOUT A DISASTER OCCURRING?

WILL WE OFFER SOME FLOOR SPACE AND TIME FOR AA MEETINGS AS WE ONCE HAD? MAYBE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CAN USE OUR FACILITIES FOR MEETINGS?

HOW ABOUT A "SAFE MEETING PLACE" FOR AFTER SCHOOL?

A RETREAT AT TIMES FOR.....YOU NAME IT!

OVERNIGHTERS FOR BOY SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, AND ON AND ON.

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS. AND WE'RE NOT DEAD YET !!!!!

Ilion Community Garden

A group of Ilion residents are working to establish a community garden, Property at the corner of John St & Second St. is the first location to be enhanced by a garden. Before the end of the year it is hoped that raised garden beds may be installed, some large trees will be removed and garlic will be planted for next year's harvest.

The Ilion Community Garden Inc is in need of funds for materials, seeds, compost and a lawn mower, They are also in need of approximately \$1,300 for startup costs. Any financial support would be appreciated. However, a donation of \$200 or more would receive public recognition in the newspaper, on the signage at the garden and on their Facebook page Please make your financial contribution to "Ilion Community Garden, Inc." and mail to 18 Second Ave., Ilion NY 13357.

New members and volunteers are always needed. Contact Amanda Norton at ilionnygarden@gmail.com to volunteer. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook @iliongrows