

# Ilion Presbyterian News

February 2019

Pastor Rick Riggle

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We all know someone who used to be here and isn't anymore. We all know someone who is wandering through life without a purpose or community. We all know someone who needs to understand how much God loves them. As we begin the process of reaching out into the community to invite folks into our community of faith, it is important to know that there are some rules we truly need to follow. Since our beginning thrust is to reach out to those who are members or connected to the church in some way, I thought we might start there.

When people leave your church, things get awkward. Seeing them in public can be like seeing an ex from college. You don't know how friendly or distant you should be, and because it is awkward, all too often we do nothing.

So here are five rules of reaching out to someone who's left our Church in the hopes it will help you to begin to look for opportunities to engage with them.

**Rule 1: You Reach Out To Them.** Jesus told parables about a shepherd seeking out a lost sheep and a woman who tears her house apart looking for a lost coin. If someone is missing, find them, and keep looking until you do. Go to the person and find out what's wrong, listen without judgement and don't try to tell them why they are wrong. Make the effort. It will pay off.

**Rule 2: You Take The First Step.** The scripture says (Matthew 5:23) that if you remember your brother has something against you, it's your responsibility to reach out to that person. That's not fair. Sometimes, we are the ones who are externally inconvenienced by someone else's internal problems. Take responsibility for the relationship you have with that person and for any wrong you may have done, real or perceived, it does not matter. Reach out to them. Say you're sorry.

**Rule 3: Leave The Blame.** Taking responsibility doesn't mean you have to take the blame. This is not about blame. Ultimately, we all make our own decisions. Every person is responsible for his or her own behavior. They may have legitimate reasons for feeling hurt, embarrassed, or bored, but they can get past those feelings by, and with, the grace of God. They left the church for one reason; they wanted to do it. Why is unimportant in the healing process.

**Rule 4: Welcome Them Back Or Let Them Go.** If the person comes back, great. Open the door and greet them with open arms. Give them their seat back in their favorite pew and don't let the past keep them from a fruitful future. Let them keep walking if they leave. If they were meant to fellowship with you, then they **WILL** come back. If they weren't, let them go. Don't waste your energy chasing down those who want to go.

**Rule 5: Not everyone leaves forever.** Letting people go does not mean you stop praying for them or waiting for them to come back. With sadness, the prodigal son's dad let him go out the door but waited at the window in hope he'd return. We pray and wait anxiously for all the prodigals of this church, in the hope they will all find their way home in their own time. Wherever home may be.

Let's keep looking and praying,

Pastor Rick

## A Message from Catholic Charities

Good nutrition is the best medicine. SNAP can help put healthy food within reach. For a free, confidential pre-screening to find out if you may be eligible, and for application assistance, in Herkimer County call the NOEP Coordinator at Catholic Charities of Herkimer County at **(315) 894-9917 or toll free 1-877-304-0944**.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Prepared by a project of Hunger Solutions New York, funded by NY-SOTDA and USDA/FNS.

# Black & White Hero Sale



**Friday, February 8, 2019**

Ilion Masonic Temple  
118 Morgan St.

**Please call 315-269-6493**  
**Pre-orders strongly preferred**

Pick-up will be 11am-1pm & 3-6pm  
At the Third St. (side) door

**\$7.00**

Public Welcome

Sponsored by Evening Star Valley Chapter, #82, OES

The HOPE Ministries Program of Catholic Charities Herkimer County is in need of caring volunteers and clients to assist. HOPE Ministries is a volunteer program designed to help the frail elderly to remain independent in their homes. Services include grocery shopping with of for, laundry assistance, light housekeeping, meal preparation, telephone reassurance, friendly visiting and non-medical transportation. If you are interested in volunteering or know of someone who needs our help and would like more information, please contact Lori Joy, Hope Ministries Program Coordinator 315-894-9917 ext. 254 or [ljoy@ccherkimer.org](mailto:ljoy@ccherkimer.org). Thank you and God Bless!

## Liturgical Ministers for January

### February 3 – Annual Meeting & Covered Dish

Reader: Steve Getman  
 Greeter: Warren Lennox  
 Ushers: Kim Bigelow & Jan Orendorf  
 Coffee Hour: Annual Mtg luncheon  
 Servers: Warren Lennox  
 Communion set-up: Denise Goodale

### February 10 – Ordination & Installation of new officers

Reader: George Gullis  
 Greeter: Lynn Backus  
 Ushers: Christine Lawrence & Denise Goodale  
 Coffee Hour: Denise Goodale

### February 17

Reader: Jean Smith  
 Greeter: George Gullis  
 Usher: Denise Goodale  
 Coffee Hour: The Choir

### February 24 Boy Scout Sunday

Need coffee hour hosts

### Prayer List:

- ♦ **Men and women who protect us and our freedoms.**
- ♦ Cody Adams, Dorothy Allison (Rick's M-I-L), Bob Bailey, Crystal Balchuck, Rosamond Bennati, William Bigelow, Steven Bond, John Burdick, Linda Cate, Mel Darling, the Devereese Family, Clifford Dibble, Beverly Doolen, David Flanagan, Mary Franklin, Greg Hext, Marilyn Hext, Julie Hulser, Dave & Jane Jacquays, Norma Kelly, Dr. Aimee, Brianna Lawrence, 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, Leah Passalacqua, Josh Petty, Steve Price, Gregg Pritchard, Bea Raux, Millie Ritter, Henry Rocker, Dale Rohrer, Jane & Bob Smithson, Robyn Smithson-Damron, Susan Thuener, Angela Traglia, Ricky Wilson & mom, Gretchen
- ♦ Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Diane (Selwood) Williams who passed away January 23 in Florida.



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

Non-Profit Organization  
Permit #80-US Postage Paid  
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