

Ilion Presbyterian News

January 2020

Pastor Rick Riggle

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

Church email: fpcilion@gmail.com

Church website: www.ilionpresbyterian.com

I always struggle with what to say each year when January rolls around. We seem to have made this turning of the calendar page a monumental moment in our lives where we make resolutions and promises to do better or be better, or to somehow change the essence of who we are. This got me to thinking that perhaps we would be better served to think about becoming who we are. The living breathing creation that God made us to be.

Love your neighbor as yourself is part of the greatest commandment that Jesus gave us. The other way to say this is, 'Love yourself as your neighbor.' Love yourself, not in some egocentric, self-serving sense, but love yourself the way you would love your friend by taking care of yourself, nourishing yourself, trying to understand, comfort, and strengthen yourself.

Church folk in particular, people who genuinely care about others, are famous for neglecting their own selves with the result that they often become, in their own way, as helpless and crippled as the people they are trying to care for and thus they are no longer selves who can be of much use to anybody.

If your child is struggling for life in a raging torrent, you do not save her by jumping into the torrent with her, which leads only to your both drowning together. Instead you keep your feet on the dry bank—you maintain as best you can your own inner peace, the best and strongest parts of who you are—and from that solid ground you reach out a rescuing hand.

"Mind your own business" often means butt out of other people's lives because in the long run they must live their lives for themselves, but it can also mean mind your own life, pay attention to your own health and wholeness, both for your own sake and ultimately for the sake of those you love too. Take care of yourself so you can take care of them.

I pray that this year will be a journey of discovery that leads you to the heart of who God created you to be. It is in knowing ourselves that we are truly able to love our neighbor as ourselves. Peace and Joy be with you during this season and all through the coming year.

Pastor Rick

From our Financial Secretary:

First, let me wish you all a very Happy New Year. I will be away for the winter so want you to know I have your statements in the mail for the end of 2019 and the 2020 pledges are prepared. Those wanting envelopes will find them in the back of the sanctuary. If any of you have a 2019 balance and wish to pay it please make a note on your envelope or with your payment so I can be sure to put those monies towards your 2019 pledge although it will show up on your 2020 statement. I want to thank Jean Smith for once again doing the deposits for me while I am away. As I said in my note with your 2019 end of year statement, the pledge cards have not had a breakdown for Local and/or Benevolence so if you wish to split your pledge between these I will need to know that. I will not assume you want your pledge any way unless I hear from you personally. I would like to know this information before I leave on January 9th. Again, Happy New Year and may the new year bring you peace, joy and good health.

Janet Darling

I received this message from Jake Cooper this past week.

Do you know if there is still an Ilion Little Theater Club in existence?? They had a meeting place and theater up on Armory Hill behind the Arms plant. They renovated the old stable building at the razed Remington mansion. My old IHS public speaking teacher, and baseball coach, Elwyn Swarthout and his wife, Genevieve, were very active in the club. He wrote a book, "Stable in the Sticks". It is very interesting and mentions many members of the club.

So, I answered, saying that Rick is directing a play this month & that we would love to have the book.

It will be available for anyone to borrow, once it gets here. There are still some of us here who remember the Swarthouts and Jake, and I'm sure other names will be familiar as we get to see the book. Thanks Jake!

We also received our monthly the Presbyterian Shared Mission Support.

It said, in part: Please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session and congregation for your gracious and faithful support of Presbyterian Mission personnel. Your contribution changes peoples' lives for the sake of the gospel around the world. On November 13, 2019, we received \$66.67 for 102 Shared Mission Support.

So Thank you to all those who have indicated that a portion of their pledge go to Mission Giving.

As I was typing the above message, it reminded me of a post I saw this week on social media that we should all heed.

When writing the date in 2020, write the year in its entirety. It could possibly protect you and prevent legal issues on paperwork.

Example: If you just write 1/1/20, one could easily change it to 1/1/2017 (for instance) and now your signature is on an incorrect document,

Just a friendly reminder as we prepare to enter a new decade.

Prayer List:

- **Men and women who protect us and our freedoms.**



- Cody Adams, Joy Bagwell, Marty Bigelow, Kiersten Barnes/Richard Davis, Linda Cate, Alice Eldredge Crosier, Travis Darling, the Devereese Family, Clifford Dibble, Beverly Doolen, Art DuBois, George Dunbar, Lenore Ebersole, Jenn Eldredge, Phyllis Fasolo, Martie Fischer, David Flanagan, Sarah Getman, Fran Harrod, Marilyn Hext, Loren Hughes, Julie Hulser, infant Grayson, Dave & Jane Jacquays, Dr. Aimee, Don Lamphear, Amanda Lawrence, Sharon Lennox, Barbara Maley, Marty March, Joan Matteson, Pat & Marge Moylan, Patrick O'Connor, Leah Pasaalacqua, Steve Price, Rebecca, Millie Ritter, Henry Rocker, Dale Rohrer, Barb Ropeter, Bob Smithson, Angela Traglia, Lillian Usborn, Darlene Whalen, Ricky Wilson & mom, Gretchen

CHANCEL FLOWERS

In this column we will list those who have ordered chancel flowers for the month coming up. This way, you can know what Sunday is available in case you would like to place flowers on our chancel in memory or honor of a loved one.

Our Session has voted to provide silk flowers for any Sunday that we don't have someone providing memorial flowers, rather than continue to buy them like we have been doing.

Two arrangements are \$30 or one is \$15. It is possible to just buy one & some folks share a Sunday so we'll be sure to have balance. :)

The first Sunday in January is by Denise Goodale

All the other Sundays in January are open.

If no one calls to claim a Sunday, there will be silk flowers on the chancel each week.

And thanks to Judy Nudo for putting those silk ar-

Liturgical Ministers for January

January 5

Reader: Jean Smith

Greeter: Julie Hulser

Ushers: Lynne & Jan Orendorf

Coffee Hour: Class Act

January 12 Holy Communion

Reader: Joan Matteson

Greeter: Jean Smith

Ushers: Denise Goodale & Lynne Orendorf

Coffee Hour: Sandy Eldredge & Denise Goodale

Communion Set-up : Betty Helmer

Comm. Servers – Warren Lennox & Jean Smith

January 19

Reader: Steve Getman

Greeter: Lynn Backus

Usher: Jan Orendorf & Sandy Eldredge

Coffee Hour: The Choir

January 26

Reader: George Gullis

Greeter: Warren Lennox

Usher: Lynne Orendorf & Denise Goodale

Coffee Hour:

Marty Bigelow suffered a heart attack & has had a triple bypass with grafting at the MYO Clinic in Rochester MN. They arrived home Tuesday, 12/31.

Don Lamphear had knee replacement surgery on Monday morning at Basset Hospital in Cooperstown.

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

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