

# **Ilion Presbyterian News**

**February 2020**

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Since the A.A. group has returned to our basement, it has gotten me thinking about some things. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS or A.A. is the name of a group of men and women who acknowledge that addiction to alcohol is ruining their lives. Their purpose in coming together is to give it up and help others do the same. They realize they can't pull this off by themselves. They believe they need each other, and they believe they need God. The ones who aren't so sure about God speak instead of their Higher Power.

When they first start talking at a meeting, they introduce themselves by saying, "I am John. I am an alcoholic," "I am Mary. I am an alcoholic," to which the rest of the group answers each time in unison, "Hi, John," "Hi, Mary." They are apt to end with the Lord's Prayer or the Serenity Prayer. Apart from that they have no ritual. They have no hierarchy. They have no dues or budget. They do not advertise or proselytize. Having no buildings of their own, they meet wherever they can.

Nobody lectures them, and they do not lecture each other. They simply tell their own stories with the candor that anonymity makes possible. They tell where they went wrong and how day by day they are trying to go right. They tell where they find the strength and understanding and hope to keep trying. Sometimes one of them will take special responsibility for another—to be available at any hour of day or night if the need arises. There's not much more to it than that, and it seems to be enough. Healing happens. Miracles are made.

I can't stop thinking that something like this is what the Church is meant to be and maybe once was before it got to be Big Business. I know that none of us would feel safe telling our deepest darkest sins to one another. But isn't that what we are to do. Bear one another's burdens, be a kind of Sinners Anonymous. In the letter to the Romans Paul says, "I can will what is right but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do" (Romans 7:19).

Maybe it might sound like this: Hi I am Rick and I am a sinner."

Hi, Rick and hi to every Sadie and Sal. Hi to every Tom, Dick, and Harry. It is all for the forgiveness of sins, of course and isn't that what the Church is all about.

No matter what far place alcoholics end up in, either in this country or virtually anywhere else in the world they know that there will be an A.A. meeting nearby to go to and that at that meeting they will find strangers who are not strangers to help and to heal, to listen to the truth and to tell it. That is what the Body of Christ is all about. Would it ever occur to us as Christians lost and hopeless in some far off place to turn to a church nearby in hope of finding the same acceptance? Would we find it? Would a stranger find it here? If not, you wonder what is so Big about the Church's Business.

Peace and Grace  
Pastor Rick

“Stable in the Sticks” and “His and Hers”, books by Elwyn & Genevieve Swarthout have arrived and are available for borrowing. The Swarthouts were English teachers here in Ilion & Elwyn also taught Public Speaking & was a high school & semi-pro baseball coach. Genevieve sang in the choir & wrote some songs for us to sing. They are currently in the Secretary’s office. Come in and take a look!

These books were shared by Col. Jake Cooper, our longest time member who now lives in Buffalo.

In the “His and Hers” is a poem about Jake. I share it with his permission.

Jake Cooper

“Uncle Jake” is a ball player  
In any player’s book.  
If you’re wondering why  
At his record take a look:  
Batting average .474,  
Afield he plays any spot.  
But at the short-stop berth  
“Uncle Jake” is really hot.  
He’s a quiet lad whose temper  
Is always slow to rise,  
But once it’s up, he’ll tackle  
Anyone twice his size.  
He’s a natural leader  
Of the “Sons of Swarthout” crew.  
Again I say that “Uncle Jake”  
Is a ball polayer through and through.

“Uncle Jake” is in the air force now  
Traveling high and far and wide.  
If his temper's really up  
Those Nazis had better hide.

150th Anniversary Celebration of our Church

Next year, in May, we’ll have another big party!!

We are soliciting HELP!!!!

We will be starting to plan it soon, so be thinking  
how you can be a part of it!

Who to invite.....what to eat....color  
scheme....entertainment?...

All that good stuff.

Either speak to Lesa or to Rick to get on the list.

Thank you!

**Ilion Little Theater presents**

## **Side by Side by Sondheim**

Directed by our own Rick Riggle,  
and featuring Jean Smith in the cast.

Dates are Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 7 & 8 at 7:30pm

And

Feb. 2 & 9 at 2pm

At the Ilion Little Theater,  
13 Remington Ave, Ilion.

## 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, Ralph Dupres, Lenore Ebersole, Jenn Eldredge, Phyllis Fasolo, 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 Pasalacqua, Steve Price, Rebecca, Millie Ritter, Henry Rocker, Dale Rohrer, Barb Ropeter, Lorie Schrader, Jane & Bob Smithson, Angela Traglia, Lillian Usborn, Kirsi Viskari, Darlene Whalen, Ricky Wilson & mom, Gretchen

## **Ordination/Installation of officers will be held February 16.**

### **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 February is Orendorf

Second Sunday is Boy Scout Sunday & the Troop provides the flowers

Third Sunday is Getman

Fourth Sunday is available.

## **Liturgical Ministers for February**

### February 2 Holy Communion

Reader: Steve Getman

Greeter: Lynn Backus

Ushers: Jennifer Eldredge & Jean Smith

Coffee Hour: Class Act

Communion Set-up : Jean Smith

Comm. Servers— Warren Lennox & Jean Smith

### February 9 Boy Scout Sunday

Reader: Scouts

Greeter: Scouts

Ushers: Scouts

Coffee Hour:

### February 16 Ordination/Installation

Reader: George Gullis

Greeter: Warren Lennox

Usher: Kim Bigelow & Denise Goodale

Coffee Hour: The Choir

### February 23

Reader:

Greeter: Julie Hulser

Usher: Sandy Eldredge & Denise Goodale

Coffee Hour: Kim Bigelow

### **Still found!**

It is really soft & looks warm. It has four navy blue buttons. It is hanging on the Morgan St. bulletin board.



Also a pretty necklace. The chain came apart & it fell off someone's neck. Is it yours? It's pink & blue.



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

Non-Profit Organization  
Permit #80-US Postage Paid  
Ilion, NY 13357

## **Black & White Hero Sale**



**Friday, February 7, 2020**

Ilion Masonic Temple  
118 Morgan St.

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

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