

Ilion Presbyterian News

July 2020

Pastor Rick Riggle

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In my lifetime I cannot recall a time when the world seemed more filled with chaos than right now. The illusion of control that we try to convince ourselves we have seems to be shattering right before our eyes.

A pandemic that divides us, people marching in the streets to demand that they be treated with respect and justice. People standing up in public meetings and threatening others because of a face mask.

It hasn't taken long for the doomsday crowd to begin to say that God is done and Jesus should be back anytime now. In Washington they call each other names and accuse one another of playing politics with every issue that comes up.

I don't know about you, but I am tired of the noise. The constant buzz that seems to distract me day in and day out. Top all of that off with our trip to Atlanta to find our house there in such bad shape, and I honestly feel overwhelmed by it all.

But I am blessed, just as we all are, to have a saviour that is there with me all the time to remind me of these simple words, "Be still and know that I am God." No matter how bad things get, no matter how out of control I may feel, I don't have to be in charge and I don't have to be in control, I can just be still.

We live in a time and society that measures us by productivity, we always seem to need to be doing something, fixing something, but friends there are things we can't do anything about and problems we can't fix and that is when we must be still and let God move and act and guide us. It is in our being still that we often accomplish the most important thing we can do, connect with the God who loves us and wants only the best for us.

I have been faced with my limitations several times these past weeks. I can no longer do all the things I wish I could but God never changes, and will guide me along whatever my abilities or limitations.

We stand together hoping to be able to have some familiarity return to us by meeting together for worship and trust me I am as excited as anyone. I miss your faces. But no matter what may happen in the days ahead I invite you to remember that God is sovereign and that is enough. When you feel most unsure, remember to be still.

Pastor Rick

## Thoughts from MIS

Even though we have been apart, your MIS committee has been thinking of ways to still serve God in our community.

On Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be sponsoring a blood drive at the church from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. To be sure, the Red Cross will follow the highest standards of safety and infection control. In addition, they will check temperatures of both staff and donors, provide hand sanitizer for use before and throughout the donation process, follow social distancing protocols, and ensure face coverings will be worn by both staff and donors.

For a limited time, the Red Cross will be checking donations for Covid-19 antibodies as an additional health service to donors. This is NOT a test for the actual virus, but a test to see if your body has built up antibodies due to a possible exposure to the virus, regardless of whether you developed symptoms. There is a critical need for all blood types now so please consider it. Go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) for additional information or to schedule an appointment as there will be no walk ins until further notice.

In addition, there will be drives held at the church on August 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and November 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Many people in our community has been adversely affected by this pandemic, especially the ones who have lost their jobs due to the downturn in the economy. It's a scary thought to have to decide between buying food and medicine, but some are doing just that. I'm hoping that our members can do this one small thing that has the potential to help those in need. When we get back together as a congregation (let's hope it's soon as I miss all of you...) I'm hoping each of you will buy one extra can or box of food at the grocery store and donate it so that we can help our local food bank. It may not sound like much, but remember..."together we can do so much"... I will contact Catholic Charities to see if there's anything in particular they are in greater need of and let you know. If you don't feel comfortable returning to church right away but still want to help, let me know and I will be happy to come to you home (staying socially distant) and pick up your donation. We will keep this ongoing for the summer months.

With utmost respect to my church family,

Susan Backus

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Here is a question or two for our email recipients: Have you enjoyed being paperless for our Sunday bulletins? Have you been able to print them when you wanted to? How would you feel about receiving your newsletter by email? There are several positive things I can see about this. **First**, there is a safety feature. Nobody but yourself would have hands all over it - IF you decide to print it. **Second**, it would save us money. Right now, we pay a monthly fee for our mailing permit to send it. If we go paperless, we could pay first class for those receiving it by snail mail & the total would be less than the permit mailing fee. And **third**, it would save time & paper in preparing & sending it through the mail. Currently we send around 105 newsletters. Last time we split it, we sent 60. So, it saved paper, labels & time. Time for however many people came in to fold & label.

Please think about it & let Lesa know & we will start with August's issue (or not). There are already a handful of you who do receive the newsletter by email. I would like to know if you like it this way. Thanks!

LUNCH BUNCH BACK TO WORK !!

We started serving bag lunches again on Tuesday, 6/16/2020. We're all HAPPY to be together again doing this incredible Mission work. The fun, the camaraderie and the love. We've still got it!

Our numbers are down by about one third of what they were prior to COVID 19. Some have moved. Some don't want our lunches at this time. And some we just haven't been able to make contact with. As word gets out I'm sure business will pick up again.

If you or someone you know would like a lunch (pick up or deliver), please call the church at 315-894-2070 and leave a message with a return phone number. We will call you back.

THE LUNCH BUNCH

Daily Devotional Books

We still have a good number of the small, daily, devotional books to share. Right now, they are "living" on the grand piano, so if you come to the church you may help yourself. Take some for your friends!

There is a lovely devotion for every day of the year. Sure, we're halfway thru the year, but the readings are short & apropos for any day. If you'd like one, give Lesa a call & she will make arrangements to put one outside, meet you at your car or mail you one. OR, pick one up on July 12 when you come to worship in our sanctuary!!

We'll make it work somehow. 315-269-6295.

This is one of the funny comments shared by Joan Matteson! Unfortunately, it fits (me, at least)!!



**Wearing a mask
inside your home
is now highly
recommended.
Not so much to
prevent Covid-19
but to stop eating.**

Prayer List:



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

Cody Adams, Joy Bagwell, Marty Bigelow, Kiersten Barnes/Richard Davis, Linda Cate, Brianna Nicole, Travis Darling, the Devereese Family, Clifford Dibble, Allan Dickinson, Beverly Doolen, Shirley Dostal, (Rick's sister), Art DuBois, George Dunbar, Ralph Dupres, Lenore Ebersole, Jenn Eldredge, Phyllis Fasolo, David Flanagan, Sarah Getman, Fran Harrod, Marilyn Hext, Loren Hughes, Julie Hulser & Julie's granddaughter, Jocelyn, infant Grayson, Dave & Jane Jacquays, Dr. Aimee, Amanda Lawrence, Bill & Barb Lennox, Sharon Lennox, Barbara Maley, Marty March, Amanda Marro, Joan Matteson, Lauren Mitchell, Pat & Marge Moylan, Patrick O'Connor, Steve Price, Rebecca, Millie Ritter, Henry Rocker, Dale Rohrer, Barb Ropeter, Lorie Schrader, Jane & Bob Smithson, Angela Traglia, Kirsi Viskari, Darlene Whalen, Ricky Wilson & mom, Gretchen

College Graduate



Zachary Williams, who was baptized at, and is a member of, the First Presbyterian Church of Ilion, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. The School of Engineering and Applied Science Graduation Ceremony was held on May 15th via U-tube; while the University's Commencement Ceremony was held Sunday, May 17th.

Zachary is the son of Bill and Andrea Eldredge Williams of Ballston Spa; and the grandson of Sandra Eldredge and the late Richard Eldredge. In a message sent out, Zachary expressed gratitude to his parents, family, church family, and friends for their support over these past four years.

Zack has been interning for the past 8 months as a product development engineer at Otolith Labs in D.C. He is continuing that position from home and will continue in the Fall, while beginning his 5th year in the Master of Engineering in the Regulatory Biomedical Engineering Program. Zachary also will be serving as the inaugural Clark Graduate Administrative Fellow for GW's School of Engineering's Clark Scholars Program.

Like many of the 2020 graduates, it was not the graduation expected. Zack is optimistic that next year, he will get to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of GWU with the Classes of 2020 and 2021 at The George Washington University's Commencement Ceremony held at the National Mall.



High School Graduate

Dan Paddock is our Church Sexton, a position his father, Bob held several years ago.

He was involved in the musicals throughout his high school career. He was a member of CVA Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and Thunder Tones. He has also participated in All-County and Area All-State Chorus and attended the NYSSMA Solo Festival. Dan was also a member of Tri M Music Honor Society. Dan was a member of the Football and Baseball teams. This season, Dan was a Tri-Captain for the Football Team and a Scholar Athlete. He was selected as a First Team Linebacker in Section III, Class B East. Dan was also the starting Center for the John Arcaro Senior Bowl Blue Team and received New York State Honorable Mention for Class B as a Center. Outside of school, Dan is a Volunteer Firefighter and volunteers every summer in Delaware as a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Dan plans to attend Mohawk Valley Community College, majoring in Adolescent Education with a focus in History and plans to transfer on to obtain his bachelors and masters as a history teacher.

Congratulations Zack & Dan!!

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