

# **Ilion Presbyterian News**

**October 2020**

**Pastor Rick Riggle**

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

Church email: [fpcilion@gmail.com](mailto:fpcilion@gmail.com)

Church website: [www.ilionpresbyterian.com](http://www.ilionpresbyterian.com)

Facebook page: First Presbyterian Church, Ilion, New York

~~~~~

It seems that no matter where you look there is darkness all around us. Pandemic, racial unrest, political fighting, fires and hurricanes all around. I am tempted to say it is the darkest time I have ever lived through. If you feel the same let me remind you of a couple of things. The Old Testament begins with darkness, and the last of the Gospels ends with it.

Darkness was upon the face of the deep," Genesis says. Darkness was where it all started. Before darkness, there had never been anything other than darkness, void and without form.

At the end of John, the disciples go out fishing on the Sea of Tiberias. It is night. They have no luck. Their nets are empty. Then they spot somebody standing on the beach. At first they don't see who it is in the darkness. It is Jesus.

The darkness of Genesis is broken by God in great majesty speaking the word of creation. "Let there be light!" That's all it took.

The darkness of John is broken by the flicker of a charcoal fire on the sand. Jesus has made it. He cooks some fish on it for his old friends' breakfast. On the horizon there are the first pale traces of the sun getting ready to rise.

It appears to me that all the genius and glory of God are somehow represented by these two scenes, not to mention what Saint Paul calls God's foolishness.

The original creation of light itself is almost too extraordinary to take in. The little cookout on the beach is almost too ordinary to take seriously. There were enormous issues involved in them both, and there still are. Only a saint or a visionary can begin to understand God setting the very sun on fire in the heavens, Even scientists must have some questions and therefore God tries something different to help us understand. By lighting a small fire on a beach and blowing on it to bring it to life, the Light of the World gets enough of a fire going to make breakfast.

It's not apt to be your interest in astrology or even in theology that draws you to it so much as it's the empty feeling in your stomach. You don't have to understand anything very complicated. All you're asked to do is to take a step or two forward through the darkness and start digging in.

No matter how dark it may be the author of Johns gospel reminds us that the light will always shine in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it.

Blessings,

Pastor Rick

Notes from MIS:

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we will be holding a blood drive on Thursday, October 8 from 1 PM to 6 PM in the community room. If you gave blood at our last Drive in August, you're not eligible to donate at this time. But don't despair, as we will be holding another one November 18, Wednesday, from 1 to 6 PM. Anyone who donated in August will be eligible to donate at this drive.

Thank you to all who have donated in the past, or feel called to donate at this or the November Drive. Your donation helps up to three people. The Red Cross is struggling to keep up with the demand for blood. If you would like to donate, you must sign up online. Please go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to sign up. Once again, The Red Cross will be testing for Covid antibodies at no charge to the donors.



“Few things are harder to put up with than a good example.” —Mark Twain

Adversity introduces a man to himself.

There is more to life than increasing its speed.  
—Mahatma Gandhi

Thanks to Susan Backus for  
this month's quotes

Congratulations to Denise & Greg Goodale. Their son Braden & his wife, Becky had a baby girl on July 18. She weighed 7 lbs 10 ozs and was born at 2:30 pm. Her name is Layne Hannah.

Braden & Becky live at 154 Saxon Rd., West Winfield NY 13491



Christian Sympathy is extended to Janet Darling on the passing of her cousin, Barbie Rope-ter, for whom we have been praying.

### Prayer List:

- Men and women who protect us and our freedoms.

Cody Adams, Joy Bagwell, Kiersten Barnes/Richard Davis, Linda Cate, Brianna Nicole, the Devereese Family, Clifford Dibble, Allan Dickinson, Beverly Doolen,

Shirley Dostal, (Rick's sister), Art DuBois, George Dunbar, 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, Sharon Lennox, Barbara Maley, Marty March, Joan Matteson, Laureen Mitchell, Pat & Marge Moylan, Rebecca, Millie Ritter, Henry Rocker, Dale Rohrer, Lorie Schrader, Jane & Bob Smithson, Angela Traglia, Kirsi Viskari, Darlene Whalen, Ricky Wilson & mom, Gretchen



## BUILDINGS and GROUNDS

All of a sudden several "small jobs" that have been put aside because of "big jobs" have been completed. The glass door for the shower has been installed. That completes the utility room in the basement that used to be the men's bathroom. In that room there is now a shower, lavatory, toilet and washer / dryer.

Three emergency lights at various locations in the building have been repaired or replaced. Hand sanitizing dispensing machines have been installed at different locations in the building. The plexiglass covering a window on the Morgan St. side of the building has been reinstalled. This repair was the result of the window sill replacement.

Tree limbs overhanging the parking lot have been cut down and taken away. This was at the request of the person who plows our lot. The branches were hitting the top of his truck cab. A piece of flooring was replaced in the shed and all the bushes have been trimmed. These "little jobs" were all done by Don, Lynn and George.

We are currently having all the cast iron and steel removed from the boiler room. The Baby Grand piano in our Fellowship Hall will have a new home as of Saturday October 10th. It will be on display at the Mansion at the corner of Barringer Road and West Main St., Iliion. The new owners, Christine and Grant Mc Connell have purchased it from us and are very excited about getting it.

A couple of items to add to the B & G "to do" list are: Purchasing a new snow blower at an estimated cost of between twelve hundred and fifteen hundred dollars and selling out current snow blower. And secondly, having ceiling fans and new lighting installed in the Fellowship Hall. This will better distribute the heat in that room and improve the lighting.

Thanks be to God and the generous members of this Church

The Buildings and Grounds Committee

***PS. We still have light cleaning and dusting jobs to do by volunteers that would make our place nicer and cleaner. This will also help Dan out as he adjusts to his new college life. If you can help, please see or call Janet Darling.***

Time is a versatile performer...It flies, marches on, heals all wounds, runs out and will tell. —Franklin P. Jones



The Bag Lunch program is up and running! Although we are serving about one third less now than before COVID shut us down, we're optimistic business will increase with time. We make thirty to thirty five sandwiches every Tuesday and Thursday. We deliver most of the lunches. There are about six to eight lunches that get picked up at the Morgan St. entrance.

Donations for the Bag Lunch program are down substantially as compared to previous years. In the past we have had donations of between 1000 and 1500 dollars annually. This year thru the third quarter we have received \$250.

Please consider donating to this Mission program. Thank you.

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

## Daylight-saving time ends

- Turn your clock back one hour tonight before going to bed.
- It's also time to change batteries in your smoke detectors.

