

# Ilion Presbyterian News

**April 2022**

**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

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Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ <sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” (Rev. 21: 1-5)

I am making everything new has a new meaning for me this year. We have not been able to gather together and celebrate much of anything for the past 2 years; now we have a talent show, Easter and then our Anniversary celebration, all in the span of 6 weeks. It certainly feels as if the world is returning to normal.

But as the author of Revelation says, it is new. This new normal will be defining itself as we move into the future. We have great hope that we can put all the restrictions of Covid behind us, but we do not know what will happen. There is another new variant that we will have to watch, and if need be we will deal with whatever it brings. But remember the words of the one sitting on the throne, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

No matter what happens, God will continue to work to make all things new, and we will continue to be a part of this work. We have learned so much during this dark time, almost like an extended Lenten season. We will take what we have learned and move forward always seeking to discern the will of God in all things.

This Easter we can truly celebrate so much, hope for the days ahead, hope for the Kingdom of God, and hope for our own salvation. I truly hope that many people will gather together on Easter in our sanctuary and sing praises to the God who is making all things new, even us.

With hope and thankfulness,  
Pastor Rick

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

Now that we have found ourselves an affordable florist for our Chancel Flowers, it is time to get back to having fresh flowers on Sundays.

Did you have a regular Sunday flower order in the past? I do have a book where I keep the list. I will print it for you to see & remember.

The Sunday vases are \$15. each.

Our regular wholesalers are no longer providing Easter Flowers.

Rick is coming up with an alternate plan. Keep watching!!

## Prayer List:



Men and women who protect us and our freedoms.

Tom Backus (Lynn's son) Brianna Nicole (Christine's daughter) Allan Dickinson Barry Doolen Linda Emrich Flandera (Virginia's daughter) Betty Foor Loren Hughes Bill & Julie Hulser & granddaughter, Josline & Paislee Bob Jones (David's father) Dr. Aimee (Lesa's friend) Anna LaBella Christine Lawrence Barbara Maley Joe Maneen John & Linda Manser (Denise G) Marty March Mike Marro Joan Matteson Laureen Mitchell Anne Montalone Arthur & Judith Pearson (Kim Bigelow's Folks) Cathy Price Bob Robertson Patricia Ruller Mia Sherman (Judy Nudo) Marian Skinner (Donna Pritchard's mother) Anita Smith Jane Smithson (Lynne O's mother) Jean Sullivan Sue Thomas Laurie Voultios

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Easter Sunday we will be receiving our One Great Hour of Sharing offering as we do every year. I hope you will pray and consider making a generous offering to the work of the larger church. The offering goes to support so many people.

Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance we help people all over the world recover from both natural and human made disasters, We are in Ukraine right now offering assistance as well as on the gulf coast and the west coast here in the United States. 6.5 million dollars in grants ~~have~~ been given out, and 5676 volunteer work teams have been supported by PDA.

We provide food and support through the Presbyterian Hunger Program. The PHP has distributed 131 grants around the world and trained 54, 300 people for self-sufficiency. The goal is to meet immediate needs as well as train people to move on with new skills.

The third organization is Self-Development of People, which has been doing ministry for over 52 years now and impacts peoples lives in many ways. There are over 5000 projects currently working to empower the powerless and underserved communities in the US, one of which recovered \$190,000 in stolen wages for people working in the hospitality industry. Servers whose tips had been withheld by employers received their money thanks to your giving.

As you can see our gifts serve to have a great impact on the world around us and around the world. We who have been blessed in so many ways become a blessing simply by giving generously. I thank you now for what I believe will be an overflowing blessing of giving.

Thanks,

Pastor Rick

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Saturday, April 2 from 7-9 pm

Parkinson's Disease Awareness Fundraiser

Here at the church

Donation at the door of \$5 with children 5 & under—free \$1 for ages 6-12

Join us for a night of singing, dancing and laughter featuring: Pastor Rick Riggle, emcee Doozer Smith, John Seymour, Side Street Sisters, Ella Holden & Samantha Doremus, Lynn & Sue Backus & more!

There will be baskets for auction, a 50-50 raffle plus a delicious Bake Sale.

April Worship Responsibilities

April 3 Reader— Joan Matteson  
Greeter—Lynn Backus  
Ushers— Denise Goodale  
Fellowship— Class Act

April 17 Reader— Steve Getman  
Easter Greeter— Lynn Backus  
Communion servers— Janet Darling  
Susan Backus  
Communion Setup—  
Ushers—  
No Fellowship hr on Easter

April 10 Reader— Susan Backus  
Palm Sunday Greeter – Lynn Backus  
Ushers— Denise Goodale & Sandra Eldredge  
Fellowship— Denise Goodale

April 24 Reader— Don Lamphear  
Greeter— Janet Darling  
Ushers— Sandra Eldredge  
Fellowship—Lesa Decker (but I'll need some physical help)

FREE DINNERS



April 14 Kielbasa & Sauerkraut, Pierogi, Vegetable & Dessert

April 28 Turkey, Gravy, mashed potatoes, Vegetable, Tossed Salad & Dessert

The **Buildings and Grounds Committee** has completed a couple of jobs in preparation for the 150th anniversary celebration. We have had the walls and ceiling in the Fellowship Hall repaired and painted by a local contractor for the price of \$3,600.00. The room is brighter and cleaner.

We also have had the hardwood floors sanded to their natural wood color and sealed with three coats of clear sealer. The price for that job was \$5,000.00 and the contract was signed last year so the price remained the same this year.

Plaques and pictures are being organized and will be re-hung on the Fellowship Hall wall nearest the Sanctuary entrance.

A Spring clean-up day has been planned for the Saturday prior to the Memorial Day weekend. More information will follow later.

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### **Food Programs**

The Bag Lunch program continues each Tuesday and Thursday. The soup provided with the lunches will cease at the end of April and will begin again in October. We gladly accept monetary donations to this program which off sets the expense incurred.

The noon day soup and sandwich program has been canceled due to lack of participation. If there is a future need for this type of service we can resume doing it.

The Thursday night hot dinners will become out door activities as weather permits. The planned agenda will be along the BBQ style and ice cream social style activities through out the summer months. More info to follow.

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### **MIS NOTES**

We held our first of three 2022 blood drives on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> in the community room. Unfortunately, due to staffing shortages at the Red Cross, we were unable to draw any double red donations. In addition, and as a result of staffing shortages, we weren't able to fill all available slots. However, we did exceed our unit goal of 15. We received a total of 19 whole blood units, with a potential to help up to 57 people who are in need.

We have another scheduled drive in July and one in November. If you have never donated, or haven't in a while, please consider it.

On Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, our MIS committee brought a 'pizza party' to the first grade class at Fischer Elementary in Mohawk. The committee had plans to give all grades (Pre-K, K, and 1<sup>st</sup>) a pizza party in June before then end of the school year. The teachers and students of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade opted for their party on Friday. The children and teachers were very excited to see us and were very appreciative as well.

The Class Act fitness group has donated 11 baskets to be raffled off at the Parkinson Talent Show and fund raiser being held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are beautiful!! Come by and see them any time before Saturday. See Susan Backus if you would like to try your luck! Class Act is also sponsoring a bake sale to accompany the basket sale. Any and all monies raised will be donated to the cause. There will be many yummy treats to choose from.

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

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