

Ilion Presbyterian News

August 2022

Pastor Rick Riggle

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*But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' [d] 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.*

*"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. (Luke 15)*

We all know the story of the prodigal son. We all know the characters. The father there waiting and watching, the lost son contrite and broken asking for forgiveness. The older brother sure he has been wronged and angry about it.

I want us to think about the older brother for a bit, a celebration is going on, a great party for his brother, who made many mistakes, but who has come to his senses and come home. Meanwhile the older brother stands outside and complains that the party is not for him, that his father isn't fair or isn't doing it the way it ought to be done.

We all think the lost brother is the only one who is lost, but the truth is we can be right at home and be the most lost of all. Have the whole kingdom at our fingertips, a magnificent feast, and not even be able to enjoy it because we are too busy being mad, or hurt or just plain stubborn.

There sure seem to be a lot of angry older brothers out there these days. They want to tell all of us what to do and how to live our lives. They even seem to want to tell God how things ought to be done, and they aren't going to set foot in the party until God gets it right.

This faith walk isn't about making sure everyone else is doing it right, it is about coming to the party that God is throwing for all people. I know that means there will be people there we don't approve of but why miss the party because of that. It may mean that the wrong people will be in charge, but why miss God's party because of that. Think about it, why aren't you coming to the party? Did someone hurt your feelings, did someone say the wrong thing, or do something you didn't agree with. We have all sorts of reasons for being angry and holding grudges, meanwhile we are missing the party. Do we really think that is what God wants for us? Is that really how we think God wants us to be?

God loves us all so much more than we can imagine, and God has forgiven us for our deepest and darkest sins. I know how much I have been forgiven and so do you. Remember that when we pray for forgiveness it is given as we forgive; so perhaps it is time for us to forgive each other, maybe even accept one another as children of God. To stop being stubborn older brothers and sisters, and start being grateful repentant prodigal children of God.

As the song says, "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home." I don't know why you aren't here, I don't know what happened or how it came about, but I know this. There is a party going on for all of us. I hope you will come.

Peace and Grace, Pastor Rick



## August Worship Responsibilities

|           |                                                                                                                                                              |           |                                                                                  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 7  | Reader— Sue Backus<br>Greeter— Lynn Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship— Class Act<br>Communion Setup— Jean Smith<br>Communion servers— Sue Backus/Janet Darling | August 21 | Reader—Anne Reynolds<br>Greeter— Lynn Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship Hour—Choir |
| August 14 | Reader—Janet Darling<br>Greeter — Lynn Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship— Deacons                                                                              | August 28 | Reader— Steve Getman<br>Greeter— Lynn Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship—           |

### Prayer List:

Men and women who protect us and our freedoms

Tom Backus (Lynn's son) Alice Eldredge Crosier Brianna Nicole  
 Scott Darling Allan Dickinson Barry Doolen Dennis Eldredge  
 Linda Emrich Flandera (Don Unsinn's sister-in-law) Betty Foor Mike  
 Galvin (Janet's cousin) Betty Helmer Jim Henry Loren Hughes Bill  
 & Julie Hulser & granddaughters, Josline & Paislee Bob Jones & family  
 Anna LaBella Don Lamphear Linda Laurin Christine Lawrence  
 Barbara Maley Joe Maneen Linda Manser (Denise G) Marty March  
 Mike Marro Joan Matteson Rebecca Mento Laureen Mitchell Ju-  
 dith Pearson (Kim Bigelow's Mother) Cathy Price Patricia Ruller Mia  
 Sherman (Judy Nudo) Marian Skinner (Donna Pritchard's mother) Lynne  
 Smithson (Lynne O's mother) Jean Sullivan Laurie Voultsios



## FREE DINNERS

August 11

MENUS TO FOLOW!!

August 25



M IS- 7/17/22

To date: (if I can remember....)

Food Pantry drive in February. 2-3 big plastic tubs of food taken over to the pantry in Iliion.

Purchased needed clothing items for Fischer Elementary in March. Received donations from Methodist Thrift Shop (thanks to Cheryl Waldo) Many bags were delivered to the school.

Put call out to church family to help us provide needed food to Fischer Elementary during the spring break week. Thankfully the caring people of our church responded and many cases of food were delivered before the break started.

Blood drive on March 16<sup>th</sup>, another on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> and one coming up in November.

Very successful bake sale (\$400 ??) and basket sale (\$800) for the Parkinson's talent show.

My ladies made and donated baskets to be sold at Christmas time. All monies collected would be donated to the Presbyterian Home Foundation in honor of Pat and Marge Moylan. We raised \$325.00

Pizza Party: 3/25-30 pizzas for 1<sup>st</sup> grade; 6/6-26 pizzas for Kindergarten; 6/16-20 pizzas for Pre-K (\$756 total)

OGHS total for 2022 is \$1,308.02.

Brooks Bar-B-Q will be held on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. This year the funds will be donated to Fischer Elementary. The hope is that books will be purchased for the classrooms (or the library if needed.) I'll be speaking with Michelle Pilla in the next 2 weeks to ask for volunteers to help on sale day.

In November the Pie Ladies will again be baking pies for Catholic Charities. These pies are cut and packaged based on family size and will be included in the Thanksgiving meal box that is given out every year.

This is what we've done to date.  
More to go, stay tuned.

Susan Backus :)

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