

Ilion Presbyterian News

July 2022

Pastor Rick Riggle

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

Church email: fpcilion@gmail.com

Church website: www.ilionpresbyterian.com

Facebook page: First Presbyterian Church, Ilion, New York

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*"I hate, I despise your religious festivals;  
your assemblies are a stench to me.  
Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them.  
Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,  
I will have no regard for them.  
Away with the noise of your songs!  
I will not listen to the music of your harps.  
But let justice roll on like a river,  
righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5:21-24)*

The prophet Amos spoke these words at a time when the people of God were quite well satisfied with themselves. They had honed their religious practices down to a fine art and were content to bring their sacrifices to God comfortable in the fact that their sacrifice would be sufficient. Meanwhile all around them people were being trampled and oppressed in all sorts of ways. It is into this situation that God sent Amos to call the people up short and call them back to a way of life true to the God who had claimed them.

Worship is empty if there is no justice. If you have no peace I have no peace either. We cannot sit in our lovely homes, comfortable with our blessings while all around us the injustices of our society rest on the shoulders of the powerless and broken ones around us.

RIP Medical debt says this, "Medical debt is a uniquely American injustice. It prevents millions from achieving financial stability and subjects them to emotional anguish." Imagine going to the mailbox and receiving the same statement over and over knowing you cannot pay it. Imagine the phone calls where people do whatever they can to get you to pay, threaten you, ask you to ask friends and family for help. Speak to you like you are less than human. This is the life of those who live with crushing medical debt. Fear, shame, hopelessness.

If Amos is right, then I cannot help but think that God may very well be not only displeased but downright angry. Everywhere I turn in scripture I see God calling us to care for the dispossessed, to proclaim freedom to the captives, to do justice and love mercy. I look around me and it feels like we are falling woefully short in so many ways.

That is why I am asking you to pray seriously about a gift to RIP Medical Debt (there is more information in this newsletter). For every dollar they receive they can buy 100 dollars of medical debt and then forgive it, freeing individuals and families to return to a life of hope and promise. It allows them to pursue their dreams just as all of us want to do. It proclaims justice to the world, and to God.

Together as a Presbytery we set a goal of 31,000 dollars. I hope that all of us will do our part and then some to not only achieve this goal but surpass it. Let us live out the promise of justice God calls us to, and proclaim freedom throughout the land.

With great hope,  
Pastor Rick



# FOOD \$ENSE



*A monthly food buying program for anyone who wants to stretch their grocery dollars*

**SIGN-UP: July 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Presbyterian Church**

**10 am. – 11:30 am.**

**PICK UP: July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**90 Morgan St., Ilion**

**10 am. – 11:00 am.**

**Reminder - you can order for August when you pick up your July order.**

**We ask that everyone continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing when placing and picking up Food Sense orders. Thank you!**

**July Package (\$20.50)**

Ground Beef 80/20, 1 lb.  
Chicken Leg Meat Pieces, 1 lb.  
Pork Kabobs, 1 lb.  
Stuffed Chicken Breast, 10 oz.  
Hot Dogs, 1 lb.  
Hamburger Helper, 5.8 oz.  
Chocolate Chip Cookie Mix, 14 oz.  
Egg Noodles, 12 oz.  
Frozen Green Beans, 1 lb.  
Canned Pears, 15 oz.  
Fresh Produce #1  
Fresh Produce #2

**June Package (\$20.50)**

Pork Tenderloin, 1.75 lbs. (avg.)  
Ground Turkey, 1 lb.  
Bologna, 1 lb.  
Marinated Beef Portions, 1 lb.  
Italian Sweet Sausage, 1 lb.  
Cilantro Lime Mixed Rice, 6.2 oz.  
Elbow Macaroni, 1 lb.  
Carrots, 14.5 oz.  
Peanut Brittle, 8.6 oz.  
Sliced Peaches, 15 oz.  
Wrapped Lettuce, 1 each  
Fresh Onions, 2 lbs.

## **JULY SPECIALS:**

**Pork Ribs, 4.5 lbs. (avg.) for \$9.50:** The pork ribs are a St. Louis Style spare rib.

**American Cheese, 5 lbs. for \$15.50:** The sliced American Cheese is not individually wrapped.

**French Fries, 5 lbs. for \$6.50:** The French Fries are ready to cook and can be used in the oven or fryer.

**Italian Meatballs, 5 lbs. for \$16.75:** The Italian meatballs are fully-cooked and are in a five-pound bag.

**Tilapia Fillets, 2 lbs. for \$7.75:** The tilapia fillets are individually quick frozen in a two-pound bag.

**Cheese Ravioli, 6 lbs for \$13.50:** The cheese ravioli are extra-large and filled with a five cheese blend.

**Food \$en\$e Shoppers: Orders must be prepaid with cash or EBT. Please remember that sites cannot hold any packages after the scheduled pick-up time. If you have a conflict, give your receipt to a friend and they may claim the package for you or it will be donated to the Food Pantry across from Catholic Charities. If you have any questions, please speak to the site volunteers when you sign up or call Catholic Charities at 315-894-9917. Thank you.**

## July Worship Responsibilities

|         |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                      |                                                                                   |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 3  | Reader— Steve Getman<br>Greeter— Lynn Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship— Class Act<br>Communion Setup— Jean Smith<br>Communion servers— Steve Getman & Janet Darling | July 17                                                              | Reader— Joan Matteson<br>Greeter— Lynn Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship Hour—Choir |
| July 10 | Reader—<br>Greeter — Lynn Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship— Deacons                                                                                                 | July 24                                                              | Reader— Janet Darling<br>Greeter— Lynn Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship— Deacons?  |
|         | July 31                                                                                                                                                            | Reader—Susan Backus<br>Greeter—Lynn Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship— |                                                                                   |

### 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 (Don Unsinn's sister-in-law) Betty Foor Mike  
Galvin (Janet's cousin) Loren Hughes Bill & Julie Hulser & granddaughters, Josline &  
Paislee Bob & Jeanne Jones Dr. Aimee (Lesa's friend) Anna LaBella Linda Laurin  
Christine Lawrence Barbara Maley Joe Maneen John & Linda Manser (Denise G)  
Marty March Mike Marro Joan Matteson Rebecca Mento Laureen Mitchell  
Judith Pearson (Kim Bigelow's mother) Cathy Price Patricia Ruller Mia Sherman  
(Judy Nudo) Marian Skinner (Donna Pritchard's mother) Jane Smithson (Lynne O's  
mother) Jean Sullivan Sue Thomas Laurie Voultsios



### FREE DINNERS

|         |                                                                |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 14 | Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Pasta Salad,<br>3 Bean Salad, Watermelon |
| July 28 | Outside, weather permitting                                    |



## MIS News-July 2022

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next blood drive here at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian will be held Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The need for donated blood never goes away; it is now a fact of life. Please be sure to mark your calendars and sign up online at their website [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

### Brooks for Books

Once again I want you to mark your calendars for Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. This year we will be raising money for books in the classrooms as well as the school library. One idea is to have books in the classrooms the children can take home. Hopefully this will encourage the parents to read to the children. We will be having a “monster” of a bake sale and some home made things to be raffled off.

Unfortunately there will be no ribs for sale this year; just the yummy chickens.

## RIP

Medical debt is a uniquely American injustice. It prevents millions from achieving financial stability and subjects them to emotional anguish.

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Our mission is to end medical debt and be:

**A source of justice in an unjust healthcare finance system:** Our unique and highly leveraged debt abolishment model combines the generosity of donors with debt industry expertise to produce a high volume of debt relief return, mitigating significant financial and mental distress for millions of people.

**A unique solution for patient-centered healthcare providers:** By partnering with us, health care systems can strengthen individuals and communities by relieving dormant, uncollectible, and damaging bad debts and can identify opportunities to refine their financial assistance programs to better serve their communities.

**A moral force for systemic change:** Our work brings attention to the range of negative impacts caused by medical debt and a deeper understanding of its causes. These efforts support progress toward a more compassionate, transparent, equitable and affordable healthcare system.

### **Our Story**

RIP Medical Debt was founded in 2014 by two former debt collections executives, Craig Antico and Jerry Ashton.

Over the course of decades in the debt-buying industry, Craig and Jerry met with thousands of Americans saddled with unpaid and un-payable medical debt and realized they were uniquely qualified to help these people in need.

They used their expertise and compassion to create a unique way to relieve medical debt: they would use donations to buy large bundles of medical debt and then relieve that debt with no tax consequences to donors or recipients. From this idea came RIP Medical Debt, a New York based 501(C)(3). The results have been spectacular— \$6,748,483,828 in medical debts eradicated so far, providing financial relief for over 3,619,950 individuals and families.

**You make a donation**

With every donation, RIP uses its precise data analytics to pinpoint the medical debt of those most in need of relief: households whose incomes are less than four times the federal poverty level guideline or with medical debt representing at least 5% of gross income.

**RIP buys medical debt at a steep discount**

Your donations allow us to buy debt in bundled portfolios, millions of dollars at a time at a fraction of the original cost. On average, whatever you donate has 100x the impact.

**Together we wipe out medical debt**

People across the country receive a letter that their debt is gone. No taxes. No penalties. Just like that, they're free of medical debt.

## Oh, What a Night!

### *Dinner at First Presbyterian Church, Ilion: A Gift of Love*

Pastor Rick greeted us, making everyone feel welcome, then he prayed in his special way that inspires and makes you feel especially treasured. We all said "Amen."

George was "the Barker", dressed in his striped shirt, boater hat, and charming fake sideburns, unobtrusively making sure everything was running smoothly.

Marvin, in his black leather cowboy hat, played carnival music on the electric piano, creating a delightful festive atmosphere.

Food was prepared and served by Karen, Janet the Clown, Beth the Moose, the French Canadian Superhero Bob, and several other charming characters and cooks..

The meal was delicious: pulled pork, three kinds of coleslaw, yummy rolls, potato salad, and scrumptious baked beans.

Capacity crowd. George happily put up an extra table.

We sat with Ann, her brother Frank, and Howie. Howie is a new friend we walked in with. I met Lesa's brother, Jim and Marvin's friend, Ed. We saw Betty and Jean and Martie and Sue Thomas and others. A real mixture of church folks and neighborhood folks all sharing fellowship and a lovely meal.

A bit of heaven on earth.

My sister and I had to leave early to get to our book club discussion at the Library across the street. We missed the strawberry shortcake, but can imagine the excitement and joy at dessert time as that crowd received the special, homemade treat, served up with pure Christian joy.

Let the people say "Amen, Amen!!!"

With grateful thanks,  
Martha Regelman

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

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