

Ilion Presbyterian News

June 2023

Pastor Rick Riggle

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The days ahead feel a little overfilled with worry and fear. For me as well as for you. I thought I might write you an epistle, like Paul did with so many churches, and remind you of some eternal truths as we approach my departure.

Paul wrote letters to many of the churches he planted, which of course means he was no longer there, but that he never forgot them or stopped caring about them. He was always looking out for their spiritual health and offering both praise and direction in an effort to help each church to find its way in building the Kingdom of Heaven.

So dear friends let me say this. You are a good and healthy church in the Kingdom of God. You will be fine when I am gone. How do I know this? Because God will still be here, and you will continue to listen to the Spirit of God and seek to do what God calls you to do.

You have active meaningful ministries that will go on. Ministries that feed mind, body, and spirit. You feed more people than ever in the life of this church, and new people are finding out about that every day. The Class Act continues to grow and is a vital part of the life of this church. We have a mission with the schools in the community that makes a difference. The faculty and staff of the schools are ever grateful. The study group goes on with new faces, each offering love and support to the other as they learn about the kingdom of God. Worship here is vital and real, with great music and willing lay leadership; the Spirit moves here on Sunday morning.

You are a generous church. Few other churches in the Presbytery give as generously and as joyously as you do. If a need is identified this church steps up and supports the community however it can spreading the good news of God's love to everyone around us.

You have strong leaders who understand that leadership in the church is to be a servant of the people. They struggle to be faithful. They serve you with intelligence and love, always seeking to discern the Spirit among us. They are available and always willing to listen to anyone with a need or idea.

Now I will say the last thing, and it is something I hope you can take to heart and hold with you. You have done far more for me than I could ever have done for you in return. This ministry has been a gift from God, and a large part of that is each and every one of you. I can never thank you enough for my time here but I will try. You have simply brought life back into my faith. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

With love and hope,

Pastor Rick

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Thank you to all who helped with the spring clean up on Saturday, May 20th. There were Boy Scouts, parents, leaders and people from our church congregation sprucing up the grounds. The parking lot was cleaned, lawns raked, bushes trimmed and even some bushes removed. On the following Monday some members of the church along with some members of the Ilion Garden Club planted flowers around the church grounds. Looks great, ladies! Clean up time came to a close with pizza, wings, soda, water and some good conversation.

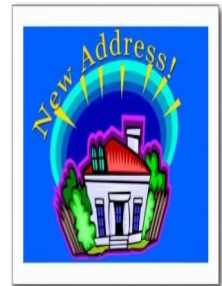
A job well done!

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is open to all. And any suggestions you may have can be directed to Sue Thomas, Don or George. If you would like to attend a B&G meeting please feel free to stop in on the second Tuesday of the month at noonish o'clock.

On Sunday, June 25th, we will be celebrating the years that Pastor Rick has spent with us here at FPC as it will be his last Sunday. Following worship, there will be a reception where we can send him off with our best wishes. Along with those best wishes, we would like to present him with a monetary gift of thanks. If you would like to contribute to this gift, you may do so by placing an envelope in the offering plate marked "Pastor Rick's Reception" on the front. Cash please or check made out to Lesa Decker.

This reception will be catered, so no one is being asked to bring a dish to pass.

Karen Jones & Steve Yager are moving to Florida! Their new address is 65453 River Glen Parkway, Yulee, FL 32097



Martie Fischer is moving to Sunset Wood in New Hartford. Her new address is:

118 Genesee St. Apt. 208  
New Hartford, NY 13413

This is effective on June 2!! Don't worry, she is not deserting us!

David and the entire Jones Family wish to thank the good folks from Ilion Presbyterian for their prayers of support during this time of sadness. Special thanks go to those who were able to attend our father's Memorial Service, and to Pastor Rick who participated in it. The congregation was very well represented. Our Dad had a special fondness for First Presbyterian of Ilion. He conducted some Gymanfas (Welsh Hymn-sings) there, and always received a warm welcome and energetic and enthusiastic singing, reminiscent of the old days when there was a location in Ilion known as "Welsh Corner." May God bless you all and your active ministries in the Valley.

## June Worship Responsibilities

|                |                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>June 4</b>  | Reader - George Gullis<br>Greeter - Karen Macrina<br>Communion setup—<br>Communion servers—Susan Backus, Karen Macrina<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship - Class Act |
| <b>May 11</b>  | Reader - Steve Getman<br>Greeter—Susan Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship - Deacons                                                                            |
| <b>June 18</b> | Reader - Anita Smith<br>Greeter—Susan Backus<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship -The Choir                                                                            |
| <b>June 25</b> | Reader— Lesa Decker<br>Greeter—Diane Lamphear<br>Ushers—<br>Fellowship –Reception for Rick's departure                                                      |

## Prayer List:

Men and women who  
protect us and our free-  
doms



Sue Cate (Marty  
March's niece) Alice Eldredge  
Crosier Brianna Nicole Allan  
Dickinson Barry Doolen Den-  
nis Eldredge Betty Foor Lor-  
en Hughes Bill & Julie Hulser &  
granddaughters, Josline &  
Paislee Don Lamphear Linda  
Laurin Christine Lawrence  
Avery Maley Lee Maley Joe  
Maneen Marty March Mike  
Marro Joan Matteson Re-  
becca Mento Laureen Mitchell  
Mary Beth Murphy The Oren-  
dorfs Judith Pearson (Kim Bige-  
low's Mother) Cathy Price Pa-  
tricia Ruller Marian Skinner  
(Donna Pritchard's mother) Fred  
& Jean Sullivan Kathy Thierry  
Laurie Voultsios

*Christian Sympathy is extended to:*

*the family of Janet Patterson on her passing on May 18. after a  
long illness. Her family includes Todd & Vikki Smithson & Justin  
& Jessica Smithson & Oliver .*

*Also Sympathy to David Jones & his family on the  
passing of their father & grandfather, Bob Jones.*

*Bob's funeral was Friday, May 19. Considering  
our long association with David & his parents, we  
sent flowers from the church.*



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

Non Profit Organization  
Permit #80—US Postage Paid  
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## FREE DINNERS

June 8

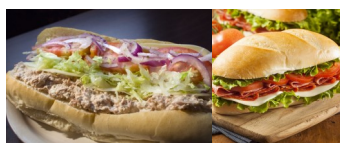
Subs (tuna/mixed meat)

Chips, pickles , dressings

Tossed salad

Cupcakes

Beverage



June 22

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers

Macaroni Salad

Strawberry Shortcake

Beverage

