

Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian Church

www.firstpreselmira.org

August 7, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Be kind and tender hearted toward one another, forgiving each other, just as God has forgiven you,” said Paul the Ephesians (Eph. 4:32)

“Judge not...” said Jesus in what we now call the Sermon on the Mount. (Matt 7:1)

These Scripture passages have been swirling through my mind as I think of all the problems people have as well as all the ill feelings that often crop up between people. The older I get the more I appreciate God’s gift of forgiveness. It’s not just the forgiveness God showers upon us that I appreciate, it is also the power of forgiveness to heal relationships and bring peace to our souls. Forgiveness means you let go of the hurt rather than letting it eat at you – easier said than done, I know. That’s why forgiveness isn’t just a gift from God or a fruit of the Spirit; it is also a spiritual practice. Forgiveness takes practice.

Also, the older I get, the more I see how damaging it is to make assumptions about other people. We all do it – we all make assumptions. When we are frustrated because people are not living up to our expectations, we want an explanation, so we start making up our own “story” based on what we see, hear, feel and believe, and without ever finding out the real backstory. Everyone has a backstory. I believe that’s why Jesus was so forceful in saying, “Judge not...” Judge not because you don’t know the whole truth and therefore your assumptions are probably wrong. Henry Winkler was wise when he said, “Assumptions are the termites of relationships.”

We are all so busy – and often under stress, also. As we rush through life, too often we rush to judgment. We don’t take the time or make the effort to really get to know people – the full story – nor to practice forgiveness.

Summertime is supposed to be the slow season. So before it’s over, let’s slow down, take time for others, and for forgiveness. Speeding is a killer, not a healer, in more ways than one.

Love and peace, Betsy

Inside this issue:

*** Lay Readers 2**

*** Summer
Worship at First
Pres 3**

*** God Moments 4**

*** Volunteer at
the Food Bank 5**

*** K4P at Wisner
Park 5**

*** News from our
Session 5**

Please Remember!

“FEED MY SHEEP”

August 12th:

RAMEN NOODLES
(all varieties)

&

CANNED SOUPS
(all varieties)

THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE

August 12, 2018 ~ 9:30 a.m.

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Elders **Denise** and **Kirk Allen** of the Corning Presbyterian Church will preach and lead worship. They have designed a worship service around the theme of God as the potter and the clay and dirt of the earth. The service includes several scripture readings, short meditations, and Kirk at his pottery wheel throwing a pot! The Greeters and Ushers will be **Liz Holloway** and **Dottie Tholfsen**. The Lay Readers will be **Nancy Cooper** and **Jane Ivanick**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Harry and Barb Fitzsimmons**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE

August 19, 2018 ~ 9:30 a.m.

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Two-Cents-A-Meal Sunday

Sacrament of Baptism

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach in the air-conditioned Hoffman Great Room. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Linda Proper** and **Marsha Turner**. Giving a Minute for Mission will be **Dr. Beth Dollinger** about the Healthy Kitchens program. Two piano duets will be played by **Anne McGee** and **Kay Stewart**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by the **Giacchino Family**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the **Deacons**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

THANK YOU to **Mike** and **Rehana Stanley** for taking down the tent from the Tent Service.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning worship 2

service on July 29...**Barb Cacciotti** and **Nan Peterson** for Greeting and Ushering...**Joanne Tunison** for giving the Minute for Mission...**Patricia Kapusta** for Lay Reading...**Desiree Rogers, Melissa Moore,** and **Anne McGee** as the guest musicians...**Rehana Stanley** for assisting in the Sacrament of Baptism...commissioned to the Paterson, NJ, Habitat work were: **Dennis & Nancy Cooper, Barb & Harry Fitzsimmons, Terry Horton, Desiree Rogers, Ron & Joanne Tunison,** and **Megan Weigel**...the **Deacons** for hosting the Fellowship Hour...**Cindy Haigh** for giving the Chancel Flowers, "The Chancel Flowers are given in loving memory of Grace M. Haigh and in honor of Donovan Haigh's third birthday."

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning worship service on August 5...**The Rev. Tim Hawk** for leading and preaching...**Barb Cacciotti** and **Alida Schamel** for Greeting and Ushering...**Rehana Stanley** for Lay Reading...**Melissa** and **Brian Moore** for playing their flute and guitar...**Deacons, Barb Cacciotti** and **Barb Fitzsimmons** for preparing the Communion elements...**Elders, Rich Buchheimer, Marcia Metcalfe, Alida Schamel,** and **Rehana Stanley** for serving the Communion elements...**Chuck** and **Kay Stewart** for giving the Chancel Flowers, "The flowers are given in happy celebration and God's blessings on the wedding of Mark Stewart and Dana Marshall on August 4, 2018, in Geneva, NY."

LAY READERS

Barb Horton is the person who recruits people to be a Lay Reader each Sunday. (Super big thanks to Barb!!). Barb



CHURCH FAMILY



Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of the most recent Baptisms in our church on Sunday, July 29, 2018. Those who received the Sacrament of Baptism were: **Xavier Giacchino, Michelle Giacchino, and Charlene McCarthy.** May God's blessings be upon all of you.

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Mark Stewart** and **Dana Marshall** who were married on Saturday, August 4, 2018, in Geneva, NY. The proud parents are Chuck and Kay Stewart.

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Barbara Furniss** who celebrates her 90th Birthday tomorrow, August 8, 2018.

is in the process of expanding her list of people who are willing to be Lay Readers. If you are interested in being the person who reads the Scripture lessons during worship, please contact Barb (732-8228). Thank you.

SUMMER WORSHIP AT FIRST PRES.

Come and enjoy worship in the relaxed, air-conditioned atmosphere of the Great Room! Worship each Sunday now through and including September 2 begins at 9:30 am. Here's what is coming up in the next few weeks:



August 26: Rev. Crimmins will preach and lead in a worship service of Healing and Hope. The style of the service will be inspired by the healing services that take place at Iona.

September 4: Rev. Crimmins will preach and lead worship. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.

In case you are wondering, our Child Care Givers, Bella and Sami, are in the nursery each Sunday by 9:15 a.m., ready and eager to lovingly care for infants, toddlers and children up to age five. So come and invite a friend to come with you!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Adult Sunday School class invites you to join them at **8:30 a.m.** in the parlor area. For **Sunday, August 12th** we will be discussing: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 and Psalm 130; 1 Kings 19:4-8 and Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:41-51.

For **Sunday, August 19th** we will be discussing: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 and Psalm 111; Proverbs 9:1-6 and Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58. Please bring your Bible and join us!

GOD MOMENTS

Do you have an experience that you would call a "God moment," that is, an experience when you got a sign that God has got your back, or an experience that could only be explained as God protecting you or getting you through? Some people call these experiences "God winks." Others say that it is the experience of the veil between heaven and earth being pulled back a bit. Whatever the case, is this experience something that you would be willing to share with the congregation during worship sometime? If so, please contact Rev. Crimmins by email at bcpreselm@stny.rr.com. Thank you.

ATTENTION ALL MUSICIANS!

First Presbyterian Church needs YOU to help provide music for summer services until the choir reconvenes in the fall. Do you sing? Play an instrument? If so, consider volunteering your talents to enhance the weekly church service! If interested, please contact Melissa Moore at (607-426-8208) or email at melissamoore1015@gmail.com, or sign up on the schedule posted in the Betschen Choir Room. Gary Tucker is more than happy to provide accompaniment, but please allow at least a week's advance notice. Hope to see, and hear from you soon!

GRIEF SHARE SUMMER GROUP

The GriefShare group is meeting on **SUNDAYS** from **11a.m. -12:30 p.m.** in the parlor after the 9:30 a.m. service through September 2nd. There will be time for coffee and fellowship before we start. Each week the GriefShare group will watch a video seminar featuring top experts on grief, and then discuss what was presented in the video. If you have a busy summer planned and cannot be here for all Sundays, each session is stand alone. You can join when you are available. There is a workbook available (\$15 donation) to use during the week for further personal study. If you would like further information, please call the church office or speak to one of the facilitators: Rich Buchheimer, Patricia Kapusta and Barb Squires. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Please come and join us!

VOLUNTEER AT THE FOOD BANK!

Volunteers are needed to support the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. We have committed to the Food Bank to work a

6-8 p.m. shift on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The next volunteer time is on August 9th. If you are able and interested in helping our First Pres group help the Food Bank we would love to have you join us. If you would like to get a better idea about what the Food Bank of the Southern Tier does, you can go to their website at www.foodbankst.org

FLOWER CHART

The Chancel Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the kitchen. The next available upcoming date is August 12th. Bouquets for the chancel are \$40 each. Unless otherwise indicated by the donor, the flowers then are separated into bouquets after worship. The bouquets are then delivered to those who are sick or homebound, by the Deacons.

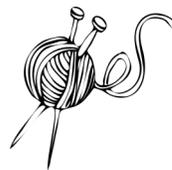
PRES CLIPPINGS SCHEDULE

The next Pres Clippings will be published on Tuesday, August 21st. Please send all articles to Kelly Stewart, Church Secretary, at kspreselm@stny.rr.com by 9 a.m. on the Monday prior to the publishing date. Thank you.

KNITTING4PEACE POD AT WISNER PARK!

Our Peace Pod will have a booth at the Wisner Park on Thursday, August 23rd, from **10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Many handcrafted items will be on display. Stop by and visit with us!

Our Peace Pod meets every Tuesday, from **3 – 4:30 p.m.** in the Genesis room. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet or would like to polish off rusty skills, drop in. There's always someone there who can help



NEWS FROM OUR SESSION

Session has not taken a summer vacation! In August, Session met in their annual organizational and planning meeting. Elected as committee chairs for the 2018—2019 program year, are the following elders:

- Adult Christian Ed and Small Group Ministry: Rich Buchheimer
- Nominating: Mike Stanley
- Hospitality: Mike Kapusta
- Mission/First Pres Works: Joanne Tunison
- Membership: Chuck Stewart
- Presbytery Representative: Rehana Stanley
- Buildings and Grounds: Marcia Metcalfe
- Personnel: Alida Schamel
- Stewardship: Mike Stanley
- Finance: Mike Mitchell
- YCE and YIA: John Stanley and Mike Stanley
- Worship and Music: Patricia Kapusta
- Clerk: Barb Squires

you. If you can't make meetings, you are welcomed to knit or crochet at home. For further instructions and patterns, visit www.knitting4peace.org or speak with Sue Weaver or Kelly Stewart. Hope to see you there!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, August 23, 2018

1 - 6 p.m. ~ Hoffman Great Room

When was the last time you thought about donating blood? A momentary inconvenience can save a life! There is a great need for blood in our area. Walk-ins are welcome at any time. You may schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-RedCross or by visiting www.redcrossblood.org

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will be out of the office from August 6 – 16, 2018. If you are in need of any pastoral care during this time please contact The Rev. Jeff

Ugoretz (607-937-5419) or one of the Deacons. Thank you.

The church office hours for the month of August is **Monday—Thursday**, 9 a.m.—3 p.m. and closed on Fridays. The office will reopen on Fridays starting on September 7th.

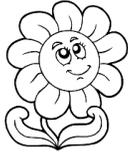
FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Friday, September 14, 2018

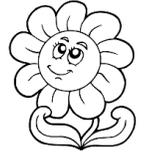
6 p.m. at the church

Please come and join us for the First Friday Family Fun Night on Friday, August 3rd. Join us for games, a video and fun discussion. Light dinner and snacks will be provided. The Hospitality Committee hosts a series of Family Fun Nights throughout the year, which will feature a food, refreshments and changing activities each month, including games, movies and, of course, fun. For more information, call Mike Kapusta at 989-984-7015. Hope to see you there!





THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...



*“A strong relationship means choosing to love each other
even when we struggle to like each other.”*

The Rev. Dr. Betsey R. Crimmins, Pastor

Felix Perez, Outreach & Service Specialist

Barbara Squires, Clerk of Session

Gary Tucker, Organist

Melissa Moore, Director of Music

Scott Kelley, Instrumental Director

James Stewart, Sr., Church Sexton

Kelly Stewart, Church Secretary

Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary

Fred Betschen, Church Treasurer

Paul Kingsbury, Assistant Church Treasurer

Bella DiPofi, Child Care Giver

Sami Swarhout, Child Care Giver

Church Office (607) 734-1614

Visit our website: www.firstpreselmira.org