

Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian
Church
www.firstpreselmira.org

August 8, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of First Pres,

Wow! Wow! Wow! What a celebration! You all certainly know how to throw a party!!

People have asked me if Sunday's celebration of the 25th anniversary of my service to God and to you as your pastor was a surprise. Well, honestly I had an inkling that something was up, but I had no idea about the magnitude of the plans! You all worked hard to keep it a secret for a very long time! (You can relax now – no more sneaking behind my back or having to tell little “white” lies to me!!) However, it sounds like you all had a lot of fun planning and that the large number of people involved worked very well together!

I was and continue to be overwhelmed by your generosity and thoughtfulness. What a tastefully lavish celebration and how thoughtfully each detail was considered! How can I thank you enough?

I am reminded of Paul's words to the Corinthians: “I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Jesus Christ.” (I Cor. 1:4). This congregation is full of God's grace. I have and will continue to thank God for you, for you are a wonderful congregation, brimming with love for God and people, and full of joy in serving Jesus as Christ followers. That love and joy gushed forth on Sunday! Thank you for showering me with love and joy!

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers, as well as for all the kind words both spoken and written, the generous and thoughtful gifts, the delicious food so lovingly prepared, the gorgeous flowers, and the lovely decorations. (Purple! My favorite color!!) I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful, meaningful music, the photographs that were being taken throughout the morning and afternoon, and the thousands of things you did behind the scenes over many months to make it all come together in such an awesome event.

(continued ———>)

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Please Remember!

“FEED MY SHEEP”

August 13 & 20:

**PEANUT BUTTER
& JELLY**

AND

**CANNED
VEGETABLES**

Thank you for coming to the celebration itself, for the event wouldn't have been the same had you not been there. Thank you to the many people who sent cards and letters from near and far – I will enjoy reading them for years to come. Thank you for the many gifts to the pastor's discretionary fund. What a wonderful way to pass forward or love, faith and joy. Thank you for letting me sit in the pew and not preach on Sunday – that is a great gift, too!

I thank you for giving me the privilege and honor of serving you and God as your pastor for these 25 years. That in and of itself is such a gift to me! I thank you and God for the grace you show each other and me in offering forgiveness for mistakes and failures (I am human, too, just like you!), for we all stand on the same ground at the same level at the foot of the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I thank you for serving God and Jesus through our church, not just at last Sunday's celebration, but each and every day. There is no substitute for the particular God-given gifts and graces that each of you can and will offer in service to the Lord through the church. What's more, what you do is important and makes an eternal difference.

So onward into the next many years!! There's more for us to do! Let's roll up our sleeves and get back to work pouring forth the same love, joy and faith not just on each other but also on our neighbors near and far!

With love and gratitude for you, Betsey

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**THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE
TENT SERVICE!**

Sunday, August 13, 2017

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Music by "The Fireside Collective Band"

9:30 a.m. ~ Worship on the Front Lawn

10:30 a.m. ~ Dish-to-Pass Picnic Lunch

Elder Joel Robinson will lead us in worship and preach. Jesse Iaquinto and The Fireside Collective Band will provide special music for the worship. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Harry Fitzsimmons** and **Wynona Mills**. The Lay Reader will be **Barb Fitzsimmons**.

Plan to stay for a dish-to-pass picnic lunch immediately following the service, hosted by the **Hospitality Committee**. Hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share and your own table service.

Tableware will be provided for those who don't bring their own.

NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE

August 20, 2017 ~ 9:30 a.m.

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Two-Cents-A-Meal Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach in the Hoffman Great Room. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Paul** and **Lynn Hombuckle**. The Lay Reader will be **Carole Wereski**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Ron** and **Joanne Tunison**. Childcare will be available. All are welcome to attend!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to set up chairs for the Tent Service on **Sunday, August 13th at 8:30 a.m.** If you are able to help, please contact Tom Leslie at (607) 796-5995 or



CHURCH FAMILY



Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Felix and Marianne Perez** on the birth of their baby daughter, Elizabethelle Angel Perez, on July 27, 2017. Elizabethelle weighed in at 6 lbs 13 oz, and 19 1/2" long. Proud grandparents are **Kelly and Greg Stewart**.

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **John and Kera Stanley** on the Baptisms of their two children, baby daughter, **Hazel Lee Stanley** and their son, **Jalen Isaiah Fulwood** on Sunday, July 30, 2017, by our Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins.

Our prayers of sympathy and comfort extend to God on behalf of **Mark and Jane Ivanick** and **Joseph Ivanick** and their family upon the passing of Mark's mother and Joseph's wife, **Anna Ivanick** into our Lord's arms on August 2, 2017.

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Emi Edelmann** on his 90th Birthday on August 20, 2017.

SHARON & JOE GUBLO ARE MOVING!

The Gublos will move to Brevard, North Carolina, during the week of August 20th. Sharon has been a log-time choir member, member of praise band, and facilitator of Young at Heart fellowship gatherings. We also have her to thank for helping to bring The Fireside Collective Band to perform in concert and during worship in 2016 and again this weekend. We will miss Sharon and Joe and pray for a safe move and blessed retirement years. We hope they and Fireside Collective will continue a close association with First Pres Elmira.

Patricia Kapusta at (607) 279-6849. Thank you!

THE FIRESIDE COLLECTIVE BAND CONCERT

Friday, August 11th

7:30 p.m. ~ Sanctuary

The acclaimed 2017-2018 Concert Series kicks-off with Jessie Iaquinto and The Fireside Collective Band. Jesse is the son of Sharon and Joe Gublo. From Asheville, NC, based bluegrass band Fireside Collective returns to the northeast in support of their second studio album "Life Between the Lines." The album features 12 original tracks from the award winning bluegrass band and spans the bluegrass spectrum from traditional to progressive.

Fireside Collective formed in early 2014 following the release of their debut album "Shadows and Dreams." Since then, the band has performed over 150 shows a year throughout the Southeast, Northeast, and Midwest. In 2016, the band was unanimously awarded 1st place in the prestigious Merlefest band competition. This year, they have been selected as an official showcase band at the International Bluegrass Music Association conference in Raleigh, NC.

A free will offering will be taken. Everyone is invited to an Ice Cream Social, with ice cream sundaes, following the concert.

THANK YOU to the team of people who were part of the Habitat for Humanity Build in Paterson, NJ, from August 2—5, 2017. The Habitat Team was **Mike & Betsey Crimmins, Dennis & Nancy Cooper, Harry & Barb Fitzsimmons, Desiree Rogers, Ron & Joanne Tunison.** Many thanks to the prayer partners, too.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday worship service on July 30....**Sylvie Farr**, Director of Chemung County Habitat for Humanity for giving the morning message...the **Chancel Choir** for singing...**Linda Proper** and **Pam Davis-Webb** for Greeting and Ushering... **Barb Squires** for assisting in the Sacrament of Baptism...**Jane Ivanick** for giving a Minute for Mission...**Carole Wereski** for Lay Reading...**Cynthia Haigh** for giving the Chancel Flowers, “The Chancel Flowers are given in celebration of my grandson, Donovan Croix Haigh, on his 2nd birthday!”...the **Stanley Family** for hosting the Fellowship Hour.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday worship service on August 6....The **Rev. Dr. Cindy Weaver** for leading and preaching...**Beth Bennett, Barb Cacciotti, Judy Gooding, Linda Proper, Tom** and **Betsy Stegbauer** for Greeting and Ushering...**Kate Assad** and **Sharon Gublo** as the soloists...**Andrew LaVere** for Lay Reading...Deacons, **Barb Fitzsimmons** and **Pam Mathes** for preparing the Communion elements...Elders, **Mike** and **Patricia Kapusta, Desiree Rogers, Joanne Tunison,** and **Connie LaVere** for serving Communion... “The Chancel Flowers are given to the Gory of

God in honor and gratitude of Betsey and Mike Crimmins from the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church.”...the **many people** from our congregation for hosting the luncheon to honor the Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins on her 25 years of service here at our church.

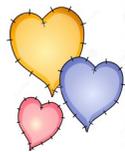
KITCHEN RENOVATION UPDATE

The Kitchen Renovation Committee is waiting for bids to come in from potential contractors. Please continue to pray for this project as we all wait together.

THE 2017 PATERSON, NJ HABITAT TEAM has returned, safe and sound. The experience was both heart warming and heart breaking, for where the group worked in Paterson, NJ is overwhelmed with dire need. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit dotted the whole trip with many God sightings. Sometime in the near future the group will be sharing the experience with you. Thank you for your prayers for the members of the team. Please continue to pray for Habitat workers and volunteers, as well as for the people of Paterson, NJ

HELP WANTED!

Our church is looking for Nursery Care Givers and a Nursery Director. These are paid positions. The time is Sunday mornings, approximately 9:30 to noon. If you or someone you know would like to apply, please send a resume and cover letter to the church. Anyone 14 years (with working papers) and older is welcomed to apply. Also, please help us get the word out about these open positions. Please mention it to someone you know who might be interested. Thank you.





FURNITURE SALE!

Friday, August 11 ~ 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, August 12 ~ 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
We are having a sale of NEW and USED
furniture, rugs, and art work!!



Are you downsizing? Here's an opportunity to donate furniture, rugs or art work. Items can be dropped off at church any time on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, August 7, 8 and 9, between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm. See Sue Weaver if you would like to have a tax donation slip. If you need to have an item picked up and brought to church for you, please call Pam Mathes (733-5796), Cynthia Malcovitch (259-0482) or the church office (734-1614). Pick up is available only on Wednesday, August 9 and Thursday, August 10.

Are you upsizing? Looking for something special for your home or cottage? Come and shop at the hours listed above. In addition, you may shop after worship on Sunday, August 13.

Can you help, please, please, please?? Help is needed loading and unloading a truck, and set up on Wednesday, August 9 and Thursday, August 10. Help is needed during the sale hours. Help is needed for clean up after the sale. What can you do to help? Please call Pam, Cynthia or the church office if you can help. Even an hour or two is a BIG help!

Here's what all of us can do: tell your friends about the sale! Post information about the sale on your Facebook page!

Proceeds from this sale support the ongoing ministries and mission of our very vital church!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday School will be starting up on **September 24th** and will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The children will leave after the children's sermon (approx. 10:45). They will remain with the group until 11:30 a.m. except on Communion Sundays when they will return to the sanctuary for communion.

We need 2 adult volunteers for each block of Sundays. The sign-up sheet is located in the missionary lobby on a clip board. The fun multi-age curriculum will be given to you so you can choose what you want to do

with the kids from the provided lessons. If you need help gathering supplies, please let the Youth Christian Education Committee know. Any questions, please call Stacia Kruckow at 734-3407. Thank you.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The members of the Adult Sunday School class have elected to take the month of August off. In addition the class will not meet on September 3, the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. The class will start up again on **Sunday, September 10th** at **9:30 a.m.** Hope to see you then.

**KNITTING4PEACE POD
AT WISNER PARK!**

Our Peace Pod will have a “booth” at Wisner Park on **Thursday, August 10th** from **10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** 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 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 Pam Mathes, Kelly Stewart or Sue Weaver. Hope to see you there!

VOLUNTEER AT THE FOOD BANK!

On **August 10th**, between **6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** members of our church family will resume providing volunteer support to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. We have committed to the Food Bank to work a 6 p.m. -8 p.m. shift the **2nd Thursday** of each month.

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 site at www.foodbankst.org

CAN YOU HELP??

We are looking for a large screen TV (48”) with a built in DVD player. Do you happen to have one that you no longer use? If so, would you be willing to donate it to the church? Please call the church office at 734-1614 if you have one. Thank you.

COLONY PARK BIBLE STUDY GROUP will meet on **Friday, August 11th**

from **1 - 2 p.m.** in the Community Room at Colony Park Apartments, 1210 West Water St., Elmira.

VOLLEYBALL!

You are invited to a pick-up volleyball game on **FRIDAY NIGHTS** from **6 - 9 p.m.** on the church’s lawn (weather permitting). The volleyball games are open to everyone, including members and friends of the church. The next volleyball game will be on **Friday, August 11th.** If you would like more information, please contact Shane Wingard at irishconsultingwny@gmail.com.

FIRST PRES WORKS will have their next meeting on **Tuesday, August 22nd** at **6:30 p.m.** You are invited!

HOST A FELLOWSHIP HOUR!

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway by the kitchen. Upcoming available dates are **August 20 & 27.** The church provides the beverages; you provide the eats. Keep it simple - pretzels, cheese and crackers, bagels cut in bite size pieces, cut up apples and things like that, are always a hit! Or you can gather up a couple of friends and host as a team!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, August 24th

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.

The **FIRST PRES WORKS** team will be having a **WORK DAY** at the church on

MINUTE FOR MISSION ~ July 30, 2017

By Jane Ivanick

Today's minute for mission is unique and exciting. Our church is the recipient of a large furniture donation and it is our hope to successfully have a furniture sale with the proceeds going to our church and its many missions.

We have many kinds of furniture such as outdoor furniture that is new; tables, bookcases, armoires, file cabinets, lamps, artwork, end tables, coffee tables and other things too-it is difficult to remember everything!

We are also accepting furniture if you wish to donate it. We will be picking up furniture on Wednesday, August 9, 2017. Please call the church office if you need furniture picked up.

Information on the furniture sale will be posted on the church's Facebook page and we ask you who have Facebook, to post it on your Facebook page. Please include the address of our Church and the dates of the sale. We will be putting up posters advertising this event, and we have flyers that people can put around town that advertise our sale and we ask you to tell your friends and neighbors about this terrific furniture sale. The sale days are Friday, August 11 from 4—7 p.m.; Saturday, August 12, from 9:30 a.m. -1 p.m. and for a couple of hours after church services on August 13th. We are also having a fabulous concert on August 11th which begins at 7:30 p.m. so we encourage people attending to come a bit early and shop in the Hoffman Great Room for furniture. It is a win-win opportunity! We will accept cash or checks.

Items not sold will continue to be in the Hoffman Great Room so that people can shop after the actual sale dates listed. Also, items will be put into the rummage sale in November. Some pieces will be put on Craig's list too.

We do need workers to help during these sales and also in terms of pick ups. We do have some younger people set to work on transporting furniture but we always need more hands. Some people would just be standing by the furniture and would put paid signs on the furniture after payment. The moving of the furniture to someone's house will be figured out.

What a wonderful way to get some lovely furniture and lamps and art work and at the same time help our church. Please consider participating and then we will truly have a Win/Win situation!!!

Saturday, August 26 from 9 a.m.—12 noon. Please come and join us in helping to keep our church beautiful!

SHEEP CART FOOD DONATIONS

We appreciate all the non-perishable food donations to the food pantry that is given to the North Presbyterian Church.



Please check the **use by/sell by dates** when donating food items. The food pantry cannot take any expired food. The food cart is located in the missionary lobby. Thank you.

COMING SOON! GRIEFSHARE! The first meeting will be **Monday, September 11.** Watch for details.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

“Count your blessings, not your problems.”



The Rev. Dr. Betsey R. Crimmins, Pastor

Felix Perez, Outreach & Service Specialist

Gary Tucker, Organist

Scott Kelley, Instrumental Director

Kelly Stewart, Church Secretary

Fred Betschen, Church Treasurer

Barbara Squires, Clerk of Session

Melissa Moore, Music Director

James Stewart, Sr., Church Sexton

Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary

Paul Kingsbury, Assistant Church Treasurer

Church Office (607) 734-1614

Visit our website: www.firstpreselmira.org