



# Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian Church

[www.firstpreselmira.org](http://www.firstpreselmira.org)

December 18, 2018

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## Please Remember!

**“FEED MY SHEEP”**

**December 23rd:**

**LOW SALT  
CANNED  
VEGETABLES**

**December 30th:  
CANNED FRUIT  
IN LIGHT SYRUP**

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*This past Sunday, the question that I was asked most often was: “What are all those boxes doing in Missionary Lobby?” The answer was not obvious. The cardboard boxes were plain – no writing on the outside – and they were sealed, so there was no peeking inside.*

*The boxes contained new light bulbs and new light fixtures for the church. In various places of the church, there are light bulbs that have burned out as well as fixtures that just are doing the job anymore. Once the project is completed, the difference will be quite noticeable.*

*Every time I answered someone’s question about the boxes, I couldn’t help but think to myself: we are coming up on the week of the darkest days of the year and at the same time, we are coming up on Christmas. In the middle of the days of the least amount of sunlight, not only are we getting more light inside the church building. We are also about to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. What timing!*

*Light helps us see things more clearly. Light protects us so that we don’t stumble and fall in the dark. Light warms us and protects us. Light points the way and guides us. Light can be beautiful and mysterious. Light promotes growth and life. Darkness cannot overcome even the smallest flicker of light. Light gives us hope.*

*We often think of Jesus as our true light. The light of Christ helps us see more clearly the truth of God’s power and love. (continued——>)*

*The light of Christ and of his wisdom guide us through life, and bring us everlasting life. The light of Jesus' love and mercy pierces the darkness of sin and injustice. His resurrection proved that the light of his love can not be overcome by evil.*

*As you look at the Christmas lights this season, think again about what Jesus as the Light of the World means to you. Look for the light of Christ, his love and power to shine in some spot of your life. Then think about the many ways that the light of his love and life can be reflected in and through your life.*

*Merry Christmas,  
Betsey*

\* \* \* \* \*

**THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**December 23, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Sacrament of Baptism**

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach in the sanctuary. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Harry Fitzsimmons, Lynn and Paul Hornbuckle, Dottie Tholfsen**. The Lay Reader will be **Rehana Stanley**. Lighting the Advent candles will be the **Giacchino Family**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by **Jill and Scott Kelley**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**  
**Monday, December 24, 2018 ~ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Brass Ensemble to play ~ 7:10 p.m.**  
**Christ is Born!**

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE**  
**Monday, December 24 ~ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Brass Ensemble to play ~ 7:10 p.m.**  
*Our Christmas Eve service will feature music by the Chancel Choir and Brass Ensemble, with the traditional candle lighting. Come to hear the timeless story of Jesus' birth.*



us in worship and preach in the sanctuary. The **Chancel Choir** will sing and the **Brass Ensemble** will play. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Rich Buchheimer and Marcia Metcalfe, Abigail Crimmins, Mike Crimmins, Rebecca Crimmins, Terry Horton, and Alida Schamel**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

**NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**December 30, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.**  
**First Sunday after Christmas Day**  
**Christmas Carol Hymn Sing**

**Tom Leslie** will lead us in worship in the sanctuary. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Jim Barr, Liz Holloway, Harry Fitzsimmons, and Debra Watts**. The Lay Reader will be **Norm Schamel**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by **Debra Watts and Rehana Stanley**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning worship service on December 16...**Stacia Kruckow, Sue Kruckow, Michelle and Xavier Giacchino** for Greeting and Ushering...the **Rich Buchheimer and Marcia Metcalfe** for lighting the Advent candles...**Brian Moore** for volunteering in the Nursery...**Harry and**



### CHURCH FAMILY



Our prayers of healing and comfort extend to God on behalf of **Warren McGee** who is a patient at the Arnot Ogden Hospital.

Our prayers of healing and comfort extend to God on behalf of **Barb Squires** who is a patient at the St. Joseph's Hospital.

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Stasha Sochacki** and **Phillip Eggers** on their marriage on Saturday, December 15, 2018, in our church, with the Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins as the officiant.

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Megan** and **Cory Swatling** on the upcoming Baptism of their infant son, Duke Benjamin Swatling. The Baptism will be on Sunday, December 23, 2018, in our church, during the Sunday morning worship service.

**Barb Fitzsimmons** for hosting Fellowship Hour.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the Christmas Cantata on Sunday morning, December 16. There were **24 Choral Singers**; Director, **Melissa Moore**; Narrator, **Rev. Tim Hawk**; Soloists, **Ron Tunison, Patti Tucker, Marsha Turner, Bill Ostrander, Kay Stewart**; Orchestra Members: **Jill Kelley**, flute; **Diana Groll**, clarinet; **Scott Kelley** and **Lindsey Burroughs**, trumpets; **Scott Becker** and **Jim Kittleson**, trombones; **Dale Palmatier** and **Bobby Frisk**, percussion; **Gary Tucker**, keyboard strings/piano.

#### OFFICE NEWS...

The church office will be closed on **December 25 & 26, 2018**, and **January 1, 2019**, for the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will be on vacation from December 25, 2018, through January 1, 2019. Please contact the Rev. Tim Hawk (378-9804) with any pastoral needs. Thank you.

#### THE GIVING TREE

You are invited to participate in the Giving Tree throughout Advent. The Youth Christian Education Committee has chosen Riverside and Beecher schools to be the recipients of our gifts. We have learned that the health offices of each school need certain items of clothes to pass out to children in need. We are collecting new or very gently used navy, gray or black sweatpants in sizes 4 through 16, new underwear in sizes 4 through 16 for boys and girls, and socks for girls who are in grades 3 through 6. At this time the schools do not need hats, scarves or mittens. The Giving Tree is located in the narthex area. There are boxes under the tree ready to accept your donations. Each year when we collect for the schools, the gratitude that we receive from the schools is heart-felt and hearty. Thank you for making a difference in our community!

#### IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

It's not too late to make a pledge for 2019. Every pledge and contribution is important. If you need a pledge card, please call the church

office at 734-1614. Please do your part and do what you can. Thank you.

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Join us for a common-sense approach to interpreting the book of Revelation. The **Adult Sunday School Class** will tackle Revelation under the teaching leadership of Tim Hawk. Join us each Sunday at **9:30 a.m.** in Room 10 for this exciting study!

### **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**Thursday, December 27, 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](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

### **SHEEP CART...**

#### **CAN YOU HELP, PLEASE?**

We are looking for a series of individuals who would be willing to take turns delivering the weekly collection of food to the food pantry at North Presbyterian Church for the upcoming months of **January thru June**. If you can help, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet located on a table in the missionary lobby. Thank you.

### **HOST A FELLOWSHIP HOUR!**

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway by the kitchen. Available upcoming Sundays are in the month of **January**. 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!

### **EXPRESSIONS OF CARE SOUP MINISTRY**



The soup freezer is restocked and full of soup. Please feel free to help yourself to the soup and deliver it to someone who needs a warm expression of care. Thank you.

### **LOOKING AHEAD... UNHANGING OF THE GREENS... Saturday, January 5, 2019**

at **10 a.m.** It is so much more than just putting away the Christmas decorations. It is fun!

### **CIRCLE OF WOMEN**

You are invited to join the Circle of Women for their next meeting on **Monday, January 7, 2019**, in the Hoffman Great Room. All women are invited.

### **NEW MEMBER INFORMATION SESSION**

**Sunday, January 13, 2019 ~ 9:30 a.m.**

Have you been thinking about becoming a member of First Pres? Are you curious about what it means to be a member? Do you have questions about First Pres that may or may not have to do with membership? Then come to the New Member Information Session on **Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Hoffman Great Room. There, you will find a continental breakfast and the answers to your questions. Coming to the informational session does not obligate you to join the church as a member. However, it can be an important step in helping you to decide to join. If you have questions, please speak with Chuck Stewart (739-7256) or Rev. Crimmins.

### **HABITAT NEWS!**

There is a **Habitat work date** on **January 12, 2019**, at 208 Allen Street. We will be putting the finishing touches on this house that was started last May at the Women's Build Day. Plan to paint! Please let Barb or Harry Fitzsimmons know by January 7th if you plan to attend. Work is from **8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** lunch is provided. Half day workers are also welcome.

**Habitat Night at the Enforcers- Friday, February 1, 2019**. Tickets are \$12.00 with \$2.00 of each ticket going to Chemung County Habitat for Humanity. Contact Barb or Harry by January 27th if you are interested in tickets. Contact info for both events: 607-562-8095 or b2fitz@yahoo.com

### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2019**

The book discussion group invites you to join them in reading Sacred Resistance: A Practical Guide to Christian Witness and Dissent by Ginger Gaines-Cirelli. This book is described as a vision for embodying God's way of justice as well as a compassion-filled, poetic and yet also practical book that addresses questions that are on the minds of many. These questions include what is the righteous way today and how do we speak that truth in love? When we see something wrong, how and when should we respond? How do we live as people of faith in this time? The book will be discussed on **Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 7 p.m.** in the Hoffman Great Room of the church. If you do not want to buy the book but want to read it, there is a copy available in the church narthex that can be signed out and borrowed. Otherwise if you would like Rev. Crimmins to order a copy for you, please speak to her.

### **SAVE THE DATE! HEALTH MEETS FOOD VALENTINE'S DINNER**

The next Lunch and Learn will take place following worship on **Sunday, February 10, 2019**. This event is for everyone. The Health Meets Food 6 week series will begin on Thursday, March 7 and run through Thursday, April 11. Stay tuned for more updates and registration.



### **AMAZON SMILE!**

Did you know that you can earn money for First Presbyterian Church just by shopping? Amazon.com has a program called Amazon Smile, which donates .5% of customers' purchases to charitable organizations. It costs nothing to participate, and all you need to do is go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), select First Presbyterian Church of Elmira as your charity, and then shop away. Just be sure to always shop from the smile.amazon homepage. Refer to the church website for instructions as to how to sign up for Amazon Smile. Thank you in advance for your support!

### **KNITTING4PEACE POD**

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](http://www.knitting4peace.org) or speak with Sue Weaver or Kelly Stewart. Hope to see you there!



## **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...**



*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called  
“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

~ Isaiah 9:6

The Rev. Dr. Betsey R. Crimmins, Pastor

Barbara Squires, Clerk of Session

Melissa Moore, Director of Music

Fred Betschen, Church Treasurer

Kelly Stewart, Church Secretary

Bella DiPofi, Child Care Giver

James Stewart, Sr., Church Sexton

Gary Tucker, Organist

Scott Kelley, Instrumental Director

Paul Kingsbury, Assistant Church Treasurer

Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary

Sami Swarouth, Child Care Giver

Church Office (607) 734-1614

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