



# Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian Church

www.firstpreselmira.org

December 4, 2018

## Inside this issue:

\* **A letter from the Pastor** 2

\* **Christmas Cookie Bake Sale** 3

\* **The Giving Tree** 4

\* **Upcoming Dinner and Concert** 5

\* **Family Fun Night** 6

\* **Food Donations Needed** 7

**Please Remember!**  
**“FEED MY SHEEP”**

December 9th:

**SOFT  
TOOTHBRUSHES  
and  
TOOTHPASTE**

### **PRE-CONCERT DINNER**

Thursday, December 6 ~ 6:00 p.m.  
Chicken & biscuits, sides and beverages.

### **CORNING AREA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND**

Thursday, December 6 ~ 7:30 p.m.

### **YANKEE TRADER CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Saturday, December 8 ~ 6 p.m.

### **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DURING WORSHIP**

Sunday, December 9 ~ 10:30 a.m.

You are invited to come on Sunday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m. and experience the telling of the Christmas story. Advent gives us time to think about Jesus' first coming, and how he will come as King a second time. But every day, we can welcome him into our lives. We will explore what it means to prepare for Jesus.

### **FAMILY FUN NIGHT!**

Friday, December 14 ~ 6 p.m.

### **LET THERE BE CHRISTMAS! A CANTATA BY JOSEPH MARTIN**

Sunday, December 16 ~ 10:30 a.m.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE**

Monday, December 24 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Brass Ensemble to play ~ 7:10 p.m.

*Music by Chancel Choir and Brass Ensemble*

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*Today, December 4, is exactly 21 days before Christmas. Yes, Christmas is in three weeks. I find that days 21 through day 7 before Christmas to be the most hectic. These are days filled with special events, parties, and gift buying or making. It is easy to get so caught up in all that we think we must do as well as in all that clamors for our attention that we wonder, "Where's Christ in all of this?"*

*That's the time to stop, be quiet, think and pray, even just for a moment. Before squeezing another event onto the calendar or another thing on our to-do list, it is wise to pause and pray for discernment, asking God what God would have us do and then wait for an answer. We can ask ourselves: "Will doing this bring honor to God and Jesus, and love to my neighbor?" Indeed, sometimes we have to be intentional about warding off the temptation to be selfish that is promoted by so much around us. Sometimes we have to be intentional about making sure that our actions are reflecting our priority to love Jesus and love one another.*

*Remember, there's no deal greater than the gift of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. You don't even have to wait in line for it! Simple joys, giving, praying, and sharing keep us connected to the real meaning of Christmas.*

*Love and peace, Betsey*

### **THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE**

**December 9, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Christmas Pageant**

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship in the sanctuary. The children and youth of the church will perform the Christmas Pageant. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Carol Cady, Mark and Jane Ivanick, and Carole Wereski**. The Lay Reader will be **Tim Hawk**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Ron and Joanne Tunison**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the **Cummings Family**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

### **THE AMAZING STORY OF CHRISTMAS ~ Sunday, December 9th**

The Christian Education Committee invites all children, youth, and those who are

young at heart to help us tell The Amazing Story of Christmas during Sunday Worship on Sunday, December 9, 2018. Taking part in this presentation is easy – Just come to church by **10:00 a.m.** on that Sunday and we will let you know what you need to do. That's it, no prior experience or rehearsal attendance is required. All we ask is that you come with a desire to bring the story of our Savior's birth to life. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Crimmins at (607) 734-6929.

### **NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE**

**December 16, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**Christmas Cantata**

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship in the sanctuary. The Cantata will be performed to the Glory of God by the choir and with an instrumental ensemble. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Stacia**



### CHURCH FAMILY



A memorial service for **Charles “Mud” Grund** will be held on Friday, December 7, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in our church sanctuary. A luncheon will follow in the Hoffman Great Room.

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

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

Our prayers of healing and comfort extend to God on behalf of **Deb Weigel** who is a patient at the Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, PA.

Our prayers of sympathy and comfort extend to God on behalf of the family and friends of **Debra Weigel** whose father, John Wheeler, went to be with our Lord on Tuesday, October 30, 2018.

**Kruckow, Sue Kruckow, Michelle and Xavier Giacchino.** The Lay Reader will be **Mike Stanley.** The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by **Barb** and **Harry Fitzsimmons.** Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

#### CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKE SALE

Leave your Christmas cookie baking to us! The team of twelve people going to Puerto Rico in February are having a Christmas Cookie Bake Sale immediately after worship on **Sunday, December 16th.** On your way out of church that Sunday, stop by one of their tables set up in Missionary Lobby (which is the lobby right outside the Great Room) and make your selection. All proceeds will be used to buy rebuilding supplies in Lares, Puerto Rico.

#### THE COLORS OF ADVENT

If someone asked you what the liturgical colors of Advent are, what would you say? Red and green? Purple? Blue? Or What? If you said purple and blue, you’d be correct.

Traditionally, purple is the color for Advent. Purple signifies repentance and points

us to the idea that as we repent of our sins, we are then making room for Jesus to be born anew in our hearts. Purple is also the color of kings, and of course, as God’s Son, we think of Jesus as king of our lives.

In more recent years, blue has also become the color of Advent. Blue represents hope and expectation, like the deep blue that the sky turns just before the dawn breaks. When we see that deep blue, we expect and hope for dawn, in the same way that in Advent we live in expectation and hope as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. Blue is also associated with Mary, the mother of Jesus and therefore, it helps us remember her special role.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning worship service on December 2...the **Chancel Choir** for singing...**Barb Cacciotti, Alida Schamel, Dennis and Nancy Cooper** for Greeting and Ushering...**Jesse Boatman** for lighting the Advent candle...**Mike Stanley** for giving the Minute for Mission...**Harry Fitzsimmons** for Lay Reading...Deacons, **Carole Wereski, Mike Crimmins,** and **Linda Proper** for preparing the Communion...Elders, **Mike**

**Mitchell, Desiree Rogers, John Stanley,** and **Rehana Stanley** for serving the Communion...**Rich Buchheimer** and **Marcia Metcalfe** for giving the Chancel Flowers, "The Chancel Flowers are given in loving memory of Fenton and Hazel Gustafson, and Paul and Marian Buchheimer."

**THANK YOU** to **everyone** who helped out with the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 1, 2018.

**THANK YOU** to our **30 Trolley Christmas singers!** We brought God's love and Christian fellowship to the residents of Chemung County Nursing Facility, Elcor and Appleridge. Everyone joined in and sang along with us. We shared smiles and love. Thank you to **Gary Tucker** for playing piano, **Daniel Cummings** for playing the bongo drums, and our **solo performers.** Thank you to the **Deacons** and the **Hospitality Committees** for their generous support. Come join us in February for this wonderful, fun experience! ~ Tom and Eileen Leslie

#### **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 the parlor area for this exciting study!

#### **NEW MEMBER INFORMATION SESSION**

**Sunday, January 13th ~ 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



## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**DECEMBER 16 ~ 10:30 A.M. ~ IN THE SANCTUARY**

We are excited to announce our 2018 Christmas Cantata will be "Let There Be Christmas" by Joseph M. Martin. This service in song is a joyous celebration of hope and peace for the Christmas season. This Cantata is only three years old. It is complete with carols, narration, congregational participation, original anthems, choir and an eight-piece orchestra. With jubilant songs of praise to reflective carols of peace, this Cantata is sure to bring the true spirit and meaning of Christmas to you. If you would like to sing with us, please contact the church office at 734-1614. In any event, mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this!

**THE NURSERY STAFF** invites all children and youth of the church (who do not wish to hear the Cantata) to join them in Room 2 during the Christmas Cantata which is being performed during worship on December 16<sup>th</sup>. During the Cantata, the children and youth will be frosting cookies and making pinecone bird feeders.

decide to join. If you have questions, please speak with Chuck Stewart (739-7256) or Rev. Crimmins.

### **CIRCLE OF WOMEN GROUP HOLIDAY LUNCH**

You are invited to join the Circle of Women for a holiday lunch on **Monday, December 17th** at the Holiday Inn. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Pat Wald at 734-0111. Thank you.

### **BOOK DISCUSSION**

**Refugee by Alan Gratz  
December 5, 2018 ~ 7 p.m.**

A New York Times bestseller, Refugee is the story of three different refugee children and their families: Josef is a Jewish boy living in Nazi Germany in the 1930's. Isabel is a Cuban girl living in the mid- 1990's. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in the year 2015. This action packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless such as courage, survival and the quest for home. You are invited to join in reading and then discussing this page-

turner of a novel. If you have trouble finding a copy of the book, please speak to Rev. Crimmins.

### **CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:00 p.m.**

There will be a pre-concert Chicken and Biscuits Dinner with sides, dessert, and beverages starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Hoffman Great Room. Take-out is available from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$7 for children under 12 years. Preordering for all tickets is appreciated. Tickets are available for purchase in the church office.



**UPCOMING CONCERT!  
CORNING AREA  
COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND  
Thursday, December 6, 2018  
7:30 p.m. ~ in the Sanctuary  
No admission cost.**

A free-will offering will be accepted.

### **JUST A REMINDER....**

If you have any receipts for expenses related to church activities, such as donations for the fundraisers, etc., if you turn the receipts in to Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary, you may receive credit on your giving statement. Thank you.

### **29th ANNUAL YANKEE TRADER CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

**Saturday, December 8th ~ 6 p.m.**

Young at Heart is the name for the fellowship and fun activities for the adults of our church aged 21 and over.

The Yankee Trader Party is pure fun tucked into a very busy season—a chance to relax and enjoy each other's company. You are invited!



The party will be held at the home of Mark and Jane Ivanick in Elmira, on **Saturday, December 8th at 6 p.m.** Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres and beverage to share. Also, please bring a wrapped gift that costs no more than \$12, one per adult. Because parking is limited at the Ivanick's house, guests will meet 6 p.m. at Ernie Davis School on Hoffman Street. Hope you will join us!

### **DECEMBER FAMILY FUN NIGHT!**

The December Family Fun Night will be held on **Friday, December 14th, from 6-8 pm.** Please take note of the change of date.

Join us for our monthly Friday Family Fun Night for some old-fashioned games, fun conversation and a couple of videos. Yummy taste treats will be included. And be sure to invite some friends.

Family Fun Nights are free and open to

the public. The Hospitality Committee hosts a series of Family Fun Nights throughout the year, which will feature food, refreshments and varied activities each month, including games, movies and, of course, fun. For more information or to RSVP (for planning purposes), please call Mike Kapusta at 989-984-7015. Hope to see you there

### **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)

### **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!

### **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, 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!

**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.

**CHANCEL FLOWER CHART 2019**

The new 2019 Chancel Flower Chart is now posted on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the kitchen. Please feel free to sign-up for giving the Sunday Chancel Flowers. 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.

**HOST A FELLOWSHIP HOUR!**

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway by the kitchen. The next upcoming available date is **December 30th**. 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!

**NEW HEARING ASSISTANT DEVICES  
ARE AVAILABLE**

Don't miss a word of any worship service! Try our new hearing assistant devices. These wireless receivers are now available and they are easy to use. Ask any usher if you'd like to try one. They can show you how to use one of the receivers.

**FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED!**

Our church has a food/sheep cart in our Missionary Lobby and the donated food items are then given to the North Presbyterian Church Food Pantry (College Ave). At this time, the shelves are very bare.



Here is what the North Pres Food Pantry needs: **whole wheat pasta, spaghetti sauce, low-salt canned vegetables, canned fruit in light syrup, whole grain cereals, low-sodium canned beans, toilet paper, toothpaste, soft toothbrushes, shampoo**, or any food donations. Please put your food donations in our sheep cart, and we will take it over to North Pres. Thank you in advance for what you can give to help feed the hungry in our area.

**LAY READERS**

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



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



*“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world,  
and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.”*

~ Norman Vincent Peale

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 Swarhout, Child Care Giver

Church Office (607) 734-1614

Visit our website: [www.firstpreselmira.org](http://www.firstpreselmira.org)