



# Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian  
Church  
www.firstpreselmira.org

December 5, 2017

## Inside this issue:

\* **A Message** 2  
**from the Pastor**

\* **The Colors of** 3  
**Advent**

\* **Duo** 4  
**Montagnard in**  
**Concert**

\* **Knitting4Peace** 4  
**Dedication**  
**Sunday**

\* **Trolley** 5  
**Sunday!**

\* **Volunteer at** 5  
**the Food Bank**

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WORSHIP

Sunday, December 17 ~ 10:30 a.m.

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24 ~ 10:30 a.m.

*Music by Chancel Choir and Brass Ensemble*

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

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

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 31 ~ 10:30 a.m.

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*“Getting Ready to Welcome Jesus”*

You are invited to come on **Sunday, December 17** 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 as we look at how Mary got ready for Jesus’ birth.

### **YOU ARE INVITED!**

You are invited to join the Chancel Choir for Advent and Christmas Eve! Wouldn’t you love to sing the music of the season? Sure you would! And the Chancel Choir would love to have you join them. Choir rehearsals are at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays and 7:15 p.m. on Thursdays. Any questions, please speak to Melissa Moore (607) 426-8208.

### Please Remember!

**“FEED MY SHEEP”**

**December 10th:**

**CANNED PASTAS**

**&**

**PORK-N-BEANS**

**&**

**PLASTIC  
GROCERY BAGS**

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*The dinner to raise funds to help with the recovery effort in Puerto Rico through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance was, in my opinion, a huge success. Sure, the dinner itself raised about \$2,000. Sure, we served approximately 150 people delicious and lovingly prepared food. Please join me in offering many thanks to our chefs, John Stanley and Norm Schamel, who, once again, made the kitchen work in spite of its limitations.*

*In case you missed it, a huge part of the dinner was the connections made with people in our community and beyond. You all did a marvelous job in selling tickets to people who are not members of our church. At one point, I looked out over the Hoffman Great Room to see that the majority of people seated were not church members. That was huge in giving people not just a taste of good food, but also a taste of our church at work offering hospitality and engaged in mission.*

*WENY came and did a story on our dinner. That was huge because of all the media outlets that Felix Perez has been trying to get to cover our events, WENY has been the one that has not responded, until Friday.*

*As I traveled around town Saturday, running errands, etc., I had a couple of people say to me, "I heard about your dinner to raise funds to support Puerto Rico relief. I wish I had known about it. I would have come. How can I make a donation now?" And of course, I am quick to tell them how they can contribute. People want to help. Let's not underestimate the importance of giving people an effective outlet for their desire to help.*

*The news from Puerto Rico continues to describe a dire situation. The Synod of the Northeast is also working closely with the Synod and Presbyteries of Puerto Rico, developing partnerships to aid in the long-term recovery. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided help; however, volunteer work groups cannot be sent until more of the infrastructure gets rebuilt. In the meantime, here's something all of us can do: pray.*

*With prayers, Betsey*

**THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE**

**December 10, 2017 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

**Knitting4Peace Dedication Sunday**

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach. The **Chancel Choir** will sing and the **Bell Choir** will play. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Dennis** and **Nancy Cooper, Harry Fitzsimmons, and Barb Squires**. The Lay Reader will be **Fred Betschen**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Jay, Terry, and Austin Horton**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the

**Jay, Terry, and Austin Horton**. Childcare will be available. All are welcome to attend!

**NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE**

**December 17, 2017 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**Christmas Pageant Sunday**

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Donna Hill, Chuck Stewart, John and Judy Arikian**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Jay, Terry, and Austin Horton**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the



### CHURCH FAMILY



Our prayers of comfort and sympathy extend to God on behalf of **Jesse Boatman** and her family on the passing of her mother, Sally Boatman. Sally went to be with our Lord on Wednesday, November 29, 2017.

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Polly Sullivan** on her 90th birthday on November 28th, **June Reenan** on her 94th birthday on December 10th, and **Alice Smith** on her 92nd birthday on December 10th. A very Happy Birthday to each of you!!

**Jay, Terry, and Austin Horton.** Childcare will be available. All are welcome to attend!

**OFFICE NEWS...**the church office will be CLOSED on Monday, December 25th in observance of Christmas Day.

**THANK YOU** to all the **volunteers** who helped with the Puerto Rico Relief Fundraiser Dinner on Friday, December 1, 2017. Many thanks to all who promoted the event, set-up and clean-up, decorated, cooked and served the food. A great time was had by all.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the Sunday worship service on December 3rd...the **Chancel Choir** for singing...**Barb Cacciotti, Jane Ivanick, Ron Rehner,** and **Alida Schamel** for Greeting and Ushering...**Patti Tucker** and **Liam Vergason** for lighting the Advent Candle...**Stacia Kruckow** for giving a Minute for Mission...**Liz Holloway** for Lay Reading...**Stacia Kruckow** for leading the Sunday School during worship...Deacons, **Barb Cacciotti, Pam Mathes,** and **Mike Crimmins** for preparing the Communion elements...Elders, **Mark Ivanick, John Stanley, Joanne Tunison, Mike** and **Rehana Stanley** for serving the

Communion elements...**Pam Mathes** for hosting the Fellowship Hour...**Ron** and **Joanne Tunison** for giving the Chancel Flowers, "The Chancel Flowers are given in loving memory of Edna and Walt Tunison and Rick Shaw."

### 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.



## **DUO MONTAGNARD IN CONCERT!**

**December 8, 2017 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

Guitarist Matthew Slotkin and saxophonist Joseph Murphy will combine their world class talents to produce a magical concert at 7:30 pm on Friday, December 8 in the sanctuary of our church. Joseph Murphy is Saxophone Professor, Department Chair and Director of Bands at Mansfield University. Matthew Slotkin is an acclaimed performer, teacher and scholar, having appeared in venues on six continents. Together they have performed over 300 concerts in all 50 states, 20 countries and on all 6 continents. Festival performances include the Chautauqua Institution, Scandinavian Saxophone Festival, and North-West University New Music Week in South Africa. Their December 8 concert will feature works by contemporary composers. There will be a free-will offering taken. A reception, hosted by the Hospitality Committee, will follow the concert. You are invited!

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Adult Sunday School class invites you to join them at **9:30 a.m.** in the parlor area. The class will be discussing the Gospel of Mark. Please come and join us!

### **ADULT BIBLE GROUP**

#### **"BIBLE BASICS: ABOUT GOD"**

"Bible Basics" is a Bible group for adults who desire to deepen their understanding of God, the Bible, and living the Christian life. This series takes place **Sundays at 9:30 a.m.** from now through December 10. "Bible Basics: About God" explores the Trinity, the divinity of Jesus, and the humanity of Jesus as Christmas approaches. Adults are welcome to join any or all gatherings. For more information, please contact the church office or Patricia Kapusta at (607) 279-6849 or [patricia.kapusta@outlook.com](mailto:patricia.kapusta@outlook.com).

There will be a **RUMMAGE SALE FOLLOW-UP MEETING** on Thursday, **December 7<sup>th</sup>** at 1 p.m. at the church.

### **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

Please join us on **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** for Hanging of the Greens from **10 a.m.-1 p.m.** Lunch will be provided. Everyone is invited to help prepare our church for the Christmas season. All ages welcome!

**THE HOLIDAY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT** for Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. has been CANCELLED.

### **KNITTING4PEACE POD DEDICATION SUNDAY!**

There will be a Dedication Sunday of all Knitting4Peace items on Sunday, **December 10<sup>th</sup>** at the **10:30 a.m.** worship service. Please bring all of your K4P handmade items to a meeting or drop them off at the church office, before December 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you. The K4P Pod meets every **Tuesday** from **3 – 4:30 p.m.** in the Genesis room. Please come and join us to knit and/or crochet. Right now we are in need of Peace Pal dolls, mittens and baby blankets (at least 24" length & width). Every stitch is a prayer for peace.



## **TROLLEY SUNDAY!**

**December 10, 2017**



Come join us in spreading Christmas cheer by caroling, having fun and fellowship beginning at **12:15 p.m.** and returning to church about 4:00 p.m. We will be visiting Elcor, Appleridge and Woodbrook. Lunch will be provided at 11:30 prior to leaving and the bus transportation is provided. Any questions, please contact Eileen or Tom Leslie at 796-5995. Hope to see you then.

## **SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE**

**Sunday, December 10th ~ 1 p.m.**

**Soup Lunch—12 noon**

No matter the time of year, we still miss our loved ones who now live eternally with God. With Christmas approaching, we remember how God promises to keep them safe. That's why we have scheduled a "Service of Comfort and Hope" for Sunday, December 10th at the church. There will be a light soup lunch at 12 noon in the Hoffman Great Room. Everyone is invited to this special service who have lost a loved one recently or long ago.

**GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP...**The last meeting is on **Monday, December 11th** from **6 – 8 p.m.** in the parlor.

## **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 **December 14th**. 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](http://www.foodbankst.org)

## **28th ANNUAL YANKEE TRADER CHRISTMAS PARTY!**

**Saturday, December 16th ~ 6:00 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, starting at 6:00 p.m. on **Saturday, December 16th**. Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvres and a beverage to share. Also, please bring a wrapped gift that costs no more than \$12, one per adult. Due to limited parking at the Ivanick's house, guests are to meet at 6:00 p.m. at Ernie Davis Academy (EFA). Park along the east side of the building near the main entrance. Latecomers drive to the house at 239 Hillcrest Rd, Elmira.

The **CIRCLE OF WOMEN** will have their next meeting on **Monday, December 18th** at **10 a.m.** in the Hoffman Great Room. All women are welcome to come.

## **RUMMAGE SALE**

In case you are wondering, the net profit from the Rummage Sale is \$6,227.65. Thank you one and all, for making this the biggest sale yet!





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



*“Wouldn’t life be worth the living,  
wouldn’t dreams be coming true,  
if we kept the Christmas spirit,  
all the whole year through.”*

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, Director of Music

James Stewart, Sr., Church Sexton

Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary

Paul Kingsbury, Assistant Church Treasurer

Church Office (607) 734-1614

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