



Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian Church
www.firstpreselmira.org

January 9, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

In many circles, January is the month of making plans.

I remember fondly that my Dad would spend New Years Day studying the seed catalog, planning the garden and then preparing a seed order accordingly. Many businesses take inventory in January and then plan orders for supplies and products for the coming season or year. Individuals and families often start planning their spring and summer vacations in January. Churches are now planning for Lent and Easter as well as spring and summer mission endeavors. Students and teachers are planning and preparing for the new semester that starts in January. Athletes are planning their spring work out regimen. Maple syrup producers are in full swing, planning for this year's season. Many people are planning how they will live up to their new years resolutions.

There's an old joke out there that goes like this: Want to make God laugh? Then tell God your plans. Nevertheless, we plan and we need to plan. Scripture say a lot more about planning. Here are a few passages:

"I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'" (Jeremiah 29:11)

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." (Proverbs 16:3)

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." (Proverbs 19:21)

"And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought." (I Chronicles 28:9)

"The heart of a person plans a way, but the Lord establishes the steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

(continued —>)

Inside this issue:

*** Church Office News 2**

*** Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering 3**

*** Christmas Items Donation 4**

*** Upcoming Concert! 4**

*** Pres Clippings Schedule 5**

*** Script Card Order Form 5**

Please Remember!

"FEED MY SHEEP"

January 14th:

BATH SOAP

& TOOTHPASTE

& SOFT TOOTHBRUSHES

Sure, it is good to plan ahead. Remember the proverbs about ants? “ Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways and be wise. (Proverbs 6:6) “Ants are not strong people but they prepare their food in the summer.” (Proverbs 30:25) Indeed, scriptures indicate that planning is wise. For example: “The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hast comes only to poverty.” (Proverbs 21:5) So it’s not that the Bible counsels against planning; it’s that the Bible counsels against planning without giving a thought to God.

As you are making plans, do you lift them up to God in prayer, asking for God’s guidance? Do you remember to ask God to help you make plans that are in accordance with God’s purposes?

*With prayers for you as you plan,
Betsey*

* * * * *

THIS WEEK’S SUNDAY SERVICE

January 14, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Linda Proper, Ron Rehner, Mike and Rehana Stanley**. The Lay Reader will be **Norm Schamel**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Mike and Betsey Crimmins**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by **Norm and Alida Schamel**. All are welcome to attend!



NEXT WEEK’S SUNDAY SERVICE

January 21, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Rich Buchheimer and Marcia Metcalfe, Dennis and Nancy Cooper**. The Lay Reader will be **Jane Ivanick**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Tom and Betsy Stegbauer**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2018, in observance of the Birthday of Martin Luther King. Regular church office hours of 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. will resume on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

If you need to contact Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary, her new office hours are **Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** If you need to speak to Sue, please call the church office at 734-1614. Thank you.

THANK YOU to **everyone** who helped with the Unhanging of the Greens on Saturday, January 6, 2018.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning worship service on January 7th...**The Rev. Dr. Cindy Weaver** for leading the worship and preaching...the **Chancel Choir** and the **Top Shelf Singers** for singing...**Barb Cacciotti, Jane Ivanick, Sue Kruckow, and Nan Peterson** for Greeting and Ushering...**Bill Ostrander** for Lay Reading...Deacons, **Barb Cacciotti and Nan Peterson** for preparing the Communion elements...Elders **Stacia Kruckow, Greg Lamb, Connie LaVere, Marcia Metcalfe, Kera Stanley,**



CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE!

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Dr. Sarah Crimmins** and **Dr. Doug Orbaker** on the birth of their new baby daughter, **Julia Grace Orbaker**, born on December 27, 2017, at 6:48 p.m. Julia weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and 19 1/4 inches long. She joins her big sister, Elise Orbaker. Proud grandparents are **Mike** and **Betsey**



Crimmins.

and **Rehana Stanley** for serving the Communion elements...**Rich Buchheimer** and **Marcia Metcalfe** for giving the Chancel Flowers, "The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of our parents."...**Carole Wereski** for hosting the Fellowship Hour.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CHURCHWIDE GATHERING

Presbyterian Women's next Churchwide Gathering will be held August 2-5, 2018 in Louisville, Kentucky! You are invited! "Arise, shine, your light has come!" (based on Isaiah 60:1) is the theme for the Gathering. Held every three years, PW's Churchwide Gathering is an amazing opportunity. Participants enjoy workshops, tours, forums, resource gathering, plenary sessions with inspiring speakers, worship and more. If you are looking for inspiration for your faith journey, please seriously consider going to this event. For further information on all the events and workshops associated with the Gathering, check out the registration booklet that is in the church office or visit www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering. Registration opens on January 15, 2018

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School class invites you to join them at **9:30 a.m.** in the parlor area on **Sunday, January 14th** to discuss the

Gospel of Mark, chapter 6. Please come and bring your bible and join us!

KITCHEN RENOVATION

The kitchen is currently being remodeled and will continue through the month of **January** (or beyond). The kitchen will not be available for use during this time. Thank you.

A NEW PLACE FOR RECYCLING

If you are bringing your recycling items to the church, please put your recyclables (metal items, deposit bottles, and plastic items) in the tan colored recycling shed, located outside near the blue dumpster bins. Metal recycling includes: tin cans, aluminum foil, aluminum pans and other metal objects. Please make sure all items for recycling are thoroughly washed out. Please remove paper labels from the metal cans. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS DONATION

Epiphany was on January 6th and marks the traditional end to the Christmas season. As you put away your Christmas decorations, please give a thought to the annual Rummage Sale's Christmas Boutique. We welcome decorations, dishes, ornaments, or decorative lights that you no longer want or need. Just bring them to the church and leave them in the marked box

located in Missionary Lobby. For larger donations, call Anne Lamb, 562-3134. Many thanks and Merry Christmas 2018.

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Greg Lamb, Chairperson

At this point we are in the midst of wrapping up this year's campaign. There are still a handful of people who have historically pledged, but as of yet not filled in their pledge card and sent it in. I know this is a busy time, however, our church needs to know where we financially stand as we head into the new fiscal year. Our church needs your support. So if you can and do intend to pledge, please get your pledges into the church office to Sue Weaver as quickly as possible. Merry Christmas and Thank you. ~ Greg Lamb

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 January 11, 2018. 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

CIRCLE OF WOMEN LUNCHEON

All women are invited to join the Circle of Women for a luncheon on Monday, January 15, 2018, at the downtown Holiday Inn. Please RSVP to Pat Wald at 734-0111 so she may reserve a spot for you for the luncheon. Thank you.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, January 25, 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.

HABITAT BUILD

Thank you for participating in Habitat builds this past year. I hope you can join us on January 27, 2018. To sign up or if you have any questions, please contact Barb Fitzsimmons (607) 562-8095.



UPCOMING CONCERT! SOUTHERN TIER ALL STAR JAZZ BAND CONCERT

Friday, February 9, 2018

7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The longest running dance band in Central New York State, the Southern Tier All-Star Jazz Band has been together since 1983. Big band sound of Ellington, Basie, Dorsey and more. There will be a dinner prior to the concert.

KNITTING4PEACE POD

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.

PRES CLIPPINGS SCHEDULE

Upcoming Pres Clippings will be published on **Tuesdays, January 23, February 6, 20 & 27.** There will be NO Pres Clippings published on January 16, 30, and February 13. Please submit any articles to: **bcpreselem@stny.rr.com**, by 10 a.m. on the Monday of the week that Pres Clippings is to be published. Thank you.

2018 FLOWER CHART

The 2018 Chancel Flower Chart is now posted on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the kitchen. You are welcome to sign up for your favorite date(s) when you chose to provide the Chancel Flowers for worship. 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 “CARRY-IN & CARRY-OUT”

Due to the upcoming kitchen remodeling, the Fellowship Hour for the month of January 2018 will be a “carry-in & carry-out” system. The sign-up sheet for the month of January is on the bulletin board in the hallway by the kitchen. Coffee will be the only beverage and provided by the church. Thank you.

2018 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

The 2018 Pledge Envelopes are now available to those who requested them. The envelopes are located on a table in the Narthex area, labeled with your name. There are a few extra boxes of pledge envelopes for anyone who wants to request a box. If you

would like a box of pledge envelopes, please contact Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary, in the office at 734-1614.

SCRIP CARD ORDER FORM

Do you have a birthday celebration coming up? Will you be making a purchase from Sears, Lowes or one of the many stores on our list? Then please consider paying with a Scrip Card. Order forms are in the narthex area. Please submit your order form to the office. We will call or email you when your cards are in. Can't wait for a card? We have an inventory of cards available now from the following stores and restaurants: Amazon, Bed Bath & Beyond, Dunkin Donuts, Family Video, Panera Restaurant, Speedway, Starbucks, Subway, Target, Walmart and Weis. Please see Sue Weaver or call the church office (734-1614) to purchase any of the cards that we have on hand right now. Scrip orders are as easy as 1-2-3!

WHAT'S IN A NAME TAG?

A name tag isn't just a sticker. It is a statement. Instead of being a nameless statistic or just another face in the crowd, wearing a nametag gives you an immediate personal identity. A nametag is a conversation starter. The hardest part of a conversation often is getting it started. The easiest way to begin a conversation is with someone's name. So what's in a name tag? Lots of power! Name tags contain identity and invite us to do what we are wired up to do which is to connect with one another. Let's all wear our name tags! If you don't have a name tag, please speak to Rev. Crimmins or send an email to Kelly Stewart, Church Secretary, at kespreselem@stny.rr.com.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

*“What we say and how we say it,
our every word and gesture,
ought to express God’s compassion,
tenderness and forgiveness for all.”*

~ Pope Francis

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

Church Office (607) 734-1614

Visit our website: www.firstpreselmira.org