

# Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian Church

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

March 6, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

On February 28, Session had a busy, productive meeting. I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you a few of the highlights of that meeting – in no particular order.

“Moose on the Loose” is the theme chosen for our 2018 Vacation Bible School, which will be the week of June 25-29, 2018. The theme highlights camping and Bible stories as the means to teach children about Jesus, faith, love and forgiveness. Doesn't that sound like fun?

The Session considered and approved a grant application for funds from Geneva Presbytery to support a program at our church called Healthy Kitchens. The application was prepared by the Mission Committee. The program would be offered as a collaboration among members of our church and medical and nutritional staff from Arnot Ogden Hospital. The goal is to spread nutrition education, promote healthy lifestyles, and teach basic cooking skills for both members of our church as well as all sorts of people in our community. The grant application is aimed at supporting the ideas for use of the newly renovated kitchen that have consistently been bubbling up from within the congregation for over a year: cooking classes that not only build cooking skills, but also promote healthy eating and fellowship for a variety of groups of people in our church and community.

Various requests for the use of the building continue to come before Session. At the February meeting, Session approved the request by Soccer Shots (a soccer training program for 3 to 5 year olds) to use our front lawn for classes each Wednesday, 11:40 am to 12:30 pm beginning on April 11. Also Session has approved the request of the Chemung County Board of Elections to use the Hoffman Great Room as a voting site beginning with the June, 2018 primary. (Yes, voting is back at First Pres!)

Felix Perez, our Outreach and Service Specialist, reported that as a result of his meetings with Shane Wingard of Irish Consulting Services, Shane is willing to provide

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### Please Remember!

“FEED MY SHEEP”

March 11th:

CANNED FRUITS  
&  
CANNED  
VEGETABLES  
&  
APPLESAUCE

Facebook training as well as training on computer security and email management. Watch for coming details.

Session learned that Rev. Crimmins, Jim Stewart (Church Sexton) and Deacon Nan Peterson attended the Active Shooter Training put on by the Chemung County Sheriff's Department. Because the three of us have been trained and now have the materials used by the Sheriff's Department in the training, Session approved having those of us who attended now train Elders, Deacons, staff and other members of the congregation. The training focuses on what to do to prevent an active shooter situation, and what to do if, God forbid, there ever is an active shooter situation.

Session is more than just a board of directors for a non-profit organization. In addition to the usual fiduciary, legal and other responsibilities common for a board of directors of a non-profit, Session must make sure that the Word of God is preached, the Sacraments are administered properly, care of the members and friends of the congregation is exercised, and the faith and discipleship of members and friends of the church are nurtured. It is easy to get caught up in what I call the "housekeeping" matters of a church and lose sight of the mission and ministry responsibilities. However, our Session is quite active in carrying out its mission and ministry responsibilities as well as working toward the goals of increasing participation in the life of this church and increasing our partnerships.

The current members of Session are: Pat Holmstrom, Mark Ivanick, Mike Kapusta, Patricia Kapusta, Stacia Kruckow, Greg Lamb, Connie LaVere, Marcia Metcalfe, Mike Mitchell, Desiree Rogers, Kera Stanley, John Stanley, Mike Stanley, Rehana Stanley, Chuck Stewart, and Joanne Tunison. Barb Squires serves as Clerk of Session. You are welcomed to contact any one of these persons with your ideas, thoughts, concerns, suggestions and questions.

Love and peace, Betsey

\* \* \* \* \*

**SPRING AHEAD!  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

Please remember! Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday March 11th**, at **2 a.m.** Please turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 10th.

**THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE  
March 11, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday in Lent**

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be

**Pat Holmstrom, Warren McGee, Dottie Tholfsen, and Joanne Tunison.** The Lay Reader will be **Anne McGee.** Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

**NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE  
March 18, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.  
Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Sacrament of Baptism**

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Mike Crimmins, Charlene McCarthy, Linda Proper, and Carole Wereski.** The

Lay Reader will be **Liz Holloway**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by the **Tucker Family**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

**NEW MEMBER INFO  
& CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
Sunday, March 18th ~ 9:30 a.m.**

Have you been thinking about joining First Pres? Do you just want more information about First Pres, because you aren't quite ready to join? Then come to the New Member information meeting on **Sunday, March 18th at 9:30 a.m.** in the Hoffman Great Room. We'll enjoy a yummy continental breakfast and have fun conversation. Bring your questions! For further information, please contact Chuck Stewart at 739-7256 or the Rev. Crimmins.



**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning worship service on March 4...the **Chancel Choir** for singing...**Scott Kelley** for playing the trumpet...**Pat Holmstrom, Charlene McCarthy, Ron Rehner, Kelli Tucker, and Carole Wereski** for Greeting and Ushering...**Ron Rehner** for Lay Reading... **Nancy Cooper** and **Betsy Stegbauer** for leading the Sunday School...Deacons **Lynn Hornbuckle, Sue Kruckow, and Nan Peterson** for preparing the Communion ...Elders **Mike Kapusta, Stacia Kruckow, Greg Lamb, Connie LaVere,** and **Desiree Rogers** for serving the Communion.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with the Habitat Work Day on Saturday, March 3, 2018.

**THANK YOU** very much to our 11 JOYFUL singers who sung last Sunday to the residents of St. Joe's, Woodbrook and Appleridge. At each location the residents had fun and joined in singing with us. The residents ask that we come again to sing more hymns. A special thanks to **Anne McGee** for her piano accompaniment. The music was truly lovely!!!! Thank you to the **Deacons** and **Hospitality Committee** for funding this fellowship. Thank you also to the **children** who made cards and pictures for us to hand out to the residents. Hope to see everyone next time. Eileen and Tom Leslie

**NEW NURSERY STAFF**

Please welcome **Bella DiPofi** and **Sami Swarthout** as our new Child Care Givers. Both girls are high school students—Bella is at Twin Tiers Christian Academy and Sami is at Elmira High School. Starting February 25th, the nursery will be open and staffed each Sunday, 9:15 a.m. to noon.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Adult Sunday School class invites you to join them at **9:30 a.m.** in the parlor area on **Sunday, March 11th** to discuss the Gospel of Mark, chapter 11. Please come and bring your Bible and join us!

**ADULT BIBLE GROUP**

**"BIBLE BASICS: ABOUT THE BIBLE"**

"Bible Basics" is a Bible group for adults who desire to deepen their understanding of God, the Bible, and living the Christian life. The four-week series "Bible Basics: About the Bible" is Sundays at 9:30 from March 4 through March 25. "Bible Basics: About the Bible" will help you know where to find what you want to read



**UPCOMING CONCERT! ~ MARCH 15th  
CORNING AREA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND  
and THE CRYSTAL CITY FLUTE CHOIR**



**Irish dinner ~ 5:30 p.m.**

**Concert ~ 7:30 p.m.**

Please join us for our upcoming concert on **THURSDAY, MARCH 15** at **7:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Some Irish music and traditional concert repertoire will be presented. A free will offering, in support of the concert series and a scholarship fund for area musicians pursuing their education, will be taken during the concert. A **dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m.** will be served before the concert. The menu includes: corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, brownies and beverages. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Take out will be available at 5:30 p.m. Please come and join us!

\* \* \* \* \*

about. Adults are welcome to join any or all gatherings. Your young children are welcome. 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).

please place them in Stacia Kruckow's church mailbox. Thank you!

**ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP?  
EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA!**

**Saturday, March 31, 2018**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

We are once again getting ready for our annual Easter Egg-stravaganza and we need your help to make this event as successful as last year when we had about 175 attendees. We are in need of volunteers to help prepare lunch for the people attending, volunteer at the craft tables, a greeter at the door, egg hiders and helpers in general to assist the age groups while doing crafts and hunting. We also need goodies to put inside the plastic Easter Eggs. You can obtain eggs to fill at church (we have lots of them), or if you are donating items with which to fill the plastic eggs, please leave your donation in the Church office no later than March 18. If you can help out in any way, please contact Eileen Leslie at 796-5995.

**EASTER EGG HUNT!  
AND EASTER SERVICE**

Join us on **Saturday, March 31st** from **10 a.m.—noon** at First Presbyterian Church, 1054 W. Clinton St, Elmira, for some Easter fun! There will be crafts, cookie decorating, and an Easter egg hunt for the kids! Lunch will be provided. Also join us on **Sunday, April 1st** at **10:30 a.m.** for our Easter service!



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Easter Cookie Baking!**

Please join the Youth Christian Education & Youth in Action committee on **March 17th** (time to be determined) and help us bake sugar cookies for our upcoming Easter Egg-stravaganza! If you have any Spring or Easter cookie cutters that we can borrow,

The **TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL** offering for **JANUARY 2018** was \$66.20. Thank you for giving.

## RUMMAGE SALE MEETING 2018

The first rummage sale meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 7th** at **2 p.m.** in the Hoffman Great Room. Please plan to attend and bring your ideas as we are trying to change some things including the date, the set up (we can no longer use the kitchen because of sanitary rules), the method of payment and other things. Thank you-Jane Ivanick

## GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP EVERY THURSDAY

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Parlor**

GriefShare is a 13 week video-based Christian seminar and support group for those who have lost a spouse, a parent, a child, a family member or friend. The next meeting is on **Thursday, March 8th**, from **6 – 8 p.m.** in the parlor. The only cost is for



### **HOLY WEEK AT FIRST PRES**

#### **Palm Sunday ~ March 25**

Worship 10:30 a.m.

#### **Maundy Thursday ~ March 29**

**6 p.m. - Christian Seder Service and Supper**

An event for children and adults alike...come learn about the Last Supper by experiencing the Seder. Soup, soup bowls, and utensils will be provided.

#### **Maundy Thursday ~ Good Friday Vigil**

Starting March 29 at 8 p.m. through March 30 at 3 p.m.

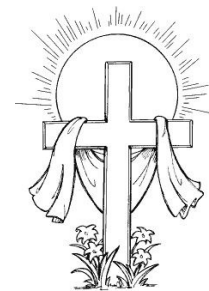
#### **Saturday ~ March 31 ~ Easter Egg-stravaganza!**

10 a.m. to 12 noon

#### **Easter Sunday ~ April 1**

Worship 10:30 a.m.

With the Chancel Choir and the Brass Ensemble, featuring members of the brass section of the OSFL



### **PRAYER VIGIL**

You are invited to take part in the Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Prayer Vigil to be held at the church, beginning at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 29 (at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service). The Vigil will continue over night and conclude at 3 p.m. on Good Friday, March 30. A Prayer Labyrinth will be set up in the Hoffman Great Room for your use. The Genesis Room will be turned into a Prayer Room. The signup sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. Does the thought of signing up to pray for an hour seem like a lot? It is amazing how quickly the time goes! The world needs a lot of prayers, so let's get as many people as possible involved. Please don't be shy about signing up. If you need assistance in signing up for an hour, please call the church office and speak with Kelly Stewart, Church Secretary: 734-1614.

the workbook at \$15, which you will be able to keep. Our trained GriefShare leaders are Patricia Kapusta, Barb Squires, and our Elmira College intern, Jessica Tiner.

### **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 March 8th. 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)

### **FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FIRESIDE COLLECTIVE**

**Friday, March 9th —8:00 p.m.**

Jesse Iaquinto, a beloved son of our church, will perform with his band The Fireside Collective at Brick House Brewery at 1. W. Pulteney in Corning on Friday, March 9th, at **8:00 p.m.** Mike and Patricia Kapusta will host a meet and greet at 6:00 p.m. in their home on 175 W. Pulteney with the band members and Frank Acomb of WENY. The Kapustas will provide a variety of beverages, chili, and tableware. Guests are invited to bring an appetizer and/or beverage to share. Directions from Elmira: Take Exit 46 off I-86. Turn left at the end of the ramp. Turn right at the second light onto Pulteney. You will pass Brick House at the second light. Turn right after the A-frame UCC church onto Pritchard. You may park in the church parking lot. We're the blue-and-white house on the corner. The Fireside Collective is an award-winning band that

performs both original and traditional bluegrass music. A genuine treat!

### **FIRST FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT APRIL 6th at 6 P.M.**

Cabin Fever starting to set in? Kids driving you up the ever-closing walls? Come out and warm up with our "First Friday Family Fun Night" at First Pres, Friday, April 6 starting at **6 p.m.** in the Great Room. Theme for this event will be **Family Game Night**. Bring your favorite board game, or join in with one of ours. The Hospitality Committee hosts a series of Family Fun Nights throughout the year, which will feature a light, kid-friendly meal, refreshments and changing activities each month, including games, movies and, of course, fun. For information, call Mike Kapusta at 989-984-7015.

### **KNITTING4PEACE ~ GOOD NEWS!**

Our Knitting4Peace Peace Pod has been accepted into the Chemung County Maker Faire, which will take place at Arnot Mall, April 14<sup>th</sup>, from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** This is an exciting opportunity to connect with other knitters and crocheters with the hope of getting some more people involved.

In the meantime, the group will be putting together a display of the items that are made for K4P. You can help. Right now, the inventory of completed items includes many baby blankets, as well as some mittens and hats, and just a few shawls and scarves, but that's it. There are no peace pals, sleeping mats, wash cloths, baby hats or birthing kits. If you would like to knit, crochet or sew an item or two at home, that would be great. The group has plenty of yarn stored in the cupboard in the Genesis Room, so help

yourself. Patterns are available at the Knitting4peace website: [www.knitting4peace.org](http://www.knitting4peace.org).

The group is also working with Felix Perez in order to get the news about its presence at the Maker Faire out in various media and social media outlets.

**CAMPWHITMAN  
REGISTER FOR THE  
2018 SUMMER CAMPS NOW!**

Camp Whitman specializes in providing a traditional overnight summer camp experience focused on developing friendships, growing our faith in Jesus Christ, and exploring the outdoors. Each week approximately 65 campers are

welcomed by the 15 counselors, lifeguards, and coordinators. Camp is organized into family groups determined by age and grade level. Counselors live among and lead groups of 9 or 10 youth during each week. Family groups are co-ed but cabins are separated by gender. While living close in a safe and supportive environment, youth get to explore faith and learn more about being a follower of Jesus.

Registration for the many summer camping options is now open. For further information about the exciting opportunities, please visit [www.campwhitman.org](http://www.campwhitman.org), where you will also find registration forms. If you are interested in having some scholarship help, please speak with Rev. Crimmins.

**REFLECTIVE WORDS THAT PASTOR BETSEY SHARED  
IN HER SERMON ~ MARCH 4, 2018**

*(source is Anonymous)*

**God won't ask** *what kind of car you drove  
but will ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.*

**God won't ask** *the square footage of your house,  
but will ask how many people you welcomed into your home.*

**God's won't ask** *about the fancy clothes you had in your closet,  
but will ask how many of those clothes helped the needy.*

**God won't ask** *about your social status,  
but will ask what kind of class you displayed.*

**God won't ask** *how many material possessions you had,  
but will ask if they dictated your life.*

**God won't ask** *what your highest salary was,  
but will ask if you compromised your character to obtain that salary.*

**God won't ask** *how much overtime you worked  
but will ask if you worked overtime for your family and loved ones and for the least of these.*

**God won't ask** *how many promotions you received,  
but will ask how you promoted others.*

**God will ask** *how you have done justice,  
loved kindness and walked humbly with him.*



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



*“I decided to be happy! It is excellent for one’s health.”*

*~ Voltaire*

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

Bella DiPofi, Child Care Giver

Sami Swarthout, Child Care Giver

Church Office (607) 734-1614

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