

Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian Church

www.firstpreselmira.org

May 15, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

Picture this cartoon: two fields separated by a fence. Each field is the same size and each has plenty of lush green grass. In each field there is a mule whose head stuck through the wire, eating grass from the pasture on the other side, even though it is hard to reach. In the process the mules' heads become caught in the fence. They panic and bray uncontrollably at because they are unable to free themselves. When you read the caption below the cartoon, you see that the cartoonist wisely describes the situation with one word: "Discontent."

It's easy to become discontented. Like the mules, when we focus on what we don't have, we become blinded to the blessings that surround us. When we see God blessing others and choose to covet their blessing rather than praising God for their blessing, we can easily start feeling sorry for ourselves and dissatisfied with our lives. There is nothing wrong with desiring something, but to think that life is greater in someone else's pasture may result in our being trapped. We have new life and peace when we live contented.

Memorial Day Weekend is coming up. It's often a time for get-togethers with family and friends as well as a time to remember both those who have sacrificed their lives for our country as well as our loved ones who now live eternally with God. No matter your plans for the weekend, I invite you to take a moment to count your blessings and to give thanks. Even in circumstances that are difficult, there is much to be thankful for. As Helen Keller observed: "Everything has its wonders, even darkness and silence, and I learn, whatever state I may be in, therein to be content."

If you are having a hard time finding something to be grateful for, then look up and away from the computer screen, your TV, and your smart phone, where we are bombarded with messages that suggest that we don't have enough, that we must
(continued —————>)

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Please Remember!

"FEED MY SHEEP"

May 20th:

CANNED FRUITS

&

**CANNED
VEGETABLES**

strive for more, and that there's lots we should worry about. Instead, look around and start noticing the little things – like the kids laughing, playing and making a mess in your house or your old car that keeps running or the delicate care God has taken in designing some flowers or the kindness of your neighbor who rescued your newspaper from the rain. Counting our blessings begins with noticing them. Noticing them leads to gratitude, and gratitude leads to contentment.

Love and peace, Betsey

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THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE

May 20, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Day of Pentecost

Two Cents A Meal Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and **Tom Leslie** will preach. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Warren McGee, Charlene McCarthy, Kelli Tucker, and Carole Wereski**. A Minute for Mission will be given by **Rich Buchheimer**. The Lay Reader will be **Anne McGee**. Children's Sunday School will be led by **Stacia Kruckow**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Mike and Betsey Crimmins**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend.

TWO CENTS A MEAL SUNDAY, MAY 20TH

How much does a meal cost? It depends upon the meal: breakfast, lunch or dinner. Sometimes we eat simply; sometimes we splurge and eat extravagantly. But whatever we do, imagine if each of us gives 2 cents for that meal, setting aside those two pennies to help someone else eat a meal. Imagine if

each of us set aside two pennies for every meal. That's what the Two Cents a Meal program is. We invite you to bring those pennies to worship on the third Sunday of the month. The next collection during worship will be **May 20th**.

Those pennies are then sent to the Presbytery of Geneva. From there they are distributed in the form of grants to various food pantries and feeding programs in the communities of the churches of the Presbytery. As you can see, all those pennies add up to make a significant contribution, effecting people locally and regionally.

APPLERIDGE HYMN SING



On **Sunday, May 20th**, we will be going to Appleridge Senior Living to present a musical program, including soloists, instrumentalists, and we need lots of hymn singers! We will have lunch following our morning worship and then caravan (no bus) to Appleridge, arriving at **1:00 p.m.** for approximately one hour. Please join us on this very important mission of joy. For questions, see Anne McGee

NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE

May 27, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Trinity Sunday

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, Jane Ivanick, Charlene McCarthy, and Carole Wereski**. The Lay Reader will be **Fred Betschen**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Mud and Lois Grund**. Due to the holiday weekend, there is no Sunday School on May 27. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!



CHURCH FAMILY



Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Fred and Marilyn Betschen** who are new Great Grandparents! Great Granddaughter, Adelyne Pham was born on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, weighing 6 lbs 15 oz. Proud parents are Dr. Michael and Dr. Alise Pham.

Our prayers for healing and comfort extend to God on behalf of **Priscilla Bush** who is currently a patient at Robert Packer Hospital.

Our prayers for healing and comfort extend to God on behalf of **Bob Bell** who is currently a patient at Sloan Kettering Hospital.

A memorial service for **Wilma Fretz** will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2018, at 11 a.m. in the church sanctuary with a luncheon to follow in the Hoffman Great Room.

A memorial service for **Ron Rehner** will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 11 a.m. in the church sanctuary with a luncheon to follow in the Hoffman Great Room. In celebration of Ron's life, please bring to the memorial service, a non-perishable food item for donation to North Pres Food Pantry. Thank you.

The **DEACONS** will be hosting the reception luncheons for the upcoming memorial services. If you can help by providing a salad or dessert, please contact Barb Cacciotti: 733-1656. Thank you.

CALL TO A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, NY on Sunday, June 10, 2018 after worship for the purpose of electing 5 elders to the class of 2021, 1 elder to the class of 2020, 1 elder to the class of 2019; 4 deacons to the class of 2021, 1 deacon to the class of 2020, 1 deacon to the class of 2019; 5 at large members of the nominating committee and to accept the reports of the committees and boards of First Presbyterian Church of Elmira. By Order of Session, Barbara Squires, Clerk.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning worship service on May 13...the **Chancel Choir** for singing...**Pat Holmstrom, Kelli Tucker,**

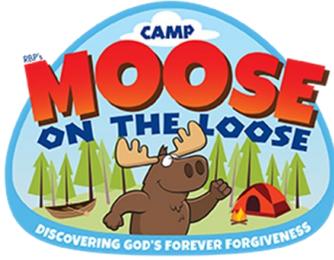
Charlene McCarthy, and Carole Wereski for Greeting and Ushering...**Tom Leslie** for giving the Minute for Mission...**Chuck Stewart** for Lay Reading...**Lynn Hornbuckle** for leading the Children's Sunday School...**Ron and Joanne Tunison** for giving the Chancel Flowers...**Kathy Menges** for hosting the Fellowship Hour.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Adult Sunday School class invites you to join them at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor area. Please bring your Bible and join us!

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



VBS CAMP! ~ JUNE 25—29, 2018

Monday—Friday 8:45 a.m.—Noon

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

Camp “Moose on the Loose!”...Discovering God’s Forever Forgiveness. Please register now for children ages: 4 years through rising 3rd graders in the fall. The cost is \$25 per child, which includes a daily snack, t-shirt and backpack. Registration forms are available at the church office (734-1614). A celebration luncheon ceremony for the entire family will be on Friday, June 29th at 12 noon. Please register now!

We are currently collecting: **empty toilet paper rolls, empty paper towel rolls, small forest or camping theme stuffed animals and books.** The poster and drop off basket are located in the missionary lobby. We also are asking for a **few artistic volunteers** to help create large backdrops of trees, Moose and some other characters from our program curriculum. Finally we are hoping to borrow **small pup tents** to serve as team posts during the morning greeting time. Please contact the church office if you are able to help.

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show you how to use one of the receivers.

**SUMMER 2018 HABITAT TRIP!
AUGUST 8—11, 2018**

The Mission Committee is sponsoring another summer Habitat for Humanity trip to Paterson NJ! Dates are August 8-11th. We will join two other local churches and the Paterson Habitat team to continue to work in the fourth ward building hope and homes in a difficult neighborhood. The trip is open to anyone 16 years or older. We will have an informational meeting on May 15th from 5:30-6:15 p.m. If you are interested in the trip but can’t make the meeting please contact Barb or Harry Fitzsimmons at 562-8095 or stop us before or after church. We can also be reached at b2fitz@yahoo.com. No specialized skills are needed! “Everyone deserves a decent place to live.”

**GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP
THURSDAYS, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

PRES CLIPPINGS SCHEDULE

The next Pres Clippings will be published on **Tuesday, May 29th**. There will NOT be a Pres Clippings on Tuesday, May 22nd. Please submit any articles to: kespreselm@stny.rr.com, by 9 a.m. on the Monday of the week that Pres Clippings are to be published. Thank you.

The **CIRCLE OF WOMEN** will meet on **Monday, May 21st**, at **10 a.m.** in the Hoffman Great Room. All women are invited.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
Thursday, May 24, 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

KNITTING4PEACE

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). We have the yarn, needles, and patterns. All we need is you! Every stitch is a prayer for peace.

WANTED...SHOPPING TOTES!

The Rummage Sale Committee is looking for donations of the thick recyclable shopping totes (T.J. Max, Target, Wegmans, Bed Bath & Beyond, etc.) If you have any of these to donate, please bring them to the church office. Thank you.

LUNCH AND LEARN ~ June 3, 2018 CAREGIVER INFORMATION

After church on **Sunday, June 3rd**, representatives of the Dept. of Aging & Long Term Care, and the N.Y.S. Caregiver Coalition/Lifespan will be presenting information on programs and resources for home care patients and their caretakers.

Since First Pres will be providing lunch, please sign-up in advance on the clip board in the narthex or by calling the church office at 734-1614. Additional information will be available at church, including details available from one of our Deacons.

GRIEFSHARE SUMMER SUNDAY GROUP

GriefShare group will meet **Sundays** starting on **June 24th** from **11a.m. -12:30 p.m.** in the parlor after the 9:30 a.m. worship. There will be time for coffee and fellowship before we start. Each week the GriefShare group will watch a video seminar featuring top experts on grief. Then,

we will spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in our lives. If you have a busy summer planned and cannot be here for all Sundays, each session is stand alone. You can join when you are available. There is also a workbook available (\$15 donation) to use during the week for further personal study of the grieving process. If you would like further information, please call the church office or speak to one of the facilitators: Rich Buchheimer, Patricia Kapusta and Barb Squires. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Join us starting June 24th.

CAMPWHITMAN REGISTER FOR 2018 SUMMER CAMPS NOW!

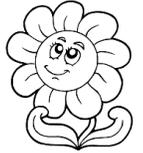
Camp Whitman specializes in providing a traditional overnight summer camp experience focused on developing friendships, growing our faith in Jesus Christ, and exploring the outdoors. Camp is organized into family groups determined by age and grade level. Counselors live among and lead groups of 9 or 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, where you will also find registration forms. If you are interested in having some scholarship help, please speak with Rev. Crimmins.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...



*“If our hearts and actions are inspired by charity, by divine love,
then our communication will be touched by God’s own power.”*

~ Pope Francis

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

Bella DiPofi, Child Care Giver

Barbara Squires, Clerk of Session

Melissa Moore, Director of Music

James Stewart, Sr., Church Sexton

Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary

Paul Kingsbury, Assistant Church Treasurer

Sami Swarouth, Child Care Giver

Church Office (607) 734-1614

Visit our website: www.firstpreselmira.org