



Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian
Church
www.firstpreselmira.org

November 28, 2017

Inside this issue:

* **Adult Bible Group** 2

* **Holiday Movie Nights** 3

* **Duo Montagnard in Concert!** 3

* **Puerto Rico Relief Fundraiser** 4

* **Trolley Sunday!** 4

* **Yankee Trader Party!** 5

INSERT:
Poinsettia Order Form

Please Remember!

“FEED MY SHEEP”

December 3rd:
**RAMEN NOODLES
&
CANNED SOUPS**
(all varieties)

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 OF 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 Fred Betschen (731-7940).

THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE

December 3, 2017 ~ 10:30 a.m.

First Sunday in Advent

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Barb Cacciotti, Jane Ivanick, Ron Rehner,** and **Alida Schamel**. The Advent candle will be lit by **Patti Tucker** and **Liam Vergason**. The Minute for Mission will be given by **Stacia Kruckow**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by **Carole Wereski**. Childcare will be available. All are welcome to attend!

NEXT 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. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Dennis** and **Nancy Cooper, Harry Fitzsimmons,** and **Barb Squires**. 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!

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 church Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 23, 2017. Many thanks to all who promoted the event, set-up, decorated, cooked and served the food, all the food donations, cleaned-up, and for picking people up to bring to the dinner. A great time was had by all.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday worship service on November 19th...the **Chancel Choir** for singing...**Barb Cacciotti, Liz Holloway, Warren McGee,** and **Chuck Stewart** for Greeting and Ushering...**Marcia Metcalfe** and **John Stanley** for giving the Minute for Mission...**Ron Rehner** for Lay Reading...**Lynn Hornbuckle** and **Carole Wereski** for leading the Sunday School during worship...**Alida** and **Norm Schamel** for giving the Chancel Flowers, "The Chancel Flowers are given in celebration of the fall birthdays of our children, Lindsay, Nathan and Jacob, and grandchildren, Isaac and Eleanor."...the **Stanley Family** for hosting the Fellowship Hour.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday worship service on November 26th...**Elder Joel Robinson** for leading and preaching...the **Chancel Choir** for singing...**Mark** and **Jane Ivanick, Mike** and **Patricia Kapusta** for Greeting and Ushering...**Patricia Kapusta** for giving the Announcements...**Rehana Stanley** for Lay Reading...the **Stanley Family** for leading the Sunday School during worship...**Amber** and **Sala Tulachanh** for giving the Chancel Flowers...**Mike** and **Patricia Kapusta** for hosting the Fellowship Hour.

ADULT BIBLE GROUP

"BIBLE BASICS: ABOUT GOD"

"Bible Basics" is a new Bible group for adults who desire to deepen their understanding of God, the Bible, and living the Christian life. This five-week series "Bible Basics: About God" takes place **Sundays** at **9:30 a.m.** from now through December 10. "Bible Basics: About God"



CHURCH FAMILY

Our prayers of joy and congratulations are given to God on behalf of **Lindsey** and **Chris Hoffman** on the birth of their fourth daughter, Adalyn Grace Hoffman on November 14, 2017 weighing 5 lbs 7 oz. and 18" long. Proud grandparents are **Gary** and **Marianne Wick**.



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.

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 lectionary readings for each Sunday. The lectionary readings for **Sunday, December 3rd**: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; I Corinthians 1:3-9; and Mark 13:24-37.

HOLIDAY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

Saturdays 6—8 p.m.

Can't get enough of Christmas movies? Has it been a while since you've seen your favorite on the big screen? Join us at Elmira First Presbyterian Church for our second annual Holiday Family Film Festival on **Saturdays, December 2** and **December 9**, starting at **6 p.m.** each night. Bundle up in your warm fuzzies, grab your favorite snuggle buddy and bring the whole family to watch Christmas classic movies and animated shorts. Snacks, beverages and, of course, popcorn will be provided. And it's all free! There will also be some holiday themed activities for any active youngsters who would rather not sit still for too long.

For more information call the church office at 734-1614 or Mike Kapusta at 989-984-7015.



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!



FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR PUERTO RICO RELIEF

Friday, December 1, 2017

5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church will host a community fundraising event on Friday, December 1st from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. There will be a dinner and a silent auction. Dinner tickets are on sale now in the church office. **Adult dinner tickets are \$10 each and children tickets are \$5.** Please purchase your dinner tickets now. We are also in need of any and all who would be willing to volunteer to help make this event successful.

Assorted **PIES** will be the dessert for the dinner. Please consider helping defray the cost of the pies. At least 20 large pies (costing approximately \$12 each) will be purchased! Please direct your donation to Sue Weaver, First Pres Treasurer \$\$\$\$ For Pies. This is an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a time of critical need. It is also an opportunity to reach out and engage our greater community. Please consider this important calling. For more information, please contact Joanne Tunison at 739-8474.

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP...The next meeting is on **Monday, December 4th** from **6 – 8 p.m.** in the parlor.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Please join us on **Saturday, December 9th** 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!

KNITTING4PEACE POD DEDICATION SUNDAY!

There will be a Dedication Sunday of all Knitting4Peace items on Sunday, **December 10, 2017** 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 10th. 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.

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

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 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 at a nearby location TBD at 6 p.m. and car pool to their house.

SOUP FREEZER, located in the kitchen of the church, is full of yummy, hearty soups. Why not warm the heart of someone on one of these cold days by bringing them a container of soup? Prayerfully consider who

could use such a warm expression of care; once you've identified the person, feel free to help yourself to a container or two of soup. After you've made the delivery, we suggest that you complete your gift by saying a prayer for the person!

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Are you looking for a high impact, easy way to make a positive difference for people close to home this Advent and Christmas? Then consider participating in the 2017 Reverse Advent Calendar (A copy is included in this issue of Pres Clippings.) It's a way to feed our hungry or food-insecure neighbors and friends.



Now that you've taken a look at the Reverse Advent Calendar, you've already noticed that it begins the week before the first Sunday in Advent. That's because, the way the calendar is falling this year, we have to start a week before the first Sunday in Advent in order to get the traditional four full weeks of advent giving in.

Here's how you do it. Find an empty box. On each day, place the suggested food item in the box. Please select regular sized items (no jumbo, please!). On December 24th, please bring your filled box to church, either to the 10:30 a.m. service or the 7:30 p.m. service. (If you can't bring the box on December 24, bring it whenever you can.) The Mission Committee and First Pres Works will sort and deliver items to the food pantry at North Presbyterian Church of Elmira.

The **TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL** donations for November 2017 was \$48.95. Thank you for giving.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...



*“In this life we cannot do great things.
We can only do small things with great love.”*

~ Mother Teresa

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