



# Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian Church

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

October 2, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

Lately, I'm been thinking about Jacob, the man described in Genesis as the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob was wily figure. To know Jacob is to know his life as one of never-ending struggles. A pivotal point in his life came when his brother, Esau, who had vowed to kill him, was coming for him with a mass of "400 men." (Genesis 32:6) At the same time, Jacob had just fled his father-in-law, Laban, and all the ill treatment he had endured there. Anxious for his life, Jacob sent a bribe of gifts ahead to Esau. Then he waited alone in the dessert. Jacob was in an impossible situation – between a rock and a hard place. At night, while he was sleeping, God came to him and wrestled with him until daybreak. Although he was left with a limp, he was also given a blessing by God.

So much of our culture celebrates power, strength and wealth. We are taught to avoid struggle because it is a sign of weakness and failure. We are taught to avoid processes that necessitate working through problems to get to a point that works for the benefit for all, but instead to find the quick solution that works best for self.

One of the things that I have learned in my faith journey is that there's great wisdom in leaning into such struggles and in prayerfully sitting with the struggle. I've learned that there's great wisdom in not running from it or denying the struggle, but continuing to face it. Asleep at night, Jacob had no choice but to wrestle. Sometimes leaning into the struggle goes on for a bit – a lot longer than I'd like. But I've learned several things from patiently leaning in:

First I am most receptive to those "God moments" of wisdom, insight, mercy, peace and goodness if I am willing to hang in there. Second, I've also learned that if I am willing to sit with the struggle, inevitably, God does shine a light on whatever I'm struggling with and thereby illuminates the path forward for me.

(continued ———>)

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### Please Remember!

**"FEED MY SHEEP"**

**October 7th:**

**PAPER TOWELS**

**&**

**LAUNDRY DETERGENT**

*So often God gives a resolution that is better than I could have imagined.*

*Jesus said, "With God, all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26). God's power at work in and through us can do far more than we can think or imagine. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus is our proof that nothing is impossible for God. Impossible situations are often where God's power and glory shine brightest. So the next time that you are struggling with something, remember Jacob and remember that daylight did come and he walked away with a blessing. Love and peace, Betsey*

\* \* \* \* \*

**THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE**

**October 7, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**20th Sunday after Pentecost**

**World Communion Sunday**

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach in the sanctuary. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Liz Holloway, Charlene McCarthy, Warren McGee, and Carole Wereski**. The Lay Reader will be **Joanne Tunison**. The Deacons preparing Communion are **Liz Holloway and Carole Wereski**. The Elders serving Communion by intinction are **Joanne Tunison, Mike Mitchell, Mike and Rehana Stanley**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Alida and Norm Schamel**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by **Carole Wereski**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

**A SEASON OF THANKS AND PRAISE!**

During the month of October, the worship here at First Presbyterian Church will be marked by praise and thanks for the God moments in our lives. "What's a God

moment?" you ask. A God moment is when we have a sense that God is present in our lives in a powerful and unmistakable way. It can be a sudden sense of peace that washes over you. It can be the way that events line up that can't be explained other than that the hand of God is involved. It can be a sense that God has revealed His presence, love and direction to you.

Each worship service in October will feature someone's God's moment and some special music. The month's worship services will culminate with a Festival of Praise during worship on October 28. Are you looking for a faith-lift? Well, then join us for worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

**NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE**

**October 14, 2018 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**21st Sunday after Pentecost**

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach in the sanctuary. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Charlene McCarthy, Carol Wereski, Mark and Jane Ivanick**. The Lay Reader will be **Jill Kelley**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Barb Cacciotti**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by **Kathy Menges**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning worship service on September 30...the **Chancel Choir** for singing...**Beth Bennett, Donna Hill, Joy Hoffman and Jim Norton** for Greeting and Ushering...**Rich Buchheimer** for Lay Reading...**Mike Stanley, Alida Schamel, Mark Ivanick and Marcia Metcalfe** for giving the morning message...**Jane Ivainck and John Stanley** for



### CHURCH FAMILY



Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Rachel Fumas** and **Lee Moore** on their marriage, Saturday, September 22, 2018, at the Inns of Aurora, Aurora, NY. The ceremony was performed by The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins.

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Megan** (Kelley) and **Cory Swatling** on the birth of their baby boy, Duke Benjamin Swatling on Monday, September 24, 2018, at 8:19 p.m. Baby Duke weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and is 20 3/4 inches long. Proud grandparents are Scott and Jill Kelley.

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Rev. Jason** and **Megan Hornbuckle Cashing** on the birth of their baby girl, Carrie Jane Ruth Cashing on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 11:06 p.m. Baby Carrie weighed 7 lbs (even) and is 19.5 inches long. Proud grandparents are Paul and Lynn Hornbuckle.

Our prayers of healing and comfort extend to God on behalf of **Jim Barr** who is a patient at St. Joseph's Hospital.

leading Sunday School...**Duke** and **Wendy Carroll** for giving the Chancel Flowers, "The Chancel Flowers are given in loving memory of Hazel Robinson..."**Carol** and **Luke Cady** for hosting the Fellowship Hour.

Also, dedicated during worship on September 30th were 34 lap quilts and lap afghans made by members of our K4P Peace Pod. These will be given to veterans who will be taking the Honor Flight from Binghamton on October 6, 2018.

**THANK YOU** to **everyone** who volunteered their time and talents for the Habitat Build on September 29 & 30. Many thanks to **Barb Fitzsimmons** who organized this event.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL IS COOL!



It's time to come to Sunday School!! Sunday School for all youth and takes place during the worship service. Lessons with a great multi-age curriculum will begin at

approximately **10:45 a.m.** each Sunday. Children will be dismissed from worship to Sunday School immediately after the children's sermon. Please come and join us.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!

Sunday School classes for children and youth take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The children leave after the sanctuary after the children's sermon (approximately 10:45 a.m.). They remain with the group until 11:30 a.m. except on Communion Sundays, when the return to the sanctuary in order to take Communion with their family members. We have divided the year into blocks of 4 or 5 weeks. We need two adults to teach for each block of Sundays, one is the teacher and the other is the helper. The sign-up sheet is located in the Missionary Lobby on a clip board. The fun multi-age, easy to use curriculum will be given to you, so you can choose what you want to do with the children. If you need help in gathering supplies, please let

the Youth Christian Education Committee know. Any questions, please speak with John Stanley at 259-3877.

### “I DIDN’T SEE THAT COMING!”



The book of Revelation is one of the most controversial and daunting books of the Bible, but it doesn't need to be! A common-sense approach to interpreting this amazing text energizes and clarifies the storyline. For the upcoming months, the **Adult Sunday School Class** will tackle Revelation under the teaching leadership of Tim Hawk. Join us each **Sunday at 9:30 a.m.** for this exciting study!

### FIRST PRES BOOK CLUB

Welcome all readers! The First Pres Book Club resumes on **Wednesday, October 3rd** from **7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** at church. We will be discussing the book: "The Velveteen Principles: A Guide to Becoming Real: Hidden Wisdom from a Children's Classic."

This charming book guides readers down a simple path to reclaiming joy, fulfillment and individuality, using an unconventional source -the children's classic, The Velveteen Rabbit. Sharing timeless insights and poignant quotes from the book, the author identifies 10 keys to becoming Real, with the promise that when you become Real you will love and be loved with all your strengths, weakness, faults and gifts.

Copies of the book are available on Amazon in Hardcover for \$8.91 (new), or from \$5.04 (used). Betsey Crimmins will be leading the discussion, and refreshments will be provided. Please join us!



### FUNDRAISING PASTA DINNER

On **Friday, October 5th** at **6:00 p.m.**, there will be a pre-concert fund raising dinner to benefit the Puerto Rico mission trip. Dinner will consist of baked ziti with meatballs, salad, bread, and dessert. Cost is \$10. for adults, \$7. for children under 12. Take out is available at 5:30 p.m. and **must be pre-ordered** by calling the church office at 607-734-1614. Dinner tickets will be on sale Sunday mornings after the worship service.

### SGRO BROTHERS CONCERT!

#### HARMONICA VIRTUOSOS

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:30 P.M.**



The fabulous Sgro Brothers, Dom and Tony are legends in the harmonica world. Dom, on the chromatic harmonica and Tony on the 48 chord harmonica, are virtuoso performers in any style from classical to jazz. As teenagers, the Sgros played with Borrah Minevitch's Harmonica Orchestra and Johnny Puleo's Harmonica Gang. With Johnny Puleo, they performed in venues ranging from The London Paladium to the Tropicana Club in pre-Castro Cuba. Their career includes stints with Jimmy Durante, Spike Jones, Dean Martin, Milton Berle, Perry Como and Ed Sullivan. Their Country Harmonica album in the 1970's led to appearances on the Grand Old Opry. In 2004 they were honored to appear at the White House in Washington, D.C. In 2006, they were inducted in the Lou Holtz Hall of Fame, East Liverpool, Ohio. They are also members of the Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica (SPAH) International Harmonica Club. Their

### **RUMMAGE SALE NEEDS YOU!**

We need volunteers to help with the set up of the Rummage Sale on October 14th-after church (please dress in work clothes), Set up continues on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, October 15, 16, 17; the working of the sale on member night-Thursday, October 18; Friday-the 'Advantage Night'- October 19 from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. for people (non-members) who wish to shop early and will pay \$2.00 to do that and of course on the general rummage sale on October 20th from 8:30 a.m. to the cleaning up after the sale ends at 3 p.m. on October 21st. We ask that you volunteer for a few hours on that day. If many people volunteered a few hours, we could really make progress and share the work that is needed for a successful sale. The benefits for all of us include having fun with others; getting an idea of what is available in our sale and in feeling great that you have helped our two missions of the sale. They are: 1.) Making it possible for people to buy nice things at an affordable cost and 2.) Raising money for the church and its many missions and jobs. Thank you for your help.

### **RUMMAGE SALE PICK-UP OF FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS**

Please call the church office (734-1614) by October 9-10 if you need help bringing items to the church or have furniture that needs to be picked up. We will have people available on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Please sign-up for this and also give us a number that you could be called at so we can alert you to our coming to pick up your things. Thanks for supporting our rummage sale.

### **RUMMAGE SALE NO-NO'S**

We do not accept any TVs; console TV's, computers, printers, large exercise equipment; stationary bicycles, broken items; ripped or stained clothing. Thank you for understanding.

### **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 to donate, please bring them to the church office. Thank you.

remarkable career has truly earned them the title of Elder Statesman of the Harmonica World. This concert is free and open to the public.

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP! ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN UP Saturday, October 6, 2018 WEATHER PERMITTING!**

Given the strange weather this year, and my schedule, we have not done a pickup since April!!! Our stretches need some loving attention, and I want to get as much of

our areas done before the snow flies. As usual I will be at the church at **8:30 a.m.** to get our gear ready and have out the safety briefing and the work form to sign. As people arrive I can assign sections to clean so those who want to start earlier can do so. If you are looking for some fresh air, fun and to do stewardship for our Earth please either phone Greg Lamb at home, 562-3134 or cell 607-426-1834 or e-mail at [lambge@gmail.com](mailto:lambge@gmail.com). I would really appreciate a call or e-mail so I can have an

idea of how many folks can be expected.  
Thanks in advance for your support!

### **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 October 11th. 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)

### **FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT!**

With Halloween quickly approaching, join us for our monthly Friday Family Fun Night on Friday, October 12th for a holiday-themed “party” including some old-fashioned games, fun conversation and a couple of videos. Costumes are optional, but fun is not!

Yummy taste treats will be included. And be sure to invite some friends. Family Fun Nights are free and open to the public.

The Hospitality Committee hosts a series of Family Fun Nights throughout the year, which will feature food, refreshments and varied activities each month, including games, movies and, of course, fun. For more information or to RSVP (for planning purposes), please call Mike Kapusta at 989-984-7015. Hope to see you there

### **CHURCH OFFICE NEWS**

The church office will be closed on Monday, October 8, 2018, in observance of Columbus Day.

### **CIRCLE OF WOMEN GROUP YOU ARE INVITED!**

We are inviting you to join our group of older women. Our next gathering is on Monday, October 15th and it will be a luncheon out at a restaurant. If you are able to join us for lunch, please RSVP to Pat Wald 734-0111. Our group has companionship, conversation, learning, and fun. The group is open to any older women. You are invited.

### **TRUNK OR TREAT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2018 6-8 PM**

After last year’s wildly successful Trunk or Treat, we are excited to announce that we are doing it again! As a result of what we learned last year, we are making a few changes.



Rather than asking you to donate candy, we are asking that you donate gift cards or money so that we can purchase candy. This is so that we can be a little more uniform in what is being given away and so that we can avoid giving away candy that might pose a choke hazard for little ones.

Second, we need people to sign up to help! In addition to folk who are willing to decorate the trunk of their car, we need folk who can be greeters, runners between the church and the cars, and helpers in the kitchen. Please find a sign-up sheet in the lobby of the church.

So that we can plan to have enough candy for each car, we ask that all those who can decorate the trunk of their cars, please sign up by October 22.

Finally, please invite your friends and neighbors. Thank you!



### CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**DECEMBER 16, 2018 ~ 10:30 A.M. ~ IN THE SANCTUARY**

We are excited to announce our 2018 Christmas Cantata will be “Let There Be Christmas” by Joseph M. Martin. This service in song is a joyous celebration of hope and peace for the Christmas season. This Cantata is only three years old. It is complete with carols, narration, congregational participation, original anthems, choir and an eight-piece orchestra. With jubilant songs of praise to reflective carols of peace, this Cantata is sure to bring the true spirit and meaning of Christmas to you. If you would like to sing with us, please contact the church office at 734-1614. In any event, mark your calendars! You won’t want to miss this!

### JUST A REMINDER....

If you have any receipts for expenses related to church activities, such as donations for the fundraisers, etc., if you turn them in to Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary, you may receive credit on your giving statement. Thank you.



### ELECTION DAY

#### CHILI, SOUP, AND BAKE SALE

There will be a Chili, Soup, and Bake Sale on Election Day, **Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup>**. The proceeds will benefit the Puerto Rico mission trip scheduled for February 2019. We are looking for donations of chili, soup, and baked goods. There is a sign-up sheet in the Missionary Lobby. If you have questions, please contact Pat Holstrom at (607) 368-5753.

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Thursday, October 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](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

### KNITTING4PEACE POD

Our Peace Pod meets every **Tuesday**, from **3 – 4:30 p.m.** in the Genesis room. If you would like to learn to knit or crochet or would like to polish off rusty skills, drop in. There’s always someone there who can help you. If you can’t make meetings, you are welcomed to knit or crochet at home. For further instructions and patterns, visit [www.knitting4peace.org](http://www.knitting4peace.org) or speak with Sue Weaver or Kelly Stewart. Hope to see you there!



### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

#### AUGUST 2018

Type	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Pledges	\$113,466.22	\$120,270.00
Other		
Contributions	\$14,635.75	\$14,765.10
Total		
Contributions	\$128,101.97	\$135,035.10
Total Income	\$207,163.94	\$205,952.66
Total Expenses	\$216,737.89	\$232,153.55



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



“There is no happiness in having or in getting,  
but only in giving.”

~ *Henry Drummond*

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 Swarhout, Child Care Giver

Church Office (607) 734-1614

Visit our website: [www.firstpreselmira.org](http://www.firstpreselmira.org)