



Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian Church
www.firstpreselmira.org

September 10, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

By now many of you have received a letter from me in which I have shared the news that I plan to retire from full-time pastoral ministry on February 1, 2020. Although this has not been an easy decision for me because I love what I do and love you all, my husband, Mike, and I have come to the conclusion that several factors in our lives have added up to show us that it is time.

Session has already begun to work with the Chair of the Committee on Ministry (COM) of Geneva Presbytery in the process of finding an interim pastor. The hope and prayer is that there will be a highly qualified interim pastor in place, serving this church full-time, shortly after my retirement.

In the meantime, we have five months together to continue to serve God. This is not the time for any of us to step back. As I said in the letter, I intend to finish strong, giving ministry here all that I can. I expect you too will continue to give your best to God through this church as long as you are living in this area.

I will be eternally grateful to you and to God for the awesome privilege it is and has been to serve God with and among you. Being with you in your seasons of joy, your journeys through sorrow and all the routine times that make up much of life, is and has been so sacred. I know that this is a strong congregation with a deep servant heart. This church is a blessing. Through it we are all blessed. However, we are blessed in order to be a blessing to others, and so you and I must carry on, as dedicated and faithful as ever.

Love, peace and blessings, Betsey

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SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES!

Sunday School classes for children of all ages begin on **Sunday, September 15, 2019!** Children who wish to go to Sunday School are dismissed from worship right after the Children's Sermon and go to room 10. *(continued —>)*

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INSERT:
Back to Church Sunday!

Please Remember!
“FEED MY SHEEP”
September 15th:
LOW SODIUM CANNED BEANS

The lesson on September 15 is “Everyone Is Welcome,” based on verses from Hebrews 13. The lesson for September 22 is “God Steadfast Love,” based on Luke 15.

Sunday School is where many of us have learned the basics of our faith and where we have made lasting friendships. Sunday School is cool!

Any questions? Please speak with Rehana Stanley, Mike Crimmins or Heather Cranford. Thank you.

THIS WEEK’S SUNDAY SERVICE
September 15, 2019 ~ 9:30 AM
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
National Back to Church Sunday
Sunday School Kick-Off!
Cents-Ability Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach in the sanctuary and **Elder Susan Frost** will assist in the worship. The Chancel Choir will sing and the Brass Ensemble will play. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Dennis and Nancy Cooper, Mike and Rehana Stanley**. A Minute for Mission will be given by **Joanne Tunison**. The Lay Reader will be **Nancy Cooper**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Patricia Holmstrom**. The Fellowship Hour will be hosted by the **Metcalfe, Schamel, and Stanley families**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

NEXT WEEK’S SUNDAY SERVICE
September 22, 2019 ~ 10:30 AM
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship in the sanctuary and **Elder Susan Frost** will preach. The Chancel Choir will sing. The Greeters and Ushers will be **Michelle Giachinno, Carole Wereski,**

Mike McGuire and Karen White. A Minute for Mission will be given by **Andy Foster**. The Lay Reader will be **Donna Hutchison**. The Chancel Flowers will be given by **Patricia Holmstrom**. Childcare is available. All are welcome to attend!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study is meeting every **Sunday at 9:30 AM** in the parlor area. They will discuss the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday. Scriptures for **Sunday, September 15th**: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10. All are welcome!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning worship service on September 1st...**Mark and Jane Ivanick** for Greeting and Ushering...**Mike Crimmins** for Lay Reading...a trio of musicians; **Anne McGee, Kathy Menges,** and **Desiree Rogers**...Deacons, **Mike Crimmins** and **Dottie Tholfsen** for preparing the Communion...Elders, **Rich Buchheimer, Susan Frost, Marcia Metcalfe, Rehana Stanley,** and **Chuck Stewart** for serving the Communion...**Kathy Menges** for giving the Chancel Flowers from her beautiful garden...**Carole Wereski** for hosting the Fellowship Hour.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday morning worship service on September 8th...the **Chancel Choir** for singing...**Brenda Miller, Linda Proper, Jason and Beth Manwaring** for Greeting and Ushering...**Chuck Stewart** for giving a Minute for Mission...**Carole Wereski** for Lay Reading...**Kathy Menges** for assisting in the Sacrament of Baptism...**Cindy Haigh** for



CHURCH FAMILY



Our prayers of healing extend to God on behalf of **Herb Brown** who is a patient at the Stony Brook Hospital.

Our prayers of healing extend to God on behalf of **Polly Sullivan** who is a patient at the Corning Center for Rehab and Healthcare.

Our prayers of healing extend to God on behalf of **Greg Lamb** who was a patient at the Robert Packer Hospital on Tuesday, August 27, 2019.

Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God on behalf of **Molleigh Malanoski** and **Tyler Taft** on the Sacrament of Baptism for their son, Colson John Gregory Taft, on Sunday, September 8, 2019, in our church.

giving the Chancel Flowers, “The Chancel Flowers are given in honor of the first birthday of Gavin Magnus Haigh, son of Aaron and Jonelle Haigh, and brother of Donovan.”...the **Deacons** for hosting the Fellowship Hour.

CENTS-ABILITY SUNDAY September 15, 2019

Cents-Ability is a small first step in the battle against hunger and poverty. Congregations invite every member — of all ages — to contribute a few cents at every meal. This simple act is an expression of thanks for what we have received. It is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus’ command “You give them something to eat.” When members bring their offerings to church on the appointed Sunday, all of those coins “make a joyful noise unto the Lord” as they are received and dedicated.

Cents-Ability originated in 1976 as “Two-Cents-A-Meal,” a project begun by Presbyterian Women to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. Our Cents-Ability offerings go to the Presbytery of Geneva which distributes the

funds to various food pantries and feeding programs in communities served by the Presbytery churches.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA "WHAT CHILD IS THIS?"

This year's Christmas Cantata, "What Child is This?" by Joel Raney, will take place during the worship service on Sunday, December 15th. Rehearsals will begin on **Thursday, September 26th**, from **8:15-9:00 PM**. Please consider joining us to celebrate the birth of Christ through song! If you would like more information, or know of anyone outside of the church who might be interested in joining us, please contact Melissa Moore (607-426-8208 or melissamoore1015@gmail.com).

ATTENTION DEACONS AND ELDERS...IT'S PICTURE TIME!

On **Sunday, September 29th** after the worship service, we will be taking pictures of the Deacons and Elders outside the church office. Please be sure to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Andy Foster (732-2975).

JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR!

Have you been thinking about joining the Chancel Choir? Then this is the time to do it! The Chancel Choir has rehearsals on **Thursday evenings** at **7:30 p.m.** in the Betschen Music Room and **Sunday mornings** at **9:30 a.m.** in the sanctuary. Speak to Melissa Moore for further information: 607-426-8208.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Hello folks. We now have a Fundraising Committee of which I'm the Chair. If you have any ideas and would like to join me, please call or text me (607-398-4321) or email: aw6510@yahoo.com ~Liz Holloway

CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

If you have perennials you could pot up for a fall plant sale, please let me know. I'm planning to collect them for October 7th. Thanks, Liz Holloway 607-398-4321.

THIRD ANNUAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/ THRIVENT BUILDING ON FAITH EVENT SEPTEMBER 13-14

Chemung County Habitat for Humanity is once again partnering with Thrivent for a two-day Building on Faith Event. The goal is to have 100 volunteers from 10-15 churches. Work will be from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM each day. Friday will focus on Home Rehabilitation for those 16 and up. Saturday will focus on local park clean up and repair, and landscaping. Another way to volunteer is to provide baked goods and fruit for the workers or assist with set up and clean up at lunch time. There really is something for everyone! **Registration is requested by September 12th.** Forms are available in

the church office and on Sunday in the missionary hall. You may also register on line but if you do please also get your name on our church sign-up sheet. We want you in our count!! Need more information? Contact: Barb Fitzsimmons at b2fitz@yahoo.com or Sylvie Farr at sylvie@chemungcountyhabiat.org.

CIRCLE OF WOMEN

You are also invited to the next Circle of Women meeting on **Monday, September 16th** at **10 AM** in the Hoffman Great Room. All women are invited.

RUMMAGE SALE MEETING 2019

The first Rummage Sale meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 17, 2019** at **2:30 PM** at the church. We will be making some decisions about the set up and also things we do want and things we do not want. I would like people to pick an area that they are interested in and will be comfortable being the mastermind of that area. We will also discuss innovative ways to get more people involved in the set-up, organization and what needs to be done in a stream-lined manner. Let's take a new look on this task and give it a tweaking so that our customers will find it intriguing and satisfying. Let's have fun and work together! Hope to see many people at the meeting and I am looking forward to fresh, innovative ideas-thanks-Jane

PRES CLIPPINGS SCHEDULE

The next Pres Clippings will be published on Tuesday, **September 17th.** There will not be a Pres Clippings on Tuesday, September 24th. Please send all articles to Kelly Stewart, Church Secretary, at

kespreselm@stny.rr.com by 9 AM on the Monday prior to the publishing date.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
Thursday, September 26, 2019**

1 - 6 PM ~ 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 POD

You are invited to join the Peace Pod on **Tuesdays**, from **2:30 -4:30 pm** in the Genesis Room of the church. There is plenty of yarn as well as many patterns for all skill levels. There is also lots of good fun and fellowship around the table at each meeting. You are invited.

**WOMEN MOVE MOUNTAINS
Presbyterian Women Synod of the
Northeast Fall Gathering
October 18-19, 2019**

Stony Point Conference Center

“Women Move Mountains” is the theme of the Fall Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the Northeast. All women are invited to this two day conference. The keynote speaker will be Rosemary Mitchell, who is the Director of Mission Engagement and Support of the PCUSA. Her talk will be “Café Justo: How Fair Trade Supports People and Enables Them to Remain in Their Homes.” Workshop topics will include but are not limited to Technology Communication Tools and Eco-Justice. Registration is due by

October 8, 2019. For information on the cost as well as to get a copy of the registration form, please stop in the church office and speak with Kelly Stewart.

RUMMAGE SALE DATELINE 2019

As the weather seems to be changing and we are bringing out fall clothes, we need to begin determining what items might be given for our rummage sale. This is a reminder for all of us. Here is the time line: **Friday, October 11**, we set up the tables and racks for the rummage sale. On **Saturday, October 12**, we ask people who wish to bring things early to be prepared to stay and put the items in the correct places. Doing so is helpful as it helps our placements of items when other rummage is brought in. On **Sunday, October 13th**, after the church service, we ask that people bring items and stay to help with the set up. **October 14, 15, and 16** is when everything gets set up and priced. **Thursday, October 17**, is the Member Sale. **Friday, October 18** is called Early Bird Sale when people who are not members can buy things after paying a \$2.00 entry fee. The General Rummage sale will be held on **Saturday, October 19**. Please help us make this a huge success by bringing rummage and becoming workers as this is a huge undertaking. Thank you-Jane Ivanick

RE-USABLE GROCERY TOTES

First Pres now has reusable grocery totes for sale at \$10 each. They are made from washable cotton, are durable, and measure 15” x 15”. These totes can last for many, many years. If you are interested in purchasing a re-usable grocery tote, please call the church office 734-1614.



MINUTE FOR MISSION ~ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Chuck Stewart, Membership Chair

Good morning and I welcome all of you today to the “Week Before Back To Church Sunday”. That’s right, next week, September 15 is National Back To Church Sunday and do we have a great service lined up for you!

With football season upon us, September 15 will “kick-off” our Sunday School year; we will have our wonderful Chancel Choir back in full force with their songs and music and, speaking of music...how about we add the Brass Ensemble to the mix to really “kick things off”! What a grand day it will be. Postcards have been mailed out with the theme this year...”Come Give Us A Try!” As Susan mentioned earlier, there is an insert in today’s church bulletin giving you all sorts of good information about next Sunday’s activities. There is a free breakfast at 9:15 with regular church worship here in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

But who knows what else today is? Anybody? It is National Grandparents Day. Let’s have a quick show of hands for those who are grandparents and even great-grandparents. A brief history; National Grandparents Day falls each year on the first Sunday after Labor Day. It is not a holiday invented to sell cards and flowers. It was initiated by a West Virginia woman; Marian McQuade. She and her husband Joseph had 15 children, 43 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. The McQuades were married over 60 years. I would love to have seen their Thanksgiving and Christmas get-togethers! Joseph passed away in 2001 and Marian passed in 2008, but well before that and with the hard work of the McQuade’s the United States Senate voted and passed a proclamation signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1979 that established an official United States National Grandparents Day.

The Christian Grandparenting Network is asking grandparents all over the world to unite in prayer for their grandchildren this year and every year to come. There are three purposes for National Grandparents Day: to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children’s children, to help children become aware of the strength, information and guidance older people can offer

The Christian Grandparenting Network suggests sending each grandchild a card following today’s service to let the grandchild know you have prayed and will continue to pray for him or her. What a blessing for grandchildren to learn that we love them so much, that on our special day, and every day, we give them the best gift of all – prayer.

So how about it? Let’s do what the postcard says “Come Give Us A Try”. Do you know anyone or any family that is “un-churched” or who may be looking for a church or even searching for some guidance in their lives? Wouldn’t it be special if they too could enjoy what our church has to offer, especially our kick-off next week?

So, parents, grandparents and everybody else...let’s all give prayer a chance for our church, our pastor, our fellow members and friends and yes, always the grandchildren.

In light of Betsey’s recent retirement announcement I’ve had to change and add some thoughts to this Minute For Mission. *(continued ———>)*

During her meeting and talk with Session this past Wednesday evening we discussed that her retirement will, hopefully, not be a sad occasion; but rather it will be a celebration! A celebration of over 40 years of Christian ministry; 27 of those years being right here serving as our minister, mentor, counselor and friend. I quickly looked at the framed poster near the church office that has the portraits and photographs of our prior ministers dating back to the 1830's. There are 19 faces there; 18 of which are male and the last photo is of a female; our own Betsey Crimmins. If my math is correct, Betsey is the longest serving minister in our church's history! Of course, we will all miss Betsey and Mike and we will go through some sad times, but Betsey will be the first one to say her pending retirement is not the retirement of our church; the church will go on. WE WILL ALL GO ON! This is a new beginning; a new opportunity not only for Betsey and Mike, but for this church! We will not stop being the church that we are...we will continue to invite neighbors and friends to church; we will continue to have special concerts and events; we will continue to help and support our Mission projects, both locally, nationally and globally. We will hopefully continue to grow, not only in numbers but spiritually as well. We are strong and we are a loving, giving church body and we will keep going! You may not think it now and maybe this is not the time to say it...but there is a person out there right now; a God-loving minister looking for a church just like this one and we will offer that person a chance to carry the torch so to speak; to continue to lead us....exactly like Betsey did for us 27 years ago! Thank you.

2019-2020 CONCERT SERIES

- **Friday, November 1,** the **Mansfield Wind Ensemble** will play a traditional concert band repertoire.
- **Friday, December 13,** the **Corning Area Community Concert Band** will play seasonal and traditional music. They will be kicking off a musical weekend because on ...
- **Sunday, December 15,** the centerpiece of our worship service will be a **Contemporary Christmas Cantata** presented by our Chancel Choir, choral guests from various local churches, and an instrumental ensemble.
- **Friday, March 27,** (2020) the **Edgewood Trio** (violin, cello and piano) will offer an evening of exciting classical music.

- **Friday, May 8,** (2020) the highly acclaimed jazz/pop quartet called **Top Shelf** will be in concert.

All concerts will take place in the sanctuary of the church. All concerts, except the December 15 Christmas Cantata, will begin at 7:30 PM. It has been our habit that a free will offering will be taken at all concerts, except for the Christmas Cantata. The purpose of the free will offering is to help offset expenses. Hope to see you there!

NO MORE METAL RECYCLING

Please note: we are no longer taking anymore metal recycling. We are still taking recycling for the 5 cent aluminum cans and the 5 cent plastic water bottles. Please place all 5 cent returnable containers in the blue bin in the kitchen. Thank you.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...



*“Keep me away from the wisdom that does not cry,
a philosophy that does not last,
and the greatness that does not bow before children.”*

~ Khalil Gibran

The Rev. Dr. Betsey R. Crimmins, Pastor

Barbara Squires, Clerk of Session

Gary Tucker, Organist

Melissa Moore, Director of Music

Scott Kelley, Instrumental Director

Fred Betschen, Church Treasurer

Paul Kingsbury, Assistant Church Treasurer

Kelly Stewart, Church Secretary

Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary

Bella DiPofi, Child Care Giver

Sami Swarouth, Child Care Giver

James Stewart, Sr., Church Sexton

Susan Frost, Seminary Intern

Church Office (607) 734-1614

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