

Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian
Church
www.firstpreselmira.org

September 19, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Sunday we commissioned seven people to represent our church at the 130th anniversary celebration of the Hokusei Gakuen School System in Sapparo, Japan and at the 120th anniversary celebration of the Rose Kindergarten in Otaru, Japan. The seven missionaries going are: Clare van den Blink, Paul and Lynn Hornbuckle, Kay and Chuck Stewart and John and Joanne Luce.

“What’s the significance of this trip?” you ask. Well, first let’s review the history involved. Both schools were founded by members of our church who were missionaries sent to Japan by our church. Sarah Smith established Hokusei, a school for girls, which was, at the time, the only opportunity on the island of Hokkaido for girls to receive an education. Clara Rose worked for a number of years at Hokusei before moving to Otaru to establish a school there. Today the Hokusei system is comprised of a University, Junior College and three high schools, offering a quality education to over 6,000 students while the Rose Kindergarten serves about 100 kindergarteners each year.

The Japanese have great respect for their elders and revere their roots. Therefore, students and staff of each of these schools consider it to be a great honor to visit Elmira and our church, the roots of their schools and, at the same time, to have members of our church visit, especially on occasions such as these anniversaries. To show you how important it is to the people of Hokusei to have members of our church attend their anniversary celebration, they sent us a check, which is serving to cover some of the travel expenses of the group. (Travel expenses are also being covered by the Smith-Rose Endowment Fund of our church and by each of the travelers.) It must also be said that our visits to these Christians schools give courage and inspiration to these Christians who are living, working and serving in a largely non-Christian society.

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Please Remember!

“FEED MY SHEEP”

September 24th:
RAMEN NOODLES
&
CANNED SOUPS
(all varieties)

Our hope is that one outcome from this visit by these seven people is that our relationship with each of these schools is given a significant boost, resulting in the following impact: 1. An increased interest in the relationship by people in our church 2. People from our church visiting these schools more often than once every ten years. The Smith-Rose Endowment Fund was established more than twenty years ago for the expressed purpose of supporting our relationship with these schools; therefore we have resources to help keep our relationship with these schools quite active. Perhaps God is nudging you to represent our church and visit these schools someday!

*I leave you with the words of L. R. Knost:
“Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.
All things break
And all things can be mended.
Not with time, as they say, but with intention.
So go...
Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.
The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.”*

I believe that the effects of people like you and me getting out of our comfort zones and loving intentionally while truly seeking to understand our neighbors near and far, can and do serve to shape a resilient and peaceful present and future that empowers people well beyond what governments can do.

Love and peace, Betsey

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THIS WEEK’S SUNDAY SERVICE
September 24, 2017 ~ 10:30 a.m.
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of the Backpacks

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 **Jim Barr, Dottie Tholfsen, Mike Crimmins,** and **Warren McGee.** The Minutes for Mission will be given by **Stacia Kruckow** and **Joanne Tunison.** The Lay Reader will be **Barb Fitzsimmons.** Childcare will be available. All are welcome to attend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS COOL!

It’s time to come to Sunday School!! Sunday School for all youth will take place during the worship service beginning on

September 24th. 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!

NEXT WEEK’S SUNDAY SERVICE
October 1, 2017 ~ 10:30 a.m.
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins will lead us in worship and preach in the sanctuary. The **Chancel Choir** will sing. The Lay Reader will be **Sherry Green.** The Deacons preparing Communion will be **Barb Cacciotti, Nan Peterson,** and **Sue Kruckow.** The Elders serving Communion



CHURCH FAMILY



Our prayers of joy and congratulations extend to God for **Patti Tucker and Billy Verguson** on the birth of their new baby son, **Liam Wesley Verguson** who was born on Monday, September 18, 2017, at 7 lbs & 19 1/4" long. Proud grandparents are **Kelli and Gary Tucker**.

will be **Stacia Kruckow, Greg Lamb, Connie LaVere, Marcia Metcalfe, Kera Stanley,** and **Chuck Stewart**. Childcare will be available. All are welcome to attend!

NEW MEMBER INFO

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Sunday, September 24th ~ 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, **September 24th 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.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS...

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR! It's time to return to school or to work or to the fall routine. To celebrate the change of the season and all that it brings, we will have a "Blessings of Backpacks" (and anything else that you carry with you every day) during worship on **Sunday, September 24th**. Children, youth, and yes, you adults too are invited to bring to church that Sunday something that you carry with you every day. Start thinking about what you carry with you every day. Is it your backpack, briefcase, purse, a musical instrument case, or laptop?

Is it a diaper bag, pen, watch or cell phone holster? Is it a lunch bag, fit bit, a glasses case, or a pencil? Whatever it is, we invite you to bring it with you to church on September 24th for a time of blessing.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Sunday worship service on September 17...the **Chancel Choir** for singing...**Nan Peterson, Linda Proper, Paul and Lynn Hornbuckle** for Greeting and Ushering...**Chuck Stewart** for giving a Minute for Mission...**Harry Fitzsimmons** for Lay Reading...**Mike Stanley and Connie LaVere** for leading the Sunday School activities during worship...**Stacia Kruckow** for tending the nursery...**Kathy Menges** for giving the Chancel Flowers, "The Chancel Flowers are given in loving honor of our family's fall birthdays of Eugene, Patrick and Andrea, and Brian Foley."...the **Elders** for hosting the Fellowship Hour.

FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Greg Lamb, Stewardship Chair

Just as a heads up, this year's Fall Stewardship Campaign will begin on Sunday, October 8 through October 29. There will be an Early Bird Program as in previous years. We ask you please begin your prayerful consideration to this critical annual event in the life of our church. Anyone wishing to join the Stewardship Committee to help out, please contact Greg

Lamb at (607) 562-3134 or via email at lambge@gmail.com Thanks in advance for your continued support.

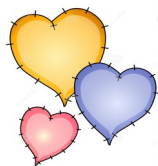
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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, September 24th** are: Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Jonah 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.

HELP WANTED!

Our church is looking for Nursery Care Givers and a Nursery Director. These are paid positions. The time is Sunday mornings, approximately 9:30 to noon. If you or someone you know would like to apply, please send a resume and cover letter to the church. Anyone 14 years (with working papers) and older is welcomed to apply. Also, please help us get the word out about these open positions. Please mention it to someone you know who might be interested. Thank you.

CALLING ALL THOSE WHO HAVE A SERVANT HEART



The Mission Committee of FPC is looking for anyone who would like to be a part of changing lives and increasing participation within our First Pres family and beyond. By joining the Mission Committee, you are not signing up to participate in specific mission trips, although you may wish to do so. You are only agreeing to help organize mission opportunities locally, regionally, nationally,

and globally. Experience is not necessary, nor is physical strength. We welcome teens through senior citizens. Please be watching Pres Clips for the date of the next meeting or contact Joanne Tunison at 739-8474 or lalocat@aol.com.

JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR!

The Chancel Choir has rehearsals on **Thursday evenings** at **7:15 p.m.** in the Betschen Music Room beginning September 7th. **Sunday morning** rehearsals are at **9:30 a.m.** in the sanctuary beginning September 10th. Have you been thinking about joining the Chancel Choir? Then this is the time to do it! Speak to Melissa Moore for further information: 607-426-8208.

GRIEFSHARE

Mondays ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

GriefShare is a thirteen week video-based Christian seminar and support group for those who have lost a spouse, a parent, a child, a family member or friend. It is a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. At GriefShare, you'll learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life. The next GriefShare meeting is on **Monday, September 25th**. GriefShare leaders are Meredith Tift, Barb Squires, and Patricia Kapusta. The only cost is \$15 for the workbook. For more information, call the church office at 734-1614.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, September 28th

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



HARMONIC BRASS IN CONCERT!
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Supper

The ever delightful, always entertaining Harmonic Brass will appear in concert at our church on Friday, October 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Based in Munich, Germany, this brass ensemble is made up of four of the nicest gentlemen and a charming lady who are world class musicians. Mark your calendars. This concert is a must see!

The concert will be preceded by a Pot Luck Supper, which will begin at 6:00 p.m. You are invited to dine with the five members of the Harmonic Brass as they join in the Pot Luck Supper. Please bring a dish to pass. If you can't make it exactly at 6.00, come when you can. Think about it: dinner with a chance to talk with world class musicians! What an opportunity!

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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.

COLONY PARK BIBLE STUDY GROUP will meet on Friday, September 29th from **1 - 2 p.m.** in the Community Room at Colony Park Apartments, 1210 West Water St., Elmira.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN UP!!
Saturday, September 30, 2017

By Greg Lamb

I am scheduling another clean up for Saturday, September 30th. But I need your HELP. As time has moved on several members of our "core" group have had to stop their assistance. So we sure could use some new folks to join in. We have two-2 mile stretches on Route 352, but we only plan to tackle one stretch on a given Saturday. If we can get 8 people, then the 2 miles can be divided into 8 sections of 1/2 mile each. Historically a 2 mile stretch has taken about 1 hour to 1.25 hours. As there

are new requirements all volunteers must report to the church first, to obtain equipment, refresh safety procedures and sign into the daily event sheet. 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 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 562-3134 or e-mail him at lambge@gmail.com. I would really appreciate a call or an e-mail so I can have an idea of how many folks can be expected. Thanks in advance for your support!

The **CIRCLE OF WOMEN** will have their next meeting on Monday, October 2nd at **10:30 a.m.** in the Hoffman Great Room. All women are invited to come

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

-8 p.m. shift on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The next volunteer time is on **October 12th.**

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

KNITTING4PEACE POD & SEWING DAY!

The Peace Pod will be having a Sewing Day on **Saturday, October 14th,** from **9 a.m. —12 noon**, with set-up at 8:30 a.m. We invite everyone, even if you cannot sew. There are many areas to help in...pressing, pinning, cutting, etc. So please come and help!

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, please 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. Hope to see you there!

VOLLEYBALL GAMES

The **Friday night** pick-up volleyball games are from **6—9 p.m.** in the Hoffman Great Room. The volleyball games are open to everyone, including members and friends of the church. If you would like more information, please contact Shane Wingard at swingard@irishconsultingwny.com

The **2-CENTS-A-MEAL** offering for **SEPTEMBER 2017** was \$78.54. Thank you for giving.

RUMMAGE SALE 2017

Has everyone noticed that it has become cooler? Time to start switching up our clothes, right? Doing this one finds that some of those clothes do not fit at all. Too big or too small? Need some new clothes and don't have room in the drawer? Well you are in luck as our annual **Rummage Sale** is coming up-the **week of November 5-11th.** It should be quite easy to make a pile and at the same time, organize this pile with a label saying men's, women's, or children. That would help us so much in setting things up. Are you trying to pare down in your closet? Use my twin sister's rule. She has a set number of hangers and will not add more. The rule is that you must take something out if you get something new that needs a hanger. Not so hard and you are using the same hanger! This helps you keep the same number of items in your closet and the outfit that lost its hanger can come to the rummage sale. We will have more information soon with all the particulars of drop-off time, hours of the sale, the member sale etc. Thank you-The Rummage Sale Committee.

FURNITURE SALE CONTINUES!

There is still furniture for sale at discounted prices located in the Hoffman Great Room. If interested in purchasing any of this furniture, please stop into the church office or call Jane Ivanick at 731-4890. Also, there are filing cabinets for sale (2 drawers, 3 drawers, and 4 drawers). If you would like to purchase a filing cabinet, please call Pam Mathes at 733-5796.



MINUTE FOR MISSION ~ September 17, 2107

By Chuck Stewart

On behalf of your Membership Committee I welcome you to “Back To Church Sunday”!! which is celebrated today across our nation.

We have mailed over 2,000 Back To Church postcards to the Elmira area with an open invitation to attend our services. We do this same mailing for Christmas and Easter services. Our church has a lot to offer our community: Happy House Nursery, Musical Concert series, rummage sales, furniture sales, Red Cross blood banks, New Member Information Sessions, just to name a few. Go to the church web site to find all of this information and more! We still have our church missionaries of sorts these days, mission work from Owego, NY floods to Patterson, NJ Habitat for Humanity; from Mexico to Puerto Rico; and now a trip to Japan from a formal invitation to participate in the 130 year celebration of the Hokusei school in Sapporo founded by our church missionary, Sarah Smith, and the 120 year celebration of the Rose Kindergarten in Otaru founded by our Clara Rose.

We have a newly renovated church organ and pipe system. I hope you remember that beautiful concert from David Peckham and our own Gary Tucker. We have an Outreach Specialist who works both in front of and behind the scenes to get our word out. Have you ever before seen or read such great newspaper, TV or radio coverage of our church? Thank you Felix! We have a devoted minister who just celebrated her 25th service year here at First Pres. Blessings to you and your family Betsey.

I was thinking back of our church programs from the mid to late 1980's to the early, mid and late 1990's. Just off the top of my head I came up with 12 or 13 family names that had a total of 32 to 34 children who attended on a regular basis. It was a quick count and I'm sure I missed some names. The Sunday School classrooms were filled to overflowing. My wife, Kay, as Children's Choir Director, had not one, but two children's choirs: the Cherub Choir for the younger kids and the Chapel choir for the older kids. When Betsey called for the “Children's Sermon” this entire front section was filled with those children!

Most of those kids and young adults played a musical instrument and with the help of a few older adults, Scott Kelley had this whole area filled for their performances. Who remembers Jim Delk and our first Praise Band? Again, this entire area was filled with not only singers but both church members and non-members, playing a variety of instruments. We had Elmira College students joining us on Sundays to participate in all of this!

Well, guess what....with faith, I believe we can have all of that once again. All of those resources are still here and available to us. It's no secret that our church and other area churches are in a sort of downward cycle of church attendance, especially with the younger generation and their children. We are not alone on this! Most main line Christian churches are in this decline and studies show that this includes those so called “mega churches”. I am looking out now and seeing more and more younger faces here along with their parents and this to me is a sure sign of church growth and vitality! A baby's crying or a younger child asking questions is not a distraction, but rather a blessing for us! All we can do is focus on what we do best: be a warm and welcoming church body.

Well, let's end this on a happy note....welcome to “Back To Church Sunday” It's great seeing all of you here. Let us all make it the best year yet!



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...



“Whoever is HAPPY ...will make others happy too!”

~ Mark Twain

The Rev. Dr. Betsey R. Crimmins, Pastor

Felix Perez, Outreach & Service Specialist

Barbara Squires, Clerk of Session

Gary Tucker, Organist

Melissa Moore, Music Director

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