

Pres Clippings

First Presbyterian Church

www.firstpreselmira.org

September 9, 2020



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE BACK IN THE SANCTUARY!

We are excited to announce that our Sunday Worship services are now back in the Sanctuary. You will see on pages 4 and 5 in this Pres Clippings, explaining the COVID-19 procedures for attending Sunday services. If you have any questions please call Mark Ivanick (733-6255) or Marcia Metcalfe (857-1068). Please send your prayer requests to Tom Leslie's email at: TLeslie@stny.rr.com. Please come and join us!



THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE

September 13, 2020 ~ 10:30 AM

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Elder Tom Leslie will lead us in worship. Elder Rehana Stanley will speak. The Greeters and Ushers will be Mark and Jane Ivanick. Chancel Flowers will be given by Cindy Haigh, "The chancel flowers are given in celebration of my two grandson's birthday's; Gavin Haigh (2 years old) and Donovan Haigh (5 years old)." All are welcome to attend!

NEXT WEEK'S SUNDAY SERVICE

September 20, 2020 ~ 10:30 AM

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Cents-Ability Sunday

The Rev. Jane Winters will lead us in worship and preach. The Greeters and Ushers will be Nan Peterson and Dottie Tholfsen. The liturgist will be Chuck Stewart. Leading the children's message will be The Rev. Jane Winters. The chancel flowers will be given by Debra Watts and Judy Voorhees, "The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of our Mother's belated birthday on March 22, 2020." All are welcome to attend!

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY AND GIVE

As Session prays and works through the plan for reopening our building, please continue to pray for the needs of our financial budget. As of the June 2020 report, Finance

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Please Remember!

"FEED MY SHEEP"

ANY
NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD ITEMS
AND
PAPER PRODUCTS

Committee projects an approximate \$10,000 shortfall. For those who are still able to make pledges and contributions, we need help to cover that deficit.

Here are some alternate ways to deliver them:

- 1) Writing a paper check and mailing it to: First Pres Church, 1054 West Clinton St, Elmira NY 14905.
- 2) Use the church's outside Mail Box (it's locked) to drop off your giving. The outside mail box is located on the back side of the right side brick pillar, just outside the church entry doors. You will see signs on the pillar.
- 3) If you use an online banking system, you may want to start paying bills through that system. Many banks have their own systems and the information you will need is also our name and address given above.
- 4) First Pres uses Chemung Canal Bank, so you use their banking system, ZELLE, then you can send it directly into our account using our email address of: slwpreselm@stny.rr.com

Thank you for remembering us during this difficult time.

“CENTS-ABILITY” NEEDS YOU!

Please remember to donate your loose change on the 3rd Sunday of each month, or, whenever! The Hunger Grant Ministry of the Geneva Presbytery is finding it challenging to honor the many requests for food-insecure families and community organizations. We depend upon the monthly offerings of all of the churches in the Presbytery to address this issue. With COVID barring worshippers from in-person services, we received less than half of what we would have received in a normal year. Conversely, we received requests for more than double the amount of what we collected. If you thought that your coins didn't make a difference, they can add up to \$30,000. If you send your offering to

the church via mail and you wish to include a donation for the "Cents-ability" ministry, simply indicate that on your check. Thank you and blessings from your FPC/Mission Committee, Elder Joanne Tunison, Chair

A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS...

To all Members of First Presbyterian Church, We Deacons are concerned for the welfare of each and every one of you. However, our most immediate concern is for those people in our congregation who are suffering financially from this pandemic crisis. We have a fund to help members in cases of an urgent need for a necessity. A call to Kelly Stewart, at our church office 734-1614, will alert the people needed to handle this request. God bless, stay safe, wash your hands often, and wear your masks when in public!! ~ Deacons

POSTPONEMENTS:

CIRCLE OF WOMEN GROUP— (1st & 3rd Monday mornings of the month)

BONE BUILDERS CLASSES-(Tuesday & Thursday mornings)

THE SACRED STITCHES PEACE POD MEETINGS-(Tuesday afternoons)

AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT EXERCISE CLASSES-(Wednesday mornings)

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS-(Thursday evenings)

2020 CHANCEL FLOWER CHART



The 2020 Chancel Flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the kitchen. Please feel free to sign-up for giving the Sunday Chancel Flowers. The next available date is **September 27th.**

Bouquets for the chancel are \$40 each. Unless otherwise indicated by the donor, the flowers then are separated into bouquets after worship. The bouquets are then delivered to those who are sick or homebound, by the Deacons.

BIBLE STUDY



The Adult Education Committee will be considering ideas for continuing Bible Studies for our church members, including continuing to offer the discussions via Zoom because of current restrictions related to the Covid19 pandemic. Please let either Barb Squires at Barblaffs@aol.com, or Rich Buchheimer at buchheimerr@yahoo.com, know of any ideas or topics you would like considered, including particular books or themes of the Bible. You may also call Rich at 315-706-5468.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 1:00 —6:00 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. You may schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-RedCross or by visiting www.redcrossblood.org



PRES CLIPPINGS SCHEDULE

The next Pres Clippings will be published on Wednesday, **September 23rd**. Please send all articles by 9 AM on the **Monday prior** to the publishing date to Kelly Stewart, at kespreselm@stny.rr.com. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020 11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

They're back, by popular demand...**DOUG'S FISH FRY!** Stay tuned for more information as the date approaches.

OUTSIDE MAIL BOX

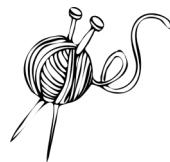
The church has an outside mail box (it's locked) on the backside of the brick pillar (right side). You will see signs on this pillar as to where this is located. The brick pillar is located just outside the main entry doors to the church. Someone will be checking this mail box various times in a week. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 734-1614.



SACRED STITCHES PEACE POD

Please continue to knit, crochet or sew at home. Needed items are: peace pals, warm hats, mittens and scarves, as well as baby blankets, lap blankets and sleeping mats.

You may find patterns for these on the knitting4peace.org website. First, go to the "What We Do" tab and then the "patterns" tab. Please stay safe and healthy.



RE-USABLE GROCERY TOTES

First Pres 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.



Church services at First Presbyterian Church of Elmira
procedures during COVID – 19

If you have any of the following symptoms of COVID please do not attend church:
FEVER
COUGH
SHORTNESS OF BREATH
DIFFICULTY BREATHING
SORE THROAT
LOSS OF TASTE / SMELL
EXPOSURE TO SOMEONE WITH KNOWN OR SUSPECTED COVID IN THE
PAST 14 DAYS OR TRAVEL TO STATES REQUIRING A 14 DAY SELF
QUARANTINE PER NYS.

1. Wear face masks always in the church. We will supply masks at the entrance to the church for those who do not have one with them.
2. Please use hand sanitizer upon entering.
3. Screening questions will be posted at the door for people to see and confirm that they have none of the symptoms of COVID.
4. Sign in on the clip board your name and phone number upon entering the church.
There will be lines marked 6 feet apart for social distancing. Please use golf pencils as single use writing utensils and deposit them in the discard bucket for later use. The sign in sheet will include a disclaimer that you have none of the symptoms of COVID.
5. No communion.
6. No singing.
7. No passing of the microphone. Pastor may use the clip-on type only.
8. Spacing in the pews, every other pew, 4 to a pew, spaced at either ends of the pew.
Families of more than 4 can sit together. We will mark the pews so that only every other can be used. Maximum capacity is again per NYS guidelines.
9. One greeter at door to explain social distancing requirements. Counts parishioners also. Another usher will help with seating.

(continued —->)

10. Project service, no bulletins.
11. No coffee hour, no grouping together.
12. Leave doors open so there is no touching of handles.
13. No bibles, no hymnals.
14. Collection plates will be placed near the entrance of the sanctuary, not passed but please continue to mail in your donations or use electronic means to contribute as a safer way to donate to our church.
15. No hand shaking, greeting, no passing of the peace.
16. No prayer cards. Prayer requests will be verbal or e-mailed to Tom Leslie (TLeslie@stny.rr.com)
17. Exit from the back of the sanctuary first. Please then exit the building as it is safer for all of us to visit outdoors.
18. The service will begin promptly at the posted time and have a total duration of 45 minutes.
19. No child care.

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**ADDRESS, EMAIL and/or
PHONE NUMBER CHANGE?**

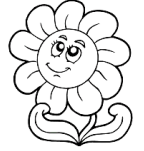
Have you had a change of address in the last year? Or an email change? Or a phone number changed recently? Did you get rid of your land line phone? Do you only have a cell phone number? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, please notify the church at 734-1614. We are in the process of updating the church directory. Thank you.

SENIOR CARE PROGRAM

The Senior Care Program helps seniors (60+ yrs) who struggle with the expense of protective undergarments. All information is confidential and we purchase and deliver with no charge to the clients.

This program also offers assistance to those who own their own home and may need help with small projects.

If you know of someone who may need this help, please contact Andy and Joanne Foster at 607-732-2975 or call the church office at 734-1614. Thank You.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

*“I’m going to go to church and pray.
I’m going to be with my family.
Thank God for this.”*

~ Richard Scrushy

Barb Squires, Clerk of Session

Gary Tucker, Organist

Melissa Moore, Director of Music

Fred Betschen, Church Treasurer

Paul Kingsbury, Assistant Church Treasurer

Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary

Kelly Stewart, Church Secretary

James Stewart Sr., Church Sexton

Bella DiPofi, Child Care Giver

Sami Swarhout, Child Care Giver

Church Office (607) 734-1614

Visit our website: www.firstpreselmira.org