

	<h1>Pres Clippings</h1>	<p>First Presbyterian Church of Elmira</p>
		<p>November 1, 2023</p>

Our Stewardship of God's Gifts in Service to His world

*"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."
1 Chronicles 29:14*

As the above scripture reminds us, everything that we have comes from God. What we give in our tithes and offerings is a token of our thanks to God. Through our gifts of time, talents, and money we contribute to the church, the spiritual needs of our church family and to the missions of this church. Over the past year you have responded very generously to the request for an increase in donations to deal with our deficit. That same level of generous giving will be necessary for 2024 and into the future. For those of us who are able, we need to incorporate those increased donations into our pledges for 2024. We are a smaller congregation post – COVID, but our costs have risen, just as they have for our society at large. Prayerfully consider what you can do. Each pledge is important.

Stewardship Dedication Sunday is November 12th

Please fill out and return your pledge card to the church soon. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to Mark Ivanick (607-731-3818).

God bless you and thank you!

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Scan to check out
our website!

**We invite you to join First Presbyterian Church
of Elmira in-person on Sundays at 9:30am!!**

•• ZOOM LINK ••

Phone #: (646) 558-8656 US NY

Meeting ID: **850 4594 0116** Passcode: Call Church

We post our Sunday morning Worship Service on
FACEBOOK after the Zoom service ends.

Please LIKE the First Pres Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/firstpreschurchelmira/>

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please email your prayer requests to the office at office@firstpreselmira.org. Falon will check for emailed prayer requests until Friday at 3p. Please indicate if you would like them added to the prayer chain.

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

I remember when I lived in Ames, Iowa – I was in my early 20's teaching Suzuki violin for a living. My parents, brother and sister lived in SC and I had not yet met Mike. I was single living a long, long way from home. I made great friends, got involved in a small church and signed up to speak English with a college student from the Iowa state university in town. That is how I met one my best friends from mainland China. Every week I would take her grocery shopping, since she didn't have a car, and we would practice English together. I still remember watching her face the first time she tried American ice cream. Suffice to say, she liked it!

I had a great life in Ames. But, holidays were difficult until the local strings teacher from the public school signed her son up for Suzuki violin lessons in my studio. They quickly became good friends, inviting me into their home for various occasions, including winter and summer holidays. It turns out, this was a Roman Catholic family with a long tradition of inviting their priest or nun into their home (I had not yet gone to seminary, I was their violin teacher). We joked around about the fact that they knew what to do with us single people. Folding

found family into their celebrations was simply a way of life for them.

I'm thinking about these things now because we don't have someone to offer a church Thanksgiving meal this year. Without that meal in the church, this is a good time for us to ask ourselves how we might open our homes to the people around us who don't have traditional families to share meals with over the holidays. It's not that single people don't have wonderful lives. I sure did in Ames Iowa. But during the holidays, found family becomes all the more important.

Ephesians 2:19 - 22

You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Blessings,
Lynn



HELP NEEDED -- Doug's Fish Fry

The results of our last two Doug's events did not meet the minimum threshold of \$4000. They were both in the \$2600 range. Not reaching that threshold means that we do not get any monies from Doug's (we still get the monies from the tip jar). It is thought that we need to find a new location to have the event. What I need is *ideas* on where to try and be newly located. I plan, with all input, to get a group of interested folks together to brainstorm a new location and hopefully move in that direction. I am also working with DFF for help on this as well. If we are not in a new location well before our February event, I will be canceling it in fairness to Doug's. ~ GREG LAMB

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Our choir will be singing a Christmas Cantata on December 18th during worship service. WE WANT YOUR VOICE! The music will be from "Let There Be Christmas" by Joseph M. Martin. Practices will be held on Thursdays from 8:15—9pm in the Betschen Music Room. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Melissa Moore at (607) 426-8208.

CIRCLE OF WOMEN

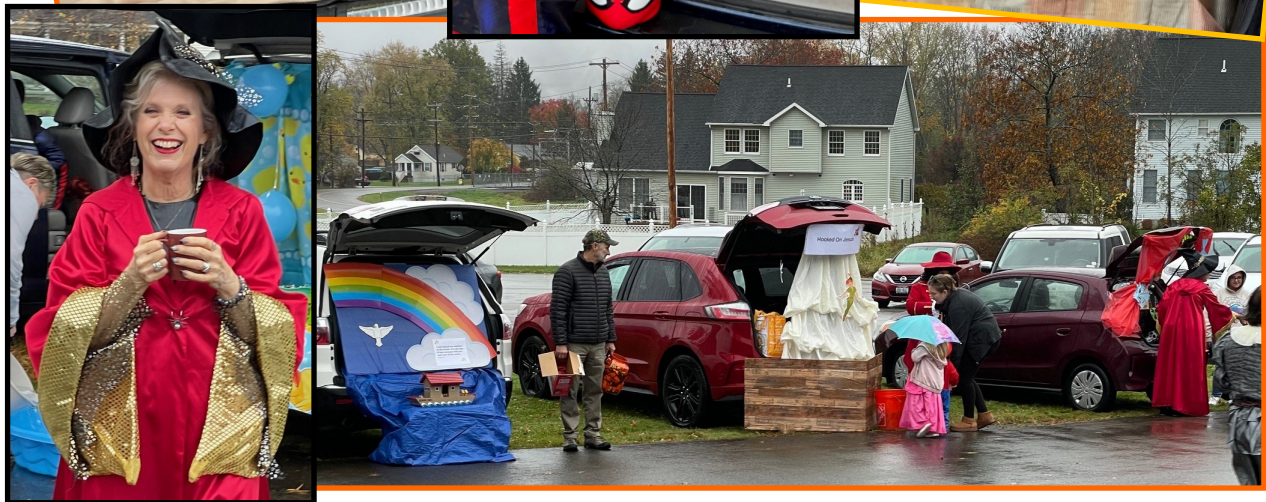
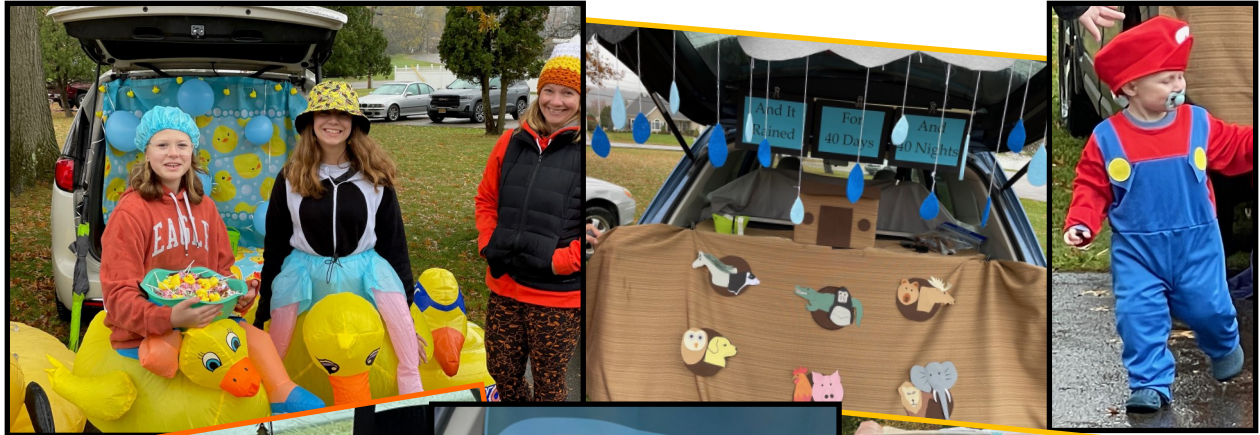
Circle of Women meets every other Monday from **11AM—12 noon** *ON ZOOM*. We welcome all women to join us for friendship and support. Here is the zoom information:

Meeting ID: 848 9633 2989

Passcode: Email Pat Wald at patmikewald5@yahoo.com to get code



Thank you for a successful
TRUNK OR TREAT!



NOTES FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE. . .

- The September financial statements were reviewed and accepted.
- We are expecting a good refund from the IRS for the Employee Retention Tax Credit, after the commission to the outside accounting firm that handled the paperwork. We are estimating that the check will come in the 1st quarter of 2024. Thanks to Finance Secretary Sue Weaver for her work on this.
- We have now moved the entire investment portfolio to Valicenti Advisory Services Inc. At our October meeting we met with Joe Valicenti, President & CEO and Louis Ruize, Portfolio Manager They are meeting the churches requirements for endowment funds and managing the \$1.8M endowment fully now. They also thank First Presbyterian Church for the trust in them for now managing whole portfolio.
- The Church has begun implementing some of the Audit Committee recommendations. Thanks to Scott Proudfoot and Les Malcovitch for their work on this audit.
- The payroll of the Director of Nursery Care for 2024 will again be underwritten by Ryerson Fund.
- Buildings & Grounds has received quote for roofing inspection and repairs of \$5800 for roof repairs, it will be paid from the Building Fund account.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY

Tuesday, November 14th 8:30a-2:30p

There will be a First Pres Workday at Chemung Habitat for Humanity on Tuesday November 14th, from 8:30-2:30. We will be working on the Pratt Street House. If you are interested, please contact Barb Fitzsimmons at youthedfirstpres@gmail.com or the church office no later than Sunday, November 7th. No experience required but you must wear closed toe shoes and clothing that you don't mind getting paint on. Work gloves and hats are also good to have. Tools and safety glasses are provided. If you choose to bring your own, please label them. You must be 16 or older to work at a build

site. Waivers may be signed at the worksite or online. For more information go to Chemungcountyhabitat.org.

~ Barb Fitzsimmons

NORTH PRES FOOD PANTRY SHEEP CART DONATIONS



The North Pres Food Pantry is accepting DONATIONS. There is an urgent need for food donations due to food insecurities in our area. They especially need pork and beans, canned soup and instant mashed potatoes. First Pres is looking for a volunteer for the month of **November** to deliver these donated items. Please sign-up on the clipboard next to the Sheep Cart in Crimmins Mission Hall.

THERE'S STILL TIME... HOST THANKSGIVING DINNER



The Hospitality Committee is looking for people who would like to organize and prepare a Thanksgiving Dinner at the church. This was done many times in the past, often by the Stanley Family. At least one member of the committee will be in town and wants to help. The committee will sponsor the event financially from the Hospitality budget and donations will be accepted from attendees. If the event is held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving like last year, it will be on November 19 but could be on Thanksgiving Day or even the Sunday after (11/26). While this can again be opened up to the community as in the past, most who attended were members of our own congregation. Rehana made leftovers into plates that were taken to the homeless. Some who now attend our church regularly were first introduced to us when they attended a Thanksgiving Dinner in the past so it is a great outreach. If you are interested, please contact Cynthia Malcovitch or call Falon in the church office at (607) 734-1614.

PRES CLIPS SCHEDULE

The next Pres Clips will be published on **Thursday, November 16, 2023.**

Please send articles to office@firstpreselmira.org by Monday, Nov. 14.

DONATIONS BY GIFTS OF STOCKS

You may now make contributions through gifts of stock, as we are able to accept them through Valicenti Advisory Services. Please contact Sue Weaver for information and the correct transfer procedure, if this is a consideration. Thank you!

AMAZON GIFT LIST



Are you wondering how to help First Pres from afar? We have an Amazon Gift List! It's as easy as: find the Gift List, make your purchase from there and it's automatically shipped to the Church. The list currently contains items from \$5 to over \$100, lots of areas to choose from.

To find the list the link is: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/NQ13WTURAIQS>

You can also get there by going to Amazon, Registry and Gift List. There is a search feature and you can search for "First Pres Elmira" and for List Type you choose Gift List. It should pop up (scroll down) as First Pres Elmira - First Pres Needs. When you click on that there are different areas to choose from. Thank you for any and all contributions. ~ Barb Squires

CHURCH FAMILY

- Prayers of healing and strength to Barb Squires.
- Congratulations to Sarah, Blair and the entire Ambrosone family on their wedding day Saturday, October 28, 2023.
- Please pray for strength and patience for Chuck Pike.
- Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Trunk or Treat a success!!



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

The holidays are right around the corner! We are so excited to have the following events to celebrate this advent and Christmas.

Please feel free to come, bring friends and family, and share in the joy of the season!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Saturday, December 2, 10a—1p

Everyone is invited to help prepare our church for the Christmas season. Lunch will be provided. All ages welcome!

CRYSTAL CHORDS CONCERT

Friday, December 15, 7:30p

A free community based concert with those who play for love and enjoyment! A free-will offering will be taken to help offset expenses.

TREE LIGHTING & CAROL SINGING

Sunday, December 10, 5-6p

Join as we decorate a wonderful tree on the lawn, sing Christmas carols together and enjoy cocoa and cookies.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 17, 10:30a

Come listen to our Chancel Choir and orchestra sing from “Let There Be Christmas” by Joseph M. Martin.

CHRISTMAS COMFORT WORSHIP SERVICE

Saturday, December 24, 10:30a

A quiet and traditional Sunday morning service to welcome the birth of Christ into the world and into our hearts.

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT & SERVICE

Saturday, December 24, 7:30p ~ Candle light service

Our Christmas Eve service will feature music by our Chancel Choir with traditional candle lighting. Come to hear the timeless story of Jesus’ birth.

**First Presbyterian Church
1054 West Clinton Street
Elmira, NY 14905
November 1, 2023**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK...

*“Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”
Hebrews 11:1*

The Rev. Lynn Rubier-Capron, Pastor

Falon Denison, Church Administrator

Landon Robertshaw, Worship Technician

Barb Squires, Clerk of Session

Gary Tucker, Organist

Melissa Moore, Director of Music

Nathan Shedd, Instrumental Music Coord.

Mike Stanley, Church Sexton

Susan Weaver, Financial Secretary

Church Office (607) 734-1614 • office@firstpreselmira.org
Visit our website: www.firstpreselmira.org