

# NORTH STAR

## December 2024 - Making Disciples Making a Difference.

Worship: Sunday at 9:30 am  
North Presbyterian Church  
921 College Avenue  
Elmira, NY 14901-2048  
[www.northpres.church](http://www.northpres.church)  
Phone: 607-734-2977



### In This Issue

- Letter from Pastor Hansen: Page 2
- Worship Volunteers: Page 3
- Chancel Flower Orders: Page 3
- We Are Family: Page 4
- *-In Our Thoughts & Prayers, Send a Card*
- Children & Youth: Page 5
  - Letter from our Director of Children & Youth Ministries
- Worship Information: Pages 6-7
  - Special Reminders: Page 6
  - Contact information: Page 7
  - Special Offerings: Page 7
  - Food Pantry: Page 7
- Reminders: Page 8

### *-Bible Study & Sunday School*

- *-Music Rehearsals*
- Missions, Fellowship: Page 9
- Renovation House: Pages 10 - 11
- Border Buddies: Page 12
- Advent Services, Finance Committee: Page 13
- Food Pantry: Page 14
- First Pres., Elmira Concert Series: Page 15
- Christmas Carol Sing-a-long: Page 16
- Communications Committee: Page 17
- Gateways Dinner: Page 18
- Christmas Pageant: Page 19
- December Events: Pages 20 - 21
- Board of Session: Pages 22 - 23
- Calendar: Page 24

**December, 2024**  
**A Letter from Pastor Hansen**

It is that time of year again. The days get darker earlier and earlier. The gray of the clouds feels different. Thicker and more permanent. It is almost as if the clouds are daring us to even imagine what is on the other side of them. Most of the leaves have dropped. I have learned since moving to the east coast that not all trees drop their leaves at the same time which explains why the two large oak trees in front of the church sanctuary along College Avenue are still holding on to a good number of their leaves. It's that time of year in which the vibrant colors that dominate the summer and fall go dormant along with the trees.

Depending on your traditions and your desire to decorate, you may have brought the rich, warm reds, yellows, and oranges that are no longer outside, inside. Colors that soon after Thanksgiving will be replaced by the colors of Advent and Christmas. Our first Thanksgiving here was pretty low key. It was November 2020 and the COVID numbers in our area were through the roof. No one was visiting us, and we were not visiting anyone either. At some point either on the Friday or the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day, we, as a family, walked over to Haskins Gardens and got our Christmas tree.

Before 2020, we generally waited a little bit before we got a tree. We certainly did not get the tree the weekend after Thanksgiving. We were rarely home that weekend. But that changed in 2020. In 2020, we, and everyone else, were home a lot and now Sunday was a workday for me. The days of just leaving for the weekend, planned or on a whim, were gone.

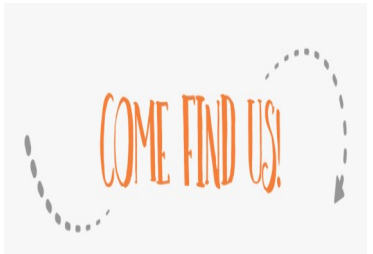
In the first creation story, we are told that God created the moon, the sun, and the stars so that we would be able to see time pass. They were to give us days and nights, seasons and years. It is because of the sun and moon that we even know what time is. We now have atomic clocks that measure time by the oscillation of atoms. You can even buy an atomic clock on Amazon for around \$35. But even atoms are part of creation and are subject to the passing of time – which for us is still measured by the length of a day. The time it takes for the earth to rotate on its axis and the sun to shine across the entirety of the planet.

Seasons are a gift of grace. They remind us not only of the cycle of life and death on a grand scale, but one on a smaller scale. They are what remind us that as important as our traditions are to us, they too are seasonal. Traditions change because each time we approach a particular season, a particular day, a particular time, we have changed, and we are not the same people we were even the day before. And when traditions change, new ones are made. Some of the things that I find most wondrous about the Christian faith are our traditions and that our traditions are allowed to change as we change and as the Holy Spirit takes us to new places and times.

Had you asked me when we lived in Pendleton, whether I wanted to get a Christmas tree Thanksgiving weekend, I would have said, “No, that’s too early, we need to wait.” Now, I enjoy walking over to Haskins Gardens Thanksgiving Weekend and picking a tree. It is a new tradition. We all walk together, and we all carry the tree home together. I know that someday this tradition will also change, but I am going to enjoy it while it lasts.

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Evan



<https://www.facebook.com/North-Presbyterian-Church>



Visit Our Website

<https://www.northpres.church/>



## Chancel Flower Orders

If you would like to donate Chancel flowers (suggested donation of \$42), please contact Lori Lee at 607-739-3176.

Available Sundays for December 2024 and January 2025 are:  
December 22 and January 5, 12, 19 & 26.

*Please take the flowers home to enjoy after the service.*

If you are not in the sanctuary on your chosen date, we will be in touch with you to make a plan.



## December Worship Volunteers

### Tech Booth

December 1 Steve Allison  
December 8 Steve Allison  
December 15 Bill Furnas  
December 22 Bill Furnas  
December 29 Steve Allison

### Ushers

December 1 Tim & Cheryl Allison  
December 8 Nancy Isaacs, Kate Hansen  
December 15 Cindy & Kurt Kalweit  
December 22 Pat & Jeff Richards  
December 29 Janice Williams, Phil Carpentier

### Communion

December 1 Linda Palmer, Tim Allison, Nancy Isaacs, Wendy Swatling, TBD

### Youth Reader

December 8 Charlie Wilkinson

### Greeters

December 1 Linda Palmer  
December 8 Gerry Harding  
December 15 Tim Allison  
December 22 Tim Allison  
December 29 Scott & Allie Sevey

### Youth Usher

December 1 David Hansen  
December 8 Payton Hoskins-Thomas  
December 15 Paityn Perry  
December 22 Annalyse Ferriter  
December 29 TBD

### Counters

December 1 Annette Stevens, Jim Mosher  
December 8 Phil Carpentier, Jeff Richards  
December 15 Cindy & Kurt Kalweit  
December 22 Dolores Cummings, Janice Williams  
December 29 Allie Sevey, Wendy Swatling

### Wee Worship

December 1 Liz Wilson, Wally Ferriter  
December 8 Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea  
December 15 Ann Motley, Payton Hoskins-Thomas  
December 22 Allie & Scott Sevey  
December 29 Ann Motley, Becky Kowulich

### Worship Assistant

December 1 Jim Mosher  
December 8 Tim Allison  
December 15 Liz Wilson  
December 22 Linda Palmer  
December 29 Tim Allison

### Coffee Hour

December 1 Cindy Kalweit, Annette Stevens  
December 8 Barb Duryea, Cheryl Allison  
December 15 Bobbi Furnas, Pat Richards  
December 22 Wendy Swatling, Janice Williams  
December 29 Ann Motley, Melanie Fitzpatrick

### Gathering of Children

December 1 Jim Mosher  
December 8 Wendy Swatling  
December 15 Pastor Evan  
December 22 Linda Palmer  
December 29 Barb Duryea

# Together we make a Family

Our  
Love &  
Prayers  
Go Out  
To...



**December 1:**  
Phil Carpentier

**December 8:**  
Jim Casselberry

**December 15:**  
Sara Ciccotti  
Cole

**December 22:**  
David & Joanne Dalrymple

**December 29:**  
Matthew Dalrymple

**Jesus tells us  
to pray without ceasing  
for the good of God's people.**

## Our Homebound Friends

**December 1:**  
Margery Schornsteimer  
758 Silver Pine Drive  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

**December 8:**  
Liz Bush  
37442 Loganberry Court  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

**December 15:**  
Ann Beattie  
4747 Glengarry Rd.  
Clarence, NY 14031

**December 22:**  
Rita Dery  
550 Wilmette Ave., #217  
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

**December 29:**  
Theresa Gublo  
456 Roe Ave.  
Elmira, NY 14901

*Please send  
a card to  
our  
Homebound  
Friends*



We would like to remind everyone that they are welcome to attend Session Meetings.

If you are interested in attending one, please contact the church office.



### Weekly Prayer Chain Email

Did you know that you can pray or be prayed for?  
You are invited to let the church office know how you would like to be involved.  
We are stronger together.



December 2024

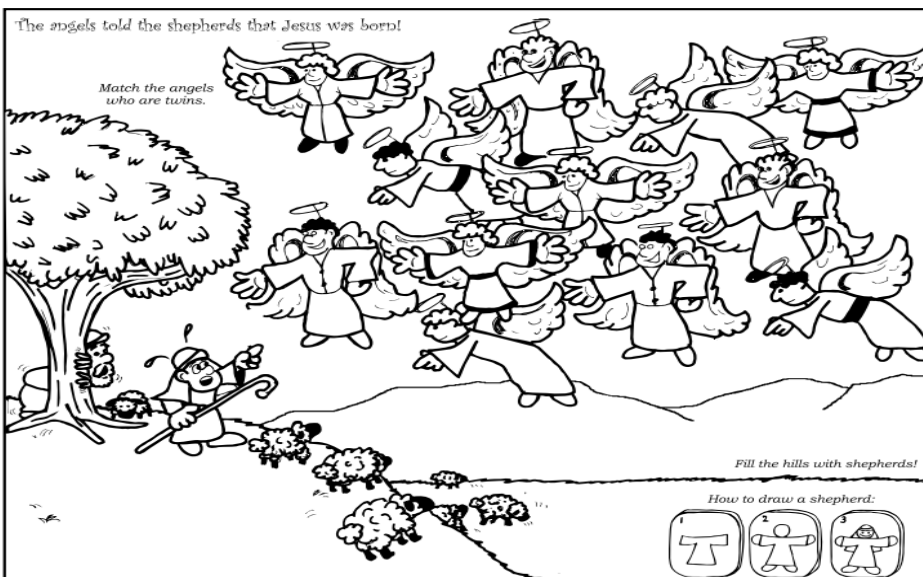


Can you believe how fast time is going? As we enter the month of December, the youth program would like to step back and say thank you to all that have volunteered in the past few months. Without our volunteers, these past events would not have been possible.

November was another busy month with our Harvest dinner, Hanging of the Greens and preparing stockings for our food pantry families. We successfully fed 230 families at the Harvest dinner. Thank you to the congregation for your humble donations towards this dinner.

As we move ahead into this month, let's all take a moment to remember what this holiday season is truly about. Our youth received their Advent calendars on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and can begin counting down the days until Christmas. Our youth program also organized and stuffed stockings for 90 families on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. North Pres. teamed up with First Pres. to accomplish this large task. Stockings will be handed out to families on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 10-1. The Jr./Sr. group is preparing for their "Christmas Concert" on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 3 pm. Please come watch and support as they deliver a beautiful message. Lastly, we are looking forward to our Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. Service will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Blessings on this holiday season,  
Allie Sevey & Liz Wilson



# Worship INFORMATION

- If you would like to be prayed for or know someone who would like to be prayed for, please contact the church office. A prayer request will be sent to our prayer partners. If you would like someone to pray with you, a request can be sent to one of our prayer partners or Pastor Evan and someone will connect with you.
- Remember to check our bulletin board for NPC and Community Announcements/Information.
- Lost something? Be sure to check the lost-and-found bin in the church office.



## **Parking Lot Worship:**

- Please use only the North Entrance (towards Roe Ave.)
- Please tune your radio to 1700AM.
- Please exit through the South Entrance (towards the college).



Weekly sermons are available on our website at

<https://www.northpres.church/sermon-details/>

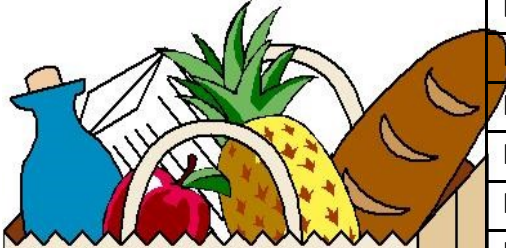


## **Zoom Worship**

- Zoom service link will be emailed each week for those who would like to participate via Zoom.

**Sanctuary Worship:**  
Please join us for Worship  
on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

**Check out our facebook page or church website for special services throughout the year, including Monthly Wednesday evening services and weekly Lent and Advent services.**



## SHOPPING LIST

December Food Pantry

### Shopping List:

The following items are needed this month for the Food Pantry:

**Canned Soup**

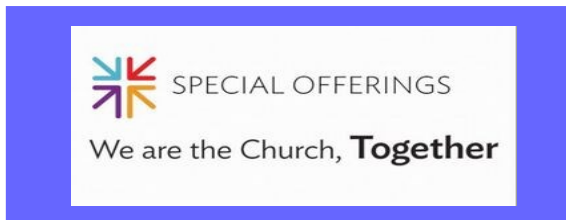
**Canned Pasta**

**Boxed Spaghetti**

In addition, if your dentist gives you toothbrushes, floss, or toothpaste, and you don't need it, the pantry does! Monetary donations are also welcome.

Committee/Coordinator	Email Address
Audit	audit@northpres.church
Buildings & Grounds	campus@northpres.church
Building Use	building_use@northpres.church
Clerk of Session	session@northpres.church
Deacons	deacons@northpres.church
Education	education@northpres.church
Fellowship	fellowship@northpres.church
Finance	finance@northpres.church
Mission & Outreach	mission_outreach@northpres.church
Nominating	nominating@northpres.church
Staff Relations	staff_relations@northpres.church
Tech & Communications	tech_com@northpres.church
Treasurer	Financial_sec@northpres.church
Worship & Music	worship@northpres.church

Staff	Email Address
Church Administrator	office@northpres.church
Director of Youth Ministries	youth@northpres.church
Music Director	music@northpres.church
Organist	organist@northpres.church
Pastor	pastor@northpres.church



Special Offering for December:  
Christmas Offering



## Meet the Staff

**Pastor Evan Hansen** Pastor  
Open Door Office Hours: T & W 1:30-4pm

**Paul Holland** Music Director

**Sharon Reynolds** Organist

**Randy Cornell** Pianist

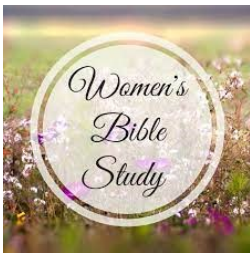
**Deb Stamp** Director of Children & Youth Ministry

**Gretchen Duffy** Office Administrator

# Reminder

## Important Reminders:

- The church office needs your contact information. Please let us know if anything has changed.
- If you need to contact the church office for any reason, please feel free to email [office@northpres.church](mailto:office@northpres.church) or call (607) 734-2977 Tues-Fri 9 am to 3:30 pm.



**Women's Bible Study**  
meets Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm.  
For more information, please contact  
Suzie Hoskins or the church office.



**Wednesday Noon Bible Study**  
is studying the  
Book of Acts 13-28.  
If you would like more  
information or study materials,  
please contact Bobbi Furnas or the  
church office.



**Men's Bible Study**  
meets Thursday afternoons at 4:00 pm  
and is studying Ecclesiastes. If you would  
like more info, please contact Kurt  
Kalweit, Steve Allison or the church  
office.



**Sunday SCHOOL**  
ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD  
*Growing in Faith Together*



Adult  
Sunday School

Sunday School for all ages meets  
at 11:00 am weekly.



**Praise Band**

Praise Band rehearsals  
are on Wednesdays at  
7:00 pm.



**Music MINISTRY**

Chancel Choir rehearsals are on  
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.



**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

The Good News Singers'  
practices are on Sundays  
at 10:45 am.



Bell Choir rehearsals  
are on Wednesdays at  
6:15 pm.







November and December are busy months! With all of the events scheduled for the next couple of months - Harvest Dinner, Gateways dinner, Hanging of the Greens, etc. - our Fellowship and Buildings and Grounds chairs have decided not to hold the usual Saturday Breakfast/Work Day in November or December. Instead, they would appreciate volunteers to help with the Harvest Dinner and the Gateways Dinner. Sign up sheets are available at the Welcome Desk. **Thank you!**



The next fellowship dinner will be Wednesday, December 4, at 5:30 pm. We will have pot roast, potatoes, carrots, salad, coffee/water, dessert. A sign-up sheet will be on the Welcome Desk for you to reserve your spot. Join us!



**Second Place East, Inc.**



**December donation  
Request:**

**Mops**

# Renovation house

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF MEN

At Renovation House we have the privilege of seeing how God moves in the lives of those we serve as they journey through our one-year discipleship training. Perhaps the best way to understand the breadth and depth of God's work here is to share one person's account of being lifted by Him from ashes and despair to beauty and purpose.

This is Jeff's story:

When I was about six years old, my parents went through a messy divorce, followed by a series of relationships that were rarely healthy for my sister and I. At the same time, I was constantly bullied at school. I felt trapped in a box of utter chaos with no way out, and everywhere I went seemed to lead to more trauma. My intense emotions had been bottled up, and I desperately looked for a way to release them. I found that self-harm could serve that purpose, and it became my "drug" of choice. I literally became addicted to the pain I would cause myself. Feeling increasingly hopeless, I began to have suicidal thoughts. My first attempt to end my life, and my first stay in a psychiatric ward, occurred when I was 13.



During high school I was constantly in and out of programs and mental hospitals, but only became progressively worse. I ran the gamut: outpatient hospital treatment, inpatient mental health facilities, therapy sessions with psychologists, many medications prescribed by psychiatrists, and eventually ECT (electroconvulsive therapy), a treatment reserved for the most severe cases of depression. But all of these failed. My worst -- and nearly fatal -- suicide attempt occurred while I was an inpatient in Bellevue Hospital's psychiatric unit. I was hopeless, suicidal, and out of options. I was either heading towards the street or a state hospital for an indefinite amount of time. I needed something that would work.

Little did I know that God had a plan for me since the very beginning. Throughout my life, even when lost in utter brokenness, God our Father was extending His hand to me. He was standing there, knocking on the door, waiting for me to answer it. As I was ending my stay at Bellevue and my direction was hazy, I got a call from my dad, with whom I had recently reconciled. What he said would completely change my life: "What if I told you there was a place where you could heal, recover, and try something new?" He told me that this was a Christian program, and I actually felt a glimmer of hope, despite considering myself to be an atheist. I knew I needed to try something. I was in bondage, at the end of my rope, and the last thing atheism had to offer was any shred of hope. I decided to give faith a shot. This would prove to be a life-saving, and life-changing decision.

I left Bellevue and stepped away from the medical world. I had an interview with Judah at Renovation House, told him my situation, and was accepted into the program. They definitely took a chance on me, given the severity of my history of depression. During my first conversation with Pastor John Earley I had said, "If this Jesus stuff doesn't work, I'm checking out" -- meaning that I would end my life. But I

# Renovation house

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF MEN

have no doubt that the Spirit of God intervened on my behalf, giving Judah, Rev John and the rest of the Renovation team enough peace to welcome me in.

I entered the program cold-turkey, off all of my meds, and yet felt a peace that I had never experienced in my life. I felt as though I had stepped into a whole new world. I saw the fruit of God's Spirit -- the peace, joy, and love that everyone carried with them -- and wanted that for myself. I was told to start reading the Gospels, and one day I turned to Chapter 5 in the Gospel of Mark. There I read the story of the man possessed by a multitude of demons, crying out and cutting himself with stones. I saw in this man my own story. I saw how Jesus set him free in an instant. I saw that I needed to seek my life's purpose from God. I saw all of this because the Lord had opened my eyes.

Within a month at Renovation House, during a church service in December of 2019, God would save me, call me to ministry, baptize me in the Holy Spirit, and permanently set me free from my past. In that moment I was free from all of the depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts with which I had struggled for years. I would give my all to Jesus, every part of me, from there on out. I completed Renovation House's year-long program, felt God's call to stay longer as an intern, and then was led to enroll in a Bible college for a couple of years. I recently graduated, and felt the call to come back home -- to Renovation House. I am soon to be engaged to the love of my life, and excitedly look towards the future. Now I have the honor and the blessing to serve the men and women here, and to share God's redemption story of my life. I cannot wait to see what He does next.



If it had not been for God using Renovation House to transform my life, I doubt I would be alive today. I am so thankful for each of you who support this ministry, which continues to change the course of many lives, as it did mine. Like me, those who were once broken and have experienced healing can now become men and women who take the gospel to a broken world -- just like the man whom Jesus set free in the story I read in the Gospel of Mark:

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed. (Mark 5:18-20)

Jeff now serves as a productive staff member at Renovation House, drawing upon his life experiences and education to help others who are seeking -- and finding -- freedom from addiction, depression, and spiritual darkness. Although he is still young in years, like Timothy he has a wealth of Godly wisdom to offer our students.

At the end of his story, Jeff expressed his thanks to God, from whom all blessings flow, and to all of you who support Renovation House. We who are his co-workers in this ministry do likewise. Your ongoing support allows us to continue this life-changing work, and is greatly appreciated.



**BORDER BUDDIES  
MINISTRIES**

*Bringing the heart of Christ to  
the heart of Honduras.*



## **2025 SHORT TERM MISSION TEAMS**

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED BEING ON A SHORT TERM MISSION TEAM?

HAVE YOU SAID TO YOURSELF, "I WANT TO, BUT"?

PRAY ABOUT BEING A PART OF AN EXPERIENCE THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE AND LIFT YOU UP TO ANOTHER LEVEL IN YOUR FAITH.

Border Buddies Ministries is offering two short term mission trips for 2025.

Sid Spencer and James Waters each will be leading a team this summer.

Sid Spencer's team dates are: July 10-19, 2025

James Waters team dates are: July 31-Aug 9, 2025

Agenda:

Team formation is starting now.

Team planning for fund raising for project materials etc. to continue renovation and building of Escuela Arturo Quesada.

if interested please contact:

Sid Spencer at: [sspencer@stny.rr.com](mailto:sspencer@stny.rr.com)

James Waters at: [waters3rd@gmail.com](mailto:waters3rd@gmail.com)

or us at: [mjgm2004@yahoo.com](mailto:mjgm2004@yahoo.com)

We are praying for volunteers that want to come and be a part of working on a public school in Honduras, playing and interacting with the children at the Arturo Quesada school and spending the evenings in devotions and learning more about Jesus.  
Hope to see you in Honduras.

Michael and Glenda Miller  
Missionaries for Border Buddies Ministries Inc.  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
<http://www.borderbuddies.org>



*Wednesday, December 4, at 7:00 pm*

*Wednesday, December 11, at 7:00 pm*

*Wednesday, December 18, at 7:00 pm*

*Christmas Eve Worship Service, December 24 at 5:00 pm*



## **From the Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee has been exploring options for funds that have been sitting in our savings account. These are funds that have not been designated by the session for a particular ministry. Since savings accounts pay very little interest the committee looked for alternatives. We recommended to Session, and they approved, opening a custodial account with Chemung Canal Trust. This account retains the liquidity of a savings account but has a higher rate of return. As we continue to monitor our investments we will look for additional opportunities to improve our overall return.



# Thank You!

More than 40 families had a very enjoyable Thanksgiving dinner due to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier -- and to YOU.

The NPC Food Pantry was given 12 turkeys and 30 turkey breasts through the Food Bank to distribute to our clients. Due to donations from this congregation, Westside United Methodist Church, Yoga and others, these families not only received turkeys, they were handed bags with all the sides -- mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, yams, cranberry sauce and green beans.

What a wonderful way to start the holiday season.



From our friends at First Pres., Elmira...



**Elmira First Presbyterian Church  
2024-2025 Concert Series**

**David Peckham**  
Virtuoso Organist  
Friday, November 8, 2024  
7:30 P.M.

**Corning Area Community Concert Band**  
Seasonal and Traditional Concert Repertoire  
Friday, December 6, 2024  
7:30 P.M.

**Christmas Cantata**  
A contemporary cantata performance  
combining vocalists and instrumentalists  
Sunday, December 15, 2024  
Time and location to be announced

**Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers**  
Large choir performing African-American sacred music  
Sunday, April 13, 2025  
3:00 P.M.

**Top Shelf**  
Highly Acclaimed Jazz/Pops Quartet  
Sunday, June 8, 2025  
3:00 P.M.


The public is cordially invited to all concerts.  
A free-will offering will be taken for the concerts to help offset expenses.


All concerts will be held in the church sanctuary.  
1054 West Clinton Street, Elmira, New York 14905  
(607) 734-1614      [www.firstpreselmira.org](http://www.firstpreselmira.org)




# Join us for a Christmas Carol-Sing!

🎵 Get Ready to "Jingle All The Way"  
at Our Christmas Carol-Sing! 🎵

 Date: December 22, 2024

 Time: 2:00 PM

 Location: North Presbyterian Church  
921 College Ave., Elmira, NY 14901

Everyone's invited—young, old, and even  
your pet parrot with a kazoo! 🦜🎺

Grab your family and friends to dive  
headfirst into the holiday cheer!

🎄 Belt out your favorite carols and hymns  
or play along on your best instrument!

To be followed by refreshments

We're excited to see you there! 😊

✨ Let's create some merry musical  
magic this Christmas! ✨

Questions?  
Call us at 607-734-2977  
or  
Email us at [office@northpres.church](mailto:office@northpres.church)







Revelation 21:3-4 “I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, ‘Look, the home of God is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will remove all their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever.’” AMEN

God is with us. He appeared in that little manger years ago to bear the sins of you and me. He is coming again – the King of Glory. Our hope is in Heaven. Our home is in Heaven. Please welcome Jesus into your heart and join us for Advent and your forever home.

Advent Services at NPC on Sundays, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am and Wednesdays, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

Caroling to our homebound friends – December 8<sup>th</sup> – meet at NPC at 1:30 pm

Worship December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at Horseheads First Presbyterian – Christmas Cantata

Musical Celebration December 22<sup>nd</sup> at NPC at 2 pm followed by cocoa and cookies (bakers needed!) (joint celebration with the First Presbyterian Churches of Big Flats, Elmira, Horseheads and more!)

Christmas pageant and worship service December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm

Lessons and carols December 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am

Merry Christmas!

Linda/Communications & Technology Committee

# **2024 GATEWAYS CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 13, 2024**

IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN OUR AREA, OUR NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STARTED THIS MISSION IN 2003 TO PROVIDE A CHRISTMAS DINNER TO THE STAFF AND THEIR CLIENTS OF THE GATEWAYS PROGRAM.

THEIR DINNER STARTS WITH HORS D'OEUVRES AND PUNCH, FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND DRINKS, WHICH ARE SERVED. DESSERT IS SERVED DURING A VISIT WITH SANTA, WHO HANDS OUT THEIR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

**AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THIS IS A HUGE UNDERTAKING AND WE NEED A LOT OF VOLUNTEERS. THE WAYS IN WHICH YOU MAY VOLUNTEER ARE:**

**10AM - 5PM - KITCHEN** – PREPARE ENTREES: MASHED POTATOES, GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE, GLAZED CARROTS, PREPARE PLATES WITH FOOD, PREPARE FRUIT TRAYS, PREPARE CHEESE, PEPPERONI, AND CRACKER TRAYS.

**10AM - SET-UP WILLITS HALL** – TABLES, CHAIRS, DECORATE TABLES, PREPARE TRAIL MIX FAVORS.

**4PM - DRINKS AND CAKE** – PREPARE AND SET UP COFFEE, PUNCH, SPARKLING APPLE JUICE, AND CUT THE CAKE.

**4:30PM - SERVERS NEEDED** – SERVE FOOD, DRINKS, AND DESSERT TO EACH TABLE AND HELP TO CLEAR TABLES BEFORE DESSERT IS SERVED.

**5PM - 7PM - CLEANUP NEEDED IN KITCHEN AND WILLITS.** – WASH POTS AND PANS, RUN DISH WASHER, PUT AWAY ALL KITCHEN ITEMS. FINISH CLEARING TABLES, DECORATIONS, TAKE DOWN TABLES AND PUT CHAIRS AWAY.

**THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE WELCOME DESK**

**OR YOU MAY CONTACT ME BY PHONE #607-483-2208 OR EMAIL**

**[bduryea2002@yahoo.com](mailto:bduryea2002@yahoo.com)**



**GOD GIVES US MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO  
SHARE HIS LOVE BY SERVING OTHERS.**

**Please join us for this year's  
Christmas Eve Worship Service**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm**

**Our Sunday School students will perform the  
Christmas Pageant during the service.**



# DECEMBER

# Events



Christmas Caroling to the Homebound  
December 8 at 1:30 pm



Buildings & Grounds  
Comm Mtg  
December 10 at 7:00 pm



Finance Committee Meeting  
December 11 at 9:30 am



Communications & Technology  
Committee Meeting  
December 10 at 10:00 am



Information to be included  
in the January North Star  
Newsletter is due to the  
Church Office by  
Tuesday, December 24.



Church offices closed  
December 25 & 26



Midweek Worship Services  
December 4, 11 & 18 at 7:00 pm.

Worship Service at First Pres Horseheads  
Dec 15 at 11:00 am

Let us  
**WORSHIP**  
Together



Fellowship Dinner

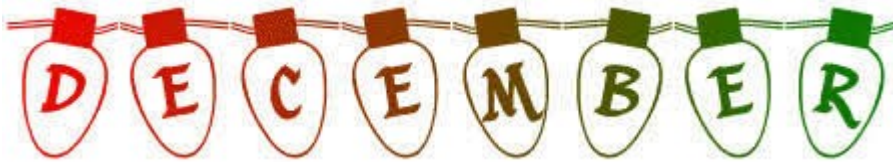
FELLOWSHIP

-Meal-

December 4 at 5:30 pm

Community Meal at  
Grace Episcopal  
Church

Wednesday, December 4  
Set up at 3:00 pm  
Dinner at 5:00 pm



# Events

December 24 at 5:00 pm  
**Christmas  
 Eve Service**  
 w/Pageant

Christmas Stocking  
 Pick up for  
 Food Pantry  
 December 7  
 from 10 am – 1 pm

Catholic Charities  
  
 Chemung / Schuyler  
 Gateways Dinner  
 December 13 - volunteers  
 report at 10 am

Our local chapter of  
 TOPS meets on  
 Mondays at 5:30 in  
 Willits Hall. If you're  
 interested, please call  
 the church office for  
 information.

**There will be no  
 SATURDAY  
 BREAKFAST  
 in December.**

**CHRISTIAN  
 EDUCATION**  
 Christian Ed Comm Mtg  
 December 10  
 at 5:45 pm.

*Christmas Carol*  
 SING-  
 ALONG  
 December 22  
 at 2:00 pm

Board of Session  
 will meet on  
 December 15 at  
 6:00 pm.

Yoga meets Tuesday and  
 Thursday mornings at 8:45 in  
 Willits Hall. If you're interested,  
 please contact the church office  
 for more information.

There will be no church  
 workday in  
 December.

**Kindermusik**

Kindermusik meets on Tuesdays  
 at 3 pm and Thursdays at  
 10 am and 5:15 pm.  
 For information on how your  
 child can participate, please  
 contact the church office.

# NPC Board of Session

(unapproved minutes)  
Session Meeting  
North Presbyterian Church  
Brisbane Room  
Sunday, November 17 2024

**Present:** Steve Allison, Tim Allison, Pastor Evan Hansen, David Hansen, Nancy Isaacs, Lori Lee, Jim Mosher, Allie Sevey, and Wendy Swatling.

**Excused:** E. Annie LeFevre, Cindy Kalweit, Kurt Kalweit, Linda Palmer, Liz Wilson

**Moderator:** Pastor Evan Hansen  
**Clerk Pro Tem:** Pastor Evan Hansen  
**Treasurer:** Pat Richards

**Meeting Convened at:** 5:59 PM  
**Meeting Adjourned at:** 6:57 PM

The Moderator determined that a quorum was present and the meeting was convened with a reading of Scripture, devotions, and prayer by Wendy Swatling.

The Moderator acted as clerk pro tem by the assent of the gathered Session members.

The Agenda was approved with the addition of an item to discuss the December 15 2024 Session meeting. Motion by Jim Mosher / Seconded by Steve Allison / motion carried.

The minutes of the Session meeting of September 15, 2024 were approved. Motion by Wendy Swatling / Seconded by Jim Mosher / motion carried.

The minutes of the Session meeting of October 20, 2024 were approved. Motion by Steve Allison / Seconded by Tim Allison / motion carried.

The moderator read the thank you letter we received from First Presbyterian Church of Rome, NY, dated October 13 2024, thanking our congregation for its donation of \$5,000 towards the restoration and rebuilding of the sanctuary and steeple destroyed by a tornado this past summer.

Clerk's Report. Received as presented.

Treasurer's Report. Received as presented. Motion by Nancy Isaacs / Seconded by Steve Allison / motion carried.

Presbytery Report. The next Presbytery meeting will be held on November 19, 2024, at First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, NY.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Hansen reported that he continues to make in-person visits and make telephone calls to our homebound members and friends of NPC. He reported that the funeral for Hal and Donna Wolfe was held at NPC on Saturday, November 2. At the upcoming presbytery meeting, he will be elected and installed as the Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery. This is a three-year obligation in which he will serve one year as vice-moderator, one year as moderator of presbytery, and one year as moderator of the presbytery's General Council. It was noted that Pastor Hansen is going as part of the presbytery leadership as Jeff Richards is rotating off as the moderator of General Council. Pastor Hansen also reported that he is rotating off of the presbytery's Operations Committee.

# NPC Board of Session

Written reports were received from Finance and Worship & Music.

Christian Education reported that on November 30 at 8 a.m., they will be filling Christmas Stockings for children of our pantry clients; and that the stockings will be distributed the following Saturday, December 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Elmira is contributing to this project.

Pat Richards led the first reading of the budget.

During the discussions of the budget, the subject of the devotions we generally provide to our members and send out to our homebound members and friends came up. After much discussion, it was agreed to move this line item and responsibility from Christian Education to Congregational Life. Motion by David Hansen / Seconded by Tim Allison / motion carried.

Other actions taken by the Session:

Approve the 2025 Communion Schedule proposed by Worship & Music. Motion carried.

Our church administrator has accepted a part-time job with the Presbytery of Geneva. This would be in addition to her duties here. To make this work, the Presbytery of Geneva will contract with NPC for NPC to provide the presbytery administrative services. This would make Gretchen a full-time employee of NPC and entitle her to medical insurance benefits pursuant to our current employee handbook.

A motion was made to authorize Pastor Hansen and Wendy Swatling to negotiate on behalf of NPC to come to an agreement with the Presbytery of Geneva to provide administrative services to the presbytery and upon successful negotiation of an agreement to reclassify Gretchen's position as a full-time position when she begins her new duties. Motion made by Jim Mosher / Seconded by Steve Allison / Motion carried.

A motion was made to pay up to one-half of the cost of High Deductible Health Plan offered by Board of Pensions (as is required by the Board of Pensions) or \$400 per month, whichever is greater, towards a full-time employee's medical insurance premiums and the employee shall be responsible for the remaining cost of the premium, including, the cost of insuring a dependent. The employee may choose whichever medical insurance plan best fits their needs. The employee's portion of the premiums shall be paid by wage withholding over the 26 pay periods each calendar year. Motion made by Nancy Isaacs / Seconded by Tim Allison / motion carried.

To calculate the employee's share of insurance premiums, we will take the annual cost of the premiums subtract our contribution to the premiums and divide the remaining sum by 26.

It was and is understood that the above motion does not apply to teaching elders, whose benefits are covered by a separate section of the employee handbook and are also subject to the compensation requirements of the Presbytery of Geneva. These benefits, including health insurance benefits, are negotiated annually and approved at the annual congregational meeting.

The December 15 Meeting will be a potluck meeting and will be held in Willits Hall. We will discuss the final chapter of our book study at the meeting as well as approve the budget.

Motion to adjourn made at 6:57 p.m. Motion made by David Hansen / Seconded by general consent /motion carried.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:30 am -Worship Service 9:30 am - Communion 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 6:00 pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>4 Bulletin Info Due</p> <p>10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 pm - Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm - Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm - Praise Band Practice 7:00 pm - Advent Service 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible Study 5:15 pm - Kindermusik</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 am - Christmas Stocking Pickup for FP</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 1:30 pm - Christmas Caroling to Homebound</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:45 am -Yoga 10:00am -Comm&amp;TechMtg 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 5:45 pm - CE Mtg 6:00 pm - Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm - B &amp; G Mtg</p>	<p>11 Bulletin Info Due</p> <p>9:30 am - Finance Mtg 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 pm - Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm - Praise Band Practice 7:00 pm - Advent Service 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible Study 5:15 pm - Kindermusik</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 am - 7:00 pm - Gateways Dinner 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>11:00 am -Worship Service at First Pres., Hhds. 11:00 am - Communion 6:00 pm - Board of Session</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 6:00 pm - Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>18 Bulletin Info Due</p> <p>10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 pm - Bell Choir Practice 6:30 pm - Praise Band Practice 7:00 pm - Advent Service 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible Study 5:15 pm - Kindermusik</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 2:00 pm - Christmas Carol Sing</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Newsletter Info Due Bulletin Info Due</p> <p>1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service</p> 	<p>25 Christmas Day</p> <p>Church offices Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Church offices closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p> <p>8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 6:00 pm - Women's Bible Study</p>				