

NORTH STAR

January 2025 - Making Disciples...
Making a Difference.



Worship: Sunday at 9:30 am
North Presbyterian Church
921 College Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901-2048
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: Page 10
- Communications: Page 11
- Border Buddies: Pages 12-17
- Greetings from Schimmel: Page 18
- Food Pantry: Page 19
- January Events: Pages 20-21
- Board of Session: Pages 22-23
- Calendar: Page 24

In its last meeting of 2024, the Session finished its study of the book, *Loving the Church You Lead: Pastoring with Acceptance and Grace*, by David Hansen. During the discussion, someone lifted up a passage that really hit home for them: “[F]riendship is a parable of the grace of God, so it delivers God.” A few sentences before this, the author sums up what it means to be a pastor. It is to be a friend. As the author explains, pastors are called to be friends, because that is what Jesus did.

When the author goes on to say that friendship is not easy for him, he is not just speaking for himself, he is speaking for all of us. Friendship requires a whole lot of energy, it requires vulnerability, humility, listening, being present in the moment, and lots and lots of love and grace. And what makes friendship so hard is that it is not a one-time exertion of time, energy, and effort. It has to be repeated over and over again in order to keep our friendships healthy and intact. The moment we start to take our friendships for granted, they start to suffer.

While David Hansen’s originally intended audience was pastors and those going into pastoral ministry, I think that his reflection on what it means to be a pastor applies to all of us. While pastors may be called to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament, the heart of our call is no different than anyone else’s – we are called to follow Christ. Besides, as Presbyterians, we believe that all followers of Christ are called to ministry and to participate in the ministry of the Church.

There is no ministry more difficult and more rewarding than being a friend to someone. Just as there is no ministry more impactful and more world changing than being a friend and being befriended. That’s what Jesus meant when he told his disciples to love one another as he loved them. He told them to not only be friends with each other, but to be friends with everyone and to allow themselves to be befriended by others.

There is truly nothing more precious than friendship. Friends visit us when we are sick. Friends gather with us to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. Friends embrace us at funerals and in times of grief and need. Really good friends can tell us that we are wrong in a way that we might be able to hear it. They are also the ones who forgive us and help us make amends. Friends are the ones who help us not to be so alone. I can think of no one who does not need a friend or two like that. This is how precious and amazing friendship truly is. And this is who we are called to be to our fellow humans and all of creation.

As we close out 2024 and enter 2025, let us be friends and allow ourselves to be befriended by sharing the peace of Christ, the peace of friendship, wherever we go and with whomever we meet.

Warmly in Christ,
Pastor Evan



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



<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 January and February 2025 are:

January 5, 12, 19 & 26 and February 2, 9, 16 & 23.

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.



January Worship Volunteers

Tech Booth

January 5 Bill Furnas
January 12 Bill Furnas
January 19 Steve Allison
January 26 Steve Allison

Ushers

January 5 Wendy Swatling, Barb Duryea
January 12 Amanda Korfmann, Joe Rolls
January 19 Tim & Cheryl Allison
January 26 Nancy Isaacs, Kate Hansen

Communion

January 5 Tim Allison, Lori Lee, Vicki Balon
Suzie Hoskins, TBD
January 19 Jim Mosher, TBD

Greeters

January 5 Tim Allison
January 12 Linda Palmer
January 19 Gerry Harding
January 26 Tim Allison

Youth Usher

January 12 Paityn Perry
January 26 Charlie Wilkinson

Counters

January 5 Annette Stevens, Jim Mosher
January 12 Allison Sevey, Wendy Swatling
January 19 Phil Carpentier, Jeff Richards
January 26 Cindy & Kurt Kalweit

Wee Worship

January 5 Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea
January 12 Liz Wilson, Wally Ferriter
January 19 Allie & Scott Sevey
January 26 Deb Stamp, Becky Kowulich

Worship Assistant

January 5 Kurt Kalweit
January 12 Cindy Kalweit
January 19 Jim Mosher
January 26 George Batrowny

Coffee Hour

January 5 Cindy Kalweit, Annette Stevens
January 12 Karen Wilson, Liz Wilson
January 19 Barb Duryea, Cheryl Allison
January 26 TBD

Gathering of Children

January 5 Kurt Kalweit
January 12 Cindy Kalweit
January 19 Jim Mosher
January 26 Evan Hansen

Together we make a Family



January 5:
Peg Densberger

January 12:
Barb Duryea

January 19:
Marilyn Edwards

January 26:
Melanie Fitzpatrick

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

Our Homebound Friends

January 5:
Laurie Burdick
608 Walnut St.
Elmira, NY 14901

January 12:
Jim & Carol Gualiaro
1210 W. Water St., Apt. 110
Elmira, NY 14905

January 19:
Melanie Fitzpatrick
308 W. First St.
Elmira, NY 14901

January 26:
Marlene Carpentier
501 Larchmont Rd.
Elmira, NY 14905

*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.



Happy New Year! This year, we were able to fill 92 stockings for our food pantry families. The first Saturday in December, we handed out these stockings to the families. During this time, we were also getting ready for our Christmas Eve pageant. All of the youth did such an amazing job participating in this service. We are so thankful for the youth at North Presbyterian and their willingness to participate in worship services. We also had 4 youth perform solos at the Christmas Carol-sing. Their beautiful performances added to the enjoyment we had singing Christmas songs together.

We will once again be collaborating with First Presbyterian this year on youth group activities and VBS. We are currently planning a game day for youth and their families on January 25th.

We would also like to say a big “thank you” to everyone that has supported our youth this year. This includes being a part of the Christian Ed committee; volunteering for wee worship, Sunday School, and VBS; volunteering and helping to make the Harvest Dinner a success; and blessing food pantry families by donating items and helping with filling Christmas stockings. We also want to thank everyone for their support of us, the new Christian Education Committee Co-chairs.

We wish you all well as we enter the new year and ask for continued prayers over our youth and our youth ministry team as we navigate through a new year.

Blessings in Christ,

Liz Wilson and Allie Sevey

WHO IS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

We are all familiar with the name John the Baptist. However, did you know the Bible gives John the Baptist many other names and descriptions. Look up the verses shown and unscramble the words under the lines to discover other names for John the Baptist. (KJV)

The of one crying in the wilderness. (Luke 3:4)



An horn of . (Luke 1:69)

 the prophet. (Malachi 4:5)

The of the Highest. (Luke 1:76)



To bear of that Light. (John 1:8)

Great in the of the Lord. (Luke 1:15)



THE WORD OF GOD - THE BIBLE

The words in bold letters in the paragraph below are hidden in the puzzle. Words can be across, down or diagonal. Can you find them all?

The **Bible** is truly a **miracle**. There are a total of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the **New Testament**. The Bible was written by over 36 different people, and over a period of about 1,500 **years**. The authors came from many different backgrounds and professions. There were **fishermen**, **farmers**, **politicians**, **teachers**, **doctors**, **tentmakers** and even **kings**. It would be mathematically impossible for so many different people over so many years to write with such **harmony** and accuracy, if it were not for the **Holy Spirit**. God told these people what to write. The Bible is the **Word of God**.

B H O L Y S P I R I T Q T
P N K O O H A R M O N Y E
T T O B C A P Y I C K O A
V E I F I S H E R M E N C
O N S E K B Y E A R S U H
X T C T W I L D C A H Q E
B M B O A E N E L R F O R
D A O U I M G G E O Y A S
N K F A R M E R S X O P O
J E T R G X O N S E I K Q
V R W L W D O C T O R S B
C S W O R D O F G O D T Z



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/>



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.**



Zoom Worship

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



SHOPPING LIST

January Food Pantry

Shopping List:

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

Canned Soup

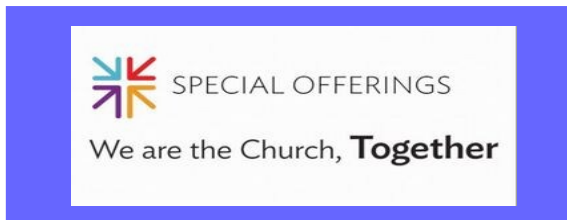
Canned Pasta

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.

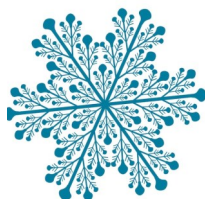
Committee/Coordinator	Email Address
Audit	audit@northpres.church
Buildings & Grounds	campus@northpres.church
Building Use	building_use@northpres.church
Clerk of Session	session@northpres.church
Deacons	deacons@northpres.church
Education	education@northpres.church
Fellowship	fellowship@northpres.church
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 January:

Per Capita



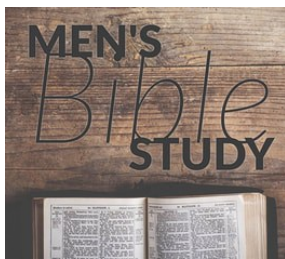
Meet the Staff

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 or call (607) 734-2977 Tues-Fri 9 am to 3:30 pm.



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.



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.



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



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



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



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



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



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





Fellowship

Happy New Year everyone! We are having our monthly breakfast on Jan. 11 at 8 am, followed by workday. Breakfast will consist of waffles, eggs, fruit, juice and coffee. Hope to see you all then, Jeff and Steve.

During the workday, we will need to replace some ceiling tiles and we will be cleaning some of the glass surfaces that need a little bit of attention.



January 2025 Wednesday Night Dinner will be on the second Wednesday of the month, January 8, at 5:30 PM.

The meal will feature pasta and red sauce, meatballs and/or Italian sausage. We will also offer angel hair spaghetti in butter sauce, tossed salad, coffee and dessert TBD.

A sign-up sheet will be on the Welcome Desk for you to reserve your spot. Hope to see you all then.



Second Place East, Inc.



**January donation
Request:**

Paper Towels

Renovation house

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES
OF MEN & WOMEN

Greetings from Renovation House,

The staff and students would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We are grateful to God and you, for all those who were set free by Jesus Christ through Renovation House this year. Please enjoy these testimonies and consider year-end giving or a renewed commitment to monthly giving. We sincerely thank you for all of your prayers and support.

My name is Tiffani, and I am a recent graduate of Renovation House. My journey to Christ began after a life-altering accident in October 2023. I found myself in an upside-down truck in a cemetery, alone and without memory of getting out of the truck. Miraculously, I survived, I shouldn't have, and that night, Jesus Christ preserved my life and opened my eyes to His plan for me. In November 2023 God brought me to Renovation House. I struggled with alcohol addiction for six years, but my time here has been transformative. I've stayed sober for a year and grown closer to Christ in ways I never thought was possible. God



continues to reveal Himself through protection and blessings, His word and the support of my brothers and sisters in Christ. I had no knowledge of the bible, but the community at Renovation House patiently taught me. One of the first verses I memorized was Matthew 11:28. It provided me with sincere peace: "take my yoke upon you and learn from me... and you will find rest in your souls." I realized I could no longer live aimlessly. Renovation House helped deepen my relationship with Jesus and His word. I found



a community filled with love and family. Though I've come far in my journey, I recognize there's more ahead. I recently applied to Bible School and was just accepted on Thanksgiving day!

My name is David, I am currently a student at Renovation House. Before I arrived, I was completely broken and torn down. I didn't care about life or anyone, especially myself. All I cared about was getting my next high, no matter who I hurt, or put in danger. Since I've been here God has done so much and answered many prayers. I care again and want my life to be for Him. I get knocked down, but I will never give up. I'll keep on fighting because I'm worth it and loved by God and my family. One of my favorite

verses is Ephesians 5:8-10, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth and find out what pleases the Lord."

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
Pastor John Earley

Rev. John P Earley

Renovation House family



Remind them to dream

Regarding Ruling Elders: A Monthly Series for Serving Faithfully



Parents are extremely instrumental in the formation of children in a variety of ways. Even at a very young age, ruling elder Madison McKinney recognized how her parents had become role models by their active involvement in the life of the church, both local church and mid councils, and in their community.

Madison, an enrolled member of the Sissetonwan Wahpeton Dakota Oyate, grew up in the Wakpa Ipakšan oyáte community, which is in Flandreau, South Dakota, and moved to Lawrence, Kansas as a pre-teen. There Madison began to engage the church beyond the walls of the congregation by attending Presbyterian Women’s gatherings, tagging along to session meetings, presbytery meetings, and synod assemblies with her parents.

As a sophomore in high school she met Rev. Buddy Monahan, a youth advisor to the American Indian Youth Council (AIYC), whose commitment to leadership development with indigenous youth and young adults was an essential part of Madison’s formation not only as a leader but in her career in education as well. With AIYC and Buddy’s mentorship, Madison’s perspective on the church’s landscape and possibilities for leadership expanded.

The July 2015 PC(USA) Big Tent Conference, held in Knoxville, Tennessee and attended by over 700 Presbyterians, was Madison’s first experience with a large national church gathering. Not only did she attend in her role as one of the co-moderators of the American Indian Youth Council she was also a representative from the Native American Consulting Committee (NACC).

Her service as co-moderator of AIYC, on the NACC, and her service on session as a ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church in Lawrence, Kansas, not only demonstrated her commitment to her faith and community but helped her gain a deeper understanding of, and opportunity to, serve the larger church. In the summer of 2015, Madison served as a liturgist at the Big Tent; the first time she participated in worship on such a large scale. She was excited for the opportunity to lead in the service and realized the huge impact for those present to witness a Native American young adult woman in leadership.

Since that time, Madison has served as a member and co-moderator of the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice and as a dual member of the Advocacy Committee and the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board. She is a recognized leader in the national church and brings a unique perspective and wisdom to her service.

In the midst of all of this Madison has been a college student, coached basketball, and worked in early childhood education. She currently serves as an Indigenous Cultural Liaison in the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District working with Indigenous students at four public secondary schools in Burnsville, Minnesota. In this role Madison works specifically with Indigenous students in student and family engagement, holding group advisory meetings, hosting cultural events, student activities and trips. She has been educating other educators about indigenous history, how to engage with Indigenous students, and using cultural practices to cope with modern-day issues. This important work underscores that Indigenous students need access to their language, culture, and communities to reach their full potential.

Madison shared, “Our people are everywhere. My community isn’t limited to one state or to one place. For me, this ministry is bringing these diverse voices together and maintaining the connections between the church and the various communities we serve.”

For Reflection

- Madison’s parents began modeling what it means to serve by taking their children with them to session, presbytery, synod, and other gatherings. What are some other ways of demonstrating and sharing what leadership looks like in action with the children and youth in your congregation?
- Madison’s advice to young adult ruling elders is to explore ministry to its full capacity. If something doesn’t feel right, find something that does. “There is definitely a spot for your unique gifts and skills!” What comes to mind as you consider what it means in your life to explore ministry to its full capacity?

Madison’s encouragement for people working with young adult ruling elders is, “Remind them to dream!” How does your congregation encourage children, youth, and young adults within your congregation to explore God’s call and to dream? How might you give additional encouragement to other ruling elders to dream particularly beyond their service on the session?

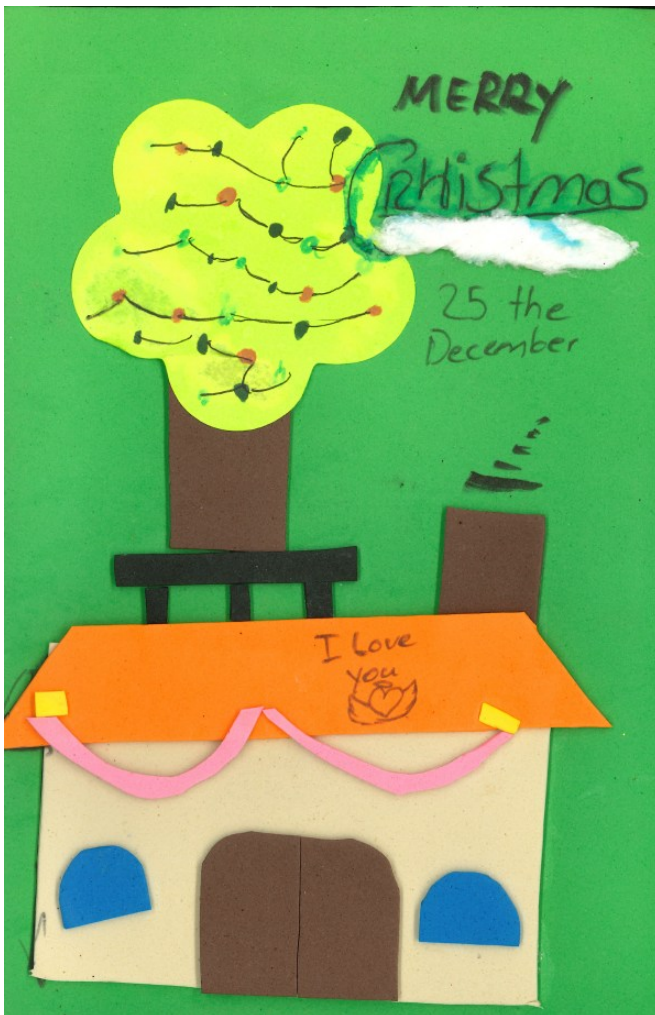
valerie izumi is a ruling elder serving the Office of the General Assembly as an assistant stated clerk, coordinating the General Assembly nominations process.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, monthly Regarding Ruling Elders articles alternate between a deep dive into the ways ruling elders discern and measure the life of a congregation through the ministry of members AND stories about how ruling elders are using their call and gifts as they move within and beyond the walls of the congregation.



**BORDER BUDDIES
MINISTRIES**

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



To: North Presbyterian
Church of Elmira
From: Eliezer Daniel
Peña Pérez

**Merry
Christmas**

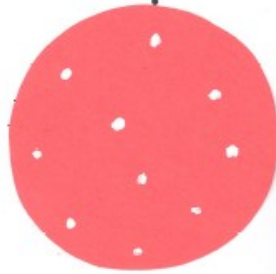
Happy New Year!!

Greetings From a
Distance from Eliezer
Daniel Peña thanking
for your valuable
collaboration with me
with the aim of
being able to achieve
my basic studies,
wishing you a Merry
Christmas and a
happy New Year.

ii Thanks a lot
For all your
help!!



MERRY
CHRISTMAS



For: North Presbyterian
Church of Elmira

Of: Jefferson Aaron Cruz

Dear friends it is a pleasure
for me to greet you on such
a special date and at the same
time. I thank you for your
valuable support to wards me
since your support is so
valuable to me

I would also like. I wish
you success in your daily
work and have a Merry
Christmas and a Happy
New Year

God Bless You

Scores of 1-69	Failing	Parciales = I, II, III, IV	Partial = I, II, III, IV
Scores of 70-80	Good	Promedio Anual por Área	Annual average by area
Scores of 81-89	Very Good	Puntualidad	Punctuality
Scores of 91-100	Excellent	Espíritu de Trabajo	Work Spirit
		Orden y Presentación	Order and Presentation
		Sociabilidades	Sociabilities
		Moralidad	Moralities



BORDER BUDDIES MINISTRIES
Bringing the heart of Christ to the heart of Honduras.

ND	Not Assigned
S	Excellent
MB	Very Good
B	Good

1	Needs to improve or not satisfactory
2	Good
3	Very Good
4	Excellent

For 1st – 6th grade students

<u>Rendimiento académico</u>	Academic performance
<u>Educación Artística</u>	Art
<u>Español</u>	Spanish
<u>Inglés</u>	English
<u>Matemáticas</u>	Math
<u>Ciencias Naturales</u>	Natural Science
<u>Educación Cívica</u>	Civic Education
<u>Estudios Sociales</u>	Social Studies
<u>Educación Física y Deportes</u>	Gym
<u>Tecnología</u>	Computer and Crafts
<u>Inasistencias</u>	Missing days


 REPÚBLICA DE HONDURAS
 SECRETARÍA DE EDUCACIÓN
 SUBSECRETARÍA DE ASUNTOS TÉCNICO PEDAGÓGICOS
 DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE CURRÍCULO Y EVALUACIÓN
 DIRECCIÓN DEPARTAMENTAL DE EDUCACIÓN DE FRANCISCO MORAZÁN
CERTIFICADO DE ESTUDIOS
 PROMOCIÓN "JOSÉ FRANCISCO MORAZÁN QUESADA"

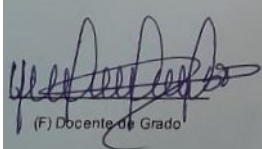

No. Identidad: **0801201416406**
 Nombre del Alumno: **JEFERSON AARON CRUZ ALVAREZ**
 Modalidad: **NO APLICA**
 Grado: **CUARTO GRADO**
 Jornada: **JORNADA MATUTINA**
 Sección: **1**
 Centro Educativo: **(080100258010) - FUERZAS ARMADAS**
 Ciclo al que Pertenece: **II CICLO DE EDUCACIÓN BÁSICA**

DISTRITO CENTRAL Aldea
DISTRITO CENTRAL Municipio
FRANCISCO MORAZÁN Departamento

PERSONALIDAD			
Puntualidad:	<u>Sobresaliente</u>	Espíritu de trabajo:	<u>Sobresaliente</u>
Orden y presentación:	<u>Sobresaliente</u>	Sociabilidad:	<u>Muy Bueno</u>
Moralidad:	<u>Muy Bueno</u>		
APROVECHAMIENTO			
ÁREAS CURRICULARES	CAMPOS DEL CONOCIMIENTO	PROMEDIOS	OBSERVACIONES
COMUNICACIÓN	EDUCACIÓN ARTÍSTICA (COMUNICACIÓN)	98%	EXCELENTE
	ESPAÑOL (COMUNICACIÓN)	97%	EXCELENTE
	INGLÉS (COMUNICACIÓN)	87%	AVANZADO
MATEMÁTICAS		95%	EXCELENTE
CIENCIAS NATURALES		96%	EXCELENTE
CIENCIAS SOCIALES	EDUCACIÓN CÍVICA (CC.SS)	100%	EXCELENTE
	ESTUDIOS SOCIALES (CC.SS)	98%	EXCELENTE
EDUCACIÓN FÍSICA Y DEPORTES		98%	EXCELENTE

CHhb7JVfdW66slFPphIP24nJosXr2Qh

ÍNDICE DE PROMOCIÓN: 96 % Días faltados en el año: **0**
 Vista las calificaciones anteriores: **SI** será promovido(a) al siguiente grado.

Fecha: **30 de Noviembre de 2024**
 (F) Docente de Grado: 
 (F) Director(a) de Centro: 
 (F) Director(a) Municipal/Distrital: 



Praise Jesus again!!!! With the help of Jesus and all of you as sponsors and the ministry we graduated 55 graduates with an Associates degree. We want to share some photos with you at the 21st of October High School.



All of these students are sponsored by Border Buddies Ministries. Almost every student won an award for high grades!! What an honor but what a witness that if you believe in these children they can rise out of the poorest areas in Honduras and become professionals in Business Administration, Computer Programming, Finance, and Science.



Some of those who won awards.



These 4 students were the top of their class each for their career. Each won a scholarship to UTH University a private school. Praise Jesus!! 🙌🙌🙌

We love sharing all these Newsletters with all of you especially this time of the year because it is a witness that God is moving, doing and alive in the lives of the Honduran people and through this ministry. May the Lord bless all of you for walking with us.

Blessings,

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

Christmas Greetings from Schimmel



To North Presbyterian Church,

Merry Christmas and greetings from Pakistan! I hope everyone is happy, healthy, and in high spirits this festive season.

It's hard to believe it's already been a year since I had celebrated Christmas for the first time as part of the Hansen family. It was a magical experience, and that year was filled with many such experiences for me.

So much so that returning home was hard. Getting used to Karachi again was hard. I still miss volunteering for the tech booth with Bill and Steve, listening to Evan's thought-provoking sermons, attending church dinners, and getting the privilege to listen to epic music every Sunday. Despite having a different faith, I didn't feel much out of place. Muslims and Christians are united in their love for Jesus Christ, after all. And what I saw was just a different, yet equally powerful and genuine expression of that love.

As you all celebrate this special day with family and friends, I ask you to take a moment to also pray for people around the world who are having a hard time celebrating much at all. Pray for the people of Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, Ukraine, Yemen, the women of Afghanistan, and even the people of Pakistan, who are trying to fight for democracy and are resisting oppressive military rule everyday however they can.

To Kate, Evan, David, Eliana, Margaret, Bill, Bobby, Steve, Linda, Jim, Gretchen, and all the other amazing people who make up this wonderful community in Elmira, I wish a very happy and blessed new year's! May God be with us always.

الله حافظ!

Yours sincerely,
Schimmel Hafeez



Imagine if the jars of peanut butter and jelly in your pantry were doubled; or tripled; or multiplied 10 times. That wouldn't begin to be the amount of PB & J donated to the NPC Food Pantry by one enterprising group last month.

Under the leadership of Gil Rodriguez, director of the Elmira Disc Center, donors contributed 461 pounds of peanut butter and jelly. Think about many sandwiches that would make for school lunches or kids home on break! (We did the math – about 3,680 sandwiches, give or take a few.)

Mr. Rodriguez had seen a notice on Tik Tok about a third-grader who had collected 700 jars of peanut butter and jelly. In Mr. Rodriguez' letter to the pantry, he wrote "I was so inspired by this that I took the challenge on...The patients' response has been amazing. Thanks to them, along with the Elmira City School District bus drivers."

This tremendous gift already is being put to use by the NPC pantry. We truly are blessed to live in such a loving community!



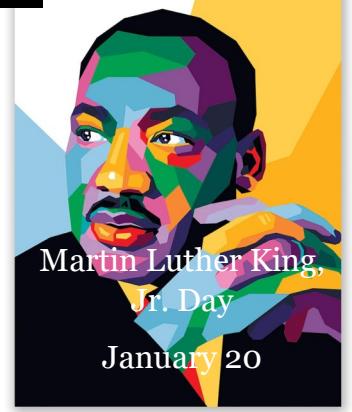
January

Events



CHEMUNG COUNTY
LANDLORD ASSOCIATION
BUILDING BETTER TOGETHER
EST. 2016

January 14 at 5:30 pm



Buildings & Grounds
Comm Mtg
January 14 at 7:00 pm

Staff Relations Meeting
January 7
at 9:00 am



Finance Committee Meeting
January 8 at 9:30 am



Communications & Technology
Committee Meeting
January 14 at 10:00 am



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



Church offices closed
January 1
January 20



Wednesday, January 8
Set up at 3:00 pm
Dinner at 5:00 pm



January

Events



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

January 19
Directly following
worship



**FOOD
PANTRY**

Closed January 1
& January 20



SOUTHERN TIER
LANDLORD/TENANT
COALITION
EST. 2024

January 16 at 6:00 pm

DEACONS
Leading through Serving.

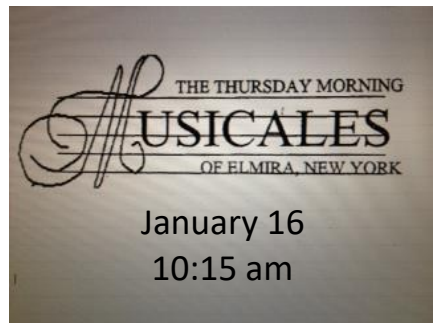
Deacons' Meeting
January 16 at
11:00 am



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.



Christian Ed Comm Mtg
January 14
at 5:45 pm.



January 16
10:15 am

Board of Session
will meet on
January 19 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 a church work
day on January 11,
following the 8:00 am
breakfast.



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

Session Summary
December 15, 2024
Evening meeting

The meeting was opened with a devotional reading and prayer led by Cindy Kalweit.

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the November 17, 2024 stated Session meeting were approved as submitted.

The Treasurer's Report, including Statement of Assets, and Profit & Loss Budget Performance through November 2024 was reviewed and received as presented.

The 2025 Budget was reviewed and approved as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Session accepted a \$2,000 donation from the Panosian Family Foundation.

The time and date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation was set for Sunday, January 19, 2025. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary immediately following worship. Members participating remotely will be allowed to participate in discussion and vote.

Session approved Pastor Hansen's request for vacation February 14-19, 2025.

Session approved NPC's participation in a joint, ecumenical Ash Wednesday worship service to be held at Bethany Lutheran Church on March 5, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Session discussed the request of the Communication & Technology Committee to purchase a large screen TV and mounting bracket for the Welcome Center to increase visibility of announcements and to promote communication. Session agreed by consent to a "trial program" for December 22nd and 29th utilizing the 55" TV and stand that is currently in the Jr./Sr. High Sunday school room to get a better idea of the size needed and mounting location. The small monitor over the closet door in the Narthex will be taken down.

Session discussed Chapter 10 of "Loving the Church You Lead".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

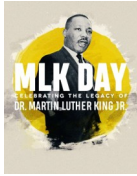
Cindy Kalweit,
Clerk of Session

NPC Board of Session



Sunday, January 19, 2025
directly following the Worship Service.
All are welcome to attend.
A Zoom link will be available, as well.

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day No Food Pantry Church offices closed 	2 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible Study 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	3 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	4
5 9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 	6 10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS	7 8:45 am -Yoga 9:00am -Staff RelationsMtg 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik	8 Bulletin Info Due 9:30 am - Finance Mtg 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 - Worship Service 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Practice	9 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible Study 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	10 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	11 8:00 am - Saturday Breakfast/Workday 
12 9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School	13 10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS	14 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am - Comm & Tech Mtg 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 5:30 pm - Chemung Cty Landlord Assoc 5:45 pm - CE Mtg 7:00 pm - B & G Mtg	15 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm - Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm - Praise Band Practice 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Practice	16 8:45 am -Yoga 9:00 am - Thursday Morning Musicales 10:00 am - Kindermusik 11:00 am - Deacon's Mtg 4:00 pm - Men's Bible Study 5:15 pm - Kindermusik 6:00 pm - Landlord/Tenant Coalition	17 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	18
19 9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:30 am - Annual Meeting 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 6:00 pm - Board of Session  	20 MLK, Jr. Day Church Offices closed No Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS 	21 Bulletin Info Due 8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik	22 Bulletin Info Due 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 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Practice	23 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible Study 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	24 Newsletter Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA 	25
26 9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School	27 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS	28 8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 3:30 pm - Woodbrook Svc.	29 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm - Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm - Praise Band Practice 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir Practice	30 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible Study 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	31 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA	