

North Star

March 2017

Making Disciples - Making a Difference

North Presbyterian Church
921 College Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901-2048
www.northpres.com

Phone: 607-734-2977
Fax: 607-734-2978
Office Hours: Monday- Friday, 9 am-2 pm

In this Issue:

- From the Pastor
- March 5 Congregational Meeting
- Pastor's Prayer Circle
- Sunday School
- Bible Studies
- March Worship Volunteers
- Congregational Care
- This Month @ NPC
- 2017 Easter Lily Donation Form
- Children & Youth
- Session Update
- From the Pantry
- B & G Update
- March 2017 Calendar

Meet our Staff:

Rev. David Preisendanz Pastor
Office Schedule Monday - Thursday
(before lunch is the best time to reach him)
northprespastor@stny.rr.com

Deb Stamp Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Office Schedule Monday - Friday (hours vary)
northpresyouth@stny.rr.com

Paul Holland Music Director
Office Schedule Tuesday, 2 - 4pm & during rehearsals
northpresmusic@stny.rr.com

Barbara Mosher Church Organist
northpresorgan@stny.rr.com

Heather Flandreau Church Administrator
Office Schedule Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm
northpresoffice@stny.rr.com

Pat Richards Financial Secretary
Office Schedule Tuesday 4pm - 6pm
northpresfinance@stny.rr.com

Please – remember your church in your will!



FROM
THE
PASTOR



Dear friends,

“Fear not, I bring you glad tidings of great joy!” Those words (Luke 2:10) are hardly what we’d expect as invitation and introduction to our church family’s conversation about a hot-button issue like same-sex marriage. But as the angel spoke to the shepherds that cold night so long ago, so God speaks to us today:

Fear not – I’ve heard many stories about the “last time” we tried to have this conversation, and those stories don’t paint a pretty picture. On March 5, I’ll begin our meeting by going over our “ground rules,” and the reasons behind them. We will be the Body of Christ together, witnessing to ourselves and to our world that when we disagree, we can do it better than the world around us. We’re going to listen, respect, learn, and practice compassion together. That’s why I have to believe that this conversation will truly be for us ...

Glad tidings of great joy – If we are committed to loving and respecting each other; if we are committed to being the Body of Christ together, as a witness to our broken and divided world; and if we are committed to staying together through thick and thin (because that’s what families do) – then I truly believe that God will lead us to the right decision. I believe that our journey together – before, during, and after the decision – will make us a stronger and better church. That would truly be glad tidings and great joy to all of us!

Here’s what I promise you:

I will not defend or argue my position before any group, including Session. I believe that it’s my job to lead our conversation, but not to influence it.

I will, however, sit down with anyone in the church, in private, and answer every question that I can. If you want to know more about what I believe, I’ll be glad to share it with you. The same guidelines will apply in our private conversation, as in the public conversation we’ll have on March 5. Before we start, we’ll agree to listen, respect, learn, and practice compassion together. So if you want to talk – call me, and we’ll set a time.

“Fear not, I bring you glad tidings of great joy!” God will guide us on our journey, dear friends. Jesus is truly “*in the boat*” with us on this storm-tossed sea. Please come on March 5, and please call me if you’d like to talk. I look forward to hearing from you.

*“Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for each other,
a tender heart, and a humble mind.” (1 Peter 3:8)*

Faithfully yours,

David Preisendanz

**Congregational Conversation:
Same-sex Wedding**



Sunday, March 5, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Willits Hall

(child care provided)

Session needs your help as they make this crucial decision, and our church family needs to talk about this important issue.

I promise this will be a different experience than the “last time.” We will listen, we will learn, and we will speak with respect and compassion for each other. No persuading, no arguing, and no finger pointing allowed! - Pastor David

*“Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit,
sympathy, love for each other,
a tender heart, and a humble mind.” (1 Peter 3:8)*

**“Through Thick and Thin:
Prayers for our Church Family”**

Pastor’s Prayer Circle

Sundays, 11:00 – 11:45 am, March 12 – April 9

Keyser Library



The focus of our time together will be to pray for our church family, and for the families of our church, in the midst of our difficult conversations and decision making. We’ll begin each session with a short devotion and discussion; then we will pray for unity and love in our church, and we will pray for every member and every family by name, over the six weeks. Please come, and pray with Pastor David for our church!



A Christian Education program for Children & Youth ages 3-18 is available each Sunday morning starting at 11:00 in the 2nd floor classrooms. Come

join us as we take a journey learning about God and his plan for us. For more information on programs for children & youth contact Deb Stamp at 734-2977 or northpresyouth@stny.rr.com.

Pastor's Prayer Circle

Sundays, 11:00 – 11:45 am, March 12 – April 9
Keyser Library

The focus of our time together will be to pray for our church family, and for the families of our church, in the midst of our difficult conversations and decision making. We'll begin each session with a short devotion and discussion; then we will pray for unity and love in our church, and we will pray for every member and every family by name, over the six weeks. **Please come, and pray with Pastor David for our church!**



Wednesday Bible Study began a new 22 week study of Isaiah on January 4. This study explores prophecy, repentance, forgiveness and hope. Anyone is welcome at any time. Bring your lunch and a friend to join us at **noon on Wednesdays in the Brisbane room!** Call Bobbi Furnas at 733-4712 for more information.



"Attention Men of God":

The **Men's Bible Study** will continue the series entitled "Not a Fan". It is a six week DVD-based study based on the book of the same name by author Kyle Idleman. The following is taken from Kyle's website and best describes what this study is intended to produce: "Twenty times in the New Testament Jesus Christ issued a compelling and challenging invitation: 'Follow Me.'" Jesus is not interested in mere admirers. He doesn't want enthusiastic admirers. He wants completely committed followers. But around the engaging approach of Kyle Idleman, Teaching Pastor at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY, this one of a kind small group study examines what it means to deny one's self and truly follow Jesus."

Men's Bible Study meets on **Mondays at 7:00 pm**. Out by 8:30 pm. This group is **on hiatus until after Easter**. Keep an eye out in upcoming bulletins and the April North Star for more information.



The **Women's Bible Study** is on hiatus until after Easter. This group meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the library. Women of all ages are invited to attend. Keep an eye out in upcoming bulletins and the April issue of the North Star for more information on future study plans. This is a great time of fellowship and learning! Be brave, step out of your comfort zone, and give it a try!

March Worship Volunteers

Greeters

3/5 Marlene Carpentier
3/12 Maxine Burroughs
3/19 The Sevey Family
3/26 Ann Motley

Ushers

3/5 Team Batrowny/Richards
3/12 Team Campbell
3/19 Team Russell/Rolls
3/26 Team Solowiej/Motley

Worship Assistant

3/5 Linda Palmer
3/12 Jeff Richards
3/19 Mickey Vischansky
3/26 Kurt Kalweit

Communion: Intinction

3/5 TBA

Children & Youth Message

3/5 Linda Palmer
3/12 Jeff Richards
3/19 Mickey Vischansky
3/26 Kurt Kalweit

Nursery & Wee Worship

3/5 Ann Motley &
Glenda Solowiej
3/12 Karen Wilson &
Barb Duryea
3/19 Mickey Vischansky &
Deb Stamp
3/26 Liz Wilson &
Linda Palmer

Tech Booth

3/5 Cheryl Allison
3/12 Bill Furnas
3/19 Joel Buice
3/26 Tim Allison

Prayer Partner

3/5 Wendy Swatling
3/12 Linda Palmer
3/19 Bobbi Furnas
3/26 Cindy Kalweit

Counters

3/5 Joe & Sandy DiCinti
3/12 Suzie Hoskins & Deb Stamp
3/19 Phil & Lynda Carpentier
3/26 Kurt & Cindy Kalweit

Flower Delivery

3/5 Pam Caroscio
3/12 Annie LeFevre
3/19 Anne Beattie
3/26 Audrey Vanderhoff

Fellowship Time

3/5 Sheryl Patno &
Cathy Wilcox
3/12 TBA
3/19 Cathy Campbell
3/26 Cheryl Allison &
Joan Barneski

Congregational Care

Pastor David will normally be in the church office Monday – Thursday, and the best time to reach him at the office will be before lunch. If you need to reach him after office hours, please call him at home, (607) 397-3173. If your call is normal church business, please save the call until office hours; call him at home whenever the matter cannot wait until the office is open.



Music practices will change as follows during Lent (3/1 - 4/5) to accommodate the 7 pm worship service:

Bell Choir: 6:00 pm (no practice 3/1)
 Praise Band: 6:30 pm
 Chancel Choir: 7:30 pm

Please see Paul with any questions. Thanks!



NPC hosts a monthly blood drive, usually held on the first Thursday of every month. We will host a Community Blood Drive this month on Thursday, **March 2**

from noon to 4 pm. New and returning donors are welcome. Please contact the Red Cross at 1-800 RED CROSS or www.redcrossblood.org for an appointment.

Congregational Conversation: Same-sex Wedding
Sunday, March 5, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Willits Hall (child care provided)

Session needs your help as they make this crucial decision, and our church family needs to talk about this important issue.

I promise this will be a different experience than the “last time.” We will listen, we will learn, and we will speak, with respect and compassion for each other. No persuading, no arguing, and no finger pointing allowed! - Pastor David



There will be a Men’s Breakfast on Saturday, **March 11 at 8:00 am**. Come join the men of NPC for a time of fellowship and delicious food. We hope to see you there!



There will be a church workday on **March 11 at 9:00 am**. We will be working on important projects around the church. Please come and help, heavy lifting is not required!



On **March 12** daylight saving time begins. Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed the previous night!



Lindsay Batrowny	March 2
Gary Mosher	March 2
Alan Russell	March 3
Lyle Motley, Jr.	March 4
Edward Patno	March 5
Brian Tebin	March 5
Deborah Stamp	March 7
Liz Wilson	March 8
Nicole Mosher	March 9
Jason Hendershot	March 11
Sylvia Tuller	March 11
Angelique Duryea	March 12
Joseph Kowulich	March 13
Piper Ann Duryea	March 19
Tessa Hoskins	March 24
Joseph DiCinti	March 25
Kurtis Duryea	March 26
Dave Ostrander	March 30
Edward Wilson	March 30
Chris Miller	March 31
David Stamp	March 31



- Ash Wednesday, *March 1*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 3*
- First Sunday in Lent, *March 5*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *March 12*
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 12*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 19*
- First day of spring, *March 20*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 26*



March 5
 Laura Smith
 356 Hoffman Street
 Apartment A
 Elmira, NY 14905

March 12
 Betty Carney
 74 Smith Road
 Millport, NY 14864

March 19
 Peg Densberger
 660 W. Washington Ave.
 Elmira, NY 14901

March 26
 Anne Dennington
 130 Eastview Drive
 Horseheads, NY 14845



March 5
 Maxine Burroughs
 Earl and Liz Bush

March 12
 Larry and Cathy Campbell
 Ana Edwards

March 19
 Betty Carney
 Margaret Carney
 Pam Caroscio

March 26
 Phil & Lynda Carpentier
 Marlene Carpentier



Worship and Event Cancellation

Information: In the event of a severe weather forecast which would make traveling hazardous, NPC worship services and events may be canceled and rescheduled for another date.

A decision to cancel will normally be communicated no later than three hours before the time when the service/event is scheduled to begin.

The church office and food pantry will follow the inclement weather delay/closure decision of the Elmira City School District.

Information regarding cancellation will be disseminated through a congregational email, the church's Facebook page and the church's outgoing phone message.



This year we will continue the tradition of decorating our sanctuary with **lilies for Easter**. If you are interested in participating this year, please fill out the attached form and return in the collection plate or to the Church Office by April 9, 2017. Please consider contributing a donation amount of your choice (if paying by check make payable to NPC). Please contact the church office with questions. Thank you!

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____





CHILDREN & YOUTH

PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.



What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.

Happy March! Let's hope spring is just around the corner. We have a few date changes that need to be brought to everyone's attention. Youth Ministry along with Pastor David have made the decision to participate in Camp Whitman's mission trip based camp this year. Our home base will be the camp and we will be going out into the community each day to do community service work in the surrounding areas. Each evening we will be coming back to enjoy many of the fun activities the camp offers such as sailing, swimming, hiking and plenty of games. Bible studies will be held around the campfire each evening as well. We felt this was a great way to support our Presbytery camp and give the kids a chance to see what Camp Whitman offers them if they choose to go to camp. Also the cost per child is much less than Group which will be a savings to the church and the families. They only offer the mission camp August 6-11 which was the week we had planned to hold V.B.S. so we will be flipping the dates and holding V.B.S. July 16-20. We are hoping this will not interfere with anyone's choice to volunteer. V.B.S. is a volunteer based program we offer to not only our children, but also children in the community. If anyone is interested in volunteering at V.B.S. please sign up in the narthex, fill out a volunteer form in an upcoming bulletin, or contact myself or any of the Youth Ministry committee members (Mickey Vischansky, Cathy Campbell, Joe Rolls, Ann Motley). Thank you for all your support and dedication to the Youth Ministry program.

Blessings in Christ,

Deb Stamp



March 5 & March 19

Board of Session

2/20/2017

1. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Preisendanz and opened with Scripture and prayer led by Cindy Kalweit.
2. Minutes of the January 24, 2017 stated Session meeting and the Minutes of the 122nd Annual Meeting of the Congregation were reviewed and approved as submitted by the Clerk.
3. The Session received the financial statements for January 2017 as reviewed by the Treasurer.
4. Plans for the March 5, 2017 Congregational Forum were finalized. Rev. Preisendanz informed the Session that he contacted Presbytery leaders to inform them of the upcoming meeting and invited them to attend and observe.
5. Rev. Preisendanz called a Special meeting of the Session for Friday, March 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
6. Rev. Preisendanz will be leading a five week Lenten Bible study and time of prayer for our congregation following worship beginning on March 12th and concluding on April 9th.
7. Session approved a grant application from the Presbytery of Geneva in the amount of \$2,200 on behalf of the Food Pantry, as recommended by the Buildings and Grounds committee. The funds will be used for electrical upgrades and a new side-by-side refrigerator/freezer for the Food Pantry.
8. Jeff Richards reminded the Session that due to the Shrove Tuesday dinner (February 28th) there will not be First Wednesday Fellowship dinners in March or April.
9. Youth Mission Trip with Group Workcamp, originally planned for July 2017 has been changed. The youth will be attending a week of service camp at Camp Whitman August 6-11. This necessitated a change in the dates of VBS. VBS will be held July 16-20.
10. Session approved the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee that NPC host an Ecumenical Worship Service on October 1, 2017, World Communion Sunday. Details to follow.
11. Session designated up to \$500 from the Congregational Care Fund for the Hoskins-Thomas family to cover immediate expenses in relation to their recent house fire. The Chair of Deacons will oversee the disbursement of the funds.
12. Session approved a benefit to support the family of Peyton and Lexi Hoskins-Thomas. Date and Time TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kalweit, Clerk of Session

Food Pantry

Recently, a local church whose members donate often to the North Presbyterian Food Pantry asked us for some information about the operation. Congregation members wanted to know how their donations helped, and we were pleased to tell them.

We thought that you might want to know more about how your food pantry works, so here is the same information that we provided to outside donors.

1. How much food can you buy with donated money?

We generally purchase all our food from the Food Bank, where we buy case lots. A typical bi-weekly order might be around 2,000 pounds and would cost around \$1,500. Compare the average price of items bought from the food bank, below, with store prices:

- * 18 oz. soups - .59
- * 18 oz. peanut butter - \$1.50
- * Box of cereal - \$1.30
- * 15 oz. canned fruit - .72
- * 5 oz. tuna fish - .56
- * 1 pound hot dogs - \$1
- * 1 pound fish sticks - \$1.92
- * 2 pounds chicken nuggets - \$4.12

2. What population do you typically serve?

We serve all of Elmira and Elmira Heights. If someone from out of that geographic area comes to our pantry for food, they are given food that one time only, and are referred to a pantry in their own area for future needs.

3. Have you seen an increase in number of people you are serving?

Yes, every year we see an increase. Last year, we served 5317 people, an increase of 300 over the previous year.

4. Are you seeing a different population in the last 5 years?

Yes, we are seeing more senior citizens raising grandchildren on a limited income, some homeless people, and people you might not expect to need food pantry assistance, like retired teachers or nurses.

5. What is the average number of people served?

In 2016 we served an average of 443 people a month.

6. What times of the week are you open?

We are open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 am to 12 noon. We're closed for legal holidays and school snow days.



7. How does the Food Pantry operate?

We operate totally with volunteer workers who interview clients, bag food, stock shelves, unload trucks, order supplies, pick up donations from local stores, sort donated clothing, and keep the pantry neat and clean. We receive donations of food from Wegman's and Weis grocery stores, and donations of money and/or food from other churches, individuals and organizations. The pantry also receives two annual collections of food from the Boy Scout Food Drive and the Postal Carriers Food Drive. Clients can come for food every 30 days, and they can take donated clothing when they are there for food.

8. How do our donations help?

Donations of food and personal need items (soap, toilet paper, shampoo etc.) are greatly appreciated and help us augment what we have to give out. Monetary donations let us stretch our budget by purchasing more from the Food Bank at the lower prices.

Food Pantry Coordinators:

Karen Mosteller and Pat Richards

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY



March Pantry Shopping List:

- *Ramen Noodles*
- *Canned Peas*
- *Bar Soap*

Buildings & Grounds

A new mindset...

We can all agree that North Presbyterian Church is God's house, and to that, Buildings and Grounds would like to add, that it is OUR house too. It is your house. It is my house. Please treat it as such.



Please remember to always clean up after yourself, your organization, or your committee gathering. If you see something out of place, trash on the portico, papers on the floor, dirty towels in the kitchen, and are able to pick them up, clean them up, or wash them, instead of looking for the offender, or someone else to take care of it, please do!

We are not asking you to do any building upkeep, but to treat the building as if it were your home -- because it is.

As always, if you spot something in need of repair or other maintenance, PLEASE fill out a yellow form, found in the hanging box next to the work room door.

Blessings,

Buildings and Grounds



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Heather will be out of the office March 8 (starting at noon) and March 9.</p>			1 Bulletin Info Due 9:00: CA\$H 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 6:30: Praise Band 7:00: Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30: Chancel Choir	2 8:30: Yoga 12:00: Blood Drive 1:00: CASH 6:30: AA Meeting	3 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting 5:30: Girl Scouts	4 8:00: AA Meeting
5 9:30: Worship/Communion 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Congregational Meeting 6:00: Youth Group 	6 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: CA\$H	7 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CA\$H 6:30: AA Meeting	8 Bulletin Info Due 9:00: CA\$H 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 5:00: Worship & Music 6:00: Bell Choir 6:30: Praise Band 7:00: Lenten Worship 7:30: Chancel Choir	9 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CASH 6:30: AA Meeting	10 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting 5:30: Girl Scouts	11 8:00: Men's Breakfast 9:00: Church Work Day 8:00: AA Meeting
12 9:30: Worship 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Sunday School 11:00: Pastor's Prayer Circle  <p>Time to Spring Ahead</p>	13 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: Deacons Meeting 1:00: CA\$H 6:30: B&G Meeting	14 8:30: Yoga 10:00: Trust Women 1:00: CA\$H 6:00: Finance Meeting 6:30: CE Meeting 6:30: AA Meeting	15 Bulletin Info Due 9:00: CA\$H 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 12:00: Outreach Meeting 1:10: Mission Meeting 6:00: Embroidery Guild 6:00: Bell Choir 6:30: Praise Band 7:00: Lenten Worship 7:30: Chancel Choir	16 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CASH 6:30: AA Meeting	17 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting 5:30: Girl Scouts  <p>DEADLINE: Newsletter Articles</p>	18 8:00: AA Meeting
19 9:30: Worship 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Sunday School 11:00: Pastor's Prayer Circle 6:00: Youth Group	20 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: CA\$H 7:00: Session Meeting	21 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CA\$H 3:15: Staff Meeting 6:30: AA Meeting	22 Bulletin Info Due 9:00: CA\$H 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 6:00: Bell Choir 6:30: Praise Band 7:00: Lenten Worship 7:30: Chancel Choir	23 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CASH 6:30: AA Meeting	24 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting 5:30: Girl Scouts  <p>Newsletter available</p>	25 8:00pm: AA Meeting
26 9:30: Worship 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Sunday School 11:00: Pastor's Prayer Circle	27 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: CA\$H	28 8:30: Yoga 10:00: Trust Women 1:00: CA\$H 6:30: AA Meeting	29 9:00: CA\$H 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 6:00: Bell Choir 6:30: Praise Band 7:00: Lenten Worship 7:30: Chancel Choir	30 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CASH 6:30: AA Meeting	31 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting 5:30: Girl Scouts	