North Star

December 2017

North Presbyterian Church
921 College Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901-2048
www.northpres.com
Phone: 607-734-2977
Fax: 607-734-2978
Worship: Sunday at 9:30 am

Making Disciples - Making a Difference

In this Issue:

- **From the Pastor**
- **Advent 2017**
- **December Worship Volunteers**
- **Advent Study & Devotional**
- **Sunday School**
- **Bible Studies**
- **Congregational Care**
- **This Month @ NPC**
- **Children and Youth**
- **Operation Christmas Child**
- **November Session Summary**
- **Mission & Outreach News**
- **Where's Stewardship?**
- **Poinsettia Order Form**
- **Christmas for our Homebound Members**
  - **Christmas Cards**
  - **Angel Tree**
- **December 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 Ministries
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 3pm - 5pm
	northpresfinance@stny.rr.com

Find us on facebook

Please – remember your church in your will!

Christmas Message

Dearest friends,

Come home for Christmas. I love that phrase – it captures everything that's beautiful and good about this season of the year. It conjures up memories of Norman Rockwell's paintings of families and love. It reminds us that we are home when we're with our families, and that we are home when we're with God.

Come home for Christmas. Many of us have traveled, or wandered, or have been busy, or tired, or upset, and we've slipped away from our church family. We've gotten away from the practice, and the blessing, of being part of a worshiping community, thanking God for our blessings, and asking God to help us live out our Christian lives together.

Come home for Christmas. Whatever has kept you away, know that you have a church family who loves you and misses you. We're called to be a family who welcomes everyone, who embraces each other regardless of our differences, and who forgives each other when we say or do something that hurts.

Come home for Christmas. Wednesday evening services beginning November 29, Sunday mornings, and of course Christmas Eve – see the calendar on the next page. There's something here just for you, and your church family longs to see you.

Come home for Christmas. I truly look forward to seeing you during this blessed holiday season.

Faithfully yours,

David Preisendanz

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2017

North Presbyterian Church

921 College Avenue, Elmira, NY 14901
www.northpres.com | northpresoffice@stny.rr.com | 607-734-2977

Sunday Morning Advent Worship Service - 9:30 am

December 3 (with Holy Communion), 10 and 17

Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

December 6, 5:30 pm

Wednesday Prayer & Holy Communion Service - 7:00 - 7:30 pm

November 29, December 6, 13 and 20

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 17, 3:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, December 24

Family Christmas Eve Service - 9:30 am

Christmas Music Concert - 9:00 pm

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols - 9:30 pm
Join us for carol singing and the good news of Jesus' birth!
Rev. David Preisendanz, Pastor

The building is accessible and individual listening headsets are available.
Childcare is available at Sunday worship services.

December Worship Volunteers

Greeters
12/3 Marlene Carpentier
12/10 Maxine Burroughs
12/17 The Sevey Family
12/24 Ann Motley (9:30 am)
Alan Russell (9:00 pm)
12/31 Tim Allison

Ushers
12/3 Team Solowiej
12/10 Team Kalweit
12/17 Team Furnas
12/24 Team Allison (9:30 am)
TBA (9:00 pm)
12/31 Team Patno

Worship Assistant
12/3 Ethan Wilson
12/10 Kurt Kalweit
12/17 Linda Palmer
12/24 Linda Palmer (9:30 am)
Advent Readers (9:00 pm)
12/31 Jeff Richards

Communion: Intinction
12/3 Cindy Kalweit, Mickey Vischansky, Kurt Kalweit, Ethan Wilson, 1 TBA

Children & Youth Message
12/3 Deb Stamp
12/10 Kurt Kalweit
12/17 Linda Palmer
12/24 Linda Palmer
12/31 Jeff Richards

Nursery & Wee Worship
12/3 Theresa Houck & Chloe Donovan
12/10 Cathy Campbell & Ana Edwards
12/17 Liz Wilson & Linda Palmer
12/24 Mickey Vischansky & Deb Stamp
12/31 Ann Motley & Glenda Solowiej

Tech Booth
12/3 Cheryl Allison
12/10 Bill Furnas
12/17 TBA
12/24 Tim Allison (9:30 am)
Ed Wilson (9:00 pm)
12/31 Cheryl Allison

Prayer Partner
12/3 Becky Kowulich
12/10 Wendy Swatling
12/17 Linda Palmer
12/24 Bobbi Furnas
12/31 Cindy Kalweit

Counters
12/3 Dolores Cummings & Janice Williams
12/10 Suzie Hoskins & Deb Stamp
12/17 Annette Stevens & Jim Mosher
12/24 Phil & Lynda Carpentier
12/31 Kurt & Cindy Kalweit

Flower Delivery
12/3 Ann Gawenus
12/10 Sheryl Patno
12/17 Maxine Burroughs
12/24 Bobbi Furnas
12/31 Congregation

Fellowship Time
12/3 Bobbi Furnas & Mickey Vischansky
12/10 Cindy Kalweit & Annette Stevens
12/17 Maxine Burroughs & Linda Palmer
12/24 Karen Wilson & Missy Ripley
12/31 Ann Motley & Glenda Solowiej

Joyous News

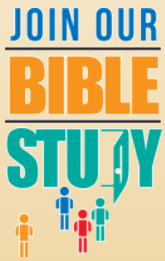
Adult Advent Study: **December 3 – December 31** - "When God Comes Down" by James A. Harnish. This study explores the meaning of the incarnation…God with us in human flesh. "Often our Advent/Christmas journey is focused on us – our memories, feelings, relationships and experiences. This study puts the focus on God's action in Jesus Christ. It encourages us to think more deeply in terms of the biblical, theological, and spiritual meaning of the Nativity and to apply it to our every-day lives." We will meet in the **Keyser Library at 11:00 am**. Hope to see you there! Contact Cindy Kalweit with questions.

2017 Advent Devotional

During the holy season of Advent, we are invited to contemplate the powerful words of the Psalms. The Scriptures — and Jesus, the Word Incarnate — impel us to speak and act in more just and loving ways, especially towards the strangers and foreigners among us. Magdalena I. García, PC(USA) minister of Word and Sacrament and hospital chaplain for Vitas Healthcare in Chicago, has put together a collection of challenging daily reflections and prayers based on the Psalms to help us experience the promise and power of Christ's coming. Advent devotionals are available at the welcome center. Please take one.

An educational 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. **Youth Group will meet once a month. Bring a friend or two, and join us for a time of fellowship and fun.** For more information on programs for children & youth contact Deb Stamp at 734-2977 or northpresyouth@stny.rr.com.

Pastor Dave is leading an adult study entitled **"Get Acquainted with Your Bible"**. This is an sixteen-week survey of the entire Bible that we will break up into two separate studies. We will pick up the study of the New Testament in the New Year. Please contact Cindy Kalweit with questions.



Wednesday Noon Bible Study

When:	Wednesdays at noon
What:	"Forgiveness"
Where:	Brisbane Room
Who:	All are welcome to attend, feel free to bring a lunch
Contact:	Bobbi Furnas, 733-4712

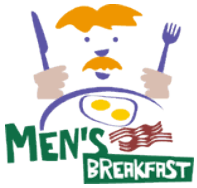
Congregational Care

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.

DECEMBER

December's First Wednesday dinner will be held on **Wednesday, December 6 at 5:30 pm.** We will be serving pork roast with mashed potatoes and a green salad. A seasonal dessert will be served as well. We hope you will join us!

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, **December 7** 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.



December's Men's Breakfast will be held on the **9th at 8:00 am**. All NPC men are invited to come share a time of fellowship and delicious food. We hope to see you there!

There will be a church workday on **December 9** at **9:00 am**. Please see Mickey Vischansky with any questions. All are invited to come and help!

Please join the Fellowship Committee on Sunday, **December 17** at 3:00 pm for Christmas caroling. We will meet at the church and we will map out our itinerary, visit several individuals at their homes or care centers, before returning to church for hot chocolate, coffee and cookies.

The church office and Food Pantry are closed on Monday, December 25 to celebrate Christmas. Pastor David will be away from the office December 26 through January 2. Deb will be away from the youth ministry office December 26 through December 29. Heather will be away from the church office December 26, 28 and 29.

Joseph Rolls	December 1
Joanne Dalrymple	December 3
Anne Dennington	December 3
Jim Palmer	December 4
Erik Kalweit	December 9
Maxine Burroughs	December 15
Joshua Furnas	December 16
Doris Ernest	December 17
Mickey Vischansky	December 20
Missy Ripley	December 21
Gregory McNaughton	December 22
Pat Richards	December 26
Joseph Shaw	December 26
Margaret Carney	December 29
Kailey Ripley	December 29
Matthew Emanuel	December 30
Anthony Vischansky	December 31

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 the church's Facebook page and the church's outgoing phone message.

2017 Gateways Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 14, 2016 | 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Gateways Community Living Program is a program provided by Catholic Charities of Chemung County. Their goal: To empower individuals and young adults with skills and resources necessary to achieve independence and success, including:

• Stable housing • Hard and soft skills • Community living • Education

• Employment • Alternatives to hospitalization

North Presbyterian Church has prepared and served around seventy Gateways clients and their staff a Christmas dinner for over ten years. The dinner begins with hors d'oeuvres and punch. We then serve them dinner. After dinner, during dessert, Santa brings gifts for each client. This mission is very rewarding to NPC members who have served these clients and staff over the years.

Please consider joining us this year to serve* our neighbors in our community. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be in the narthex.

*Note - must be 18 years of age or older to serve

December Food Pantry Shopping List:

- bar soap
- toothpaste
- shampoo (shampoo only, no conditioner please)
- Kleenex
- empty egg cartons
- plastic grocery bags

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

December 3
The Wilson Family
Hal & Donna Wolfe

December 10
The Allison Family
Connie Apeadu

December 17
Vicki Balon
Joan Barneski
Jim Bottcher

December 24
The Batrowny Family
Anne Beattie

December 31
Brenda Bobby
Norma Brooks

Cards for the Homebound

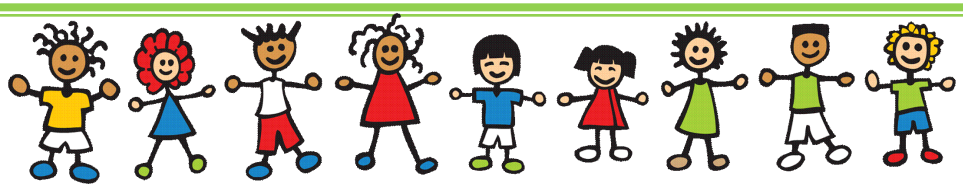
December 3
Anne Dennington
130 Eastview Drive
Horseheads, NY 14845

December 10
Joyce Jankowski
84 Wilston Lane
Tioga, PA 16946

December 17
Cynthia Klungle
808 West Gray Street
Elmira, NY 14905

December 24
Fred Miller
259 Prospect Hill Road
Horseheads, NY 14845

December 31
Eleanor Riley
232 Stuart Street
Horseheads, NY 14845



CHILDREN & YOUTH

POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick

What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.

Happy Holidays to all! December is here and with it all the activities and programs for the season. We will begin practice for the annual Christmas Eve Children's service. This year because of Christmas Eve falling on Sunday we will be doing things a little differently. The service will be a combination of the traditional service with the children and will begin at the normal Sunday worship time of 9:30a.m. Practice will be during Sunday school and will most likely begin on Dec. 3. Please come join us on Sunday Dec. 17 for Christmas caroling. I am hoping we have as many children as possible join us as our shut-ins enjoy seeing them.

I would like to thank everyone who donated items, monies for postage and their time to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child. A total of sixty boxes were packed and delivered on Nov. 19. There was a very nice turnout of people and we enjoyed pizza and fruit and homemade cookies.

The Harvest dinner which was held on Saturday November 4 this year was a busy time. Fifteen turkeys were cooked and seventy five pounds of potatoes were peeled which went along with stuffing and sweet potatoes, corn and homemade pies and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy their meals. We served over 226 meals which included over 65 takeout meals. The proceeds will help to defray the cost of the youth mission trip and other activities within the youth program. To everyone who helped cook, setup, cleanup, serve, a huge THANK YOU!!!! We would also like to say a big THANK YOU!!! to all the people who donated turkeys, potatoes and pies for the dinner. The congregational help is amazing and Children and Youth Ministry are very blessed to have such wonderful support from our church family.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Christ's blessing to all,

Deb Stamp

youth group SCHEDULE

December: 12/10 time TBA

Operation Christmas Child
Love in a shoe box

Board of Session

Session Summary | 11/20/2017

1. The meeting was called to order by Rev. Preisendanz at 7:00 p.m. and was opened with Scripture and prayer led by Linda Robinson.
2. Minutes of the October 16, 2017 stated Session meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.
3. The Session received the Financial Statements for October 2017 and year-to date as reviewed by the Treasurer.
4. Session approved Pat Richards, Financial Secretary, to have signing authority on Endowment Fund transfers.
5. Session approved a redistribution of credit card limits for staff. Pastor - $1,000, Church Administrator - $2,000, Directory of Youth Ministry - $2,000.
6. Session approved a vacation request by Rev. Preisendanz for 12/26/2017-1/2/2018. Susan Husted has been secured as the guest preacher for Sunday, December 31, 2017.
7. A Session retreat has been scheduled for Saturday, January 13, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Recognizing declining attendance and membership, the focus of the retreat will be implementing and achieving radical hospitality
8. Jeff Richards reported on the November 18, 2017 Presbytery meeting which was held at the Presbyterian Church of Geneva. The 2018 Presbytery Budget was approved at the meeting.
9. Mickey Vischansky reported that due to inclement weather, the roof repair will begin November 27, 2017.
10. Jeff Richards announced that Christmas caroling to shut-ins is scheduled for December 17, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.
11. Session reviewed and discussed the proposed 2018 budget.
12. Session approved a recommendation from that Staff Relations Committee that the Church Administrator work hours be increased to 30 hours per week and that she be provided with a laptop. The increase in hours reflects the work being done on the NPC website, Facebook page and slides for the worship services.
13. Session approved Gunner Wilcox and Ethan Wilson to serve communion on Sunday, November 5, 2017 and Ethan Wilson to serve communion on Sunday, December 3, 2017.
14. The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Preisendanz at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kalweit, Clerk of Session

Mission & Outreach

The Christmas Joy Offering will be taken on **December 17**. This is the last one of the 2017 special collections authorized by Session, and it has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. The funds donated equally support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (financial support to church workers and their families) and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Hear these words from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, "The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly indescribable gift, as well as the gifts of church leaders – past, present, and future. Through the work of the Christmas Joy Offering, we seek the living of this truth: that God's generosity is the source, the support and the outcome of our own. We give because God has freely given."

"Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15

Border Buddies has asked NPC for help with an upcoming medical mission trip. They need 50 tubes of anti-fungal cream by February. (It is available at the Dollar Tree for $1!) There will be a purple basket on the welcome center to collect this medicine. Thank you for your help!

Remember to look through the North Star and your weekly bulletins to see what special items the **Food Pantry** is collecting. It helps them serve their clients. All of us working together can make an impact on food insecurity.

It's that time of year for giving thanks for all the good things in our lives – especially you - our wonderful family of believers. **Thank you for your generous hearts and faithfulness to those in need**.

Where's Stewardship?

We always do the Stewardship Campaign in the Fall, right? We've always done it that way before, right? We're not going to change anything, right?

Well, this year we are indeed changing something – actually, we're changing it back. Once upon a time at North Presbyterian, not so very long ago, there were two different committees – one for Budget and Finance, and another for Stewardship. A few years ago those two committees were combined into one, for reasons that seemed good at the time.

The two ministries have now been separated again, and Stewardship will be led by what is (for now) an ad-hoc committee led by Cindy Kalweit. And for a variety of good reasons, we're moving the Stewardship season from the Fall to the Spring – specifically, to the season after Easter, and before Pentecost.

What we like about that idea is that it completely separates the ministry of Stewardship and Discipleship, from the ministry of planning and implementing the church's budget. It allows us to live out the idea that our generosity is our response to God's generosity – not to the church's need to fund our budget.

So where's Stewardship? It's right here – but we've moved it from the Fall to the Spring. There'll be other changes, too – how we talk about generosity; how we plan our giving; what it means to tithe; how to bless our church in our estate planning. Stay tuned, North Church disciples – God is good, all the time!

As we live out our discipleship together, this Fall and all next year, I invite you to remember the words of my very favorite hymn: "All I have needed thy hand has provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me."

David

This year we will continue the tradition of decorating our sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas week worship services. If you are interested in dedicating a poinsettia plant this year, please fill out the information below and return to the collection plate or to the church office no later than December 17. Please consider contributing a donation amount of your choice (if paying by check make payable to NPC). Please contact Heather in the church office (734-2977) with questions. Thank you!

In memory of: _____

or

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ (H/C)

Email address: _____

It's that time of year again!

It is time to start thinking of our homebound members and making their Christmas season a little brighter. The box with Christmas Cards and the mail box will be at the Welcome Center November 26 - December 17, along with the list of our homebound members.

Please take some cards and make one out for each of our homebound friends, putting only their name on the front of the envelope. Please return to the mailbox on the Welcome Center by **December 17** so the Deacons will be able to deliver them. Please contact the church office or Bobbi Furnas with any questions.

A Holiday for our members at Home

Look for the "angel" tree that is in the front corner of the narthex
and select a tag that holds a gift idea
for one of our homebound members, a family in need,
the NPC Food Pantry or Border Buddies.

Go shopping and **bring your wrapped gift (with the tag attached) to the tree by December 10**.

The gifts will be delivered by the Deacons. This is a nice way to show we care for our homebound members and our community - they are still a part of our church family & the love of Jesus is being shared with them.

May God Bless You!

Thank you!

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting	2 1:00: Memorial Service 8:00 pm: AA Meeting
3 9:30: Worship/Communion 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Sunday School 	4 10:00: Food Pantry	5 8:30: Yoga 6:30: AA Meeting	6 Bulletin Info Due 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 5:30: Fellowship Supper 6:00: Bell Choir 6:30: Praise Band 7:00: Advent Service 7:30: Chancel Choir	7 8:30: Yoga 12:00: Blood Drive 6:30: AA Meeting	8 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting	9 8:00: Men's Breakfast 9:00 Church Workday 8:00: AA Meeting
10 9:30: Worship 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Sunday School 2:00: Youth Group	11 10:00: Food Pantry 6:30: B & G Meeting	12 8:30: Yoga 10:00: Trust Women 6:00: Finance Meeting 6:30: CE Meeting 6:30: AA Meeting	13 Bulletin Info Due 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 5:30: Worship & Music 6:00: Bell Choir 6:30: Praise Band 7:00: Advent Service 7:30: Chancel Choir	14 8:30: Yoga 9:00: Gateways Christmas Dinner 6:30: AA Meeting	15 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting	16 8:00: AA Meeting
17 9:30: Worship 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Sunday School 3:00: Christmas Caroling	18 10:00: Food Pantry 7:00: Session Meeting	19 8:30: Yoga 3:15: Staff Meeting 5:00: Movement Class 6:30: AA Meeting	20 Bulletin Info Due 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 6:00: Bell Choir 6:30: Praise Band 7:00: Advent Service 7:30: Chancel Choir	21 8:30: Yoga 6:30: AA Meeting	22 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting 	23 8:00: AA Meeting
24 **9:30: Family Worship Service** 10:30: Fellowship 9:00: Organ Recital 9:30: Candlelight Worship Service	25 Church Offices and Food Pantry Closed	26 8:30: Yoga 10:00: Trust Women 6:30: AA Meeting Deb off → Heather off Pastor David away from the office →	27 Bulletin Info Due 10:00: Food Pantry 6:15: Bell Choir 7:00: Praise Band 7:30: Chancel Choir	28 8:30: Yoga 6:30: AA Meeting Heather Off →	29 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting	30 8:00: AA Meeting
31 9:30: Worship 10:30: Fellowship Pastor David away from the office						