

NORTH STAR

May 2020

Making Disciples - Making a Difference

North Presbyterian Church
921 College Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901-2048

www.northpres.church

Phone: 607-734-2977

Fax: 607-734-2978

Worship: Sunday at 9:30 am

Sunday School: 11:00 am

(worship and Sunday School are suspended until further notice)

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Meet the Staff

Rev. Jim Hicks	Temporary Supply Pastor pastor@northpres.church
Paul Holland	Music Director music@northpres.church
Barbara Mosher	Church Organist organist@northpres.church
Deb Stamp	Director of Children & Youth Ministries youth@northpres.church
Kim Townson	Office Administrator office@northpres.church

NOTICE: All worship services, groups, meetings & committees at NPC are suspended until further notice. Stay tuned to our Fb page for updates & see our website for helpful resources.

North Presbyterian Church
921 College Avenue
Elmira, New York 14901-2048

NORTH STAR MAY 2020

Dear Friends:

Do you feel cut off, confined, exiled from many you love? That's the situation of most of us during the Corona virus pandemic. By federal and state mandate we are encouraged to STAY HOME! except for necessary tasks that sustain life. We are told that if we go out in public we must wear face masks to protect ourselves and others from infection. And today, at this writing (April 17), Gov. Cuomo has declared that the mandated confinement for the sake of mitigation may last into the month of May, perhaps longer. Words written by my son Aaron, who is a missionary in Spain, were a comfort to me and I share with you.

-- from Pastor Jim Hicks, Temporary Supply Past (with TLC)

"I think I hit rock bottom this week. Anyone else tired of this confinement? Lately I feel tired all day, like I'm not getting enough sleep. While it's true that some nights I haven't slept well, I suspect what I feel is more mental than physical. I think it's a cumulative tiredness coming from previous weeks of reacting to the crisis with adrenaline.

"In times like these the words of Isaiah 40:31 help me: *But those who wait in the LORD will renew their strength; they will lift up their wings like eagles. They will run and they will not get tired; they will walk and not be fatigued.*

"The prophet Isaiah wrote this verse in a time of national crisis, when the people of God were in exile in Babylon. But these words were not original with Isaiah. Isaiah was quoting words of faith from a previous generation. These famous words of Isaiah are drawn from Psalm 91, a psalm that was written centuries before during another crisis of God's people.

"In this time of exile-COVID, when we as a people of God (along with all Spain) are in exile of confinement, I encourage you to follow the example of Isaiah and go to the Psalms, the prayer book of the Bible. Who knows, maybe you'll end up writing a poem or a song that will be an encouragement for future generations. (Here are lyrics to a song based on Psalm 91):"

In Your Wings

(Spanish text by Pedro Rubalcava and Juan J.

Sosa)

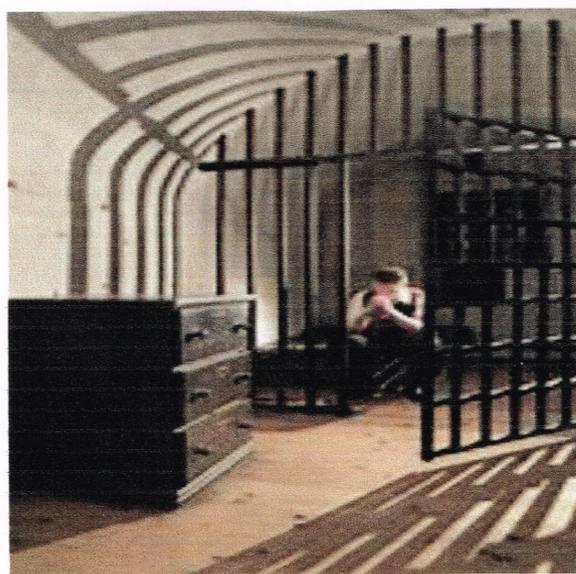
***You who dwell under the Lord,
In the shadow of the Savior God,
Tell the Lord:***

" My rock, in You I must trust."

***And He will carry you on His wings,
With His breath he will cheer you up;
Shining with His light,
In His hands the Lord will hold you.***

***The enemy will not defeat you,
Not even fear can overcome you;
Under His wings always
A shelter you will find.***

***And He will carry you on His wings,
With His breath he will cheer you up;
Shining with His light,
In His hands the Lord will hold you.***



JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

You are **WARMLY INVITED** to stay connected with your church family in new, creative ways! Virtual connection may not be what we are used to, or even what we prefer, but it is better than no connection at all! Until our pause is over, join us for hymns and weekly Sunday worship sermons from Pastor Hicks on our website under the Teaching tab, as well as virtual live Sunday services and occasional Sing-A-Longs with Pastor Cynthia on Facebook! Also join us on Facebook each M, W & F for *Family, Faith & Fun with Miss Deb* and every T & Th for *Coffee Talk with Kim* as we work to keep all of us informed, encouraged and supported. We'll "see" you there!





Send a Card Today!

May 3: Hope Dubois
8 Aspen Ridge Apts.
Elmira, NY 14904

May 10: Gary Doolittle
Bath VA Medical Center
76 Veterans Avenue
Bath, NY 14810

May 17: Earl & Liz Bush
37442 Loganberry Ct.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

May 24: Mrs. Norma Brooks
Windy Hill
49 Crest Drive
Elmira, NY 14903-7969

May 31: Rita Dery
207 Greenway Boulevard
Churchville, NY 14428



Generous donations
to the North Pres Food Pantry
have been made by:

- Janet Marks
in loving memory of her parents,
Harold and Alice Phillips,
and her husband, Robert J. Marks

&

- Vicki Balon
in loving memory of her mother,
Doris Ernest



- May 3: Martha Grinnell and Ted Grinnell
- May 10: Evvan Hoskins and Ezekiel Lloyd Hoskins
- May 17: Leigha Hoskins and Suzie Hoskins
- May 24: Tessa Hoskins and Alexii Lei Hoskins-Thomas
- May 31: Payton Malia Hoskins-Thomas

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

To my friends of North Church,

On December 3rd of last year my friend, Mike, and I bought a house in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. My new address is:
2596 Triumph Dr. Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

We really like it here but hoped to be at our camper on Seneca Lake this summer. Of course that all depends on Covid-19. When we first moved here I looked for a Presbyterian church. The closest one to me had closed. I have no plans on leaving North Church. You are my home.

Please stay safe and keep me and Mike in your prayers, as you all are in mine.

Yours in Christ,
Janet Phillips Marks



CHILDREN & YOUTH

KIDS CORNER

Happy May everyone!!! May the sun shine brighter and the weather warm up so we can spend time outdoors without being bundled up in layers as we go for walks and try to work in our yards.

CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.

I'm praying we will be able to get back to somewhat of a normal routine with school and work, church dinners and most especially Sunday morning services and Sunday school. If you haven't noticed I MISS EVERYONE!!!

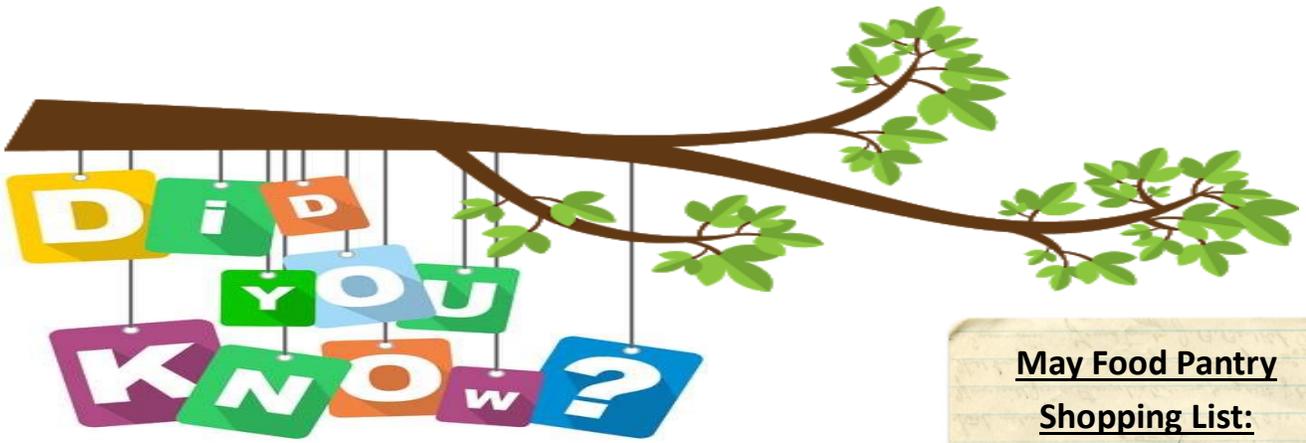
I have started my work on VBS backgrounds and I'm just finishing up curtains for the window in the stairwell leading to the Sunday school rooms. I just mailed out packets to the kids which contain a fun way to work yourself through the Bible and share with your family. I continue to send Kim notes for everyone, Bible verses and prayers along with fun things to do for the church Facebook page. I have periodically been sending emails with attachments to all of our parents which include links for movies, fun projects for parents to work on with kids. I try to keep in touch with all the parents on Facebook, texting and emails. Easter cards were mailed out to all my kids big and small, letting them know I've been thinking of them especially during this most Holy time of year. I know it has been particularly hard on the parents who have been home schooling while trying to keep everyone happy and themselves sane. You all deserve a big hand as this has definitely been uncharted waters for all of you. I've been in contact with Ann Motley and she has been sending out cards to the kids too as a reminder that we are thinking about them. We realize the date we had picked for VBS will most likely have to be changed but we are still committed to having it should the heavens allow.

I have to tell you I was so excited to see one of the older girls the other day at the post office. As I stood there in line (a very long line as we were all practicing good social distancing skills) I walked Chloe Donavon. I had to do a double take as she was wearing a face mask and gloves and she had to do the same when I called out her name as she didn't recognize me either with my face mask on. We had a nice chat and I was glad to catch up with her and find out how all the family were doing. As I was leaving I got another ray of sunshine as I saw Chloe's older sister Kayla outside waiting patiently for her sister. It made my day to see that beautiful smile and get a moment to chat with her. So, thank you girls, for bringing a little sunshine into my life!!

Let us continue to pray for all affected by this virus. Continued prayers for our health care workers, our grocery workers, our very faithful pantry volunteers, the truck drivers all over the country who bring us the important things we need to survive, our postal workers and all those out there who have been banding together to get us through this. May God's blessings be with you. Sending love and prayers to you all and hope that we can all be together soon.

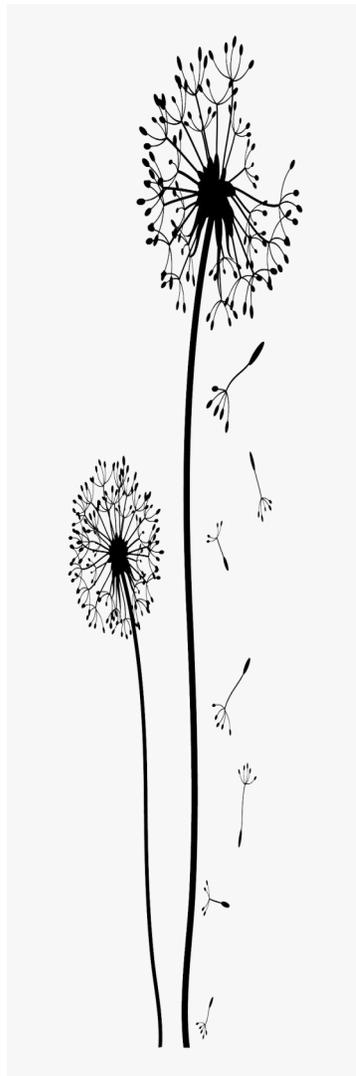
Christ's blessings to all,
Deb Stamp
Director of Children and Youth Ministry





Who gets our mail now that the church is closed? Pat Richards does! Tons of gratitude to her as well as those helping with bill payment and payroll.
THANK YOU!

Due to this year's unusual circumstances, Easter Lily and chancel flower donations will be revisited once we return to church as normal. If you have already donated, we will be in touch. Thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility during this unprecedented time. Stay safe.



May Food Pantry

Shopping List:

- At this time no food or item donations are being accepted. Monetary donation checks can be sent to the church, made out to NPC, with "Food Pantry" written in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!



Amazing Pantry Facts:

- Pantry volunteers continue to pre-package food and hand it out two times a week through this pandemic. **(W & F 10-12)**
- They have created an easy, organized and safe way to distribute food while minimizing risk for all.
- If you are in need of a Devotional, Pat is happy to hand you one in the pantry line!

**THANK YOU TO OUR
NPC PANTRY VOLUNTEERS!**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

Staff and committee chairs have church email addresses!

If one of these addresses belongs to your position and you are in need of assistance setting it up, please contact the church office.

PLEASE NOTE THAT EFFECTIVE 9.1.19 THE OLD CHURCH OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESS HAS BEEN DISABLED.



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



Available at www.northpres.church



Our website, www.northpres.church, has a new spring feel to it; check it out! Also, if there is anything you would like to share on our Facebook page that you feel our NPC family would benefit from, please feel free to call or email the church office and we will make that post for you!



MAY HAPPENINGS

This month the Upperroom.org is offering some unique opportunities for devotions and learning.

- Morning Prayer Facebook Live each day at 12:00 pm
- Discounted registration fees on their e-courses
- A free learning e-course called "Our Freedom From Worry" with the promo code FREEDOM
- Helpful resources and articles regarding the pandemic

Check out this and more at
www.upperroom.org and
[www.facebook.com/
upperroomcenter](https://www.facebook.com/upperroomcenter)

The church office
needs your updated
contact info please!

MAY SERMONS with Pastor Hicks (audio if necessary)

May 10- (Mother's Day)
"A Woman Is Never a Thing"
Deuteronomy 9:8-10; John 8:1-11
Hymns: "When Morning Gilds the Skies" #667
"Thine Is the Glory" #238

May 17- (Ascension)
"Looking into the Sky"
Acts 1:1-11
Hymns: "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" #327
"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" #662

May 24 - (Memorial Day Sunday)
"His First Word and His Last"
John 21:21-22
Hymns: "Morning Has Broken" #664
"Jesus Calls Us" #720

May 31 - (Pentecost)
"God Hasn't Given Up on You"
Acts 2:18;16-21
Hymns: "Holy, Holy, Holy" #1
"O Jesus, I Have Promised" #724



NPC is scheduled to be a polling site for the Presidential Primary Election and the General Election. The next election is a Primary Election and is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. The General Election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020. For the most up to date information go to: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/>

Do you know where your polling site is?
If not, go to <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>
and find out!

“Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it.”
-Susan B. Anthony

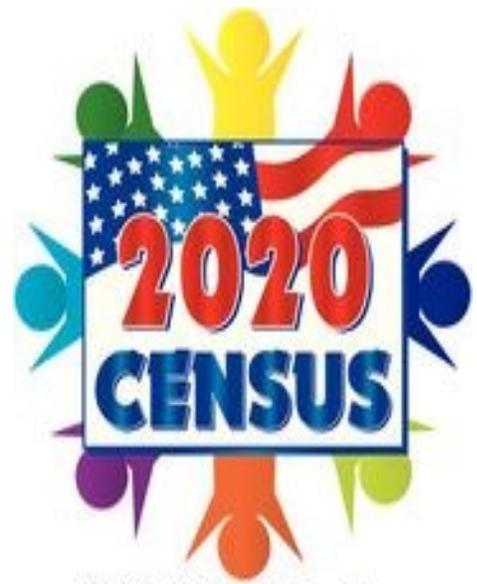
Census data impacts decisions at the national, state, tribal, and local levels—from congressional representation to the annual allocation of more than \$675 billion. Census data informs funding for programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Section 8 Housing; Pell Grants; the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; the Children’s Health Insurance Program; and more. These funds and programs are essential to the well-being of our families, our faith community, and our neighbors.

North Presbyterian Church understands that an accurate count will help shape our community.

You can respond to the 2020 Census by mail, online at <https://my2020census.gov>, or by phone at 844-330-2020. Responding is quick and easy, and you can complete the census on your mobile device.

All responses are confidential, and by law they cannot be used against you in any way. Respond to the 2020 Census today.

To learn more about the Census in Chemung County, please visit https://www.chemungcountyny.gov/.../planning.../2020_census.php



In the Spotlight

Kitchen Kampaign Update

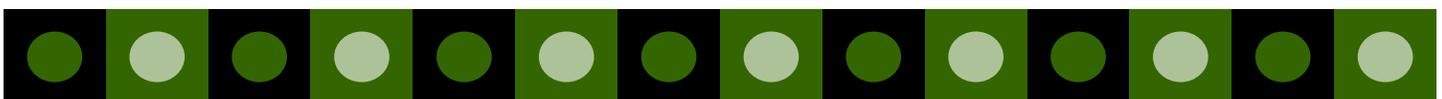


It is with great joy that the Kitchen Kampaign Committee thanks all those who have contributed to the fund. As of April 16 we have exceeded our fundraising goal, with a total of \$12,329 having been contributed! This blessing will allow us to complete all three phases of the campaign - a new stove, new cabinets and new chairs. We will also be able to purchase better, more durable and more comfortable chairs than were previously budgeted. Thank you all again for your support. It is a real testament to the commitment of our congregation members to the vitality of North Presbyterian Church and its ongoing causes. We ask that if you are still in the position to make financial donations, please consider other worthy ongoing projects.

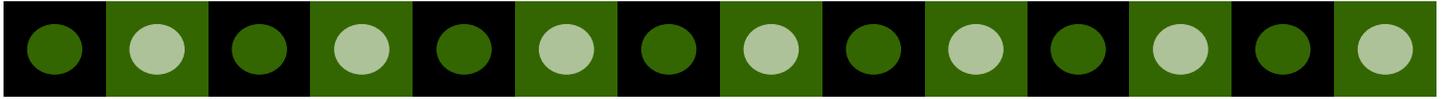
The stove is scheduled to be installed by Wilson Equipment. The new stove will be used to prepare dinner the next time we can gather as a group for a meal. An order for 110 new, stackable chairs has also been placed with Wilson Equipment. Each chair will need to have all the protective wraps around the legs removed after delivery. Perhaps we can schedule an “unwrapping party” when it is safe to gather in small groups again!



With sincere thanks for your continued generosity and commitment to North Presbyterian Church, The Kitchen Kampaign committee.



In the Spotlight



Pantry Patch Update

Another sign of spring – in addition to robins and daffodils – is the annual cleanup/prep now ongoing in the NPC Pantry Patch vegetable garden.

Two deteriorating wooden raised beds have already been replaced with three new, smaller beds. The configuration of the garden is being gradually altered to make it easier to mow the areas between beds. The greenhouse has been cleaned out of last year's tomato plants, and the raised beds have been weeded and topped off with more soil.

The garlic, which was planted last fall, is already a foot tall and should be ready to pull by July. The first onion sets were put in last week, and covered with leaves to help with the still-cold nights.

Jeff has started seeds for Swiss chard, snow peas, basil, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and pumpkins.

It is exciting to think about the growing season, and handing these vegetables out to pantry customers. Spring is such a hopeful, promising season, and we are blessed to have the opportunity each year to see God's love growing along with the vegetables!



There are so many ways to be together in spirit while we are apart physically. While it may take some creativity, it's definitely worth the while. Here are just a few of the ways you are invited to grow your spirituality and continue being active with your NPC family:

- ◇ Listen to audio sermons and hymns on our website
- ◇ Watch Sunday worship on Facebook live at 10am
- ◇ Mail in your usual church financial contribution
 - ◇ Pray for those on the prayer chain
 - ◇ Send cards to our homebound friends
- ◇ Make a financial contribution to the Food Pantry
- ◇ Call that person you miss from Fellowship Hour
 - ◇ Offer to host a Zoom Bible Study
 - ◇ Attend daily Morning Prayers at noon at [Www.Facebook.com/Upperroomcenter](https://www.facebook.com/Upperroomcenter)
- ◇ Scroll our Facebook page for sing-a-longs, inspirational quotes, arts & crafts, recipes, announcements and updates at <https://www.facebook.com/North-Presbyterian-Church-317905658221204/?ref=settings>
- ◇ Explore free and discounted learning opportunities and e-courses at www.Upperroom.org
- ◇ Check out the Devotionals tab on the NPC website

David's Prayer -

David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,

“Praise be to you, O Lord, God of our father, Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.”

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

I Chronicles 28:10-14 NIV

Stewardship is taking care of God's people and everything in His kingdom. As God's stewards, we experience the Gospel as an act of faith in God, and we share that Gospel with others to bring a message of hope to the world - the promise of eternal life.

In your generosity, please support our food pantry and other organizations feeding people all over God's kingdom. We are here for such a time as this. The Lord taught us it is better to give than receive, so be exceedingly selfish and feel the joy of Jesus in your soul!

Dear God, help us care for Your creation and people. Give us strength and wisdom to use the gifts You have given for Your glory and honor. We need a sense of Your presence and peace in the midst of all the turmoil and anxiety, Lord, so that we may know deep inside that You are with us always, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Submitted by: Linda Palmer, Chair of Finance





Dear Friends in Christ,

April 27, 2020

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! This year, it feels a little strange with those words. We had a good Easter in my family, and I hope that you had a good one in yours, but it was certainly different. It seemed uncertain not being in our familiar sanctuary, my wife sniffing from the lilies she's allergic too, my children in their Easter clothes. But we gathered, and enjoyed the Scriptures, and the message from our pastor. In fairness, the remaining 11 disciples were uncertain on Easter morning too, and in the days following. Some followers were surprised on the walk to Emmaus, and then we know of the gathering where Jesus revealed himself, and Thomas was absent. Most of us heard this week of "Doubting" Thomas, and I think in many ways we could understand how Thomas, and all of the disciples, were feeling, in the weeks following the Resurrection, leading to Pentecost. In this trying time, let us not doubt the enduring goodness of our God.

This week, there have been interesting discussions about COVID-19. We know that there have now been over 250,000 cases in New York State. Over 16,000 have died. An early antibody study shows that up to 25% of New York City residents have had the virus, many asymptotically. On the other hand, less than 5% of Upstate New Yorkers had evidence of antibodies. Most of us are not immune. We are still seeing more cases in all of our counties. We have done a good job of slowing the rate of transmission, however. Currently in New York State, if the statistics I've seen are correct, the transmission rate is less than 1. This is the reason that people are starting to talk about "re-opening." The PAUSE is still in place, but in my workplace, some restrictions on doctor visits and elective surgeries are starting to be lifted. Many are hoping to be able to resume things.

Some resources are starting to be available about reopening. I think one of the things it's important for people to realize is that it's okay to acknowledge that we *don't know* exactly what we can do. This virus is new, and somewhat unprecedented. We still are trying to determine what will allow us to resume important parts of social life without putting ourselves, and others, at risk. I think it's very important to note that we all have a responsibility to each other, and the people around us, to try avoid spreading this, because we can't always tell by looking at someone if they're going to be at risk of severe disease. ...Things aren't going to suddenly return to normal. It seems likely that at first, church worships should remain virtual, but that the sanctuary could be available for use, and that a few people, with careful distances, could be present there to make the services work. After at least several weeks of improving numbers and decreased cases in an area, progression could be made to small gatherings for worship, with precautions for careful distancing. It will be several more weeks (or longer) before full worship gatherings. Highest risk members of the community will need to shelter in place for longer. If an area has increased infections, tighter restrictions may temporarily be required. It will be important for congregations and leaders to monitor with local public health and community leaders about the regional risks and adapt practices to promote health. We are all craving communal activities, and we Christians, being one body, look forward to being united as the Body of Christ. In Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians, he notes that some part of the body must be protected, for the good of the body. This directive still applies in this case. I'd also like to lift up the idea of small groups. Some churches already have these, but many don't. If we're not yet able to worship together, but some strict measures are lifted, it may be worth identifying small groups to share spiritual development and prayer together with. In many ways, these times may remind us of the early church, when families and small groups were gathering in homes, learning together and building each other up.

As reopening progresses, we will see continued changes. Ultimately, I do think a vaccine will be developed, and it will be at this point that we can expect things to return closer to normal. Until that point, let us continue to lift up in prayer the people locally and worldwide affected by the virus. I'm aware of more health care workers becoming infected with it, so I ask prayers for them and their family. I also ask prayers for the essential workers including cleaning staff, grocery workers, transportation workers, and countless others. May leaders have peace and inspiration, and our members have coping. We look forward to being united face to face, but we continue to worship together. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.

For the Living of These Days,
Rob Anderson MD, Chair, General Council

- Members of the Presbytery Leadership Team
- Rev. Glenn Kennedy, Moderator
- Elder Virginia Champlain, Vice Moderator
- Elder Rob Anderson, Chair of General Council
- Rev. Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk
- Elder Tom Bailey, Treasurer
- Elder Susan Orr, Presbytery Leader



A quick shout out to Bill Furnas for the amazing work he has done setting up the Office Administrator technology to remotely work from home for the church, as well as the numerous other tasks he has taken on during this unprecedented time. A shout out as well to the PNC who continue to move forward. THANK YOU for your leadership. It is deeply appreciated.

- Prayers of healing and strength for Kevin Mosher for his continued battle against cancer.
- Prayers of healing for Ann Gawenus and prayers of strength through changing circumstances for her husband, Dick.
- Prayers of healing and strength for Maxine Burroughs who was at Arnot Hospital recently and is now at St. Joseph's Rehab facility.
- Prayers for health, courage and comfort in uncertain times.



NPC encourages everyone to continue practicing social distancing & common sense hygiene practices. Stay safe and know you are loved.

THINKING OF YOU



MOTHERS WHO
HAVE LOST
CHILDREN



THOSE WHO HAVE
LOST MOTHERS



THOSE WITH
STRAINED MOTHER
RELATIONSHIPS



MOTHERS WITH
STRAINED CHILD
RELATIONSHIPS



THOSE WHO HAVE
CHOSEN NOT TO BE
MOTHERS



THOSE YEARNING
TO BE MOTHERS

A prayer in the time of the coronavirus

By: Rev. Jeffrey Myers

March 13, 2020 [The Presbyterian Outlook](#)

God our Creator, who calls the stars by name and sets the fireflies dancing, who makes the mountains burst into song and emboldens the purple crocus pushing up through the snow, we pause to give deep thanks for the beauty which surrounds us always and for the promise that life goes on.

Set in our hearts a hope more resilient than the coronavirus, and assure us of your power to bring good even out of the most formidable diseases.

God of healing and hope, we pray that you would cool the fevered brow of the sick and speak of love stronger than death to those who lay dying. Give healing compassion to all who care for the sick, and encourage those facing isolation with your peace-giving presence.

We pray that coronavirus would move us to reflect upon our responsibility, individually and together, in caring for creation. Let your righteous anger spur us to make the long-overdue changes, so that all of creation might have room to breathe.

Rein in fear, we pray, before it becomes contagious, and nurture trust to form the basis of our dealings with one another. Let the tireless efforts of those on the frontiers of research lead to new and effective treatments, and guide those in positions of power by principles of truth and integrity.

God of tender mercies, we ask humbly that the painful awareness of our own vulnerability lead not to greater fear, but to deeper faith – a faith that nothing in all of creation can separate us from your love – neither today, nor tomorrow. *Amen.*

JEFFREY MYERS is a Presbyterian pastor serving together with his German wife, Andrea, in Frankfurt, Germany.

