

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

# NORTH STAR

August 2020

Making Disciples - Making a Difference

[www.northpres.church](http://www.northpres.church)

Phone: 607-734-2977

Fax: 607-734-2978

Worship: Sunday at 9:30 am

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## Meet the Staff

Evan Hansen  
Incoming Pastor  
[pastor@northpres.church](mailto:pastor@northpres.church)

Paul Holland  
Music Director  
[music@northpres.church](mailto:music@northpres.church)

Barbara Mosher  
Church Organist  
[organist@northpres.church](mailto:organist@northpres.church)

Deb Stamp  
Director of Children  
& Youth Ministries  
[youth@northpres.church](mailto:youth@northpres.church)

Kim Townson  
Office Administrator  
[office@northpres.church](mailto:office@northpres.church)

NOTICE: Most groups, meetings & committees at NPC continue to be paused until further notice. Stay tuned to our Fb page for updates & see our website for helpful resources.

August, 2020

## A Letter from Evan Hansen

Due to deadlines and the logistics of moving, I am writing this letter to you surrounded by boxes that will hopefully be unpacked, flattened, and at a recycling facility by the time that you read this. Packing, whether it is a suitcase for a trip or boxes for a move, is a tangible reminder that change is coming and with change comes unpredictability and the realization that no matter how much we plan, we cannot control the future. And yet, we spend an immense amount of time and energy trying to control what we cannot control – the future.

In Luke 12.22-24, Jesus tells the disciples “do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.” A few verses later, Jesus says “And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things and your Father knows that you need them. Instead strive for [God’s] kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.” (Luke 12.29-31). As Christians, we are called not only to believe and profess that Jesus Christ is our Risen Lord and Savior, but we are live out our faith by trusting in the promises of God. This means that even as we plan for the future, we have to hold our plans loosely and understand that the Holy Spirit may be calling us and leading us in a different direction from what we have planned. In short, we cannot box God in with our plans, rather our plans have to give way to God. I am not in a position to say what this means for North except to say that one of my goals in the coming months and years is to spend a lot of time learning and listening to your stories and supporting you as a community and people called by God to witness to the reconciling, mystifying, and unending love of God revealed in mercy and grace of Jesus Christ and given to us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As the boxes increase and are stacked higher, the more excited we become for our new adventure with all of you. This is not to say there is not sadness for what we leave behind, but with that sadness comes the reminder of the joy that we found here and the joy we have and will experience as we trust in the promises of God and follow God’s call to be with you all.

The peace and grace of Jesus Christ be with you all,  
Evan



“As in one body we have many parts and each part has its own function, so all of us together with Christ are one body and we all belong to each other.”  
Romans 12: 4-5

On Sunday, June 28, 2020, the congregation of North Presbyterian Church, unanimously voted to call Evan David Hansen as our full-time Pastor. Evan graduated in May of 2020 from Princeton Theological Seminary and has not yet been ordained. It is with great joy that we announce and invite you to attend the Service of Ordination and Installation for Evan.

Details for the Service are as follows:

Date: Saturday, August 8, 2020

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Place: NPC Sanctuary

All are welcome to attend. Face masks and social distancing will be required for those in attendance throughout the service. The service will also be made available to view via ZOOM.

Evan’s first Sunday in the pulpit will be August 9, 2020.





August 2: John & Lori Lee  
 August 9: Annie LeFevre  
 August 16: Audrey Lutz  
 August 23: Janet Marks  
 August 30: Stephanie Maslin

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

Maxine Burroughs sends her thanks for the prayers and encouragement her NPC family has shared with her.

Dick Gawenus sends thanks for support received and gratitude that NPC allowed Ann's memorial service to take place in the sanctuary.

August 2: Marilyn Edwards  
 520 Harcourt Drive  
 Elmira, NY 14904

August 9: Hazel Thompson  
 Woodbrook Assisted Living  
 1250 Maple Avenue Rm 321  
 Elmira, NY 14904

August 16: Jim Bottcher  
 St. Joe's Nursing Facility  
 Room A  
 555 St. Joseph's Blvd.  
 Elmira, NY 14901

August 23: Gary Doolittle  
 Bath VA Medical Center  
 76 Veteran's Avenue  
 Bath, NY 14810

August 30: Earl & Liz Bush  
 37442 Loganberry Court  
 Zephyrhills, FL 33542



**Send a  
 Card  
 Today!  
 Today!**





# CHILDREN & YOUTH

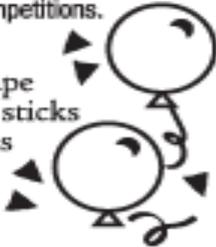
## KIDS CORNER

### GREAT SUMMER GAMES

Though this year's Summer Olympics were postponed, you can host friendly neighborhood competitions.

#### What you need:

- Masking tape
- Large craft sticks
- Paper plates
- Balloons
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Green construction paper
- Craft glue



#### What you do:

**Balloon Badminton:** Make rackets by taping a stick "handle" to each plate. Blow up and tie a balloon. Use the rackets to pass the balloon back and forth, without letting it touch the floor.

**Rhythmic Routines:** Using tape, firmly attach one end of a 4-foot ribbon to a craft stick. Display style and skill by waving it around. Try choreographing a routine to a praise song.

**Champion Crown:** Cut a large hole out of the center of a paper plate. Cut 2-inch ovals from green paper. Glue those "leaves" to the ring as garland. Crown a winner of each game!

August is upon us and with that begins all the planning for starting Sunday school and wee worship once again. The Christian Education committee met to discuss what plans need to be put into place and to review safety guidelines for restarting in a safe environment for the children. We have come up with some creative ways to safe distance the kids during wee worship and are working on ideas for safe distance measures for Sunday school along with creating individual kits for each child that will contain necessary items to be used during class. The next couple of weeks will be filled with disinfecting classrooms and the wee worship room (this room will not be used until restrictions are relaxed but toys and room itself will be ready to go when we get the green light). The nursery room is clean and stocked with diapers and wipes along with clean sheets if needed for the porta crib (Clean sheets are located in the drawer below the changing table). We will be wiping things down on a regular basis but ask if you are using this room please wipe surfaces down and empty trash after use. If the porta crib sheets are used please take off and leave folded in crib and I will wash them. Lysol wipes and Lysol are on the counter for your use. We will be supplying bulletins and crayons for the kids but cannot at this time bring out the cart with books, bags and clipboards. Please feel free to bring some items to keep them occupied but all you bring must leave with you. We thank you all for your patience during these crazy times. The health and wellbeing of our children is our top priority as we begin the opening process.

Blessings in Christ,

Deb Stamp





# DID YOU KNOW?



As we start to create this “new norm” many aspects of life are in various stages of transition; the way we worship together is one of them. Did you know that, if all goes well and there are no illnesses reported, we will be transitioning back into worship in the sanctuary more frequently? It’s true! To date, the plan is to be in the sanctuary on August 2 and 9 and then, with the help of Session and Pastor Hansen, we will make a plan to move forward that makes sense. Also, did you know that if you are not comfortable leaving home for parking lot worship, or if you are not comfortable being indoors for sanctuary worship, you can still participate in worship service via Zoom conference call? That’s true too! Each week, indefinitely, we will continue to provide a Wednesday email to the congregation that includes a Zoom link for anyone that wishes to stay home but still wants to participate.



This being the case we wanted to provide everyone with a handy guide to safe social distancing practices for Sunday worship services on the NPC premises. Please review the information below and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to the church office or any member of Session. **Remember, we are all in this together!**

## Parking Lot Worship:

- **Cars will park at least six feet apart.**
- Please use only the North Entrance (towards Roe Ave.) We will have someone guiding your parking.
- **All congregants will remain in their cars for the entirety of the service.**
  - **Windows will remain no more than half open and doors will remain closed.**

Please tune your FM radio to the frequency we will post on the pillars.

- **Parishioners will not sit in the beds of pickup trucks.**
- **A box or basket will be provided for parishioners to deposit their tithes and offerings without engaging in social contact or leaving their vehicle.**

Someone will have a basket it available to you as you exit. Please have your mask on if you roll down your window.

- **At the conclusion of the services, parishioners will exit as they came.**

You will be guided when to pull out. To move efficiently, we will try to have people going North (towards Roe) use that driveway. People going South (towards town) use the other driveway.

Due to car spacing requirements, we will need to limit the number of cars in the parking lot. Please understand if you are turned away.

## Sanctuary Worship:

- **Masks are required per Executive Order for all people entering and within the building during worship service.**
- **Congregants will abstain from gathering socially in the narthex or sanctuary.**
- **Hand sanitizer and masks are available.** Trash receptacles are at all exits.
- **Entering through the front door, congregants will remain 6 feet apart as they wait in line to register at the Welcome Center for purposes of possible contact tracing later, if needed.** Please wait in your car if the entrance way looks crowded.
- All congregants will then move to the podium to their left and wait to be seated. **Congregants will be seated with social distancing between family groups.**
- **There will be no sharing of the peace to minimize physical contact.**
- **There will be no singing.** A mental reflective contemplation of the song lyrics is encouraged.
- Friendship pads and hymnals have been removed from pews to minimize contact transmission.
- There will be no worship bulletin for now. The service will appear on the large screen at the front of the church.
- Congregants are welcome to leave service and continue participating in their car at any time if they feel the need to do so.

**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.



**August 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!



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](http://www.northpres.church)

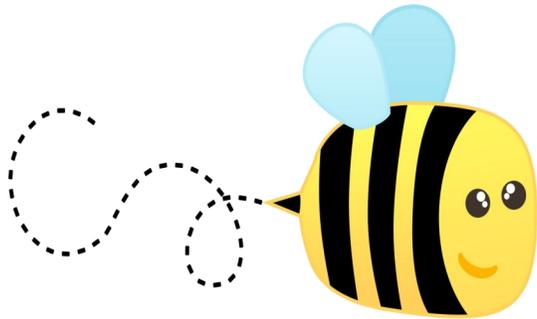


Each week we try to keep the NPC website and Facebook page up to date with real time information.

We understand, though, that not everyone is on social media platforms such as Facebook so we enjoy spreading our updates and exciting news through multiple venues including email. If you have not been receiving emails from NPC during our covid slow down, please reach out to the church office and let us know. We want everyone to feel informed and included!



The church office  
needs your updated  
contact info please!!

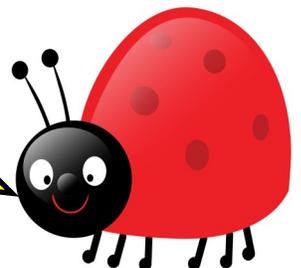


JUST A LITTLE  
*Reminder*

There are still so many ways to connect!



Join us  
on the  
NPC  
Facebook page!



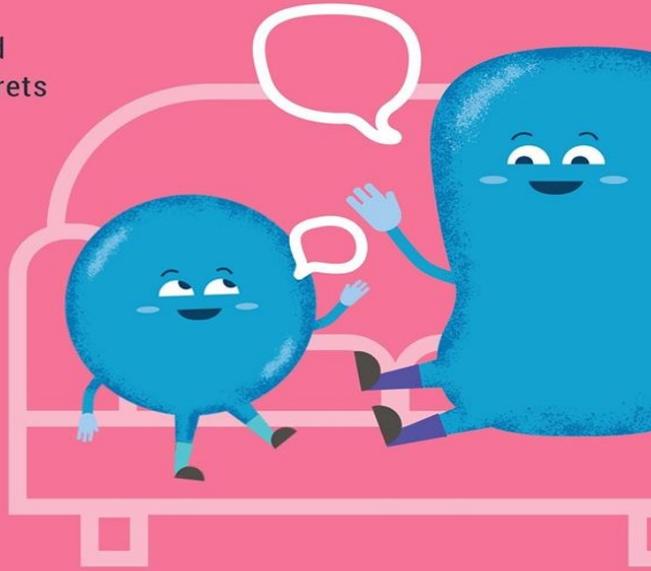
*Sing-A-Long*

# COVID-19 PARENTING

## Talking about COVID-19

### Be willing to talk.

They will already have heard something. Silence and secrets do not protect our children. Honesty and openness do. Think about how much they will understand. You know them best.



unicef  
for every child



Generous Food Pantry  
donations were  
made by

Marlene Carpenter,  
Bill & Bobbi Furnas,  
and the NPC Deacons

in loving memory of  
Ann Gawenus

# In the Spotlight

No VBS at NPC this year? No problem, we've got you covered! Check out the link below for Airship Genesis Summer Adventure!

Summer 2020 is not what I envisioned it would be—I imagine you might feel the same. Many summer plans have inevitably changed or been canceled due to the crisis that our world is facing. And many churches—including my own—have had to adjust how we deliver vacation Bible school this summer, something many of the children in our lives look forward to all year long.

While most of us are spending more time at home this summer, I wanted to make you aware of an online VBS program from Turning Point that your elementary-aged children or grandchildren can participate in from the comfort and safety of your home.

You may or may not be familiar with Airship Genesis, which provides audio stories, a kids' study Bible, numerous other print resources, and more for our younger generation. And, this July, we have decided to bring back our Summer Adventure online VBS program.

Airship Genesis: Summer Adventure is a 5-part audio adventure that follows the Genesis Exploration Squad as they try to track down a runaway robot that's on the loose in their hometown of Rocket Cove. While the episodes are full of excitement and fun, the entire series teaches kids important lessons about God's Word:

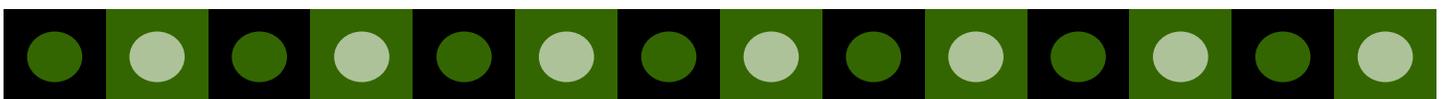
The Bible gives us direction for all of life's adventures!  
The Bible was written just for us by God!  
The Bible is powerful for any situation!  
The Bible should be shared with others!  
God rewards us for living by the Bible.

When you visit [AirshipGenesis.com](http://AirshipGenesis.com) you will find a Summer Adventure audio episode, coordinating Bible lesson, games, activities, challenges and more! Worry-free content that your child can explore—on their own or together as a family—while learning about the importance of God's Word in their life.

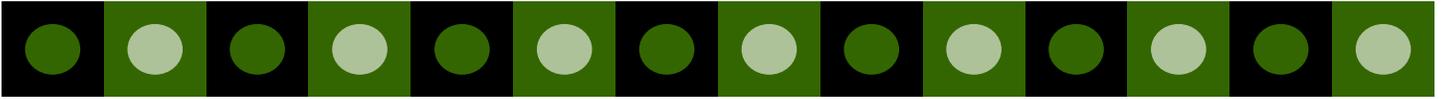
Whether you want to go through this online VBS series in a week or over the course of the entire month, we hope Summer Adventure provides you and your little ones with fun and focus



THE GREAT SPACE CHASE



# In the Spotlight



## FINGER LAKES DISTILLING

We'd like to give a big shout out and sincere THANK YOU to  
*Finger Lakes Distilling* owner, *Brain McKenzie*,  
for being willing to give our church a significant discounted rate  
on his fantastic FLD Hand Sanitizer  
as we enter into  
a plan of eventually re-opening our church.  
Thank you!



## Leadership and Stewardship

You might wonder about the connection between leadership and stewardship, but our Elders are perfect examples of the good stewards that have and continue to bless NPC. Elders are ordained for life, so even if you are not on Session now, or if you are not an Elder, pray for direction and opportunities to care for our church family. NPC needs you!

Carol McDonald, a retired PCUSA Pastor, wrote the following as she reflected on the life of a parishioner, Ruling Elder, and friend as her friend, turned 100:

**Ruling elders commit to teaching.** Ruling elders have opportunities to help children learn the stories of the faith. They can engage with youth and young adults, talking with them about their joys and struggles and encouraging them in their faith journeys. Ruling elders should be on the constant lookout for resources to share with adults—resources that speak to life’s issues and challenges.

**Ruling elders commit to worship.** The regular presence of church leaders on Sunday mornings — or whenever their congregations worship — says loudly and clearly that community is vital to the life of faith. Singing and praying together, hearing and responding to God’s word together, ground us and empower us for the work of ministry in the world.

**Ruling elders commit to mentoring others.** Ruling elders mentor seekers by inviting them into the church community and by standing with them as they experience language and customs that may seem quite strange at first. They mentor those in confirmation classes by listening to their experiences, responding to their questions, and praying for them as they consider church membership. They welcome new church members with gratitude and enthusiasm. Ruling elders look for, and seek out, the gifts of church members and invite the sharing of those gifts.

**Ruling elders commit to the whole life of the church.** Even though ruling elders may have a particular ministry area to which they focus, they support the whole of their congregation’s life. They engage in mission endeavors, attend special musical events, and support youth group fundraisers. They model generosity in their financial giving and share joyfully what the church and its ministry mean to them.

**Ruling elders commit to the larger church.** Ruling elders, as connectional leaders, have opportunities to be aware of and share church news and information with others — sometimes even their pastors. They can encourage support or presence at denominational gatherings such as the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, the Presbyterian Women’s Triennial Gathering, and at summer camps and conferences. They can be involved in meetings and committees of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly so that they can learn from others, effect change, and return to their own communities with new ideas.

**Ruling elders recognize, and even celebrate, that they do not cease to be ruling elders when the term on session is fulfilled.** They know they’ve been called for life:

- To teach;
- To worship God regularly with joy and enthusiasm;
- To invite others to the faith;
- To nurture children, youth, and adults for the work of ministry in the church and in the world;
- To engage in the life of their own particular communities;
- To pray for people and places all over God’s world;
- To share generously, whenever and wherever needed, their time, talent, and financial treasure;
- To serve God and the church with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

### Questions for Discussion

Take some time to think about the roles you have played in your service as a ruling elder.

- How have you served as an educator for others?
- How will you live out, or are you living out, your call after serving on the session?





2472 State Route NY54-A  
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Phone: (315) 536-7753  
Fax: (315) 536-2128  
presbyteryofgeneva.org

July 29, 2020

Dear Friends in our Presbytery,

As has been typical of 2020, it has certainly been an interesting summer. In this region, we're certainly enjoying some nice weather, and I hope you're able to enjoy God's natural world at this time. While we haven't had a traditional camping season, we hear that Camp Recreate and other programs through Camp Whitman are going very well, and we give thanks.

The Leadership Team of the Presbytery has been monitoring how the pandemic and other events are going. In consultation with the intended host congregations, we'll be recommending to the General Council that our remaining Presbytery meetings of 2020 be conducted via Zoom. Meeting this way will allow our members and congregations to be comfortable in social distancing, while also making it possible for staff and special denominational guests (such as Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, in November) to be present with us. We are finding that digital meetings can be meaningful, productive, and uplifting -- and we have even seen a significant increase in attendance! Upon Council's approval, please watch for future communications about the times and specific information for these meetings.

Our region remains in Phase IV, and while there have still been sporadic COVID-19 cases locally, we continue to do well as a region at controlling the infection rate. Much of this has been due to the care and success our communities have shown each other by socially distancing and masking. As a physician, I urge everyone to continue showing care and courtesy to everyone. Regionally, some congregations have chosen to reopen with carefully crafted social distancing plans, while others have not yet reopened their buildings; many continue to meet virtually and support each other in other ways. To any congregation that is considering reopening their buildings, I recommend studying [the resources posted on our website](#). (Hit Ctrl, left click to follow the link).

As our region is somewhat reopened but also socially distanced, people must still exercise their own personal judgment and avoid those things they consider to be a risk. This is beneficial, as it has helped to reduce our infection rate in the area. Some people feel more comfortable with social situations (including in-person worship) than others do -- even with social distancing measures in place. This is why we have continued to promote having a virtual option for worship for congregations that have reopened. The question of whether or not someone feels safe in these situations does not just apply to parishioners: it also applies to our pastors. There can be questions about the role of pastoral leaders if they express discomfort with a plan for reopening. In addition, they often face questions about officiating additional services, such as funerals or weddings. These can be especially tricky, because unlike congregational worship services, the pastoral leaders may know only a small number of the attendees, and thus may not know how the gathering will manage or respect social distancing recommendations. We have heard many pastoral leaders feeling conflicted. They have devoted their lives to God and to their flock, but also have concerns that they might be putting themselves, their family members, or the attendees at risk of a potentially dangerous infection. There are also concerns that they could be viewed as avoiding their duties if they express their discomfort and say no.

Fortunately, we have clear guidance from our Book of Order:

“God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it, in matters of faith or worship.” (F-3.0101)

“That, while under the conviction of the above principle we think it necessary to make effectual provision that all who are admitted as teachers be sound in the faith, we also believe that there are truths and forms with respect to which men of good characters and principles may differ. And in all these we think it the duty both of private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other.” (F-3.0105)

We must remember that “God alone is Lord of the conscience.” Neither those that participate nor those that refuse to participate in in-person worship or other gatherings are to be judged. Each Session can decide how and if they will provide facilities for in-person gatherings. Both individual members and pastoral leaders must be allowed to choose whether to participate in person or not based upon their personal needs and comfort. Every Session should make reasonable accommodation for pastoral voices that excuse themselves from participating in-person for in-person worship. The Leadership Team of the Presbytery of Geneva encourages all with differing viewpoints to support each other with love and grace. In 1 Corinthians 12:26, the Apostle Paul reminds us: “And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.” We have all suffered during this time of pandemic, and many are continuing to suffer, in several different ways. Let us show each other honor and concern, thinking about how we can minister to each other in love.

The Leadership Team is closely monitoring the status of the pandemic in our region. We will continue to meet and provide updates and guidance as things change. May God watch over us, and may we feel the hopeful presence of the Spirit as we serve with Christ’s love and mercy.

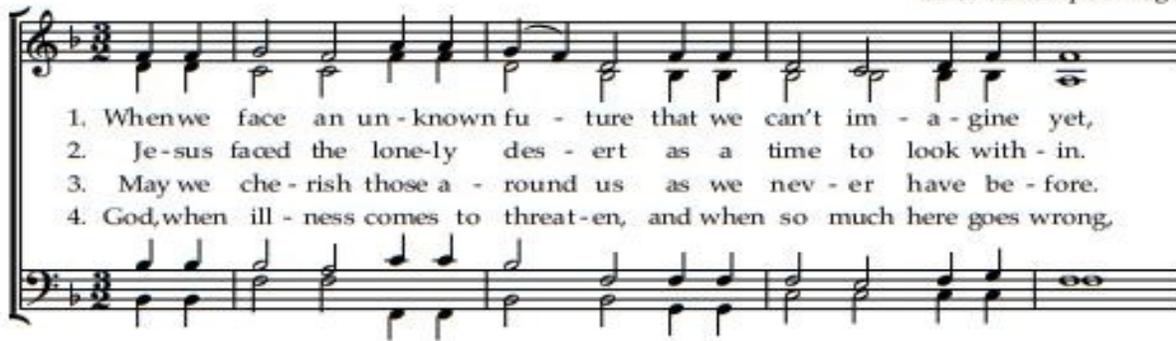
For the Living of These Days,  
Rob Anderson MD, Chair, General Council

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

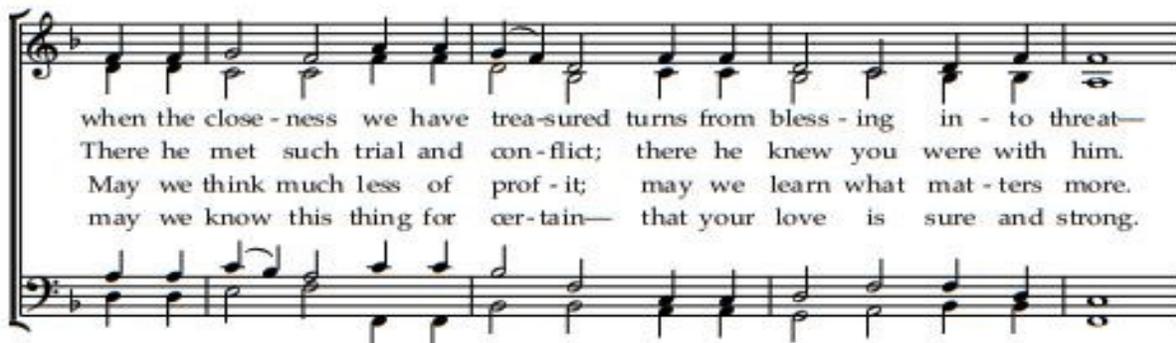
# When We Face an Unknown Future

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

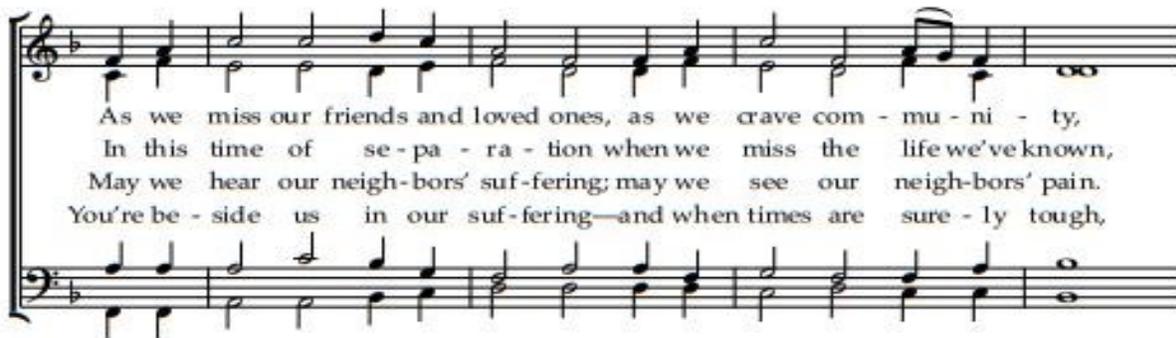
*Beach Spring*, attr. B. F. White;  
arr. Christopher Gage



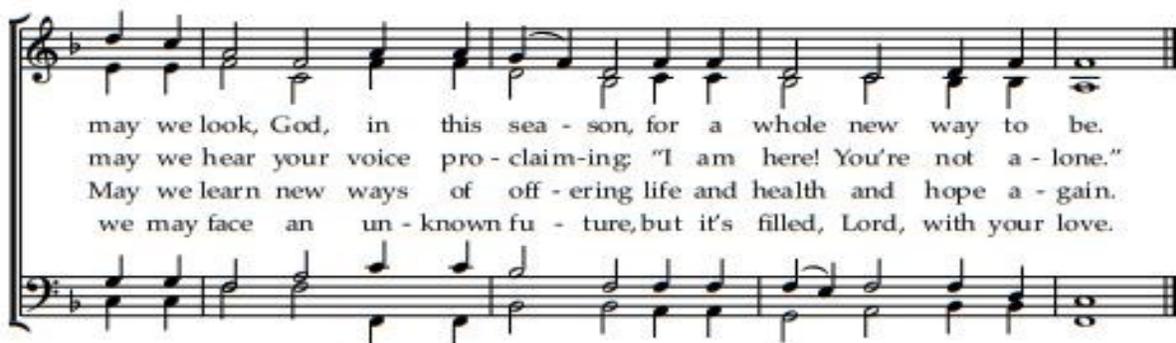
1. When we face an un - known fu - ture that we can't im - a - gine yet,  
2. Je - sus faced the lone - ly des - ert as a time to look with - in.  
3. May we che - rish those a - round us as we nev - er have be - fore.  
4. God, when ill - ness comes to threat - en, and when so much here goes wrong,



when the close - ness we have trea - sured turns from bless - ing in - to threat -  
There he met such trial and con - flict; there he knew you were with him.  
May we think much less of prof - it; may we learn what mat - ters more.  
may we know this thing for cer - tain— that your love is sure and strong.



As we miss our friends and loved ones, as we crave com - mu - ni - ty,  
In this time of se - pa - ra - tion when we miss the life we've known,  
May we hear our neigh - bors' suf - fer - ing; may we see our neigh - bors' pain.  
You're be - side us in our suf - fer - ing—and when times are sure - ly tough,



may we look, God, in this sea - son, for a whole new way to be.  
may we hear your voice pro - claim - ing: "I am here! You're not a - lone."  
May we learn new ways of off - er - ing life and health and hope a - gain.  
we may face an un - known fu - ture, but it's filled, Lord, with your love.

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New Hymns: [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com) | Email: [carolynshymns@gmail.com](mailto:carolynshymns@gmail.com)