

NORTH STAR

September 2020

Making Disciples - Making a Difference

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Meet the Staff

Pastor Evan Hansen	Pastor
	pastor@northpres.church
	Open Door Office Hours: T & W 1:30-4pm
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: Many groups, meetings & committees at NPC are suspended until further notice. Stay tuned to our Fb page for updates & see our website for helpful resources.

September, 2020

A Letter from Pastor Hansen



As clichéd as it is, there is much truth in the saying that “Life is a journey, not a destination.” Over the years, I have found that people, myself included, often look ahead at life-changing events such as a move, a new relationship, a birth, a death, a wedding, a divorce, and vest the event with the expectation that “everything will be different now.” And while events certainly affect our lives and the changes that come with a particular event can be dramatic and life-altering, what we often forget is that even as life changes and “everything is different” much remains the same – at least at first.

As people who live in time, our faith, our beliefs, our lives cannot be lived in isolation and or separated from our past. As Christians, we grow in faith, mature in our beliefs, and learn to live lives that are transformed by the grace and mercy of God, not by denying our history, but acknowledging our history and our need to be forgiven by God, to forgive others, and to take up our cross and follow Jesus. In his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, German Lutheran minister, theologian, and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, quoting Martin Luther, states that “the way of the cross” “[is] [n]ot the work you choose, not the suffering you devise, but the road which is clean contrary to all that you choose or contrive – that is the road you must take.” Bonhoeffer 1995, 93. As Christians, we can only travel this path together as a community and with God – we cannot do it alone or isolated from each other. Instead, we journey together as followers of Christ called by the Holy Spirit by loving God and each other in thought, word, and deed, by supporting each other, by praying for each other, by teaching each other, by learning from each other, by listening to each other, and by being present for each other.

You might be asking, “So what does this have to do with life events and expectations?” Each step North takes together is informed by all the prior steps North has taken – whether the step was taken in 1890 or last month. As your new pastor, my job right now is to listen and to learn about all of you as people, as a community, and as a congregation that has been worshiping in and serving Elmira and the surrounding communities for 130 years. This will not happen overnight, but will happen as I teach and participate in adult Sunday school classes, spend time with all of you, participate in and lead Bible studies, meet people, lead worship, and most importantly as I listen to and get to know all of you and pray for all of you.

I look forward to traveling this path with you as individuals and as a community in the days, months, and years to come as we pray together, work together, rejoice together, weep together, and continually learn to live into the love of the God who calls us together to love and serve all of God’s creation.

The Ordination and Instillation of Evan D. Hansen

August 8, 2020

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
1 John 4:7 - NRSV





Generous donations to the Food Pantry were made by:

**Pam & Bill Caroscio
Marlene Carpentier
The NPC Deacons
Bill & Bobbi Furnas
Jeff & Pat Richards**

A generous donation to the Food Pantry was made by:

Jim & Linda Palmer

**In honor of
Pastor Jim Hicks**

**In memory of
Ann Gawenus**

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

September 6:
Chris Miller and Jennifer Miller-Denicola

September 13:
Vinnie, Chase and Amilia Denicola

September 20:
Heather Van Riper and Luca VanRiper

September 27:
Elijah Moffett and Lorelei Moffett

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

September 6:
Betty Carney
74 Smith Road
Millport, NY 14864

September 13:
Mrs. Margaret Densberger
660 W. Washington Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901-0266
Elmira, NY 14904

September 20:
Cynthia Klungle
808 W. Grey Street
Elmira, NY 14905

September 27:
Audrey Lutz
219 Crete Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901



Send a Card Today!



CHILDREN & YOUTH



Children and Youth Ministry September 2020

It's amazing to me that we are already entering the month of September. I sometimes feel like we've been on this crazy non-stop ride for the last five months and I'm really ready to get off now. Getting everything ready for Sunday school is definitely a challenge with all the guidelines which need to be followed but in the end if we can safely worship together it's all worth it. Christian Ed. was able to meet as a committee last month to talk about plans for starting Sunday school which was a blessing. We have a great group of people who dedicate themselves to the children of this church and the safety of the children and teachers is their number one concern. I ask that you keep all teachers and students in your prayers as we get ready to head back to school. Two of our older kids who have graduated (Alexis Washburn and Ana Campbell) have already left for college and we wish them Gods speed. May he protect and guide them as they start this new chapter in their lives. I would also like to congratulate both these girls on receiving the Myers Scholarship this year. All of their hard work academically and their involvement in the community and at North Pres. has given them a firm foundation to start this new chapter. We truly have so much to be thankful for here at NPC which has been very evident these last five months. We start the new school year with another blessing from God in the form of our new pastor Rev. Evan Hansen and his wonderful family. May we have many years of faith, family and fun as we start this new journey together.

Blessings in Christ,

Deb Stamp

Director of Children and Youth Ministry



A BUSHEL OF BOOKS



Design a handy bag to tote your books this fall.

What you need:

- Plain canvas bag
- Cardboard scrap
- Acrylic paints (2 colors)
- 2 small paper plates
- Apple
- Knife (and adult help)
- Foam brush
- Scrap paper



What you do:

1. Lay the bag flat on a table, and place cardboard inside for protection.
2. Pour a paint dollop on each plate.
3. Slice the apple in half, keeping the core intact.
4. Brush a thin layer of paint on the cut side of an apple half. Practice making stamps on scrap paper. Use the other color on the other apple half.
5. Paint and stamp the bag with your final design. When dry, remove the cardboard.
6. Use the bag for school and Sunday school. Happy reading!



Did you know that, if all goes well, we will be worshipping in the sanctuary until further notice? It's true! Provided the Governor doesn't issue a mandate requiring otherwise, and provided we are all healthy together, with social distancing in place and masks required, we will continue to worship together in our beautiful sanctuary. That being said, did you know that if you are not comfortable worshipping inside you can still participate in worship service via Zoom conference call either at home or in the parking lot? That's true too! Each week, indefinitely, we will continue to provide an email to the congregation that includes a Zoom link for anyone that wishes, for any reason, to participate in worship with NPC remotely. This being the case we wanted to provide everyone again 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 please feel free to reach out to the church office or any member of Session. Remember, we are all in this together!



JUST A LITTLE
Reminder



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 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.

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. If the lot is full, please know that you can still pick up the radio signal from the surrounding neighborhood streets.

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.

- All congregants will then move to the podium to their left and wait to be seated. Congregants will be seated with social distancing in place.

- There will be no sharing of the peace to minimize physical contact.

- There will be no singing. A mental reflective contemplation of the words 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.



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

September 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!



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



Just a friendly reminder that the NPC website and Facebook page have wonderful ways to keep you in touch! Updates and announcements are always included so even in a world of caution we can stay heart-connected! Check it out!

Happenings & FYIs...

Important Reminders:

- The church office needs your updated contact information please!
- Social distancing and masks are required when in the NPC church building including during worship service.
- If you should begin experiencing any symptoms of illness after worshipping with us in the sanctuary or attending a NPC meeting, please notify the church office immediately so we can be notifying others.
- If you are traveling to any state on the NY Governor's travel restriction list, we respectfully request that you quarantine for two weeks before returning to worship or church gatherings.
- If you need to contact the church office for any reason, please feel free to email office@northpres.church or leave a message on the church voicemail. Both are checked M-F at 9am, 11:30am and 2pm. Your message will be returned within one business day or sooner.



Open Door Office Hours:

Pastor Hanson has Open Door Office Hours on Tuesday and Wednesdays from 1:30pm until 4:00pm. If you would like to speak with him by phone or in person, these are the hours that he is most available. If these days/times do not work for you, please call the church office and he will be happy to arrange an appointment time that works for you both. Certainly, in cases of emergency, he is always available to church members and friends of the church.

Thank you.



You are Invited

The *NPC Board of Session* has approved
the following meeting schedule for the rest of 2020:

September 20

October 18

November 22

December 20

- Meetings will be held in-person at 6:00 p.m. at the church with the option for Session members to participate via ZOOM .
- Meetings are generally open to all members of the church and members should feel free to attend if they wish to do so.
- While notifying a member of Session of your intention of participate is not required, it is requested that you please let us know if you will be attending in person so seating for appropriate social distancing for all people in attendance can be maintained.

Thank you.



In the Spotlight



Meyer Scholarship Fund



The Meyer Scholarship Committee announces the winners of this year's bequest - Anastasia Edwards and Alexis Washburn will each receive \$1,000 towards their continuing education. We are so proud of them! Their kindness, intelligence, and living out their individual fruits of the Spirit are inspiring to us all. It will be interesting to see which young lady deals with the most snow this winter...Ana at Alfred or Alexis at Clarkson? This will be fun for the congregation to track as we keep them in our prayers. It is also a good geography lesson for our youth to learn more about New York State. Special thanks to Hal Wolfe and his team for reviewing the applications - how blessed we are to have him at the helm!

Dear God, we thank You and we praise for You for guiding North Church and its members for Your glory and honor as we strive to do Your will. Please pour out Your love and protection on Ana and Alexis, so they will know You are with them always. Please be with their families as they adjust to emptier nests and the transition in relationships from children to young adults. Please nurture our church family, so it will continue nurturing the youth in our midst. We may not always see the fulfillment of the seeds planted, Lord, but our faith in You guides us to be Your hands and feet. In the Holy Name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen

A graphic featuring two spotlights at the top corners, casting a yellow beam of light across the text. The text "In the Spotlight" is centered, with "In the" in a smaller font above "Spotlight".

In the Spotlight

To Our Friends at North Presbyterian Church,

Mary and I express our deepest appreciation for your kindness, warmth and affection expressed to us at the last worship service we shared with you. Your words, the two Rose-of-Sharon bushes, the gift card to Mary and the ice cream (!) we will hold in our minds as cherished memories.

Thank you so very much!

Sincerely, Jim Hicks





Just a reminder that

Rally day is Sunday September 13th.

We will be doing a Backpack Blessing for all students and teachers and handing out tags for their backpacks.

Join us!





Dear Friends,

Which goes faster - your lunch break, your vacation, or summer? Even in this crazy year, June and July flew by compared to March and April. By the time you read this, we will be turning our attention to mums and pumpkin spice coffee creamer (really pumpkin spice everything!), and Christmas shopping. I know I'm not the only one who has started, am I?

Chairing the Finance Committee, I also have to think about the Stewardship campaign for 2021! Throughout the year, we have tried to instill the idea that stewardship is more than the money you give. It is about taking care of each other, our community, and God's world. To be practical, however, that "taking care of..." necessitates financial resources. Paying NYSEG, buying hand sanitizer, honoring commitments to our mission partners, and many many more things are what we do as a responsible congregation.

Most of us were used to making our tithes and offerings in person at a worship service, and we had to adjust - some are giving online, or through the mail, or tossing the envelope into a basket while exiting the parking lot! However you are supporting NPC, please know how much Session appreciates your gifts and your faithfulness. We have a great church family, and this family never disappoints - thoughtful, caring, and generous!

"Now May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word." 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Dear God, thank you for all the wonderful gifts you bestow upon us, your children. Thank you most especially for sending us Jesus, our Rock and our Redeemer. Please pour Your blessings upon our church so we can further your kingdom on earth.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

NPC Board of Session

Minutes of a meeting of the Congregation of North Presbyterian Church held on Sunday, June 28, 2020 immediately following worship (approximately 10:30 a.m.)

The Clerk of Session (the “Clerk”) determined that a quorum of the members were present.

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. James Hicks. Rev. Hicks opened the meeting in prayer.

The Clerk read the call for the Congregation Meeting:

“On behalf of the Pastor Nomination Committee (“PNC”) and the Session of North Presbyterian Church, a Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, June 28, 2020 immediately following worship (approximately 10:30 a.m.) for the purpose of affirming the recommendation of the PNC and the Session of calling Pastoral Candidate Evan David Hansen as the full-time pastor for North Presbyterian Church.”

The Moderator asked if there were any questions or discussion from the Congregation. The Chairman of the PNC, Joel Robinson spoke regarding the search process. There was no further discussion nor were there any questions from the Congregation.

The Moderator explained that process for the vote.

The Clerk reminded those in attendance that only current members of the congregation were eligible to vote. The blank ballots were distributed and collected by the following members of Session: Ann Motley, Barb Duryea, Jeff Richards, and Wendy Swatling. Those members who were in attendance via ZOOM were also allowed to vote. The ballots were counted and the result was presented to the Moderator and the Clerk who delivered the result of the vote to the Candidate and his family. The Candidate accepted the results. The Moderator, the Clerk, and the Candidate and his family returned to the Sanctuary and the result of the vote was announced to the Congregation: 50 Yes, 0 NO. The Moderator offered a prayer of thanksgiving and Evan made a few remarks.

Upon the motion of Jeff Richards, seconded by Annie LeFevre, the PNC was disbanded and the members of such formed as a Hospitality/Welcoming committee for a period of six months.

The meeting was adjourned in prayer upon the motion of Barb Duryea, which was seconded by Wendy Swatling.

The Terms of Call for Evan Hansen as proposed by the PNC, agreed upon by Evan and the Committee on Ministry include:

Effective Cash salary (including \$16,200 housing allowance)	\$60,000*
Benefits and Retirement	\$22,200
SECA offset	\$ 4,590
Study Leave	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Total annual package	\$87,790
	=====

*Evan and his family will be utilizing the Manse, therefore \$16,200, which is the Fair Market Value of the yearly rent as determined by a local realtor, is deducted from the effective salary, making the total cash paid out in salary \$43,800.

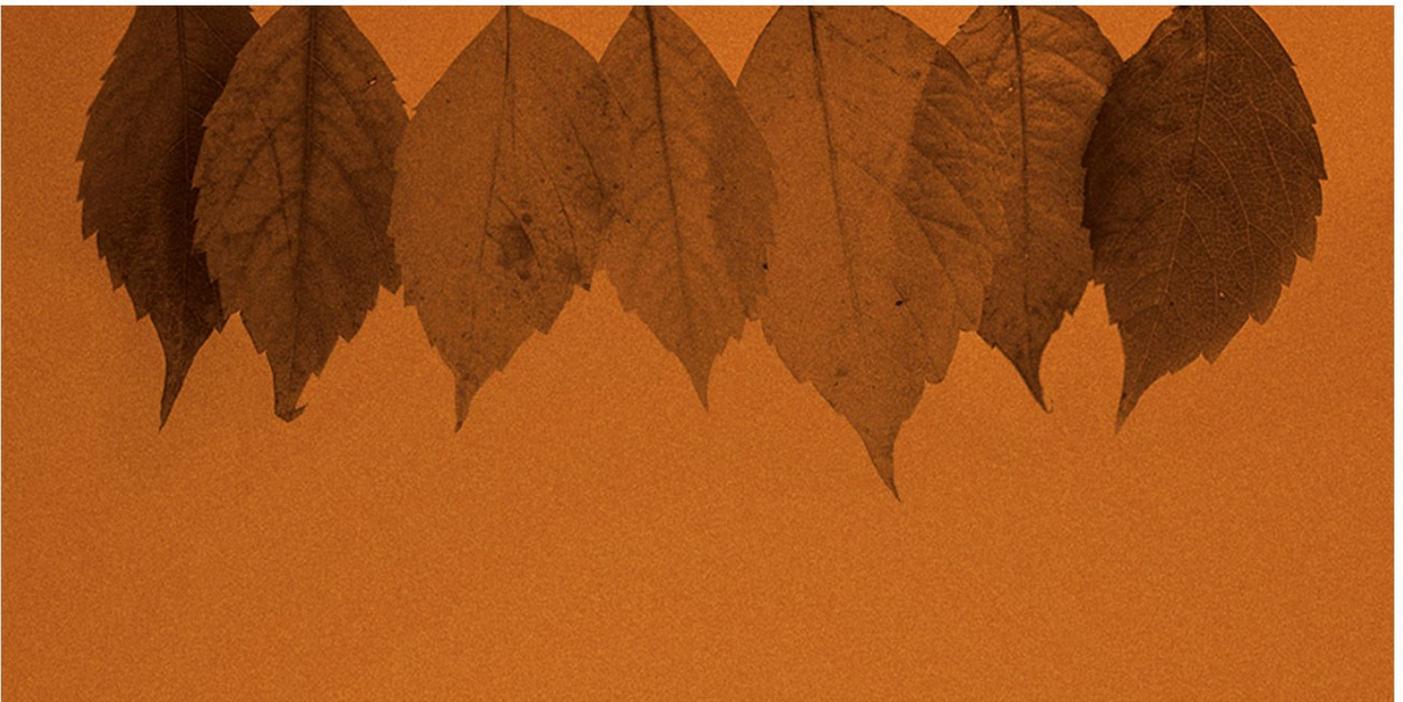
Study Leave is 2 weeks including Sundays, and vacation is 31 days including 4 Sundays (these are Presbytery minimums).

By unanimous vote the Session has approved the following amendments to the Terms of Call:

Study leave expenses will be classified as Personal Expenses

NPC will cover the entire cost of Dental and Vision benefits for Evan and his family at a cost of \$1,320 annually.

After 7 years of service to NPC, Evan will be entitled to a twelve-week (paid) sabbatical. Evan will commit to NPC for one year upon return from sabbatical.





"Be joyful always; pray continually;
give thanks in all circumstances
for this is God's will for you in
Christ Jesus." | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18