

North Presbyterian Church
921 College Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901-2048
www.northpres.church
Phone:
607-734

Worship: Sunday at 9:30 am

NORTH STAR

January 2021

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
Annette Stevens	Temporary Accompanist organist@northpres.church
Deb Stamp	Director of Children & Youth Ministries youth@northpres.church
Gretchen Duffy	Office Administrator office@northpres.church

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

January, 2021

A Letter from Pastor Hansen

I am not one who makes ‘New Year’s resolutions.’ It is not that I think that the practice of making resolutions is a bad idea. Rather, making ‘New Year’s resolutions’ is not a particularly successful endeavor for me when compared to other ways I set goals. However, this year I am going to do things a bit differently. In 2021, I resolve not to write off 2020 or forget the lessons I learned this past year.

Recently I read a New York Times’ opinion piece authored by Dr. Esau McCaulley, Ph.D, titled “Why You Cannot Meet God Over Zoom.” Dr. McCaulley is a New Testament scholar and associate professor at Wheaton College and I do not disagree with Dr. McCaulley’s argument that, by their very nature, Zoom and in-person worship services cannot deliver what most, if not all, worshippers seek from them, that is, “to usher [us] into the presence of [God].” As he points out, in worship, we are confronted with our imperfections and limitations. We see people who do not treat others with love, respect, or dignity. We witness others and ourselves engage in power struggles over things big and small. We meet people who are not friendly. Sometimes the sermons are a struggle to listen to and we wonder why anyone would choose that particular hymn to sing. In short, in worship, we look into a mirror and we see ourselves; and, that we cannot bring God to us. But, for me, looking into that mirror and seeing that we cannot bring God to us is not a problem – it is how we recognize God’s unending freedom to pursue us as we are and where we are. As a Presbyterian, I find the statement that one “cannot meet God over Zoom” more than just problematic, it is a fundamental misunderstanding of what our Reformed tradition teaches us about the worship of God.

As Presbyterians, worship is not about us ushering ourselves into the presence of God. Worship is our response to God’s grace and mercy. When we gather to hear the word proclaimed, when we sing, when we pray, when we celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, we do not do so to bring God to us – we do so because we are responding to God’s call through the Spirit and God’s love for us as revealed to us in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We cannot find God in worship and the Sacraments because it is God who pursues and finds us. And this is why when we come to worship we are confronted by our imperfections and our limits – because God pursues us and finds us and gathers us as we are with all of our flaws – even over Zoom.

This is not to say that Zoom or parking lot worship is ideal – it is not – and I will rejoice when it is safe and reasonable to worship in-person once again. However, in the meantime, do not lose hope and do not think that God is absent because we are not physically gathered in a particular space together. God is not limited by our limitations nor is God absent – for as the Apostle Paul states in his Letter to the Romans: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord[,]” and that includes Zoom.

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Evan



ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report

Session has called an Annual Meeting of the church for Sunday, January 24, 2021 for the purpose of reviewing the Annual Report, the nomination and election of new officers and to consider and approve the Pastor's Terms of Call.

The meeting will take place via Zoom. A Zoom link will be provided prior to the meeting.



We would like to remind everyone that they are welcome to attend Session Meetings.

If you are interested in attending one, please contact the church office.

Please note that all Annual Committee Reports are due by 2:00 pm on Friday, January 8, 2021. Please email your reports to: office@northpres.church.

Thank you!





December 6:
Eric Rolls

December 13:
Geoffrey Rolls

December 20:
Joseph Rolls

December 27:
Sara Rolls

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

January 3:
Marilyn Edwards
520 Harcourt Dr.
Elmira, NY 14904

January 10:
Hazel Thompson
Woodbrook Assisted Living
1250 Maple Ave., Rm 321
Elmira, NY 14904

January 17:
Jim Bottcher
St. Joseph's Nursing Facility
Room 521
555 St. Joseph's Blvd
Elmira, NY 14901

December 27:
Karen & Chris Paul
136 Ridge Rd.
Horseheads, NY 14845



**Send a
Card
Today!**

Please note, the Church offices will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2021, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.





CHILDREN & YOUTH



Children and Youth Ministry January 2021

Goodbye 2020 and Welcome 2021!!! I pray this New Year brings hope and peace and love to each and every one. This past year has definitely tested everyone's faith in one way or another but through it all we have remained strong and every test has only made our faith stronger. The month of December was definitely one to remember. Our normal Christmas traditions were put to the test, many had to be changed to fit the current protocol we are living under due to the pandemic. So many of our traditions here at North Church had to be changed and while it wasn't perhaps ideal we made the best of it and the children and their families were so great about everything we asked of them. Though not the norm it was wonderful and filled with love. We were also fortunate to be able to hand out Christmas stockings to the children of our pantry families and it was such a blessing to be able to help out our families who have had a rough year. I'm entering this New Year with hope and determination for a better year as I'm sure so are you. Let us rejoice in the Lord and embrace his love and share it with others as he has asked us to do. May all of you be blessed in this New Year and not lose hope for we are all God's children and he will watch over us.

Blessings in Christ,

Deb Stamp

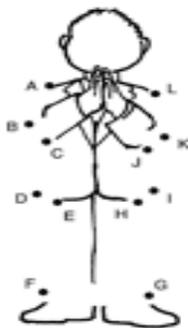
Dir. of Children and Youth Min.



We are the children of God.

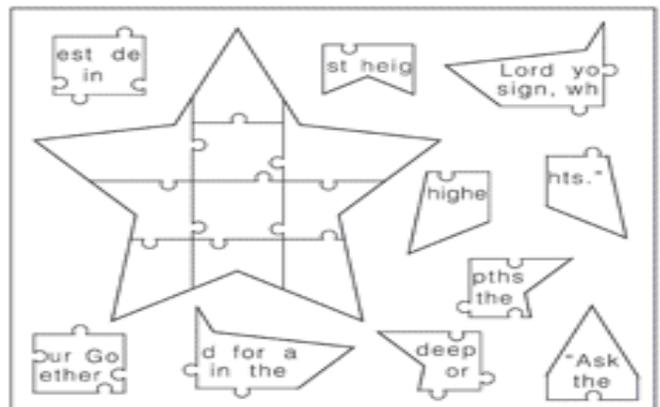
Connect the dots and finish the picture.

ABCDEFGHIJKLM 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



The Lord spoke to King Ahaz.
What did the Lord say?

Fit the pieces into the puzzle.
Then read the text.



Friendly Reminders

Did you know that, until further notice, there will not be worship service in the sanctuary? As we are now in the Orange Zone, we will be meeting Via Zoom conference call or in the parking lot. Each week, indefinitely, we will continue to provide an email to the congregation that includes a Zoom link for anyone that wishes, to participate in worship with NPC remotely. If you are not comfortable with Zoom, you can still come to the parking lot and listen to the service on the 1700AM radio station. This being the case we wanted to provide everyone again with a handy guide to safe social distancing practices for Sunday worship services in the NPC parking lot. 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!



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 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.

- **Zoom service Link will be emailed each week for those who would like to participate via Zoom.**

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 contact the church office M-F from 9am to 2:30pm. Any messages will be returned within one business day or sooner.



January Food Pantry

Shopping List:

The following items are needed this month for the Pantry:

- *Peanut Butter*
- *Chicken Noodle Soup*
- *Toilet Paper*
- *Monetary donations are also welcome.*



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	misson_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

**Did you know that the home page of our church website always has scrolling updates and announcements! It sure does!
Check out the website to always be up to date with what's going on at NPC!**

In the Spotlight

Renovation house

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF MEN

North Presbyterian Church
921 College Ave.
Elmira, NY 14901-2048

Feb. 2020

Hello!

My name is Zaan Parsons, I am 21 years old and I am from South Africa. This January the Renovation House kicked off their Internship program, I am one of these interns. I was introduced to the Renovation House in the summer through my boyfriend, Taylor Austen. I am here to love and encourage as I find the opportunities to. As I spend most of my time with the ladies of the Renovation House, I am learning many new skills from the ladies themselves; things like cooking, sewing, making candles, etc. My role here is to serve where I am needed; this leads me to many opportunities to grow. And that ties in with the heart of the internship: that while I'm pouring out to these ladies, I am being poured into by my leaders, classes and fellow interns.

I want to thank you for your contribution to the Renovation House, without you things like the internship would not be possible. Without you I would not have this amazing privilege to serve these ladies and the house. I would not be able to watch them blossom into who God made them to be. If it weren't for generous supporters like you this ministry would not be possible.



"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her" Luke 1:45

Sincerely,

Zaan Parsons

379 Dean Creek Road Spencer, NY 14883
Tel (607) 589-4413 Fax (607) 589-7383 renovationhouse777@gmail.com
Mailing Address: PO Box 396 Spencer, NY 14883

Stewardship Is **HEART WORK** Learning ♥ Worship ♥ Service

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, at a Women of Faith conference, I heard a woman recount the life-changing circumstances her family had experienced. She wrote a book about their “new normal.” That may have been the first time I heard that phrase. It has been used to describe many things since then, but nothing to the extent of what we all experienced in 2020!

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to thank you for your trust and faith. God is with us, amid us, and guiding us. North’s new normal may be under-going a constant state of change right now, but through it all, we will continue to worship our Lord and undertake His work in this world...a world that really needs Him. The one thing that never changes is God!

Your pledges and commitment to North provide the stimulus to bring the love of Christ to a community trying to adjust to its new normal. North is needed. You are needed for this mission. As Esther (Esther 4:14) learned long ago – who knows that you are here for such a time as this?

We have the secret weapon the world needs to move forward – God! The Holy Spirit will guide us as we use our resources to help our neighbors.

Thank you, thank you! Without you, it truly would not be possible to undertake our ministry.

Thank you, thank you, for bringing hope to a hungry world!

As we enter 2021, we shall focus on joy and hope and sharing the love of Jesus. Now, more than ever, Happy New Year!

In peace, joy, and love – Linda Palmer, Finance Committee Chair



Gathering Together, Nurturing Innovation, Strengthening Communities
Reuniéndonos Juntos, Animando Innovación, Fortaleciendo Comunidades
다같이 모이거 - 공동체를 강화하거 - 미션을 키워나가거



The Synod of the Northeast is delighted to announce it has called Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley as its Transitional Leader. Having served as a pastor to churches, in multiple positions at the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency and most recently as an Executive Presbyter, SanDawna comes with a broad range of knowledge, talents, skills and resources to assist the Synod in moving forward. SanDawna will begin her work on March 1, 2021. We will find multiple ways to introduce and welcome her to presbytery leaders, the synod's various networks and working groups as well as the community at large. For many, SanDawna needs no introduction. However, to learn more about SanDawna, please see her bio below.

Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley is the seventh child of Dorothy and Freddie Gaulman. She was born in Frankfurt, Germany, to a military family. SanDawna spent her formative years living in both Columbia, South Carolina and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For 33 years, she has been married to her partner in life and ministry, the Reverend Murphy Ashley, Jr. She is the mother of Jay, mother-in-law to Rachel, and grandmother of Christian and Olivia. Joy, their Keeshond dog, completes the Ashley home. For the last 21 years, SanDawna has served the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on three denominational levels: mid council ministry, national staff for the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and a local pastor. Currently, she is the Executive Presbyter for Minnesota Valleys Presbytery. In her various roles, she provided training, consultation, coaching, and resources for presbyteries to support Committees of Ministries (COMs), call seekers and calling organizations.

Additionally, her experience includes serving as the denomination's Associate for Leadership Development with direct responsibility for equipping adaptive pastors. As the Associate for Gender and Racial Justice, Rev. Ashley facilitated ministries and programs at all church levels that helped the PC(U.S.A.) in becoming an inclusive, diverse, and racially just denomination. Her work included advocating for the full inclusion of all people to serve the Church and preparing Church organizations to welcome the gifts of diverse leaders. Her pastoral service includes serving as senior pastor and solo pastor of congregations in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Illinois. She is an

Synod of the Northeast Continued:

executive board member for the Art of Transitional Ministry Consortium. She has served as faculty for Transitional Ministry Education for conference centers and mid councils training transitional pastors and new executive leaders. Rev. Ashley is experienced in working in crosscultural ministry settings. SanDawna is an experienced consultant, diversity trainer, policy developer, and conflict mediator. She is an elected representative for the City of Willmar.

SanDawna holds degrees from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry (DMin) with a concentration in leadership development and congregational transformation, Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity in the Psychology of Religion and Pastoral Care (MDIV), and Georgia State University Bachelor of Social Work (BSW).

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Nancy Talbot, Acting Synod Leader and Synod Stated Clerk

nancy.talbot@synodne.org

315-480-3553

January Worship Volunteers

Tech Booth

1/3 Steven Allison
1/10 Ed Wilson
1/17 Bill Furnas
1/24 Steven Allison
1/31 Ed Wilson

Counters

1/3 Cindy & Kurt Kalwit
1/10 Annette Stevens & Jim Mosher
1/17 Dolores Cummings & Janice Williams
1/24 Suzie Hoskins & Deb Stamp
1/31 Phil Carentier & Jeff Richards



NPC Board of Session

Session Summary

6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 20, 2020 (Meeting held via ZOOM)

Rev. Hansen determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order and opened the meeting in prayer.

Session reviewed and approved the minutes of the November 15, 2020 stated Session meeting as amended.

Session approved the date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021 immediately following worship.

The Treasurer reviewed the Financial Statements including the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for November and the Account Activity Summary for the Endowment Fund. Pledge income received for November totaled \$9,318. The Endowment Fund income year-to-date is \$30,536. The Session received the report (with thanks) including monthly and year-to-date financial statements as presented.

Rev. Hansen thanked all those involved in making sure that Sunday morning worship services broadcast from the sanctuary run seamlessly on ZOOM and on the radio at 1700 AM. He continues to do “visits” via telephone and is reaching out particularly to shut-ins, including members who have recently become home-bound due to the COVID restrictions. He will be changing his drop-in office hours to Tues., Wed., Thurs., from 1:30 – 3:00.

Annie LeFevre provided a report from the November 17, 2020 Presbytery meeting. She noted that small changes were approved to the Book of Order. The (former) Presbytery Office in Penn Yan has been sold.

Session extended the restriction on in-person worship through January 17, 2021. Worship will be broadcast from the sanctuary via ZOOM and on the radio at 1700 AM for those who wish to participate from the parking lot. Session will reconsider in-person worship at the January 17, 2021 stated Session meeting.

NPC Board of Session

Session approved the 2021 Communion Schedule as proposed by the Worship and Music Committee.

Session approved the use of \$4,800 from the Ann Gawenus bequest for sidewalk replacement in front of the Willits Wing.

Session approved 2021 Mission Funding Partnership with the Presbytery of Geneva as follows: \$3,075 Presbytery Mission; \$84 Synod Mission

Session approved the 2021 Budget (as amended) for North Presbyterian Church.

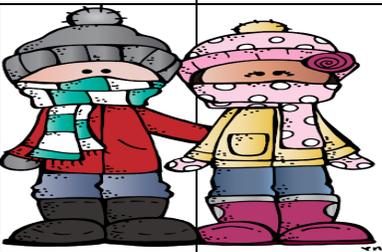
Session approved the NPC Anti-Harassment Policy as proposed by the Staff Relations committee.

The meeting adjourned in prayer at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kalweit, Clerk of Session

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day Church Offices Closed 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA Meeting	2
3 9:30 am Worship Service with Communion	4	5	6 Bulletin Info Due 9:30 am Finance Meeting 10:00 am Food Pantry	7 11:00 am Deacons Meeting 12:00 pm Blood Drive 1:00 pm Mission and Outreach Meeting	8 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA Meeting	9
10 9:30 am Worship Service	11	12 4:00 pm Christian Ed Meeting 7:00 pm Buildings and Grounds meeting	13 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am Food Pantry	14	15 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA Meeting	16
17 9:30 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Board of Session	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Church Offices Closed 	19	20 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:00 pm Worship & Music	21	22 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA Meeting 	23
24 9:30 am Worship Service	25	26	27 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am Food Pantry	28	29 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA Meeting	30
31						