

# NORTH STAR

November 2021

Making Disciples - Making a Difference

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Worship: Sunday at 9:30 am

North Presbyterian Church  
921 College Avenue  
Elmira, NY 14901-2048  
[www.northpres.church](http://www.northpres.church)  
Phone: 607-734-2977  
Fax: 607-734-2978

## Meet the Staff

Pastor Evan Hansen

Pastor

[pastor@northpres.church](mailto:pastor@northpres.church)

Open Door Office Hours: T & W 1:30-4pm

Paul Holland

Music Director

[music@northpres.church](mailto:music@northpres.church)

Sharon Reynolds

Organist

[organist@northpres.church](mailto:organist@northpres.church)

Deb Stamp

Director of Children

& Youth Ministries

[youth@northpres.church](mailto:youth@northpres.church)

Gretchen Duffy

Office Administrator

[office@northpres.church](mailto:office@northpres.church)

NOTICE: As CDC/NYS guidelines change, please stay tuned to our FB page & website for updates.

**September, 2021**  
**A Letter from Pastor Hansen**

As I sit here and look at my desk, there is stack of postcards that I am not ready to file away yet. Each one of these postcards has a handwritten message on it addressed to me. Most are signed, some are not, and each postcard is special to me. To each person who wrote and sent me a postcard, to each person who has sent me a card, to each person who has dropped a note to me in the mail or in my box, to each person who has given me an encouraging word, a smile, a wave – thank you. Thank you for your support of our family. Thank you for your patience as I learn new things about your congregation almost every day that I am here. Thank you for your kindness and your smiles.

In the church, we do not say “thank you” as much as we should. When, as individuals and as a community, we stop expressing our gratitude for what we receive from each other, we begin to take each other for granted. When we start to take people and their willingness to be a part of our lives for granted, we stop being intentional about the care, the time, and the effort we put into our relationship with that person or that group of people.

We tend to see our relationship with God as different from our relationships with each other. As a result, we treat our relationship with God and our relationships with our fellow humans as if one can be isolated from the other. We do this even though Scripture tells us that how we treat each other cannot be separated from how we treat or see God. The writer of 1 John is incredibly blunt: “Those who say “I love God,” and hate their brother or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from [Jesus] is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.” 1 John 4:20-21 (NRSV).

When we say “thank you” and express gratitude to each other, to a grocery clerk, to the postal clerk, to the person giving us a cup of coffee, we are also expressing our thanks to God. Gratitude is an expression of love and kindness. Likewise, when we meaningfully apologize and ask for forgiveness, whether it is to each other, to the stranger we cut off, to the person we intentionally or unintentionally hurt, or to anyone else, we are expressing our regret and our remorse to our God. Repentance is an expression of love and justice.

When we withhold our gratitude and our repentance from each other, we are not only withholding these gifts from each other, but we are withholding them from God. We cannot separate our relationship with God from our relationships with each other. They are inseparably intertwined with each other, for as the Apostle Paul writes in Romans and in Galatians, the whole of God’s law is summed up in “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Galatians 5:14; Romans 13:8-10).

Saying that we are made in the image of God is more than just something we say. It is an expression of our faith’s deep conviction and belief that each person is not only a creation of God, but that what we do unto each other, we do unto our God. Our call as followers of Christ is not only to love the Lord our God, but to love one another as God has loved us in all of our diversity, in all our beauty as God’s creation, and just as we are. And sometimes, saying that we love someone takes the form of saying “thank you” or “I am sorry.”



<https://www.facebook.com/North-Presbyterian-Church>



Visit Our Website

<https://www.northpres.church/>



# JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*



**If you would like to donate Chancel flowers (\$35), please contact Lori Lee at 739-3176.**

**Available Sundays for November 2021 are:**

**November 7, 14, 21 & 28.**

*Please take the flowers home to enjoy after the service.*

If you are not in the sanctuary on your chosen date,

we will be in touch with you to make a plan.

## *November Worship Volunteers*

### **Tech Booth**

November 7 Bill Furnas  
November 14 Steve Allison  
November 21 Ed Wilson  
November 28 Bill Furnas

### **Counters**

November 7 Cindy & Kurt Kalweit  
November 14 Annette Stevens, Jim Mosher  
November 21 Dolores Cummings, Janice Williams  
November 28 Allison Sevey, Wendy Swatling

### **Ushers**

November 7 Tim & Cheryl Allison  
November 14 Kurt & Cindy Kalweit  
November 21 George Batrowny, Pat or Jeff Richards  
November 28 Janice Williams, Phil Carpentier

### **Wee Worship**

November 7 Mickey Vischansky, Deb Stamp  
November 14 Ann Motley, Becky Kowulich  
November 21 Allie & Scott Sevey  
November 28 Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea

### **Communion**

November 7 Steve Allison, Tim Allison, Cheryl Allison  
Wendy Swatling, Ann Motley  
November 21 Linda Palmer, Steve Allison, Ann Motley  
Suzie Hoskins

### **Worship Assistant**

November 7 Linda Palmer  
November 14 Suzie Hoskins  
November 21 Tim Allison  
November 28 George Batrowny

### **Greeters**

November 7 Jerry Harding  
November 14 Tim Allison  
November 21 Joanie Barneski, Alice Kain  
November 28 Ann Motley





**November 7:**  
Pam & Bill Caroscio

**November 14:**  
Phil Carpentier

**November 21:**  
Marlene Carpentier

**November 28:**  
David & Joanne Dalrymple

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

**November 7:**  
Hope Dubois  
8 Aspen Ridge Apartments  
Elmira, NY 14904

**November 14:**  
Gary Doolittle  
Bath VA Medical Center  
76 Veterans Avenue  
Bath, NY 14810

**November 21:**  
Liz Bush  
37442 Loganberry Court  
Wedgewood Manor  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

**November 28:**  
Margery Schornstheimer  
758 Silver Pine Dr.  
St. Augustine, FL 32092



*Please send a  
card to our  
Homebound  
Friends  
today!*



**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.**



Weekly Prayer Chain Email

Did you know that you can pray or be  
prayed for? You are invited to let the church  
office know how you would like to be  
involved.

**We are stronger together.**



# Did You Know?



- Per NYS mandatory COVID-19 guidelines, all persons aged 2 years and up who are not yet fully vaccinated must wear masks and maintain social distancing.
- Currently, those who have been vaccinated will not be required to wear a mask while sitting, standing or singing.
- We will continue our contact tracing measures, for the time being.
- As long as there are fewer than 250 people in the building, we are authorized to use, and will use, the honor system in regards to vaccine status. We trust that persons will wear masks if they are not fully vaccinated.
- We will continue to use bulletin inserts for the music, for the time being. We hope to return to hymnals soon.
- The lyrics for the praise songs and hymns will continue to be sent with the Zoom link even after we return to using hymnals.



## Parking Lot Worship:

- Please use only the North Entrance (towards Roe Ave.)
- Please tune your radio to 1700AM.
- Please exit through the South Entrance (towards the college).



## Zoom Worship

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



## Sanctuary Worship:

In order to comply with the CDC/NYS guidelines, the following COVID guidance remains in effect per the Session meeting on May 22, 2021:

- Seating during worship will remain socially distanced.
- **Worshippers who are NOT vaccinated are still required to wear a mask.**
- **Vaccinated worshipers are not required to wear masks while sitting, standing or singing.**
- Churches with fewer than 250 persons in worship may rely on the honor system for reporting vaccination status.
- **Congregants will still need to register at the Welcome Center.**
- **We will no longer be using the Maître D' for seating.**
- Friendship pads and hymnals have been removed from the pews to minimize contact transmission.
- The service will always appear on the large screen at the front of the church.



**September Food Pantry**  
**Shopping List:**

The following items are needed this month for the Food Pantry:

- *Instant Mashed Potatoes*
- *Stuffing Mix*
- *Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes*
- *Monetary donations are also welcome.*

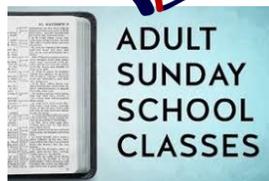


Committee/Coordinator	Email Address
Audit	audit@northpres.church
Buildings & Grounds	campus@northpres.church
Building Use	building_use@northpres.church
Clerk of Session	session@northpres.church
Deacons	deacons@northpres.church
Education	education@northpres.church
Fellowship	fellowship@northpres.church
Finance	finance@northpres.church
Mission & Outreach	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



Adult Sunday School is meeting after worship each week. They are studying Paul's letter to the Philippians.



Sunday School is meeting after worship each week. This year's curriculum is "Gospel Light".



The Good News Singers' practices are from 10:45 to 11:00 am Sundays.



Bell Choir rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:15 pm.





# STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

## Stewardship November 2021

November – it's here! Turkey, pies, football, hockey, Hanging of the Greens (the 21<sup>st</sup>), family and friends, and anticipation. Anticipation of winter – getting ready for cold weather and snow! Anticipation of gatherings – getting ready to be with loved ones and celebrate the season! Anticipation of Christmas – getting ready to welcome our Lord!

November brings Advent. Be sure to read the enclosed article on advent from *Presbyterians Today*. Advent is anticipation and preparation. It is preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus. It is the beginning of the Christian church year. It is awaiting the second coming of Christ. Prayer and fasting can mark this season of waiting (but what about those pies?!?).

Yes, we can have it all. God wants to bless us with every good thing. What do we have to do? We cannot earn God's love. He already loves us. We cannot earn salvation – Jesus already bought us that gift with His life. Our role is to love God, to love Jesus, to love one another.

That last part is the hardest. Loving one another...that means everybody! Being in a family of believers, learning and working together, is the way God wants us to navigate our lives. This community known as North Church is our support system. It is the place where we show love to one another and to the world around us. Being a part of this family of believers – obeying God – that is the key to having it all. Through that obedience, God will equip us with all we need. Our faith will grow and mature, and our desires will mesh with those good gifts and blessings God wants to bestow on us.

November – it's here! Anticipation for the start of a new year where we share the Good News. Please watch your mail for a letter from the Stewardship Committee. North Church is preparing for the coming year. Its committees are getting ready to share the love of Jesus. Prayer and fasting can mark this season, too, as we prepare our pledge to help the Kingdom of God. The discipline of giving. We do not give because God needs our money. We give because we can do so much more together than alone. Discipline is really not a bad word – it's obeying rules or a code of behavior. We need that discipline to make the most of our lives – obeying God and receiving his blessings.

So, pray (and fast?) and bring your Pledge to church on the 21<sup>st</sup> to be received and blessed. We will have fellowship and community and **pie** as we prepare North for Advent and for sharing the message of Christ – love!

In peace and joy,

Linda Palmer/Finance & Stewardship



Friendly Reminders 

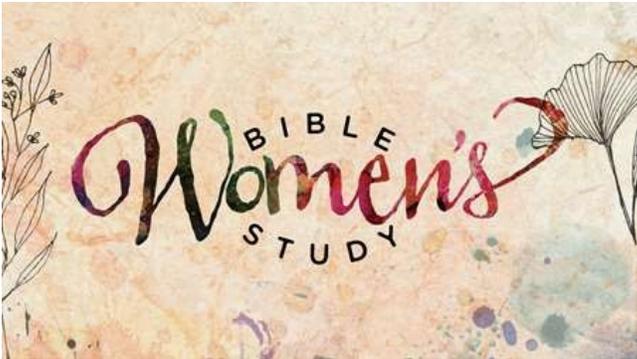


**Wednesday Noon Bible Study**

is meeting weekly and studying the book of Psalms. Please let Bobbi Furnas know if you would like a book (733-4712).

**Women's Bible Study**

is on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm and will study "Our Hope Has Come", celebrating the promise of Advent, beginning 11/9 and continuing for 5 weeks. Study books will be available at a cost of \$16 each. Please see Suzie Hoskins for a book.



**Men's Bible Study**

will be Mondays at 6:30 pm. They will be studying the book of Proverbs. "Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs" by Ellen F. Davis. Please contact Kurt Kalweit if you are interested.

**From the Board of Deacons**

If you are aware of any member or former member of our church family who is sick, hungry, injured, hospitalized or homebound, please contact us at 607-734-2977. With the Pandemic still going on, it is hard to know who is in need of pastoral care, unless informed.



God Bless,  
The Board of Deacons  
Congregational Life

# FOOD PANTRY



First Presbyterian Church of Elmira collected more than 440 lbs. of food and cleaning supplies for the NPC Pantry during a drive-through donation event in October. We are blessed to have First Pres as partners in our mission efforts!



With a portion of the grant the Food Pantry received, they have purchased a new sign.

Thank you to all who continue to give generously of their time and efforts to this much needed program!



# MISSIONS

## Renovation house

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF MEN

North Presbyterian Church  
921 College Ave.  
Elmira, NY 14901

Hello Family

My name is Robert Basile. I am a student at the Renovation House and I am 55 years old.

Through this last year, my life has been transformed through the saving power of Jesus Christ. I am now walking with the Lord daily; the Lord is so so good to me. After living in the dark for many years I lost everything- mother, daughters, grandchildren and most of all myself. I became a drunk, I was in and out of prison, hopeless, I felt like a loser. By asking Jesus into my life and doing his will not mine, my life has gotten a whole lot better! I'm a father to my 3 daughters, I'm a grandpa to my 5 grandkids and most of all I'm a son to a 84 year old mother who has been praying most of her life for me to get my life together. She told me that she can finally say, God answered her prayers and she finally has her son that was lost but now is found back into her life.



I grew up in the streets of New York City with not much to do, but today I love being outdoors in Gods creations: walking, hiking, fishing, going to the lake and whatever else. I would never have found a life like this if it wasn't for renovation house and without your help and support I wouldn't still be in the program. I ask that you would prayerfully consider continuing to support this ministry, it truly saves lives, it saved mine. I'm looking forward to my new journey with the Lord because of my new knowledge of God. I desire to be better witness for Christ, a better father to my daughters and a better son to my mother.

Love and blessings

Robert Basile

*Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.  
2 Corinthians 3:17*

379 Dean Creek Road Spencer, NY 14883  
Cell (607) 738-9709 Tel (607) 589-4413 Fax (607) 589-7383 renovationhouse777@gmail.com  
Mailing Address: PO Box 396 Spencer, NY 14883



# BORDER BUDDIES MINISTRIES

*Bringing the heart of Christ to  
the heart of Honduras.*



República de Honduras

Secretaría de Educación

**BOLETA DE CALIFICACIONES**

CENTRO DE EDUCACIÓN BÁSICA GUBERNAMENTAL  
FUERZAS ARMADAS (Código 080100258B10)



Nombre de la Directora: Wendy Urrea  
 Nombre del Docente: Marcia Lily Mayorga Portillo  
 Nombre del Alumno: Eliezer Daniel Peña Pérez  
 Grado: Cuarto Sección: 1 Año: 2021

We have received a report card from our  
Border Buddie, Diego Garcia.  
Please check it out to see his progress.

P A R C I A L E S	ACTITUDES Y VALORES					APROVECHAMIENTO POR ÁREAS								
	PERSONALIDAD	ESPÍRITU Y TRABAJO	ORDEN Y PRESENTACIÓN	SOCIABILIDAD	MORALIDAD	COMUNICACIÓN			MATEMÁTICAS	CIENCIAS NATURALES	EDUCACIÓN CIVICA (CC.SS)	ESTUDIOS SOCIALES (CC.SS)	EDUCACION FISICA Y DEPORTES	INASISTENCIAS
						EDUCACION ARTISTICA	ESPAÑOL	INGLES						
I	4	4	4	4	4	96	98	95	96	99	96	96	96	0
II	4	4	4	4	4	95	95	98	88	96	96	96	96	0
III	4	4	4	4	4	94	87.5	98	93.5	87	94	94	93	0
IV														
Promedi o Anual Por Área														

PARCIALES	APRECIACIÓN ARTÍSTICA	EDUCACIÓN FÍSICA Y DEPORTES	FÍSICA II	FUNDAMENTOS DE INVESTIGACIÓN SOCIAL	INGLÉS III	INTRODUCCIÓN A LA ECONOMÍA	LENGUA Y LITERATURA	LÓGICA SIMBÓLICA	MATEMÁTICAS III	ORIENTACIÓN A LA EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR	QUÍMICA	TECNOLOGÍAS DE LA INFORMACIÓN Y COMUNICACIÓN	ANTROPOLOGÍA	BIOLOGÍA HUMANA
I	62	9	79	80	87	55	70	99	70	100	75	100	0	0
II	27	8	58	70	70	33	70	41	71	0	81	41	0	0
PROMEDIO ANUAL POR ÁREA	70	8	79	70	79	44	70	70	71	50	78	71	0	0

DEBIDO TÉCNICO	DESIDIO DE PROYECTOS CIENTÍFICOS	EDUCACIÓN AMBIENTAL	FÍSICA IV	FUNDAMENTOS DE ÉTICA PROFESIONAL	HISTORIA CONTEMPORÁNEA	INGLÉS IV	INTRODUCCIÓN A LA PROGRAMACIÓN	LENGUAJE Y PENSAMIENTO CRÍTICO	MATEMÁTICAS IV	INASISTENCIAS
0	0	38	70	20	25	0	0	15	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	18	35	10	13	0	0	8	0	0

**For 11<sup>th</sup> grade students taking Finance = BTP Finanzas**

Rendimiento academico	Academic performance
Administracion General	General Administration
Contabilidad I o Contabilidad II	Accounting I or Accounting II
Etica y Orientacion Profesional	Ethics and Professional Guidance
Ingles Tecnico	Technical English
Lengua y Literatura	Language and Literature
Matematica Aplicada	Applied Math
Legislacion Bancaria	Banking Legislation
Inasistencias	Missing days



# BORDER BUDDIES MINISTRIES

*Bringing the heart of Christ to the heart of Honduras.*

**For 11<sup>th</sup> grade students taking Computer Science = BTP Informatica**

Rendimiento academico	Academic performance
Analisis y Diseño I	Analysis & Design
Etica y Orientacion Profesional	Ethics & Professional Guidance
Fisica Aplicada	Applied Physics
Informatica I	Computer Science I
Ingles Técnico III	Technical English III
Laboratorio de Informática I	Computer Lab I
Lengua y Literatura	Language and Literature
Matematicas III (aplicada)	Math III (applied)
Programacion I	Programming I
Inasistencias	Missing days

If you have any questions about the grades of your child/children please sent me an e-mail and I'll be glad to answer all your questions.

In his love,

Glenda

Attachment: report card

Scores of 1-69	Insatisfactorio	Failing
Scores of 70-80	Satisfactorio	Good
Scores of 81-89	Muy Satisfactorio	Very Good
Scores of 91-100	Avanzado	Excellent
NAC		Did not showed assignments

P	Partial I, II, III, IV
Promedio Anual por Área	Annual average by area
AC	Accumulative Homework
EX	Exam Grade
TP	Total Partial Grade

**For 11<sup>th</sup> grade students taking Bachelor of Arts = BTP Humanidades**

Rendimiento academico	Academic performance
Apreciación Artística	Art Appreciation
Educación Física y Deportes II	Physical Education & Sports II
Física III	Physics III
Fundamentos de Investigación Social	Practice of Social Research
Ingles III	English III
Introducción a la Economía	Introduction to Economics
Lengua y Literatura	Language and Literature
Matemáticas III	Math III
Orientación a la Educación Superior	Orientation to Higher Education
Química III	Chemistry III
Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicación	Information & Communication Technologies
Inasistencias	Missing days



Scores of 1-69	Failing	Parciales = I, II, III, IV	Partial = I, II, III, IV
Scores of 70-80	Good	Promedio Anual por Área	Annual average by area
Scores of 81-89	Very Good	Puntualidad	Punctuality
Scores of 91-100	Excellent	Espíritu de Trabajo	Work Spirit
		Orden y Presentacion	Order and Presentation
		Sociabilidades	Sociabilities
		Moralidad	Moralities

ND	Not Assigned
S	Excellent
MB	Very Good
B	Good

1	Needs to improve or not satisfactory
2	Good
3	Very Good
4	Excellent



**Faith &  
Fellowship**  
Wholeness of mind, body & spirit

## **Fellowship and Nominating for October 2021**

### **Fellowship Committee Report**

The Fellowship committee provided a tasty Roast Pork Dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy and salad accompanied by two desserts made specially for the event. One was a baked pumpkin bar with butter cream frosting. The second was a spiced cappuccino cookie, with a white cream Hershey Kiss covering a milk chocolate center. Barb Duryea and Pat Richards spent much of the afternoon helping prepare the meal for the evening. Joan Barneski and Alice Kain pitched in also by peeling the potatoes and helping with the cookies. Several others helped make the dinner for forty-three people a success. I am sure I am missing some that helped but wanted to especially thank Jim Casselberry, Dolores Cummings, Deb Stamp and Bobbi Furnas for their help in the kitchen, during serving and clean up. Also, a shout out to Nancy Isaacs for helping set up the tables for the rummage sale after dinner. We are certainly blessed to have such support for our fellowship dinners.

Joyfully submitted,  
Jeff Richards  
Fellowship Chair

### **Nominating Committee Report**

The nominating committee will begin meeting later this month as we look to fill volunteer positions that will be open at the end of this year. In addition to the chairs of Mission, Staff Relations and Nominating, we will be seeking additional people to join the nominating committee team. This will allow the long serving group of Pam Caroscio, Glenda Solowiej and Ann Beattie to consider a reprieve after several years of faithful service.

In addition, the positions for North Presbyterian Church's Commissioner to Geneva Presbytery and North Presbyterian Clerk of Session will need to be renewed or filled by other individuals. These two positions are annual calls and need to be addressed each year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeff Richards  
Nominating Committee Chair



As we will be having the Harvest Dinner, Hanging of the Greens and Thanksgiving this month, we will not have a Fellowship Dinner.

Please check back next month for updates.

# Children & Youth Ministry



## PANTRY CHRISTMAS STOCKING DONATIONS ACCEPTED

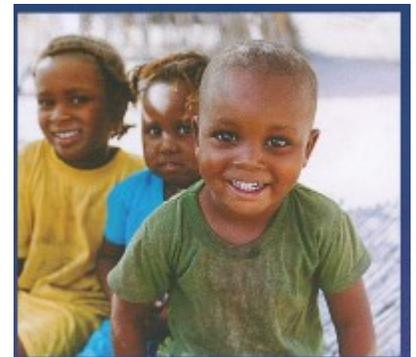


During October and November Youth Ministry will be happily accepting donations for the Pantry Christmas Stocking program which will benefit the children of our NPC food pantry clients. The age range this year is 0-12 years old. Target, Dollar Tree and Dollar General have great items from \$1.00-\$5.00 which would be perfect stocking stuffers. Small books (Dollar Tree) travel games, hair accessories, markers, crayons, colored pencils, small toys, games for older kids, ear buds, hats, gloves/mittens and scarves are just a few ideas to get you started. A collection box has been placed in the Narthex. Some of these children get very little for Christmas and this is our way of spreading God's love and a little Christmas cheer to those less fortunate.



Children and Youth were able to participate with Heifer International again this year. Their funds were able to purchase a calf and a goat from this ministry.

Please check out our bulletin board for a pamphlet on how you can get involved.





**Our Annual Harvest Dinner will be on Saturday, November 6th from 4-6 pm.**

There will be a sign up sheet on the Welcome Center for volunteers.

Dinners will be take out or delivery only. Please contact the church office at 734-2977 to reserve your dinner.

We look forward to seeing you there!



**Advent begins on November 28th.**





## Many Thanks to all who made the 2021 Rummage Sale a Success...

From donating items, sorting-sorting-sorting, selling and cleaning up afterwards!

Volunteers included: Vicki Balon, Anne Beattie, Pam Caroscio, Gretchen Duffy, Barb Duryea, Bill & Bobbi Furnas, Kate & Evan Hansen, Nancy Isaacs, Becky Kowulich, Cindy & Kurt Kalweit, Lori Lee, Annie LeFevre, Chris Miller, Amila

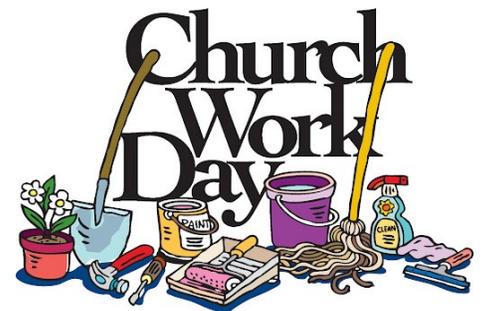
Denicola, Ann Motley, Linda Palmer, Pat & Jeff Richards, Glenda Solowiej, Deb Stamp, Annette Stevens, Wendy Swatling, Sylvia Tuller, Audrey Vanderhoff, Janice Williams, Brenna Wilson and anyone else I might have accidentally forgotten!

Thank you all for pitching in, in all the big and small ways, just as a family!

Suzie Hoskins



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH  
WILL BE A CHURCH WORKDAY.  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



*The church offices will  
be closed on Thursday,  
November 25th and  
Friday, November  
26th in observance of  
Thanksgiving.*



# NPC Board of Session

## Session Summary

6:00 p.m. Sunday, October 17, 2021

The Clerk determined that a quorum was present.

Rev. Hansen called the meeting to order and the meeting was opened with devotions and prayer led by Barb Duryea.

The minutes of the August 15, 2021 stated Session meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

The Session reviewed the Financial Statements including the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for September and the Account Activity Summary for the Endowment Fund. \$30,000 was transferred from the Endowment Fund in September to pay bills. The Treasurer's report was received, with thanks, by the Session.

On the motion by Jeff Richards, seconded by George Batrowny, the Session approved the formation of a Library Board for the purpose of 1.) Establishing a mission statement and use policies, and 2.) Reviewing donated items. Linda Palmer has agreed to Chair the Board.

On the motion by Linda Palmer, seconded by Suzie Hoskins, Session approved the Treasurer to have access to the NPC credit card accounts at Chemung Canal Trust Company (3 accounts with one line of credit). This will provide the Treasurer with the ability to monitor (online) account balances for any disputed charges and to ensure that the credit limit is not exceeded.

On the motion by Tim Allison, seconded by Annie LeFevre, Session approved Sunday, November 21, 2021 for the annual Hanging of the Greens. A lunch of pizza and salad will be provided following worship.

Session discussed the decision to postpone Chancel Choir until January. COVID-19 positive cases are on the rise. The nature of singing in a choir is to project. If the choir members were to be unmasked they would have to be 6 feet apart. This is not feasible. Also, at this time there is no one to accompany the choir. The pastor will encourage the Choir Director to seek out soloists for Sunday worship and for the upcoming Advent/Christmas Season. The Praise Band may sing unmasked with 6 feet of distance between the members. The Good News Singers will be required to wear masks and be 3 feet apart.

Suzie Hoskins reported that the Christian Education Committee will be holding a Halloween Party for the children on Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup>

The Harvest Dinner will be held on November 6, 2021. The dinner will be take-out only. Volunteers are needed.

Barb Duryea reported that care packages were packed and sent to 5 college students.

Steve Allison reported that there will be a church workday on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. for the purpose of sealing the new sidewalk.

On the motion by Annie LeFevre, seconded by Jeff Richards, Session approved the 2022 Presbytery of Geneva Mission Plan for NPC. \$3,095 will be sent (in quarterly installments) to support the programs of the Presbytery (no administrative costs).

Jeff Richards reported that the October Fellowship dinner was a success with over 40 dinners served. As there is a lot of activity at the end of October, beginning of November (rummage sale, harvest dinner) the committee has not decided whether or not a November Fellowship dinner will be held.

George Batrowny reported that the Deacons made a donation of \$25 to the Arctic League in memory of Hazel Thompson.

# NPC Board of Session

Jeff Richards reported that the Nominating Committee will be seeking new membership in 2022. The current members are a long-serving, faithful group. The committee requires a minimum of 3 members, all who must be members of the church.

Rev. Hansen reported that he continues to make phone calls and some in-person visitation (outside) to our homebound members. He has been participating in the Men's Bible Study on Monday evenings.

Annie LeFevre, Commissioner to Presbytery, reported that Camp Whitman had a very successful year with over 800 campers attending 185 camping sessions. 62 families (235 guests) utilized the newly renovated/updated cabins. There were no reported COVID-19 cases throughout the camping season.

Suzie Hoskins reported that a draft Youth Protection Policy has been completed. The draft policy will be reviewed by the Christian Education Committee and the Staff Relations Committee. Feedback from these committees will be reviewed by the Youth Protection Policy ad-hoc committee the first week of November. The committee hopes to have a final version available for Session review by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November.

The Moderator led a discussion on Chapters 9 & 10 of "Spiritual Leadership".

The meeting adjourned in prayer at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Kalweit,  
Clerk of Session

## Special Session Meeting

Summary of Special Meeting of the Session  
10:30 a.m. Sunday, October 24, 2021  
Brisbane Room

The Clerk determined that a quorum was present.

Rev. Hansen called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

Motion by Annie LaFevre, second by Suzie Hoskins, to accept the gift of the Estate of Richard Gawenus of unrestricted funds in the amount of \$25,000.00. Motion carried.

Motion by George Batrowny, second by Barb Duryea, to authorize the Clerk of Session to complete and sign the documentation required by the Estate of Richard Gawenus for receipt of said funds. Motion carried.

Motion by Linda Palmer, second by Wendy Swatling to authorize the Treasurer to deposit said funds into a designated bequest account until such time Session has had an opportunity to consider how best to use the funds. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned in prayer at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Kalweit,  
Clerk of Session



## Don't sidestep Advent

### Commit to a prayerful – and extended – season

*By Scott Szabo | Presbyterians Today*

In the first year of our marriage, my wife and I created a nontraditional Advent wreath, forsaking the liturgical purple and pink candles for more muted earth tones. As our then-home of Los Angeles provided scant access to evergreens, we used river rock instead of festive boughs. We were delighted, and each year we have dutifully erected it at the start of the season, even as the design choices we once made now feel overwrought and dated.

We light the candles of our Advent wreath as part of a devotion at the start of Sunday evening meals. Though this has long been our practice, it was not

until COVID-19 prevented an in-person gathering on Christmas Eve that we first lit the “Christ candle” at the wreath’s center. Prior to that, we were always away from home on Dec. 24. Truth be told, there have also been years in which other candles have gone unlit, as our noble intentions to genuinely observe Advent frequently fall victim to the cultural enticements to revel in early Christmas cheer.

Sandwiched between Thanksgiving and Christmas, this season of anticipation for God’s shalom often buckles under the saccharine-sweet sentimentalism of Hallmark movies and a culture of excess consumption that is especially pronounced during the holiday season. The impact on the Church’s faith can be extensive when Advent is overlooked.



# From the Presbytery



For starters, since Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year in Western Christianity, its role in shaping our perception of what is to follow is significant. During Advent we hear from ancient voices awaiting the coming of the Messiah. This emphasis on anticipation reminds us that our world has not arrived. God’s plan is still unfolding. It is to declare a message that brings comfort to the afflicted and affliction to the comfortable. It is also a time in which we need to critique our propensity for merrymaking as a means of denying the presence of pain.

Further, to short-circuit Advent by filling its days with Christmas glee is to risk undercutting the integrity of the latter as well. It is akin to eating too many sweets, where at a certain point they lose their flavor. As the days of Lent and then the observance of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, known as the Triduum, make the proclamation of Christ’s resurrection at Easter all the more joyful, so too does a robust Advent aid us in appreciating the Christmas season more fully.

So how might we become better at observing Advent? The comparison of Advent to Lent is a helpful starting point. In earlier times, Advent, like Lent, was a 40-day period. Known alternatively as the Nativity Fast or Winter Lent, these 40 days carry with them the benefit of beginning in early November. As a personal discipline, one could begin a period of fasting and prayer on Nov. 16, which allows for a full 40 days of prayer and fasting until the Feast of the Nativity.

On the congregational level, in recent years several faith communities have experimented with a seven-week cycle for Advent, following the guidance offered by [the Advent Project](#). Noting a thematic change in the readings of the Revised Common Lectionary in early November, this proposal uses the seven messianic names of the [O Antiphons](#), which are also recorded in the Latin hymn “Veni, Veni Emmanuel,” as the focus for each Sunday between All Saints’ Day and Christmas. In churches that have adopted this practice, a modified Advent wreath of seven candles is often used.

Now I admit that the irony of encouraging more weeks in Advent when I began this column confessing my struggle to observe even four is not lost on me. I don’t mean to insist we abandon the many lovely traditions leading up to Christmas that we hold dear. Perhaps by allowing Advent an earlier start, though, we can embrace both somberness and celebration, simply by allowing the former its due. With any luck, we’ll come to find we appreciate both a bit more as a result.

*Scott Szabo is the pastor of [Oxford Presbyterian Church](#) in Oxford, Pennsylvania.*



# November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30 pm TOPS  6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	2 8:45 am Yoga 9:00 am Voting in Narthex 10:00 am Willits Reserved 1:00 pm Mission & Outreach meeting 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	3 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am Food Pantry 12:00 pm Bible Study 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice	4 8:45 am Yoga 10:00 am Youth Protection Committee 12:00 pm Blood Drive	5 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA Meeting	6 4:00-6:00 pm Harvest dinner 
<b>7 Daylight Savings Time Ends</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Communion 10:45 to 11:00 am Good New Singers practice Sunday School after worship 	8 5:30 pm TOPS  6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	9 8:45 am Yoga 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 4:00 pm Christian Ed meeting 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm B & G Meeting	10 Bulletin Info Due 9:30 am Finance Meeting 10:00am Food Pantry 12:00 pm Bible Study 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 5:00 pm Worship & Music 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice	11 Veteran's Day 8:45 am Yoga	12 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA Meeting	13 Saturday Workday
14 9:30 am Worship 10:45 to 11:00 am Good New Singers practice Sunday School after worship	15 5:30 pm TOPS  6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	16 8:45 am Yoga 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	17 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am Food Pantry 12:00 pm Bible Study 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 Bell Choir Practice	18 8:45 am Yoga 9:00 Thursday Morning Musicales 	19 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA Meeting	20
21  9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Communion 10:45 to 11:00 am Good New Singers practice Sunday School after worship Hanging of the Greens 6:00 pm Board of Session	22 Newsletter Info Due 1:00 pm Mission & Outreach Meeting 5:30 pm TOPS 	23 8:45 am Yoga 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study	24 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am Food Pantry 12:00 pm Bible Study 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:15pm Bell Choir Practice	25 Thanksgiving Day Church Offices Closed  8:45 am Yoga 	26 Church Offices Closed  Food Pantry Closed 5:15 pm AA Meeting	27
28 9:30 am Worship 10:45 to 11:00 am Good News Singers practice Sunday School after	29 Newsletter Info Due 5:30 am TOPS	30 8:45 am Yoga 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study				