

Hallelujah! HE IS RISEN!

NORTH STAR
April 2022
Making Disciples
Making a Difference

Worship: Sunday at 9:30 am
North Presbyterian Church

921 College Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901-2048

www.northpres.church

Phone: 607-734-2977
Fax: 607-734-2978

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We fixate on what we think is “normal.” The concept of what is “normal” and what is not “normal” is incredibly powerful and influences how we think of ourselves and others. What we often describe as “normal” is generally one of two things. It may be a description of societal or cultural expectations of how one is to behave and the consequences for said behavior or it may be used to describe a statistical average, even if it does not reflect reality at all.

For example, what we think of as the “normal body temperature” of 98.6 F is based on a statistical average found by German doctor in the mid-1800s based on the armpit temperatures of roughly 25,000 people. We know now that a person’s body temperature can range 1 to 2 degrees in a given day and the average oral temperature is now actually around 97.5 F, not 98.6 F. And yet, if a person has an oral temperature of 97.5 F, they may think of it as “below normal” because a statistical average found by a German doctor in the mid-1800s has been accepted as “normal” even though it does not reflect reality.

When we categorize behaviors, people, objects, and the like as “normal,” we are automatically categorizing something as not normal and as “bad” or “undesirable” or “outside of what is acceptable.” “Normal” becomes a weapon that we cruelly wield against ourselves or others because we assume what might or could be true for some must be true for others. All of a sudden, the average armpit temperatures of roughly 25,000 people in the mid-1800s becomes the standard to which we hold billions of people to across an entire globe.

We do this for more than just body temperature. What is considered “normal” affects what we think of our bodies, what we think of our body weight, what we think of our body shape or size, what we think of our energy levels, our emotional and mental health, and so on. The consequences of what we think of as “normal” or “ideal” can be devastating and deadly.

As followers of Christ, we are not called to be “normal” or to do what is “normal.” There is nothing normal about loving one’s enemies. There is nothing normal about loving one’s neighbors as one’s own self. In our culture and society there is nothing normal about thinking of one’s body and the bodies of others, regardless of size, shape, health, energy levels, mobility, dexterity, or anything else as being any other than fearfully and wondrously formed by God. Instead, we called to embrace the radical love of our God who loves us as we are and to practice this radical love in our lives – even when it goes against what we have always thought of as “normal.”

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, it is important to remember that the betrayal of Jesus Christ, his trial, his suffering, his execution, death, and burial were fully and completely within the societal and cultural norms of his day. And when the radical love of God defied the expectations of everyone and resurrected the Son from the dead, God turned the world upside and exposed what we thought of and think of as reality and normal as being anything but God’s reality and God’s normal. For the radical love of our God embraces all and not just what we think is “normal.”

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Evan

COME FIND US!



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



<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 April and May 2022 are:

April 3 & 24 and May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

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.

April Worship Volunteers



Tech Booth

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| April 3 | Steve Allison |
| April 10 | Ed Wilson |
| April 17 | Steve Allison |
| April 24 | Bill Furnas |

Ushers

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| April 3 | Tim & Cheryl Allison |
| April 10 | Kurt & Cindy Kalweit |
| April 17 | George Batrowny, Pat or Jeff Richards |
| April 24 | Janice Williams, Phil Carpenter |

Communion

| | |
|----------|--|
| April 3 | Wendy Swatling, Suzie Hoskins, Lori Lee, Vicki Balon, Tim Allison |
| April 17 | Steve Allison, Tim Allison, Jim Mosher, Cindy & Kurt Kalweit |

Greeters

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| April 3 | Jerry Harding |
| April 10 | Tim Allison |
| April 17 | Joan Barneski, Alice Kain |
| April 24 | Ann Motley |

Counters

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------|
| April 3 | Jim Mosher, Janice Williams |
| April 10 | Allison Sevey, Wendy Swatling |
| April 17 | Phil Carpenter, Jeff Richards |
| April 24 | Cindy & Kurt Kalweit |

Wee Worship

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| April 3 | Ann Motley, Becky Kowulich |
| April 10 | Allie & Scott Sevey |
| April 17 | Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea |
| April 24 | Liz Wilson, Brenna Wilson |

Worship Assistant

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| April 3 | Cindy Kalweit |
| April 10 | Jim Mosher |
| April 17 | Tim Allison |
| April 24 | George Batrowny |

Youth Worship Assistant

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| April 10 | Payton Hoskins-Thomas |
|----------|-----------------------|

Youth Ushers

| | |
|----------|-----------------------|
| April 3 | David Hansen |
| April 10 | Alexii Hoskins-Thomas |
| April 17 | Payton Hoskins-Thomas |
| April 24 | Wally Ferriter |

Together... WE ARE A FAMILY



April 3:
Kurt , Cindy, Eric and Christian Kalweit

April 10:
Jim, Becky, Joseph and Michael Kowulich

April 17:
John & Lori Lee

April 24:
Annie LeFevre

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



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.

Our Homebound Friends

April 3:

Liz Bush
37442 Loganberry Court
Wedgewood Manor
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

April 10:

Margery Schornstheimer
758 Silver Pine Dr.
St. Augustine, FL 32092

April 17:

Norma Brooks
Colony Apartments
Apt. #2020
W.Water St.
Elmira, NY 14905

April 24:

Rita Dery
550 Wilmette Ave.
#217
Ormond Beach, FL 32174



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.

CHILDREN & YOUTH



Hey kids! How many Easter Eggs can you spot in this newsletter?



Children and Youth Ministry April 2022

Happy Spring everyone!!! The weather is slowly warming up, the birds are chirping and small signs of new growth are everywhere. It has been a long, cold and snowy winter so spring is being welcomed by all.

March was a busy month with the launch of youth ushers, planning for the Ham and Cabbage dinner and some renovation work on the junior/senior high room. Sprinkle Lent and preparations for Easter in there and we've had a pretty full month.

April will be shaping up to be pretty busy too! We have Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday with the big Easter egg hunt and on April 24th we begin classes for Confirmation.

Our Junior/ Senior high class will be going through confirmation class for 4-5 weeks, starting on April 24th and finishing in late May. Confirmation will be held on June 5th, which is Pentecost Sunday and Children and Youth Sunday. Please let us know if your teen would like to be a part of Confirmation. I will be ordering Confirmation stoles for each youth so please let us know if your youth is interested as soon as possible .

As we enter the final weeks of Lent, let us ask God's forgiveness for our sins, thank him for our many blessings and PRAY for PEACE in a world turned upside down. May God be with you all!

Blessings in Christ,
Deb Stamp
Dir. of Children and Youth Ministry

The Resurrection

Early in the morning, Mary and the other Mary went to Jesus' tomb. An angel of the Lord sat on the stone outside.

Find and count the hidden pictures.
 3 or 4 ? 4 or 5 ?



The Resurrection

When the Sabbath was over, three women bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

To find who they were, follow the spiral. Begin with the second letter, cross it out and then cross out every second letter. Write the remaining letters in order on the lines below:



M A

Did You Know?



COVID RULES FOR NORTH PRES

- To the extent allowed by the State of New York, masks are now optional in our building and in the sanctuary, including during worship.
- The lyrics for the praise songs and hymns will continue to be sent with the Zoom link .
- We will revisit our COVID rules as new information/mandates are received from NYS.
- Thank you all for your patience and understanding. We're all in this together!



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 was adopted during the February 12, 2022 Session meeting.

- **To the extent allowed by the State of New York, masks are optional in the building and the sanctuary, including during worship.**
- The service will always appear on the large screen at the front of the church.



SHOPPING LIST

April Food Pantry

Shopping List:

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

- Canned pork and beans
- Salad Dressing
(plastic bottles)
- Canned Pineapple

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 |



HE IS RISEN!

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 |
| Sharon Reynolds | Organist organist@northpres.church |
| Deb Stamp | Director of Children & Youth Ministries youth@northpres.church |
| Gretchen Duffy | Office Administrator office@northpres.church |

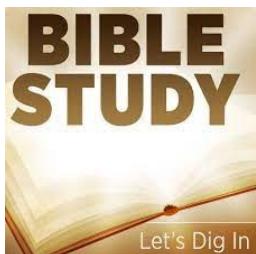
NOTICE: As CDC/NYS guidelines change, please stay tuned to our FB page & website for updates.

Reminder

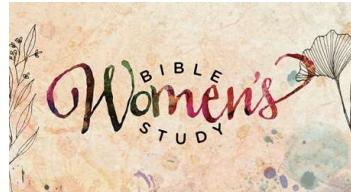


Important Reminders:

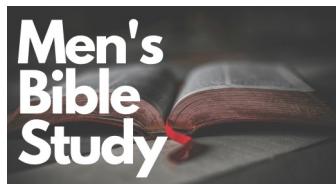
- The church office needs your contact information. Please let us know if anything has changed.
- If you need to contact the church office for any reason, please feel free to email office@northpres.church or call (607) 734-2977 Tues-Fri 9am to 3:30 pm.
- Please be sure to check the bulletin or our FB page for any updates to our COVID procedure.



Wednesday Noon Bible Study
is meeting weekly in the
Brisbane Room
Everyone is welcome and
may bring their lunch!



Women's Bible Study
is on Tuesdays at
6:00 pm
beginning April 19th. If you're
interested, please contact Suzie
Hoskins.



Men's Bible Study
is meeting on Mondays at 6:00 pm in
the Edmunds Room.
Please contact Kurt Kalweit
if you're interested.

Adult Sunday School is
meeting after worship each
week. They are studying
Thessalonians.



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 6:00 pm during
Lent.





Faith & Fellowship

Wholeness of mind, body & spirit



Weekly Coffee Hour has resumed!
We will have coffee
directly following worship.
Coffee and pre-packed treats will be
provided.



Saturday Breakfasts
have resumed!
Breakfasts will be
just prior to the
Saturday Work Day
each month.
Please join us!



We will continue the tradition of decorating our sanctuary with **Lilies for Easter**.

If you are interested in participating this year, please fill out the form in your bulletin and return in the collection plate or to the church office by April 8, 2022. Please consider contributing a donation amount of your choice (if paying by check, make payable to NPC and note "lilies" on the memo line). Please contact the church office with questions.

Thank you!



When trusting God ‘is all we can do’

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) celebrates the gifts of women

by Gail Strange | Presbyterian News Service



LOUISVILLE — To celebrate the gifts of women, worshipers gathered online Wednesday to hear a Spirit-filled sermon from the Rev. Dr. Terrlyn L. Curry Avery, pastor of the [Martin Luther King Jr. Community Presbyterian Church](#) in Springfield, Massachusetts. [Watch the entire service here.](#)

The service, co-hosted by [Presbyterian Women Inc.](#) and [Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries](#), centered on [the 2022 theme](#) “And a Sword Will Pierce Your Own Soul.”

Led entirely by women, the service exhibited the gifts women throughout the [Presbyterian Mission Agency](#) and Presbyterian Women Inc. bring to the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#). One of the service’s unique aspects was the passing the peace. The wor-

ship leader asked online worshipers, “What gives you peace?” Individuals were invited to respond to the question in the “chat” feature of the Zoom platform. Worshipers replied with words and phrases like “acceptance,” “if we are children of God, then we are heirs of God,” “knowing God is in charge,” “a cup of tea” and “the sound of a sweet child’s voice,” an acknowledgement of the song sung by a little girl during the service.

Using [1 Samuel 1:3-18](#) as the text for her sermon titled “When Trusting God is All We Can Do,” Curry Avery said, “In the beginning of today’s scripture, we find Hannah in a barren place, seemingly feeling sad, perhaps alone and dejected. And we imagine feeling a little rejected because in those days it was not easy to be a barren woman.”

“The Bible is replete with story after story of a woman being looked down upon if she had no children,” she said. In this case, she said, we see Hannah’s husband’s other wife, Peninnah, taunting her. “But Hannah understood that if she were to overcome her situation, she must put her problems in God’s hand,” Curry Avery said. “She must trust God, something that is critical for each and every one of us.”

Curry Avery reminded worshipers that we may have prayed for an accomplishment or to be healed from broken-heartedness, or to be lifted from spiritual darkness to what seemed to be no avail. “Maybe some of us here right now, some of us who are listening over the social media, might be in a place where it seems like we just can’t do anything right,” she said.

"Maybe some of us are in a barren field place with pain because our loved ones are suffering mentally, physically, medically, and we simply don't know how to help them," she said. "Sometimes we remain in a barren place because of something that haunts us from 20 years ago, something that we hold on to with a family member, even though they may be dead and gone. We have regrets for some, something that we said, did or didn't do."

"There are times in which we might be overwhelmed with emotions and heartbreak, learning to live with the pain that might be just underneath the surface," Curry Avery said. "Perhaps some of us have been in that place like Hannah where others have criticized us, especially in our fights for justice. For others, or even ourselves, folks may not understand why we talk about racism, sexism, ableism, or any other form of 'isms.'"

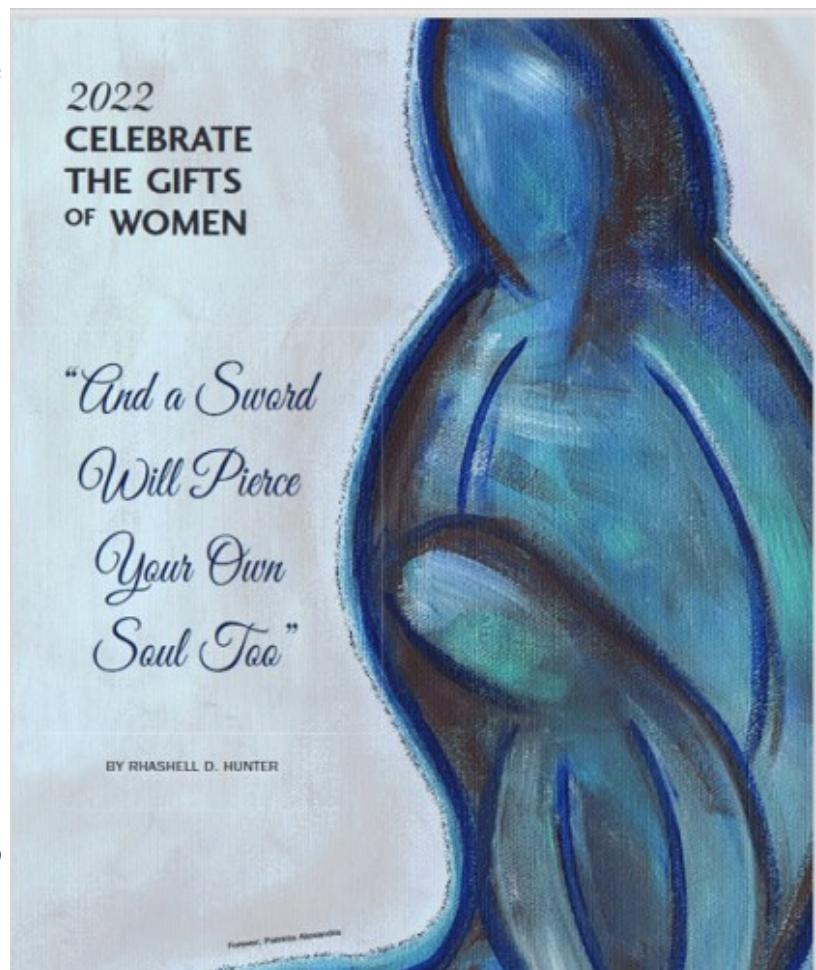
She encouraged worshipers by noting that like Hannah, we can't wallow in the negativity that's going on around us. We have to get up from the metaphorical table and remove ourselves from surroundings that will swallow us up, "and sometimes that means that we have to turn off the social media and the news, the surroundings that make us feel badly about ourselves and tell us that we're not worthy or good enough, or we have nothing to offer, surroundings that only highlight what we don't have," she said.

"Now I want to hasten to add that I'm not suggesting that we live in a bubble of being uninformed or fail to address our issues because that's important," said Curry Avery. "I'm not suggesting that we engage in spiritual bypassing either. But it is necessary for us to remove ourselves from negativity and go to that place where we can find healing."

According to Curry Avery, the place where we can find healing begins with God. Like Hannah, we must remove ourselves from the table and go to the temple or to the church, she said. "And I think going to the temple and to the church is great, because prayerfully going to the temple will help to reinforce the love that God [has] for us," she said. "But I want to tell each of you this morning: You don't have to go to the temple to meet God, because you can meet God anywhere. And guess what! That place is in your heart."

"Whether we're in a place of bitterness today, or praying for someone else who is, when we go to God in our quiet place, be persistent in our prayers and trust God to answer prayer," she said. "Beloved, sometimes trust in God is all we can do."

Worship leaders and members of the planning team included Jewel McRae, the Rev. Alexandra Zareth, So Jung Kim, Jashalund Royston, Susan Jackson Dowd, Beth Olker, Betsy Ensign George, and Stephanie Vasquez.



Our Church History



A NOTE ABOUT OUR BELL CHOIR...

(We believe this article was written c. 2010.)

Bell Choir Historical Perspective



The Welch Memorial Bell Choir is named after Mrs. Ruth Christian Welch. She came to NPC around 1924 as the Choir Director, and served faithfully for 30 years.

The original handbells were produced by Whitechapel Bell Foundry, Britain's oldest manufacturing company established in 1570. They were stored on pegs in a cabinet in front of the "crib room" in Willits (presently the entry to the Adult Ed Room).

It is believed that Eleanor Arrandale played a prominent role in establishing the Bell Choir originally. She was an Active Member and was the Bell Choir Director in the 1960's and 1970's. She even had her own set of Whitechapel Bells. In the beginning, Eleanor would write music on poster board and point to the notes for the players. As published music became more readily available in the 1970's the bells were played from tables with music stands. Eleanor took the Bell Choir to festivals where they played with massed bell choirs. Marlene Carpenter played in the Bell Choir at that time. The Bell Choir stopped performing in the mid to late 1970's.

Suzie Hoskins renewed interest in a Handbell Choir at NPC in the early 1980's. After much discussion and consultation with Eleanor, a buyer was found for the Whitechapel Bells and a small set of Malmark Bells were purchased. Suzie directed the Bell Choir for about 5 years, with both youth and adult programs. The Bell Choir went out to play short concerts and received donations that enabled the purchase of additional handbells and cases. Once again, participation lagged. Karen Adams (Wilson), Honnie Keeton, Adele Roberts, Matt and Jenny Bryant, were among the Bell players at that time.

In the mid to late 1980's Karen Maus generated new interest in the Bell Choir with many older teens participating.

Paul Holland began directing the Handbell Choir in 1990 and continues today. There have been a variety of players, both youth and adult, during this time, with an Intergenerational focus. In 1999 our bells were irreparably damaged in the fire. Much of the sheet music and music collections were saved, dried and aired out. Insurance allowed NPC to purchase a new set of handbells. In the past ten years they have been well-played! This summer the bells and cases were sent (via Pat and Jeff Richards) to Malmark in Pennsylvania for refurbishing. They feel and play like new!



Check out how your donations in 2021 helped our community.

Thank you for your support of the Southern Tier Pregnancy Resource Center in 2021! We would like to thank you for supporting our work in the Southern Tier. Your generous donations have allowed us to serve clients in these ways this past year:

237 Client Visits 20 Emergency Material Assistance 12 Pregnancy Test

4 Client Ultrasounds & 52 Ultrasound Models

115 In Person & 67 Virtual Parenting Education Classes

146 Clients Received Prayer 11 Clients Heard the Gospel

232 Community Event Table Visits

With COVID still lingering, staffing changes (including training for our new nurse in limited obstetric ultrasound), moving into and working on projects in our new Life Center building, getting creative with our offsite services, and learning to get creative with our fundraisers, 2021 was trying...but beautiful! God continues to show His faithfulness to our ministry as we allow Him to guide and direct us in all that we do.

We appreciate your partnership with this ministry and thank you for standing beside us as we educate women, men, and their families on pregnancy options, sexual health, and parenting. We are thankful for your support as we share the love of Christ through Bible studies, meeting client needs, and through client helping-relationships. We are so excited for what God has in store for 2022! Please contact us if you have any questions at 607.732.2111.

Please consider this your Year End Tax Receipt. STPRC Tax ID# 16-1272179. *The STPRC donor did not receive any goods or services in exchange for these donations.*

| Date | Gift ID | Event | Comment | Check# | Type | Amount Received | Tax deductible Amount |
|---|---------|--------------|---------|--------|------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 3/11/2021 | 17770 | SOHL BB 2021 | | | Cash | \$221.00 | \$221.00 |
| 4/8/2021 | 17920 | SOHL BB 2021 | | | Cash | \$390.50 | \$390.50 |
| 5/19/2021 | 18097 | SOHL BB 2021 | | | Cash | \$16.37 | \$16.37 |
| Total Giving for Period 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021: | | | | | | | \$627.87 |
| | | | | | | | \$627.87 |



United Presbyterian Church in the USA North Presbyterian Church has been issued a \$18.79 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between October 1 and December 31, 2021.

Thank you for your support!

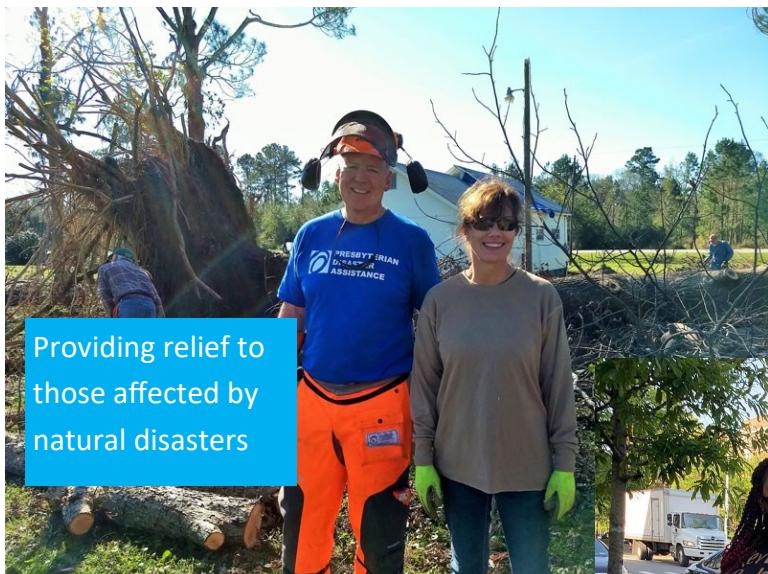
March 2 - April 17, 2022

One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression
Millions of people lack
access to sustainable food sources,
clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



your impact
Restoring Hope,
Feeding the Hungry,
Empowering the Oppressed

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

| | |
|---|---|
| \$6.5 million | 131 |
| granted by PDA in the United States and 56 countries in 2020 | grants impacting 20 countries given by PHP in 2020 |
| 52 | over 54,300 |
| years of ministry for SDOP | people trained in multiple countries in areas of land rights, farming, social development and addressing gender-based violence |
| 5,676 | 264 |
| PDA work team volunteers served in 2019 | certified PC(USA) Earth Care congregations helped care for creation |
| 51,000 | over 5,000 |
| trees planted around the world | projects in economically poor communities in the United States and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since SDOP's inception |
| \$190,000 | 1,097 |
| recovered in stolen wages for hospitality workers in the U.S. | Presbyterian congregations purchased eco-palms for sustainable forestry and livelihoods |



Presbyterian Mission



Photo Credit: ACT/DKH/Frank Schultze

"(God) shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

— (Isaiah 2:4)

The current Russian invasion that started on February 24 follows eight years of conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of people across the country are enduring bombings and assault by Russian military forces; and have lost power, been cut off from water and fuel. As people head toward the western regions, there is a shortage of food and other basic supplies. The reports of displaced persons inside Ukraine continue to rise every day, already in the hundreds of thousands. The UN anticipates that as many as 6.7 million will be displaced internally. Likewise, Ukrainians are fleeing to neighboring countries, primarily to Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, while others have moved to other European countries. Again, current estimates from the UN are that the refugee numbers could also reach several million. These borders have remained open until now even as lines are growing.

Partners are raising particular concern for the women and young children who make up the majority of the refugees as many men are now barred from leaving the country. As part of the international humanitarian community, PDA urges that governments and non-governmental organizations provide assistance without discrimination due to concerns for the Roma and people of other nationalities who have also been displaced by the conflict.

In the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival. Initial assistance being provided includes shelter, food, clothing, blankets, baby food and diapers, other hygiene supplies, flashlights and candles, generators and fuel.

Our first priority is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not, which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work. In fact, One Great Hour of Sharing — the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to provide hope, help and relief — was started in response to refugees coming out of Europe.

Our response to the situation in Ukraine will include both financial and technical assistance as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE. ACT. PRAY.

GIVE: Gifts can be [made online](#), by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line. Mail to:

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700**

ACT: Urge the U.S. government to support generous aid for refugees and civilians suffering in Ukraine, and call for engaging a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

PRAY: God of mercy, justice and peace

Our spirits are heavy with sorrow, our souls shocked
At the sudden and breathtaking violence,
the invasion of Ukraine by their neighbor, Russia.

We pray for lives caught in the grip of war,
who hear the bombs in the night,
the ominous movement of troops on the road into town
the whistle of incoming shells,
for a cry from a desperate neighbor or a shout of warning.

For those who huddle in subways and basements
or flee for the borders, clutching their children's hands
We pray for families separated from fathers, brothers and sons
who must remain to fight and protect their homeland.

We pray for neighbors in Eastern and Central Europe
As their hearts and doors open to these refugees
That strained resources will become an abundance of hope
That fears and struggles with racism will yield to a generosity of profound welcome
That communities of faith within Ukraine will be protected from harm
and sustained in their efforts to feed and shelter their neighbors.
That peacemakers and protesters in Russia will be heard and their lives preserved.

May we undergird our prayers with tangible resources to help.
May we reach deeply, give generously, and welcome extravagantly.
May we lift our voices in a strong and unified advocacy.
May we all, even as we breathe in lament, breathe out mercy, hope and peace.
And in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection, repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

--Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE





The Joseph & Armelle Meyer Scholarship

The Joseph & Armelle Meyer Scholarship Fund (the “Fund”), administered by North Presbyterian Church (“NPC”), has been established to help worthy graduating high school seniors with a connection to NPC, including, but not limited to, as a member, child, or grandchild of a member, to further their education. The scholarship may be used at any post-high school institution or continuing education program (college, university, technical school, training program, etc.). The scholarship will be awarded annually in an amount to be determined by the Meyer Scholarship Committee (the “Scholarship Committee”). Applicants must complete a scholarship application; they are eligible to receive a disbursement from the Fund once. Applications will be accepted from otherwise qualified individuals with extenuating circumstances within two years of their high school graduation or award of GED.

NPC believes that the Fund allows NPC an opportunity to be unique in the world of academic scholarships. While the typical academic scholarship focuses primarily on scholastic achievement measured by grades, the Fund is designed with the understanding that applicants have spiritual experiences as well. The Fund recognizes the applicant’s Christian experience, their journey of faith.

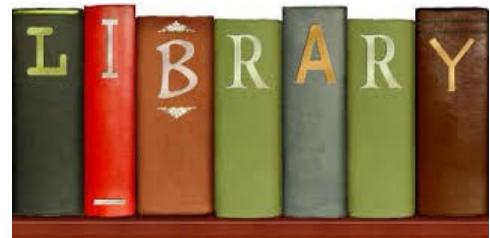
The following criteria will be used in making award decision:

- Christian experience
- Past academic achievement
- Goals and aspirations
- Activities and life experiences
- Personal interview and references
- Properly filled out application

Scholarship applications are available in the NPC Office. Completed applications must be returned by or postmarked on or before May 15th addressed to the Meyer Scholarship Committee, North Presbyterian Church, 921 College Avenue, Elmira, New York 14901. The Scholarship Committee or Church Administrator/Secretary will contact the applicant to schedule a personal interview.

Keyser Library

Seeking interested persons of any age to talk about the library at North Church. I have accepted the challenge as the library’s caretaker, and I am looking for ideas and suggestions and partners in this new adventure. I am collecting books for children – there will be a box in the Narthex. Can’t wait to hear from you!



Linda Palmer
lindapalmer915@gmail.com
607-731-0897 (text, voice)

From the Presbytery



MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Friends,

In this time of Russian aggression against Ukraine and the gathering of imperialist and nationalist power globally, our hearts are heavy. We grieve with those who are fleeing for safety, and we grieve the further loss of stability and respect in the world. We grieve with those ordered to act in ways that harm their souls and with those whose vision misses the face of God in each person. So in our grief we pray and dedicate ourselves to work for peace with these words from Presbyterian pastor and hymn writer Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. This is her hymn "We Pray for Peace" set to the tune Finlandia, which is free for congregational use.

We pray for peace, O God of love and justice
as once again, we face a time of war.
The meek and humble try — amid the crisis —
to love and build, to nurture and restore.
May leaders hear the truth the prophets teach us
—
that gifts of peace are well worth struggling for.

We pray for peace, O Christ who calmed the waters —
who stilled the storm, who stilled disciples' fear.
You spoke with love and with amazing power;
be with us now when trouble is so near.
May leaders see the miracle you offer —
that words and deeds can calm the nations here.

We pray for peace, O Spirit here among us;
your love emboldens, judges and restrains.
Take any hate and acts of impulse from us;
make leaders wise, amid competing claims.
May we seek peace, O God of love and justice;
may love and mercy be our highest aims.

Biblical References: Psalm 34:14; Psalm 85:10; Proverbs 12:20; Isaiah 11:6-8; Matthew 5:9; Luke 8:22-25; Luke 19:41; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Galatians 5:22-23

Tune: Finlandia 11.10.11.10.11.10
Jean Sibelius, 1899 ("Be Still, My Soul")

Text: Copyright © 2022 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com
New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

SAVE THE DATES
Virtual Conference
April 25-27, 2022



Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD) is partnering with the Presbyterian-focused CPJ Training Day, organized by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Compassion, Peace & Justice (CPJ) ministries. The theme of this year's EAD is Fierce Urgency: Advancing Civil & Human Rights, and as it usually does, the CPJ event will have the same emphasis. For more information, you can read [the rest of the article](#) here.



During the ongoing pandemic, mission co-workers have looked for ways to continue their interpretation assignments in new and creative ways. The Rev. Dori Hjalmarson is doing just that.

Working with the Presbytery of Arkansas, she will lead a six-week Zoom Bible study on mission and the church. Because the course is being held online, the presbytery is offering the opportunity to participate to all individuals and congregations within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

For more information, including how to register, go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/join-the-presbytery-of-arkansas-for-a-zoom-based-lenten-bible-study-on-mission-and-the-church/> from the Presbyterian Mission Agency in its entirety.

APRIL EVENTS

An advertisement for an American Red Cross Blood Drive. It features the Red Cross logo and the text "American Red Cross BLOOD DRIVE Give Blood • Give Life".

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on April 7 starting at noon. If you're interested in signing up to give blood, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 RED CROSS.

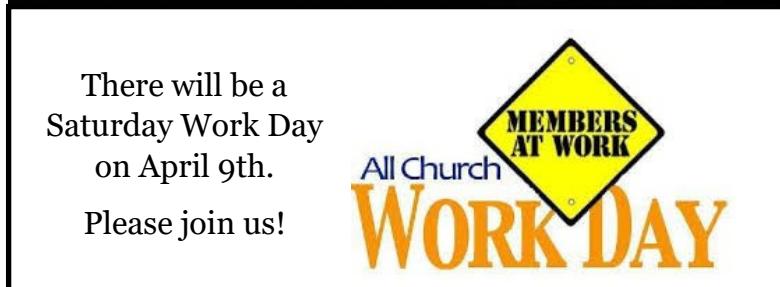
A graphic for Lent. It features a purple background with a white cross and a crown of thorns. Overlaid text reads "LENT Fast Pray Give".

There will be Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm throughout Lent.

An advertisement for a New Members Class. It features a purple background with white text.

Coming Soon...
NEW MEMBERS CLASS
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH
Anyone interested in attending
please contact Pastor Evan.
Dates/details will be announced soon.

APRIL EVENTS



Confirmation classes will begin on April 24. This 4 week class will meet Sundays from 10:45 am to 11:45 am. Confirmation will be on Sunday, June 5th. Please see Deb Stamp or Karen Wilson if your child is interested and you have not already been contacted.



NPC Board of Session

Session Summary

March 20, 2022

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 Wendy Swatling

The minutes of the February 20, 2022 stated Session meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

On the motion by Linda Palmer, seconded by Suzie Hoskins, Session approved moving the April (stated) Session meeting to Sunday, April 24, 2022. The meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Willits Hall.

Session approved the transfer of membership request from the White Bluff Presbyterian Church in Savannah, Georgia on behalf of Karen Mosteller.

Pastor Hansen reported that an Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service was held with four area churches participating. Everyone attended from their “home” church. He thanked all of the “tech” people who made it possible. Three Elders were installed on March 13, 2022. A Confirmation Class will be starting on April 24, 2022. There has been interest from at least three people in a new member’s class. Pastor Hansen noted that he is hoping to start the 2-3 session class soon. In-person visitation for those who are comfortable and phone visitation with others continues on a weekly basis. Pastor Hansen reported that he has been elected as a Commissioner to General Assembly. Opening worship will be held via ZOOM on June 19th. On June 29th he will fly to Louisville to attend committee meetings. He will return to Elmira on July 3rd. July 6, 7, 8, and 9 he will be participating in General Assembly sessions remotely. Pulpit supply has been secured for July 3rd and July 10th. Pastor Hansen will be away on Study Leave, attending the CREDO Conference, for two Sundays in November. Tuesday, March 24th and Wednesday, March 25th Pastor Hansen will be out of the office attending a graduation celebration from Princeton Theological Seminary that was put on hold due to COVID-19.

The Session reviewed the Financial Statements including the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for February 2022 and the Account Activity Summary for the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is down \$138,945 Since January 1, 2022. \$29,478 has been received from Church Mutual for the water damage claim from January.

Wendy Swatling reported that the search for a pianist/accompanist continues.

On the recommendation of the Mission Committee, Session approved a special collection for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – International Refugee and IDP Programs (specifically for Ukraine). Donations will be received beginning March 27th and will continue through April 24th.

NPC Board of Session

On the motion by Wendy Swatling, seconded by Suzie Hoskins, Session approved a contract with Independence Landscaping, LLC for Spring and Fall clean-up of beds and mowing throughout 2022 (includes service to the Manse property) in the amount of \$4,510.

Linda Palmer reported that the financial review went very well. An Investment Policy is needed to safeguard the Endowment Fund. Session should have an understanding of how investments are handled.

On the recommendation from the Finance Committee, Session approved the creation of a designated funds savings account for designated funds to be held or until Session designates otherwise.

On the motion of Barb Duryea, seconded by Annie LeFevre, Session approved to fully fund a designated funds savings account as accounts are currently stated on the Balance Sheet.

By consent, Session decided that on Communion Sundays, the communion elements would be placed on the counter in the nursery for the adults who are volunteering in the wee worship room.

Barb Duryea reported that the Communications Committee is working on a pamphlet for visitors that would include pictures of the Staff and Session members. The committee is also looking into a facilities guide. Emergency exit plans are needed for each room. The committee is also working on Bible trivia questions for kids and adults.

Tim Allison thanked Suzie Hoskins for her years of dedication to changing the Paraments and banners in the Sanctuary. The Worship and Music committee has taken over this task.

On the motion by Suzie Hoskins, seconded by Tim Allison, Session authorized the Chancel Choir to meet and sing in-person.

On the motion by Linda Palmer, seconded by Tim Allison, Session approved a Presbytery of Geneva grant application in the amount of \$1,000 on behalf of the NPC Food Pantry and a matching fund raising campaign collection for the congregation. The funds will be used to purchase personal care items.

Session approved the discontinuation of contact tracing for worship and the Food Pantry. Masks will continue to be required for Food Pantry clients.

The meeting adjourned in prayer at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kalweit,
Clerk of Session



APRIL

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|----------|
| | | | | | | |
| 3 9:30 Worship Service 9:30 am Communion Coffee Hour 10:45 am Good News Singers Practice 11:00 am Sunday School | 4 5:30 pm TOPS 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study | 5 8:45 am Yoga 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours | 6 Bulletin Info Due 9:30 am Finance Mtg 10:00 am Food Pantry 12:00 pm Bible Study 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting 6:00 pm Bell Choir practice 7:00 pm Lent Service | 7 8:45 am Yoga 12:00 pm Blood Drive | 1 10:00 Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA | 2 |
| 10 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service Coffee Hour 10:45 am Good News Singers Practice 11:00 am Sunday School | 11 5:30 pm TOPS 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study | 12 8:45 am Yoga 10:00 am Comm & Tech Mtg 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 7:00 pm Buildings & Grounds Mtg | 13 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am Food Pantry 12:00 pm Bible Study 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg 6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice 7:00 pm Lent Service | 14 8:45 am Yoga 7:00 pm Maundy Thurs Service | 15 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA | 16 |
| 17 Easter Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Communion Coffee Hour 10:45 am Good News Singers Practice 11:00 am No Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt | 18 Easter Monday 5:30 pm TOPS 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study TAX DAY | 19 8:45 am Yoga 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study | 20 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am Food Pantry 12:00 pm Bible Study 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 4:00 pm Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 pm Bell Choir Practice | 21 Newsletter Info Due 8:45 pm Yoga 9:00 am Thursday Morning Musicales 11:00 am Deacons' Mtg | 22 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA | 23 |
| 24 9:30 am Worship Service Coffee Hour 10:45 am Good News Singers Practice 11:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Board of Session | 25 5:30 pm TOPS 6:00 pm Men's Bible Study | 26 8:45 am Yoga 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study | 27 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am Food Pantry 12:00 pm Bible Study 1:30 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm Bell Choir Practice | 28 8:45 am Yoga | 29 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:15 pm AA | 30 |
| | | | | | | |