

- <u>In This Issue</u> Letter from Pastor Hansen: Page 2
- Worship Volunteers: Page 3 -More Reminders
- We Are Family: Page 4
 -In Our Thoughts & Prayers, Send a Card
 Children & Youth: Page 5 -Letter from our Director of Children & Youth Ministries
- -Kids' Corner Activities Did You Know?: Pages 6-7
 - -Helpful Church Info for You, Food Pantry Reminders: Page 8

- Fellowship: Page 9
- Missions: Page 10
 - Pentecost Offering
 - Second Place East, Inc.
- Communication & Tech: Page 11
 - Meet Your Neighbor Pades
- From the Presbytery: Pages 12 & 13
- May Events: Pages 14 & 15
- Special Offerings: Page 16
- Staff Spotlight: Page 17
- Board of Session: Pages 18 & 19
- Calendar: Page 20

May, 2023 A Letter from Pastor Hansen

In the lower windowsill of my church office, sits an orchid in what looks to be an oversized pot. My aunt gave us that plant. When she gave it to us, it had not bloomed for a number of years. It first bloomed for us in May 2020. When we moved here in August 2020, the orchid had large green leaves and was doing well. It was doing so well that, much to our surprise, it bloomed for a second time that fall. This burst of success convinced me that whatever I was doing, I was doing a great job.

In 2021, I started to notice that the orchid was not doing as well as before. I tried various remedies. Nothing really worked. I went online, purchased a new pot, a new mix of bark, and repotted it. It only got worse.

When repotting the orchid, I found a faded plastic label. The label confirmed the story that my Aunt Mary told me when she gave me the orchid. The orchid was originally my grandfather's. My grandfather took blooms from the orchid for my Aunt Martha's corsage for my Aunt Martha's wedding — in 1993. The almost thirty-year old label also told me something I had not known — the species of the orchid.

As the orchid's health continued to worsen, I realized that whatever I was doing, it was not working. I went back to the label, looked up the type of orchid, and discovered that, unlike many orchids, this species does not store its own water. The really nice all-purpose orchid potting mix I used to repot the orchid was the wrong kind. What worked in a third-floor apartment in the more humid New Jersey and briefly, here was not sustainable given its particular needs. If I continued to treat it with a one-size fits all approach, the orchid would eventually die from dehydration.

As people, as Christians, as a faith community, it is easy assume that what worked in the past will continue to work in the future and that when something starts to falter, we just need to double down on what we are already doing. However, we have always lived in an ever-changing and diverse world – and the Church is no different. Since Pentecost, the Church has changed with each generation in response to the needs of the world around it.

But that is how God created us. God created a diverse and multifaceted cosmos made up of a diverse, multifaceted, and ever-changing creation that exists within time. Made from the dust of creation, we are no different. Just as the creation created by our God is not a one-size fits all, unchanging creation – neither are we. For our God is the Living God who is ever moving. The Holy Spirit is like a blowing wind. It does not stand still. Neither do we. When we ignore or try to stop change from happening, we are not helping anyone. We are only reinforcing the idea that one size fits all or that we do not have to adapt to the changing environment. That approach does not work with orchids, and it does not work with us.

With a new, specialized bark mix and a humidifier next to it, the orchid is sprouting new leaves and looks to be on the mend. I do not know when it will bloom again, but that is the least of my worries. Right now, my goal is for it to regain its health and for me to learn how to better care for it; so that it can stay in that office windowsill reminding me of my grandparents and my aunts for years to come.

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Evan





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



https://www.northpres.church/





JUST A LITTLE

If you would like to donate Chancel flowers (suggested donation of \$42), please contact Lori Lee at 607-739-3176.

Available Sundays for May and June 2023 are:

May 7 & 21 and June 4, 11, 18 & 25.

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.

May Worship Volunteers

Tech Booth May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28	Bill Furnas Steve Allison Steve Allison Bill Furnas	Counters May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28	Cindy & Kurt Kalweit Annette Stevens, Jim Mosher Annette Stevens, Janice Williams Allison Sevey, Wendy Swatling
Ushers May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28	Amanda Korfmann, Ann Motley Tim & Cheryl Allison Nancy Isaacs, Kate Hansen Kurt & Cindy Kalweit	Wee Worship May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28	Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea Liz Wilson, Wally Ferriter Deb Stamp, Payton Hoskins-Thomas Ann Motley, Becky Kowulich
Communion May 7 May 21	Linda Palmer, Suzie Hoskins, Tim Allison Steve Allison, George Batrowny Jim Mosher, Tim Allison, Suzie Hoskins, Lori Lee, Vicki Balon	Worship Assistant May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28	Suzie Hoskins George Batrowny Tim Allison TBD
Greeters May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28	Jerry Harding Tim Allison Joanie Barneski, Alice Kain Ann Motley	Coffee Hour May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28	Karen Wilson, Liz Wilson Ann Motley, Glenda Solowiej Cindy Kalweit, Annette Stevens Wendy Swatling, Janice Williams
Youth Reader May 14	Paityn Perry	Youth Usher May 7 May 14 May 21 May 28	Annalyse Ferriter Alexii Hoskins-Thomas David Hansen Wally Ferriter

TOGETHER WE FAMILY



May 7: Liz Bush

May 14: Betty Carney

May 21: Pam & Bill Caroscio

May 28: Marlene Carpentier

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

Our Homebound Friends

May 7: Theresa Gublo 456 Roe Ave. Elmira, NY 14901

May 14: Laurie Burdick 608 Walnut St. Elmira, NY 14901

May 21: Marlene Carpentier 501 Larchmont Rd. Elmira, NY 14905

May 28: Joseph & Glenda Solowiej 2383 Rte. 352 Elmira, NY 14903 Please send a card to our Homebound Friends today!



Welcome!

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.

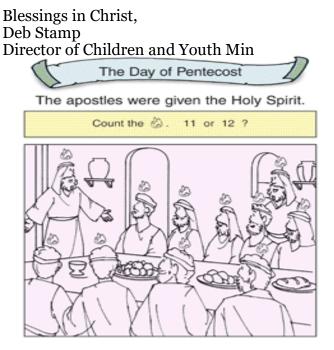


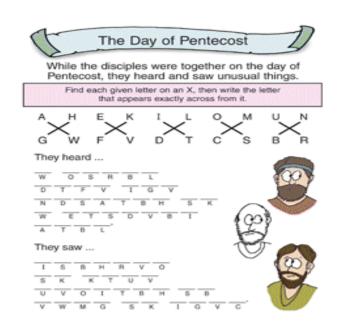
Children and Youth Ministry May 2023

As we welcome May, I can't stop myself from sitting back and marveling at the busy April we had. At the very end of March, we had another youth group gathering, this time at First Presbyterian church. Thirteen young people showed up and we had a wonderful time playing games, playing volleyball and partaking of some yummy food (Mac and Cheese, veggies, fruit, and brownies). A big thank you to First Pres. for being such great hosts! On April 9th, Easter, we had a wonderful celebration of our Risen Lord. After church, the kiddos had a lot of fun searching for Easter eggs out in the front lawn (about 500 eggs, to be exact). I have to say that Easter is probably my favorite religious holiday. With family traditions, all those beautiful Lenten services and the joyous feeling of celebrating our Risen Lord, how can you not love it!

Now, our focus is on the next few months before Sunday school ends. Pastor Evan and I are working on a service for Children and Youth Sunday that I think the kids will love participating in and you, the congregation, will find enjoyable, as well. I am signing youth up for camp and preparing for VBS. If you are interested in volunteering for VBS, please contact myself or Suzie Hoskins, Ann Motley or Becky Kowulich and we will get you assigned a spot or please let us know where you would like to volunteer. VBS runs from July16-July20 and the more the better when it comes to volunteers.

I would like to say a big thank you to all of our teachers and wee worship volunteers who show up every week and give 100 %, supporting and teaching our youth and guiding them in their journey with God.







- If you would like to be prayed for or know someone who would like to be prayed for, please contact the church office. A prayer request will be sent to our prayer partners. If you would like someone to pray with you, a request can be sent to one of our prayer partners or Pastor Evan and someone will connect with you.
- Remember to check our bulletin board for NPC and Community Announcements/Information.
- Lost something? Be sure to check the lost-and-found bin in the church office.



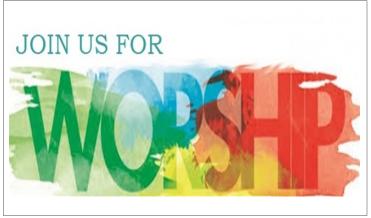
Parking Lot Worship:

- 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:

Please join us for in person Worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

Check out our facebook page or church website for special services throughout the year, including Worship in the Park and weekly Lent and Advent services.







SHOPPING LIST

May Food Pantry

Shopping List:

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

Ketchup/Mustard (plastic bottles)

Ramen Noodles
Boxed Pasta

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
1	Pastor	pastor@northpres.church



Meet the Staff

Pastor Evan Hansen Pastor

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

Paul Holland Music Director

Sharon Reynolds Organist

Randy Cornell Pianist

Deb Stamp Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Gretchen Duffy Office Administrator



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.





Women's Bible Study

meets Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the library. They are studying the book, *Celebrating Sabbath*. For more information please contact Suzie Hoskins.



meets on Tuesdays at
6:00 pm in the Brisbane room.
For more information please contact
Kurt Kalweit.



Join us for
Wednesday Noon Bible Study
Please feel free to bring your
lunch!

For more information please contact Bobbi Furnas.



Adult Sunday School is studying the Book of Job. Please join us!



Sunday School meets each week after worship. Hope to see you there!





Praise Band rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

The Good News Singers' practices are on Sundays at 10:45 am.



Music Commission of the Commis

Chancel Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.

Bell Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm.







Our next Saturday breakfast will be on May 13 at 8am, followed by the monthly Buildings and Grounds work day.



Our next Wednesday dinner is scheduled for May 3 at 5:30 pm. The menu will feature pulled pork, homemade applesauce, mashed potatoes, corn, roll and dessert. We hope you can join us for dinner before we head to Wednesday evening service in the sanctuary.

Join us weekly, after worship, for Fellowship Coffee Hour. If you would like to volunteer to help with coffee hour, please contact Ann Motley.







BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST.



Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

Nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Second Place East, Inc.



May donation request

TOOTHBRUSHES



And the greatest of these is love!

The "meet your neighbor" pad - Yes, really! It's about love!

It might be hard to find anymore more averse or negligent than me in completing the "meet your neighbor" pad prior to COVID. Afterward, we were not in the sanctuary for worship, and when we did come back, everything had to be stripped from the pews — no paper, including the Bibles and Hymnals! Now everything is back — including those pesky pads. But are they really pesky?

No! They are about love!

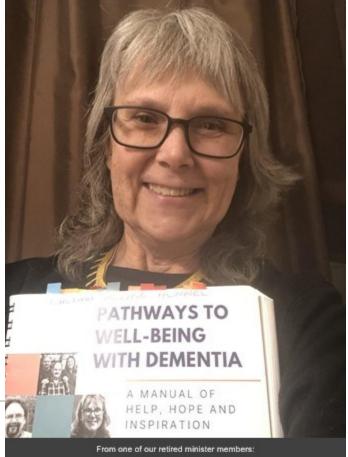
Those "meet your neighbor" pads are not just for visitors...they are for all of us. Despite your misgivings, they are not for taking attendance. The ushers faithfully count how many of us are in the Sanctuary and on Zoom at every worship service. Knowing WHO is present, though, or rather who is not, can alert the Pastor if someone is not there for a while. Maybe that person has some stuff going on in their life and cannot attend, but they are reluctant to ask for prayer or assistance. Maybe someone got upset by something or someone at church (it happens!), and they are staying away. If any of those things happen, we want you to know that you are valued and you are missed! NPC is a family and a family is about love...love in the good times and in the bad. All families need communication and all families need help with communication! So, take a moment at the beginning of worship or during the offertory (maybe not during the sermon) and fill out the information. Let us know if you have a new phone number, email address, house address, etc. Please also do not hesitate to ask for prayer or for the Pastor to contact you or to communicate what is on your mind. Let me know your ideas on how we can communicate better. Love and hugs and peace to all!



From the Presbytery







"One of the ministries that God has given me is with and to those living with Alzheimer's (and other related dementias). I want to tell you about a FREE downloadable manual for those living dementia called "Pathways to Well-Being With Dementia; a Manual of Help, Hope and Inspiration" Please check it out at deanow.org. (I am one of the contributors) You can also order a hard copy for \$28.65 plus shipping. ALSO: Please let me know if I can help as resource for YOUR congregation.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hulling Hummel, HR Owego, NY revolrchh@gmail.com 607-742-5247*

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering "Sowing Hope For All"

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Friday, May 12, 2023 9:00am - 1:00pm Camp Whitman 150 Whitman Rd, Penn Yan, NY 14527

Worship Leader: Rebekah Fergusson-Lutz, Assistant at Camp Whitman and seminarian at Colgate Rochester Divinity School

Day of Service to Camp Whitmani

Please join us in one of the following activities:

- Sewing curtains
- Planting flower beds
- Baking cookles

Morning snacks, beverages, and desserts provided. Please bring your own lunch. More details to follow!

From the Presbytery



The Committee on Mission & Witness would like to advertise the following grants available to Presbyterian congregations:

PC(USA)

Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) is prepared to establish partnerships with groups in the United States who:

- · are oppressed by poverty and social systems,
- · want to take charge of their own lives,
- . have organized or are organizing to do something about their own conditions,
- have decided that what they are going to do will produce long term changes for their lives or communities.
- utilize some combination of the SDOP core strategies to promote justice, build solidarity, advance human dignity, advocate for economic equity,
- · will control the programs they own and will benefit from them directly.

Partnerships are initiated by applications to the Self-Development of People Committee and are evaluated using Self-Development's funding criteria and overarching SDOP program measures.

https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop/apply-grant/

Refugee Resettlement

https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop/apply-grant/ https://pda.pcusa.org/page/fag-refugee-resettlement/

Financial Aid for Service

Loans, grants, and scholarships are available for undergraduate and graduate students at Presbyterian (U.S.A.)-affiliated colleges and seminary students. Also explore ways in which the Presbyterian Mission

Agency is reducing financial barriers to service for undergraduates, seminary students, volunteers in mission, and pastors with educational debt.

https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-do/grants-scholarships/

Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program

The Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc. (PILP) is a nonprofit corporation of the PC(USA) created to provide low-cost loans to congregations, governing bodies, and related entities of PC(USA).

The Program offers Presbyterian investors — members, pastors, churches, and other governing bodies — an opportunity to support the growth of the church through investing.

https://pilp.pcusa.org/

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women issues grants for programs and projects through the Thank
Offering and Birthday Offering. The Birthday Offering primarily funds capital
improvement projects to 1–2 agencies a year whereas the Thank Offering funds 25–
30 smaller new or expanded projects or small capital improvement projects a year.
Presbyterian Women also gives grants to individual women who are active in the
PC(USA) who wish to participate in the work of Presbyterian Women for personal
leadership development. In recent years, Newark Park Place Presbyterian Church
received a grant for Family Promise of Wayne County, and Elmira First Presbyterian
Church received a grant to assist with Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (Puerto Rico)
https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/

Synod of the Northeast Grants

https://www.synodne.org/grants

Campus Ministry Grant

Supports ministries in cooperation with our member presbyteries and congregations. To establish relationships that support this important work through partnership as well as financial gifts. Priority is given to those ministries with strong relationships to the PC(USA).

Innovation Grant

The Innovation Grant was established to fund creative new projects that emerge out of and mobilize Presbyterian communities to engage with their local communities in ways that foster person-to-person relationships. (Geneva's Baby Box program was begun with this grant)

Youth Leadership Grant

This supports the development of youth leadership skills and the amplification of youth voices both within the church and beyond. These are granted to initiatives, both new and sustained, that lift up and strengthen the leadership of young people.

The Wurffel-Sills Scholarship & Interest-Free Student Loan Program

This assists students with demonstrated financial need with their higher educational goals.

https://www.synodne.org/wurffelsills-student-aid

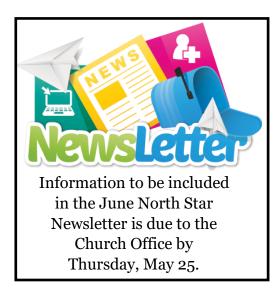






















Our local chapter of TOPS meets on Mondays at 5:30 in Willits Hall. If you're interested, please call the church office for information.



Yoga meets Tuesday and
Thursday mornings at 8:45 in
Willits Hall. If you're interested,
please contact the church office
for more information.

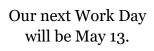
Board of Session May 21 6:00 pm



American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE

Give Blood • Give Life

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on May 4 starting at noon. If you're interested in signing up to give blood, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 RED CROSS.

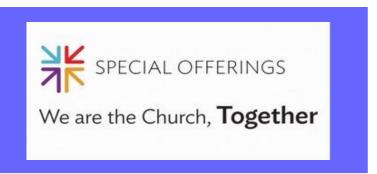


Please join us!





Kindermusik meets on Tuesdays at 3 pm and Thursdays at 10 am and 5:15 pm. For information on how your child can participate, please contact the church office.



Special Offerings for May:

- Pentecost Offering
- Congregational Care Fund
- Campership Fund

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

DailyVerses.ne





Introducing **Staff Spotlight**: Every other month, we will ask a different staff member some quirky interview questions so that we can get to know them in a different light.

This month's featured staff:

GRETCHEN DUFFY - CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Q: What hobby are into right now?

Gretchen: We are starting to camp this weekend. Also, I've been teaching myself how to crochet over the winter. I've made blankets for my kids.

Q: Do you prefer cats or dogs?

Gretchen: Cats. They are not as needy. I like their attitude, their independence. They like you when they like you, then they do their own thing.

Q: What is your favorite song?

Gretchen: Here Comes the Sun by The Beatles. It's hopeful, cheerful. I found myself singing that in the past when things were a little rough and it made me feel better.

Q: When you go on vacation, when do you pack your suitcase?

Gretchen: The day before. I do get stuff kind of ready ahead, but I don't put anything in my suitcase until the day before.

Q: What would we find in your fridge right now?

Gretchen: Mostly condiments and a few vegetables. (soft giggle)

Q: What's the most interesting vacation you've ever been on?

Gretchen: I did go to France, Germany and Italy. I liked Italy the best. We went to Rome and I got to see the Vatican and the Colluseum. Plus, Italy has some good wine.

Q: How would you define your personal work-life balance?

Gretchen: Right now, it's really good. This is first time in almost 30 years I've had the right balance.

Q: How do you find peace when you've had a tough day?

Gretchen: My days are so much easier now. Music does it for me. I just put on the radio and sing loudly.

Q: What is your favorite book of the Bible?

Gretchen: The Psalms.

NPC Board of Session

Session Summary April 23, 2023

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 Jim Mosher.

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the March 19, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Session reviewed the Financial Statements including the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for March 2023 and the Account Activity Summary for the Endowment Fund. The Treasurer's report was received, with thanks, by the Session.

Session authorized the Treasurer to release \$1,500 (monies received through the Panosian Foundation and previously approved to be support Wednesday night community dinners) to Grace Episcopal Church. A group of volunteers from NPC will be helping with set up, serving, and clean up on May 10, 2023.

Pastor Hansen informed the Session of (no-cost) workshops and congregational educational opportunities that are available through the Presbytery: Lifeline Trainings: Grieving & Legacy, May 4, 2023 in Spencer, NY and May 10, 2023 in Waterloo, NY; Planning for the Future, May 24, 2023 in Sodus, NY and June 3, 2023 in Horseheads, NY. These workshops are open to everyone. Hospitality Training for Churches is also available. There is a cost involved with this training.

On the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee, Session approved Wednesday evening worship, with communion, one Wednesday per month in May, June, September, October, and November (2023) to coincide with Wednesday night fellowship dinners where appropriate and convenient.

Children and Youth Sunday is scheduled for June 4th and Recognition Sunday is scheduled for June 18th. Vacation Bible School will be held July 16-20th. Volunteers are still needed in many areas.

NPC Board of Session

Church World Service Blanket and Tool offering will be held on June 11th and 18th in the Narthex prior to and following worship.

The food box in the front of the church needs the plexiglass door repaired. Session decided to remove the door completely.

The Communication Committee is working on a Welcome Brochure (coming soon) for visitors and the reintroduction of the Friendship Pads.

The meeting adjourned in prayer at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Kalweit, Clerk of Session

