



NORTH STAR

August 2023

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

Worship in the Park

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August, 2023
A Letter from Pastor Hansen

At some point in the early afternoon of Sunday, August 6, I will pack up the car and leave for a week to serve as a volunteer chaplain at Camp Whitman. The theme this year at Camp Whitman is “Sabbath.”

We often associate the idea of Sabbath with not working. Deuteronomy 5:15 records that the rationale given by the Lord for the Sabbath command was the deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt. Sabbath was and is a redemption from the activities that occupy our thoughts and our actions, including work.

But Sabbath goes beyond that. As the theologian Karl Barth observed, Sabbath is a gift of grace – not given to humankind or creation as a reward for a job well-done but given to us before we had even lifted a finger. We were created to enjoy the grace and freedom of Sabbath. (CD III/1, 98).

But to enjoy Sabbath and the freedom found in God’s grace, we have to change what we mean by “freedom.” Biblically, freedom is not the ability to do as we please. Freedom is the ability to limit our activities and to stop. (CD III/1, 215). If we cannot limit our activities or the demands we place upon ourselves, we are not free in any sense of the word. Rather, what we do and what is expected of us defines us and we are no longer free to be who God created us to be.

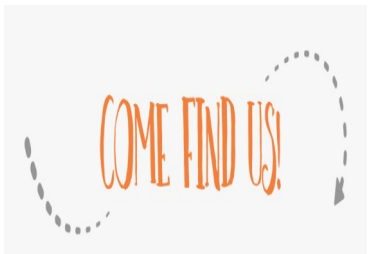
There are many, many things in our lives that demand our attention and our time. We live in a culture that defines us and our value by what we do and by how productive we are. We fill our time with activities such as work, housework, chores like laundry and dishes, cleaning, etc. We fill our time with screens, whether it is a TV screen, a computer monitor, a phone, or a tablet. And I say all these things as someone who is by no means immune to this filling of my time with activities or screens. In a world obsessed with productivity and busyness, Sabbath can become a problem that needs to be solved.

But Sabbath is not a problem to be solved. It is not an activity to take on. It is not a burden to take upon ourselves. It is not a burden to place on others. Sabbath is instead a protest. It is a radical protest against the idea that we are what we produce, we are what we do, and we are what we consume. Sabbath declares that we are not defined by our work, our activities, how many followers or friends we have on social media platforms, how many likes we get for a post, how neat our lawns are, how perfect our gardens are, how clean and tidy our homes are, how nice our clothes and things are, or how successful our kids are.

As the Rabbi Abraham Heschel observed throughout his book, *The Sabbath*, Sabbath is God’s gift of time, a reservation of time in which the woes and worries of the world are lifted from our shoulders and given over to God. It is a moment in time in which we can truly be alive and be present in the moment. And Sabbath does not have to be on a Sunday (or a Saturday). Sabbath is any day in which we set aside our worries, our woes, the demands placed upon us, and we accept the gift of time given to us by our God, a gift of grace, a gift to rest. A gift we desperately need.

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Evan



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



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



JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

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

Available Sundays for August and September 2023 are:

August 13 & 27 and September 3 & 10.

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.

August Worship Volunteers

Tech Booth

August 6	Steve Allison
August 13	Steve Allison
August 20	Bill Furnas
August 27	Bill Furnas

Counters

August 6	Allison Sevey, Wendy Swatling
August 13	Phil Carpentier, Jeff Richards
August 20	Cindy & Kurt Kalweit
August 27	Annette Stevens, Jim Mosher

Ushers

August 6	Janice Williams, Phil Carpentier
August 13	Jerry Russell, Joe Rolls, Bob Russell
August 20	Wendy Swatling, Barb Duryea
August 27	Amanda Korfmann, Ann Motley

Wee Worship

August 6	Ann Motley, Becky Kowulich
August 13	Allie & Scott Sevey
August 20	Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea
August 27	Liz Wilson, Wally Ferriter

Communion

August 6	Linda Palmer, Tim Allison, Vicki Balon, Lori Lee, Barb Duryea
August 20	Jim Mosher, Steve Allison

Worship Assistant

August 6	Wendy Swatling
August 13	Tim Allison
August 20	Kurt Kalweit
August 27	Erin Jacob

Greeters

August 6	Linda Palmer
August 13	Jerry Harding
August 20	Tim Allison
August 27	Joanie Barneski, Alice Kain

Coffee Hour

August 6	TBD
August 13	Ann Motley, Glenda Solowiej
August 20	picnic
August 27	Bobbi Furnas, Pat Richards

TOGETHER WE MAKE A FAMILY



August 6:
Harry & Marilyn Edwards

August 13:
Melanie Fitzpatrick

August 20:
William & Bobbi Furnas

August 27:
Martha & Ted Grinnell

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

Our Homebound Friends

August 6:
Nancy Varnum
2111 Grand Central Ave.
Horseheads, Ny 14845

August 13:
Maxine Burroughs
Woodbrook
1250 Maple Ave.
Elmira, NY 14904

August 20:
Glenn & Dorla Bolt
105 Morrow Street
Elmira, NY 14901

August 27:
Hope Dubois
8 Aspen Ridge Apartments
Elmira, NY 14904

*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 August 2023

Wow, how can it be August already! July seemed to fly by so quickly. As we began July, we were finishing up backgrounds for VBS. Then the decorating began. This year the backgrounds for "Food Club Party" were so bright and cheerful that everyone noticed and commented on them. I was so blessed to have a great team of volunteers who helped create backgrounds and our awesome food truck and then helped decorate the Sanctuary and all the rest of the spaces of the church that we used during VBS. I'll be very honest with you; this year was by far one of the most fun VBS weeks we have put on for the kiddos in all the years I have been doing it.

The theme for this year was how God provides for us. Our kitchen volunteers helped coordinate the food around the menu "God provides for us" and the kids loved it! (to be honest the adults did too!) We only had one rainy evening where the kiddos had to have recreation inside, but it didn't dampen their spirits one bit. The rec. crew did a great job with all the games and everyone had a lot of fun. With it being so hot, most of the games included water, at some point, which made the games that much more fun. Crafts and Bible tied so well into the theme and Barb and Linda did a wonderful job every night.

Our mission this year was the NPC food pantry which tied in well with the food theme. The kids collected two hundred and eighty-seven food items for the pantry. What a great job they did and the pantry was very thankful.

I feel so blessed to have had so many wonderful volunteers and support from these volunteers throughout the week. We all jumped in and helped wherever needed and everything went so smoothly. God was certainly watching over us and guiding us every night!!!

Blessings in Christ,

Deb Stamp

Dir. of Children and Youth Ministry

The Creation

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Match the pictures.

Jacob Wrestles With God

As Jacob was alone one night, a man wrestled with him. When the man saw that he could not win, he injured Jacob's hip. What did he say to Jacob?

Add and subtract letters to find out.

- ① pencil - penci + ice cream cone - con + tiger - iger = _____
- ② monkey - onky = _____
- ③ ghost - hst = _____
- ④ mountain - est = _____
- ⑤ rabbit - rabb = _____
- ⑥ dish - dh = _____
- ⑦ dog - og + dish - dis + bread - d + kite - ite = _____

Did You Know?



- 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).



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.**



Zoom Worship

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



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



Meet the Staff

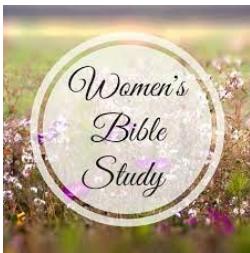
Pastor Evan Hansen	Pastor
Open Door Office Hours: T & W 1:30-4pm	
Paul Holland	Music Director
Sharon Reynolds	Organist
Randy Cornell	Pianist
Deb Stamp	Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Gretchen Duffy	Office Administrator

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

Reminder

Important Reminders:

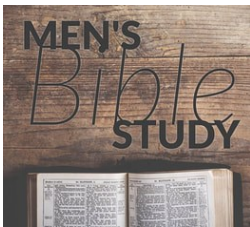
- The church office needs your contact information. Please let us know if anything has changed.
- If you need to contact the church office for any reason, please feel free to email office@northpres.church or call (607) 734-2977 Tues-Fri 9am to 3:30 pm.



Women's Bible Study
has ended for the summer.
We will meet again in September.
For more information please contact
Suzie Hoskins.



Wednesday Noon Bible Study
has ended for the summer.
We will resume on September 13
for an 8 week study on anxiety. If
you need materials for this next
section, please contact
Bobbi Furnas.



Men's Bible Study
has ended for the summer.
We will meet again in September.
For more information please contact
Kurt Kalweit.



Sunday School has ended for the summer.
Sunday school will resume on September 10
with Rally Day.



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



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

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



***Music rehearsals have
ended for the summer.
Rehearsals will resume
on September 16th.**

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





We are the Church, **Together**

Special Offerings for August:

- Piano Maintenance



The next Saturday breakfast will be August 12 at 8:00 am.



- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| . French toast | . Fresh Fruit |
| . Bacon | . Juice |
| . Eggs | . Coffee |

Please call the church office to RSVP by August 10.



There will be no Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner in August. Our next Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner will be September 6.



Second Place East, Inc.



**August donation
request**

TOILET PAPER

From the Presbytery



Each season Camp Whitman creates a list of items that would help make the camper and staff experience better. You can contribute to Camp Whitman, by purchasing an item on our wish list (opposite) and sending it to camp, or through our Amazon wish list. Just go to campwhitman.org/donate and click on the Amazon wish list link.



Wish List

Items under \$25

Boondoggle Embroidery Floss

Plastic Stackable Adirondack Chairs - 24 needed (cream, gray or dark blue preferred)

Coffee Pots

Multi-Purpose Lighters

Sharpies

White Cotton T-shirts for Tie-Dye (30 needed, sized Adult L - 4XL)

Fragrance-Free Laundry Detergent Pods (6 needed)

Broom & Dustpan Sets - (4 needed)

Items under \$50

Campfire Grill (10 needed)

Toaster Ovens (4 needed)

Estwing 16 oz Hammers

White Folding Tables (with handles) (4 needed)

Box Fans (4 needed)

Items under \$100

Microwaves (4 needed)

Vacuums (2 needed)

Space Heaters (4 needed)

Items under \$250

Propane Grills (4 needed)

MISCELLANEOUS

Snow-Cone Machine

From the Presbytery



Save the Date!

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca welcomes all to this free presentation by Dr. Rusnak, a Lutheran pastor and hospice chaplain, who will speak on the spiritual needs of the dying.


For a sampling of the insights she has to share, listen to this NPR interview with her:
https://www.ualrpublicradio.org/2019-04-07/because-youve-never-died-before?_amp=true

The Brick Wall

**Because You've Never Died Before:
The World of the Dying.**

a presentation by Kathleen J. Rusnak, Ph.D.

"What makes Kathleen's presentations so appealing—when her subject matter is so naturally unappealing, like death, dying, the Holocaust, or evil—is her talking openly, unabashedly, and humorously about her own thoughts and experiences that we secretly, and sometimes unsettlingly, think *only* we think about or *only* we go through. We discover that everyone else in the audience is also seeing themselves in what she saying, and we all laugh aloud, feeling the pungent pull of permission—to be more human to ourselves and others."



Saturday, September 23, 2023
9am-12pm

First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca
315 N Cayuga St, Ithaca, NY
Firstpresithaca.org

Free and open to the public.
Q and A and reception to follow

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Pastor Evan and the Communications and Technology Committee recently met with John Fong. John's services were provided to us by the Presbytery through an Innovation grant from the Synod of the Northeast. The purpose of the grant is to help churches grow by updating their social media presence.

One of his recommendations is to place more pictures on our website - lots of smiling faces. You may notice us taking more candid shots for this reason. If you do not want your photo taken, no problem, just let the office know in writing.

Most of the recommendations are related to Facebook - smiling faces, more posts, and utilizing a private group to foster communication. John's vision is people could use this as a vehicle to wish someone happy birthday or good luck on a job interview or offer prayer.

Building relationships is key to church growth. Good communication practices are part of that process. Expect to receive more emails, Facebook and Instagram posts, etc. as we endeavor to keep you updated on the weekly happenings at North Church.

If you have a gift for this type of activity, please call the office and chat with Gretchen or talk to Pastor Evan, Tim Allison, or me - we need you!!

Linda Palmer

Communications & Tech Committee





Communication & Technology
Committee Meeting
August 15 at 10:00 am

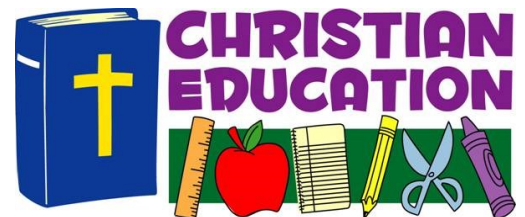


Music & Worship
Committee Meeting
August 9 at 3:00 pm



Information to be included
in the September North
Star Newsletter is due to
the Church Office by
Friday, August 25.

Christian Ed
Committee Meeting
August 16 at 4:00 pm





Community Meal at Grace Episcopal Church

Wednesday, August 9
Set up at 3:00 pm
Dinner at 5:00 pm



Buildings & Grounds
Committee Meeting
August 8 at 7:00 pm



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
will meet on
August 20 at
6:00 pm.

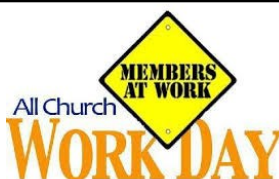


**American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE**

Give Blood • Give Life

There will be a Red Cross Blood
Drive on August 3 starting at
noon. If you're interested in
signing up to give blood, please
visit redcrossblood.org or call
1-800 RED CROSS.

There will be a church
workday on Saturday,
August 12 at 8:00 am.



Kindermusik



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.

Renovation house

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF MEN & WOMEN

Greetings Renovation House Family,

We survived the winter!! Spring actually arrived and it's glorious! As New life comes forth from the ground, we are seeing new life come forth from our men and women as they are set free from all manner of life controlling issues.

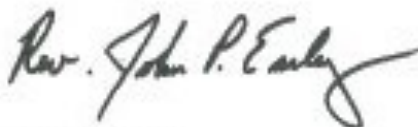
The topic of Purpose is hot right now at the Renovation House. So often our people don't have substance problems and emotional issues, as much as they have Purpose problems. Discovering and walking in God's purpose for our lives is key to living the Abundant Life Jesus purchased for us.

We receive people who are often at the lowest point of their lives having "lost it all", then we get to watch the rebuild, as they are saved, healed, delivered and set free. It never gets old!!

Updates: Gardens are about to go in, which is a highlight, students and staff are enjoying our extensive trail network, hiking and fishing have been good. Some of our alumni have returned from bible college to help us over the summer as interns... "which is nice!" We'll have a total of four graduates serving with us over the next year; Training for future ministry. We will also be hosting domestic missionaries, that are coming in to help out for a couple months.

The world has lost it's mind and things have gotten crazy stupid expensive. Which makes holding this all together tough. We are hoping, and looking for another financial boost to help get us through the summer.

It is impossible to adequately describe all that God has done and is doing here at the Renovation House. Please consider giving us a call and booking a tour. Come see for yourself. Thank you for your continued love, prayer and support for this ministry. We quite literally couldn't do it without you. Ya'll are awesome!!
With much love and appreciation,



Rev. Dr. John P. Earley

Chapel in the woods



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

Welcome to this year's



Sunday, August 20 at 10:30 am.

at the Grove Park Pavilion

Service will be followed by a picnic lunch featuring:

- . *Hot dogs*
- . *Baked beans*
- . *Water/Lemonade*
- . *Hamburgers/Cheeseburgers*
- . *Coleslaw*
- . *Potato salad*
- . *Dessert*

*Feel free to bring your lawn chairs.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik	2 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours	3 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 12:00 pm -Blood drive 5:15 pm - Kindermusik 	4 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	5
6 9:30am -Worship Service 9:30am -Communion 10:30am-Coffee Hour : 	7 5:30 pm -TOPS	8 8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 7:00 pm - B&G Mtg	9 Bulletin Info Due 9:30 am - Finance Comm Mtg 10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Worship & Music Mtg	10 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	11 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	12 8:00 am -Saturday Breakfast and Saturday Workday
13 9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30am-Coffee Hour	14 5:30 pm -TOPS	15 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Comm & Tech Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik	16 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 4:00 pm - Christian Ed Mtg	17 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	18 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	19
20 Worship in the Park 10:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am -Communion Picnic following Worship 6:00 pm - Board of Session 	21 5:30 pm -TOPS	22 8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik	23 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours	24 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	25 Newsletter Info Due 10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA 	26
27 9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30am - Coffee Hour	28 5:30 pm -TOPS	29 8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm - Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik	30 10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours	31 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 5:15 pm - Kindermusik		