



# **NORTH STAR**

## **September 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](http://www.northpres.church)**  
**Phone: 607-734-2977**

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**September, 2023**  
**A Letter from Pastor Hansen**

When Kate and I lived in Pendleton, Oregon, we tried growing tomatoes once or twice. In Pendleton, we would sometimes experience weeks in which the daytime highs were in the high 90s and low 100s for days and days on end. Between the sun beating down on the plants, the heat of the days, and the lack of any moisture other than what came from a hose, a sprinkler, or the underground sprinkler system, we were lucky to get wrinkled cherry tomatoes.

But you know what grew really well in Pendleton? Lavender. Our lavender plants were large, healthy plants that came back year after year. Their flowers would be covered by bees. The smell was wonderful. We would harvest it, dry it, and keep bundles of dried lavender throughout the year.

Here, it is different. Last year, we had one raised bed with tomato plants and between the sporadic rain and our watering, our tomato plants were happy, bountiful, and many a tomato made its way to the food pantry once we were overwhelmed by our harvest. This year we have two raised beds, even more plants, and I have learned that there is something called “too much rain.”

The stems and the leaves of overwatered tomato plants go from a healthy green to an unpleasant yellow. The fruit of these overwatered plants can split. This is what has happened to some, but not all, of our tomato plants. And as I write this paragraph, I am watching it rain, again.

In our lives as followers of Christ, there are times in our lives that feel dry and dusty. The heat and lack of water dominate our lives and all we want is to be doused in rain. Other times, our lives feel fruitful. There may not be a lot of rain, but we have access to enough water to make things grow. Other times, we discover that there is something called too much rain.

But if we think our faith is measured by how well we grow tomatoes, we are forgetting that not everyone is called to grow tomatoes or even wants to grow tomatoes. Depending on the climate, where tomatoes won't grow, plants like lavender or beets or Swiss chard will grow in abundance, much to the delight of the people who grew them. They are different, but so are we and so are the places we find ourselves in.

All too often we find ourselves measuring ourselves against others and trapping ourselves with ideas like our worth is measured by our success at growing tomatoes. We forget that we are loved by God as we are, where we are, and that we are freed by grace from the traps of comparing ourselves to one another.

It is when we embrace the grace of our God and let go of the comparisons that trap us that we become free to adapt to the dry and dusty times, the fruitful times, and even the times when there is too much rain. And when we accept the grace of being able to change and adapt, we will often be surprised by what we find will grow and bear fruit – much to our delight.

Warmly in Christ,  
Pastor Evan



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



Visit  
Our  
Website

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



## JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

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

**Available Sundays for September and October 2023 are:**

**September 3 & 10 and October 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.

## September Worship Volunteers

### Tech Booth

September 3 Steve Allison  
September 10 Steve Allison  
September 17 Bill Furnas  
September 24 Bill Furnas

### Counters

September 3 Phil Carpentier, Jeff Richards  
September 10 Allie Sevey, Wendy Swatling  
September 17 Janice Williams, Wendy Swatling  
September 24 Cindy & Kurt Kalweit

### Ushers

September 3 George Batrowny, Pat or Jeff Richards  
September 10 Nancy Isaacs, Kate Hansen  
September 17 Kurt & Cindy Kalweit  
September 24 Tim & Cheryl Allison

### Wee Worship

September 3 Deb Stamp, Payton Hoskins-Thomas  
September 10 Ann Motley and Becky Kowulich  
September 17 Allie & Scott Sevey  
September 24 Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea

### Communion

September 3 Suzie Hoskins, Jeff Richards, Wendy Swatling  
Janice Williams, Barb Duryea  
September 17 Jim Mosher, Steve Allison, Tim Allison  
Cheryl Allison, Barb Duryea

### Worship Assistant

September 3 Suzie Hoskins  
September 10 Linda Palmer  
September 17 Jim Mosher  
September 24 Kurt Kalweit

### Greeters

September 3 Ann Motley  
September 10 Allie & Scott Sevey  
September 17 Janice Williams  
September 24 Linda Palmer

### Coffee Hour

September 3 Cindy Kalweit, Annette Stevens  
September 10 Wendy Swatling, Janice Williams  
September 17 Cheryl Allison, Barb Duryea  
September 24 TBD

### Youth Reader

September 10 Alexii Hoskins-Thomas

### Youth Usher

September 3 No usher  
September 10 Paityn Perry  
September 17 David Hansen  
September 24 Payton Hoskins-Thomas

# TOGETHER WE MAKE A FAMILY



**September 3:**  
Evan, Kate, David & Eliana Hansen

**September 10:**  
Brian & Gail Hatfield

**September 17:**  
Paul & Denise Holland

**September 24:**  
Suzie Hoskins  
Leigha, Tessa, Evan, Payton, Alexii, Zeke

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

## Our Homebound Friends

**September 3:**  
Betty Carney  
74 Smith Rd.  
Millport, NY 14864

**September 10:**  
Wilma Padgett  
3015 Lake St.  
Elmira Heights, Ny 14903

**September 17:**  
Margery Schornstheimer  
758 Silver Pine Dr.  
St. Augustine, Fl 32092

**September 24:**  
Liz Bush  
37442 Loganberry Court  
Wedgewood Manor  
Zephyrhills, Fl 33542

*Please send  
a card to  
our  
Homebound  
Friends*



# 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 September 2022

I am truly amazed at how fast this summer has flown by. Seems we were just planning for VBS and now we are planning for a whole new Sunday school year. As we approach the start of Sunday school, we will be doing some things a little differently this year. We have decided to do a rotational schedule with three to four teachers for the prek-2<sup>nd</sup> grade children. A few of our Sunday school teachers are full time teachers and prefer not to teach every Sunday, which I totally understand. I'm excited about the rotational schedule and feel the kids and the teachers will both benefit from it.

A group of us have been working hard to update and organize the Jr/Sr high room so that it is more functional and definitely more inviting for the older kids to spend time in. We are in the process of priming and painting the walls, clearing out some of the well-worn furniture and just making it more kid friendly. We hope to have it completed by the start of Sunday school on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>.

New offering envelopes are here for the kids so, if you haven't received yours yet, please come see me and we will get you a box.

We are excited to kick this new year off. It takes lots of team work and lots of patience to keep our youth program running and we are so blessed to have caring volunteers who step up when the call is put out and even more blessed to have the support of our NPC family. If we only stop for a minute and listen, we will hear God guiding us and reassuring us that we are not alone.

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



## 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  
Monthly Wednesday 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.




## SHOPPING LIST

September Food Pantry

Shopping List:

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

**Soup**  
**Breakfast Cereal**  
**Ramen Noodles**

In addition, if your dentist gives you toothbrushes, floss, or toothpaste, and you don't need it, the pantry does! 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



## 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

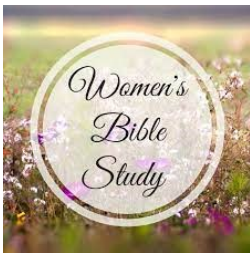
NOTICE: As CDC/NYS guidelines change, please stay tuned to our FB page & website for updates.



# 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](mailto:office@northpres.church) or call (607) 734-2977 Tues-Fri 9am to 3:30 pm.



### Women's Bible Study

will meet starting on September 12 at 6:00pm in the Library. They will be discussing the book "Now That Faith Has Come", a study of Galatians. For more information, please contact Suzie Hoskins.



### Men's Bible Study

will resume on September 12 at 4:00 pm in the Brisbane Rm. and will study the book, "We Believe, A Study of the Apostles' Creed", a line-by-line study of the Apostles' Creed. If you would like more info, please contact Kurt Kalweit or Steve Allison.



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



**Sunday SCHOOL**  
ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD  
*Growing in Faith Together*



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.



**Rehearsals will resume on September 6th.**

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





SPECIAL OFFERINGS

We are the Church, **Together**

## Special Offerings for September:

- Peace and Global Witness



The NPC food pantry has been blessed with literally hundreds of pounds of fresh produce this summer from local gardeners and organizations. New to our list of donors are students at LECOM, our neighbor down the street. These folks have grow and donated a variety of vegetables, including cucumbers, Swiss chard, eggplant, peppers and herbs.

We also wish to send a special thank you to Haskins Gardens to the multiple large donations of corn, squashes, cucumbers and more. They have been a true blessing!

**Thank you to all of our donors!!**



**Second Place East, Inc.**







**September donation  
Request:**

**Laundry Detergent**



# BORDER BUDDIES MINISTRIES

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

<p><b>I PARCIAL</b> OBSERVACIONES DEL DOCENTE</p> <p>_____</p> <p><u>Miriam Pérez</u> Firma del Padre de Familia</p>	 
<p><b>II PARCIAL</b> OBSERVACIONES DEL DOCENTE</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Firma del Padre de Familia</p>	<p><b>BOLETA DE CALIFICACIONES</b></p> <p>Centro Educativo: C.E.B.G "Fuerzas Armadas"</p> <p>Lugar: Col. Modesto Rodas Alvarado</p> <p>Municipio: Distrito Central</p> <p>Departamento: Francisco Morazán</p> <p>Nombre del alumno (a): Eliezer Daniel Peña Pérez</p> <p>Docente: Marcia Lily Mayorga</p> <p>Grado: Sexto Sección: "1" Año: 2023</p>
<p><b>III PARCIAL</b> OBSERVACIONES DEL DOCENTE</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Firma del Padre de Familia</p>	 
<p><b>IV PARCIAL</b> OBSERVACIONES DEL DOCENTE</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Firma del Padre de Familia</p>	

PARCIALES	PERSONALIDAD					APROVECHAMIENTO POR ÁREAS								
						COMUNICACIÓN								
	Puntualidad	Espíritu de Trabajo	Orden y Presentación	Sociabilidad	Moralidad	Español	Inglés	Educación Artística	Matemáticas	Ciencias Sociales	Educación Cívica	Ciencias Naturales	Educación Física y Deportes	Inasistencias
I	4	4	4	4	4	98	97	98	91	99	99	95	98	
II	3	2	3	3	2	82	86	90	83	93	90	75	92	
III														
IV														
Promedio anual por área														

Índice Académico:

Marcia Mayorga  
Firma del Docente



Roger Zapata  
Firma del Director (a)

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

ND	Not Assigned
S	Excellent
MB	Very Good
B	Good

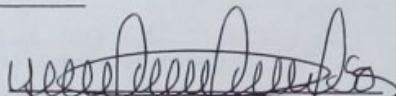
1	Needs to improve or not satisfactory
2	Good
3	Very Good
4	Excellent

**For 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students**

<u>Rendimiento académico</u>	Academic performance
<u>Educación Artística</u>	Art
<u>Español</u>	Spanish
<u>Inglés</u>	English
<u>Matemáticas</u>	Math
<u>Ciencias Naturales</u>	Natural Science
<u>Educación Cívica</u>	Civic Education
<u>Estudios Sociales</u>	Social Studies
<u>Educación Física y Deportes</u>	Gym
<u>Tecnología</u>	Computer and Crafts
<u>Inasistencias</u>	Missing days

PARCIALES	PERSONALIDAD					APROVECHAMIENTO POR ÁREAS										Inasistencias
						COMUNICACIÓN			Matemáticas	Ciencias Sociales	Educación Cívica	Ciencias Naturales	Educación Física y Deportes	Computación	Tecnología	
	Puntualidad	Espíritu de Trabajo	Orden y Presentación	Sociabilidad	Moralidad	Español	Inglés	Educación Artística								
I	S	S	S	S	S	100	98	100	97	100	100	100	100			0
II	S	S	S	S	S	98	98	100	95	98	100	100	100			0
III																
IV																
Promedio anual Por Área																

Índice Académico: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Firma del Docente

  
Firma del Director (a)





## BORDER BUDDIES MINISTRIES

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

Border Buddies would like to announce their Annual 5k **Walk and or Run** event.

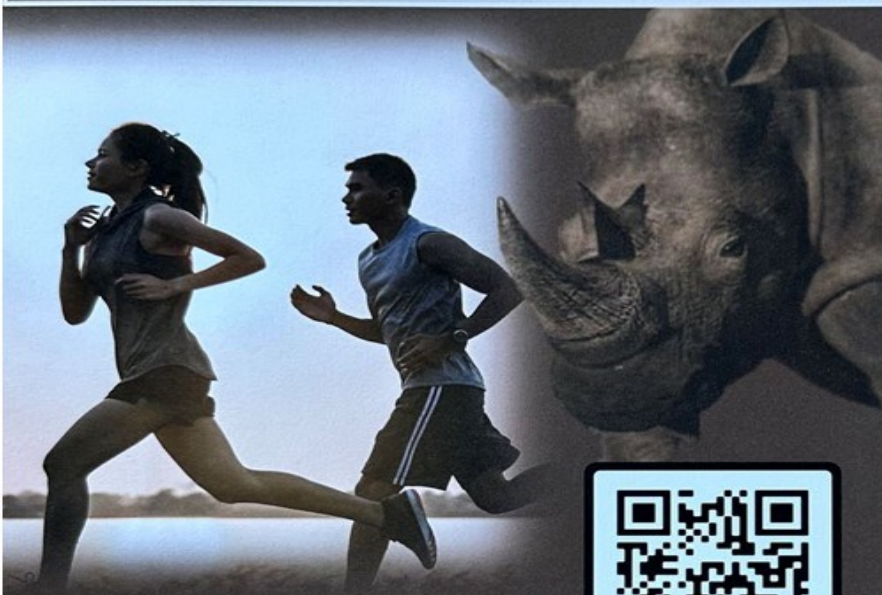
If you are unable to come that day or unable to show up because of Distance please consider doing the 5k walk in your area Virtual.

This event has many benefits:

- A. It joins the community together that supports us as your missionaries
- B. It empowers us to continue to Remodel and Build classrooms for very poor communities in Honduras
- C. When all of you come together like the area businesses that are supporting this event shows the community Unity, Presents the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and also Support for Mission work which may provoke someone else to want to join and support Border Buddies Ministries.
- D. Fellowship among neighbors which can build friendships.

To register you can scan the QR code or go online <http://www.borderbuddies5k.com>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 5K Walk and Run Run Like a Rhino 5K



For more information scan code with your  
phone camera. It will direct you to the website.



### Fundraiser Walk/Run Border Buddies Ministries

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Liv Farr Pavilion, Big Flats Community Park  
1 Registro Way, Big Flats NY 14814

Race starts at 10am  
Music & food provided post event  
\$30 adults, \$10 kids

Register at [borderbuddies5k.com](http://borderbuddies5k.com)

Fundraising for the construction efforts  
by **Border Buddies Ministries, Inc.**, a  
501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and  
missionaries in Honduras, Mike and  
Glenda Miller. Border Buddies is all  
about bringing community together and  
the 5K is a great way to have a fun  
family event while raising funds for the  
organization.

# What's Going on With Music at North!

We here at North Church are blessed to have a very active music department. In addition to having both a skilled organist and a gifted pianist, we are fortunate to have a variety of music groups who enhance our services each Sunday, as well as special occasions.

We have a Bell Choir who have learned not only how to play the different bells together, but many techniques to show the unique ways of how a bell can sound.

We have a Praise Band who, with guitar, electric piano and voices, lead our congregation in singing praises to God.

We have a Chancel Choir who sings anthems, most often in four part harmony, and learns to blend their voices in choral technique.

And, we are blessed to have a Youth Choir, made up of our youngest singers, who learn to sing their favorite songs, often with motions, as they present their songs to our congregation during the service.

As you can see, we have a variety of ages of people in our music program. They all work together to teach how God can be praised in many ways. If you are interested in any of our programs, please see any choir member or contact Paul Holland at 607-732-4885 or at [Wally52@stny.rr.com](mailto:Wally52@stny.rr.com) to find out more. We look forward to you hearing us as our music praises God each Sunday at North.



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:

## **PAUL HOLLAND - MUSIC DIRECTOR**

*Q: Do you have a hobby? If so, what?*

Paul: Hobby!? I'm not sure I have time for a hobby, even in retirement! Music is my main thing, and with the exception of my Grand-daughters and my wife, of course, is mainly all I do.

*Q: If you could use magic to do one mundane task for the rest of your life, what would it be?*

Paul: Travel. I'd love to have the time to travel and see the country. And of course, experience more music!

*Q: What has been your favorite vacation?*

Paul: When my step-daughter would go to dance competitions in Florida I'd get a chance to see and experience the ocean. To hear the roar, and bask in the sun!

*Q: What one band or musician would you love to play with? (living or dead)*

Paul: Easy. Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. I've ALWAYS loved their four part harmony and have always wanted to hear them "live". I would have loved to play guitar with them and join in their "tight" and beautiful harmonies!

*Q: What do you do when you need a mood boost?*

Paul: Watch comedies! When I need a laugh that's where I go!

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

Paul: For me, balony and cheese, coke and Pepsi, ice cream! Not to mention the healthy things my wife has there also!

*Q: Do you have a favorite hymn?*

Paul: It's a hymn called "How Can I Keep From Singing". Gee, imagine that?!

*Q: Do you prefer cats or dogs? Why?*

Paul: I'd have to say dogs. That's what I've had the most of. I've ALWAYS loved my dogs both to play with as well as just be comfy with.

*Q: What is your favorite verse or book of the Bible?*

Paul: My favorite verse of the Bible is 1 Corinthians 13. It's all about the gift of love. There's a song that I've been singing since I was a Senior in High School by the same name. It is my absolute favorite to sing at weddings and church services. It had it sung at my wedding.





# Fellowship



The next Saturday breakfast will be  
September 16 at 8:00 am. We will be  
joined by ACTS and  
First Presbyterian Church.

. French toast

. Strawberries/Blueberries

. Eggs

. Bacon

. Juice

. Coffee



Our next First Wednesday Fellowship Dinner will be held at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 6. It will be a dish to pass meal, which we have not done in quite awhile. It is your opportunity to wow the crowd with your favorite dish. The Fellowship Committee will provide sliced ham as a main course. Reservation required. Please call the office by Tuesday, September 5 so that we can make seating accommodations.

# COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The PC(USA)'s Unification Commission sets July 1, 2025, as the date for unifying the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

Commissioners approve a timeline to conclude their work in time for the 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2026

LOUISVILLE — Dividing its time almost evenly between closed and open sessions on Sunday, the [Unification Commission](#) — which is working to unify the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency — voted to approve a timeline to complete its work by the 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2026.



At the center of the proposed path adopted by the commission is the unification of the two entities — one the ecclesial arm of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the other its mission function — on July 1, 2025.

Commissioners approved a five-step process that begins with its current work and concludes with the 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. From now until early 2025, the commission will focus on the design of unification. During the latter half of 2025, it'll turn to implementation. The final step, in 2026, will be to align the new structure.

Photo by Clay Banks  
via Unsplash

Here are the five steps as outlined Sunday by Kathy Lueckert, president of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A corporation, who along with Kerry Rice of the OGA and Barry Creech of the PMA provide staff support to the commission:

- Step 1 during 2023 (Design) — includes identifying key 2025 budget priorities, consultations, governance exploration, and financial analysis.
- Step 2 during 2024 (Design) — includes completing an interim report to the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, developing the 2025 budget, determining the governance model including committee structures, completing an analysis of the culture within both agencies, and supporting systems work. That final task will be important, Lueckert said, because work will be needed on back-office services and other supporting systems “that are entangled and complex and will take a while to fix things we didn’t know needed to be fixed.”
- Step 3 during the early part of 2025 (Design) — includes developing the 2026 budget; finalizing an interim governance framework; beginning work on a new Organization for Mission, which describes how power and responsibility is shared in the Church; supporting systems work; and developing a staffing design.
- Step 4 during the latter part of 2025 (Implementation) — includes unification itself on July 1, developing the 2027 budget, implementing an interim governance framework, and finalizing the new Organization for Mission.
- Step 5 during 2026 (Alignment) — includes a unified budget and staffing rationale for the new agency, the final Organization for Mission for approval by commissioners elected to the 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, and the election of a new governing body, again by the General Assembly.

Staff leadership plans to meet later this week “to do some backwards planning” to identify the work that “needs to happen to make certain we are ready, and things are in place,” Lueckert told commissioners.

Kris Thompson, a ruling elder from National Capital Presbytery, said it’ll be helpful for the commission’s four working groups — Common Mission, Governance, Financial and Consultations — to send Lueckert the timelines they’ve developed to date. “Let’s get it all in one place,” Thompson said, “and let’s do it sooner than later.”

The Rev. Debra Avery from Great Rivers Presbytery described the Governance workgroup’s proposed timeline, which is even more ambitious than the one the entire commission approved Sunday. Avery noted that some of the deadlines proposed by the workgroup are “first readings” and won’t be voted on until later meetings of the commission.

During the consultations, said the Rev. Dr. Dee Cooper of Denver Presbytery, “we have said that your words matter, and we are listening. We want to make sure there is influence in these consultations on what the design is.”

The Rev. Scott Lumsden of the Financial workgroup said he and his colleagues plan to meet in Louisville early next month with leadership from PMA, OGA and the Administrative Services Group to help the workgroup develop key budget priorities. “We are still in the ‘seeking to understand’ phase,” Lumsden said, citing the [Commission Covenant](#) that’s read at the start of each commission meeting. As workgroup members listen, “it gives us a bit of the picture on culture, a significant factor we will be wrestling with as a commission.”

“I think it’s our responsibility as a commission to be attentive to the culture question and the people question,” Lumsden said. “It’ll be most important for us as we talk about governance and financial changes that we all take responsibility to be attentive to the culture ... It will affect not just staff, but the whole Church will be watching us very closely.”

“I think we will be surprised about how the conversation deepens and gives us its own timeline,” Lumsden said.

“I think we need to be clear as a commission we aren’t likely to change the culture,” Thompson said. It’s the role of commissioners to “do the listening we have been doing” and “get clearer” on the healthy and not-so-healthy parts of the culture, as well as “get comfortable moving from a listening position to a reflecting position so that people hear the concerns they have been raising reflecting back to them. While there’s more work to do around listening, I think we need to start communicating back about where we see things going.”

“We are going to beef up the way we are communicating with people,” said Commission Co-Moderator Cristi Scott Ligon. One idea is to create a frequently asked questions document. “We want to make sure everyone is hearing from us and not making up their own stories.”

“We are all in this together,” said the [Rev. Bronwen Boswell](#), the Acting Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA). “It’s going to take a lot of hard work and I want to be right there with you.”

“I’m so grateful for the work you’re doing,” said the Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis, Co-Moderator of the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2022). “Seeing the timeline and the framings is a sign the Spirit is moving. You’re doing really important work,” Starling-Louis told the 12-member commission, appointed last year by her and the other Co-Moderator of the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace. “I’m grateful to call you co-siblings on this co-creative work with God.”

Scott Ligon announced following the one-hour closed session that commissioners had formed small groups to provide feedback to the [General Assembly Nominating Committee](#) and the [Stated Clerk Nomination Committee](#).



# COMMUNICATION

## Theology program for incarcerated women answers the PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 call

### I was in prison, and you came to visit me'

by Hans Hallundbaek | Special to Presbyterian News Service

Any self-respecting Christian seminary will teach its students that the Jesus sheep and goat story in [Matthew 25](#) is a mandate to care for the less fortunate in society, including those in prison.



Dr. LaKeesha Walrond, president of New York Theological Seminary, addresses Master of Professional Studies graduates at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in New York. (Contributed photo)

Some seminary students take this to heart by becoming prison chaplains, but [New York Theological Seminary](#) (NYTS) does not stop there. For decades, this unique seminary has focused on Jesus' call for engagement with inner city social issues of poverty, underserved educational systems, racial disparity, and this year inaugurated a graduate theology program in a maximum security prison for women.

In 2019, when [Dr. LaKeesha Walrond](#) joined NYTS as its first female president and learned of the seminary's long history of theology programs for incarcerated men, her immediate question was, "What about incarcerated women?"

A Master of Professional Studies (MPS) program was quickly scheduled at [Bedford Hills Correctional Facility](#) for women in bucolic Westchester County, one hour north of New York City, and populated with close to 600 women, mainly from the New York City area.

This summer, a class of nine incarcerated women joyfully received their master's degree certificate in a festive ceremony performed by NYTS' top management and faculty team, in front of attending family members, friends and community volunteers. Walrond said, "This program is really about restoring humanity and letting the women know they have transferable skills to prepare them for the best life they can have while on the inside and for when they come home."

"Teaching in a maximum-security prison is a unique experience for seminary professors," says [Dr. Nancy Fields](#), who is the Assistant Professor of Supervised Ministry at NYTS and a key member of the teaching team. "The teacher learns from the student what to teach. The teacher is learning, and the student is learning. That is what I bring to this experience, because the students are teaching each other through small groups and assignments, in which they get an opportunity to share and bond. This is important in an environment where the women are conditioned not to trust because you always must watch your back."

The MPS Program is chaired by [Dr. Willie D. Francois III](#), who in addition to serving as Associate Professor of Liberation Theology at the seminary oversees the MPS program at the Bedford Hills prison and the seminary's MPS program at the [Sing Sing Correctional Facility](#), a maximum-security male prison located on the Hudson River in the township of Ossining.

Of his experience as director of this seminary outreach effort, he says, "The MPS program furnishes the greatest opportunity, to date, to fulfill my vocation as an abolitionist as I attempt to do life with brilliant women and men curious about human potential, justice and the sacred."

The bold action by NYTS President Walrond to bring the seminary program to a female prison not only recognizes the increasing incarceration rate for women but demonstrates the seminary's ability to carry forward the NYTS spirit of adapting to changing world situations, demonstrated since its inception in 1900.

A good example in 1968 was hiring Dr. George W. Webber as president. A graduate of [Union Theological Seminary](#) in New York City and a World War II veteran, Webber was tasked with rescuing the rapidly declining seminary located in a posh district between the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and the United Nations. He did this successfully by restructuring the seminary's financials, selling the 12-story building, moving to rented space in downtown Manhattan and focusing on inner city ministry.

In the early 1980s, this realignment of the seminary's outreach included a master's program in Sing Sing Correctional Facility. Since that launch, the program has graduated about 15 men per year. According to Francois, "The success of the program ranks well beyond our 0% recidivism rate during the last 10 to 12 years, though we take great pride in such metrics. More so, we marvel at what our graduates go home to produce as social workers, educators, anti-incarceration nonprofit leaders, social entrepreneurs and activists."

The seminary's ongoing adaptability to changing time is currently demonstrated in the recent announcement of a strategic partnership between New York Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary presided over by Union President [the Rev. Dr. Serene Jones](#). Founded in 1836, UTS is the oldest private, independent, non-denominational seminary in the United States. It's long been known as a bastion of progressive Christian scholarship. It lists prominent thinkers and change makers among its faculty and alumni; names like Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Dr. Paul Tillich, the Rev. Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Dr. James Cone, as well as more luminaries like U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock and Dr. Cornel West.

The cooperation between two seminaries each experienced and progressive in their own ways and each with strong and dynamic female leadership bodes well not just for the seminaries, but for our increasingly separated world.

Such combined efforts are also promising for the ongoing efforts to secure for all, including those imprisoned, the human rights outlined in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948. For those who enjoy observing synchronicities, it is an auspicious coincidence the partnership year of the two seminaries is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebrating that declaration.

May the determined efforts these two New York City seminaries to advance progressive theology in an era of darkening forces serve as an inspiration for faith organizations and seminaries across the country as well as globally, while strengthening [the Mathew 25 charge](#) of increased community engagement in resolving social issues, including the recognition of the inborn dignity of all God's children, including those incarcerated in our midst.

*The Rev. Dr. Hans Hallundbaek is a proud graduate from the NYTS Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity programs and is excited about the seminary's prison theology programs and its potential around the country and the world. Presbyterians worldwide will be pleased to know that Union Theological Seminary was founded in 1836 by Presbyterians.*



The graduates of New York Theological Seminary's inaugural Master of Professional Studies program at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. In the background are NYTS administrators and faculty members and the prison superintendent. (Contributed photo)





## Fall Harvest Fun Day Registration

[https://  
www.campwhitman.org/event-  
calendar/pathfinder-retreat?  
mc\\_cid=892b98f925&mc\\_eid=3  
fae7978a0](https://www.campwhitman.org/event-calendar/pathfinder-retreat?mc_cid=892b98f925&mc_eid=3fae7978a0)

Our Fall Harvest Fun Day is an opportunity for our Pathfinder Campers (adults with developmental disabilities) to enjoy a special day out at camp with their friends, family, and caregivers.

The cost for the day is \$20 for campers, and \$10 for caregivers which includes lunch, snacks and activities. Scholarships available upon request.

Register by September 25.

## Fall Youth Retreat Registration

[https://  
www.campwhitman.org/event-  
calendar/youth-  
retreat-2023?  
mc\\_cid=892b98f92  
5&mc\\_eid=3fae797  
8a0](https://www.campwhitman.org/event-calendar/youth-retreat-2023?mc_cid=892b98f925&mc_eid=3fae7978a0)

**MY NAME IS**

Names are important -- not just to Eminem and Beyonce, Romeo and Juliet, but to all of us. At this day-long **retreat for middle- and high-schoolers**, we'll explore the ways that our names do and do not define us.

This is an excellent opportunity to reconnect with camp friends and do some of your favorite camp activities (weather permitting)!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**  
10 AM - 5 PM, \$35 INCLUDES LUNCH





## Visit Camp Whitman this September!

This fall we have three special events that you are invited to attend.

<https://www.campwhitman.org/event-calendar>



### PATHWAYS TO THE HOLY

*September 15, 16 & 17*

**CAMP WHITMAN ON SENECA LAKE**

*Join us for an afternoon, a day, or the whole weekend!*

Pathways to the Holy  
Registration

[https://  
campwhit-  
man.campbrainregistration.com/](https://campwhitman.campbrainregistration.com/)

Join us for one, two, or three days of workshops and restorative activities focused on creative spiritual nourishment. You can choose the workshops, activities, meals, and accommodations that fit your schedule and your budget.

	WORKSHOP OPTION 1	WORKSHOP OPTION 2	RESTORATIVE ACTIVITIES
SESSION 1: FRIDAY 1-3 pm	<i>Indian Rangoli Sand Art (Katie Jo Suddaby) - \$75 per person</i>	<i>Enneagram (Paul &amp; Susan Rack) - \$50 per person</i>	<i>Canoe/Kayak Trek to Miles Wine Cellars – Adults Only (John &amp; Carolyn) - \$25 per person</i>
SESSION 2: FRIDAY 4-6 pm	<i>Tibetan Buddhist Sand Mandalas (Katie Jo Suddaby) - \$75 per person</i>		
DINNER @ 6 pm	\$18 per person		
SESSION 3: FRIDAY 7:30-9:30 pm	<i>Keynote: Spiritual Journeys – Palestine, El Camino, Taize, Iona - no charge</i>		
BONUS: SATURDAY 7:30-8:30 am	<i>Leaf-Peeping and Bird-Eavesdropping Walk (John &amp; Carolyn DeHority) - \$10 per person</i>		
BREAKFAST @ 8:30 am	\$12 per person		
SESSION 4: SATURDAY 10 am-12 pm	<i>Indian Cooking (Vinod &amp; Kavita Gnanaraj) - \$20 per person</i>	<i>Forest Craft - For Kids 6+ and Caregivers (Bruce Howard) - \$20 per person</i>	<i>Morning Yoga (Emily Harris) - \$10 per person</i>
LUNCH @ 12 pm	\$15 per person		
SESSION 5: SATURDAY 1-3 pm	<i>Tie-Dyeing and Batik (Becka and Joelle) - \$20 per person</i>	<i>Sacred Steps: Walking with Creation (Kevin Hershey) - \$20 per person</i>	<i>“Try It Out” Boating: Canoes, Kayaks, and SUPs (John &amp; Carolyn) - \$20 per person</i>
SESSION 6: SATURDAY 4-6 pm	<i>“Savor(in) the Moment” (Emily Harris) - \$20 per person</i>		<i>Pontoon Boat Ride – all ages (John &amp; Carolyn) - \$20 per person</i>
DINNER @ 6 pm	\$18 per person		
SESSION 7: SATURDAY 7-9 pm	<i>Campfire at Sam’s Point: Skits, Songs, Stories, S’Mores, &amp; Stargazing – ALL AGES - no charge</i>		
BONUS: SUNDAY 7:30-8:30 am	<i>Morning Yoga (Emily Harris) - \$10 per person</i>		
BREAKFAST @ 8:30 am	\$12 per person		
WORSHIP @ 9 am	<i>Holy Waters Worship – ALL AGES (Becka Fergusson-Lutz) - no charge</i>		
SESSION 8: SUNDAY 10 am-12 pm	<i>“Growing Our Gardens, Growing Ourselves” (Petra Page-Mann) - \$20 per person</i>	<i>Forest Craft - For Adults (Bruce Howard) - \$20 per person</i>	<i>Canoe, Kayak, and SUP rentals available (unsupervised) - \$20 per person</i>
LUNCH @ 12 pm	\$15 per person		
SESSION 9: SUNDAY 1-3 pm	<i>Spirituality of Food (Lea Kone) - \$20 per person</i>		<i>Canoe, Kayak, and SUP rentals available (unsupervised) - \$20 per person</i>



Finance Committee Meeting  
September 13 at 9:30 am



Communication & Technology  
Committee Meeting  
September 12 at 10:00 am

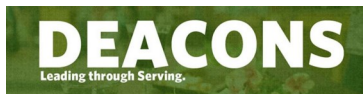
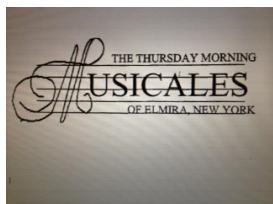


Rally Day  
Sunday, September 10



Children & Youth Sunday  
September 10

Thursday Morning  
Musicales  
September 21  
at 9:00 am

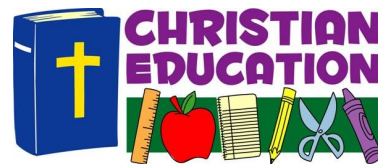


Deacons' Meeting  
September 21 at  
11:00 am



Music & Worship  
Committee Meeting  
September 13 at  
3:00 pm.

Christian Ed  
Committee  
Meeting  
September 20  
at 4:00 pm.



Information to be included  
in the October North Star  
Newsletter is due to the  
Church Office by  
Monday, October 25.







Staff Relations Meeting  
September 5 at 9:00 am



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.



Wednesday, September 13  
Set up at 3:00 pm  
Dinner at 5:00 pm



Buildings & Grounds  
Committee Meeting  
September 12 at 7:00 pm



**American Red Cross  
BLOOD DRIVE**

**Give Blood • Give Life**

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



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  
September 17 at  
6:00 pm.



**Blessing of the Backpacks**

Rally Day  
September 10



**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.



# NPC Board of Session

Session Summary  
August 20, 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 Cindy Kalweit.

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the May 21, 2023 and June 18, 2023 meetings were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Session reviewed the Financial Statements including the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for July 2023 and the Account Activity Summary for the Endowment Fund. Both total income and total expenses are down year-to-date. To date, \$91,000 has been transferred from the Endowment Fund to meet expenses. This is \$17,000 less than budgeted. The Endowment Fund gained more than \$46,000 in July. The Treasurer's report was received, with thanks, by the Session.

Pastor Hansen reported that his family will be hosting a foreign exchange student from Karachi, Pakistan. Schimmel Hafeez will be enrolled as a Junior at Elmira High School. Pastor Hansen also reported that he is a member of the newly formed Committee on Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery of Geneva. Session will begin a new book study "Loving the Church You Lead".

The following actions were taken by The Session:

- Authorized Pat Richards to open a new custody account (6 month CD) on behalf of NPC at Chemung Canal Trust Company in the amount of \$14,953 (proceeds from PCUSA Investment CD).

- Authorized Pat Richards and Kurt Kalweit as signatories on the account. Pastor Hansen was also authorized as a signatory if neither Pat or Kurt is available, and action must be taken.

- Approved a request of Jim and Carol Guagliardo to become members of North Presbyterian Church by transfer of membership from Palm Coast United Methodist Church.

- Approved the donation of two filing cabinets from Ann Motley.

- Authorized worship and the Lord's Supper for the September 26, 2023 Presbytery meeting (NPC hosting).

- Adopted the Guidelines for Building Use as recommended by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

- Approved a bid of \$74,500 by Hale Roofing for replacement of the roof (Sanctuary, Nursey and Wee-Worship rooms).

# NPC Board of Session

Reconsidered the previous motion authorizing Pat Richards to open a new custody account (CD) in the amount of \$14,953 and Approved that the funds be used to help pay for the new roof.

Approved the purchase of MSNswitch that can be used remotely to control/set HVAC. Cost is approximately \$100. B&G has funds in their budget for the purchase.

Approved discontinuation of the log form for making copies.

Ratified the cancellation of Communion on July 2, 2023 (approved by consensus June 23, 2023 via email).

Ratified the use of the Sanctuary on August 12, 2023 for funeral of Lyle Motley (approved by consensus August 7, 2023 via email.)

Approved an agreement with Orchestra of the Southern Tier Finger Lakes.

Approved Hanging of the Greens for November 26, 2023. A dish-to-pass luncheon will be held immediately following worship.

Approved the Food Box Donation Policy as recommended by the Mission and Outreach Committee.

Approved placement of permanent sign on Food Donation Box.

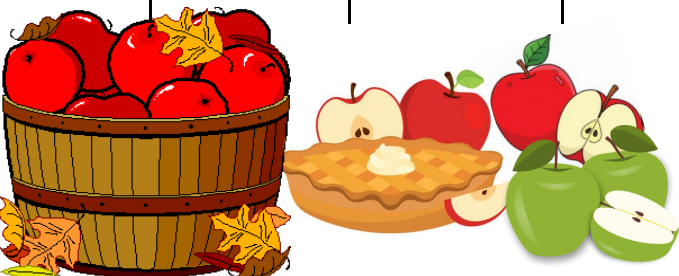







Approved Special Offerings of the PCUSA (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, Christmas Joy) for 2024 and Church World Service Blanket/Tool Sunday (s).

Following a lengthy discussion and months of meetings of the Ad Hoc Building Committee (created by Session in December of 2022 following a request that air conditioning units be added to the second floor), Session unanimously Approved moving the Pre-K to Second Grade and Third Grade to Fifth Grade Sunday school classrooms, currently located on the second floor, to the first floor no later than the second Sunday in January, 2024. The location of these classrooms on the first floor is yet to be determined. Session members will help facilitate this move.

The meeting adjourned in prayer at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Kalweit,  
Clerk of Session

# SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	2
3  9:30am -Worship Service 9:30am -Communion 10:30am-Coffee Hour  	4 Labor Day  5:30 pm -TOPS  	5  8:45 am -Yoga 9:00 am - Staff Relations Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik	6 Bulletin Info Due  10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 pm -Wed. Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Praise Band 7:00 pm - Worship Svc. 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	7  8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 12:00 pm -Blood drive 5:15 pm - Kindermusik  	8  10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	9
10 Rally Day/Children & Youth Sunday  9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30am-Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School  	11  5:30 pm -TOPS	12  8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Comm & Tech Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 7:00 pm - B & G Mtg	13 Bulletin Info Due  9:30 am - Finance Comm Mtg 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Worship & Music Mtg 6:15 pm - Bell Choir 7:00 pm - Praise Band 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	14  8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	15  10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	16  8:00 am - Saturday Fellowship Breakfast w/ ACTS & First Pres
17  9:30 am -Worship Service 9:30 am -Communion 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 6:00 pm - Board of Session  	18  5:30 pm -TOPS	19  8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik	20 Bulletin Info Due  10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 4:00 pm - Christian Ed Mtg 6:15 pm - Bell Choir 7:00 pm - Praise Band 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	21  8:45 am -Yoga 9:00 am - Thurs Morning Musicales 10:00 am -Kindermusik 11:00 am - Deacons' Mtg 5:15 pm - Kindermusik  	22  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA	23
24  9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School	25 Newsletter Info Due  5:30 pm -TOPS  	26  8:45 am -Yoga 1:00 pm -Presbytery Meeting 3:00 pm - Kindermusik	27  10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm - Bell Choir 7:00 pm - Praise Band 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	28  8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	29  10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	30