



# NORTH STAR

## December 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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**December, 2023**  
**A Letter from Pastor Hansen**

Our family spent this past Thanksgiving with my family in Cincinnati, Ohio. On the day after Thanksgiving, we decided to brave the local mall. Our excursion into Black Friday at the mall only lasted about an hour. The place was packed with people. Some of the stores had long lines to get in. Some people looked glad to be there, but most had that look of “I am here because I need to be here to get the best deal possible and I need to get that deal before anyone else gets it first.” There was an infectious impatience that filled the air and I certainly was not immune from it.

Between now and Christmas Day is, for many, one of the most stressful times of the year. There are decorations to put up, trees to balance and trim with lights and ornaments, gatherings to plan. There is the pressure of gift giving. There is the yearly letter we get which reminds us that we had meant to write a Christmas letter this year as well, but we never got around to it. Many of us will spend part of the next month or so traveling to or from family gatherings. We may hear the tune and lyrics of Andy Williams’ Christmas standard, “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” but often it feels anything but that. There is so much to do.

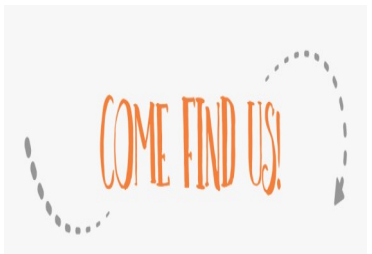
The buildup to Christmas also coincides with the liturgical season of Advent and the church calendar’s beginning of a new year on the first Sunday of Advent. There is a tension between the hustle and bustle of the Christmas holiday and Advent. It is the tension between a holiday season in which we feel the pressure of getting everything right and the grace offered to us in Advent.

It is easy to get swept up and caught in the belief that if we just get it right then everything will be fine. But that is not the message of Advent. Advent reminds us that we cannot solve the ills that plague this world; and that God is at work in this world in the most improbable of ways. Advent shouts from the rooftops that our hope is a helpless infant most improbably born to Mary, who’s betrothed, Joseph, most improbably stayed with her despite the whispers and scandal of her pregnancy.

As we journey together during this time of Advent and make our way towards Christmas, take heart and lean into the grace that Advent promises us. A promise that proclaims that our hope is not in us getting it right or being perfect or getting the best deal, but in the grace of our God. A grace that assures us that God is at work in the most improbable of ways, and in the places we least expect it. Even in shopping malls on Black Friday.

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 December 2023 and January 2024 are:**

**December 17 and January 7, 14, 21 & 28.**

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

If you are not in the sanctuary on  
your chosen date,  
we will be in touch with you to make a plan.

## December Worship Volunteers

### Tech Booth

December 3	Steve Allison
December 10	Bill Furnas
December 17	Bill Furnas
December 24	Steve Allison
December 31	Steve Allison

### Ushers

December 3	Jerry Russell, Joe Rolls, Bob Russell
December 10	Wendy Swatling, Barb Duryea
December 17	Amanda Korfman, Ann Motley
December 24	Tim & Cheryl Allison
December 31	Nancy Isaacs, Kate Hansen

### Communion

December 3	Tim Allison, Suzie Hoskins, Kate Hansen, Sylvia Tuller, Lori Lee
December 17	Linda Palmer, Jim Mosher, Lori Lee, Vicki Balon, Wendy Swatling

### Greeters

December 3	Joan Barneski/Alice Kain
December 10	Ann Motley
December 17	Allie & Scott Sevey
December 24	Janice Williams
December 31	Linda Palmer

### Youth Reader

December 10	David Hansen
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### Counters

December 3	Cindy & Kurt Kalweit
December 10	Annette Stevens, Jim Mosher
December 17	Janice Williams, Dolores Cummings
December 24	Allie Sevey, Wendy Swatling
December 31	Phil Carpentier, Jeff Richards

### Wee Worship

December 3	Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea
December 10	Liz Wilson, Wally Ferriter
December 17	Deb Stamp, Payton Hoskins-Thomas
December 24	Ann Motley, Becky Kowulich
December 31	Allie & Scott Sevey

### Worship Assistant

December 3	Suzie Hoskins
December 10	Tim Allison
December 17	Linda Palmer
December 24	Wendy Swatling
December 31	TBD

### Coffee Hour

December 3	Wendy Swatling, Janice Williams
December 10	Karen Wilson, Liz Wilson
December 17	Melanie Fitzpatrick
December 24	Cheryl Allison, Barb Duryea
December 31	Bobbi Furnas, Pat Richards

### Youth Usher

December 3	Mackenzie Mosko
December 10	Alexii Hoskins-Thomas
December 17	Charlie Wilkinson
December 24	Wally Ferriter
December 31	Paityn Perry

# TOGETHER WE MAKE A FAMILY



**December 3:**  
Lois McNaughton  
Gregory John, Luke Alexander, John

**December 10:**  
Christine Miller  
Jennifer, Vinnie, Amila, Chase

**December 17:**  
Jim Mosher  
Kimberly, Josh, Lynn

**December 24:**  
Ann Motley

**December 31:**  
Jim & Linda Palmer

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

## Our Homebound Friends

**December 3:**  
Carol Shellman  
17757 Berwick Tpke  
Gillette, PA 16925-9607

**December 10:**  
Cynthia Klungle  
111 Schuyler St.  
Montour Falls, NY 14865

**December 17:**  
Marilyn Edwards  
520 Harcourt Dr.  
Elmira, NY 14904

**December 24:**  
Karen & Chris Paul  
136 Ridge Rd.  
Horseheads, NY 14845

**December 31:**  
Hal Wolfe  
42 Sing Sing Rd.  
Horseheads, NY 14845

*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 December 2023

Sunday School – John Galvin has stepped down as Jr./Sr. High co-teacher. Barb Duryea has stepped in to replace him and will be co- teaching with Amanda Korfman.

Teachers had a meeting in October to discuss the Sunday school room move. A list was made up per request of Building and Grounds of all the items which need to be addressed before the move.

Family/Church activities – On Sunday 10/29/23 the Sunday schools participated in a Halloween party which include cookie decorating, games and crafts. We had approx. 15 kids participate and all had a great time.

We also planned Holiday cookie decorating and crafts along with decorating the Christmas tree in Willets on Sunday 11/26/23, which was the “Hanging of the Greens”.

The kids have asked if we could have a sleepover sometime after Christmas. We talked about end of January/Feb. for the sleepover.

### Youth Group -

North Pres. joined First Pres. on Sunday 10/29/23, in the afternoon, for Trunk or Treat. It was a rainy day but it didn't dampen the spirits of everyone there. 78 kids turned out with family.

We will be meeting on Saturday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am to stuff stockings for the pantry children. First Pres. will be joining us and we will be providing breakfast. We have 81 children ages 0-12 yrs signed up. Thank you to Becky Kowulich, Barb Duryea, Lori Lee, Allie Sevey and Liz Wilson for helping sort and organize items for the stockings. I would also like to thank everyone who has donated items or made hats and mittens for the stockings.

We (NPC and First Pres) are talking about having a beach party sometime in January for our January Youth Group get together.

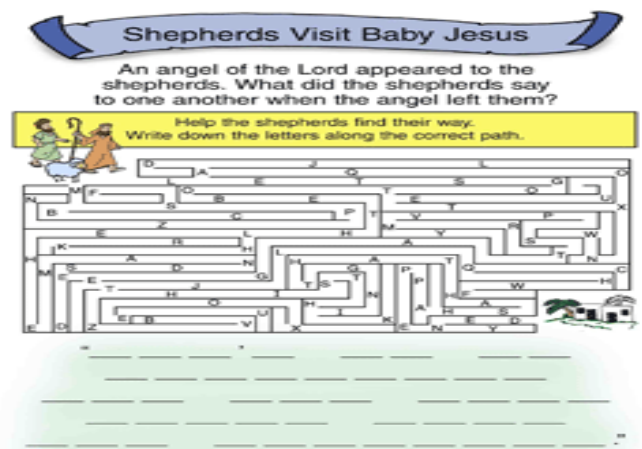
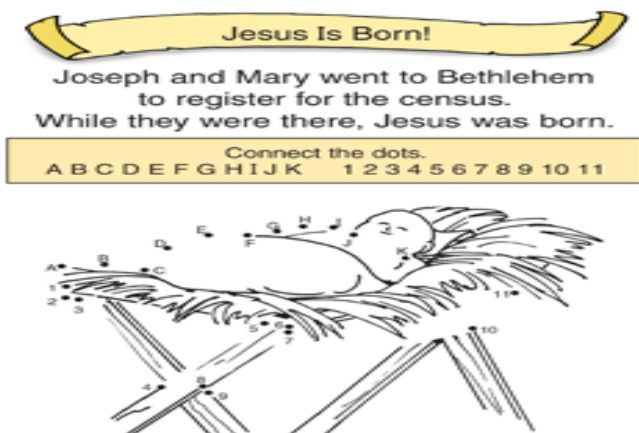
Other – The Harvest dinner on 11/04/23 went well with 242 dinners being sold. Youth Ministry brought in \$2,019.71 after expenses (\$655.99). Our congregation was very generous with donations of turkeys and pies. The bake sale held on election Tuesday, 11/07/23, brought in \$199.50. Thank you to all of our resident bakers who contributed goodies for the sale.

We have Pre-K -2 scheduled for Advent candle lighting on 12/03, the JR/SR high on 12/10 and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade on 12/17. The adult Sunday school will be lighting the Advent candle on Christmas eve. As we enter into the New Year, may we remember to give and show grace and kindness towards one another. Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Very Happy New Year!!!

Blessings in Christ,

Deb Stamp

Dir. of Children and Youth Ministry



## 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

December Food Pantry

Shopping List:

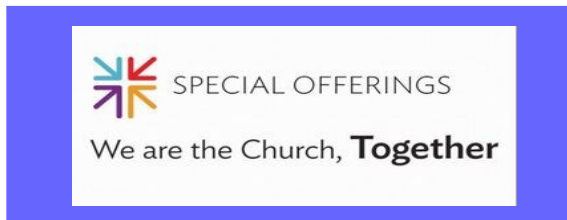
The following items are needed this month for the Food Pantry:

**Canned Soup**  
**Oatmeal**  
**Canned Pasta**

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



### Special Offerings for December:

- Piano Maintenance
- Christmas Joy Offering

### 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

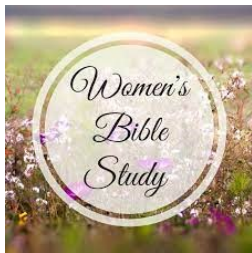
**NOTICE:** As CDC/NYS guidelines change, please stay tuned to our FB page & website for updates.



# Reminder

## Important Reminders:

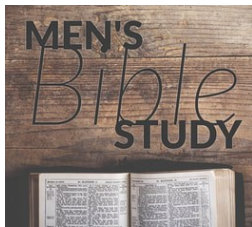
- The church office needs your contact information. Please let us know if anything has changed.
- If you need to contact the church office for any reason, please feel free to email [office@northpres.church](mailto:office@northpres.church) or call (607) 734-2977 Tues-Fri 9am to 3:30 pm.



**Women's Bible Study**  
will resume in January and meets  
Tuesdays at 6:00pm in the Library. For  
more information, please contact  
Suzie Hoskins or the church office.



**Wednesday Noon Bible Study**  
is studying "Evangelism". If you  
would like more information or  
study materials, please contact  
Bobbi Furnas or the church office.



**Men's Bible Study**  
meets Tuesdays at 4:00 pm in the  
Brisbane Rm. and is studying 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, Steve  
Allison or the church office.



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



Sunday school meets weekly at 11:00 am.



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



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



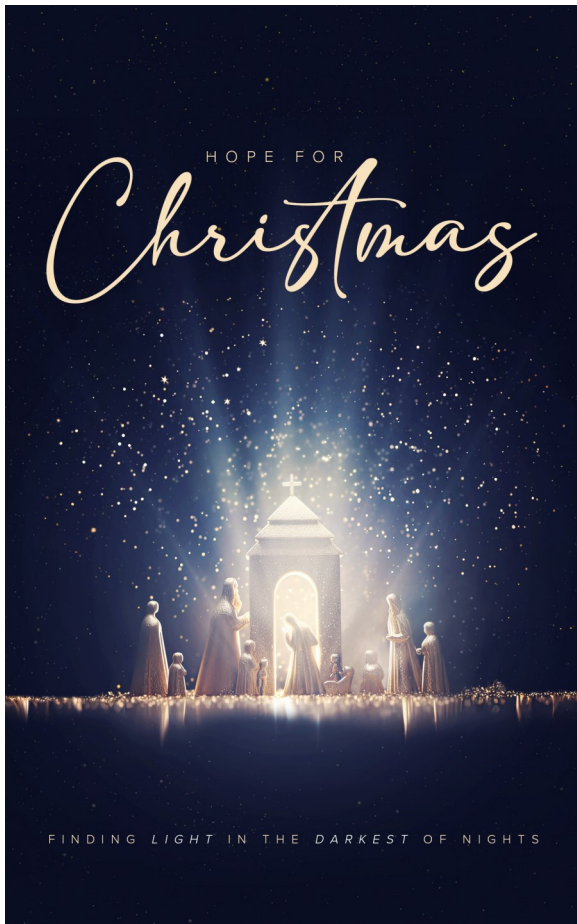
The Good News Singers'  
practices are on Sundays  
at 10:45 am.



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







**Advent Weekly Worship Services with  
Communion will be:**

**Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm.**

**Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm.**

**Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm.**

**Please join us!**



**Second Place East, Inc.**



**December donation  
Request:**

**Mops**

# **2023 GATEWAYS CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**DECEMBER 14, 2023**

IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN OUR AREA, OUR NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STARTED THIS MISSION IN 2003 TO PROVIDE A CHRISTMAS DINNER TO THE CLIENTS OF THE GATEWAYS PROGRAM.

THEIR MEAL STARTS WITH HORS D'OEUVRES AND PUNCH, FOLLOWED BY SERVED DINNER WITH DRINKS. DESSERT IS SERVED DURING A VISIT WITH SANTA, WHO HANDS OUT THEIR CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

**AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THIS IS A HUGE UNDERTAKING AND WE NEED A LOT OF VOLUNTEERS. THE WAYS IN WHICH YOU MAY VOLUNTEER ARE:**

**10AM – 5PM - KITCHEN** – PREPARE ENTREES, MASHED POTATOES, GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE, GLAZED CARROTS, PREPARE PLATES WITH FOOD. PREPARE FRUIT TRAYS, CHEESE, PEPPERONI, AND CRACKER TRAYS.

**10AM - SET-UP WILLITS HALL** – TABLES, CHAIRS, DECORATE TABLES, PREPARE TRAIL MIX FAVORS.

**4PM – DRINKS AND CAKE** – PREPARE AND SET UP COFFEE, PUNCH, SPARKLING APPLE JUICE AND CUT THE CAKE.

**4:30PM – SERVERS NEEDED** – SERVE FOOD, DRINKS, AND DESSERT TO EACH TABLE AND HELP TO CLEAR TABLES BEFORE DESSERT IS SERVED.

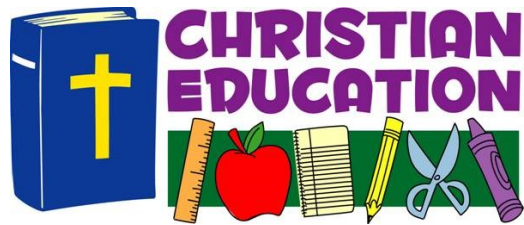
**5PM – 7PM CLEANUP NEEDED IN KITCHEN AND WILLITS.** – WASH POTS AND PANS, RUN DISH WASHER, PUT AWAY ALL KITCHEN ITEMS. FINISH CLEARING TABLES, DECORATIONS, TAKE DOWN TABLES AND PUT CHAIRS AWAY.

**THERE IS A SIGN – UP SHEET ON THE WELCOME DESK**

**OR YOU MAY CONTACT ME BY PHONE #607-483-2208 OR EMAIL [bduryea2002@yahoo.com](mailto:bduryea2002@yahoo.com).**

**GOD GIVES US MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE HIS LOVE BY SERVING OTHERS.**

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.**



## Upcoming Events



This year, our Sunday School classes will light the advent candles during each Sunday's service.

December 3 will be the Pre-K through Second Grade Class.

December 10 will be the Jr/Sr High Class.

December 17 will be the Third through Fifth Grade Class.

December 24 will be the Adult Sunday School Class.

The Good News Singers will be singing for our services on December 3 and December 24.



**On December 24, at the 9:30 am Christmas Eve Service, youth will participate in the annual Christmas Pageant.**

**Thank you to all who donated gifts and extra stockings for our Pantry Christmas Stocking program this year!**

\*Stocking stuffing will be Saturday, December 2 at 10:00 am.

\*Stocking delivery will be Saturday, December 9 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We will be delivering **81** stockings this year, so volunteers are happily accepted! If you would like to help, please contact Deb Stamp at [youth@northpres.church](mailto:youth@northpres.church).







## The changing religious landscape

*A look at church affiliation trends, preconceptions about decline and the future of ministry.*

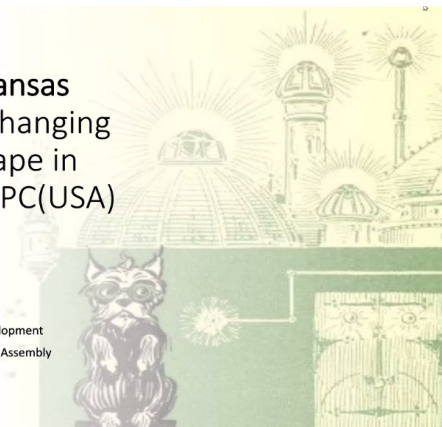
*Fred Tangeman | Office of the General Assembly - November 15, 2023*

Saturday at the [Moderators' Conference](#), the Rev. Dr. Tim Cargal led an afternoon workshop looking at the realities of church affiliation in the 21st century, including data points that contradict a number of preconceptions about congregational ministry in 2023.

Cargal, Associate Director for [Ministry Leadership Development](#) in the Office of the General Assembly, opened "We're Not in Kansas Anymore: The Changing Religious Landscape in USA and PC(USA)" by telling in-person and Zoom attendees they would receive access to the presentation slide deck, including a slide containing citation footnotes for further exploration. The workshop's title alludes to both "The Wizard of Oz" and Thomas Frank's book "[What's The Matter with Kansas?](#)", a look at the reasons for Kansas's political turn from progressive to conservative.

"We are Not in Kansas Anymore": The Changing Religious Landscape in the USA and the PC(USA)

2023 Moderators' Conference  
November 11, 2023  
Rev. Timothy B. Cargal, Ph.D.  
Associate Director, Ministry Leadership Development  
Mid Council Ministries, Office of the General Assembly



Opening presentation slide, November 11, 2023. *Via Zoom.*

Throughout the presentation Cargal drew from published reports about religious community affiliation in the United States, including work by Gallup, Pew, EPIC (Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations) and the Survey Center on American Life. Digging into the data, he identified trends that predated the pandemic and ones it accelerated.

The data shows that congregational membership in the United States experienced "a high-water mark" in the years between 1940 and the end of the 20th century. Since 2000, the decline in membership across religious institutions is what Cargal described as "a regression to the mean ... in historical terms, churches were overperforming in the middle of the last century." That reality is important to keep in mind as one considers narratives of declining memberships and root causes.

And decline there certainly has been, much of it attributable to the trend of Christians in the late 20th century shifting to a category of "religiously unaffiliated" that continues today. Under one scenario of accelerated disaffiliation that Cargal mentioned, only one in three Americans will identify as Christian in 2070.

A major cause of religious disaffiliation is individualism and anti-institutionalism, Cargal said. Although many Gen-Xers were raised with some familiarity, Millennials and Gen-Zers increasingly have none. Baby Boomers often instilled their own anti-institutionalism in their children, a pattern that has continued over time. That's true for churches, but also other groups such as the Kiwanis Club. "[Younger generations] do not form associations," Cargal said. "They may form movements but those movements don't form institutions." Being unaffiliated is now a "stickier" identity than being Christian.

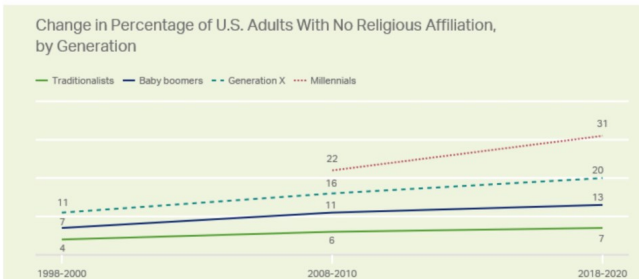


The Rev. Dr. Tim Cargal (third from left) and some workshop attendees, November 11, 2023. *Via Zoom.*

The disaffiliation trend holds up across conservative and liberal churches, and mainline and evangelical ones. Although mainline churches saw the largest decreases in church attendance during the pandemic, evangelical and Roman Catholic congregations also experienced significant decreases.

Cargal noted that the highly educated have been more frequent attendees of church in recent years,

#### USA Religious Affiliation by generational cohort in 21<sup>st</sup> Century



Presentation slide from report showing religious disaffiliation by generational cohort, November 11, 2023. *Via Zoom.*

feeling especially stressed during the pandemic, with one likely cause a diminishing number of volunteers at a time when increased expectations of service were placed on churches. Even without the pandemic, the increasing number of disaffiliated Gen-X Americans now entering their peak volunteer years was always going to present a challenge to church ministry inside the sanctuary and in the wider community. One workshop attendee pointed out how this reality shows up throughout society, given that so much of the nation was built by and for Baby Boomers.

Cargal shared some data-based green shoots of hope “for people who have a more progressive interpretation of the Gospels,” including how the percentage of white American Christians identifying as mainline recently surpassed the percentage identifying as evangelical. As church members trend older, many Presbyterians are finding second careers in ministry or serving as ruling elders or deacons after retirement. As more women continue to serve as pastors, the church needs to address the gender pay gap that historically shows up in shifting workforce sectors.

Cargal said that as church and other institutions struggle for connection in an America increasingly defined by movements, the PC(USA) can find inspiration in its Book of Order, which calls for leaders who possess institutional and authenticity bona fides. The church can foster leaders who have a sense of the multiplicity inside worshiping communities by encouraging inquirers and candidates for ordained ministry to serve at congregations that are different than the ones they come from — whether that means larger or smaller congregations, rural or urban ones, churches in middle states like Kansas, on the coasts or along national borders.

One of Cargal’s last slides shared a hopeful data point and call to action about the openness of many “nones” (persons affiliating with no organized religion) to the existence of God:

“The primary challenge facing pastors, rabbis and imams is how to invite nonmembers into an authentic experience of God rather than persuade them to join or rejoin a religious organization,” wrote Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, reporting on a Gallup survey for the Religion News Service.

“Our hope is in that last sentence, living into it,” Cargal said.

a story that rarely makes it into American media coverage. Other realities contradicting popular narratives include the increased attendance that many churches experienced during the pandemic, especially among Baby Boomers, and the sustained involvement of first-generation immigrants in their religious traditions. Another underreported demographic reality: the proportionally larger membership of people of color that is keeping the decline of Christianity in the overall population from being more precipitous.

Later in the workshop Cargal focused on individual congregations and those in the PC(USA). Mainline churches, including larger congregations, reported

feeling especially stressed during the pandemic, with one likely cause a diminishing number of volunteers at a time when increased expectations of service were placed on churches. Even without the pandemic, the increasing number of disaffiliated Gen-X Americans now entering their peak volunteer years was always going to present a challenge to church ministry inside the sanctuary and in the wider community. One workshop attendee pointed out how this reality shows up throughout society, given that so much of the nation was built by and for Baby Boomers.

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two hopeful  
notes on  
which to  
conclude

“The decline of membership in churches, synagogues and mosques cannot be equated with decline in religious curiosity or practice. When nones are asked why they have disaffiliated from any religious organization, only 22% say it is because they do not believe in God. The primary challenge facing pastors, rabbis and imams is how to invite nonmembers into an authentic experience of God rather than persuade them to join or rejoin a religious organization.”

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, reporting on Gallup survey for RNS

Slide showing end-of-presentation quotation, November 11, 2023. *Via Zoom.*



# STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

You may be wondering why you have not received your annual stewardship campaign letter yet. This year, we are going to try something different. As many of you know, we have been very blessed as a congregation to have received many substantial donations to our endowment in years past. Our endowment has allowed us to fund our ministries here above and beyond what we receive in pledges. However, this also means that we have become more and more dependent on our endowment. The endowment is not running out of money. But, every dollar we take from it decreases what will be available to us in the future. This year, we are going to have our stewardship campaign after our Session has approved the 2024 budget. Our hope is that this will allow us, as a congregation, to take time to review and pray about the work of our congregation as reflected in our budget when we each consider our support of our mission.

The Stewardship Committee



Wow! We are almost at the end of 2023!

If you want to confirm your pledge payments for this year before Jan. 1, 2024, please contact the church office or Pat Richards  
([financial\\_sec@northpres.church](mailto:financial_sec@northpres.church))  
for an updated contribution statement.





# Fellowship



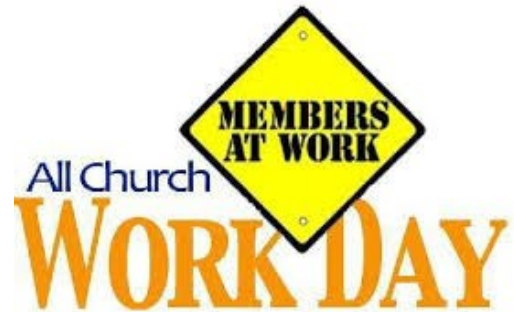
There will be a Saturday Breakfast on December 9 at 8:00 am.  
Breakfast will include:

- \*Pancakes
- \*Three cheese quiche
- \*Coffee/Juice



There will be a church Work Day on December 9, starting  
at 8:00 am. Projects this month:

- \*Replace missing ceiling tiles
- \*Move Evan's old desk upstairs



Our next Wednesday Fellowship Dinner will be held at 5:30 P.M. on  
Wednesday, December 6.

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| *Three Cheese Stuffed Shells | *Angel Hair Pasta (w/butter or red sauce) |
| *Salad                       | *Coffee                                   |
|                              | *Dessert                                  |

Reservation required. Please call the church office by Tuesday, November 14,  
so that we can make seating accommodations.

Dinner will be followed by a Wednesday Evening Advent Service at 7:00 pm.

# Let's go Christmas Caroling!

**Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 pm**

**Come join  
in the fun!**

**We will meet in the church  
parking lot.**

**Hot beverages and pizza will be  
provided after caroling.**

**Anyone wishing to bring snacks to  
share is welcome to do so.**







Please join us for our  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
and enjoy the worship,  
singing, and childrens's pageant.

*The Gifts  
of  
Christmas*

SUNDAY

**24**

DECEMBER

9:30 AM





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



Finance Committee Meeting  
December 13 at 9:30 am



Christian Ed Comm Mtg  
December 20  
at 4:00 pm.



Pantry  
Stockings  
Stuffing  
December 2  
Delivering  
December 9



Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm.  
Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm.  
Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm.



Information to be included  
in the December North Star  
Newsletter is due to the  
Church Office by  
Thursday, December 21.







**FOOD  
PANTRY**

Closed on Friday,  
December 22



**Buildings &  
Grounds Comm  
Mtg**  
December 12  
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.




**Community Meal at  
Grace Episcopal  
Church**

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



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



**American Red Cross  
BLOOD DRIVE**

**Give Blood • Give Life**

There will be a Red Cross Blood  
Drive on December 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  
December 17 at  
6:00 pm.




**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.

There will be a church  
workday on Saturday,  
December 9 at 8:00 am.



# NPC Board of Session

## Session Summary

November 19, 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 Linda Palmer.

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the October 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Session reviewed the Financial Statements including the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for October 2023 and the Account Activity Summary for the Endowment Fund. Pledge increase increased in October as congregants are making up “back” donations. \$585 was received in Peace and Global Witness donations, of which 25% is kept for local programming. A transfer of \$245.15 was made from the Endowment Fund to the NPC food pantry. This is an ongoing gift from the Robert Carpenter fund. The Endowment Fund continues to struggle, losing \$43,000 in October. The Treasurer’s report was received, with thanks, by the Session.

Session reviewed the 2024 NPC Budget as proposed by the Finance Committee. Committee Chairs were asked to review their budgets as proposed and let the Treasurer know of any requested changes prior to the December 17<sup>th</sup> Session meeting.

Pastor Hansen reported that due to illness he did not attend the conference in Arkansas. He reported that The Synod of the Northeast has approved a new Book of Order which is basically a reorganization that makes it easier to read and understand. Schimmel, the Hansen’s foreign exchange student, has been helping in the tech booth on Sunday morning’s, earning community service hours. He continues to reach out to homebound members via phone call.

Written reports were received from Children and Youth Ministry, Communications & Technology, Finance, Staff Relations, Worship & Music Committees.

Pastor Hansen reported for the Nominating Committee. All positions have been filled and the committee will present a full slate at the Annual Meeting.



# NPC Board of Session

The following actions were taken by The Session:

Authorization for the Sacrament of Baptism to be administered by Pastor Hansen to Cole Cicotti (son of Sara Rolls Cicotti and Mark Cicotti) on Sunday, December 17, 2023. Elder Joe Rolls will assist with the baptism

Authorized \$146.25 (25% Peace and Global Witness) for Second Place East, Inc. and authorized the Treasurer to send payment.

Approved the job description for the Director of Youth Ministry (as amended).

Approved updating all job descriptions for staff to include that staff are accountable to the Pastor, Staff Relations Committee, and ultimately, the Session.

Approved updating the job description for the Church Administrator to reflect the same changes made to the Director of Youth Ministry job description (i.e. – Any time beyond 60 hours per pay period must have pre-approval by the Pastor).

Approved the Pastors Compensation package for 2024 as recommended by the Staff Relation Committee. Compensation Package (Terms of Call) includes:

\$56,808 – Salary

\$1,800 - Coaching

\$32,900 – Pension/Benefits

\$5,585 – SECA

\$500 – Professional Expenses

\$2,768 – Study Leave

\$1,800 match to contribution to retirement (no increase in cash salary, housing allowance, FICA)

12 weeks of paid family leave

Total 2024 Compensation Package (Terms of Call): \$100,361.00

A letter that will be sent on behalf of the Session to members and friends who have withdrawn from NPC was approved as to form.









The meeting adjourned in prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kalweit,

Clerk of Session

# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	2  10:00 am - Pack Pantry Stockings  
3  9:30am -Worship Service 9:30 am—Communion 10:30am-Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School  	4  5:30 pm -TOPS	5  8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible	6 Bulletin Info Due  10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 pm - Fellowship Dinner 6:00pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Praise Band 7:00 pm - Advent Service 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  8:00 am - Saturday Workday/Breakfast 9:00 am - Pantry Stockings Deliveries  
10  9:30 am -Worship Service 9:30am -Communion 10:30am-Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 2:00 pm - Christmas Caroling  	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 4:00 pm - Men's Bible 7:00 pm - B & G Mtg	13 Bulletin Info Due  9:30 am - Fin. 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 6:00 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Praise Band 7:00 pm - Advent Service 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	14 Gateways Christmas Dinner  8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am—Kindermusik 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	15  10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	16
17  9:30 am -Worship Service 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 4:00 pm - Men's Bible	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 - CE Mtg 6:00 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Praise Band 7:00 pm - Advent Service 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	21 Newsletter Info Due  8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am—Kindermusik 5:15 pm - Kindermusik  	22  No Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA	23
24 Christmas Eve  9:30 am —Christmas Worship Service w/ Pageant 10:30am -Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice	25 Christmas Day  Church Offices Closed  	26  Church Offices Closed 8:45 am -Yoga 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible	27 Bulletin Info Due  10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 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
31 New Year's Eve  9:30am -Worship Service 10:30 am -Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice  