

NORTH STAR

March 2024

Celebrate

EASTER

Making Disciples... Making a Difference

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March, 2024
A Letter from Pastor Hansen

Spring is coming. Spring will not officially arrive until March 19, 2024 (a day early due to the leap year) but as we get farther and farther away from the gray of December and January, we find ourselves with more sunshine, longer days, and signs that the plants are also ready for winter to end. While my favorite season of the year is fall, spring is a close second.

One of the joys of spring, at least for me, is that there are days that are warm enough to open up the all the windows and let the house breathe. We turn down the thermostat and we allow the fresh air to slowly push winter out of the house.

It is not that the house we live in is sealed so tightly that outside air cannot get in during the winter. The house was built in 1896. The outside air can certainly find its way in during the winter, especially on windy days. It is that when we open the windows and let the outside breeze fill the house, the house feels different – it feels refreshed.

In Scripture, the Holy Spirit is sometimes associated with wind. In the second verse of Genesis, it says that the “*ruach*” of God hovered over the waters. *Ruach* is a beautiful word. It can mean spirit, breath, or wind. The Spirit of God hovered over the waters like the wind of the breath of God. In John 3:8, the reference to the “wind” that blows where the wind chooses, is a reference to the Holy Spirit. In Acts, on the day of Pentecost, the coming of the Spirit was described as the sound of a “rush of violent wind.”

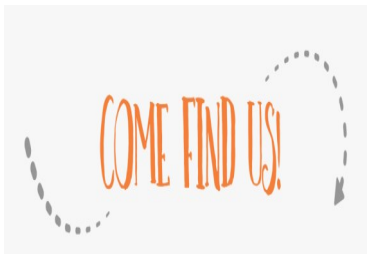
As Christians, we can sometimes be like a house closed up for winter. It is not that the outside wind cannot get in – it can most certainly get in – but that whether we know it or not, we are trying to keep the wind out. The wind is disruptive. The blowing air can scatter all the papers we have so carefully arranged on a table. The wind can be cold when we want to be warm. The wind can be hot when we want to be cool. As Jesus told Nicodemus, the wind goes where the wind chooses and not the other way around. We may not be able to keep the wind out – but we can try.

But as followers of Christ, we need the wind. Because the wind refreshes us. And when we discover that we have locked down all the windows and sealed the doors, we will often discover that we are our least spiritually refreshed and most exhausted. It is exhausting trying to keep the wind out and the stale air in.

In the season of Lent, we are reminded of the need to examine our lives and to invite the Spirit in. We may find that we have a couple of windows open, a few, a lot, or none. And regardless of what we find, Lent invites us to throw open the windows of our lives, to invite the Spirit in, and to allow the Spirit to push out the stale air and to refresh us. Because try as we might, we cannot do any of this on our own – and it is when we let the Spirit in that we re-discover the joy of spring and the joy of Easter once more.

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Evan



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



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



Chancel Flower Orders



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

Available Sundays for March and April 2024 are:
March 10, 17 and 24 and April 7, 14 & 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.



March Worship Volunteers

Tech Booth

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

Counters

March 3	Allie Sevey, Wendy Swatling
March 10	Phil Carpentier, Jeff Richards
March 17	Cindy & Kurt Kalweit
March 24	Janice Williams, Jim Mosher
March 31	Allie Sevey, Wendy Swatling

Ushers

March 3	Pat & Jeff Richards
March 10	Janice Williams, Phil Carpentier
March 17	Wendy Swatling, Barb Duryea
March 24	Amanda Korfmann, Joe Rolls
March 31	Tim & Cheryl Allison

Wee Worship

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

Communion

March 3	Wendy Swatling, Kate Hansen, Vicki Balon, Nancy Isaacs, Lori Lee
March 17	Steve Allison, Tim Allison, Cindy Kalweit, Janice Williams, Nancy Isaacs
March 31	Janice Williams, Lori Lee, Vicki Balon, TBD

Worship Assistant

March 3	Kate Hansen
March 10	TBD
March 17	TBD
March 24	Wendy Swatling
March 31	Linda Palmer

Greeters

March 3	Joan Barneski/Alice Kain
March 10	Scott & Allie Sevey
March 17	Janice Williams
March 24	Linda Palmer
March 31	Gerry Harding

Coffee Hour

March 3	Ann Motley, Glenda Solowiej
March 10	Melanie Fitzpatrick
March 17	Wendy Swatling, Janice Williams
March 24	Karen Wilson, Liz Wilson
March 31	Cheryl Allison, Barb Duryea

Youth Reader

March 10	Alexii & Payton Hoskins-Thomas
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Youth Usher

March 3	David Hansen
March 10	Payton Hoskins-Thomas
March 17	Annalyse Ferriter
March 24	Mackenzie Mosko
March 31	Alexii Hoskins-Thomas

Acolytes

March 3	David Hansen
March 10	Payton Hoskins-Thomas
March 17	Annalyse Ferriter
March 24	Mackenzie Mosko
March 31	David Hansen

Together we make a Family



Our
Love &
Prayers
Go Out
To...



March 3:
Laurie Runyan
Isabella, Hannah

March 10:
Alan Russell

March 17:
Bob & Barb Russell

March 24:
Jerry Russell

March 31:
Margery Schornstheimer

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

Our Homebound Friends

March 3:
Ann Beattie
4747 Glengarry Rd.
Clarence, NY 14031

March 10:
Rita Dery
550 Wilmette Ave.
#217
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

March 17:
Theresa Gublo
456 Roe Ave.
Elmira, NY 14901

March 24:
Laurie Burdick
608 Walnut St.
Elmira, NY 14901

March 31:
Marlene Carpentier
501 Larchmont Rd.
Elmira, NY 14905

*Please send
a card to
our
Homebound
Friends*



**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.**

*Prayer
Requests*



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.



Children and Youth Ministry March 2024

As we head into March, I pray the weather warms up just a tad bit. It seems the month of February was what we like to call the frozen tundra. Many, many days of cold and wind which made coming out for church, practice, or Sunday school just a little difficult, but we all managed. I'm hoping March brings warmer weather, sunshine, birds singing and the beginning of spring. I've lived here my whole life, so I do realize the possibility of getting snow in March is always hanging over us, but let's look at it with optimism and pray for spring.

We have a lot coming up in the next two months. We have been talking a lot about Lent and all the events leading up to Easter, as well as planning for a Seder meal with the 3rd-12th grade kids and their families. We talked about what we could give up for Lent or maybe some special things we could do during Lent for our church or people in our lives who might need help. I was surprised to hear what the kids were willing to give up (favorite foods, tablets, tv shows etc.) and what they would absolutely not be willing to give up. We have some amazing kids in our church family who are willing to give up prized possessions for kids who are less fortunate. Barb Duryea, Amanda Korfmann and I are so thankful and appreciative that you have been working with us to get the kiddos to Sunday school each week in preparation for Easter and the upcoming Seder meal on March 17th.

Joining together with First Pres. Elmira, we are planning a group get together on March 16th at 2:00pm for a play (Aladdin), put on by Broadway school. If you have a child interested in going, please contact me at the church or email me so we can get a head count of how many will be attending. We are also planning to get together for Earth Day cleanup in Elmira on Saturday, April 20th from 9am until noon. Registration can be done on line and flyers with all the information and a link to sign up are available at the church.

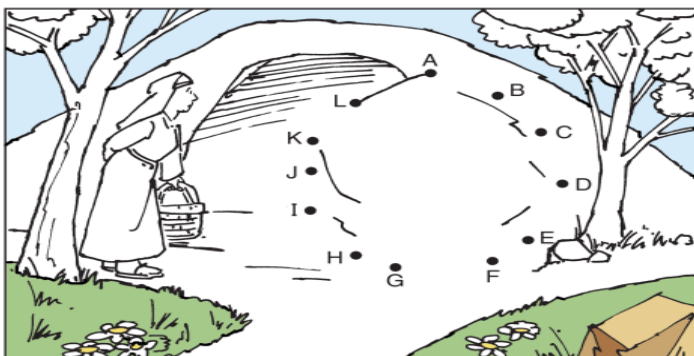
May the peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

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

The Empty Tomb

Early on the 1st day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

Connect the dots.
A B C D E F G H I J K L



The Empty Tomb



It was still dark in the garden. It was not yet sunrise. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. She was surprised when she got there. What did she find?

Code											
- A	- F	- N	- S	- Y	- E	- M	- T				
- O	- H	- P	- V	- B	- D	- R	- W				



FRIENDLY REMINDER

- 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:

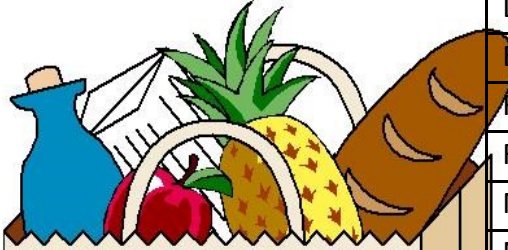
**Please join us for in person
Worship on Sunday mornings
at 9:30 am.**

**Check out our facebook page or
church website for special services
throughout the year, including
Monthly Wednesday evening
services 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

March Food Pantry

Shopping List:

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

Cereal

Ramen Noodles

Italian Salad Dressing (plastic bottles)

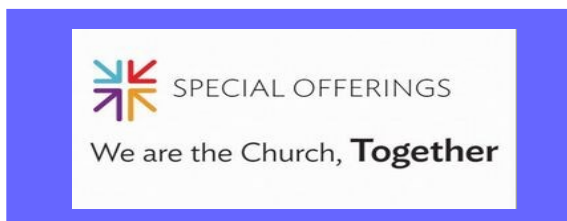
In addition, if your dentist gives you toothbrushes, floss, or toothpaste, and you don't need it, the pantry does!

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 Offering for March:
Memorial Fund



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

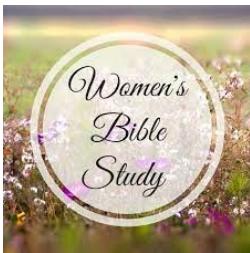
NOTICE: As CDC/NYS guidelines change, please stay tuned to our FB page & website for updates.



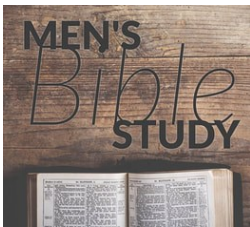
Reminder

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
meets Tuesdays at 6:00pm in the Library. For more information, please contact Suzie Hoskins or the church office.



Men's Bible Study
meets Tuesdays at 4:00 pm in the Brisbane Room and will study *The Great Divorce Study Guide: A Bible Study on the C.S Lewis Book, The Great Divorce*. If you would like more info, please contact Kurt Kalweit, Steve Allison 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.



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.





Wednesday Lenten Services will begin with our
Ash Wednesday service on February 14 at 7:00 pm.
Wednesday Lenten services with Communion will also be held on:

February 21

February 28

March 6

March 13

March 20

Maundy Thursday service will be held on Thursday,
March 28 at 7:30 pm at the **First Presbyterian Church of Elmira.**



Second Place East, Inc.



**March donation
Request:**
Brooms and Dustpans



From the Presbytery



I am Robert D. Gamble; since 2006, I have lived and worked in Ukraine. I am a PCUSA Minister (Teaching Elder) and Executive Director of This Child Here, Inc., a ministry validated in the Presbyterian Church (USA) by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, and a graduate of The U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Columbia Theological Seminary D.Min, and Princeton Theological Seminary, Th.M. I believe I am the only PCUSA minister living and working in Ukraine.

WHAT WE DO

Our staff and volunteers (often Presbyterians) work with families who have fled the Russian invasion: displaced families who stayed in Ukraine. We are located in Izmail, in the southwest, near the Black Sea. Out my window is the Danube; across it, Romania.

Through our Center for Creative Activities and Center for Sports in Izmail and summer and winter programs, we have built a supportive community, addressing the issues addressing trauma, and shaping the feelings and memories they will have of this war. In the words of one mother, "You didn't just give us what we needed. You did the impossible. You made us family."

Our funding comes from Presbyterian Churches, Presbyterians, and others interested in helping the people of Ukraine. Every year, I travel across the States to thank supporting churches and individuals.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

I invite Presbyterians to come to Ukraine to see what we do or to volunteer. You can invite me to speak or meet with committees, classes, and anyone on Zoom.

I believe, **Ukraine desperately needs** all the help that the USA can give to halt and repel the Russian invasion and to provide humanitarian assistance.

View our website: www.thischildhere.org

Write to me at: robertgam@gmail.com

cell in Ukraine: +308960214952

cell when I'm in the USA: 828 318 2149

Author: Kristen Tags: Religious News Service, Digitization, Pearl Digital Collections



The Presbyterian Historical Society is thrilled to announce that the first batch of images digitized as part of the Religious News Service Photographs Digitization Project have been added to Pearl Digital Collections.

The 1,117 records added to the Society's online archive include 753 images and 424 records of accompanying text including press releases and clippings. The records are the first to be digitized as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant funded project that will make 22,500 images and related documents from the Religious News Service Photograph Collection available online.

Two RNS Project Archivists, Isabella Fidanza and Megan Genovese, started the work to appraise and digitize the RNS collection in September. Starting with seven boxes from 1964, the pair reviewed each photograph and applied a rating system to select images with a high level of historic value for digitization.

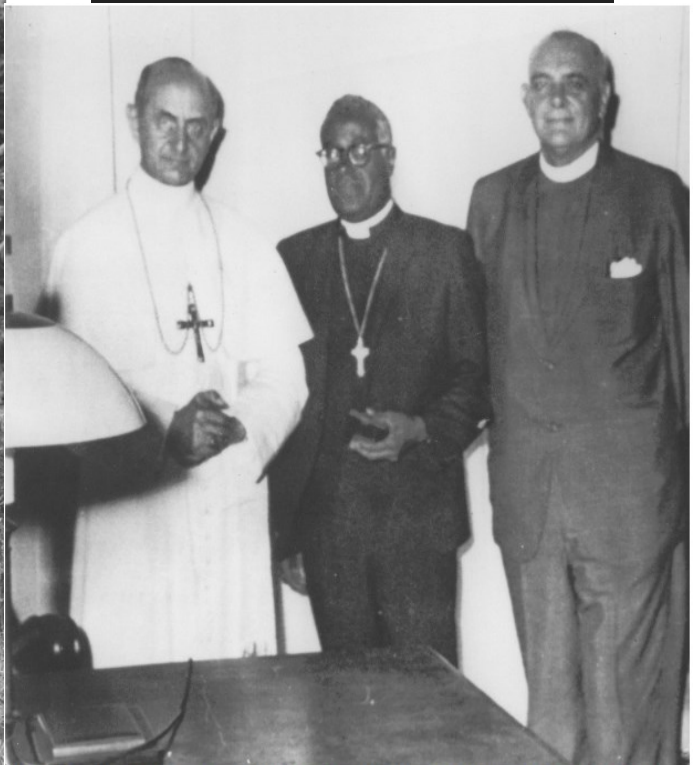
The digitized images offer a mixture of candid and photojournalistic images that document a tumultuous, joyful, and complicated year in religion and politics.



Rustic cross attracts lakeside worshippers, Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 164 [islandora:349151]



Goat clowns around at animal shelters, Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 1964 [islandora:349084].



United Presbyterian leaders meet Pope, Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 1964 [islandora:349196].



California youngsters aid Phoenix church, Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 1964 [islandora:348399].



Cleveland church becomes 'freedom school,' Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 1964 [islandora:348335].



May I have your autograph, please? Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 1964 [Islandora:350258].



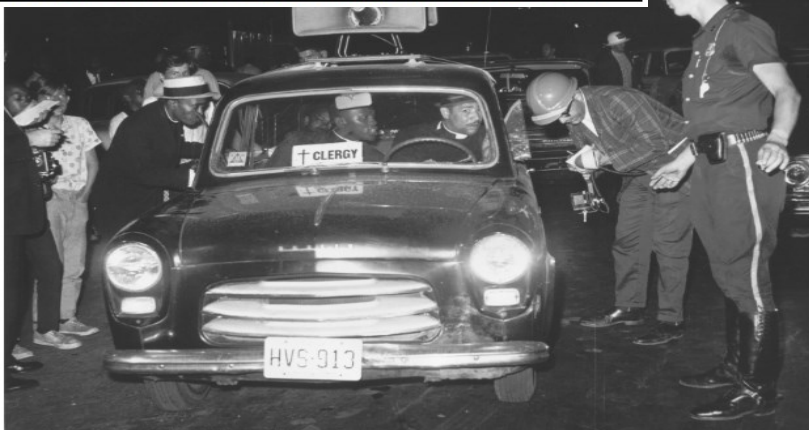
Long petition for school prayer, Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 1964 [Islandora:348434].



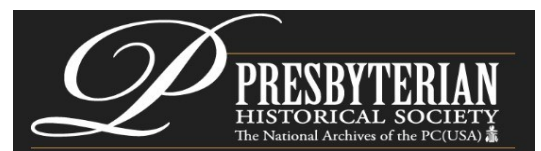
gathers to hear Dr. King, Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 1964 [Islandora:349178].



Protestant civil rights march to Capitol, Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 1964 [Islandora:348432].



Clergymen appeal for calm in Jersey riot, Religious News Service Photograph Collection, 1964 [Islandora:349194].



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Trinity

The Triune God — the doctrine of the Trinity is not irrational

By William E. Phipps

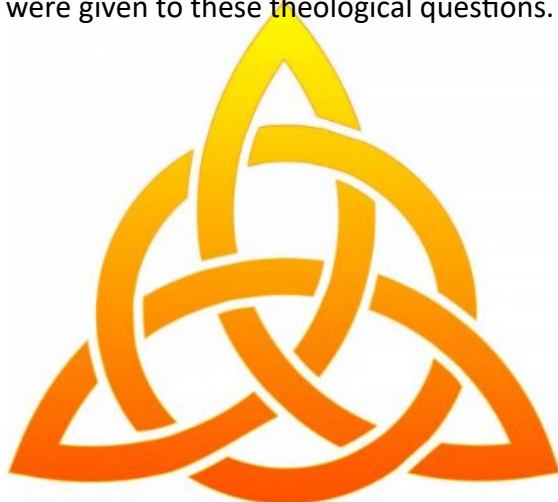
Presbyterians have come to make a lot of Advent and they occasionally observe Lent, but they usually overlook the Trinity season of the church year. The longest season of the church year, Trinity begins eight weeks after Easter and continues for about half of the calendar year. The disregard of this season may be due to the difficulty of harmonizing a reasonable faith with what appears to be an irrational doctrine, the doctrine of the Trinity.

The term *Trinity* wrongly suggest that Christians are tritheists. To avert the erroneous idea of having triple gods, some have appropriately placed a “u” in the midst of the word, making it *Triunity*. Taken from the Latin *tria*, threefold, and *unus*, one, this preserves the oneness notion intended by the ecumenical councils of the fourth century that included the Trinity in their creeds.

Muslims and Jews have presumed, as have some Christians, that Christians worship three separate gods. An African Muslim once said that the main difference between his religion and Christianity was that he had several wives and one God, while Christians had one wife and several gods. Muhammad thought Christians believed in three different deities, one of them, the goddess Mary, who was impregnated by intercourse with the father God.

Misrepresentations by outsiders of the Christian doctrine of God may have arisen from the bewilderment of many church members from the first century onward. This is seen in the confusion that the Nicene formulation attempted to eliminate. Early Christians found some of their oral and written traditions puzzling. Was the God of the Old Testament a different God from the God of the New Testament? Did one God have no beginning and another one have his beginning at Bethlehem? Was the God of law separate from the God of grace? Were divine beings sent from heaven to earth like relay runners. One carrying on after one finished?

And if Christ is God and if God is non-physical Spirit, does that mean that Christ never really had flesh and blood? Since there is no full discussion of these questions in the Bible, the source of Christian doctrine, varying-indeed, clashing-answers were given to these theological questions. Christians were in a dilemma as to what to believe.



Constantine the Great, the first Christian emperor, decided that the question of the relationship between the Creator and Jesus must be resolved. He had become a Christian in the hope that Christianity would help to unite his Roman government, which was disintegrating from civil wars. However, he found that Christians were themselves much divided over questions of doctrine. In an effort to settle this matter, in A.D. 325 he asked the bishops from the entire church to come together at Nicaea to discuss and agree on a creed.

The gathering at Nicaea is called the first ecumenical council because representatives came from churches in Asia, Africa and Europe. (One of the participants was "Santa Claus," from Myra, Turkey, where he was known as Bishop Nicholas.)

The theological debate was intense, and not only at Nicaea. One visitor to Constantinople wrote: "This city is full of ...common people who act like theologians in the shops and streets. If you ask a man to change a piece of silver he informs you wherein the Son differs from the Father; if you ask for a loaf of bread you are told...that the Son is inferior to the Father; and if you inquire whether the bath is ready, the answer is that the Son was made out of nothing."

Two months of discussion centered in the difference made by one idea, that is the Greek letter *i*. One group maintained that the Son and the Father were of the same substance (Greek *homo-ousion*), while another group argued that they were of a similar substance (*homoi-ousion*). At last the bishops took a vote on the relationship of God the Father and the Son of God—a Presbyterian-like, democratic manner of decision-making.

Later in the fourth century a second ecumenical council met in Constantinople to deal with the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Father and the Son. What is called the Nicene Creed contains an additional paragraph about the Holy Spirit that was added in 381.

A medieval diagram often found in European cathedral windows expresses the gist of the Nicene formulation. The central ring affirms monotheism. There is one essence of God; the emphasis is on oneness, not three-ness. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God—but they are one God. An equilateral triangle around the circle represents the quality of the three expressions of the Godhead. This symbol also conveys the idea that there are three simultaneous expressions of the divine substance. It is not that first we have God the Father, then at a later time, God the Son, and after both of these the Holy Spirit carries the relay torch.

Beginning with Augustine in the fifth century, attempts have been made to provide analogies from our human experience to shed light on the doctrine of the Trinity. For instance, Augustine extracted a clear comparison from botany:

"The root is wood, the trunk is wood, and the branches are wood, while nevertheless it is not three woods that are thus spoken of, but only one...[Thus] no one should think it absurd that we should call the Father God, the Son God, and the Holy Spirit God, and that these are not three gods in the Trinity, but one God and one substance."

Other helpful illustrations have been proposed. Consider the process involved in an experience of art: first there is the initial idea in the creator's mind. The idea is then expressed in a physical way—the literary artist puts words on paper; the musical artist writes down notes; the graphic artist paints a canvas. When the book is published, the music played, or the drawing viewed an effect is made on those who read, hear or see it. Just as there is a threefold aspect of art as idea, expression and effect, so there is a three-in-one revelation of God.

In her *Call to Faith*, Presbyterian educator Rachel Henderlite laments the lingering Trinitarian misunderstandings that have resulted in three-headed monstrosities. "The doctrine has often confused the thinking of the individual Christian as much as it has clarified and strengthened it," she observes. She finds this analogy of A.H. Molleghen especially helpful: "The light (the Father) shines through the colored slide (the Son) to cast an image (the Holy Spirit) on the screen (the Church)".

(continued)

The solar disk, rays and heat also offer a helpful analogy: There is the transcendent God over us who is too brilliant to be gazed at directly; there is Jesus who is “God with us” (“Emmanuel” in Hebrew); and there is the warmth of the Holy Spirit within us.

Electromagnetic force provides a similar analogy: No one has seen this basic energy of the universe, and yet we witness electricity in distinct ways: We experience it as shock if we put our finger in an outlet. This is quite different from seeing it as light in a light bulb or feeling it as heat from a stove. In a similar manner the one invisible God is experienced in various modes.

There is, however, a distinct deficiency in comparing God to the sun or to electricity; a personal analogy is needed to point to our personal God. In classical drama an actor often wore different masks to play several roles. These masks were called *personas*, which translated literally means “through which sound comes.” Sabellius, a Christian teacher in the third century, believed that a succession of divine impersonations was sent forth from heaven to earth during three acts in the cosmic theater. During the Old Testament act there was God the Father, during the gospel act there was God the Son, and after both of these came the Holy Spirit.

However, according to the Nicene formulation, there are three simultaneous expressions of the divine substance. Consider the several roles that an individual can play on the stage of life: In relation to our parents we are a son or a daughter; in relation to our boss or teacher we are an employee or student; in relation to our spouse we are a husband or a wife. Which is the true person? Are not all of these expressions simultaneous? When we sing, “God in three Persons” in the hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy!” (the tune “Nicaea”), we might think of three performance or relationship modes of one actor or person.

In *God Was in Christ* Donald Baillie, one of the most influential Presbyterian scholars of this century, provides a simple but profound interpretation of the doctrine of the divine Trinity. Reflecting on the historical experiences of the early Christians, he writes: “The doctrine of the Trinity sums up the gospel by telling us that the God of grace, who was revealed through the Incarnation and Pentecost as the One who paradoxically works in us what he demands of us, is the same from all eternity and for ever more; so... Christians can sing: ‘Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.’” Baillie integrates the devotional life of a Christian into a satisfying intellectual treatment of the church’s basic doctrine of the Trinity.

In spite of these explanations, some people, even some scholars, have dismissed the Christian doctrine of a triune God as irrational. Thomas Jefferson, for example, embraced Unitarianism after concluding that the doctrine of the Trinity was mathematically inane; he maintained that one plus one plus one always equals three. However, when three equal and mutually dependent forces operate together, the addition signs should be replaced by multiplication marks: one times one times one equals one.

There is a profound complexity in the orthodox Christian doctrine of God, but it is not incomprehensible. Although humans do not have a full understanding of God, there is a reasonable basis for belief in the triune God. The doctrine expresses genuine monotheism.

The Shamrock and the Trinity



Legend has it that when Saint Patrick told the King of Ireland about the Trinity, the king could not believe three Persons in the Godhead could exist as one. Lifting up a sprig of shamrock, Saint Patrick said: “Here is a perfect leaf with three perfect parts.” The shamrock became a well-known symbol of the Holy Trinity.

This article originally appeared in the May 1994 edition of Presbyterian Survey (now Presbyterians Today).



Fellowship

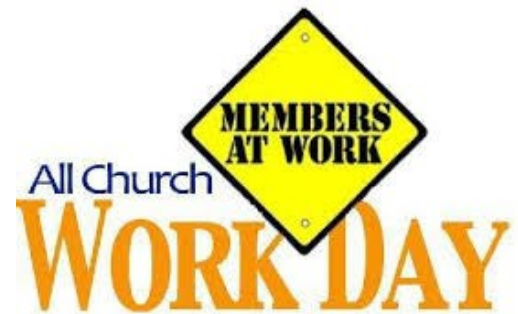


There will be a Saturday Breakfast on March 9 at 8:00 am. Breakfast will include:

- *Pancakes
- *Scrambled Eggs
- *Fresh Fruit
- *Coffee/Juice



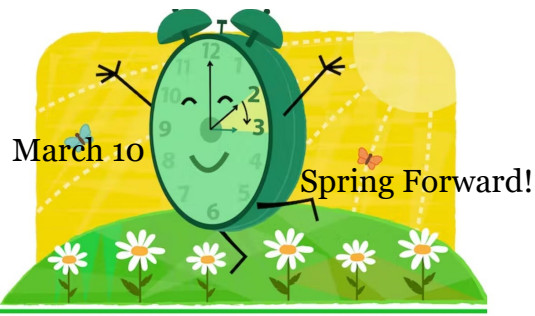
There will be a church Work Day on March 9, directly following the 8:00 am breakfast. We will be working in the nursery, getting ready for the classroom move. We need to mount a TV, drill a new hole in the floor for a bolo stick and put together a shelving unit.



No dinner in March, see you in April!



Daylight Savings Time Starts

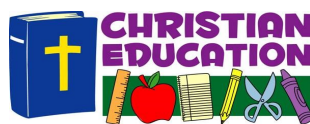


Maundy Thursday

Worship Service
March 28 at 7:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church of Elmira



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



Christian Ed Comm Mtg
March 12
at 5:30 pm.



Finance Committee Meeting
March 13 at 9:30 am

Staff Relations Meeting
March 5 at 9:00 am



Girl Scout Sunday
March 10

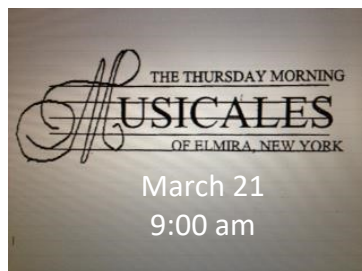


Lent Midweek Worship
Wednesdays 7pm

March 6, 13 & 20



Information to be included
in the April North Star
Newsletter is due to the
Church Office by
Friday, March 22.





DEACONS
Leading through Serving.

Deacons' Meeting
March 21 at
11:00 am

Buildings &
Grounds Comm
Mtg
March 12 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.

**Community Meal at
Grace Episcopal
Church**

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

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

**American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE**

Give Blood • Give Life

There will be a Red Cross Blood
Drive on March 7, starting at
noon. If you're interested in
signing up to give blood, please
visit 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
March 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,
March 9 after the
fellowship breakfast.

NPC Board of Session

SUMMARY - SESSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2024

6:00 P.M. SUNDAY

Elders present: Steven Allison, Timothy Allison, Nancy Isaacs, Lori Lee, Eva “Annie” LeFevre, Wendy Swatling, Linda Palmer, Liz Wilson
Members excused: Kurt Kalweit, James Mosher
Moderator: Rev. Evan Hansen
Clerk: Cynthia Kalweit (excused)
Treasurer: Patricia Richards

Summary of the February 18th meeting:

The minutes of the 129th Annual Meeting of the Congregation held on Sunday, January 21, 2024, were approved.

The minutes of the January 21, 2024, Session Meeting were approved as corrected.

Pastor Evan presented the Clerk’s Report noting the statistics for the month. Pastor Evan and Elder LeFevre attended the latest Presbytery meeting highlighted by a great worship service and thoughtful discussion.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Evan is visiting “homebound” members, he has been appointed to a team for the Synod of the Northeast (reviewing applications for churches), is the Clerk-elect of the Judicial Commission, is compiling a list of trainings for ruling elders, and he is compiling a list of materials for the four new elders on Session.

Session approved:

March 10, 2024, as the date for Allison Sevey’s Ordination

Pastor Evan’s study leave to attend the Emerging Ministry Institute at Silver Bay, New York, May 20th-24th with May 26th designated as study leave for Pastor Evan and authorized the procurement of pulpit supply for May 26, 2024

Worship in the Park at 10:30 a.m. on either August 11th or 18th, depending upon availability of the Grove Park pavilion with Jeff Richards making the arrangements

Treasurer’s Report: Pledges and building use fees are off to a good start. At this time, twenty-one pledge cards have been turned in – there were roughly thirty-three pledging units last year. The Finance Committee will be sending a follow-up request.

Mrs. Richards reported that the “tech crew” has done a sampling of the cassette tapes of prior worship services found in the archive room. Every effort will be made to retain a sampling for historical purposes and offer the balance to former pastors (or their families). There are roughly two hundred – too many to transfer to another medium.

NPC Board of Session

First Presbyterian Church of Elmira will be invited to join us for worship on Sunday, July 21st at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of viewing the slide show of the joint Vacation Bible School. NPC has the technical equipment necessary to show the recap of the week along with air conditioning! Session also authorized invitations to the First Presbyterian Churches of Big Flats, Elmira, and Horseheads for a Christmas Carol/Hymn Sing to be held at NPC in the afternoon (time tba) on Sunday, December 22, 2024, followed by refreshments. The event will be open to the public, and all associated choirs and musical groups of these churches are invited to participate along with their members.

Christian Education announced that the youth will hold a Seder Meal on March 17th, learn about Lent, hold an Easter egg hunt, may participate in an earth day cleanup, and may attend a musical at Broadway Academy. Planning is underway for VBS, and volunteers are needed for the July 14-18, 2024, event.

Session adopted the “North Presbyterian Cash Policy” approved by the Finance Committee and as amended by the Session on February 18, 2024, with the final document to be scanned into the Church Administrator’s computer, compiled in a forthcoming policy manual, circulated to all the committees and staff, and published in the North Star.

Session approved canceling the current credit cards (three) held by the church and obtaining two new cards in the name of North Presbyterian Church on one account with a credit limit of \$5,000 from CCTC. With Pastor Evan abstaining, Session approved the Pastor, the Church Administrator, and the Treasurer as the persons authorized to access and execute the account documents on behalf of NPC. The use of the cards shall be in compliance with the NPC Purchasing Card and Credit Card Use Policy and kept in the safe.

Staff relations announced employee evaluations are being undertaken.

Session approved the disposition of several items found in the sacristy along with a broken table stored in the bell choir room, and the use of the Sanctuary on May 18, 2024, by the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes. Buildings and Grounds is authorized to spend up to \$500 for any necessary materials or furniture (cabinets, shelves) to prepare the two new classroom spaces (current Wee Worship room and Edmunds room) and contact Renovation House for their physical help with the project in exchange for a donation to their program.

Session approved the “North Presbyterian Church Personal Needs Weis Gift Cards Policy/ Procedure Guidelines” developed to formalize this ongoing ministry and to assist and protect the Church Administrator who bears the responsibility of meeting with the public seeking assistance.









Session approved the “Sexual Misconduct Policies of North Presbyterian Church of Elmira a Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Palmer

MARCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	2
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 10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS	5 8:45 am -Yoga 9:00 am - Staff Relations 1:15 pm - Staff Meeting 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible 6:00 pm - Women'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 6:00pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Praise Band 7:00 pm - Lent 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 
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins Girl Scout Sunday 9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30am-Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 	11 10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS	12 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am - Comm & Tech Mtg 1:15 pm - Staff Meeting 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible 6:00 pm - Women'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 - Lent Service 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 10:00 am - Willits and kitchen used for Seder meal
17 St. Patrick's Day 9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School/ Seder Meal 6:00 pm - Board of Session 	18 10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS	19 8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Meeting 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible 6:00 pm - Women'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 6:00 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Praise Band 7:00 pm - Lent Service 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	21 8:45 am -Yoga 9:00 am - Thursday Morning Musicales 10:00 am -Kindermusik 11:00 am - Deacons' Mtg 5:15 pm - Kindermusik 	22 Newsletter Due 10:00am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA	23
24 Palm Sunday 9:30 am - Worship Service 10:30am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School 	25 10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm -TOPS	26 8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Meeting 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 4:00 pm - Men's Bible 6:00 pm - Women'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 7:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service at First Pres, Elmira	29 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	30
31 Easter Sunday 9:30am -Worship Service 9:30 am -Communion 10:30 am -Coffee Hour 11:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt 