

# NORTH STAR

October 2025 - Making Disciples...  
Making a Difference.

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I recently came across an article in the New York Times titled “What Does It Take to Get Men to See a Doctor.” (NY Times Online Edition, August 25, 2025). The answer, it turns out, is really complicated. The result is not so complicated. Men die sooner than women. The average life expectancy for a man is 75.8 years which is 5.3 years less than the average life expectancy for a woman. While it is not all about not going to the doctor, the lack of consistent medical care contributes to men having, on average, a shorter life span than women.

This led me to wonder why it can be so hard to ask for help – not just for men – but for everyone. We do not start off that way. When we are born, we are helpless. We quickly learn how to get the attention of people around us so that we get help. We quickly learn because without help, we will die.

As we grow up, we slowly learn how to ask for help in ways that do not always involve crying. We also learn to try to do things on our own. And as much as we are told that we need to learn how to do things on our own, there are times when every parent, grandparent, babysitter, caretaker, or teacher wishes that we had asked for help instead of trying to do it ourselves.

As we get older, we learn that “being independent” is a good thing; “being dependent” is a bad thing. And there is a temptation, as followers of Christ, to embrace the “being independent” is a good thing; “being dependent” is a bad thing as if it were, not only the gospel message, but the reality in which we live.

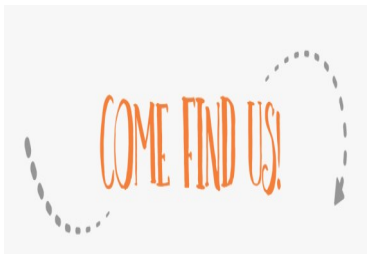
But nothing could be further from the gospel or the reality in which we live. There is nothing about the grace of God that does not require us to not only accept our utter dependence on God and others, but to embrace it wholeheartedly. To pray, whether it is on our own behalf or on the behalf of others, is an admission of our dependence on God and others. And if we think we are otherwise independent and self-reliant, where does the air that we need to breathe to live come from? Not us.

Someone remarked in Adult Sunday School that doctors and nurses, medical treatments, and the like, are miracles from God. I do not disagree. Antibiotics, vaccines, other types of medicines, medical treatments, etc., are miraculous. So is the fact that there are people who care enough to learn how to take care of us.

Maybe having faith in Jesus Christ is not about having a faith in which there are no doubts but one in which we are unafraid to ask God and others for help. And if that is the case, when we do not ask others for help or admit that we need help, including medical help, we are not demonstrating independence at all. Rather, we are showing how little we truly understand the grace and love of the God who cares for us in so many ways, including by inspiring us and others to care for those who need help – and we all need help.

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 \$45), please contact Lori Lee at 607-739-3176.

Available Sundays for October and November 2025 are:

**October 26 and November 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30.**

*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.



## October Worship Volunteers

### Tech Booth

October 5	Worship at Hhds. First Pres.
October 12	Steve Allison
October 19	Steve Allison
October 26	Bill Furnas

### Ushers

October 5	Worship at Hhds. First Pres.
October 12	Janice Williams, Phil Carpentier
October 19	Wendy Swatling, Barb Duryea
October 26	Amanda Korfmann, Joe Rolls

### Greeters

October 5	Worship at Hhds. First Pres.
October 12	Nancy Isaacs
October 19	Scott & Allie Sevey
October 26	Tim Allison

### Communion

October 5	Worship at Hhds. First Pres.
October 19	Linda Palmer, Vicki Balon, Lori Lee Janice Williams, John Eastwood

### Counters

October 5	Worship at Hhds. First Pres.
October 12	Janice Williams, Dolores Cummings
October 19	Annette Stevens, Joe Rolls
October 26	Allie Sevey, Wendy Swatling

### Wee Worship

October 5	Worship at Hhds. First Pres.
October 12	Amanda Reese, Becky Kowulich
October 19	Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea
October 26	Liz Wilson, Wally Ferriter

### Coffee Hour

October 5	Worship at Hhds. First Pres.
October 12	Barb Duryea, Cheryl Allison
October 19	Kate Hansen, Robin Quartly
October 26	Bobbi Furnas, Pat Richards

### Worship Assistant

October 5	Worship at Hhds. First Pres.
October 12	TBD
October 19	Linda Palmer
October 26	TBD

### Youth Usher

October 5	Worship at Hhds. First Pres.
October 19	Paityn Perry

# Together we make a Family



Our  
Love &  
Prayers  
Go Out  
To...

## Weekly Prayer

**October 5:**  
Margery Schornstheimer

**October 12:**  
Scott & Allie Sevey

**October 19**  
Laura Smith

**October 26:**  
Joseph & Glenda Solowej

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

## Our Homebound Friends

**October 5:**  
Jim & Carol Guagliardo  
1210 W. Water St., Apt. 110  
Elmira, NY 14905

**October 12:**  
Marlene Carpentier  
501 Larchmont Rd.  
Elmira, NY 1905

**October 19:**  
Margaret Densberger  
Bethany Manor  
Unit 3, Rm., #208  
3005 Watkins Rd.  
Horseheads, NY 14845

**October 26:**  
Karen & Chris Paul  
136 Ridge Rd.  
Horseheads, NY 14845

*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.



*How can  
we pray  
for you?*

### 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 October 2025

Happy Fall Y'all!!! The weather is starting to get cooler and the trees are starting to change color. Summer just seemed to fly by. This just happens to be my favorite time of year. I love to sit out on my deck and look at all the beautiful colors of the trees and breathe in the crisp cool air. I wish Fall could last a month or two longer because as I get older I am less and less a fan of cold weather and snow.

We have a lot of Autumn activities lined up for the next two months. On October 4th, our youth will be joining with First Pres. Elmira for a fun afternoon at Smithome Farms in Big Flats; going on hayrides and making our way through the corn maze. We'll let the kiddos pick out a pumpkin and have plenty of goodies on hand for them to snack on. We'll be joining First Pres again for Trunk or Treat - day, time and place to be announced. November eighth will be the Harvest dinner and more information on that will be coming, also. We're hoping to get as many of our older kids to participate that day as possible. On November 23rd, we will be packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. If you have any shoeboxes at home you would like to donate to the youth mission, we would really appreciate it! Please keep an eye out in the bulletin and newsletter if you would like to donate items for the boxes. There will be a list of items that will be appropriate to buy. I will also put the list out on the Narthex counter. If you have any questions please feel free to call or email me.

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

Parable of the Lost Sheep  
 Coloring Page



## Crafting with the Creator Word Search

Solve the puzzle with the word bank below. Puzzle based on Jeremiah 18:6

Y	L	A	P	V	E	P	O	T	T	E	R	Q
T	J	F	C	R	H	W	H	E	E	L	Z	G
B	O	Q	M	C	N	E	P	A	H	S	I	F
E	P	L	V	A	S	T	C	L	A	Y	U	N
S	K	Q	Y	M	D	Z	W	O	R	K	S	R
G	P	N	F	L	D	V	H	A	N	D	S	T
U	I	T	R	S	L	V	L	E	S	S	E	V
D	A	W	T	E	M	S	M	A	R	R	E	D

**WORKS VESSEL POTTER WHEEL**  
**SHAPE CLAY HANDS MARRED**

# Worship

## INFORMATION

- 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).



Weekly sermons are available on our website at

<https://www.northpres.church/sermon-details/>



**Sanctuary Worship:**  
Please join us for 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

October Food Pantry

Shopping List:

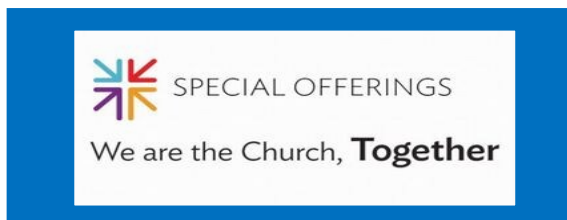
The following items are needed this month for the Food Pantry:

***Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes***  
***Boxed Mashed Potatoes***  
***Stuffing Mix***  
***Canned Gravy***

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	office@northpres.church
Buildings & Grounds	campus@northpres.church
Building Use	campus@northpres.church
Clerk of Session	session@northpres.church
Deacons	office@northpres.church
Education	office@northpres.church
Fellowship	office@northpres.church
Finance	office@northpres.church
Mission & Outreach	office@northpres.church
Nominating	nominating@northpres.church
Staff Relations	staff_relations@northpres.church
Tech & Communications	office@northpres.church
Treasurer	Financial_sec@northpres.church
Worship & Music	office@northpres.church

Staff	Email Address
Church Administrator	office@northpres.church
Director of Youth Ministries	youth@northpres.church
Pianist	elmirarandyman@gmail.com
Music Director	office@northpres.church
Organist	office@northpres.church
Pastor	pastor@northpres.church



Special Offering  
for October:  
Congregational  
Care Fund



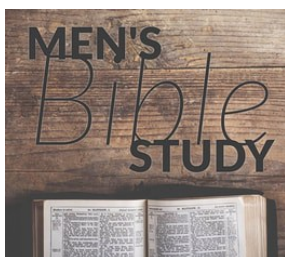
## Meet the Staff

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

# 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 Mon 8:00 am to noon, Tues-Fri 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.



**Men's Bible Study**  
meets at 1:00 pm on Thursdays  
If you would like more info, please  
contact Kurt Kalweit, Steve Allison  
or the church office.



**Wednesday Noon Bible Study**  
If you would like more  
information or study materials,  
please contact Wendy Swatling or  
the church office.



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



Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 am weekly



Praise Band rehearsals  
are at 7:00 pm  
Wednesdays

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



Youth Praise  
Band Practices  
are 10:55 am  
Sundays.



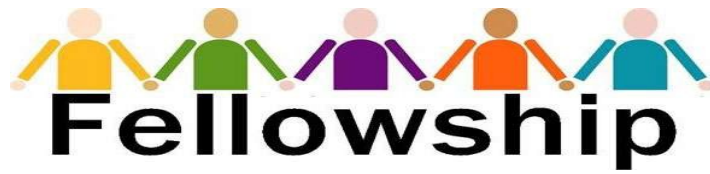
Chancel Choir rehearsals  
are at 7:30 pm  
Wednesdays.



Bell Choir rehearsals  
are at 6:15 pm  
Wednesdays.







We will have a Saturday  
breakfast /workday  
on October 11.

Menu and projects TBD.



**There will be a Fellowship Dinner on  
October 1 at 5:30 pm.**

Dinner will be :

Chicken & biscuits	Mixed vegetables
Gravy	Apple crumble
Mashed potatoes	Coffee/lemonade/water

Please sign up at the Welcome Desk to reserve your spot!



**Second Place East, Inc.**



**October donation  
Request:**

**PAPER TOWELS**

# Renovation

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES  
OF MEN & WOMEN

# house

One of our very own students, Jamil Nazario, has taken to expressing his worship through written word poems he shares with us.

*"RH, the place where I found my inner peace,  
Where blessings began to flow like water into the creek.  
RH, where my weakness was shaped into something strong,  
Where I bask in the sun's rays on the deck of the pond.  
RH, where the ghosts of my past lost their hold,  
Where I spend time with GOD walking the trails bold.  
RH, where the Lord restored me when I was broken and low,  
Now I stand rooted deep, like the oak trees grow.  
RH, where in the wilderness my chains came undone,  
Where I can set my goals and actually claim them  
won.  
RH is the place where I'm still learning,  
Where Jesus, like the donkey, carried my burden.  
RH, where the Potter's hands shape me day by day,  
Where I light a fire at the tabernacle and pray.  
RH, where my sins faded lesser and lesser,  
RH, where diseased wood became another man's treasure.  
RH, one year of my life, but small was the cost,  
For my eternal salvation found at the foot of the cross  
BE THE GLORY TO GOD"      -Jamil Nazario*





# Renovation

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES  
OF MEN & WOMEN

# house

*"The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul." - Psalms 23: 1-3*

Renovation House continues to be a place of refuge for those who are wearied by the struggles of a sin sick world. Our students are those who've cried out to God for help, deliverance, and salvation. The Lord has heard their cries for His help, and we are privileged and honored at The Renovation House to be part of Gods plan for their lives.

We provide time and opportunity for men and women, who need God, and purpose...to find God, and purpose. The Renovation House is a place where God speaks to the storms raging within lives, where peace prevails, and lives are restored beside the still waters. We are here every day stepping into storms, bringing peace, hope, counsel, teaching, and joy in the sorrow.



We are blessed to observe as Jesus brings our people from the point of trauma, sin and pain, through healing and recovery. Thank you for your participation. The kingdom of God is advancing in the lives of those who call on the name of Jesus.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

Pastor John Earley





# PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM IMPACT REPORT 2024

During 2024, the Presbyterian Hunger Program supported partners with \$1,103,736 in financial assistance to alleviate hunger and address the root causes of hunger in 18 countries and in 29 U.S. states. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with:

- 13 Hunger Action Advocates at work in 14 presbyteries
- 22 international partner organizations, including 6 Joining Hands networks
- 29 national partner organizations, including one in Puerto Rico
- 18 Congregation-Based Community Organizing partner organizations, 14 of which are focused on increasing access to affordable housing
- 4 partners implementing tree planting/carbon sequestration projects



Children making an interior wall from bamboo for one of their timber-framed, straw-bale, earthen-clay plastered houses.  
Photo courtesy of Ekvn-Yefolecv

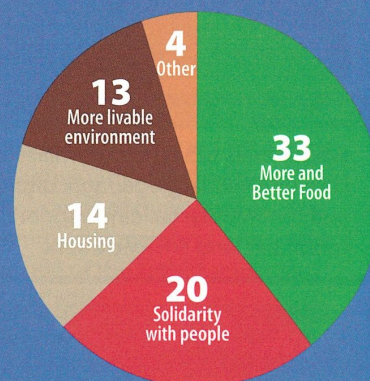
## WHY ARE PEOPLE HUNGRY?

In conversations with partner organizations over the years, we have identified many “root causes” to hunger. People are hungry because they need:

- sovereignty over food sources and access to better quality, more nutritious and culturally relevant food
- solidarity in their advocacy campaigns for better wages, improved living conditions, more localized food economies, and environmental, social and gender justice
- land and housing security to enable decent livelihoods
- an environment in which they can breathe, have access to potable water, and plant crops without decimation from climate disasters

Accordingly, the Presbyterian Hunger Program partners with grantee organizations around the world, which are working in these areas.

How we address hunger:



The photos of the partner organizations were taken by, and granted permission for use by, those partners.



# 2024

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM  
PC(USA)

## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

The stories included in this Impact Report offer a few examples of how your gifts contribute to a more just world and well-being for all God's people and Creation. In addition to our grant partners, in 2024 the Presbyterian Hunger Program supported over 85 Hunger Action Congregations and 331 certified Earth Care Congregations while also resourcing Presbyterian congregations, mid councils, events, and networks. (View a new two-minute video on Earth Care Congregations at [bit.ly/earthcare24](http://bit.ly/earthcare24)).

We are grateful for the scope of work that your generosity makes possible!

Please visit [pcusa.org/hunger](http://pcusa.org/hunger) for more information about our grant partners and resources. Thank you for your financial contributions, time, energy, and prayers!



**Mouvement Paysan de Papaye (Haiti)**

Empowered 125 farming families in Haiti by providing legal, agricultural, and community-building support to combat land encroachment.

### » Give

Your gifts support the mission of the Presbyterian Hunger Program to help alleviate and eliminate root causes of hunger. Give online at [www.pcusa.org/donate/OG300000](http://www.pcusa.org/donate/OG300000)

Send a check:  
Write "OG300000 Hunger"  
on your check and send to:  
PC(USA)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

*Thank you for your continued support!*

Give online:



**Coalition of Immokalee Workers (Immokalee, Florida)**

Mobilized 600 marchers on the March for Farmworker Freedom and continues to witness great Fair Trade Program expansion — now in 10 states and working with salmon fisherfolk in Chile, as well as with organizations in the UK and India. A tangible result is that \$50 million in Fair Food premiums have been paid to workers since 2011. In 2024 alone, \$53,576 has been recovered in stolen wages. Forced labor, sexual assault, and other forms of abuse have also been virtually eliminated from participating farms.



**Ekvn-Yefolecv (a Maskoke community in Alabama)**

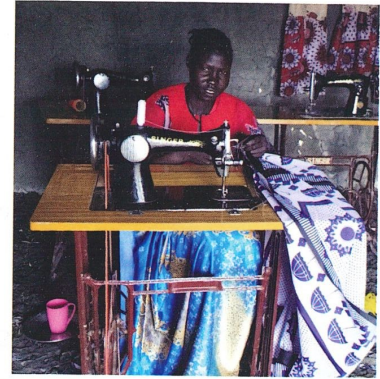
Is now home to the only fluent-speaking Maskoke children on the planet, thanks to their language immersion schooling program. Additionally, they have successfully rematriated 5,584 acres of traditional Maskoke homelands, bringing their total stewarded land base to 6,824 acres, and have made significant progress in ecological restoration and regenerative agriculture, including silvopasture, tree-planting, and restoring southeastern grasslands.





#### **Praja Abhilasha (Sri Lanka)**

Played a crucial role in reclaiming 254 acres of land for displaced families, actively engaging 2,451 women in land rights campaigns and ensuring that women had a voice in policy advocacy while also addressing issues of food sovereignty and economic security.



#### **Hope Restoration South Sudan**

Empowered over 20,000 women and girls by raising awareness about gender-based violence, providing vocational training in tailoring and bead-making, and improving economic self-sufficiency to reduce dependency and vulnerability.



#### **Kasupe Ministries (Malawi)**

Supported 15,181 cyclone-affected individuals by providing seeds, farm tools, and training in organic farming.



#### **Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA; Los Angeles)**

In 2024, KIWA organizers and canvassers conducted thousands of house visits and had tens of thousands of conversations with community members, who make up one of the largest immigrant populations in Los Angeles County. In 2024, KIWA was a coalition partner with the SoCal Black Worker Hub's successful campaign to pass SB 1340, anti-discrimination legislation that increases the state's capacity to fight discrimination and enforce workplace discrimination laws. KIWA also strongly advocated for and persistently supported implementation of Measure ULA (United to House LA), which has generated critical funding for affordable housing and homelessness prevention.



## What impact does long-term, relational partnership have?

The work of the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and our partners is difficult to quantify in the short term. Sustainable development, community empowerment, and policy change are needed to end hunger. Any progress achieved in these long-term goals is years, if not decades, in the making. Our relatively small investments in partner organizations allow them to:

- demonstrate trustworthiness to larger funders in order to secure their work into the future;
- expand the skill sets of their staff and community leaders;
- garner respect from other NGO and governmental partners to establish themselves as conversation partners for a more hopeful future;
- grow the number of beneficiaries;
- weather financial hardships from war, famine, disease, and economic precarity; and
- know they are not alone in working to build a better world and more hopeful future where hunger and poverty no longer exist.

Meanwhile, we benefit from their wisdom and trust in us, as we learn together how to do global partnership in mutual and respectful ways. The following responses illustrate what longer-term solidarity and mutual relationships mean to partners with whom we work.

**Viviana Moreno, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization  
Chicago**

"As we continue to establish La Villita Farm, the Presbyterian Hunger Program's role in ensuring we had a solid ground to stand on has made it possible for our farm team to invest in their cultivation skills, our community base has grown significantly, and the amount of food we've produced has more than tripled since we broke ground in 2021."

**Francis Priyankara, Praja Abilasha, Joining Hands Network  
Sri Lanka**

"Since 2005, the Presbyterian Hunger Program has supported communities affected by the 2004 tsunami, aiding in resistance to land grabs and empowering people to reclaim their rights. PHP promoted social justice, reconciliation, and political empowerment, helping displaced Tamil communities regain land and strengthening grassroots movements."

**Jaime Muñoz, Asofenix  
Nicaragua**

"The fact that we have managed to build a long-term collaboration alliance with PHP has been fundamental, as it has allowed us to carry out interventions focused on treating the root of the problems that afflict communities."



Presbyterian News Service

### **Knit one, pray too**

Thriving prayer blanket ministry renews small upstate New York congregation and everyone it touches

From the banks of the Genesee River to South Carolina's sunny shores, God's love is on the move.

And in the mail.

The latest in a wealth of colorful prayer blankets — lovingly handcrafted by a group of faithful volunteers at the First Presbyterian Church of East Avon (New York) in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley — was dispatched last Sunday to a South Carolina woman who had likely never heard of the hamlet south of Rochester, but whose life would be touched by it.

"This past Sunday, we blessed a blanket for a woman named Cas," said Cathy Garrett, a relatively new church member who launched the prayer blanket ministry at East Avon, where she is thrilled to see it flourishing.



Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of East Avon, New York, lay hands on a prayer blanket they will send to bless the recipient. (Screenshot)

(Continued from page 15)

“Our friends met Cas while they were serving at the food bank in their hometown in South Carolina,” she said. “When they noticed that her leg didn’t look healthy, they encouraged her to seek medical attention. Because she has no health insurance, she was resistant to go to the doctor. They, however, continued to encourage her, and when she did finally seek medical attention, the doctor stated that although it was not cancer, the leg would have to be amputated. It’s our prayer that she will receive the blanket as a physical symbol of God’s love, peace, comfort and healing.”

Garrett explained that whenever the congregation receives a request for a prayer blanket, the church’s pastor, the Rev. Michelle Allen, invites worshipers to come forward, as they are able, to lay their hands on the blanket and pray as a witness that everyone shares in the ministry.

“Because the Holy Spirit is so present and active at East Avon Church,” said Allen, “it is a wonderful blessing for our prayer blanket ministry to be carried by the Spirit throughout the nation and world.”

Since East Avon is a small congregation with some 50-60 members and friends worshipping each Sunday in person or on Zoom, Garrett decided that the best way to introduce the prayer blanket concept to the church was to connect with Alice Malin, who leads the Crafters, a longtime weekly ministry group.

“Alice immediately came up with a pattern for people to knit for prayer blankets,” said Garrett, who first learned about prayer blankets when she received the prayer shawl that had comforted her mother-in-law at the end of her life.

“As soon as the idea took hold with the Crafters, soon others in the church stepped forward to offer to teach crocheting and knitting,” Garrett recalled. “Now everyone in church is involved with the prayer blanket ministry in one way or another, including the children. We have been honored to send blankets all over the world to people we’ve never met. The stories we receive are incredible.”

Peggy Stallworth, a quilter who leads the pack in donating her beautiful, handmade quilts, shared with Garrett how the ministry has brought new meaning to her handiwork.



First Presbyterian Church of East Avon, New York, has a thriving prayer blanket ministry. (Photo by Emily Enders Odom)

“Peg, who is one of those who has quilted many of the blankets,” recalled Garrett, “said to me, ‘I can’t thank you enough. I love to quilt, but I ran out of people to give them to, and now I have purpose for my quilts.’”

Whenever a blanket is hand-delivered or mailed, the church encloses a laminated photo of the congregation praying over it with text on the back to let the recipient know that the church will continue to remember them in prayer. They also invite them to email the church with updates, should they wish, and to join the congregation on Sunday mornings for worship.

“Through its thriving prayer blanket ministry, the East Avon Church bears witness to the Gospel story of the loaves and fishes,” said the Rev. Dr. John L. Odom, executive presbyter for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. “By the power of the Holy Spirit, a small congregation has all the gifts and resources it needs to do miraculous things.”

Having seen the impact of the prayer blanket ministry, Garrett would agree.

“We sent a blanket to a woman who wasn’t expected to live after a stroke,” said Garrett. “She told us that when the blanket isn’t on her, it stays in her windowsill with a picture of the congregation next to it. She said she looks at it all day long, and that it has given her strength.”

Today, Garrett said, the woman is able to speak and eat, and is learning to walk again.

“What a blessing it would be,” she exclaimed, “to have other churches pick up on this practice and just let the Holy Spirit fly!”

*The East Avon Church invites Presbyterian News Service readers to contact the church via [email](#) to learn how to start a prayer blanket ministry in their congregation or if they — or someone they know — is in need of a blanket.*





## Mission & Outreach Committee News

The Mission & Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for their continued support of the PCUSA Special Offerings. To date, the following amounts were submitted to the PCUSA Mission Agency on behalf of NPC:

Christmas Joy (Received in 2024/sent in 2025) - \$432.00

One Great Hour of Sharing - \$815.14

Pentecost - \$519.12 (40 percent retained by NPC to support local youth)

In August, \$848.00, the amount retained by NPC for the 2024 and 2025 Pentecost Offering, was sent to the Presbytery of Geneva in support of David Hansen as he attended the Youth Triennium in St. Louis, MO.

In July, \$86.50, the amount retained by NPC for the 2024 Peace and Global Witness Offering was given to the Matsiko Children's Choir.

The Mission Committee has approved the Potter's Hands Foundation as the recipient of NPC's 25% share of the 2025 Peace & Global Witness Offering, which concludes on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The Potter's Hands Foundation is a local, faith-based, nonprofit organization that is committed to helping survivors of human trafficking as they work through the process of restoration and healing.

Thank you, thank you, for your generosity in supporting the PCUSA Special Offerings.

The congregation continues to support Second Place East, Inc. through various monthly donations. For the months July through August 2025, donations to Second Place East, Inc. included: 11 desert plates, 4 bottles of multi-cleaner, 7 bottles of dish soap and 14 rolls of toilet paper. Referrals to the program doubled over the summer.

Another local mission supported by the NPC congregation is Renovation House. We are pleased to have the Rev. John Earle and some of the current residents of the program lead worship and share their powerful testimonies on Sunday, October 12, 2025. A free-will offering in support of Renovation House has been approved by the Session and handmade crafts will be available to purchase in the Narthex following worship. An update from Renovation House has been included in this month's North Star publication.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> the committee will be hosting Church World Service Blanket Sundays. We will have a table in the Narthex following worship to receive donations. \$10 will supply a warm blanket to those who have suffered devastating loss due to natural disasters and war. "Hosting a CWS Blanket Sunday is a powerful way for your congregation to wrap the world in love – offering warmth, hope, and compassion when it is most needed."

Lastly, a donation of \$500.00 was sent to Camp Whitman in support of the fundraising dinner hosted by NPC on September 13, 2025.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!



**Free Youth  
Event  
Smithhome  
Farms  
Pumpkin Patch  
October 4  
1:00 pm  
If interested,  
please contact  
Deb Stamp.**

**Pumpkins, corn  
maze, hay rides,  
apple cannon, cider  
and donuts, kettle  
corn, and so much  
more!**



# *Blessing* **OF THE ANIMALS**



**Sunday, October 5 | 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

North Presbyterian Church  
921 College Avenue  
Elmira, NY

   
**Bring your pets  
and  
lawn chairs**  

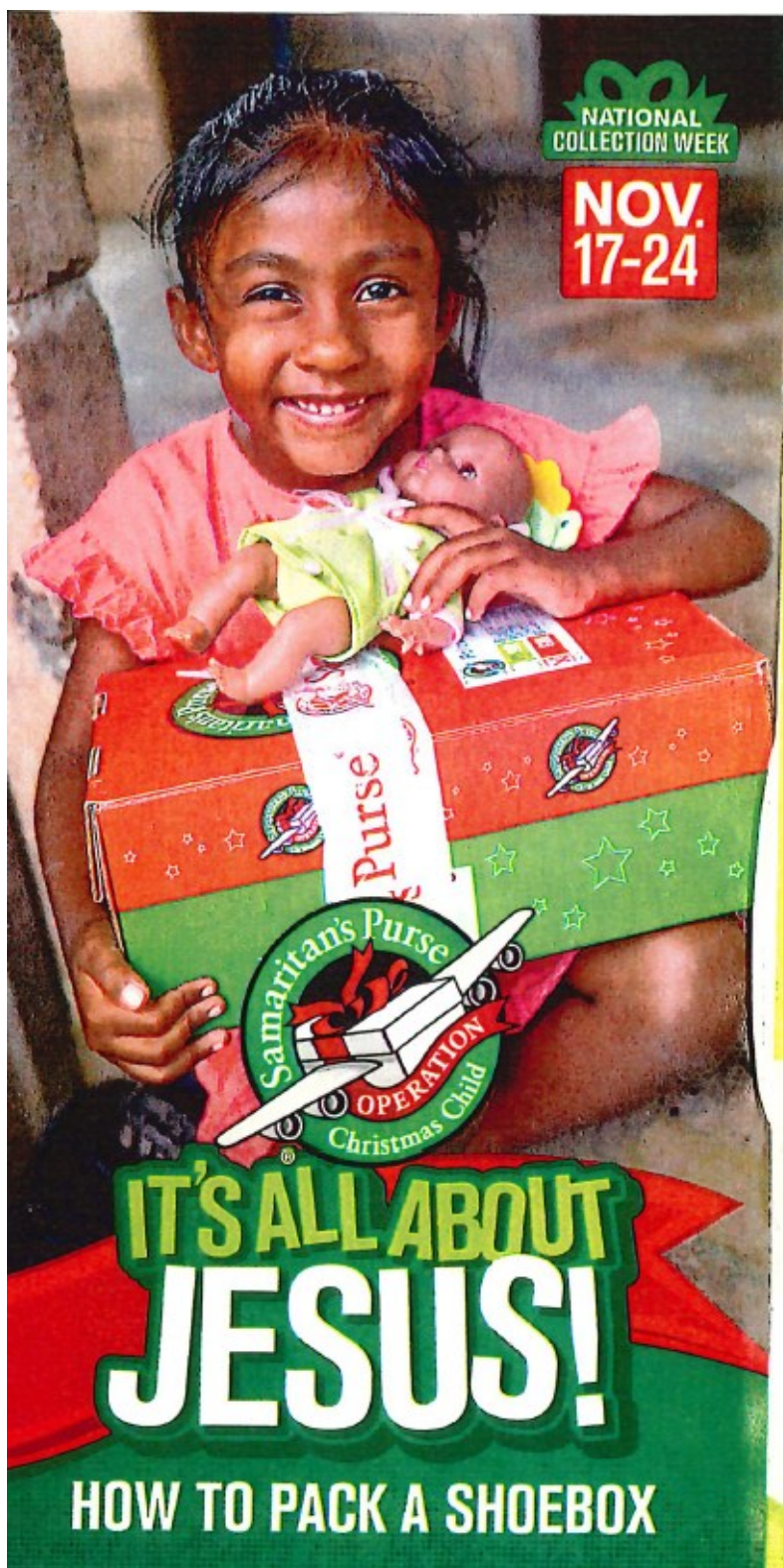

For more information call 607-734-2977

**New Beginnings      Bethany Lutheran**  
**North Presbyterian      First Presbyterian**  
**Ray of Hope      Monumental Baptist**  
**United Baptist**





**North Presbyterian Church will participate in Operation Christmas Child this year.** If you would like to donate items, please see the list below or contact Deb Stamp for more information. We will also happily accept empty shoe boxes. Please have donations in by November 19th. Youth will be putting the boxes together on November 23.



## SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS



### FUN "WOW" ITEM & TOYS

- Soccer ball with pump
- Dolls and stuffed animals
- Shoes • Toy cars
- Jump ropes and yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

### FULL WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS, & MORE!

- Toothbrushes • Socks
- Combs and hairbrushes
- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and coloring books
- Solar calculators
- Sunglasses
- Hair accessories
- Flashlights



### PERSONALIZED WITH CARE

- Prayer for each child • A note and photo
- Unique items in every shoebox



### DO NOT INCLUDE

soap, candy, toothpaste, gum, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items, seeds, food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, breakable items or glass containers, aerosol cans

Wondering if certain items are OK to pack? Use our gift suggestions tool:





# Annual Harvest Dinner

to benefit our youth program

**November 8 from 4-6 pm**

Dinners are \$15 each or 4 for \$50.

## **Pick-up or Delivery only.**

We will deliver to the following areas:

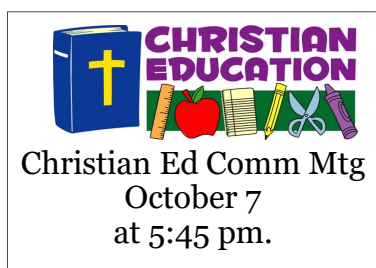
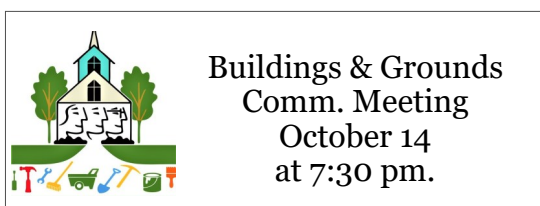
Elmira, W. Elmira, Southside, Southport,  
Elmira Heights, and Horseheads

Please call **607-734-2977** to  
reserve your dinner by **October 31** .

If you would like to volunteer or  
donate turkeys or apple or pumpkin  
pies, please see the sign-up sheets on  
the Welcome Desk.

## Menu:

Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy,  
stuffing, corn, roll, cranberry sauce,  
choice of apple or pumpkin pie.







## Blessing of the Animals

October 5

2:00 to 3:00 pm.



Presbyterian Women's

**FALL**  
gathering

October 17 from 10am to 2pm



**SOUTHERN TIER**  
LANDLORD/TENANT  
COALITION EST. 2024

October 16 at 6:00 pm.

**MISSION**

Mission & Outreach  
Meeting

October 14 at noon.



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.

**DEACONS**  
Leading through Serving.

Deacons Meeting  
will not meet  
in October.



October 14 at 5:30 pm.



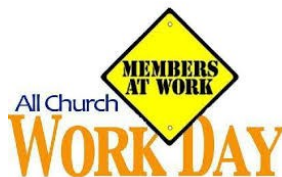
Music & Worship  
Committee will not  
meet in October.

Board of Session  
will meet on  
October 19 at  
6:00 pm.



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

There will be a Saturday  
work day October 11,  
following the breakfast.



**Kindermusik**



Kindermusik meets on Thursdays  
at 5:30 pm and Saturdays at  
10 am and 11 am.  
For information on how your  
child can participate, please  
contact the church office.

# NPC Board of Session

Session Summary  
September 22, 2025

The meeting was opened with scripture and prayer at 6 p.m. by Rev. Hansen, followed by a dish-to-pass supper.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the August 17, 2025 stated Session meeting were approved as submitted.

Thank you notes were read from CASA Trinity, Mosaic and Second Place East, Inc. for donations made on behalf of NPC by the Mission & Outreach Committee.

The Treasurer's report, including Statement of Assets and Profit & Loss budget were reviewed and approved.

The Treasurer handed out budget worksheets with the following timeline:

Budget worksheets should be filled out and returned by October 31, 2025.

First presentation of the 2026 budget to be made at the November 2025 Session meeting.

Budget to be approved at the December 2025 Session meeting.

The Session approved the following actions:

To use the \$500 donation received from the ACTS breakfast (less the cost of food) to cover costs incurred by future joint services & programs.

To hold Hanging of the Greens on November 23, 2025 preceded by a dish-to-pass luncheon.

To invite other churches for Carols & Cookies @ NPC on December 21, 2025 @ 2 pm.

To celebrate a combined December 24, 2025 Christmas Eve Worship service with communion at 5 p.m.

To accept 5 prospective new members into membership of NPC preceded by introductions and a question & answer period.

To incorporate a Liturgy of New Membership into worship once a convenient date is established.

Music & Worship announced:

Caroling to our homebound members will be on Sunday, December 14, 2025.

(Volunteers needed to make hot chocolate, set up and clean up, etc.)

Unhanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 immediately following worship.

Due to our prior florist going out of business, Emily's Florist is our new florist & will provide the same quality for the same price.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Swatling, Clerk of Session



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S FALL GATHERING



With Special Guest

Pastora Evelyn  
Torres - Ramírez

**17  
OCT**

**First Presbyterian Horseheads  
2943 Westinghouse Road  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**WORSHIP ~ LUNCHEON**

**RESERVATIONS REQUESTED  
TO [LALOCAT@AOL.COM](mailto:LALOCAT@AOL.COM)**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bulletin Info Due  10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 pm - Fellowship Dinner 6:00 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Praise Band 7:00 pm - Worship Svc. 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	2  8:45 am -Yoga 5:30 pm - Kindermusik	3  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA	4  10:00 am - Kindermusik 11:00 am - Kindermusik 1:00 pm - Smithome Farms
5  11:00 am -Worship Service at Hhds First Pres 2:00-3:00 pm - Blessing of the Animals at NPC  	6  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm TOPS	7  8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 5:45pm - CE Mtg	8 Bulletin Info Due  9:15 am - Fin. Comm 10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm - Bell Choir 7:00 pm - Praise Band 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	9  8:45 am -Yoga 5:30 pm - Kindermusik	10  10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	11  8:00 am - Saturday Breakfast/Workday 10:00 am - Kindermusik 11:00 am - Kindermusik   
12  9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School	13  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm TOPS	14  8:45 am -Yoga 12:00 pm - Mission & Outreach 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 pm - Chem Cty Landlord 6:45 pm - Comm & Tech 7:30 pm B & G Mtg	15 Bulletin Info Due  10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm - Bell Choir 7:00 pm - Praise Band 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	16  8:45 am -Yoga 5:30 pm - Kindermusik 6:00 pm - Landlord/ Tenant Coalition	17  Piano Tuning in AM 10:00 am -Food Pantry 10:00 am - Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering at First Pres., Hhds, 5:15 pm -AA	18  10:00 am - Kindermusik 11:00 am - Kindermusik
19  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   	20  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm TOPS	21  8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours	22 Bulletin Info Due  10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm - Bell Choir 7:00 pm - Praise Band 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	23  8:45 am -Yoga 5:30 pm - Kindermusik	24  10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA	25  10:00 am - Kindermusik 11:00 am - Kindermusik
26  9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 11:00 am - Sunday School	27 Newsletter Info Due  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm TOPS  	28  8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:30 pm - Woodbrook Svc.	29 Bulletin Info Due  10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm - Bell Choir 7:00 pm - Praise Band 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir	30  8:45 am -Yoga 5:30 pm - Kindermusik	31 Halloween  10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm - AA  	