

# NORTH STAR

December 2025 - Making Disciples...  
Making a Difference.



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**December, 2025**  
**A Letter from Pastor Hansen**

As many of you know, emails under my name were sent out from fraudulent email accounts on November 17. This is not the first time I have been impersonated, and it will not be the last. I write these annual reminders about text messages or emails impersonating me or others, because we all need to be reminded about how difficult it is to discern whether you and I are getting scammed or not.

Just this past fall, I got an email that looked like it was from the Executive Director of Camp Whitman, Bryan Mueke. It was not. It looked like it. The email certainly did not stand out as a scam. But it was. It wanted me to sign into a fraudulent OneDrive account. I tried multiple times and, thankfully, it did not work. The moment I found out what had happened, I changed my passwords before someone changed my passwords for me. I was lucky.

Part of what happened to the people who got the email “from me” is that the people who were impersonating me set up Gmail accounts that told the recipients of the emails that the email was from me. Scammers do not have to hack into my email account to trick someone, they just have to open an email account and tell it to tell people it is from me. And because we are so used to the vast majority of our emails not lying to us about who sent them, we do not take the extra step to examine the actual email address.

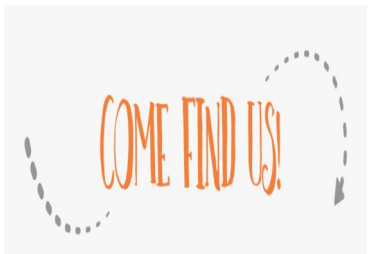
The email supposedly sent to me by Bryan Mueke and the emails supposedly from me to many of you were more sophisticated than the run of the mill, I need you to buy me gift cards scam. They did not ask for money or gift cards. They merely asked us to respond.

So, what do we do? A couple of reminders. First, I will never text you or email you asking for gift cards, iTunes cards, Apple Cards, or Amazon cards. Second, if the email or text uses your full, given name and I have never called you by that name, it is not from me. Third, if I am really going to ask you to do something out of the ordinary, I am probably going to call you and not email or text you. Fourth, and I think that this is the most important tip, take your time and do not feel the need to instantly respond. And lastly, verify. Call the office. Talk it over with someone you trust.

As followers of Christ, we are called to be generous with our time, our skills, our energy, and our resources; and unfortunately, this is what people who target churches and other communities of faith are counting on. Let us not respond by becoming less generous or being less helpful or by becoming cynical. Rather, let us respond by slowing down, taking a breath, and understanding that there is huge difference between someone who is hungry and in need of food and a scam. The first we are called to respond to in love, the second, we are called to ignore, so that we can continue to respond in love to the first.

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 December 2025 and January 2026 are:

**December 7, 14, 21 & 28 and January 4, 11, 18 & 25.**

*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 7 Steve Allison  
December 14 Steve Allison  
December 21 Worship At First Pres, Elmira  
December 28 Bill Furnas

### Ushers

December 7 Wendy Swatling, Barb Duryea  
December 14 Amanda Korfmann, Joe Rolls  
December 21 Worship At First Pres, Elmira  
December 28 Nancy Isaacs, Kate Hansen

### Greeters

December 7 Tim Allison  
December 14 Linda Palmer  
December 21 Worship At First Pres, Elmira  
December 28 Tim Allison

### Communion

December 7 Suzie Hoskins, Lori Lee, Vicki Balon, John Eastwood, Kate Hansen  
December 21 Worship At First Pres, Elmira

### Youth Usher

December 14 Jordyn Wilkinson  
December 28 Paityn Perry

### Counters

December 7 Phil Carpentier, Pat Richards  
December 14 Cindy & Kurt Kalweit  
December 21 Worship At First Pres, Elmira  
December 28 Annette Stevens, Joe Rolls

### Wee Worship

December 7 Amanda Reese, Becky Kowulich  
December 14 Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea  
December 21 Worship At First Pres, Elmira  
December 28 Allie & Scott Sevey

### Coffee Hour

December 7 Melanie Fitzpatrick, Wendy Swatling  
December 14 Cindy Kalweit, Annette Stevens  
December 21 Worship At First Pres, Elmira  
December 28 Kate Hansen, Robin Quartly

### Worship Assistant

December 7 Cindy Kalweit  
December 14 Linda Palmer  
December 21 Worship At First Pres, Elmira  
December 28 Lori Lee

# Together we make a Family



Our  
Love &  
Prayers  
Go Out  
To...

## Weekly Prayer

**December 7:**  
Audrey Vanderhoff

**December 14:**  
Nancy Varnum

**December 21:**  
Mickey & Joseph Vischansky

**December 28:**  
Jim Wainwright

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

## Our Homebound Friends

**December 7:**  
Glen Bolt  
105 Morrow St.  
Elmira, NY 14904

**December 14:**  
Wilma Padgett  
3015 Lake St.  
Elmira Heights, NY 14903

**December 21:**  
Margery Schornsteimer  
758 Silver Pine Drive  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

**December 28:**  
Liz Bush  
37442 Loganberry Court  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

*Please send  
a card to  
our  
Homebound  
Friends*



# Welcome

We would like to remind everyone that they are welcome to attend Session Meetings.

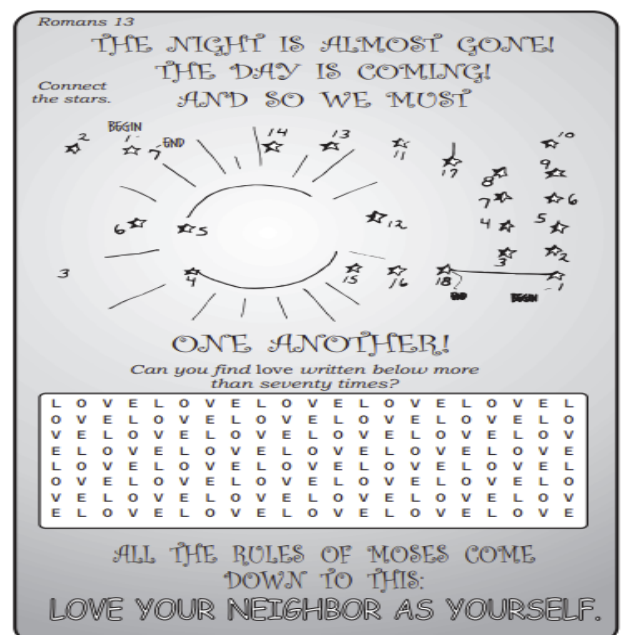
If you are interested in attending one, please contact the church office.

## PRAYER CHAIN

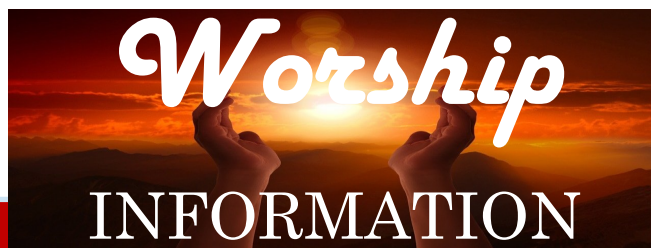


### Weekly Prayer Chain Email

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.







# 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.



Join us for  
*Worship*  
*Via Zoom*

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




## SHOPPING LIST

December Food Pantry

Shopping List:

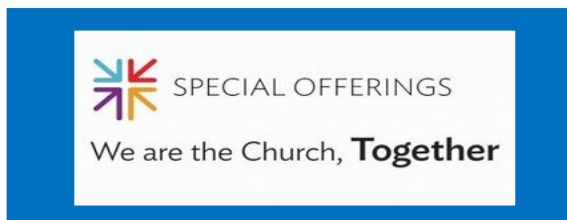
The following items are needed this month for the Food Pantry:

**Canned Soup**  
**Canned Pasta**  
**Peanut Butter**

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  
December:  
Christmas 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

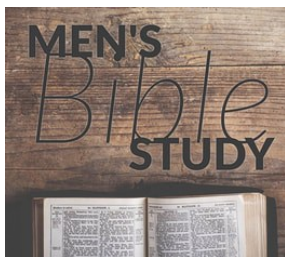


# REMINDER



## 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 12:00 pm on Thursdays  
and is studying "Pilgrim's Progress"  
If you would like more info, please  
contact Kurt Kalweit, Steve Allison  
or the church office.



**Wednesday Noon Bible Study**  
is studying, *Excellence, Run with the Horses* by Eugene H. Peterson.  
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



Chancel Choir rehearsals  
are at 7:30 pm  
Wednesdays.

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



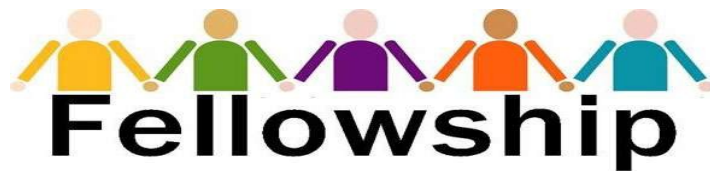
Youth Praise  
Band Practices  
are 10:55 am  
Sundays.



Bell Choir rehearsals  
are at 6:15 pm  
Wednesdays.







There will be no  
Saturday Breakfast or  
work day in December.



**There will be a Fellowship Dinner on  
December 10 at 5:30 pm.**



Dinner will be:

Fettuccine Alfredo  
Fettuccine w/Marinara Sauce or Butter  
Garlic Bread  
Tossed Salad  
Coffee/Water  
Spice Cake

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



**Second Place East, Inc.**



**December donation  
Request:**

**MOPS & PAILS**





# A New &

CELEBRATING THE LIGHT AND LIFE OF CHRISTMAS

# GLORIOUS MORN!

**Come together to celebrate Christmas!!!**

A Joint Christmas Cantata with Singers and Instrumentalists

First Presbyterian Church of Elmira

Horseheads Presbyterian Church

North Presbyterian Church

First Presbyterian Church of Elmira

Sunday ~ December 21, 2025 ~ 10:30 am

1054 W. Clinton Street Elmira, NY 14905

607-734-1614

LLOYD LARSON





It's time to start thinking about our home-bound friends and making their Christmas season a little brighter. The box with Christmas cards and the red mail box will be at the Welcome Center November 15th - December 12th. There will be packs of cards with bookmarks with the names on them. Please take some cards and make one out for each person, putting only their name on the front of the envelope. Please return to the mailbox by December 12th so they can be delivered during caroling. Please contact the church office or Bobbi Furnas with any questions. Thank you!





This year's  
**Christmas Eve Worship Service**

and

**Children's Christmas Pageant**

will be December 24 at 5:00 pm.

Children's dress rehearsal for the pageant will be

December 14 at 11:00 am.





CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



## THE PERFECT GIFT

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us — leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life.

*The perfect gift.*

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.



# Weekly Advent Services will be Wednesdays at 7:00 pm December 3, 10 & 17



**Christmas Caroling** to  
our homebound friends  
December 14th.

We will meet at the  
church at 2:00 pm.  
Refreshments will be  
enjoyed after caroling.

**Please come join  
in the fun!**







# **2025 GATEWAYS CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 18, 2025**

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

THEIR DINNER STARTS WITH HORS D'OEUVRES AND PUNCH, FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND DRINKS WHICH ARE SERVED. 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, CHEESE, 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.**

Catholic Charities  
Chemung & Schuyler

# NPC Board of Session

## Session Summary

November 16, 2025

- The meeting was opened with scripture, a devotional reading from *The Chosen* and prayer by Wendy Swatling at 6:00 p.m.
- The agenda was approved as amended.
- The minutes of the October 19, 2025 stated Session meeting and the November 9, 2025 Special Session meeting were approved as submitted.
- The Clerk reported the death of Peg Densberger.
- The Treasurer's report, including Statement of Assets and Profit & Loss budget were reviewed and approved. The Draft Budget for 2026 was reviewed.
- The Session approved the following actions:
  1. To ask Geneva Presbytery for \$19,500 + \$200 postage (total \$19,700) to cover Administrative Services for 2026.
  2. To accept the invitation from First Presbyterian Church of Elmira to join their Christmas Cantata service on December 21, 2025 @ 10:30 am.
  3. The proposed communion dates for 2026.
  4. To accept the proposal from Micknich Electrical Systems for \$720 to upgrade the canopy lights under the portico.
  5. The repair of the heating system valves in the Library by Osburn Mechanical Plumbing & Heating.
  6. To cover the costs of extra trash and/or recycling pickups if needed for December 2025 & January 2026.
  7. To host a hymn sing organized by Lori Eastwood on Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 1-3 pm.
  8. To use Session funds to buy pizza for the December Session Dinner meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer @ 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Swatling, Clerk of Session

# NPC Board of Session

Congregational Meeting of the Congregation of  
North Presbyterian Church  
921 College Avenue  
Elmira, NY  
Sunday, November 23, 2025  
(Sanctuary, immediately following worship)

The Clerk determined that a quorum of the membership was present.

Rev. Evan Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Rev. Hansen presented George Batrowny to be elected to the Nominating Committee and opened up nominations from the Floor.

There were no nominations from the Floor.

Motion to close nominations from the Floor was made by John Eastwood, seconded by Annie LeFevre. Motion CARRIED.

Motion to nominate George Batrowny was made by Kurt Kalweit, seconded by Amanda Korfman. Motion CARRIED.

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Allison, seconded by Cheryl Allison. Motion CARRIED.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Swatling,  
Clerk of Session



# December EVENTS



December 18

**Catholic Charities**  
Chemung & Schuyler

**Gateways Dinner**



**Buildings & Grounds  
Comm. Meeting**  
December 9 at 7:30 pm.



**Finance Committee  
Meeting**  
December 11 at 9:15 am.

**Communications & Technology  
Committee Meeting**  
December 9 at 6:45 pm.



**NewsLetter**

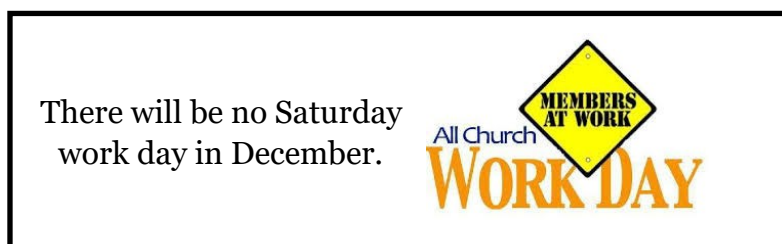
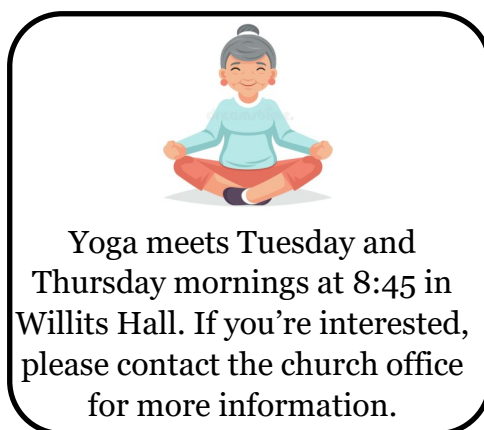
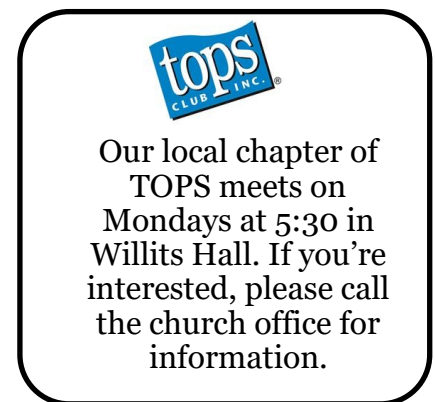
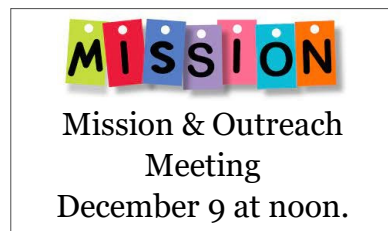
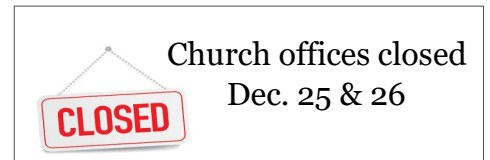
Information to be included  
in the December North Star  
Newsletter is due to the  
Church Office by  
Tuesday, December 23.

**CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

**Christian Ed Comm Mtg**  
December 9  
at 5:45 pm.

**Community Meal at  
Grace Episcopal  
Church**

Wednesday, December 10  
Set up at 3:00 pm  
Dinner at 5:00 pm





# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm TOPS	<b>2</b>  8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours	<b>3</b> Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Praise Band 7:00 pm - Advent Svc. 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir 	<b>4</b>  8:45 am -Yoga 12:00 pm - Men's Bible 5:30 pm - Kindermusik	<b>5</b>  10:00 am - Food Pantry 10:00 am - Kindermusik 5:15 pm - AA	<b>6</b>  10:00 am - Kindermusik 11:00 am - Kindermusik
<b>7</b>  9:30 am -Worship Service 9:30 am - Communion 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 10:55 am - Youth Praise Band 11:00am-Sunday School 	<b>8</b>  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm TOPS	<b>9</b>  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 Assoc 5:45pm - CE Mtg 6:45 pm - Comm & Tech 7:30 pm - B & G Mtg	<b>10</b> 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 - Advent Svc. 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir 	<b>11</b>  9:15 am - Fin. Comm 8:45 am -Yoga 12:00 pm - Men's Bible 5:30 pm - Kindermusik	<b>12</b>  10:00 am -Food Pantry 10:00 am - Kindermusik 5:15 pm -AA 	<b>13</b>  8:00 am - Saturday Breakfast/Workday 10:00 am - Kindermusik 11:00 am - Kindermusik 
<b>14</b>  9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 10:55 am - Youth Praise Band 11:00 am - Sunday School 2:00 pm - Christmas Caroling 	<b>15</b>  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm TOPS	<b>16</b>  8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours	<b>17</b> Bulletin Info Due  10:00 am -Food Pantry 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:00 pm - Bell Choir 6:30 pm - Praise Band 7:00 pm - Advent Svc. 7:30 pm - Chancel Choir 	<b>18</b>  8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am - Catholic Charities Gateways Dinner 12:00 pm - Men's Bible	<b>19</b>  10:00 am -Food Pantry 10:00 am - Kindermusik 5:15 pm -AA	<b>20</b>  11:00 am - Kindermusik
<b>21</b>  10:30 am -Worship Service at First Presbyterian Church, Elmira with Christmas Cantata 2:00 pm - Carols & Cookies 6:00 pm - Board of Session 	<b>22</b>  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm TOPS	<b>23</b> Newsletter Info Due  8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:30 pm - Woodbrook Service 	<b>24</b> Bulletin Info Due  12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service w/Communion 	<b>25 Christmas Day</b>  Church offices closed 	<b>26</b>  Church offices closed 5:15 pm - AA	<b>27</b>  11:00 am - Kindermusik
<b>28</b>  9:30 am -Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Hour 10:45 am - Good News Singers' Practice 10:55 am - Youth Prsie Band 11:00 am - Sunday School	<b>29</b>  10:00 am - Food Pantry 5:30 pm TOPS	<b>30</b>  8:45 am -Yoga 1:15 pm - Staff Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours	<b>31</b> Bulletin Info Due New Year's Eve  10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm - Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours			