

North Star

Spring 2022

March/April/May

An e-publication of North Presbyterian Church

Creating New Wineskins

I've always had trouble wrapping my mind around the saying in the gospels, *"No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."* (Mark 2:22). It sounds simple enough, I suppose, but for some reason, maybe because I don't know anything about winemaking, it has always puzzled me.

Jesus often spoke in metaphors like this, trusting that his audience would be familiar with the images. From our distance 2,000 years later, though, some of those images are pretty obscure. Most of us have never experienced the fragility of wineskins. My problem was always getting hung up on the image and losing sight of the point he's making. He says this in answer to critics who ask why he and his disciples don't fast the way other teachers and students do.

What he's saying is his teachings are so fresh and new they can't be contained in old forms of piety. And so long as he is with his disciples, it's no time for fasting. Jesus is the herald of joy, the bearer of good news. His critics, while they might have agreed with much of what he taught, wanted to put him in a box; they wanted to package him in

a way they could understand and approve. We find Jesus resisting those attempts to control him over and over in the gospels.

That need for old wineskins, for the outer trappings of our faith to look familiar and comforting, is a temptation the church faces all the time. We have trouble letting go of forms and practices that no longer accommodate the good news we're called to bring. As we gain insight into our behavior and discern the ways our understanding of God and God's presence in the world evolve and grow, we find the old forms of worship can no longer contain our new understanding.

For instance, the language we use to talk about God, language most of us were raised with and has always served our needs, has for many of us burst open and fallen apart like old wineskins. The words we use for Trinity, say, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, may feel too narrow and masculine, too anthropomorphic. Or the things we say through our hymns about Jesus and our status as disciples may feel too triumphalist, too exclusive.

Holding ourselves to forms of expression that no longer really convey what we believe carries the danger of stunting our maturity. And it

risks driving folks away who are looking for fresh insights into the Divine. But creating new wineskins poses a formidable challenge. Meeting that challenge begins with listening closely to the new insights others bring and remaining open to the ways God is speaking through other cultures and perspectives and religions. We may find, even among ourselves, there is a wide diversity of belief we can draw on to expose us to new wine.

As we make our way this year through the season of Lent, I hope each of us is able to sit awhile with ideas and insights that challenge our current ways of thinking. One of the characteristics of Jesus' ministry and teaching that is consistent across the gospels is a commitment to an ever-widening inclusion. May we all seek to embody that commitment, to extend as wide an embrace as we can to those around us who are searching, as we reveal God's compassion and love in the world.

God's peace be with you,

Pastor Bill

In this Issue

Creating New Wineskins	Page 1
Behind the Scenes	Page 3

MISSION & OUTREACH

UPC Food Pantry Responds to 2021	
Food Needs	Page 5
Friends of Night People	Page 5
Advocacy and Outreach	Page 6
Special Offerings.....	Page 8
A Big Thank You!	Page 8

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Adult Learning Opportunities.....	Page 8
Sunday School.....	Page 9

STEWARDSHIP

Financial Snapshot Total Year 2021 ..	Page 10
Including North in Your Estate	
Planning	Page 10
Ways of Making Gifts to North	Page 11

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Holy Week and Easter Services	Page 11
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BITS & PIECES

Our True North	Page 12
Senior Wellness.....	Page 12
Church Office Closed.....	Page 12
Save the Date	Page 12
Let's Connect	Page 13

Behind the Scenes

by Reyne Jankowski

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in the world of championship figure skating? Well just ask Jean Ervin! She and her late husband, Bill, are the proud parents of Lisa Ervin, who was a ladies figure skating champion in the early 1990's. Lisa won three consecutive silver medals at the World Junior Figure Skating Championships from 1991 to 1993 and is the 1993 US National Championships silver medalist. She also placed 13th overall in the 1993 World Figure Skating Championships in Prague.

Lisa Ervin, the only child of William and Jean Ervin, was born in April 1977 in Charleston, West Virginia. At the tender age of 3, Lisa saw some figure skaters on TV and told her mother she wanted to learn to skate. So Bill and Jean took Lisa to the local ice rink, the Charleston (West Virginia) Civic Center Ice Arena, and signed her up for lessons with Melissa Smith. There she saw a figure skating competition and when she spotted the medals around the necks of the winners, she said she wanted "a necklace" like that. And so a championship skater was born!

After attending a skating clinic in Ohio, Lisa's skating potential was recognized and she was invited to join the skating program there to train with Olympic coach Carol Heiss Jenkins. In 1984 at the age of 7, Lisa left home and boarded with another skater's family in Lakewood, Ohio (a suburb of Cleveland) where she would live and train for the next three years. Bill and Jean would drive from Charleston to Lakewood every other weekend to be with her.

Bill, who was a mechanical engineer for Dupont, was transferred from Charleston to Wilmington, Delaware in 1987 when Lisa was 10 years old. Following the move to Delaware, Jean decided to relocate to Ohio to be near Lisa. She



found a job and rented an apartment. Bill would drive from Wilmington to Lakewood every weekend to be with his family. Jean remembers fondly how Bill would help

Lisa with her math homework over the phone during the week and on his weekend visits. Math was not Lisa's best subject and Jean said Bill was always much better at math than she was!

While most figure skaters receive tutoring, Lisa was one of the few competitors who remained in public school while training. The Lakewood public school arranged her schedule to work with her skating program. Her typical day would start at 5:30 a.m. with practice on the ice and then on to school at 11:15 am. She often returned to the rink after school except on the evenings she had ballet lessons. During the summer months, Lisa would skate 7 hours a day, take ballet lessons two days a week, and spend much of her free time researching music for her programs. While in summer training, she would sometimes work with a retired Rockette for additional choreography. One of the assistant coaches at her rink was a former ice dancer from Great Britain and he would finalize her programs.

The dresses that Lisa wore for competitions were designed and made by Lauren Sheehan who also designed clothing for track star, Flo Jo, and skaters Debbie Thomas and Jill Trenary. Lauren's husband was a military officer stationed at various bases around the U.S. Lisa would fly to wherever they lived and spend the weekend to designing and being fitted for a new dress. The design of the dress was always focused around Lisa's music and they were all hand



beaded by skilled seamstresses employed by Lauren. Each dress cost about \$1,000. The new dress would be shipped just days before

a competition to the hotel where Lisa was housed, and Jean said they were a perfect fit every time!

Lisa's skates were by Riedell and she usually needed at least four boots each year. The company made them to her exact foot measurements with her name stitched inside.

Lisa traveled to competitions all across the United States and in numerous European countries, including Germany, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Switzerland, Denmark and the Czech Republic. Jean traveled with Lisa to competitions within the U.S. and Bill accompanied her on international trips.

Milestones in Lisa's skating career include:

- National Novice Champion, age 14
- National Junior Ladies Champion, Age 15
- World Junior Championships, Silver Medalist 1991, 1992, 1993
- US Championships, 4th in the senior ladies, 1992 at age 16
- US Championships, Silver Medalist 1993
- World Championships 1993, placed 13th

Following the 1992 World Championships in Czechoslovakia, Lisa left long-time coach, Carol Heiss Jenkins and moved to Cape Cod to train with Nancy Kerrigan's coaches Evy and Mary Scotvold. One year later at the age of 17, Lisa decided to leave the world of competitive skating to pursue a career in education.

Lisa said she loved skating and always would, that she had achieved the goals in skating

that she wanted, and had reached a point that she wanted to do something different in her life.

In my conversation with Jean, she related a couple of instances that she believes were formative in Lisa's decision to pursue a career working with children. Early on, when Lisa was in middle school, the school principal called Jean and told her Lisa had formed a friendship with another girl who he thought might change Lisa in a "negative" way. During her conversation with Lisa about the principal's concerns, Lisa told her mother that the girl was lonely and in need of a friend. Then she said something that gave Jean and Bill pause...Lisa said "Have you and the principal thought that I might change her?"

At the age of 14, Lisa, after participating with some other skaters at fundraising event for the Jimmy Fund in Boston, said "I'm worried about winning a gold medal and these children are worried about tomorrow."

After a visit to Hungary for an international competition, she came back saying how good it was to be home in the USA. While there, she was approached by children in the street begging for money saying, "You from USA; you rich." Lisa came away from that experience with a greater appreciation of what she had compared with others in the world.



Lisa enrolled and graduated from Hamilton College after high school and eventually went on to get her graduate degree from the University at Buffalo.

In between graduating from Hamilton and enrolling at UB, Lisa coached skating and served as an ISU Technical Specialist and Assistant Technical Specialist for several international competitions.

Lisa currently works with autistic children at The Summit Center, is an Adjunct Professor in the Language and Instruction Department at UB, and is nearing completion of her PhD. Lisa married Fred Elliott in 2018 and has two children from her first marriage.

Mission & Outreach

UPC Food Pantry Responds to 2021 Food Needs

by Mary Beth Karr

For when I was hungry, you gave me food...Matthew 25:35

Two afternoons each week, the University Presbyterian Church Food Pantry continued to respond to increased needs for food in our area last year. The 2021 numbers have come down from the 2020 early pandemic numbers. However, 2021 still represents an increase over our “normal year” numbers. Of the total people served, 16% were children, 69% adults and 15% seniors.

Served	2021	2020	2019	2018
Families	180	229	142	145
Family members	347	523	252	260
Equivalent Meals	37,503	56,529	27,243	28,044

The UPC Pantry is grateful North Church is among its donors and partners.



There are varied opportunities for volunteers at the Pantry located at Main Street and Niagara Falls Boulevard. They currently are in need of volunteers to work in the pantry from 11:30 am-4 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays. Volunteers may choose 2 hour, 2½ hour or 4½ hour shifts on whichever days they’re available. Contact University Presbyterian Church Office at 836-7660 if you are interested in helping.

Friends of Night People

by Jeff Ebsary

Our ministry to Friends of Night People goes on!

For many years our congregation’s support of Friends of Night People has been a significant

mission outreach of North Church. Through it, North Church members express love, concern, and care for brothers and sisters in need, and it is made possible by your financial support of North Church and by a host of church members who volunteer time and effort to carry out the mission.

Specifically, our support of “Friends” is in the form of a monthly contribution of oven-baked chicken and diced potato with sautéed onion, enough for about 250 nutritious and tasty meals which are served, free of charge, to needy clients in the city of Buffalo. A crew of volunteers meet once a month at our kitchen and prepare this food for delivery to “Friends” later that same day. Funds for this effort are provided from North Church’s Hunger Initiative.



The staff at “Friends” is always grateful for our contribution as it allows them a break from their normal cooking routine. But more importantly, “Friends” clients who are served the meals are very appreciative. We have often been told that on the day our fare is to be served, word travels quickly through the neighborhood because the folks consider it a special treat! Hearing that alone makes the effort so worthwhile!

The onset of Covid forced “Friends” to temporarily cease normal operations. However, last fall they began to restore services and now are back to full scale routine operations.

Because our relationship with Friends of Night People has been close to the heart of North Church members for so long, the Deacons simply want to let you know that we are back to carrying on this important mission project. Last fall we resumed our monthly delivery of chicken and potatoes. We

have enthusiastic volunteers who make it happen and have continued financial support from Session.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this program, please let the church office know and the Deacons will contact you promptly.

Advocacy and Outreach

We have an amazing congregation responding to requests for local needs. The Deacons take care of the local needs. The Advocacy and Outreach (A & O) Committee administers the four special offerings, determines the locally designated portions in collaboration with other church committees when applicable, responds to national and global disasters, and advocates for systemic changes to meet the focuses of a Matthew 25 church which we are.

In 2021 with your generous donations and support, here is how North met the local needs of poverty, hunger, and homeless issues in Buffalo and advocated for systemic changes to meet the Matthew 25 focuses.

The Deacons:

- continue to cook for Friends of the Night People on a monthly basis. Please be sure to check the weekly *News from North* email to find out when their next scheduled cooking session will be. They welcome any volunteers.
- deliver food donations and orange bags for packaging egg cartons and fruit juices on a regular basis to the UPC Food Pantry. Recently, the Food Pantry informed us they now have a large supply of the orange bags and for now, no longer need these bags.
- donated \$600 to the First Fruits Food Pantry at Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church upon receiving a request from Pastor George Nicholas for donations to purchase fruits and vegetables.

- sent 66 children's books to Family Promise at Christmas. Gift cards amounting to \$850 and cash donations of \$140 collected from the Christmas giving tree were taken to them in January. Located near Larkinsville, the site has six small apartments to serve 6 families at a time. The organization is having difficulty finding safe affordable housing for settling families they serve.
- collected donations and furniture for the Afghan family, sometimes renting a U-Haul at their own expense to collect furniture and store in Pat Townsend's garage until we get word of a family. Journey's End is having the same problem finding affordable housing for the family we will sponsor.
- are assigned to and serve house-bound disabled and elderly members of the congregation as well as help them with services. They have carried out these duties faithfully throughout the pandemic.

The Advocacy and Outreach Committee;

- went to Session to request \$3,000 to sponsor three month's rent for an Afghan refugee family.
- designated Sleep in Heavenly Peace as the local recipient of the Christmas offering and Water= Life as the global recipient helping to purify water in African countries. As you may know, there are 10,000 children without beds in Buffalo. Due to the generosity of our congregation, \$3,642.50 was sent to each organization. Our total Christmas offering this year totaled \$7,285. A terrific response from the congregation!
- designated Voice Buffalo, an advocacy organization bringing people together to fight racism and poverty in our community, as the local recipient portion of the Peace & Global Witness offering. Arranged for Dennis

Walczak to speak to the congregation about the organization's mission, goals, and purpose

- **Dismantling Structural Racism- a focus of Matthew 25**



Pastor Bill has been very active with the Racial Justice Task force, a joint effort with University Presbyterian Church. As part of our commitment as a Matthew 25 congregation, North stands with those in our community who are seeking to dismantle institutional racism in our society. We are in the process of planning a visit by Alex Ebsary, an out-of-town church member, to talk about his experiences in the Mideast and his work with persecuted populations in that area. He has recently taken a position with the UN on their committee to address hunger. He is stationed in Rome. We hope to have him speak about his past and present positions when he is in town during the 2022 Christmas season.

- **Eradicating Systemic Poverty- a focus of a Matthew 25 church**

During our shelter in place, North Presbyterian Church has addressed poverty through contributions to the Feedmore WNY Food Pantry located at University Presbyterian Church. NPC church members volunteered services at the Food Pantry, collected orange bags for packaging food items, and donated non-perishable food items. Food and bags were delivered to the food pantry by members of A & O and now by Jonathan Roesser along with the Deacons. Contributions were made to Bread for the World to assist their advocacy efforts. The Committee wrote to Congress in response to a request from Bread for the World, with specific recommendations for addressing the extreme hunger being experienced during the pandemic.

- **Building Congregational Vitality - a focus of a Matthew 25 church**

Recently, on October 17, 2021 and in collaboration with the Worship Committee, the entire church service including the hymns were devoted to the vision of a Matthew 25 church. Pat Townsend made bookmarks with the focuses of a Matthew 25 church and these are in the pews. Olivia Ebsary designed and had banners hung in the Narthex proclaiming we are a Matthew 25 church.

The Hunger Initiative

- The Deacons are responsible for the Hunger Initiative from December 1 to September 30 each year and are responsible for meeting food insecurity in the community during these times.
- From September 30 to December 1, the Turkey Project Committee is responsible for the Hunger Initiative. Under the outstanding leadership of Debbie and Tim Hutton, procedures were adapted to meet the demands of the pandemic. Congregation members, area churches, synagogues, schools, and agencies cooperated to personally buy turkeys when supermarkets would not commit to bulk purchases. The agencies also offered freezer space and, in a wonderful collaboration, the Turkey Project was able to deliver approximately 450 turkey meals to agencies. The University Food Pantry had minimal need at Christmas for turkeys but the Turkey Project Committee was able to deliver an abundance of non-perishable items to them. The amount of complete turkey dinners and the number received by many agencies in the community were detailed in a comprehensive letter from Debbie and Tim and sent to all those who participated or contributed to the project. Again, our amazing congregation responded



in the personal purchase of extra turkeys and the storage of them in personal freezers.

As these events occur, the Deacons, the Advocacy & Outreach Committee, and the Hunger Initiative report them in the weekly e-mail blasts and in the quarterly newsletters.

Any suggestions you have for local recipients of portions of special offerings are welcome and will be considered. There is a mailbox for the Advocacy & Outreach Committee in the church office. You are also welcome to discuss any ideas you have with any one of the committee members personally. The members of the Advocacy and Outreach Committee are Sharon Dittmar, Pat Townsend, Kerri Bigler, Kath Hahn, Clark Squires, and Joe Alber.

The Committee meets the first Monday of each month on Zoom and welcomes new members. If you are interested in serving on the Advocacy & Outreach Committee, please speak with one of the current members. Two members of Session are designated members of the committee. The terms of five of the members expire in January 2023 and they are eligible to serve another three years if they choose.

Special Offerings

Our next Special Offering, administered by the Advocacy and Outreach Committee, is for the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and is collected on Palm Sunday, April 10th. Fish Banks for the OGHS

will be distributed to the children during Children's Time on March 6th and collected on April 10th. Please bring any extra change you may have to help the kids with their Fish Bank collection efforts.

The OGHS is sent to the Presbytery (USA) to help with Hunger, Disaster and Development worldwide. Thirty-two percent (32%) is devoted to Presbyterian disaster assistance to help victims recover and find hope after natural or human-caused disasters; 36% supports action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty; and 32% is contributed to communities dealing with racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice as well as to educate Presbyterians on the impact of these social ills.

Stay tuned for further information regarding this Special Offering.

A Big Thank You for Your Generous Contributions!

Thank you notes for donations have been received from the PCUSA for One Great Hour of Sharing (\$2,500) and the Peace & Global Witness offering (\$1,680); VOICE Buffalo, UPC Food Pantry, and Family Promise for gift cards and cash donations of \$970.



Spiritual Growth

Adult Learning Opportunities

Adult Ed

During Lent beginning March 6th and ending on Palm Sunday, April 10th, the Adult Education class will present a six session program following the book *The Cross and The Lynching Tree* by

James Cone, a landmark in the conversation about race and religion in America. "*They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.*" Acts 10:39. The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. Books are available for \$12.00 in the church office. Please see Reyne.

Look for all the offerings for Adult Education in the church's Thursday *News from North* e-mail. ***Please join us and enrich your faith journey among friends!***

Book Groups

Two book groups meet regularly each month in the church library at 10:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday and at 1:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday. Look for the book titles in the church's Thursday *News from North* e-mail. ***Come read with us!***

Bible Study



There are currently two Bible study offerings. Sunday morning Bible study meets on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in Room S-261.

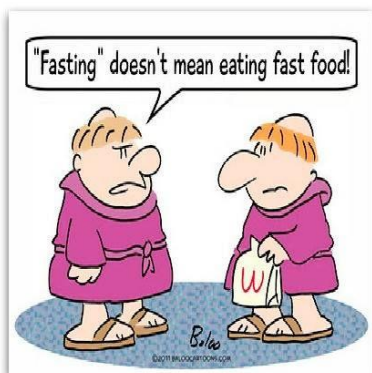
Please feel free to join at any time.

Pastor Bill hosts a Zoom Bible study on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30. If you are interested in joining in, please call the church office at 632-1330 or email n.church.npc@gmail.com.

Communion Schedule

March 6
April 15 (Good Friday)
April 17
May 8

(Dates are subject to change without notice)



Sunday School

March is fast approaching and that means Lent, a season of spiritual preparation for Easter, and Spring, a time for new growth, renewed growth and warmth.

Sunday School will begin Lent activities on 3/6 with Sunday School every Sunday through 4/10/22.

Don't miss Fish Bank distribution in worship on 3/6, Mr. Roger's birthday celebration on 3/20, celebration day for North Church folks and everyone for making it through the last 2 years 3/27, and Palm Sunday on 4/10. Our new **Follow Me** curriculum ***Practicing Joy*** will begin in May.

We miss those we haven't seen in a while, but are thankful to spend time with Sunday School friends when they are able to join us! Sunday School welcomes children Pre-K 4 years old through 8th grade. If you have questions, ideas for activities, or would love to volunteer, please email Debbie Hutton dsnyder97@yahoo.com or call or text at 716-903-1053.

We welcome and encourage parents and congregation members to consider co-teaching with one of our teachers to get acquainted with the new curriculum and the students. Remember that we as Presbyterians believe it is the responsibility of all of us to pass on our faith to children.

Sunday School class dates are as follows:

3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, **4/17 & 4/24 No Sunday School**, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, **5/29 No Sunday School**, 6/5, 6/12, 6/19

Debbie Hutton, NPC Children's
Christian Education Committee Chair

Stewardship

Financial Snapshot Total Year 2021

	<u>2021</u> <u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
INCOME:		
Giving	\$288,502	\$289,415
Rental Income	\$59,780	\$55,300
Investment Income	\$15,184	\$12,000
All Other	<u>\$13,856</u>	<u>\$5,500</u>
Total Income	\$377,322	\$362,215
	<u>2021</u> <u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
EXPENSES:		
People/Staffing	\$273,448	\$275,216
Building/Property	\$49,355	\$51,911
Programs/Outreach	\$13,020	\$14,768
All Other	<u>\$20,719</u>	<u>\$14,750</u>
Total Expenses	\$356,542	\$356,645
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$20,780	\$5,570

2021 SUMMARY: Though we continue to live in a world of pandemic and uncertainty, 2021 was once again a year of gratitude. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the North Church family whose financial support allowed us to sustain the life and ministry of North Church. As you know, donations are the single largest component of income representing nearly 80% of total income. On the expense side, as you note on the table, actual expenses came in remarkably close to budget. For 2021, we are pleased to report a surplus of \$20,780.

We are encouraged and deeply appreciative of your ongoing financial support as we face the challenges of 2022. Some challenges may even be unknown to us at this time. Yet, we remain ever

hopeful North Church will meet these challenges through your generosity. Thank you again!

We hope you have found the various giving options available for your gifts to the church to be beneficial.

Please feel free to contact any member of the finance committee if you have questions.

Finance committee: Duncan Hemink, Neil Arnold, Brad Hahn (Treasurer), Marci Hunt, Tim Hutton, Mary Beth Karr (Assistant Treasurer), Dick Mesmer (Session Rep)

Including North in Your Estate Planning

This is the time of the year when we assemble our financial records to meet the April tax filing deadline. Most of us look back at the year just ended and reflect how we managed our assets and controlled our expenditures. Sometimes we use this information to make future plans. Perhaps your thoughts this year will include creating or updating your will; something all of us should do periodically. If that is one of the items on your agenda, please consider including North in your estate planning.

By including North you can ensure the Church will:

- have a secure source of funds to support its ministries,
- be able to meet unexpected needs,
- have the resources to supplement the annual budget during periods of financial stress, and

- enable the Church to capitalize on future opportunities.

A pamphlet entitled **“Remembering North with a Legacy Gift”** in the literature rack near the Church office provides more detail. Please pick up a copy and look it over. If you have a general question, please leave a message in the Church office and someone will contact you. You should consult your attorney or financial/tax advisor for specific details concerning estate planning. Thank you and God bless!

P.S. If you have already included the Church in your estate planning and never informed anyone, please let the office know, so you can be included in the *Legacy Society*. Thank you.

Ways of Making Gifts to North



Thank you for your generous continued giving to North. Please know that our offerings to North remain important. They help cover our utilities, staff salaries and other essential expenses. You can make a gift to North in the following ways:

- Check mailed to North Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221.
- Online bill pay through your bank (use address above).
- Credit card through North’s online giving page on our website: [Donate](#). If you are able to include the processing fees in your gift, that is helpful to the church.
- ACH through the church’s website or your bank.
- Charitable IRA Distribution. Please consult your financial advisor about this.
- Appreciated stock. Contact the church office for financial transfer information.

However you make your gifts, please remember to designate how these gifts are to be used, e.g. pledge payment, regular offering for operating fund, per capita, Pentecost, etc. If you are not able to indicate this with online bill pay, please send a message about your gift to Karen Thomas at bookkeeper@northchurchwilliamsville.

If you need additional information, please contact Brad Hahn, Church Treasurer, 574-0223 or brad@bghahn.com.

Events & Happenings

Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022

7:00 pm Communion Service, Amherst Presbyterian Church; in person and live stream on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)

First Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2022

10:15 am Communion Service, NPC

Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022

10:15 am Worship Service, NPC

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022

7:00 pm Communion Service, Clarence Presbyterian Church
In person and [live stream](#)

Good Friday, April 15, 2022

12:00 pm Communion Service, NPC
In person and [live stream](#)

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022

7:30 am Sunrise Service, NPC Memorial Garden
10:15 am Communion Service, NPC
In person and [live stream](#)

Bits & Pieces

Our True North

At North Church we find our true selves and become most like Christ when we persevere and hold each other up in love and prayer.

Please pray for the families of the following who passed away recently:

David Worthington, November 8, 2021
(Carol Suckow's Brother)

Margaret Moody, November 18, 2021
(Sally Haywood's Sister)

Kate Cherry, January 15, 2022
(Mary Louise Berg's Daughter)

Edmund DiBianco, February 10, 2022
(Jenn Bottorff's Uncle)

Roger Gross, February 19, 2022

If we have missed someone, please accept our apology and contact the church office so we can update our records.

Senior Wellness

Everyone is invited to participate in wellness classes at the church.

- **Chair Yoga** meets every Monday and Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. in Westminster Hall.
- **Silver Sneakers Circuit** meets every Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. in Westminster Hall. The class is 45 minutes of standing low-impact choreography alternated with upper body strength work. This class is suitable for all levels of fitness, and the instructor will modify to fit your skill level.
- **Pilates** class meets every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Chapel. All classes are free.



Both the chair yoga and circuit classes are donation-based and we accept Silver Sneakers. Come join us!

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed:

Monday, April 18 – Day after Easter

Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day

Save the Date

March

- 2 Ash Wednesday
- 8 Deacons Meeting 7 p.m.
- 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 14 Session Meeting 7 p.m.

April

- 10 Palm Sunday
- 11 Session Meeting 7 p.m.
- 12 Deacons Meeting 7 p.m.
- 15 Good Friday
- 17 Easter Sunday
- 18 Day after Easter – **Church Office Closed**



May

- 9 Session Meeting 7 p.m.
- 10 Deacons Meeting 7 p.m.
- 15 North Star Deadline
- 30 Memorial Day – **Church Office Closed**

Let's Connect

Sunday Bulletin

If you have an announcement, please e-mail n.church.npc@gmail.com by **noon on Wednesday**.

Weekly E-mail Blasts

This church-wide e-mail generally goes out on **Thursday evening**. If you are not receiving this communication but would like to be added to the list, e-mail n.church.npc@gmail.com to be added.

Newsletter (North Star)

You can submit story ideas by e-mailing it to n.church.npc@gmail.com. The newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. The newsletter is available online but we are happy to mail it to you if you wish. Please call the office to make arrangements.

Phone

Your call is very important to us. We try to take every call but if we missed yours, please leave a message at 716-632-1330. We make every effort to return your call within 24 hours or less.

Phone Extensions:

- 21 Office/Reyne Jankowski
- 22 Pastor/Bill Hennessy
- 23 Bookkeeper/Karen Thomas
- 24 Organist/Marlene Harrington
- 26 Facilities/Mike Callaghan

Resource Center 716-389-2023

The staff members listed below do not keep regular office hours and cannot be reached at the church with their own extensions; however, you may leave a message for them with the office administrator.

Alanna Carlins, Children's Choir Director

Olivia Ebsary, Sacred Arts

Kurt Ebsary, Music Assistant

Regina Koterak, Childcare

Mack Barker, Shared Youth Director

North Star Deadlines

May 15

August 15

November 15

February 15

Contact Information

300 North Forest Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221

(716) 632-1330

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