

# North Church Chimes



DECEMBER 2025



## In Focus *Huddle up*

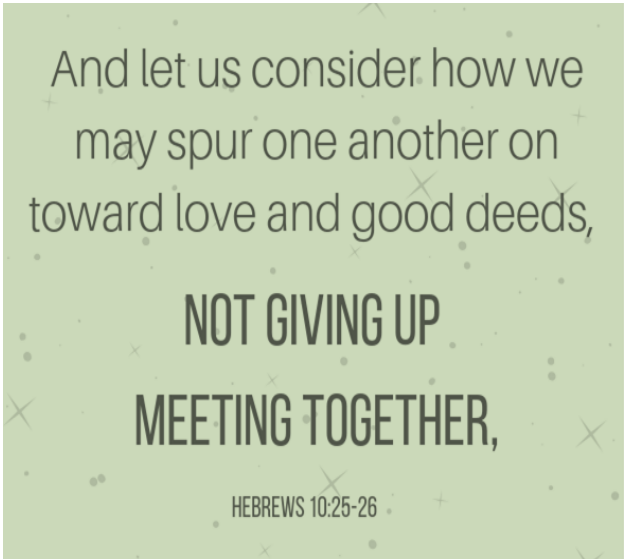
There is something that God put deep within our souls that NEEDS to be around other believers. Worshiping Jesus together may be the single most important thing we do. It plays an indispensable role in rekindling our spiritual fire and keeping it burning. We were NOT made to walk through this Christian life all by ourselves. We are at our best when we are part of an incredible team.

Speaking of an incredible team, the Buffalo Bills requires teamwork and active participation to achieve its goals. Josh Allen can pass, avoid the sack (well, most of the time) and even run the ball into the endzone but he too does his best when the team works together. In the huddle, teams determine how best to work together toward their shared goal. Just as players work together to win a game, church members collaborate in worship and service to fulfill their mission and support one another spiritually.

When we skip church, we miss the huddle. We go out into the “game” of life unprepared and alone. God created us to be surrounded by and supported by our teammates.

We all have unique spiritual gifts that can benefit the church. Engaging in church activities helps us discover and use these gifts, contributing to the overall health and growth of our congregation.

We welcome you to come to church and join us as we huddle to support others, build a strong community and strengthen our amazing team of Christians.



## *December Birthdays*

*As you grow another year older, may you also grow deeper in your faith and closer to God. May His wisdom guide you and His love comfort you.*

Noah Franco	Kathleen Matikosh	Glenn Chilson
Thomas Klamut	Donna Freiert	Judy Leithner
Ryan Cox	William Kish	Rose Mitchell
Max Cox	Candise Mye	

## FEED THE FALLS CHRISTMAS COOKIE PARTY

NIAGARA GOSPEL MISSION  
1317 Portage Road, Niagara Falls  
Tuesday, December 23, 2025 @ 7 pm



Join us for a family friendly gathering at the Mission to prepare for or Christmas Day dinner.

If you can donate cookies, we would be very appreciative. With typically 2-3 cookies per bag, we need approximately 6,000 cookies!

If you have any question or can help, please contact Donna Stevens at [dstevens@niagaragrm.org](mailto:dstevens@niagaragrm.org)  
716.946.6163



*Thank  
You*

*A special "Thank You" to everyone who helped with the Hanging of the Greens. We are so blessed to have such a welcoming and beautiful sanctuary to enjoy during the season of advent.*



## FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER

**December 14**  
**Immediately following service**

**Turkey dinner with all the fixings!**  
**Visit from Santa**



**\$20 adults**  
**\$10 for 12 and under**

**RSVP by Dec 1**  
**Call Rose 716.743.1278**  
**Text 716.909.5185**  
**Sign up in Narthex**



# SESSION SUMMARY

November 2, 2025

Present: Rev William Hennessy, Moderator, Peter Somerville, Karl Wende, Sarah Franco, Martha Luchterhand, Virginia Mitchell

Excused: Lynda Cox

Absent: Mike Keagel

Quorum was met

Meeting opened with prayer by Rev Hennessy at 12:13pm

The minutes of October 5, 2025 meeting were approved on the motion of Ginger and second of Karl

Treasurer's Report presented Karl Wende

Presbytery Report-Report from recent meeting given by Ginger

An update from the Pastoral Nominating Committee from Sarah Franco was presented.

Building and Grounds Approved building usage of building for December 13, 2025 for Friends of Harmony concert. Approved usage for January 13, 2026, for Big Wheels Bike Club. Both were approved on motion of Martha and Karl

Worship- Concerns of Board of Deacons on serving communion were addressed

Karl Wende presented a draft for the 2026 Budget

Mission- Proposal for our portion of 2025 Christmas Joy offering to go to Matthew 25 Project and 2025 Christmas offering to go to Niagara Gospel Mission approved on motion of Martha and second of Karl.

Stewardship Sunday November 9, 2025

New Business- Pete reported that he had been approached by representatives of Scouting America about forming a unit here.

Motion to adjourn from Karl and second from Pete at 1:07pm

Meeting adjourned with prayer from Rev Hennessey

Next Meeting December 7, 2025



*Heavenly Father, during this Advent season, we lift up those who are hurting. We ask for your comforting presence to surround them. May they feel your love and peace in their hearts, reminding them that they are not alone in their struggles. We pray for our North Presbyterian Family as we also lift in prayer those who need our faithful prayers ~ Judy L, Andrew, Patricia, Roger, David, Jessica, Jane, Elaine F, Michele, Terry R, Jean, Mary, Justine, Michele, Deborah T, Lindsay, Tim, Jeff, Gloria, Alex V, David P, Ginger M, Kathy C, Brenda M., Jerry C, Phalguni, Bev & Sam T, Bob G, Kristin L, Chrissy B, John C. Meredith R. and the family of Rev. Dr. Howard W. Boswell*





# Upcoming Events

December 1	Presbyterian Women's Dinner – 5:30 pm
December 7	Reverend Drew Ludwig Baptism Session Meeting
December 13	Friends of Harmony – 2pm Barbershop Quartet Concert
December 14	Larry Benn Family Christmas Party - following church service
December 21	Reverend Drew Ludwig
December 24	Christmas Eve Service                      6 pm
December 28	Mark Aquino Hymn Sing
January 4	James Sanford Session Meeting
January 11	Mark Aquino
January 18	Mission Speaker, Colton Lackey, Niagara Gospel Mission
January 25	Mark Aquino



CMH COUNSELING INVITES YOU TO

*Holiday Caroling,  
Cocoa & Cookies*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3  
AT 7 PM IN THE PARLOR

Lafayette Presbyterian Church  
875 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo

RSVP to Shelly Horan  
cmhcounseling@roadrunner.com  
716.884.7569

*Alexei Carstensen on piano*

Admission is \$25.  
Helps offset the cost of counseling services.

Street parking on Elmwood and Lafayette.  
Enter to right of playground on Elmwood.

Arrive early for Basket Raffle and 50/50 Split!

**Matthew Black**  
*in Concert*



The Everything Is Terrible and No One Is Okay Tour

Saturday, December 6, 2025  
4:00pm

*A light dinner will follow the concert*

First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora  
9 Paine Street, East Aurora, NY



# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Would you like to add beauty and joy to our sanctuary at Christmas? Please consider purchasing a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one this season.

This year the cost is \$15.00 for pink or red flowers. The plants will be used during the holidays at North Church. Plants can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service on December 24th.

If you wish to spread a little joy this Christmas Season, leave your plant at the church and it will be taken to a shut-in. Please indicate your willingness to share a plant when placing your order.

Poinsettias may be ordered by calling or texting Martha Luchterhand at 716 908-2154. You may also order by placing the form below in the offering plate. Please make all checks payable to North Presbyterian Church.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink Number of Poinsettias \$ \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00ea

Leave for a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_ Will pick up after service \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a check with your order and make payable to North Presbyterian

**Order and pay online using Tithe.ly**



If anyone wants weekly bulletin or chimes sent to home address, please contact the office (716) 693-7030.

If you would like to submit item to be placed in bulletin, please call or email office by Monday for submission to be added to Sunday's bulletin.

If you would like to submit information to added to Chimes, please submit to office by the 20th of the month before issue (ex. Submit by Jan 20th for Feb Chimes.

**Office Hours** M, T, W 9-2



## BASKET RAFFLE AND JEWELRY SALE

**DATE:** Saturday December 6, 2025  
**PLACE:** Amherst Presbyterian Church  
151 So. Youngs Rd. (across from ECC)  
Williamsville 14221  
**TIME:** Doors open at noon  
Numbers will be drawn at 2:30pm  
Jewelry Room closes at 3:00pm  
**PRICE:** Raffle sheets: 1 for \$10, 3 for \$20  
For info call 716-633-4656

Need not be present to win after placing your tickets  
Easy free parking and no stairs!

Complimentary coffee/tea and dessert











CONFIRMATION CLASS - May 8, 1976

Rev. Wright - Pastor

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Suzanne Cruse    | Melanie Culver |
| Heather Maitland | Brian Martin   |
| Edward Michael   | Debra Thelan   |
| Lisa Van Druff   | Marcia Wright  |
| Arlene Wood      |                |







## Center of Renewal at Stella Niagara

4421 Lower River Road, Stella Niagara, New York 14144

716 754-7376 \* [stellaniagararetreats.org](http://stellaniagararetreats.org)

# INDIVIDUAL SILENT RETREAT WEEKEND

## Alone With God

*"Be still, and know that I am God"*

*Psalm 46:10*

**JANUARY 9-11, 2026**

10:00 AM FRIDAY - 11:00 AM SUNDAY

**SNOW DATE JANUARY 23-25, 2026**

Time alone with God can be hard to find in this busy world.  
Why not take the time to relax, refresh and renew your relationship with  
God during this Individual Silent Retreat Weekend.

*A Wonderful Christmas gift for anyone on a busy schedule*

**COST: \$220**

**Includes - Two nights, three day stay, unlimited hot/cold beverage and all meals**  
(Would like to stay longer - call for additional pricing and accommodations)

### RESERVATION FORM

MAIL WITH CHECK TO: THE CENTER OF RENEWAL, 4421 LOWER RIVER ROAD, STELLA NIAGARA, NY 14144

**ALONE WITH GOD - JANUARY 9-11, 2025 / SNOW DATE: JANUARY 23-25, 2025**

**RESERVATION DEADLINE - DECEMBER 22, 2025**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$220 ALONE WITH GOD RETREAT (MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "THE CENTER OF RENEWAL")

**Note: 25% Deposit due upon registration**

**Fees & deposits are non-refundable, administration fees for transfers**



**Dec 13**

**2 pm**



**FRIENDS OF HARMONY**

**JOIN US  
FOR A**

**BARBERSHOP CHORUS  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**168 PAYNE AVENUE  
NORTH TONAWANDA 14120**




**FREE WILL OFFERING**

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**



# ADVENT CALENDAR

## PRAYER PROMPT

<p>Nov 30 Pray for Hope</p> 	<p>Dec 1 For those that are afraid</p> 	<p>Dec 2 For those that are lonely</p> 	<p>Dec 3 For those that are in prison</p> 
<p>Dec 4 For those that are hungry</p> 	<p>Dec 5 For world leaders</p> 	<p>Dec 6 For people who are homeless</p> 	<p>Dec 7 Pray for Peace</p> 
<p>Dec 8 For people who are sick</p> 	<p>Dec 9 For those who are depressed</p> 	<p>Dec 10 For those in pain</p> 	<p>Dec 11 Pray for help to find peace within</p> 
<p>Dec 12 For those who are alone</p> 	<p>Dec 13 Pray for those in hospital</p> 	<p>Dec 14 Pray for Joy</p> 	<p>Dec 15 Pray for your family</p> 
<p>Dec 16 Pray for your friends</p> 	<p>Dec 17 Pray for your teachers</p> 	<p>Dec 18 Pray for your neighbors</p> 	<p>Dec 19 Pray for animals &amp; nature</p> 
<p>Dec 20 Pray for North Church members</p> 	<p>Dec 21 Pray for Love</p> 	<p>Dec 22 For the Holy Spirit to guide you</p> 	<p>Dec 23 Pray to grow spiritually</p> 