

The United Presbyterian Church in East Guilford, New York

P.O. Box 147
Sidney, NY 13838-0147
www.eastguilfordpc.org

An Earth Care Congregation

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Simurro, Teaching Elder

Annual Corporation & Congregation Meeting

January 19, 2025 at 11:15am
In the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church in Bainbridge

AGENDA:

Call to Order
Opening prayer
Clerk of Session report
Pastor's report
Presbyterian Women treasurer's report
Earth Care report
Building and Grounds report
Joint Mission report
Blessing Box report
Worship report
Church Historian report
Personnel Committee report
Statement of Financial Position
Statement of 2024 Income and Expenses and 2025 Budget
Acceptance of budget, terms of call and reports
Nominating Committee report
2025 Nominating Committee election
Going Forward Discussion
Reading and acceptance of minutes
Adjournment

The Clerk of Session Report

Enrollment January 1, 2024_____	40
Gains via transfer: _____	0
Gains, confession of faith_____	0
Gains, reaffirmation of faith_____	0
Losses via death: Doris Ferrara, Norma Palmer_____	2
Losses to removal from roll: Cerice Palmer Hoffman_____	1
Losses via transfer: _____	0
Enrollment December 31, 2024_____	37
Sacrament of Communion _____	13
Infant Baptism: _____	0
Adult Baptism _____	0
Weddings _____	0
Funerals/Memorials: _____	0

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Simurro, Teaching Elder

Organist and Choir Director: Judy Ives

Worship services held Sunday at 10:00 am in the East Guilford and Bainbridge churches on alternating months in person and/or via ZOOM and Facebook.

Session meetings were held monthly via ZOOM. Monthly joint session, spiritual nurture and mission committee meetings with the First Presbyterian Church of Bainbridge were held via ZOOM.

Ruling Elders on Session for 2024: Gordon Spreutels (class of 2026), Don Cole (class of 2026), Al Clune (class of 2024) and April Ray (class of 2026).

Clerk of Session: Katherine Hager Schmidt (class of 2026)

Treasurer: April Ray (class of 2026)

Assistant Treasurers: Elma Taylor and Marie Spreutels (class of 2026)

Financial Secretary: Becky Holley (class of 2025)

Personnel Committee: April Ray

Financial Review Committee: Sally Straka and Marie Spreutels

Sexual Misconduct Contact Persons: Jeanne Harris, April Ray

Nominating Committee: Don Cole, chair, April Ray, Judy Ives and Sharon Havens

Church Secretary: vacant

Church Historian: Tina Utter

Church Cleaner: Renee Hitchcock

Membership List as of December 2024

1	Aversa, Sara	20	Palmer, Gerald
2	Bartlett, Audrey	21	Palmer, Irving
3	Bean, Makalia	22	Palmer, Jill
4	Bradshaw, Diane	23	Palmer, Lola
5	Clune, Albert	24	Palmer, Richard
6	Cole, Donald	25	Ray, April
7	Cole, Janice	26	Schmidt, Katherine
8	Davis, Christine	27	Shupperd, Jerri
9	Davis, John	28	Spreutels, Gordon
10	Davis, William	29	Spreutels, Marie
11	DuMond, Sandra	30	Straka, Sally
12	Egli, Sandra	31	Taylor, Elma
13	Havens, Sharon	32	Taylor, Raymond
14	Holley, Frank	33	Utter, Christina
15	Holley, Rebecca	34	VanValkenberg, Jean
16	Ives, Judith	35	Warren, Joyce
17	Lafayette, Janet	36	Williams, Janice
18	Lafayette, Robin	37	Williams, Mary
19	Ohl, William		

Pastor's Report 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

May I quote a title of a German poem from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a famous 18th century writer whom Beethoven quoted in a cantata and Mendelsohn wrote an overture, entitled "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage". A case can be made for our congregations in Bainbridge and East Guilford having a calm sea whereupon we have sailed in 2024. It has not been without some winds as without wind, a sailing ship goes nowhere. No storms, but no doldrum calms either.

Our congregations have kept an even keel for the year with committees, volunteers, and events operating as usual- may I say almost on autopilot. It takes a concerted and steady effort to make the ministry of churches move with direction, purpose and coordination; we have done these admirably well. Our sessions and leaders look for opportunities to show someone that we care and do they ever succeed!

Worship takes planning and execution. Your Spiritual Nurture Committee chooses hymns, plans liturgies, prepares bulletins (some mailed out), creates power point slides, runs electronic distribution of same, and decorates the sanctuaries/sets up the worship space smoothly. Most are unaware of the many hours each week behind the scenes by a cadre of volunteers, musicians, readers, and ushers that it takes for public worship to be orderly and well-done week after week. It is exemplary when you do not think about all the details as they come together. Thank God for the

dedicated people who pitch in and make this happen with a steady organization and choreography that goes just out of view.

Administration is another behind-the-scenes activity which takes a steady hand, know-how, and anticipation to make things move in an orderly way. Clerks of Session and secretaries, treasurers and financial secretaries, elders and session members, and those knowledgeable in electronic communication make church administration look easy; may I assure you, it is not by a long stretch. Thank God for these skilled members who dedicate their time to the congregational effort while keeping eyes on the Presbyterian and Churchwide scenes too.

Our service to the community is perhaps our most obvious attribute of response to the Gospel in the world around us: they will know we are Christians by our love (as the popular hymn says). The Thrift Store and Blessing Box (Bainbridge and East Guilford respectively) along with donations to schools near and far (Ethiopia for example), disaster relief around the world and at home say we care and love. As are the efforts of volunteers who coordinate the Soup Kitchen, Community Food Pantry, Bainbridge Council of Churches, and everyday requests for assistance from people in need. All of this takes energy, skill, time, and resources and we do it all with cheerfulness as our congregations are putting our faith out there beyond the walls of our buildings. All the volunteers who make this happen (you know who you are) do it without fanfare and spotlights. The Lord is served by what we do in response here and now. The Sermon on the Mount has a line which repeats, "God sees in secret..." (Matthew 6).

The Joint Mission Committee (in a separate report) have again challenged us and the wider community to engage in concrete actions to benefit a larger circle of people than those on our roster of members. They urge as many as have courage to step forward and learn new skills as they invite all to practice those already well honed.

Chair Yoga, which usually gets no press, is another modern way we say that our bodies matter and invite the community to this flexible event. Community Christmas dinner at East Guilford and the sponsoring family, open the church up for interaction and hospitality. Several times a year, we open our buildings to outside groups for use. I know of some congregations which worship on Sundays and then close until next Sunday: that's definitely not us! For all the activities of which I write I also ask for forgiveness for not listing all due to space and my memory.

Both congregations are working on the feasibility of merging ministries and to that end, both sessions are diligently working to analyze the costs and favorability therein. Bold and careful, thorough as well as faithful, we work to see what God has in store for us through 2025.

Finally, on a personal note, I thank you all for your caring for me emotionally, spiritually, and materially. It is in that mutuality that we thrive, good times and stressful ones alike. May God keep you faithful to your calling in the Gospel life.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Ken

Presbyterian Women's Treasurer

Balance as of December 31, 2023		\$1116.83
INCOME:		
Cash	\$ 0	
Income total	\$ 0	
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Postage stamps for sunshine	\$ 73.00	
Expense total	\$ 73.00	
Balance as of December 31, 2024		\$1043.83

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Schmidt, treasurer

Earth Care Report

Earth Care Sunday was celebrated at the East Guilford church on May 5, 2024 during worship followed by a meal. This was the church's 14th year of certification as an Earth Care Congregation.

- The focus was on Plastic: Eliminating Single Use Plastic. A video on single use plastic was shown during the service. Ken based the sermon on the Abundant Life portion in the Plastic Jesus pdf.
- Communion: to eliminate single use plastic the silver communion set of cups from 1910 were used.
- A meal followed worship with a Cinco de Mayo theme; it was a Mexican meal with a tacos and salad bar.
- It was requested that participants not use plastic wrap or plastic dishes or plastic bags. Everyone brought their own washable table service including cups and utensils and the tables were set with fabric tablecloths and cloth napkins.
- A bulletin board on Plastics was put up in the fellowship hall.
- An article was submitted to the local paper the week of April 22nd announcing our 14th year as Earth Care Congregation and inviting the public to the worship service and meal.
- A quiz for plastic in our lives that can be answered "sometimes, always and never" was put in the bulletin each month.

Building and Grounds Report

- Blue Ox fuel company completed the cleaning and annual maintenance of the oil boiler
- Replaced all batteries in thermostats, clocks, etc
- The thermostat in the dining room stopped working, replaced it with a newer model same as the one in the sanctuary
- Replace the outside lights on the dining room porch
- Replaced flapper valves in all toilets
- Did annual maintenance on dehumidifiers in basement
- Todd Holly has been doing the lawn care in 2024
- Dave Decker has been clearing snow and using salt on the sidewalks and porches

Respectfully submitted by Gordon Spreutels and Don Cole

Joint Mission Report

The Joint Mission Committee of Bainbridge and East Guilford met periodically through the year to evaluate the work of 2023 and plan the outreach of our 2nd Annual Health Fair. With one year under our belts, the work was a bit easier organizational, but still required many, many person hours to contact health providers, politicians, advertise, and follow up with evaluation.

We value the work of so many dedicated people who genuinely care about helping people of our service area gain access to health care. Our churches realize that this work is somewhat different from what we traditionally have done; such is the discomfort of the 21st century and its shifted realities. What we have done has caught the eye of our Presbytery and the Lead Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Greg Garis, who for the second year in a row, had come to video and interview people and groups. His edited video incorporated clips from last year's fair and this year's too. Print media, electronic media, and broadcast media (WCDO radio) were used to get the word out. Meeting with the Chamber of Commerce yielded good contacts and press.

Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate fair day and communication among the various flea market groups was uneven, so many stayed away. However, networking among the providers was substantial. The End-of-Life presentation held in the Bainbridge sanctuary was well received, with copious information, connections, and question-and-answer time beneficial (a video recording of this was made also).

Evaluating the work of the committee and its programming closed out our service year in October. We have determined to begin again in the new year. One anecdote encapsulates the work of the committee. Ed Gorton and Pastor Ken set up a meeting with State Assemblyman Joe Angelino and we secured a donation of a first-class Port-a-Potty for the health fair. The assemblyman did not know that we were organizing to such an extent, and he wanted in, a bonus from a scheduled half hour meeting which extended to over an hour-and-a-half. In the next week, we were contacted by Mr. Angelino to see if we could gather the local town supervisors to discuss solutions to problematic access to transportation for medical appointments. That will be grist for the new year's mill!

If anyone wishes to jump on the 'bandwagon', either members or non-members, please contact Pastor Ken, Billie Joe Northrop, or Judy Ives for our next meeting date.

Blessing Box Report

The Blessing Box is filled three times a week and it is always empty, it's being used. One problem we are having, once in awhile, is that someone is leaving opened items, half used items and some things in a zip lock bag. These are not acceptable and are thrown out. We have found a bag of used clothing and an old chair that someone apparently wanted to get rid of and a box of dishes. These items were taken to Oneonta reUse or recycled if possible or thrown away. Please do not put anything in the blessing box except food, something you would eat. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by Elma Taylor and Judy Ives

Worship Report

- Worship was held in East Guilford, January, March, May, July, September, and November for 2024.
- Worship was held in Bainbridge; February, April, June, August, October and December in 2024.
- Communion was held the first Sunday of every month.
- Easter and Christmas Eve Services were held in Bainbridge.
- Guest speakers and substitute pastors, were: Al Clune with Karen Barbour, Cheryl Nages (three times), Rev. Gary Henson and Pastor Earl Arnold.
- Rev. Dr. Greg Garris, Head Presbyterian, attended church services in East Guilford and also preached a service in Bainbridge.

Respectfully submitted, Don Cole

Church Historian Report

. Our East Guilford Facebook page continues to be updated with a recent acquisition of old newspapers from the estate of Phyllis Ostrander. Not only do those papers reflect on East Guilford's history in general, but have news regarding the church. We mourn the loss of Phyllis Ostrander and Norma Palmer, sisters who had so much knowledge of this area. As always, if anyone has photos or documents to share please contact me so I can scan them. The reorganization of the Guilford Historical Society's archives has provided additional information to share over the coming year.

Respectfully submitted by Tina Utter, church historian

Personnel Committee Report

All personnel matters were handled by the joint sessions from East Guilford and Bainbridge churches. No personnel committee meetings were held in 2024.

The Session proposes to pay Pastor Ken's half-time salary through December 31, 2025 including the mandatory salary increase for a total increase of 3.31%. As outlined in the proposed budget, the salary will be \$33,718.59 and \$1,500.00 in additional reimbursed professional expenses. The Session also proposes that Pastor Ken receive 4 weeks of vacation and 2 weeks of study leave.

Respectfully submitted by April Ray

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
	Checking-NBT Regular	6,512.32
	NBT Money Management Account	16,671.95
	Total Checking/Savings	23,184.27
Other Assets		
	Merrill Lynch Account @ MV	30,295.30
	New Covenant Mutual Fund @ MV	52,716.37
	Total Other Assets	83,011.67
TOTAL ASSETS		106,195.94
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Pass Through 100%		
	Christmas Joy	105.00
	Food Bank	5.00
	JAARS	47.75
	Total Pass Through 100%	157.75
Total Liabilities		157.75
Equity		
	Unrestricted Net Assets	129,694.49
	Net Income	-23,656.30
	Total Equity	106,038.19
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		106,195.94

Statement of Income & Expenses	Actual		
2024, Budget 2024, Proposed 2025	Jan - Dec 2024	Budget 2024	Proposed Budget 2025
INCOME			
Envelope Offerings	30,680.02	35,500.00	30,000.00
Initial	13.00		
Interest	980.92	1,000.00	1,000.00
Per Capita	662.70	500.00	500.00
Blessing Box Donations	600.00	0.00	600.00
Upper Room	2.00		
Use of Church	50.00	100.00	100.00
Total Income	32,988.64	37,100.00	32,200.00
EXPENSES			
<u>Benevolence</u>			
Blessing Box-cost of groceries	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,600.00
Local Benevolence	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Christmas Joy	105.00		
Ethiopian Partnership	500.00		
Presbyterian Historical Society	100.00		
Presbytery Unified Missions	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Benevolence	3,205.00	3,500.00	3,600.00
<u>Building and Maintenance</u>			
Church Sexton	575.00	400.00	600.00
Electric	1,295.72	1,200.00	1,300.00
Fuel Oil	1,341.84	3,000.00	2,000.00
Insurance	1,990.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Lawn Mowing	325.00	400.00	400.00
Propane	0.00	35.00	35.00
Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Snow Plowing	50.00	250.00	250.00
Water	261.60	400.00	400.00
Total Building and Maintenance	5,839.16	10,185.00	9,485.00

	<u>Actual Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Budget 2024</u>	<u>Proposed Budget 2025</u>
<u>Local Ministry</u>			
Church Treasurer	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Cleaning	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Cleaning Supplies	0.00	100.00	100.00
Local Office Expense	694.06	1,000.00	1,000.00
Music	157.00	200.00	200.00
Organist	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
Payroll fees	48.00	48.00	60.00
Supply Pastor	0.00	600.00	400.00
Telephone & Internet	1,191.31	1,700.00	1,200.00
Upper Room Exp	<u>77.40</u>	<u>78.00</u>	<u>80.00</u>
Total Local Ministry	6,967.77	8,526.00	7,840.00
<u>Pastoral Ministry</u>			
Pastoral Salary	34,268.67	34,268.23	35,517.89
Continuing Education	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Travel Reimbursement	222.56	500.00	500.00
Pastor Benefits	<u>4,259.88</u>	<u>4,587.56</u>	<u>4,720.60</u>
Total Pastoral Ministry	38,751.11	40,355.79	41,738.49
<u>PerCapita</u>			
Total Expense	<u>56,644.94</u>	<u>64,448.69</u>	<u>64,635.09</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>23,656.30</u>	<u>27,348.69</u>	<u>-32,435.09</u>

Respectfully submitted by April Ray, treasurer

Nominating Committee Report

The committee searched for two members to serve in the class of 2027 as ruling elders. There are no candidates to present.

Nominations will be taken from the floor for two ruling elders.

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee, Don Cole, chair

2025 Nominating Committee Election

From the Bylaws: Two ruling elders shall be designated by and from the session, one of whom shall be chairman, and at least two members who are not session members shall be elected by the congregation at its annual meeting.

Nominations for 2 members from the congregation will be accepted from the floor.

Reading of the Minutes

The clerk of session will read the minutes of the annual meeting for approval.

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Adjournment