

Biography, David Preisendanz

for North Presbyterian publications:

I grew up in Wilmington, Delaware, in a Presbyterian family. In my high school years, I sensed the beginning of a call to serve God in church ministry. I attended Grove City College with this call in mind, and then Princeton Theological Seminary. My first ministry was as Associate Pastor at the Presbyterian Church in Southold, NY (eastern Long Island). I have since served as pastor of churches in Yaphank, NY; Tenafly, NJ; Philipsburg, NJ; and most recently First Presbyterian Church in Willow Grove, PA, just north of Philadelphia.

I married in my college sweetheart in 1983, but we divorced in 2014. I have two grown sons – Benjamin, who lives in Brooklyn, NY; and Matthew in Fishkill, NY. Ben's son Remy is almost five, and my grandson is the apple of my eye and the cream in my coffee. I can't wait to show him Elmira and the Finger Lakes! Be careful, though – if I start showing you pictures, I might not stop.

I have many interests, some of which I look forward to finding (or perhaps starting) in Elmira. I love music above all else – I play several instruments, I sing, and I'm a member of drum circles and music improvisation groups in Philadelphia. I love folk music and singing, and I started a group called Philadelphia Sing Together, which meets in my home to sing folk and pop songs. I'm also a fledgling ballroom dancer, and I'm looking forward to opportunities to increase my meager skills.

Next to starting my new ministry in a wonderful location, what I'm looking forward to the most is boating on the lakes. I learned to sail little boats when I was a child, and have longed all my life to return to that simple and beautiful pleasure. You may well find your pastor, on warm summer days, tacking leisurely on Seneca lake in a small boat, a look of sheer pleasure on my face.

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Formal Bio, for press release or outside use:

Rev. David Preisendanz grew up in Wilmington, DE. He earned a B.A. from Grove City College in 1982, and an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1986. He has served Presbyterian churches in Long Island, New Jersey, and most recently Willow Grove, PA. He has two sons, Benjamin and Matthew, and a grandson, Remy. He enjoys music, ballroom dance, and sailing.