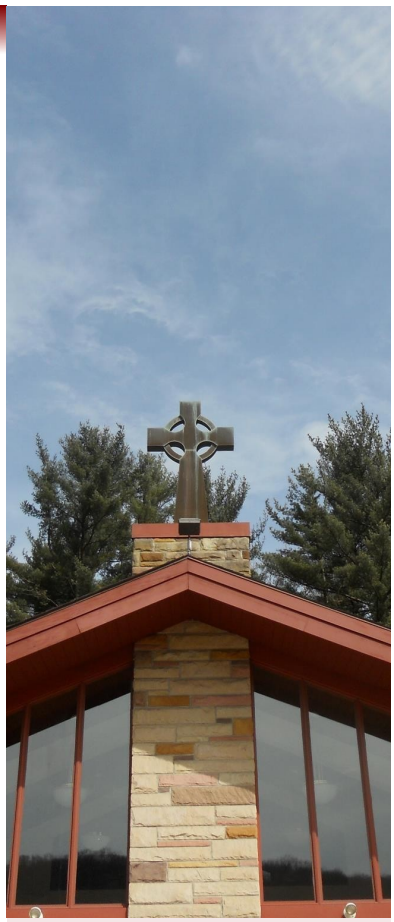
Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church
WORSHIP·SERVE·GROW

August 2025

THE GOOD NEWLONSBURG



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

What's the best human experience?

Ice-cream? It is Biblical. God promises a land flowing with milk and honey. Sounds like ice-cream to me. What's the best human experience? Electricity? For those of us who were without electricity, electricity is up there as one of the best human experiences. What's the best human experience? First kiss? Or maybe being young? There are many firsts. However, there is plenty of anxiety with firsts. I much prefer preaching now, than when I was learning. I much prefer riding a motorcycle now, than when I was first learning. What's the best human experience? Motherhood? Parenthood? But what if you are not called by God to be a parent?

What is the one thing that all humans can do to experience the best human experience?

Read what Jesus believes is the best human experience in John 15:12-17.

For the last few years I have been attempting to cultivate an orchard. I have cherry, apple, pear, plum and peach trees planted. If I can protect them from the deer this summer and fall, next year they will flourish. One of the scariest but most important activities is pruning the trees. I say scariest, because I don't really know what I am doing and to prune correctly, you must cut off a lot. It always seems cutting off is going to hurt the tree, but in fact, when you prune in the winter it grows even more vigorously. They flourish.

Let's say a tree has 100 branches. It only has so much energy to use. If you cut back 30 of the branches, now the tree has more energy for the 70 branches than it does for 100 branches.

Think about your own life. You have limited time and energy. Prayerfully consider what you need to cut-back to give more energy to the things that bear fruit! Jesus teaches, "Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit." -John 15:2

Yes, when pruning you cut-off dead branches, but the strange thing is, you also cut-back the branches that are your best fruit producers so the next season they produce even more.

You can't do it all nor should you! But what's the best human experience?

Continued on next page

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONT.

Be rooted in Jesus! Live in me as I live in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it lives in the vine, neither can you unless you live in me. -John 15:4 But what does it mean to live in Jesus? Look to John 15:7, "If you live in me, and my words live in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

Live in Jesus' Words. What are your favorite teachings of Jesus?

Jesus is asking us today to recite His Words! Memorize Jesus' Words! Hang them on your wall! Practice them! Teach them to your children. Live into Jesus' Words!

What's the best human experience? To lay down one's life for one's friends. Go and bear fruit. Fruit that will last!

Love,

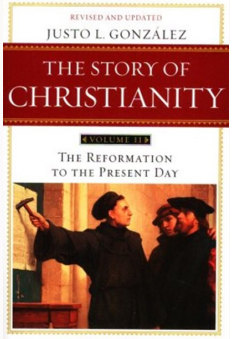
Pastor Curtis

POWER OF HELLO TRAINING

The Security Management Team invites all to learn how to greet each other in Christ while keeping NPC safe. Please join us on **August 24th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. You will learn the OHNO approach: 1. Observe 2. Initiate Hello 3. Navigate the Risk 4. Obtain Help. You will also learn Incident Response Best Practices and Active Shooter Response Best Practices.

The SMT's purpose: *Jesus commissions Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church (NPC) to invite all people to Him and to protect the lives of all who enter our property in a loving and considerate way. The Security Management Team's goal is to ensure that this is done in a safe, healthy, Christ-like, and careful manner.*

NEW ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR FALL 2025



Along the Way: On the Road to the Present Age

In the 2024-2025 programming year, a number of NPC members gathered to study both the origins of the early church and then the events leading up to, during, and immediately after the Reformation.

In September, we will come together again for *Along the Way: On the Road to the Present Age*. Don Pearson and Travis Webster will lead this 14-session course, in which we will pick up right after the Reformation and follow the church's history to modern times, with an emphasis on the development of the church in the United States. For our main resources, we will continue using Justo Gonzalez's *The Story of Christianity*, revised edition (mostly volume 2, with a small amount of reading out of volume 1), as well as the Great Courses lectures featuring UNC Chapel Hill professor Dr. Molly Worthen. You don't have to have taken the previous installments to join us in the Gathering Place on **Wednesdays from 10:15 am-12:15 pm, starting September 10th**. If you are interested or have any questions, please let Travis know at 724-327-0061 or travis.webster@comcast.net.

You can register through Realm by using this link:

https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=OTc1MjA4NWYtOWI1MC00MjcwLWI5ZDgtYjMxNzAxN2NmNjM2

All participants will need a copy of *The Story of Christianity*, vol. 2, revised edition, and will receive a workbook with additional materials. The book is currently $22; you are welcome to order one on your own, or let us know, and we will get one for you. We hope you will join us as we continue along the way!

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP•SERVE•GROW

Join Pastor Curtis to watch and discuss

THE CHOSEN

On Mondays August 4th, 11th & 18th

From 6:30-8:00 PM

In the Fellowship Hall

The 40-60 minute episodes tell the story of Jesus by weaving the Gospel's together. Pastor Curtis will then lead discussion using the book: *What Does It Mean to be Chosen ? /An interactive Bible Study*. The book is recommended. You may purchase it at your favorite book supplier. Please invite your friends and neighbors.
The Cost is free.

https://www.newlonsburgchurch.org/content.cfm?id=383#chosen

CALLING ALL 8TH GRADERS FOR CONFIRMATION!

Every NPC student on our rolls who will be in the 8th grade in the coming 2025-2026 school year, as well as their parents, will be receiving an invitation to and description of our confirmation program by mail in the coming weeks. Please be on the lookout for that. If you do not see this soon, if you know you will be joining us for confirmation, or if you have any questions/would like more information, please let Travis know, either by phone (724-327-0061) or email (travis.webster@comcast.net). Confirmation will start on Rally Day, which is **Sunday, September 7th**, along with the rest of our Christian Education program.

SUCCESSFUL SUMMER SERIES

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 4th annual Summer Series, *Common Discipleship: Living Out Our Faith in Daily Life*. Whether you took part via worship, the in-person or remote classes, or both, your willingness to reflect, share, and journey with us deepened the experience for everyone involved. We're grateful to you for making this year's Summer Series such a success!

—Karen and Travis Webster, co-founders, Healthy Seminarians-Healthy Church

A CHALLENGE WITH GOOD NEWS!

Our ongoing challenge is maintaining our aging facility to ensure it **Continues to Enable Christ's Work!** To address these needs, the Property Ministry identified three key projects: a new sign, parking lot pavement, and HVAC improvements for Common Ground. In June, we launched a campaign to raise $127,000 for these projects. The **Good News** is that because of your generosity, we are on the way to meeting this goal. Check out the progress meter in the Narthex to see how close we are to reaching our target. Thank you to those who have donated. We urgently need additional support to reach our goal. Please prayerfully consider a gift to maintain our building and grounds. Your support is crucial in ensuring NPC remains a resource furthering the Kingdom of God.

Donations: To donate, please send a check with "2025 Capital Improvements" on the memo line to the church, place it in the offering basket, or donate online at https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/give/property. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

ARE YOU A GROUNDHOG WHISPERER?

We have a family of groundhogs living under the Sanctuary air conditioning unit that should be rehoused elsewhere.

If you have the skills to sweet-talk Phil's cousins, please contact the Property Ministry to coordinate moving day for the furry family!

Property@newlonsburgchurch.org

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Thank you to all those who give in gratitude for what God has given to us. As of the end of June 2025:

	Common Good+	Special Gifts *
Giving for Month	$ 46,899	$ 14,339
Year to Date Giving	$ 322,154	$ 58,951
Year to Date Spending Budget	$ 336,641	Not Applicable
Year to Date Spending Actual	$ 313,375	$ 77,079

+ Common Good giving includes offerings, short-term investment interest, and facility usage.

*Special gifts include Haiti Kids support, Hunger Offerings, Youth Fund-Raising, Legacy Endowment Fund Gifts, 2025 Property Improvements, Reserve Account giving, Memorial Gifts, and others.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE 2025 CROP HUNGER WALK – OCTOBER 12TH

CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The 46th annual Church World Service Murrysville Area CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday afternoon, **October 12th**. Our congregation has always been very active in this worthwhile project, and we'll be asking for your support again this year.

This will be a traditional in-person Walk, and we'll also continue the highly successful online fundraising. We'll again be following the popular new route we began in recent years, using the Westmoreland Heritage Bike Trail, beginning and ending at the Duff Park shelter at the park entrance off School Road South.

Watch for complete information in the September issue of the Good Newlonsburg.

SHOE DRIVE: TO BENEFIT LOAVES AND FISHES EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

Dear NPC Family,

The Franklin Regional Cross Country team is collecting shoes with the organization Funds2Orgs to benefit our Loaves and Fishes Emergency Food Pantry, and **we need your help!**

What shoes can be donated?

- Tennis shoes, boots, sandals, formal shoes, all types are great!
- New or used
- Any size (kid to adult)

There will be a donation box outside the office from September 7-28th.

If you have any questions, please reach out to James Berk at jamesberk7@gmail.com.

Thanks for your help!

SUNDAY SUNDAES

All worshipers are invited to join us for a delicious addition to your Sunday morning on Sundae **Sunday, August 10th, 2025**, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We will be serving ice cream, yummy toppings, and fellowship on the front patio. Come enjoy a sweet treat and catch up with your fellow Newlonsburgers. No need to sign up.

Thanks in advance to our Hospitality Team coordinating this event:

Team #2 Chairs (Chrissy & Eric Hanchey and Mindy Markovich) and Team Members: Ken & Tara Bird, Bill & Linda Blank, James & Erin Carlisle, John & Nancy Daller, Sean Daller, Alice Doutt, Don Green, Kathy Groll, Tyler Hanchey, Bruce Hanington, Lauren Jessup, Barb Jewell, Doug Jones, Karen Kase, Kim Miskevics, Gail O'Toole, Alan & Kristin Petrazzi, Anderson Petrazzi, Avery Petrazzi, Kara Petrazzi, Mary Ann Roberts, JoAnn Rosenberger, Sherry Shadrach, Curtis & Sharon Southlea, Alan & Terri Thornburg, and Janice Troup.

CHILI, SOUP, & BREAD COOK-OFF

We're adding an extra twist to our Chili Cook-off this year! Bring your favorite chili, soup, or bread dish (or enter a dish in every category!) and prove that you are top chef at Newlonsburg! We'll have a judge's choice winner and a people's choice winner in each of the three categories. If you aren't a chef, bring your appetite! You can enjoy lunch and vote on your favorite dishes. The Cook-off will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 service on **Sunday, September 28th**. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet at church or online.

Thanks in advance to our Cook-off Hospitality Chairs (Lauren Babich & Kimberly Burch) and Team Members: Tom and Mary Ann Austin, Buck Babich, Hal Burch, Lynn Comstock, Jim and Diane Delbridge, Greg and Caroline Franko, Sylvia Henriquez, Cindy Hopper, Mark and Gale Lieber, Dean and Sue Matanin, Andrew and Jordan McBurney, Matt and Megan Nicely, Keith Paulson, Jim and Heidi Scriven, and Kevin and Nicole Tomer.

FUTURE EVENTS

Save the dates for these other events so you don't miss out on the fun.

- Puzzles & Pizza Night on Wednesday, 10/29/25 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
- Women's Fall Breakfast on Saturday, 10/25/25 at 9:30 am
- Hoss's Lunch on Sunday, 11/9/25 after the 11:00 am service

Please sign up for Fellowship events on the sign-up sheet across from the office or online through our Fellowship Event Sign-up Form.

QR code for Fellowship Event Sign-up Form

COME SUPPORT THE NPC SOFTBALL TEAM!

We'd love to have you cheer for our team at one of our games!
You can find the complete softball schedule at the following website:
https://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/default.asp?u=GRACE&s=softball&p=schedule&div=959922

August 2025

Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu		
3	4	5 vs. **Amplify M** 6:30 PM - (Away) at Renton	6 vs. **St. Bernadettes** 6:00 PM - (Away) at Evergreen Park	7		
10	11	12	13	14 vs. **Monroeville** 6:30 PM - (Home) at Townsend Field	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

2025 NPC SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church
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AUGUST 3RD HUNGER OFFERING TO PROVIDE FOOD RELIEF FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Our August Hunger Offering, which will be taken on **Sunday, August 3rd**, will help to provide food assistance to the victims of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The funds received from this offering will be designated for Ukrainian food relief and will be sent to World Central Kitchen (WCK) in support of their #ChefsForUkraine program.

Over three years after the initial Russian invasion in February 2022, the situation in Ukraine is even more dire. The fighting continues, including the enormous recent Russian drone and missile attacks. The devastating war in Ukraine has driven millions from their homes, and the consequences of the conflict have radiated outwards, triggering a wave of hunger in the immediate region and around the world. The war has destroyed farmland and infrastructure, killed livestock, and disrupted vital supply chains – all of which have driven hunger within Ukraine. Today, 12.7 million people need humanitarian assistance, including 2 million children – that's nearly 1 in 3 families. Close to 7 million Ukrainians are still living as refugees globally, and another 3.7 million are internally displaced.

Since the beginning of the war, it has been estimated that World Central Kitchen has served 276+ million meals, provided 2+ million gallons of water, distributed 10.7+ million food and vegetable kits, provided emergency response to 500+ attack sites, and distributed 216,000+ seed kits.

It is important to note that World Central Kitchen has a "100%" - Four-Star "Exceptional" rating on Charity Navigator, which is the highest level possible. This signifies that they "exceed industry standards and outperform most charities." They are celebrating 15 years of service around the world this year. WCK has also provided amazing food relief work in Gaza and was on the scene to provide aid to victims of wildfires earlier this year in Southern California.

Please give generously in support of the people of Ukraine who continue to struggle to survive.

Our usual options are available to make your contribution: by check, online at our website, or by text.

Give by check: Checks can be made out to "Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church" and mailed to 4600 Old William Penn Highway, Murrysville, PA 15668, or can be placed in the offering plate. Please include your envelope number and "hunger" on the memo line.

Give online: https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/-/form/give/now or click the **Give** button on the website.

You can select a specific fund or multiple funds when making your donation.

Give by Text: Text **NEWLONSBURG** to **73256**. You will receive a giving link and can then select a specific fund for your donation.

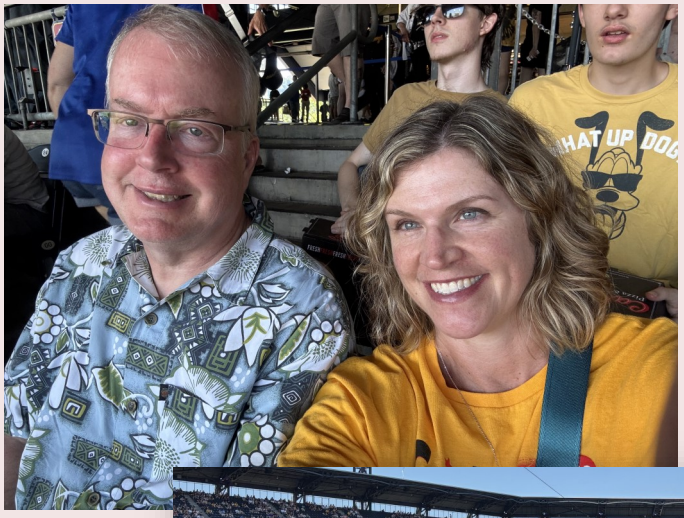
World Central Kitchen

PSC COUNSELOR BLESSED

Thank you to everyone who helped to bless Pine Springs Counselor, Micah, with a bag full of goodies! We were able to give him his favorite treats, some gift cards, a devotional, some sweet cards, and even some special crocheted animal buddies!

THE PIRATES GAME

These pictures show NPC night at the Pirates game in June. We had 20 people attend, and it was a beautiful day!



PENTECOST PICNIC

PARENTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

At Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church we strive to best meet the needs of our families and further the kingdom of God. We need your help to shape the future!

Please take a moment and share your honest thoughts on children and youth programs by filling out this brief survey – https://forms.gle/454SVBhSfTrixsHs7

Your responses will help guide us on the best use of time, talents and resources. We value your honesty, even if your family is not currently interested in NPC programs. Thanks very much for your time and consideration.

Blessings,

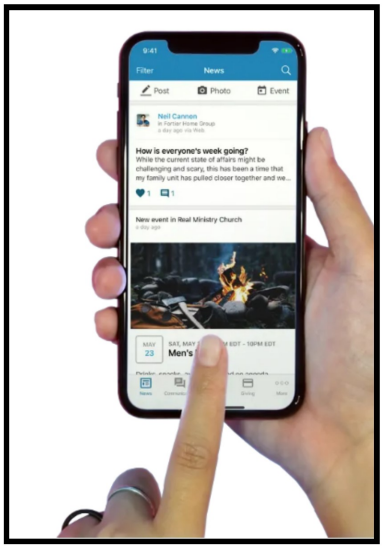
NPC Equipping Ministry and Leadership Team

The Realm Connect App is Ready!

What can NPC members do on the Realm App?

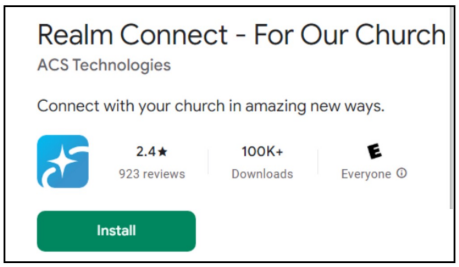
Congregants Can:

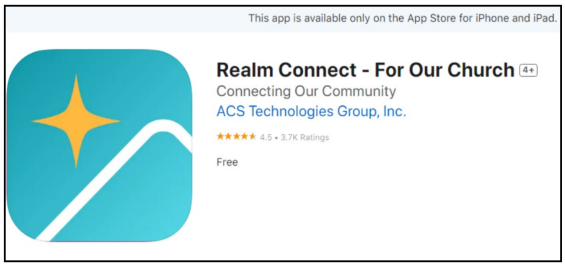
- Register for churchwide events
- RSVP to group events
- Send in-app messages
- Interact with your newsfeed
- Set up recurring giving
- See upcoming events
- Communicate with groups
- Search congregant profiles
- Track consistent personal giving
- Create and edit events
- Find new groups
- Call, text, or email individuals from their profile



Downloading the App

The Realm Connect app is available to download for free for iOS or Android devices at the apple app store (www.apple.com/app-store/) or from Google Play (play.google.com).





Logging into the App

When the app is on your phone or other device, you can log in using your user name and password for the Realm Connect Website. If you have not set up a log in, you can visit: **https://onrealm.org/NewIonsburgPres/Account/Start.**

4600 Old William Penn Highway
Murrysville, PA. 15668
724-327-0061

Emails :
newlonsburgpresby@comcast.net
Website :
www.newlonsburgchurch.org

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church
WORSHIP·SERVE·GROW

The Good Newlonsburg: August 2025

We are a Christ Centered community. In joyful response to Christ's love, we worship God, Nurture Disciples, accept all as God's Children, and reach out in love and service to further the Kingdom of God.

The Good Newlonsburg:
A newsletter for the congregation and friends of NPC

September Good Newlonsburg Deadline:
Thursday, August 14th

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church Leadership Team

The Rev. Curtis Lane Paul II, Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Travis Webster, Associate Pastor
Lori Bass-Riley, Director of Children and Family Ministries
Jennifer Wagner, Office Manager
Rachel Oates, Interim Office Manager
Bettie Jarosz, Choir and Bell Director
Matt Klumpp, Early Service Music Director & Organist
Leanne Salava, Treasurer
Ginny Rygg & Lindsey Berk, Financial Secretaries