



# *Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church*

WORSHIP • SERVE • GROW

December 21, 2025

## **Vision Statement**

Be Christ's Hands, Feet, and Voice on Earth

## **Mission Statement**

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.

**4600 Old William Penn Highway**

**Murrysville, PA 15668**

**Phone: 724-327-0061**

**<http://www.newlonsburgchurch.org>**

**The Rev. Curtis L. Paul II, Pastor**

**The Rev. Dr. Travis A. Webster, Associate Pastor**

## **VISITOR SIGN IN**



**THE CELEBRATION OF THE GOOD NEWS**

December 21, 2025  
11:00 am - Service is Live-streamed

## GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE	Oh Little Town of Bethlehem	Kim
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Rev. Paul
THE INTROIT	Christmas Medley Sunday School Singers	
Lighting of the Advent Candle		The Pokrzynski Family
CALL TO WORSHIP		Amanda Neeley
Leader:	Behold! A teenage girl is pregnant with the God who knit her in her own mother's womb,	
People:	<b>strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.</b>	
Leader:	She said, "Yes" to divine revolution even though it meant social condemnation,	
People:	<b>strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.</b>	
Leader:	God's Spirit stokes subversive dreams in us to help us defy the status quo,	
People:	<b>strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.</b> Amen.	

\*OPENING HYMN # 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

PRAYER OF CONFESSION	Amanda Neeley
<b>Immanuel, God with us, you folded your infinity into an infant's body just to share in human life. Hold us as close as Mary, your mother, held you, safe and warm within herself. Whenever our bodies are used against us and we struggle to love our embodied selves, help us to feel your presence in our every cell making us sacred, exactly as we are.</b>	

*(Let us take a moment for our silent confession.)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON	Amanda Neeley
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\*GLORIA

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Refrain to # 113

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

CELEBRATION WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Lori Bass-Riley

#188 (vs 1) Jesus Loves Me

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Zechariah 9:11-12

Amanda Neeley

ANTHEM

A Highway for Our God

Larson

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-45

Rev. Paul

SERMON

How does God Respond to a Sinful & Broken World?

Rev.

Paul

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*SERMON HYMN # 83 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNs

Rev. Webster

(Please mention first names only)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts)

OFFERING OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Rev.

Webster

Please continue to give to NPC by check or by texting "Newlonsburg" to 73256. Please visit [www.newlonsburgchurch.org/give](http://www.newlonsburgchurch.org/give) to give online or email [giving@newlonsburgchurch.org](mailto:giving@newlonsburgchurch.org) with any questions.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Christmastime

arr. Larson

Bell Choir with Matt Klumpp, piano

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

## CARRYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*CLOSING HYMN

# 134 Joy to the World

\*CLOSING RESPONSE

May the light of God shine on us today (repeat)

May it show us where to travel, lead us back if we should stray

May the light of God shine on us today and everyday

POSTLUDE

Reprise of “Christmastime”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWERS:** Are given today by Barbara Jewell and Don Green in celebration of Christ's coming and of His constant presence in our lives.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING, CHRISTMAS EVE, 2025:** Since the 1930's, Presbyterians have given to the Christmas Joy Offering, of which half is given to the Presbyterian Board of Pensions and half to Presbyterian-affiliated Racial Ethnic Ministries. The Christmas Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers through its gifts to the Assistance Program, which in turn helps these individuals and families through difficult times by providing shared, emergency, and other types of grants. The Board of Pensions assistance program also provides emergency assistance grants and nursing home care assistance as needed for individuals and families that have served the church in mission around the world.

The other half of your gifts helps students at the racial ethnic schools and colleges find their calling by providing scholarships to deserving students, as well as help with basic operating costs. The Christmas Joy Offering supports the following schools this year: Menaul School, a private Christian high school in Albuquerque NM ([www.menaulschool.org](http://www.menaulschool.org)); Presbyterian Pan American School, a Christian college preparatory school in Kingsville, TX ([www.ppas.org](http://www.ppas.org)); and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL ([www.stillman.edu](http://www.stillman.edu)). Our gifts allow these schools and colleges to evolve their ministries in response to changing needs and circumstances. **Please see this morning's bulletin insert for more information.** 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 placed in the offering plate. Please include your envelope number and "Christmas Joy" on the memo line. Give online: <https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/>

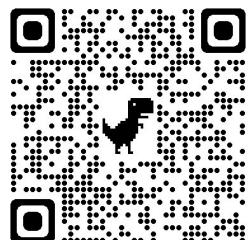
[/form/give/now](#) or click the **Give** button on the website. You can select "Christmas Joy Offering" or multiple funds when making your donation. Give by Text: Text **NEWLONSBURG** to **73256**. You will receive a giving link and can then select a specific fund for your donation.

**HAITI ALTERNATIVE GIFTS PROGRAM ENDS TODAY:** This year we want to remember our mission partners at the New Testament Mission and schools in LaCroix, Haiti. Donations made to Haiti Alternative Gifts this year will be used to provide much-needed hunger relief. This morning is your last chance. Santa's elves will be in the narthex or outside Fellowship Hall where they can help you purchase your gift of food for Haiti. In turn, you will receive a card to send to someone announcing that you have purchased food in their name. Thanks for your generous support of this worthy program.

**WE NEED A NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2026:** The Church works best when we have diversity to discern Christ's Spirit. If you are willing to meet new people and ask members to serve NPC as elders, deacons, preschool board members and an auditor then we need 5 of you. Please let Pastor Curtis know if you are willing to serve. We usually meet once per month starting in May for about 15-30 minute meetings.

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

- **New Year's Brunch Potluck:** Sunday, January 4, 2026 in Fellowship Hall between worship services
- **Hoss's Lunch:** Sunday, February 1, 2026 immediately following the second service.



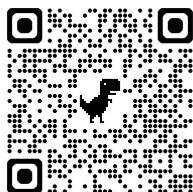
**FAMILY PLAYDATE SATURDAY JAN. 10 10:30AM-12PM** Get out of the cold and run off some energy! Bring friends and neighbors! Join us for open gym, a few silly family games, arts and crafts, and snacks! Sign up so we have enough supplies!

<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NzNINWFiMGYtYTVmMC00YzNILWFkMmUtYjM5NTAxNjVjY2Vh>



**CHILD WORSHIP LEADERSHIP!** We want our children to know that they are an important part of our community! We love that our children can begin developing leadership skills at an early age! We are looking for child acolytes (people who light the worship candles) and liturgists (people who read in worship)! Acolytes should be at least 4 and liturgists need to be very good readers and be willing to practice previous to their participation. Sign them up for a date that works for you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AEA82CA2F8CF8-59246032-children>



**"O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; FOR HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER"** **Psalm 136:** Thankful Thoughts. Please consider sharing one or many (there is no limit) of your favorite things (big or small, specific or general) about Newlonsburg (from chocolate sprinkle donuts during the early service to the Cantata). Where have you seen and felt God's presence? You can sign your name or submit anonymously (these will be shared in a section of the website and a physical display at NPC). What about NPC makes you feel blessed? Your "thankful thoughts" can be returned with your stewardship commitment card or dropped in a box in the Narthex.

**NEW ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY STARTING JANUARY 2026:** In January, we will come together again for *Along the Way: Mystics, Martyrs, and Saints*. This 11-session course, lead by Don Pearson and Travis Webster, will explore particular individuals in church history within the context in which they lived and believed. As we go, we will learn about the process of canonization throughout the ages, discuss the role of saints in the modern day, and consider what we can learn from these pillars of Christian faith as we seek to live holy lives now. For our main resources, we will use lectures from the Great Courses

series, Supplementary materials will include a student book with additional lecture notes and primary readings.

We will meet in the Gathering Place on Wednesdays from 10:15am-12:15pm, starting January 21. If you are interested, or have any questions, please let Travis know at 724-327-0061 or [travis.webster@comcast.net](mailto:travis.webster@comcast.net) by Friday, January 9, so we can have the student manuals ready. You can also register through Realm.

**EMERGENCY MEALS AVAILABLE:** If you or someone in our church family is facing a short-term challenge that makes it hard to prepare meals, we'd love to help. Emergency meals are available for anyone in need. Please reach out to Pastor Travis, Pastor Curtis, or Carol Byers (412-841-5508) to let us know how we can support you.

**YEAR-END GIVING:** As we approach the end of the year, let's remember the importance of giving to NPC. Your generosity supports the upkeep of our place of worship, children and family programs and the outreach initiatives that help those in need within our community. As of November 30th, our Common Good expenses exceed giving by \$28,000. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Let's come together and give with a joyful heart, knowing that our collective efforts can bring about positive change and spread God's love. The last day of 2025 giving is Sunday December 28th. Thank you for your continued support and faithfulness.

**NOTE FOR END-OF-YEAR GIVING:** If you are giving by check or cash, your donation will have to be handed in to the church by Sunday, December 28th 2025 in order to be included in 2025 donation statements. If you give on-line, donations through December 31st will be included in your donation statement for 2025. As always, thank you for your generosity.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE:** If you forgot to make your 2026 commitment, there is still time. Thank you to the 100 families and individuals that have made their 2026 commitment. As of December 9th, these families and individuals have pledged \$416,013. Last year there were 115 pledges totaling \$473,034. You can (1) return a commitment card by mail, with your offering, or to the church office, (2) Email: You can email your commitment to [giving@newlonsburgchurch.org](mailto:giving@newlonsburgchurch.org), or (3) Online: [www.newlonsburgchurch.org/give](http://www.newlonsburgchurch.org/give). Thank you for your continued support and faithfulness.

**2026 GIVING ENVELOPES:** The giving envelopes for 2026 will be put in the hall on the table near the office on Friday, October 31st. Please pick them up at

your earliest convenience and let Ginny Rygg (412-491-7937) know if you no longer need envelopes. As always, thank you for your continued generosity.

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

#### COMMON GOOD

November-Common Good Giving	YTD - Common Good Giving	YTD Spending-Common Good	YTD Budget-Common Good
\$ 55,040	\$544,008	\$ 572,001	\$ 614,750

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

#### SPECIAL GIFTS

November-Special Gifts	YTD – Special Gift Giving	YTD Spending-Special Gifts
\$ 7,571	\$254,804	\$ 223,129

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.

**JOIN REALM:** NPC continues to roll out Realm as a new church management system. This system provides better donation tracking and accounting programs while giving NPC expanded management capabilities and resources for events, volunteer scheduling, small groups, etc., (and it is a cost savings to NPC!) **Realm Logins :** Everyone should have received an email invitation from Realm to join Realm. You can use the link in the email to sign into the system and create a password. This will give you access to your profile's basic information and your giving information.

If you did not receive an email (perhaps it went to spam, your email wasn't in the church system, etc.), you can request a Realm login

<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/Account/Start>

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Please have all articles for the bulletin to the church office no later than Wednesday at noon.

**THIS WEEK AT NPC**

Sunday December 21	8:30 AM	Worship – Arc Patio
	11:00 AM	Worship - Sanctuary
Monday December 22	2 – 9:30 PM	208 - Sanctuary
	3:30 PM- 8:00 PM	Music Academy- Room 101
	4:00 PM- 6:30 PM	Music Academy- Room 102/103
	4:30 – 7:30 PM	Music Academy – Rooms 202/203
	5:00 PM- 8:30 PM	Music Academy- Room 201
	7:30 PM- 8:30 PM	Music Academy- Sanctuary
	5:30 - 6:30	Advent Study - Gathering Place
	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Boy Scouts - Rooms 104, 106, ARC
Tuesday December 23	8:30 – 9:30 AM	Men's Breakfast – Dicks Diner
	11:00 AM	Leadership Programming
	1:15 PM	Leadership Meeting – Offsite
	2:00 – 3:30 PM	Rehearsal – Sanctuary
	3:00 - 4:45 PM	RAM - Arc
	2:30 PM- 3:30 PM	Music Academy- 208
	3:00 PM	Music Academy – Rooms 101, 102, 103, 201, Nursery
	3:30 PM- 7:30 PM	Music Academy- 202/203
	7:00 – 9:00 PM	NA – Common Ground
Wednesday December 24	8:30 AM	Women's Breakfast
	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service - Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary
	9:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary
Thursday December 25		Merry Christmas!
Friday December 26	4:00 - 5:30 PM	Music Academy - 101/102
Saturday December 27	8:30- 9:30 AM	Newlonsburg Music Academy – 205
	11-1:00 PM	AA – Common Ground
Sunday December 28	8:30 AM	Worship - Fellowship Hall
	11:00 AM	Worship - Sanctuary

## **NEWLONSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**The Rev. Curtis Lane Paul II, Pastor**

**The Rev. Dr. Travis A. Webster, Associate Pastor**

**Matt Klumpp, Music Director & Organist**

**Bettie Jarosz, Choir & Bell Director**

**The Rev. Lori Bass-Riley, Director of Children and Family Ministries**

**Joshua Kenst, Youth Director**

**Jennifer Wagner, Office Manager**

**Rachel Oates, Interim Office Manager**

**Leanne Salava, Treasurer**

## **BOARD OF DEACONS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**Emily Bondi, Ushers, '26**

**Debbie Carlson, Baptism Books and Newborn Roses/Affirmation Liaison, '26**

**Natalie Bollinger, Childcare, '27**

**Kathy Groll, Flowers/Reminder Cards, '25**

**Bruce Hanington, Counters, '27**

**Tyler Hanchey, At-Large, '26**

**Matthew Hand, Coffee and Doughnuts/Vice Moderator '26**

**Lois Nesbitt, HOPE/COM Liaison, '25**

**Jim Scriven, Moderator/Liaison to Nominating Committee, '25**

**Larry Stoken, Correspondence Cards, '25**

**Lori Novak, Secretary, '27**

## **ELDERS OF SESSION BY MINISTRY**

### **Affirmation**

**Kate Moerdyk, Chair, '25**

**Amanda Neely, '26**

### **New Member Evangelism**

**Kate Montgomery, Chair, '27**

**Rachel Oates, '25**

**Care of Members**

Lauren Babich, Chair, '25

Lindsay Lippman, '26

**Equipping**

Beth Ehrlich, Chair, '25

**Finance**

Ken Bird, Chair, '25

Lindsey Berk, '27

**Human Resources**

Jan Hill, Chair, '26

**Outreach**

Susan Keaney, Chair, '25

**Property**

Robin Pokrzywinski, Chair, '27

Michael Rhoades, '26

**Communications**

Rhonda Johnston, Chair, '26

Angel Stahl, '27

**Clerk of Session**

Susan Keaney

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

CLI License # 1289082