



December 7, 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 7, 2025

11:00 am - Service is Live-streamed

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Prelude Joy to the World Lanz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Williams Family

CALL TO WORSHIP Jim Scriven

Leader: A tree stump left to rot puts forth new shoots.

People: Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

Leader: A wolf slinks toward sheep and joins their fold.

People: Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

Leader: A child plays while serpents slumber

People: Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

Leader: A prophet cries out from the wild places:

Leader: A prophet cries out from the wild places.
People: Prepare the way! For the power is near at hand.

*OPENING HYMN - # 67 Watchman, Tell Us of The Night

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the barren places, whose Spirit rouses stagnant hearts to life, come baptize us in fire that clears away the detritus of despair and apathy. Set our spirits ablaze with impossible dreams of oppressors giving up their power for peace and children at play where war once reigned, that, in dreaming, we might come to believe a better world is possible, and begin to ready the way for your incoming kin-dom. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jim Scriven

*GLORY TO GOD #582 **Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

CELEBRATION WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Lori Bass-Riley

#188 (vs 1) Jesus Loves Me

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14; Matthew 5:13-14

Jim Scriven

ANTHEM

We Wait

Schram

Hal Burch, cello

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-24

Rev. Paul

SERMON

“You are God’s Presence in the World”

Rev.

Paul

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*SERMON HYMN

105 People, Look East

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Webster

(Please mention first names only)

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving The Lord’s Prayer Pg. 35 (Debts)

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after the meal

OFFERING OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Rev. Paul

Please continue to give to NPC by check or by texting "Newlonsburg" to 73256. Please visit www.newlonsburgchurch.org/give to give online or email giving@newlonsburgchurch.org with any questions.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

Jim Scriven

CARRYING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN # 134 Joy to the World

*BENEDICTION Rev. Webster

*THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*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

SERMON NOTES

1. Jesus trains us to be Immanuel when the world falls apart.
2. Jesus wants us to be Immanuel too! "How are you training to be God's presence in the world?"
3. Jesus doesn't want us to train alone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS: Given by Shauna Frantz, "In memory of my wonderful son, Cameron."

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNION SERVERS: Deacons Bruce Hanington and Jim Scriven.

JINGLE BELLS IN ADVENT Jingle-bell-ringing children will ring TODAY @ 11 am and throughout Advent. Please direct your child to the first pew on the left for their instructions before the worship service begins at approximately 10:55 am. The children will return to their families after they finish their Jingling with the choir on the Introit.

HUNGER OFFERING TO PROVIDE FOOD RELIEF FOR THE PEOPLE IN GAZA

Our Hunger Offering this morning will help to provide food assistance to the civilian victims of the most recent two years of fighting and destruction in Gaza. The suffering has been intense following the Hamas attack on Israel in October, 2023 and the subsequent two-year Israeli ground and air offensives in the region. The funds received from this Hunger Offering will be designated for Gaza food relief and will be sent to World Central Kitchen (WCK). With a now, still very fragile cease-fire currently in effect, World Central Kitchen has been able to resume their efforts to provide humanitarian relief to the people of Gaza. Please give generously in support of the people of Gaza who are continuing to struggle to just 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 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

select a specific fund for your donation.
each Ministry

EAST END COOPERATIVE MINISTRY GIFTS DUE TODAY!: EECM was founded in 1970 as a collective response to changes in the community, born when the leaders of 18 local churches recognized that the troubles of the community were too great for any one of them to address alone. Nearly 50 years later EECM has grown and developed to serve a wide population which includes providing gifts for the Children and Youth Program Participants. This year we are going to be collecting **unwrapped** gifts and gift cards for the East End Cooperative Ministry. On the tree in the narthex you will find tags. You are invited to take a tag and return an **unwrapped** gift under the narthex tree by

today, December 7th, to go to a child or youth in the programs of East End Cooperative Ministry.

Important: Please drop off any gift cards you are donating in the church office.

ADVENT ADVENTURE TODAY 4:30-5:45pm Join us for a fun and meaningful family event as we prepare our hearts for Christmas! Advent Adventure invites families to unwrap all parts of the holiday and find the messages of Jesus everywhere they look! Through interactive stations, crafts, and activities, we'll explore the true gifts of the season and how Jesus brings them to life in our world and our hearts. Come celebrate the wonder of Advent together as we unwrap the real meaning of Christmas!

<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YjAOZGM2NzctYWZkOC00YjdkLWI0YTQtYjM5NTAxNTRjYzMz>



ADVENT DINNER TODAY: Celebrate the start of Advent with food, fellowship, and carol singing at this year's Advent Dinner TODAY at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Family and friends are welcome.



Thanks in advance to our Advent Dinner Chairs (Julie & Alex Gebrosky, Dodie Hagan, Judy Oates, and Marcia & Rich Smith) and Team Members: Ken & Tara Bird, Bill & Linda Blank, Ken & Beth Ann Bobish, Amanda Bobish, James & Erin Carlisle, Michael & Barbara Carroll, Todd Caughey, Ben Caughey, John & Nancy Daller, Sean & Nichole Daller, Ron & Caren Donaldson, Alice Doutt, Beverly Evans, Don Green, Kathy Groll, Christine & Eric Hanchey, Tyler Hanchey, Bruce Hanington, Mitch & Bettie Jarosz, Lauren Jessup, Barb Jewell, Karen Kase, Susan Keaney, Bill & Kathy Lukitsch, Mindy Markovich, Kim Miskevics, Tom & Billie Moser, Anne Nevin, Michael & Rachel Oates, Amelia Oates, Lucas Oates, Jill

Oster, Gail O'Toole, Alan & Kristen Petrazzi, Anderson Petrazzi, Avery Petrazzi, Kara Petrazzi, Janice Rehwald, JoAnn Rosenberger, John & Diane Schaupp, Sherry Shadrach, Scott & Beth Sherman, Curtis & Sharon Southlea, Alan & Terri Thornburg, Janice Troup, Dave & Betty Trout, Debbie Wallisch, and Christy Weir

SALVATION ARMY MURRYSVILLE/EXPORT NEEDS YOUR HELP! This year we'll again be seeking NPC volunteers to spend a short 2-hour shift ringing a bell to encourage passers-by to drop a cash contribution into the traditional red kettle. A few hours spent at a kettle location can make a very big difference to a local family in need. Dates will be available on the first three Fridays and Saturdays in December, beginning on Friday, December 5. We'll continue to have some dates at our new location from last year - the Giant Eagle Market District store. Please contact Roger Schneider at 412-613-8470 any time of the day or early evening to volunteer. Your help will be most appreciated. As the Salvation Army motto states, you'll be "Doing the Most Good"!! Roger Schneider, Murrysville/Export Salvation Army Service Unit project coordinator and NPC member.

DECK THE HALLS WITH COOKIES! When you start hearing Mariah Carey's *All I Want For Christmas Is You* on the radio, it's a sign to start planning for the holiday season. And you can't have the holidays without cookies! On Saturday, December 13 @ 10:30am, the Youth Group of Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church will hold its annual Cookie walk fundraiser. The purpose and intention of this cookie walk is to raise funds for our Youth Ministry program. These funds will go towards events and programming throughout the year, including TREKKERS, RAM, Wednesday Evening Youth Group, Mission Trips, and service work. Cookies will be sold for \$10 per pound, and can be purchased in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to volunteer as a baker, we are asking that you bake five dozen cookies. Please contact Joshua Kenst by email at npcyouthmindirector@gmail.com or call/text 412-916-7960. Thank you for supporting Newlonsburg's work of nurturing the faith of our young people.

HAITI ALTERNATIVE GIFTS PROGRAM CONTINUES: 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, and on December 14, and 21, 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. Alternatively, during the week, there is a table in the hallway near the office

where you could purchase your gift. Thanks for your generous support of this worthy program.

CLUB 45 DECEMBER 3rd & 17th 6pm-8pm For kids in 4th and 5th grade! December 3 Searching for Jesus! Join us for a journey around the church as we search for clues about Jesus in the words of the prophets! December 17 Christmas Party! Play crazy Christmas games and make Christmas cards for our church family. Make sure your child is registered! \$5/donation for dinner.
<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MWU4MzQwNjItY2NiNi00YTU2LTk3ZTItYjM1MzAxMTI4NGY3>



FOOD COLLECTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - We need volunteers to fill one-hour or two-hour shifts in collecting food at the Murrysville glass recycling event on Saturday, December 13 near the Municipality building. The collection is done outside from those donating food to our Loaves and Fishes food pantry. This is a low-stress, low-physical activity that greatly benefits Loaves and Fishes and those with food insecurity. It's easy to do by yourself or make it a family outing. The only requirement is to have a car to put the food into so that it can be taken to Loaves and Fishes later that day or on Sunday. Volunteer slots are from 9:00 am - 2 pm on Saturday, December 13. If you are interested, please contact Jon Moerdyk. (jonathan.moerdyk@gmail.com; 231-679-5861)

THE LONGEST NIGHT: The Longest Night Service of Healing and Wholeness will take place on Monday, December 15, at 7pm in the sanctuary. It is called the "Longest Night" service because of its proximity to the winter solstice, when we experience our shortest time of daylight and longest time of darkness – a darkness that, for many, can seem as spiritual and emotional as it is physical. For this reason, many churches claim this day as a reminder not just to recognize peoples' pain, but also to celebrate the healing grace of Jesus Christ, whose birth we await.

This will be a time of quiet music, prayer, and reflection designed to help us acknowledge our pain and remember Christ's love. The service will include

communion and will last about an hour. If you would like to know more, or have any questions, please call or e-mail Travis (724-327-0061, travis.webster@comcast.net). And, if you know someone who is sad, hurting, or simply would like some time of quiet and peace, please invite them to come!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: This beloved NPC tradition reminds us of the reason for the season as we share the joy of Christmas with friends unable to get out during the holidays and those who need some extra joy. We'll meet up at 3pm on **Saturday, December 20th** and divide into groups to deliver cookies, sing carols, then meet up at the home of the Babich family for pizza and other goodies. Friends and family are welcome! Please sign up on the sign-up sheets or through Realm.

PS: We need cookie bakers! Can you share 3 dozen cookies to delight those we sing to? We'll use leftovers from the cookie walk but we always need more. Cookies can be dropped off in the church kitchen before Wednesday, 12/17 @ 6pm when our youth will help our Care of Members Committee assemble these special deliveries.

JESUS BIRTHDAY PARTY! **December 21 9:45** Join us in the ARC for fun as we have a birthday party Jesus! There will be cake, songs, birthday games, and more as we celebrate Jesus' birth! There will be no regular child Sunday School that day!

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.

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.

BIRTHDAY GIFTS TO NPC: If your birthday is in November or December, or if it was earlier this year, now's a great time to celebrate. In Newlonsburg tradition, you can mark your birthday by donating \$1 for each year to the Legacy Endowment —a way to celebrate Jesus in your life. Legacy Endowment contributions provide a means to share perpetual gifts that provide long term support of NPC's ministry. Annual distributions from the Fund are allocated by Session to further NPC's mission. Happy Birthday!

YEAR END PLANNING? As the year concludes, please review your 2025 pledge and current giving to NPC. The combined generosity of fulfilling your 2025 pledge commitment in combination with giving by others supports building Christ's Church here and extends our mission beyond NPC. The last day for 2025 giving is December 28, 2025. Check your contributions through your Realm account or email giving@newlonsburgchurch.org with questions. 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 87 families and individuals that have made their 2026 commitment. As of Commitment Sunday November 23th, these families and individuals have pledged \$341,273. 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, or (3) Online: 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 October 2025:

Common	Special Gifts *
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Good+		
Giving for Month	\$ 42,734	\$ 65,104
Year to Date Giving	\$487,784	\$ 246,476
Year to Date Spending Budget	\$ 558,957	Not Applicable
Year to Date Spending Actual	\$ 523,745	\$ 186,643

+ 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.

JOIN REALM: NPC is rolling 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 7	8:30 AM	Worship - Arc Patio
	11:00 AM	Worship - Sanctuary
	4:30 - 5:30 PM	Advent Adventure - Sanctuary/Arc
	6:00 - 9:00 PM	Advent Dinner - Fellowship Hall
Monday December 8	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
	7:00 - 9:00	Deacons - Gathering Place
Tuesday December 9	8:30 - 9:30 AM	Men's Breakfast - Dicks Diner
	11:00 AM	Leadership Programming
	1:00 - 3:00	Crochet Group - Gathering Place
	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
	5:00 - 6:00 PM	Security Team Meeting - Gathering Place
	7:00 - 9:00 PM	Outreach - 205
	7:00 - 9:00 PM	NA - Common Ground
Wednesday December 10	8:30 AM	Women's Breakfast
	10:15 AM - 12:15 PM	Along the Way Church History Class - Gathering Place
	3:00 PM	Music Academy - Rooms 101- 103, 201, 208, Nursery
Thursday December 11	10:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Music Academy
	3:00 - 4:45 PM	Ram - Arc
	4:30 - 7:00 PM	Mintec - Arc/Common Ground
	5:30 - 6:15 PM	Beginning Bells - Choir Room
	6:00 - 7:00 PM	NO PRAISE TEAM
	6:15 - 7:15 PM	Bell Choir - Choir Room
	7:30 -8:30 PM	Choir Practice - Choir Room
	8:30 PM-9:30 PM	Music Academy- Sanctuary
Friday December 12	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Quilters - Fellowship Hall
	4:00 - 5:30 PM	Music Academy - 101/102
Saturday December 13	8:30- 9:30 AM	Newlonsburg Music Academy - 205
	8:30 - 10:30 AM	Men's Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
	10:30 AM - 1:30 PM	Cookie Walk - Fellowship Hall
	11:1:00 PM	AA - Common Ground
Sunday December 14	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

Outreach

Susan Keaney, Chair, '25

Equipping

Beth Ehrlich, Chair, '25

Property

Robin Pokrzewinski, Chair, '27

Michael Rhoades, '26

Finance

Ken Bird, Chair, '25

Lindsey Berk, '27

Communications

Rhonda Johnston, Chair, '26

Angel Stahl, '27

Human Resources

Clerk of Session

Jan Hill, Chair, '26

Susan Keaney

A Stephen Ministry Congregation
CLI License # 1289082