

THE GOOD NEWLONSBURG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We exist for joy!

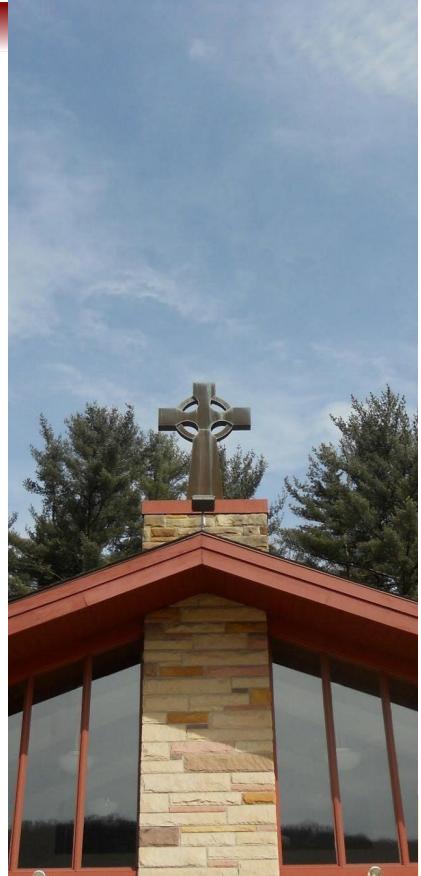
But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. -Luke 2:10-11

The word "joy" is used more than 60 times in the New Testament alone. Surprisingly, joy can be experienced in suffering. In fact, Jesus' spiritual practices of worship and prayer prepare Him to experience joy even at his lowest, darkest, most excruciating moment. Jesus' faith, courage, generosity, and joy to face the cross are the outcomes of His worship and prayer life. We will not develop Jesus' faith, courage, generosity, and joy without weekly worship and daily prayer. Jesus wants this for you! Jesus wants your friendship with Him and His Church to deepen so that you, too, can experience God's presence in the present even when you experience pain and suffering. Jesus wants to change the world through you!

For you know the generous joy of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. -2 Corinthians 8:9

God's Word challenges us to give as Jesus gives to experience joy:

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the **joy** of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant **joy** and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for the **joy** of sharing in this ministry to the saints— ⁵and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, ⁶so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous **joy** among you. ⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous **joy**.-2 Corinthians 8:1-7



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You can't have joy without generosity, and you can't have generosity without joy.

Why do we give to NPC? Do you want to experience joy? Do you want to share in Christ's ministry of changing lives? Do you want to change the world? Because Jesus wants to change the world through you! Jesus comes so that His joy will be in us and that our joy will be complete. -John 15:11

Enjoy Christ coming into the world this Advent!

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Curtis

SHOE DRIVE CONCLUSION + THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Cross Country Shoe Drive this year! Thanks to your donations, we managed to exceed our goal of 2,500 pairs by over 60%. Over 4,100 pairs (~5150 lbs.) were diverted from landfills and closets and created \$37,300 of economic opportunity worldwide. This should help four families in underdeveloped nations with a year's worth of consistent and quality food, housing, and education, while also raising over \$2,100 for Loaves and Fishes Emergency Food Pantry.



LEGACY ENDOWMENT – A CELEBRATION OF YOUR FAITH

Since the 1980s, gifts have supported NPC's long-term ministry. Many have not only given gifts for their annual support of the church but also helped maintain the church's ministry in the long term by giving to our Legacy Endowment. NPC's Legacy Endowment is made up of gifts and bequests of "faithful stewards", both members and friends, to strengthen the ongoing work of the church.

These donors recognize the opportunity to give a lasting gift that continues giving long afterward; the investment returns magnify the impact of the original gift. Some give through our tradition of the "Birthday Fund" in gratitude and celebration of each year of life. As we embrace our material blessings, we must accept the responsibility of God's gifts to us. Just as annual stewardship giving is the opportunity to return to God a portion of our annual income, contributions to the Legacy Endowment provide a means to share perpetual gifts that provide ongoing support of NPC's ministry.

Legacy Endowment Fund distributions support NPC's mission and are allocated annually by Session based on the Fund's value. Last year, \$13,500 was allocated by Session. By policy, these distributions are not used for annual Common Good expenses.

As Presbyterians, we celebrate our faith in many ways, including worship, mission, and sharing. Sharing our wealth, both spiritual and material, is one of the cornerstone principles of our Presbyterian heritage. As the year-end approaches, please consider giving to NPC's Legacy Endowment to build Christ's Church into the future. To make an online gift to the Legacy Endowment Fund:

<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/give/legacy>

Questions? Please contact Pastor Curtis or a Stewardship & Finance Ministry member.

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.

Times will be available on the first three Fridays and Saturdays in December. **Beginning on December 5th**, we'll be ringing the bells at a variety of locations around Murrysville. 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.



DOING
THE MOST
GOOD®

HAITI ALTERNATIVE GIFTS PROGRAM BEGINS NOVEMBER 30TH

Advent and the Christmas season are upon us, and our thoughts turn to giving to our families, friends, and others. As in the past, we want to remember our mission partners at the New Testament Mission and schools in LaCroix, Haiti. The conditions in Haiti continue to be deplorable. People can't go to the market to buy or sell, because gangs are shooting people on the roads or kidnapping them. This causes rampant food insecurity throughout the country. La Croix is a safe haven for those who live in the villages surrounding the schools. Fortunately, the children are safely attending school and receiving food and an education. People at NPC sponsor around 100 children. The \$20 a month they pay to sponsor a child ensures that these children at least get one meal a day and are kept from starving. The growing season has been poor, and their families depend on food distributions subsidized by the mission. **YOU CAN HELP** with these food distributions by participating in Haiti Gifts.

Beginning the first Sunday in Advent, November 30th, you can purchase a gift in the hallway near the office. After that, on December 7, 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 will be a table in the hallway near the office where you can purchase your gift. You can also give to the Haiti Alternative Gifts Fund online or by sending in a check made out to *NPC* and putting *Haiti Gifts* on the memo line. A bag of rice and another of beans (the staple food of Haitians) that would feed a family of 4 for a few weeks would cost \$28. A large sack of rice would be \$55. Any amount of money would be much appreciated.



We all have so much, and we need to show our gratefulness by sharing with others.

Kathie Lukitsch, Newlonsburg Outreach

END OF YEAR GIVING

As the year ends, please consider your 2025 stewardship commitment and current giving to NPC. Your contributions support our church and outreach programs. Our costs through October are below budget, but there is an overall \$42,000 deficit in Common Good giving. 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 28th, 2025**. Thank you for your continued support and faithfulness.

**DECEMBER 7TH HUNGER
OFFERING TO PROVIDE FOOD
RELIEF FOR THE PEOPLE IN GAZA**

Our December Hunger Offering, which will be taken on **Sunday, December 7th**, 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 very fragile cease-fire in effect at the time of the deadline for this issue of the Good Newlonsburg, World Central Kitchen has been able to resume their efforts to provide humanitarian relief to the people of Gaza. Many families there have begun returning home, often unsure of the damage to their homes. World

Central Kitchen teams are working every day to provide food, bread, and cooking ingredients to help these families rebuild their lives, ensuring they have warm, nourishing meals as they gather again.

WCK is currently seeking to rapidly scale up production to an unprecedented one million hot meals a day. The ambitious plan requires an increase to five high-capacity field kitchens and enough supplies to outfit scores of smaller community kitchens at the neighborhood level throughout Gaza. Two new large-scale kitchens are now fully operational, bringing the current total to four, and they have also resumed large-scale meal production in northern Gaza with the opening of their newest facility.

It is important to note that World Central Kitchen has a “100%” - Four-Star “Exceptional” rating on Charity Navigator, 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 Ukraine and was also 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 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 giving link and can then select a specific fund for your donation.

CROP HUNGER WALK REPORT – THE LATEST RESULTS!

This year's October 12th Walk followed our new route from 2023, beginning and ending at the School Road Duff Park shelter and following a 3.5-mile route on the new Westmoreland Heritage Trail. The weather turned out to be cool and damp, following some morning rain – but perfect for walking. Plans for next year's Walk on Sunday, October 11th, 2026, will be to follow this very successful route again.

As of the December Good Newlonsburg deadline date, the overall Murrysville Walk has raised a total of \$9,966.00 to help people in hunger around the world. This far exceeded the goal of \$6,000 that was set for this year's Walk. Of the total raised, 25% will return to our local community to be shared three ways between the Loaves and Fishes Emergency Food Pantry and the two local distribution centers for the Westmoreland Food Bank.

There were 30 walkers and helpers of all ages (including FOUR dogs) involved this year from four community teams! Of the total, 19 of those were from NPC. Our NPC team exceeded our goal of raising \$4,000 this year, with a total reported of \$7,468.00! Nationwide, there were 2,328 teams – and thanks to YOUR amazing generosity, our NPC team ranked as #63 in fundraising in the entire country. To date, the overall Walk nationally has raised a total of nearly \$2.27 million.

Walk coordinator, Roger Schneider, wishes to personally thank everyone who joined the NPC Walk team and all of those who made such generous contributions again this year. Many thanks to all!

Roger Schneider, Murrysville CROP Hunger Walk Coordinator and NPC Member



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” – Mt. 5:4

The holiday season is a wonderful time of year for most of us. This joyful occasion of Christmas trees, decorations, cheerful gift-giving, and winter days enjoyed from the comfort of homes made warm by open fires and the presence of those close to our hearts is almost iconic in our culture, and many people look forward to it throughout the year.

But, for a significant number of us, Christmastime comes also with a measure of sadness. Perhaps you have suffered the untimely death of a close family member or friend at this time of year; maybe you have loved ones who are far away and will not be home; or, it could simply be that the holidays become so overwhelming with busyness, noise, and the seeming need for perfection that they are more taxing than renewing.

If this is the case for you, then please consider coming to our Longest Night Service of Healing and Wholeness on **Monday, December 15th, at 7:00 pm** 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 people’s pain, but also to celebrate the healing grace of Jesus Christ, whose birth we await. Remember: the winter solstice is also the time at which, slowly but surely, the nights become shorter while the days get longer. It is on the longest night when darkness begins to relinquish its hold. Similarly, just after the longest night, we celebrate Christmas, when Jesus Christ, God incarnate, entered the world, showing forth the divine light that vanquishes the darkness of sin and death.

The Longest Night Service of Healing and Wholeness 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 me (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!

Yours in Christ,

Travis



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING, CHRISTMAS EVE

Since the 1930s, 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 who have served the church in mission around the world.

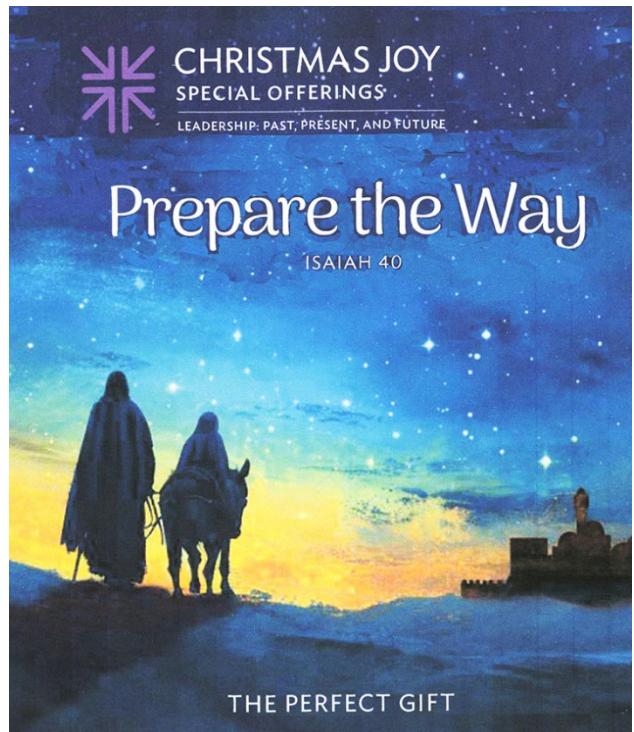
The other half of your gifts helps students at the racial ethnic schools and colleges find their calling by providing scholarships to deserving students, as well as helping with basic operating costs. The Christmas Joy Offering supports the following schools this year: Menaul School, a private Christian high school in Albuquerque, NM (www.menaulschool.org); Presbyterian Pan American School, a Christian college preparatory school in Kingsville, TX (www.ppas.org); and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL (www.stillman.edu). Our gifts allow these schools and colleges to evolve their ministries in response to changing needs and circumstances.

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.



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.

WOMEN'S FALL BREAKFAST

Thank you to Diane Sciullo, Linda Goesser-Loesch, their Hospitality Committee members, the Care of Members Committee, and Lori Bass-Riley for creating a delicious and joyous Fall Women's Breakfast for the ladies of NPC.



Fellowship Events



ADVENT DINNER

Celebrate the start of Advent with food, fellowship, and carol singing at this year's Advent Dinner on **Sunday, December 7th at 6:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Family and friends are welcome. The main course will be catered, so please be sure to sign up!



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.

DECEMBER MEN'S SATURDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Saturday Breakfast will be on **December 13th, 2025**, at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall. All NPC men and their male friends are invited. No reservations are required. For more details or questions, contact Carl Vernon.

FUTURE EVENTS

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

- **Hoss's Lunch** on Sunday, 2/1/26 after the 11:00 am service
- **Easter Brunch Potluck** on Sunday, 4/5/26 between services
- **River City Brass Band** "Les Mis N'At" on Saturday, 4/11/26 at 7:30 pm at The Palace Theatre (preceded by dinner at 5:30 pm location TBD)
- **Senior Celebration** on Sunday, 4/26/26 after the 11:00 am service

Please sign up on the sign-up sheet across from the office, or in the Narthex, or online at our [website events page](#).



QR code for Fellowship Event Sign-up Form

BOOMERS & BEYOND

"Cognitive Impairment", presented by Ellen M. Whyte, MD
Mother of Sorrows Social Hall, 4202 Old Wm Penn Hwy, Murrysville.

Tuesday, December 9th, 2025; gather at 11:30 am. Presentation from 12:00-1:00 pm

What is normal cognitive aging? What are the causes of abnormal cognitive aging? When is it time to see your PCP or specialist concerning cognitive changes? Questions such as these will be answered by Dr. Ellen M. Whyte, a UPMC psychiatrist who is board-certified in psychiatry as well as geriatric psychiatry. Join the discussion as Dr. Whyte describes the treatment of abnormal cognitive aging (in general terms) as well as prevention (how to stay cognitively strong).

Boomers and Beyond is a ministry serving the "baby boomers" of Mother of Sorrows parish and the surrounding communities. Lunch and Learn sessions are held on the second Tuesday of each month, in the Mother of Sorrows social hall. Topics are varied, reservations are not required, and sessions are free to all interested adults. Participants gather at 11:30 am and are encouraged to bring a "brown bag" lunch and to bring a friend. Beverages are provided.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Our annual Christmas Caroling event has become a beloved NPC tradition that 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 3:00 pm on **Saturday, December 20th** and divide into groups to deliver cookies and sing carols; then, we'll 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, December 17th at 6:00 pm when our youth will help our Care of Members Committee assemble these special deliveries.

NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH

Come and enjoy fellowship with your NPC family at our annual New Year's Brunch on **Sunday, January 4th, 2026**. We will meet in Fellowship Hall between worship services. Bring a dish to share!

Thanks in advance to our New Year's Brunch Hospitality Chairs (Dodie Hagan & Judy Oates) and Team Members: Ken & Beth Ann Bobish, Amanda Bobish, Michael & Barbara Carroll, Todd Caughey, Ben Caughey, Ron & Caren Donaldson, Beverly Evans, Mitch & Bettie Jarosz, Susan Keaney, Bill & Kathy Lukitsch, Tom & Billie Moser, Anne Nevin, Michael & Rachel Oates, Amelia Oates, Lucas Oates, Jill Oster, Janice Rehwald, John & Diane Schaupp, Scott & Beth Sherman, Dave & Betty Trout, Debbie Wallisch, and Christy Weir.

NEW ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR WINTER 2026!

Along the Way: Mystics, Martyrs, and Saints

Over the past year and a half, a number of NPC members have been gathering to study church history, from the origins of the early church through the Protestant Reformation and up to the present day.

In January, we will come together again for *Along the Way: Mystics, Martyrs, and Saints*. Rather than going through church history chronologically, this 11-session course, led 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 the Great Courses series, particularly lectures offered by Dr. Emily Graham, of Oklahoma State University, and Dr. William Cook, from SUNY Geneseo.

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

You don't need to have taken the previous installments to join us in the Gathering Place on Wednesdays from **10:15 am-12:15 pm, starting January 21**. 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 or QR Code:

<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YmlyZGYwMmEtYjYxNy00MjVjLWFkZmMtYjM5NDAxMmJkOWQ3>



As always, we hope you will join us as we continue along the way!

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

What are we waiting for?

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” Psalm 17:14 NRSV.

“What are you waiting for?” A question many of us have heard at least once in our lives. It may have been posed by a teacher or mentor, wondering when we will take the next step in our education. It may be posed by a parent or older family member, in an attempt to encourage us to take a risk or chance. It may come from a coach or director, hoping that we will try out for a new role, audition for a solo, or try out for a sport we’ve been wanting to play, but never felt confident in ourselves or our abilities. Whatever the case may be, the question is posed by someone who notices our stillness. Our lack of movement. Our hesitation.

As we enter this time of Advent, we enter the season of waiting and anticipation once again. But what are we waiting for? Is it that gift we’ve been wanting all year? Some quality time with family and friends? A break from work or school? And while some of us wait in stillness, others rush in anticipation. Preparing

for holiday parties. Constantly decorating and making sure things look “just right”. And of course, endless shopping. How easy it is for our waiting to turn into anticipation and anxiety this time of year.

Fortunately, the psalmist knew a thing or two about being patient and anxious. The cure for those moments of anxiety is to seek God and wait for God to be present. The psalmist knew that God would deliver him; he just had to wait. And we can take heart and know that God will also deliver us. I believe that's what we are waiting for: the salvation of our souls, made incarnate in the person of Jesus. But what does that mean for us? I invite you this Advent season to make it a priority to sit for one minute and ponder the question: What are you waiting for?

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

And while you ponder these things, you can look at these opportunities Newlonsburg offers you and your child or children to draw closer to God over the next few months.

Dec. 7th - Advent Adventure and Advent Dinner. Advent Adventure is scheduled for Sunday, December 7th, from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm, followed by the Advent Dinner. Advent Adventure is a great way for youth and children to interact, and for our middle schoolers and high schoolers to serve the younger members of our congregation. Plus, at dinner, there's food. Who doesn't enjoy food? Both of these events are a great way to earn community service hours for students who need them.

Dec. 13th - Cookie Walk. Did someone say cookie??? Why, yes, we did. Our winter fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th, at 10:30 am.

Dec. 14 - Birthday Party for Jesus. On Sunday, December 14th, we will host our birthday party for Jesus during the Sunday School hour.

Jan. 19 - MLK Day of Service. I am currently working on planning this event, so stay tuned for more details.

Feb. 7 - 9 - Winter Remix Retreat. Pine Springs Camp has posted the dates for the winter remix retreat scheduled from 7:00 pm on Saturday, February 7th, through 1:00 pm Sunday, February 9th. Registration opens on **JANUARY 1st**. I'll share more details and links when they are available.

March ? - Youth Service Day and Mission Fair. More details to come.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLUB 45 on December 3 & 17, 6 pm-8 pm

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! Please provide a \$5 donation for dinner.



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East End Cooperative Ministry Christmas Gifts Due Dec. 7th

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 will be collecting **unwrapped** gifts and gift cards for the East End Cooperative Ministry. In the narthex, you will find tags on the tree. You are invited to take a tag and return an **unwrapped** gift under the narthex tree by **December 7th** to go to a child or youth in the programs of East End Cooperative Ministry. **Important: Any gift cards that you donate, please drop off in the church office. Advent**

Adventure on December 7th

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—**hope, peace, joy, and love**—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!



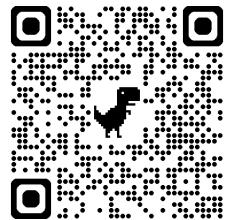
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Birthday Party for Jesus on December 21st, 9:45 am

Join us in the ARC for fun as we have a birthday party for 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!

Child Leadership in Worship

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 years old, and liturgists need to be very good readers and be willing to practice before their participation. Sign them up for a date that works for you!



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

Family Play Date Saturday, January 10th, 10:30 am-12:00 pm

(This is pending approval of ARC space. I'll let you know!)

Looking for a place to connect with other families while giving your child a safe space to run and play? Join us for our Family Play Date! Our church gym will be open for free play, plus we'll have fun, organized games for the whole family to enjoy together. Crafting materials and snacks will also be provided. All families welcome—come play, create, and connect!



<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NzNlNWFiMGYtYTVmMC00YzNlLWFkMmUtYjM5NTAxNjVjY2Vh>

CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24th Poinsettia Order Form



(Please order by Monday, **December 8th**)

Your name: _____

*Selection is limited this year, so particular colors
cannot be guaranteed.*

Total x \$9.50 each = \$ _____

Make your (per each) check to "NPC". In the memo line write "Flowers". Cash is accepted, but less preferred.

After the service, I wish to

[] Take the flowers home (after any of the services)
[] Donate the flowers to NPC (homebound))

Specific wishes: _____

After all items above are checked/completed, place your form and check/cash in Kathy Groll's mailbox (in the church office) by **Monday, December 8th**.

Direct questions to **Kathy.groll@gmail.com**

or 724-561-7163

Thank you!



The Realm Connect App is Ready!

What can NPC members do on the Realm App?

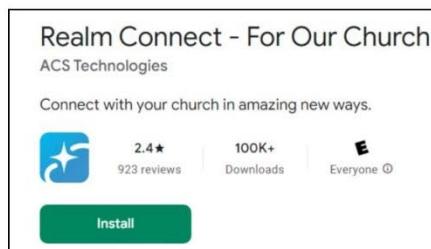
Congregants Can:

- 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/NewlonsburgPres/Account/Start>.

4600 Old William Penn Hwy
Murrysville, PA 15668

Phone:

724-327-0061

Email:

newlonsburgpresby@comcast.net

Website:

www.newlonsburgchurch.org

The Good Newlonsburg: December 2025

We are a Christ-centered community. In joyful response to Christ's love, we worship God, nurture disciples, accept all 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

Article Deadline for the January issue:

December 9th, 2025

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church Leadership Team

The Rev. Curtis Lane Paul II, Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Travis Webster, Associate Pastor

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

Joshua Kenst, Youth Director

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