

THE GOOD NEWLONSBURG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christ crosses lines to respond to a sinful and broken world and calls us to do the same!

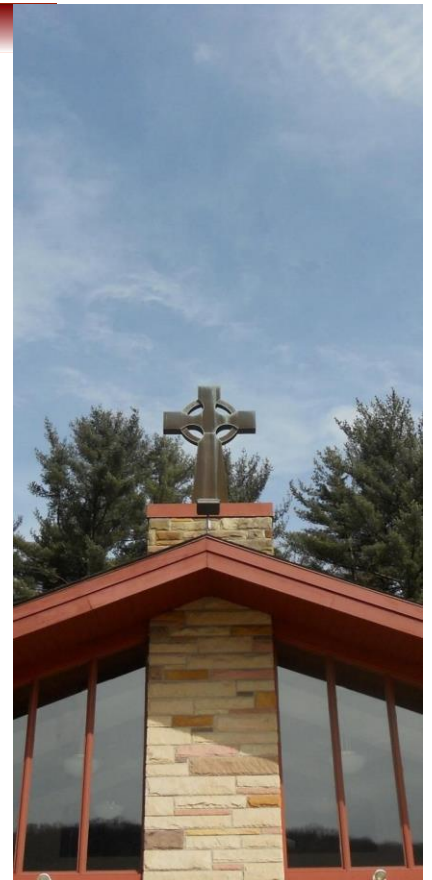
Pure heroism occurred the first night of Hanukkah at the Bondi Beach Jewish celebration in Sydney, Australia on December 14th, 2025. Two Islamic State inspired terrorists began shooting at this Jewish celebration with about 1000 people in attendance. Many civilians ran at the gunman to wrestle away the weapons. Nurses, lifeguards, and by-standers rushed toward the attackers and tended to the care of those wounded. Some were wounded; some were killed to protect the lives of others. Costly compassion. Crossing lines of safety, risking their own lives to protect others. **Their actions revealed a powerful truth: real compassion is often costly.**

Easter invites us to see that this same costly compassion lies at the heart of the gospel. As Jesus Christ, God crosses the ultimate line—entering our world, taking on human life, and even facing death—to be with us and save us. The cross is God's ultimate act of compassion for a sinful and broken world.

Scripture teaches us that God's response to evil is not retaliation but transformative love. Proverbs 25:21-22 calls us to feed our enemies and give them water when they are thirsty. Paul later echoes this teaching in Romans 12:20, reminding us that we overcome evil with good. This "heaping burning coals" imagery points to compassion that awakens conscience and changes hearts through generosity.

Jesus crosses social and cultural boundaries in Matthew 8:5-13, when he heals the servant of a Roman centurion—an enemy soldier—**demonstrating that compassion does not require agreement but recognizes shared humanity.** Even when criticized for associating with tax collectors and sinners, Jesus continued to reach across lines of reputation, culture, and status.

Because Jesus knows who He is—the beloved Son of God—He is not threatened by difference. Likewise, when our identity is grounded in Christ



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through prayer and worship, we can move beyond fear and become people of reconciliation in a divided world. Confidence will be gained and anxiety will be reduced!

The whole story of Jesus centers on crossing lines to save others. As followers of Christ, we are called to practice that same costly compassion—feeding enemies, caring for the wounded, and recognizing the humanity in those who differ from us.

As we live into Easter HOPE, consider this question: Who is hardest for you to see with compassion, and what might it look like to trust God at work in them?

May God lead us to live with the same courageous compassion we see in Christ.

Love,

Pastor Curtis

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29th



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

For 76 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering has been the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. By giving to this PC(USA) offering, our congregation joins with others around the country in support of ministries that are working to improve the lives

of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs: Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP); Self-Development of People (SDOP); and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

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. Please include your envelope number and “sharing” on the memo line.

Give online: Go to the GIVE section of the NPC website, click on Give Online and select “sharing”.

Give by text: Send a text to 855-287-7898. The text should be the number amount of your donation followed by the word “sharing” in lower case letters (for example 50 sharing).

Please prayerfully consider the offering you’ll give to One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday. This offering is our direct response to the ways in which God has called us to share. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

THE KITTIES ARE AHEAD OF THE DOGS

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry is out of cat food. Please donate cat and dog food; our clients really appreciate the care of their pets.

PAPER TOWELS ARE NEEDED



It is time to support the WESTMORELAND FOOD BANK distribution at Mother of Sorrows Church by donating paper towels. Each June, we supply paper towels for the monthly distribution of county food, given on the first Tuesday of the month at MOS. Please bring them to our church any time this month or in May. They are currently serving 245 families. We work together to help local families in need.

--NPC Outreach Ministry

HAITI CHILD SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Outreach Ministry is seeking one or two volunteers to help coordinate NPC's Haiti Child Sponsorship Program, which supports nearly 100 students through the New Testament Mission in LaCroix, Haiti. This role is ideal for someone who enjoys organizing information, working with simple data tools, and helping others stay connected to this meaningful mission.

Key responsibilities include:

- Maintaining lists of sponsored children and sponsors in Excel
- Updating child–sponsor assignments
- Generating periodic reports for Outreach and the congregation
- Coordinating data with NPC's member database
- Requesting and distributing student photos and profiles
- Soliciting sponsors for new unsponsored children
- Helping promote sponsorship opportunities as needed

This role can be shared—and is perfect for couples, friends, or a parent/teen team—and requires approximately *10 hours per month* (although some months may require fewer or more hours.)

Interested?

- Contact Sue and Stan Billings, or Kathie Lukitsch with any questions or Susan Keaney to volunteer. *Bondye beniw (God bless you in Creole!) for supporting this life-changing ministry.*

SHOW SUPPORT FOR HAITIAN REFUGEES

There are multiple ways we can demonstrate our support for our Haitian friends in Charleroi. One of the ways is to contact our elected officials to institute systemic change in our country's current approach. If you are interested in this, please refer to the Matthew 25 page on the NPC website or use this link:

<https://www.newlonsburgchurch.org/matthew-25-at-newlonsburg>

APRIL HUNGER OFFERINGS TO PROVIDE HAITI RELIEF



The Hunger Offerings on **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd** and **Easter Sunday, April 5th** will benefit our hungry brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Our good friend, Pastor Evens in La Croix, provided important updates on conditions in Haiti in recent email newsletters to NPC Outreach:

“Haiti has reached a new milestone, as the number of people suffering from hunger has reached half of the country's population. Aware of this situation, we continue to help hungry people with our food distributions at the Mission and in the surrounding villages.

Your support in fighting hunger has touched many lives. We recently held two food distribution drives to help those in greatest need. One of the distributions focused on highly vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, widows, and the elderly, who often face many challenges. We also provided them with some financial support to help cover basic necessities. The gratitude and relief we witnessed are a clear sign of the difference your contributions continue to make in people's lives. We thank God for giving us wisdom each time to identify and reach those who need it the most. The second food distribution was for entire families across several villages, as access to food is a daily struggle for many.

Thanks to your generosity, we continue to have a positive impact on many lives by providing access to education, food, and many other resources. Your prayers, support, and words of encouragement inspire us to keep moving forward with the work The Lord has entrusted to us. I am grateful to be part of this mission and look forward to sharing more updates with you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in us, giving, and standing by our side.”

Our April Hunger Offerings for the La Croix New Testament Mission will help ensure that no Haitian family will go hungry in these difficult times. Please help feed His children. It's a Newlonsburg thing!

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.



Fellowship Events

APRIL MEN'S SATURDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Saturday Breakfast will be **April 11th, 2026, at 8:30 am** in Fellowship Hall. All NPC men and their male friends are invited. No reservations required. For more details or questions, contact Carl Vernon.

EASTER BRUNCH

Everyone is welcome to join us for a light continental brunch held in Fellowship Hall between services on **Easter Sunday, April 5th in Fellowship Hall**. It will be held between the worship services (9:45-10:45 am) and there will not be any Sunday School that day. All are welcome. Please bring your family and enjoy a light breakfast and fellowship on Easter morning with your church family. Please bring a breakfast item to share. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, sign up online at our website events page, or via Realm.

Thanks in advance to our Easter Brunch Hospitality Chairs (Judy Radcliff & Danielle Beard) and Team Members: George & Bethany App, Doug & Diane Barbe, Craig & Janet Bauer, Marsha Bayne, Rich Beard, Kristen Beard, Beth Ann Fausto, Ben & Stephanie Gates, Rich & Nancy Gebrosky, Jeff & Cynthia Goff, Owen Goff, Josh & Kristy Johnson, Becky Maiman, Evelyn Maiman, Brett & Kate Montgomery, William Montgomery, John Montgomery, Luke Montgomery, Ann Rittiger, Roger & Vicki Schneider, Dennis & Lisa Skeers, Jocelyn Staite, Michelle Staite, Jeff & Diana Sterniak, Lucas Sterniak, Paul Thompson, and Judy Washburn.

LES MIS N' AT

On **Saturday April 11th, 2026, at 7:30 pm** at the Palace Theater in Greensburg join us for the show Les Mis N' At: Broadway Baby! We will take a jaunt down the Great White Way with your Broadway favorites, played by your River City Brass! Featuring numbers from a Chorus Line, Les Miserables, and more! Let us transport you to the storied blocks of 42nd Street for this enjoyable occasion. Ticket cost is \$50.00.

For those interested, we plan to meet prior to the performance at Olives and Peppers in Greensburg (optional) for dinner at 5:30 pm, for the first 16 people to sign up. Sign up online, Realm or on our in-person sign-up sheet by March 22nd. Questions? Call Sue Billings, 724-875-5254.

<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZTJlZjZlYWQ0tNjE3ZC00MGFhLWExMDgtYjNhODAwMThiNzgz>

FUTURE EVENTS

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

- **Senior Celebration** on Sunday, 4/26/26 after the 11:00 am service
- **Pentecost Picnic** at Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall on Sunday, 5/24/26 after the combined service
- **Corndogs and Cornhole** following the 10:00 am service on Sunday 6/14/26



HOSS'S LUNCH

Enjoy a nice lunch immediately after the second service with a group of fellow NPC'ers on **Sunday, April 12th** at Hoss's Steak & Sea House.

SENIOR CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

Calling all seniors (65+) to gather for food and fellowship at our annual Senior Celebration Luncheon following the second service on **Sunday, April 26th at 12:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, sign up online at our website events page, or call the church office (724-327-0061) by April 20th.

Thanks in advance to our Senior Celebration Luncheon Hospitality Chairs (Susan Long & Sharon Sharp-Scimio) and Team Members: Brian & Hope Aston, Laura Aston, Janet Baumann, Brian & Samantha Berry, Nancy Borst, Jennifer Breitreutz, Katie Breitreutz, Carol Byers, Bernie & Debbie Carlson, Chad & Sarah Carlson, Dan & Kelly Flickinger, Debbi Grimaldi, Jan Hill, Deana Neavin, Don Pearson, Brian Pirone, Traci Ramey, Jaime Rininger, Jane & Lyle Taylor, Joyce & Carl Vernon, and Dave Williams.



Join the Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church Softball Team!

The Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church Softball Team is looking for players for the upcoming season!

Our season runs from **May 1 to mid-August** with two games per week.

All skill levels are welcome, so come out and join the fun **and fellowship!**

We Need More Players!

All are welcome to join the team!

Come enjoy some great games, exercise, and camaraderie with fellow church members and friends.
No experience necessary!

For more information, contact:
Bob Markley at 412-719-8280 or bamarkley@comcast.net

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY EVENTS

APRIL CALENDAR

4/1 Wednesday

- 6:00 PM Club 345

4/5 Easter Sunday

- 8:30 AM/11:00 AM Worship
- 9:45 AM Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt
- No Children & Worship or Musical Rehearsal

4/12 Sunday

- 8:30 AM/11:00 AM Worship
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Children & Worship
- 12:00 PM Musical Rehearsal

4/15 Wednesday

- 6:00 PM Club 345

4/19 Sunday

- 8:30 AM/11:00 AM Worship
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Children & Worship
- *Things to note! Sunday School Singers sing at 11:00 Worship!*
- 12:00PM Musical Rehearsal

4/26 Sunday

- 8:30 AM/11:00 AM Worship
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Children & Worship
- 12:00 PM Musical Rehearsal

CLUB 45 is NOW CLUB 345!!!

We are opening up this opportunity to 3rd graders as well as 4th and 5th graders!

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS 6:00-8:00 PM

Club 45 is a kids' club for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders where we spend time playing games, having dinner (pizza and fruit), talking about faith, and having fun!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGERS (AGE 2 - 2ND GRADE) SING APRIL 19th!

Each Sunday School session ends with our 2yr-2nd grade students having music with Amy Smith. Every month, the children then sing the introit at our 11:00 am service! This month, the song is *Got Jesus!*

THINGS COMING UP!

1. May 6th is the final Club 345 and will be a messy game night!
2. Pentecost Picnic is May 24th
3. VBS July 27th-30th



FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

What Does it Mean?

A few years ago, my mom and I were walking together and talking about the significance of Easter and the theology of atonement. I was so sure I knew what I was talking about, having just learned about it in my Intro to Theology class. I provided a synopsis of what I learned based on the three theories covered in class. I was so sure I had explained it well, but my mom humbled me by asking me to explain it the same way I would explain it to a younger child.



I imagine what I felt then was the same way the two disciples in Luke felt as they walked to Emmaus. We don't know their identity, but we do know from Luke chapter 24:33 that they weren't two of the twelve disciples Jesus originally called. But they did know enough to be confused by what was going on and uncertain about what to do next. It took Jesus appearing to them once more and explaining it to them using the Law and Prophets (vs.27). However, it wasn't until Jesus broke bread with them (vs. 30) that they recognized Him and understood everything He told them (vs. 31).

Easter remains as much a mystery to me now as it did when I was younger. If I had to sum it all up in one phrase it would be this: Love saved me because I could not save myself. I believe Easter means different things for all of us, and the mystery of the resurrection is understood gradually. I don't know what you will find on Easter Sunday. But I have faith that Easter Sunday, and every day, Jesus will appear and tell you exactly what you need to hear. Have faith, Christ is Risen!



When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Luke 24:30-35



YOUTH EVENT CALENDAR

The resurrection of Jesus may be a mystery, but the dates and times of events at NPC are not. Here is a look at the events you'll want to add to your calendar.

April 5 - Easter Egg Hunt - Children ages 0-5th grade are invited to participate in an egg hunt during our Easter Brunch! Come to the Fellowship Hall at 10:30!

May 3 - Children's Musical - For Worship on Sunday, May 3rd, we will host a children's musical as part of our worship. More Details to come.

May 3 - Recognition of Graduating Seniors - Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church will recognize members of the congregation who are graduating from Highschool.

May 6 - Last session of Youth Group

May 15-16 - End of School Lock-In - NPC is happy to host its end-of-school lock-in for students in grades 6-8. This will be an evening with fun, fellowship, worship, service and a bonfire. Dinner and breakfast will be provided. Participants can be dropped off at the ARC on Friday, May 15th at 6:00 pm, and picked up at the office entrance on Saturday, May 16th. The cost for the event is \$12. Please register and submit the required forms on Realm by Sunday, May 3rd. Contact Joshua Kenst with further questions.

Sign up link: <https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/Registrations/Info/2c190178-6b6a-47b5-8671-b3f5015acd29>

May 19 - Confirmation Class Dinner - On Tuesday, May 19th, there will be a dinner for our confirmands with the elders and Pastors.

May 24 - Pentecost Picnic- Keep an eye on your bulletin for more information about the Pentecost Picnic.

May 28 - Last session of RAM - On Thursday, May 28th we will take RAM Participants off site to Brushes and Beans to do some pottery. I will have more details and a permission slip with information about the logistics sent out to parents between March 26th and April 2nd.

July 13 - 16 - Trekkers - NPC's Trekkers Program is scheduled for July 13th-16th for rising 6th through 8th graders. Stay tuned for more information.





Every drop counts. Donate blood.

Blood Drive
Murrysville Community
Newlonsburg Presbyterian
Church

Fellowship Hall
4600 Old William Penn Highway
Murrysville

Tuesday, April 28
11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: NPC to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to RapidPass®



Help hope bloom! Give blood 4/13-30 for \$15 e-gift card to merchant of choice. See rcblood.org/hope



Scan to schedule an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

REALM CONNECT APP

Getting Started with Realm and the Realm Connect App

Realm is Newlonsburg's online portal to access a member directory, view and register for events, communicate with other members, give online and view giving records, schedule volunteer roles, share documents and messages for group activities, and receive news and announcements from NPC.

Realm Connect is accessible in both web and app versions. Once you establish a username and password, the login will work for either platform.

Each member is a user in the system and uses an individual email address for the login. You cannot have the same email for login purposes as another member.

Members with emails in the system will periodically receive Realm invitations via email. To request a Realm Connect Account:

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



To Download the Realm Connect App



GET IT ON
Google Play



Download on the
App Store

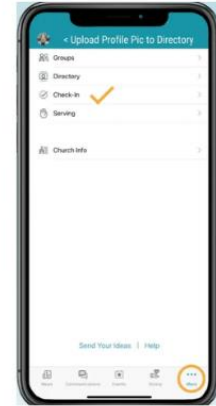
Need more information?



realm@newlonsburgchurch.org

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church
WORSHIP-SERVE-GROW

STAY CONNECTED WITH REALM



Information about access and features for Newlonsburg's Realm Connect App

Realm Connect Features

Directory

The searchable online directory contains all the information in the print directory plus you can call or message anyone with one click. Members can directly add and edit their email, phone numbers, addresses, and profile pictures.

Communications

Email, call, or text with one click from the directory. Have a discussion with a small group. The communications portal enables you to send photos and messages to one or a large group of members.

Events

You can view, register, and receive reminders for upcoming NPC events. You can also use mobile check in to sign into worship and other events.



Newsfeed

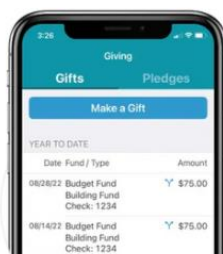
You can receive news, announcements, and notifications to always get the most up to date NPC information.

Volunteering

Learn about volunteer positions, get reminders about when you are scheduled to volunteer, and access your volunteer group's schedule.

Giving

Make a one-time gift to any NPC fund (common good fund, hunger offering, etc) or set up recurring donations. You can also view past gifts and print a copy of your current giving statement. For any questions about setting up online giving, please contact: giving@newlonsburgchurch.org.



Frequently asked Questions

Is my information secure?

Yes. Information is encrypted. For online gifts, Realm's payment processor complies with the highest level of security standards.

Do I have to download the app to participate in NPC events?

No. Realm is a tool to make staying connected and getting involved in activities/events easier. There will continue to be ways to access all aspects of NPC without Realm.

What if I forgot my password?

If you have a Realm account, but forgot your password, you can visit the main login page and request to reset the password:



How do I know when there is new information in the app?

You can turn on notifications to receive new updates from NPC and NPC members.

Can I give online without a Realm login?

Yes. You can make one-time gifts to any fund online without needing to log in. A login is only necessary for recurring gifts.

For additional questions, please contact: realm@newlonsburgchurch.org

4600 Old William Penn Hwy
Murrysville, PA 15668

Phone:

724-327-0061

Email:

office@newlonsburgchurch.org

Website:

www.newlonsburgchurch.org

The Good Newlonsburg: April 2026

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 May issue:

April 9th, 2026

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