

THE GOOD NEWLONSBURG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Pray Matthew 28:16–20; the risen Jesus meets His disciples with a mission—and a promise. Like us, they longed for clarity and control about the future. But instead of giving them a timeline or certainty, Jesus gives them something better: His presence.

We often believe that if we can just gain enough control—over our plans, our future, our circumstances—we'll finally have peace. But Jesus redefines peace. It's not simply rest or everything going our way; it's living in His presence here and now. "I am with you always," He promises—and that changes everything.

Jesus does give a clear calling: make disciples, baptize, teach. But the goal isn't just activity or results—it's transformation. A life shaped by Jesus' presence produces joy, peace, kindness, and love. This is the kind of "deliverable" that truly matters.

In a world filled with uncertainty and division, it's tempting to cling tighter to control. Yet Jesus invites us to loosen our grip and trust Him instead. We don't need to have all the answers if we are never alone. Christ's Spirit is with us, empowering us to live as His presence in the world.

So, the question becomes: what are you trying to control that Jesus is asking you to trust Him with?

Joy isn't found in controlling the future—it's found in walking with Jesus in the present.

Enjoy Jesus' presence in the present,

Pastor Curtis



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THANK YOU TO THE BOOKMARK STITCHERS

A huge shoutout and thank you to Kristy Johnson, Beth App, Stephanie Makosey, Janice Rehwald, Judy Oates, Caren Donaldson, Amy Smith, Hal Burch, and Julie Gebrosky for their efforts in creating the beautifully embroidered and personalized bookmarks for our 2026 confirmands (and especially to our stitchers who stitched more than one bookmark!) The bookmarks were presented to our newest members of NPC to commemorate their confirmation journey, their affirmation of faith, and their acceptance as members of NPC on May 31st, 2026. Thank you for helping to continue this treasured Newlonsburg tradition!



"TEACHINGS OF JESUS" YARD SIGNS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

Political signs soon will be sprouting up like wildflowers. Let's take this opportunity to also display simple messages of love and hope. Yard signs reflecting teachings of Jesus Christ that were displayed in front of the church last fall are once again available for purchase at cost (\$13 per sign). If you are interested in obtaining one of these signs, please contact the church office at 724.327.0061 or look for the table in the narthex between services.

Pray Always and do not lose heart. [Green]

Love Enemies, pray for those who hurt you. [Red]

Who is my neighbor? The one who shows mercy. [Red]

Just as you do to the most vulnerable, you do to me. [Purple]

Give the shirt off your back. [Purple]

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a lay pastoral care group of highly trained individuals who are available to help hurting folks through difficult situations in a confidential setting. Stephen ministers are trained in reflective listening, focused prayer, and appropriate Christian support for those who need help with coping with the difficulties life can bring, such as bereavement, loneliness, family issues, pregnancy loss, financial struggles, illnesses, or divorce. Each situation is handled confidentially and with an emphasis on Christian values, principles, and training.



If you or someone you know needs a helping hand and a listening ear, please contact Pastor Curtis for a confidential referral.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE 2026 CROP HUNGER WALK – OCTOBER 11TH

The 47th annual Church World Service Murrysville Area CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday afternoon, on **October 11th**. Our congregation has always been very active in this worthwhile project, and we'll be asking for your support again this year. This will be a traditional in-person Walk, and we'll also continue the highly successful online fundraising. We'll again be following the popular new route we began in recent years, using the Westmoreland Heritage Bike Trail, beginning and ending at the Duff Park shelter at the park entrance off School Road South. Watch for complete information in the September Good Newlonsburg.



A SPECIAL MOMENT FOR MISSION ON SEPTEMBER 6TH!

Mary Bode, owner of the Knead Café in New Kensington, will share the Bodes' amazing journey during both services and the Sunday School hour between services on September 6th, 2026.

The Knead Café was the first Pay What You Can/ Pay it Forward Café in western Pa., opened in 2017 by Mary and Kevin Bode. Mary and Kevin loved their New Kensington community and wanted to provide a spark that would bring new energy to the town while helping to feed their many neighbors in need. Their mission was driven by their faith and their desire to make a significant difference in their community. The Café is a non-profit organization and is staffed almost entirely by volunteers. The atmosphere is warm, and the food is amazing, as they wanted those who come to enjoy an ambiance of fine dining regardless of their personal circumstances. The mission is twofold:

- Provide hunger relief for those in need by offering delicious and healthy food regardless of their ability to pay.
- Strengthen the bonds of the community by providing an environment where all are welcome.

Interaction with neighbors is encouraged to enable increased understanding of people from diverse walks of life.

On Thursday nights, "sponsored" dinners are provided to anyone in the community. To date, they have served more than 72,000 meals!

Newlonsburg will be sponsoring a dinner on **Thursday, September 17th, 2026**, when 8-10 of our members will assist in serving. This will provide a firsthand experience of this special mission and a chance to witness the genuine fellowship that can be created when we engage with our neighbors in a truly caring way without judgment. The Hunger Offering on this date will be used to support this important mission.

Mary will be available to answer any questions during the Sunday school hour. Please take the opportunity to welcome her and feel inspired by a couple with no restaurant experience who followed their faith and their hearts, resulting in great outcomes.

AUGUST 2ND HUNGER OFFERING TO PROVIDE FOOD RELIEF FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE



Our August Hunger Offering, which will be taken on Sunday, August 2nd, will help to provide food assistance to the victims of the ongoing war in Ukraine. The funds received from this offering will be designated for Ukraine food relief and will be sent to World Central Kitchen (WCK) in support of their #ChefsForUkraine program.

On February 24th, 2022, Russia launched a large-scale attack on neighboring Ukraine, invading the country on several fronts. As a result, millions of families have fled their homes in search of safety. WCK initially set up meal distribution sites at border crossings for people fleeing. They then quickly expanded to serve fresh meals prepared by local restaurants across Ukraine.

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

Currently, WCK teams are focused on getting both fresh meals and food kits that can sustain families for several days to the most vulnerable residents in the eastern part of the country. They are reaching recently liberated cities as well as getting meals to people displaced by the attacks.

Since the beginning of the war, it has been estimated that World Central Kitchen has served 276+ million meals; provided 2+ million gallons of water; distributed 10.7+ million food and vegetable kits; provided emergency response to 500+ attack sites; and distributed 216,000+ seed kits. It is important to note that World Central Kitchen has a “100%” - Four-Star “Exceptional” rating on Charity Navigator, the highest level possible. This signifies that they “exceed industry standards and outperform most charities.” They are celebrating 16 years of service around the world this year. WCK has also provided



amazing food relief work in Gaza and is also on the scene in response to the recent earthquakes in Venezuela.

Please give generously in support of the people of Ukraine 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.

CARE OF MEMBERS: FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

PUZZLES & PIZZA NIGHT

Calling all puzzlers ages 9 to 90! Join us for some puzzling fun on Wednesday, 9/23/26 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Competition begins at 6:15 pm sharp, so don't be late! Assemble your own team of 2-4 people, or come solo and join some fellow puzzlers for a friendly jigsaw puzzle race. Each adult team will tackle a 500-piece puzzle, and each youth team will complete a 300-piece puzzle. Pizza will be served! Bring a snack or dessert to share and invite your friends. Sign up online through our Fellowship Event Sign-up Form.



HOSS'S LUNCH

Enjoy a nice lunch immediately after the second service with a group of fellow NPC'ers on Sunday, 9/13/26 at Hoss's Steak & Sea House. Join us as we discuss possible future locations to have lunch. Look forward to seeing you there.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped to bless and support the Pine Springs Counselors, Paulo and IsaBella, with boxes full of goodies! We were able to give them their favorite treats, drinks, some gift cards, sweet cards, and some other items!

FUTURE EVENTS

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

Women's Breakfast on Saturday, 11/7/26 at 9:30 am

Advent Dinner on Sunday, 12/6/26 at 6:00 pm



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Return

As the school year starts, I think about the idea of returning. Some of the young people will return to the same schools, others will start at new ones, and some will start college. There is a sort of familiarity with this time of year, and I think part of that is due to the nature that we return to something, such as the structure and schedule of our days, classrooms, or even the occasional return home during the weekends and breaks. The beginning of the school year marks the season of returning.

According to the Merriam- Webster Dictionary, the word "return" does not just refer to going back to a certain place; it can also mean "to restore to a former or to a normal state." This is the work God does in us through grace, what we would call sanctification. We are returned or restored to the state that God originally created and intended us to be in. To quote Philippians 1:6, "I am confident in this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." May we experience the restorative work of Jesus in our lives as we live them during this school year.



In fellowship,

Joshua

YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

YOUTH EVENTS

August 16 - Youth Group Movie Night: *Spider Man: Brand New Day*: On Sunday, **August 16th, 6:30 PM** the Youth Group (**Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers**) will meet at Cinemark Monroeville (600 Mall Cir Dr, Monroeville, PA 15146) to see *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*. **Participants can be picked up from the theater by 9:45 PM.** Please **register by Friday, July 17th**. This event is open to students in Middle School and High School. Parents, please note that this movie is rated PG-13. **If more than 40 people register, we can book a private screening!** Scan the QR Code to Register.



August 23 - Back to School Blessing for Students and Teachers: Please join us on Sunday, August 23rd at the early and late service as we bless students and teachers preparing for the start of a new school year.

September 8-10 - Resuming After School Programming: Our After School Ministry will resume the first full week of September. More details to follow.

September 13 - Sunday School Kick-Off! It's that time of year for the kids to return to Sunday School. Join us as we welcome them back to class for another exciting and soul-nurturing year of Sunday School.

September 17 - Volunteering at Knead Community Cafe: Joshua is looking for some help as he partners with the Matthew 25 team in serving a meal on **Thursday, September 17th**. This is a wonderful service opportunity for our Senior High. Please let Joshua know if you are interested.

October 17-19 - THE BIG ONE: Pine Springs will host its Big One retreat October 17th-19th. More Details to come.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY INFORMATION



WHAT MAKES SENSE FOR YOU & YOUR CHILDREN THIS FALL?

Before we officially leap ahead into fall evening programming, we would really like to know a few things like: Are you adults interested in being more involved in our music programming? What type of things, outside of Sunday morning, are you interested in for your children? What times work best for you? All this is important information! Please take the time to fill out this survey so we can coordinate with the most people!



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSev4JBir0rqFG2gGHRw7E_hDIIS_JH7E6RP6b4ueExR9fvGg/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=113579566202999590225

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER OR MORE REWARDING

Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of our children? We are looking for people to take part as leaders in our Sunday School! We make it super easy! All teaching materials are provided in the classroom! Your prep time is spent just in prayer and reading the lesson! No stressing! Just blessing - our children with your presence and caring! Our goal is to have up to four teachers for each class so we can easily accommodate multiple schedules! Speak to Pastor Lori about this fantastic opportunity!

THE BEAUTY AND SACREDNESS OF CHILDREN AND WORSHIP - JOIN US!

One of the wonderful things we provide during the school year is a special worship experience for our preschool - 2nd graders during our 11:00 AM worship service. This program is specifically designed to help children encounter the divine presence of God through foundational Bible stories and faith practices that are developmentally appropriate and enriching. We have four amazing storytellers who would love to

pass on this rich tradition to more people. Are you a youth who is over 14 or an adult who would like to be a part of experiencing our youngest begin their relationship with God? Speak to Pastor Lori about this!

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS: AUGUST 23RD

We will pray over students and teachers returning to school during both worship services. We will also present students with prayer cards, something for their backpacks to remember their church is praying for them, and a small gift to give their teachers.

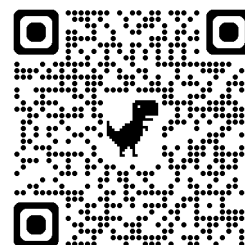


KICK OFF SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 13TH AT 10:00 AM

Sunday School returns on September 13th! All children and youth classes (besides confirmation) will begin in their classrooms, and then after meeting their teachers, they will go to the ARC for a party! Pick up will be in the ARC.

FALL FUSION TWEENER RETREAT: SEPTEMBER 12TH - 13TH

Fall Fusion is Pine Spring Camp's fall retreat for campers who are in 4th - 6th grade! Our desire is to continue to provide an amazing environment where campers can grow in their faith and have a "vital encounter with Jesus Christ." Cost is \$95/child or \$85/child when coming in groups of 10. **Price includes food, lodging, and camp activities. Please contact Pastor Lori (text 412-737-1412) if you are interested in attending with us as a group, or you can register individually by using the QR code.



3RD GRADE BIBLE DISTRIBUTION/PRESENTATION: SEPTEMBER 27TH

Sign up before 9/6. We will present to our 3rd Graders (and any older elementary students who do not have one) a student Bible with interesting articles and activities incorporated throughout the Bible. These will be presented at both the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Please sign your child up by 9/6 so we can write your child's name in their bible with calligraphy.



<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZmRmYzRmM2ItMmMzNC00YjY3LWlwZTYtYjQ4MzAwMDAxMDI1>

WAYS TO GIVE TO NPC

In addition to cash, checks, and online, there are a variety of ways that you can financially support the mission and ministry of NPC. Please visit <https://www.newlonsburgchurch.org/give> to explore ways to contribute. For more information, please contact giving@newlonsburgchurch.org. Thank you for your generosity.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Many NPC families use a simple tax strategy called bunching to maximize their tax deductions. A 2017 tax law increased the standard deduction, making it harder to claim certain individual deductions such as for charitable giving. Bunching allows taxpayers who don't qualify for itemized deductions to access the charitable deduction by grouping contributions for multiple years into one year. Establishing a donor-advised fund (DAF) helps achieve this. You contribute money to your DAF, qualify for the current year's charitable deduction, invest tax-free, and donate over several years. You simply inform the DAF of the charity name and amount, and they do the rest. Investment gains are available for charitable giving. Consult your financial or tax adviser about DAFs.

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

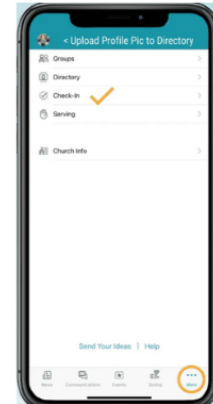
Need more
information?



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

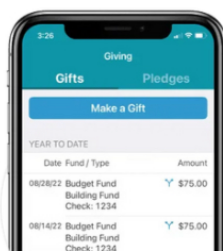
You can receive news, announcements, and notifications to always get the most up to date NPC information.

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: August 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 September issue:

August 13th, 2026

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church Leadership Team

The Rev. Curtis Lane Paul II, 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