

THE GOOD NEWLONSBURG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

This Easter, we explored John 20:1–18 and the powerful truth that while happiness comes and goes, Jesus offers something deeper and unshakable—joy.

Life is full of ups and downs—good moments, frustrating encounters, unexpected losses. If our hope is tied to circumstances going our way, it won't last. But the resurrection changes everything. Because Jesus is alive, joy is no longer dependent on outcomes—it is rooted in a living Savior.

The disciples were afraid, uncertain, and divided after the crucifixion—yet the risen Jesus meets them with peace. Not just the absence of conflict, but a deep wholeness and flourishing presence. This is the kind of life Jesus invites us into: not avoiding pain but experiencing joy even during it.

Real joy doesn't deny grief. It holds onto a deeper reality—that death is not the end, that God is making all things new, and that Jesus lives to live in us. This kind of joy is formed through trust. Do we believe He is alive? Do we trust Him with our whole lives?

In a culture shaped by anxiety and outrage, resurrection joy becomes a steady witness. The church is called to live differently—not because life is easy, but because Jesus is alive, the story isn't over, and God is at work.

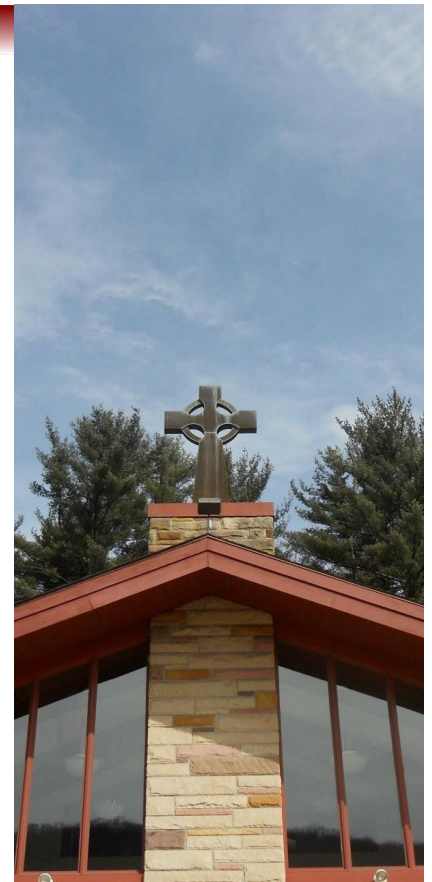
So, where are you tying your joy to circumstances rather than to Christ? And what might it look like to trust Him more deeply today?

Happiness happens to us. But Jesus offers joy that lasts.

He is risen—join His joy.

Enjoy Jesus' presence in the present,

Pastor Curtis



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LET'S CELEBRATE THE CLASS OF 2026!

On Sunday, May 17th, after the 11:00 am service, the Deacons will hold a reception in Fellowship Hall for NPC members who are graduating from high school this year. You are cordially invited to come and enjoy some cake, wish them well, and hear their plans for what comes next. If you are a senior graduating from high school this year, and you and your family did not get a personal invitation, please let us know!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Confirmation Sunday is May 31st; we will be confirming our newest members that day during the 10:00 am service. These students have worked hard all year to get to this point. Please come and show them how proud we are of them!

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY: IT SUBCOMMITTEE OPPORTUNITY

The Communications Ministry is excited to announce the formation of a new IT Subcommittee! This team will support the church in all areas of technology, including networks, computer hardware and software, and internet-related needs.

If you have experience or interest in IT and are looking for a meaningful way to serve Christ and support our church community, we invite you to consider joining this important ministry. Your skills can make a real difference in helping our church stay connected and effective in its mission.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Angel Stahl at angelstahlnpc@gmail.com or Pastor Curtis.

THANK YOU TO THE EMERGENCY MEALS TEAM

We want to extend a huge thank you to our Emergency Meals Team coordinator, Carol Byers, who has been coordinating the Meals Ministry since May 2024, and to Diana Sterniak, who steps up when Carol is unavailable. Last month, NPC's Emergency Meals Team at NPC provided many meals to three different families.

THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

National Volunteer Week concluded in April. We are so grateful for our members who give their time and talents as "faithful stewards of God's grace,...fervent in spirit [to] serve the Lord." (1 Peter 4:10-11). We thank each and every person who volunteers their time throughout the year. Your commitment is what makes it possible for our NPC community to be Christ's hands, feet, and voice on Earth. THANK YOU!

MAY MEN'S SATURDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Saturday Breakfast will be on May 9th, 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.

PENTECOST PICNIC

Wear your **RED** for the Pentecost Picnic on Sunday, May 24th, in Fellowship Hall immediately following the combined 10:00 am service. Invite family and friends to celebrate the birthday of Christ's Church. The main course will be catered, and we welcome members to bring a pasta salad/potato salad, fruit/fruit salad, vegetable salad, or dessert. Please sign up in the Narthex, online at our website events page, or via the Realm app. Please include what dish you will be bringing when you sign up. All are welcome. Please contact Linda Palmer with any transportation needs by emailing lindaepalmer@gmail.com. *Thanks in advance to the following hospitality chair members and team members for hosting the event:*

Team 2 Hospitality chairs: Marcia Smith and Julie Gebrosky

Team members: Alex Gebrosky, Rich Smith, Kenneth & Tara Bird, Bill & Linda Blank, James & Erin Carlisle, John & Nancy Daller, Sean & Nichole Daller, Alice Doult, Kathy Groll, Eric & Christine Hanchey, Bruce Hanington, Lauren Jessup, Don and Barb Jewell-Green, Karen Kase, Mindy Markovich, Kim Miskevics, Gail O'Toole, Alan & Kristen Petrazzi, JoAnn Rosenberger, Sherry Shadrach, Curtis & Sharon Southlea, Alan & Terri Thornburg, and Janice Troup.

Team 10 Hospitality chairs: Stephanie Makosey, Christel Thompson, and Hope Paul

Team members: Jay Thompson, Lauren Bailey, Jim & Janis Baker, James & Lori Bollibon, Nicholas Caruso, Matt & Stephanie Edwards, Ed & Laurie Lach, Alice LaPaglia, Gary & Kim Merge, Jack & Pamela Metcalfe, Chad & Stephanie Mihleder, Richard & Melanie Miller, Donna Miller, Keith and Robin Pokrzywinski, Jerry Selia, Mark & Debbie Sherer, Jim & Jaime Slone, and Bill & Sharon Stewart.

PAPER TOWEL DONATIONS NEEDED

Time to support the Westmoreland Food Bank at Mother of Sorrows church by donating paper towels. Each June, we supply paper towels for the monthly county food distribution on the first Tuesday of the month at MOS. Please bring paper towels to our church anytime in May. They are currently serving 245 families. We work together to help local families in need. --NPC Outreach Ministry

RIVERHOUNDS GAME

NPC family and friends will gather at Highmark Stadium as the Pittsburgh Riverhounds SC take on the Sacramento Republic FC at 7:00 pm on Saturday, August 8th, 2026. Tickets are \$31 per person. We will be purchasing group tickets, so if you are interested, please contact Lindsay Lippman (tlpitt25@comcast.net), sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or via the Realm app no later than July 1st, 2026.

CONFIRMATION STUDENT DINNER

Confirmation students, please plan to attend the confirmation dinner on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. You will be meeting with current NPC elders to enjoy some good food and fellowship. Please email Barbara Rissler (barbararissler@gmail.com) regarding any food allergies.

Thank you to the following Hospitality team for hosting this event:

Team 3 Hospitality chairs: Barb Rissler and Debi Robertson

Team members: Bill Rissler, Gary Robertson, Laurie Bailey, Tim & Lindsey Berk, Alice Cass, Megan Duckworth, Ron & Diane Fitzgerald, Jillian Fu, Rob & Amy Hieber, Janet Ingersoll, Bob & Abby Kemerer, Ray Laughlin, Jennifer March, Bob Markley, Jr., Lori Novak, Lou Peglow, David & Paige Perry, Gary Robertson, Jr., Jason & Kim Scheible, John & Susan Shaginow, Angel Stahl, and Joe & Kelly Thomas.

CHURCH SOFTBALL



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

CORNDOGS AND CORNHOLE

Join us for Corndogs and Cornhole on Sunday, June 14th, 2026. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and enjoy a snack and refreshment following church. Please join us on the back patio after the 10:00 am service on June 14th for the new Corndogs and Cornhole event. We are asking for a goodwill offering of \$1 per corn dog (pay via the Realm app or on the day of the event). BYOLC-bring your own lawn chair.

Thank you to the following Hospitality team for hosting the event:

Team 7 Hospitality Chairs: Susie Siegel and Susan Hois and Team members: Phil Hois, Stan & Sue Billings, Emily Bondi, Mindy Bramer, Abby Hostetler, Alma Johnson, Benjamin Kuntz, Rob Jessup, Gina LaPaglia, Kiersten Maryott, Dave & Calley Nero, Lois Nesbitt, Dale & Ginny Rygg, Ryan & Lauren Sloan, Alex & Amy Smith, Larry & Tammy Stoken, Emily Stoken, Janet Sturgil, Andrea Vernon, Nikki Weir, and Jeff & Valery Wilson.

HUNGER OFFERING ON MAY 3RD TO HELP WILKINSBURG FOOD PANTRY

Our Hunger Offering in May will go to Wilkinsburg Community Ministry (WCM), which is located in downtown Wilkinsburg. WCM was originally a collaboration of several area churches, with members of the board representing each of the churches. In 1968, clergy and lay leaders from ten congregations formed the Board of Directors for the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry. The unity of several congregations made it possible for WCM to meet the extreme needs of poverty and hunger in the community. Today, WCM unites congregations, local business owners, service groups, and individuals to help the folks of Wilkinsburg, Homewood, East Hills, Swissvale, Braddock, Edgewood, and East Pittsburgh neighborhoods address food insecurity for all persons regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and creed.

WCM focuses its efforts solely on food and nutrition, which remains among the greatest challenges to residents. With fresh food provided by local gardeners and relationships with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, 412 Food Rescue, Trader Joe's, Market District, and Whole Foods, WCM strives to provide a more balanced source of food. Food is shared with over 5,000 residents per year, including senior citizens, citizens with disabilities, at-risk youth, and families who are economically challenged, underemployed, or facing emergency situations.

Food is distributed through the storefront pantry that's located in the downtown Wilkinsburg location on Wood Street. Food distributions occur four days a week between the hours of 9:00 AM and 1:00 pm. More recently, a Tuesday evening distribution has been established from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm for those who are working during the day. In 2020, an urban garden was started at the rear of the building, which also contains a greenhouse, and this provides some locally grown fresh foods. In 2022, with the support of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, WCM started a mobile pantry service in which a 27-foot truck equipped with a refrigerator/freezer is taken to seven different locations in the service area (on separate days) six days a week, to distribute food to people with transportation challenges.

This "storefront pantry on wheels" operates in the late afternoon and early evening to help working families. It serves about 50-65 families at each location.

For more information, see the WCM website: www.wcm15221.org.

Please give generously to help Wilkinsburg Community Ministry continue to provide creative solutions to help overcome food insecurity for our neighbors in East Suburban communities.



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.

PER CAPITA

Why Your Per Capita Contribution Matters

Every year, each individual member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is asked to contribute a per capita amount—in 2026, that amount is \$55 per member. This is not a fee for services, nor is it a “membership dues” or “tax.” It is a tangible way we join with Presbyterians across the country to support the essential work of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

What Per Capita Makes Possible

Per capita funds the backbone of our PC(USA) shared ministry:

- Training and support for pastors and congregations
- Leadership development and theological education
- Mission coordination and global partnerships
- Governance, oversight, and the structures that keep our denomination healthy and connected

These are things no single congregation could sustain alone—but together, we can.

Why Your Individual Contribution Is So Important

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church is required to pay the full per capita amount each year, based on our total membership. When members contribute their \$55, those dollars pass directly through to the wider church. But when members *do not* contribute, NPC must cover the difference from our operating budget. That means fewer dollars are available for:

- Youth and children’s ministries
- Music and worship
- Community outreach and mission
- Staff support
- Property maintenance
- Programs that directly serve our congregation and neighbors

In other words, every per capita gift frees up resources for the ministries you care about right here at home.

A Small Gift With a Big Impact

For many households, \$55 per NPC member is a manageable, one-time annual contribution. But when each member participates, the collective impact is enormous. It strengthens our connectional church, supports the mission of Christ beyond our walls, and protects NPC’s ability to fund the ministries that make this congregation vibrant and faithful.

Please Consider Paying Your 2026 Per Capita

Your contribution is an act of partnership—locally, regionally, and nationally. It ensures that Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church can continue to serve generously while fulfilling our commitments and our support to the wider church. Thank you for supporting the mission we share.

FAQ

- What exactly does the General Assembly, our Synod (the Synod of the Trinity), and Redstone Presbytery do? Please see www.pcusa.org, www.syntrinity.org, and www.redstoneprebytery.org for detailed information.
- How can I make my per capita contribution? Your per capita contribution can be made in the same manner as other contributions: checks made out to NPC with the designation for the 2026 per capita and/or through online giving (<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/give/percapita>) are perhaps the easiest way for you to pay your commitment. You can also use the blue envelope contained in your giving envelope bundle.
- Have additional questions? Please reach out to Stewardship & Finance for details.

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Great Love

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13

On Monday, May 25th, our nation will celebrate Memorial Day. A day set aside to remember all the brave men and women who died in service to the United States. I have had a number of opportunities to speak with veterans over the course of my life. My grandpa is a Vietnam Air Force veteran; the neighbor who lived across the street from my parents’ house was a World War II veteran; I attended seminary for two years in Gettysburg; and in 2019, I served as a chaplain at the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Aspinwall, PA. I am blessed to have learned and heard a lot of stories about war from reading about it, touring battlefields, and talking with veterans because I understand, to an extent, the cost of the sacrifices that have been made for our country and the liberties that we enjoy as a nation.

As we gather together on Memorial Day weekend, I hope we all take time to remember and reflect on the sacrifices that allow us to enjoy the liberties we have. I write this recognizing that this is not an easy task for some and that this day may involve visiting a grave site or attending a memorial service. While others gather with families and friends to tell stories in honor of a fallen friend. Wherever you find yourself on Memorial Day, I pray that you find peace and comfort in the words of Jesus, who on the night of his death said, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13. By the death and resurrection of Jesus, we all will be resurrected with our friends and loved ones.

Prayer: For all the fallen, we give thanks, and we remember the sacrifices they made for our country, our freedom. May they know peace, and may their sacrifices in this life lead to peace here on Earth. Amen. As you reflect and give gratitude for the sacrifices made for our liberties, I hope you also take the liberty of perusing some of the events offered by NPC.

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

May 6 - Last session of Youth Group



May 15-16 - Jr. High 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 10th. Contact Joshua Kenst with further questions.

Sign up:

<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MmMxOTAxNzgtNml2YS00N2I1LTg2NzEtYjNmNTAxNWFjZDI5>



May 10 - Recognition of Graduating Seniors - Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church will recognize members of the congregation who are graduating from high school with a reception following the late service on Sunday, May 10th.

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 - Our Pentecost Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, May 24th, following the combined 10:00 church service. Please join us for our annual celebration of Pentecost and participate in the fellowship and community of the church as we gather for a meal and enjoy fun games, bounce houses, crafts, and other activities for people of all ages to enjoy. If you would like to volunteer for a half-hour shift, please let Pastor Lori or Joshua know you are interested in helping and if there is a certain activity you would like to volunteer for. We are looking for volunteers to monitor the bounce houses, paint faces, and assist with crafts.

May 28 - Last session of RAM @ Brushes and Beans - The last session of RAM will be held at [Brushes and Beans Cafe](#) for all middle schoolers in grades 6-8. Even if your child hasn't been at RAM at all this year, they are welcome to attend. We will meet at the intersection of the entrance to the High School Parking Lot and Old William Penn Highway. We will use the crosswalk to cross the street. I, Joshua, will be wearing a bright orange vest to ensure the group will be visible to traffic. Participants will arrive at Brushes and Beans by **3:30 pm** and can be picked up at Brushes and Beans between **4:30 pm and 5:00 pm**. If your child/children would like to stay later than 5:00 pm, parents will need to stay with them. RAM volunteers have other commitments on Thursday and are unavailable to stay past 5:00 pm. The cost of painting pottery varies depending on the piece your child/children chooses. The range is from **\$18-\$30**. The price includes the cost of the piece of pottery, the stains used, and the firing. Since this is a church function, there is a tax-exempt code that Joshua will bring for students to use at the time of purchase. **Please make sure your child/children has enough money when they attend RAM on that day.** I will have more details and a permission slip with information about the logistics sent out to parents by early May.

June 14 - Corn Dogs and Corn Hole following the 10:00 am worship service.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Child Led Worship Services May 3rd at 8:30 am and 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall!

Join us for a special time of worship, which will include the musical, The Good News Cruise! In this delightful story, events and activities on board the ship are used to explore, explain, and celebrate the abundant life found only in Jesus Christ.

May 3rd Sunday School for Ages 2 years through 5th grade will be in the ARC (Gym)

Due to the fact that many of our children will be participating in the musical during both services and will need time to relax between services, we will have a time in the gym with games and activities, as well as breakfast snacks in the ARC lounge.

Club 345 Messy Game Night: May 6th, at 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Join us for our final night of fun for the school year! Club 345 Messy Game night! Our final night will be one of celebration and fun as we toss tortillas filled with condiments, try to grab marbles out of shaving cream with our toes, and all sorts of crazy things! But don't fret! The fun won't completely come to an end! We will have at least two Club 345 meet-ups this summer!

The Last Day of Sunday School for the school year will be May 17th!

The last day of Children and Worship for the school year will be May 24th!

Summer Story and Craft Time Wednesdays in June, July, and August 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Beginning in June! Pastor Lori will be leading a weekly story reading time with a story-themed craft on Wednesdays this summer!

Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS July 20th – 23rd from 6:00 – 8:00 PM!

We will have a 4-day VBS where kids will become Challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith. Guided daily by Ollie the Arctic Seal, who is reporting on the events, Challengers aren't just playing games; they learn to draw strength from their faith through powerful stories of courage and hope.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRAYER REQUEST FROM TRAVIS

It is both a joy and a concern to let you all know that I have accepted the call to be the Henry J. Copeland Interfaith College Chaplain at the College of Wooster in Wooster, OH. NPC's Session has graciously set a final date of service for me here at Newlonsburg of June 30, which means we will be able to finish out this semester and plan for the transition. During that time, I will be out of the office a couple different times for previously scheduled commitments, of which the Session is aware. I am excited by the opportunity, but will miss y'all very much. Please know how much Karen and I have treasured our time in ministry here with you; we cherish your prayers as we start on this new life chapter.

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



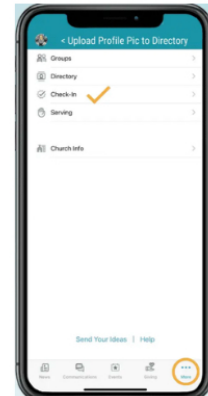
Need more information?



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

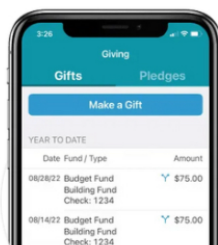
You can receive news, announcements, and notifications to always get the most up to date NPC information.

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: May 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 June/July issue:

May 14th, 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