

THE GOOD NEWLONSBURG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Created for Jesus' Purpose

Have you ever wondered, **“What does God want me to do with my life?”** Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that we are “created in Christ Jesus for good works.” God has given each of us gifts, abilities, experiences, and opportunities that can become a way of loving and serving others.

Over the Summer, we explored how Christ's Holy Spirit uniquely equips each of us to be part of the body of Christ. Our purpose isn't measured by our job, income, accomplishments, age, or status. Instead, Jesus invites us to discover the gifts He has given us and consider how we can use them to serve God and our neighbors.

We also explored the wisdom of Ignatian discernment: taking time to quiet our hearts, put Jesus first, and prayerfully listen for where God may be leading us. Sometimes discovering our purpose means letting go of what we think we *should* do and becoming open, generous, and courageous enough to ask, **“Jesus, how can I best use what You've given me?”** And rather than comparing ourselves with others, we can celebrate the gifts we see in one another and encourage each other to use those gifts faithfully. Use your words and actions to build each other up.

Yes, most societies define worth by success, achievement, and status. Jesus teaches that every Christian has “Community Purpose.” **When we commit our lives to Christ, we become Christ's body on earth by the power of Christ's Holy Spirit.** Jesus' resurrected body is in Heaven, and yet His Holy Spirit works through us as Christ's presence on Earth. We have incredible, miraculous purposes here and now.

Christ's Holy Spirit equips each of us uniquely to build Christ's Church. What might Jesus be calling you to do with the gifts He has given you?

For the glory of God and the betterment of humanity,

Pastor Curtis



[Inside this issue](#)

[From the Pastor](#)

[Stephen Ministry](#)

[CROP Hunger Walk](#)

[September Hunger
Offering](#)

[Youth Events](#)

[Children & Family](#)

[Future Events](#)

[Realm App](#)

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 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.

MEN'S BASKETBALL MINISTRY

Looking for a great way to stay active while growing in faith and fellowship? Join our Men's Basketball Ministry every **Tuesday and Thursday evening** from **9:00–11:00 pm** in the **Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church ARC Gym**.

Each evening begins with sharing our joys and concerns, followed by a time of prayer before we hit the court. It's a wonderful opportunity to build friendships, encourage one another in Christ, and enjoy the gift of exercise through basketball.

A suggested donation of \$8 per night helps support this ministry, but any amount that is financially feasible is appreciated. No one is turned away due to financial circumstances.

Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking for fellowship and fitness, we'd love to have you join us! Contact Michael Lancaster: mikelancastertech@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER MEN'S SATURDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Saturday Breakfast will be **September 12th, 2026**, 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.

MEN'S TUESDAY BREAKFAST/STUDY RESUMES

The Men's Tuesday Breakfast/Study resumes **September 15th, 2026**, at 8:30 am at Dick's Diner's back room. All NPC men and their male friends are invited. For more details or questions, contact Carl Vernon.

MURRYSVILLE CROP HUNGER WALK PLANS SET FOR OCTOBER 11TH

The 47th annual Church World Service Murrysville CROP Hunger Walk will be held on **Sunday, October 11th**. We will join with over 2,600 communities around the country that organize these walks each year to help provide funds to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and provide shelter for the homeless children of God in more than 80 countries around the world. Last year, CROP Hunger Walks raised over \$3 million to assist those struggling to feed their families. Appropriately, the letters **CROP** stand for **C**ommunities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty.



Last year's hybrid virtual and in-person Murrysville Walk saw NPC joining together with three other local area teams to raise a total of nearly \$10,360. Our NPC in-person and virtual team consisted of 19 individuals and families who primarily did all their fundraising online. That group raised an amazing \$7,468 of the total amount raised locally! Out of 2,328 teams with October Walk dates in 2025, our NPC team fundraising placed in the top 100 – coming in at #63 in the entire nation. This year's fundraising plans will continue to rely primarily on online and social media fundraising. Hopefully it will also be possible for some Walker sponsors to contribute in-person again this year, as well.

This year, we're planning to make use of the wonderful asset we have in the Westmoreland Heritage Bike Trail. The route will be approximately 3.5 miles (5 kilometers) and take about 1.5 hours to complete. A water stop will be provided at the Walk midpoint, located at the parklet where Carson Avenue intersects the bike trail near the Murrysville Community Center. The Walk will begin and end at the Duff Park shelter at the park entrance off School Road South. Sign-in will begin at the shelter at 1:00 PM, with the Walk beginning at approximately 1:30 PM. As we have done since 2020, those who prefer to walk "virtually" may do so. This is a great option for those who are unavailable to participate on the actual October 11th Walk day.

Through the years, over 4,400 Murrysville Walk participants have raised nearly \$278,000 to fight hunger and poverty. Twenty-five percent of the money we raise in our Walk stays right here in Murrysville. We will again divide this portion three ways, between the Murrysville Loaves and Fishes Emergency Food Pantry here at NPC and the two local food distribution centers for the Westmoreland County Food Bank. One is at Mother of Sorrows Parish and the other is at Cornerstone Ministries.

During the weeks to come, we'll be contacting all who have walked with NPC and who have contributed in recent years. We'll also be reaching out to invite new participants from our congregation and from the community. Our goal is to continue our annual tradition of raising funds in support of the vital work of Church World Service to fight hunger in our community, our nation, and around the world. For more information, please contact local walk coordinator and NPC member, Roger Schneider, at 412-613-8470 day or evening. You may also contact him by email at rogerls@comcast.net.

Please remember that hungry people in developing countries typically walk as much as six miles a day to get food, water, and fuel, and to take their goods to market. We walk to be in solidarity with their struggle for existence. WE WALK BECAUSE THEY WALK. Please join us on Sunday, October 11th – in-person or

virtually, as we continue our shared commitment to stand up for the poor, the forgotten, and those left behind.

Roger Schneider, Murrys ville CROP Hunger Walk Coordinator and NPC Member



SUDZY SEPTEMBER

Once again, NPC will support the Westmoreland Food Bank by providing laundry detergent to our neighbors who attend the distribution at Mother of Sorrows on October 6th. We need to provide 220 containers. During the month of September, please place laundry detergent in the narthex and hallway. This is a generous request, and the Outreach Ministry says, "THANK YOU!"

SEPTEMBER HUNGER OFFERING

Providing Food Relief for Needy People in New Kensington through the Knead Community Café

Our **September 6th** Hunger Offering will be taken in support of the important work of the Knead Community Café (KCC). The café was established in February 2017 as a non-profit charitable organization, and it is staffed almost entirely by volunteers. It is the first Pay-What-You-Can / Pay-It-Forward café in Western Pennsylvania. They are dedicated to creating a warm and welcoming environment where everyone can enjoy a great meal, regardless of their ability to pay.

Their two-fold mission is driven by their faith and their desire to positively impact their community. The first goal is to provide hunger relief to those in need. By offering delicious and healthy food options

regardless of one's means, they partner with individuals where they are. The second goal is to strengthen the bonds of community by creating a safe and beautiful space where all are invited to engage with one another. When people share space and eat together, social barriers are removed, and opportunities for genuine interactions can occur. 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! (It should be noted that NPC will be sponsoring a dinner on Thursday, September 17th, when 8-10 of our members will assist in serving. This will provide a first-hand experience of this special mission.)

Since its inception, the Knead Community Café has become a community hub in the downtown New Kensington area, which has seen significant redevelopment, attracting many new businesses in the last five years. Our Hunger Offering will help to provide additional resources in support of their important community work.

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.



FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Vocation

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” This is a question that many of us have been asked. It’s a question I am still working on answering now. I do not think we ever stop discerning or working on understanding what our vocation in life is. If anything, I believe our understanding of our vocation changes over the course of our lives.

In 2 Timothy 2:15 we read, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” If we understand the truth of the gospel, then we know to what end we are called to work. We can be certain that no matter what stage of life we are in, we are called daily to love others, to work for justice and peace, and to bring about the kingdom of God daily. How we do that is up to us. Most likely, we will make mistakes as we go, but we must keep working on understanding and discerning what God’s will is and how we might be able to do it. Have faith and serve joyfully.

In fellowship,

Joshua



YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

While you discern God’s will, here are some opportunities for fellowship and service this year.

September 8-10 - Resuming After School Programming: Our After School Ministry will resume the first full week of September:

- **Tuesday 9/8:** Youth Group, Senior and Junior High, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM, Kick-off
- **Wednesday 9/9:** O-RAM - Senior High - after School- 2:30 PM- 4:00 PM, Kick- off
- **Thursday 9/10:** RAM - Junior High - after School – 3:00 PM-4:30 PM, Kick-off

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 students. Please let Joshua know if you are interested.

October 11 - CROP Hunger Walk: The CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 11th beginning at 1:00 PM. We'll meet at Duff Park. See Roger Schneider's CROP Walk article for more information.

October 16-19 - THE BIG ONE: The BIG ONE is an amazing way to experience a retreat at Pine Springs Camp! Packaged like a student conference, the BIG ONE invites students in grades 6-12 for a retreat full of evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, worship, and a whole lot of fun—Pine Springs Camp style. The weekend is packed with activities, games, entertainment, worship, teaching, friends, and fun. This experience is great for individual campers and youth groups! Want to catch a glimpse of what the BIG ONE is like? Make sure you plan to attend The BIG ONE in 2026!

Register here: <https://www.pinesprings.org/the-big-one>

November 7 - Amen for Action: Amen for Action is Scheduled for Saturday, November 7th, from 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM @ Murrysville Christian Concern. This event is in partnership with the Outreach Committee. More details to come.

December 12 - Cookie Walk: The NPC Youth Cookie Walk Fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th. In November, we will be calling families to bake cookies. Look for announcements in the bulletin. Please let Joshua Kenst know if you are interested in baking for this event.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY INFORMATION



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!

KICK OFF SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 13TH AT 9:45 AM FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

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! We are asking parents to stay for the event so we can introduce the curriculum and how the year will go! Also, we will have Gale and Mark Lieber to take family fall photos for you! Join us for the fun!

FALL FUSION: TWEENER RETREAT 9/12-9/13

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 PRESENTATION ON 9/27/26

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 up your child by 9/6 so we can have our church enter your child's name with calligraphy.



<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZmRmYzRmM2ltMmMzNC00YjY3LWlwZTYtYjQ4MzAwMDAxMDI1>

FALL MONDAY FUNDAY FOR KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE! 10/12/26 9:00 AM-2:30 PM

Looking for something fun for your kids on their day off? We have all-day activities, including a pottery painting session with Brushes and Beans! There will be fun in the gym, arts and crafts, and fun fall-themed games! Cost is \$25!



<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MjEzOTVhYmQtOTZlNy00ZmM2LTkwMDgtYjRhZDAwZWl0NzE0>

FALL FESTIVAL TRUNK OR TREAT: 10/18/26 AT 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

Join us for a fun party for our church! In the church parking lot! We will have trunks for treating, pumpkin carving/decorating, games with prizes, and KONA Ice!! The event happens rain or shine! We will move indoors if we need to! Please sign up if you have children participating, you plan on handing out candy, or if you want to help with games or activities!



<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YjI5N2ZmMDctMmJhNS00NDVlLWJlYjYtYjRhZDAwZTlyMDky>

TRYING SOMETHING NEW!

THURSDAY NIGHTS NPC KIDS CLUB K-5TH GRADE! 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

After receiving feedback from families, we will be trying something new this fall! We are opening our kids club to children in K-5th grade, all on the same night, on Thursdays. We hope parents who want to participate in our church music program will take full advantage of rehearsals matching our kids club schedule! We are also looking into childcare for our younger children, but this is not a guarantee yet. Dinner will be included for participating children! We are looking for adult ministry partners to make this program go! Speak to Pastor Lori if you are interested! A starting date will be determined soon! Keep watching our website and Facebook page!

EMPLOYER MATCHING

Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage employees to contribute to charitable organizations. Ask your employer if your gifts to NPC are eligible for matching. If your employer does not match gifts to religious organizations, consider matching your contributions to these other organizations. Groups receiving support from NPC: <https://www.newlonsburgchurch.org/groups-receiving-support-from-npc>

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

Many employers offer the option to make charitable contributions through payroll deductions. This could be a way to make pre-tax contributions to NPC. If your employer allows payroll deductions for the United Way, Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church can be designated for United Way contributions. Please contact giving@newlonsburgchurch.org if you have any questions.

Enjoy our Sunday YouTube service?

Be sure to **Like**, **Subscribe**, and **Turn on Notifications** so you never miss a worship service from Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church. Your engagement helps us share God's love and message with more people in our community and beyond. Thank you for being part of our online church family!



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



MOVE. DODGE. HAVE FUN.
BE YOU!

DANCE & DODGEBALL

EXPRESS
YOUR STYLE
OWN THE FLOOR

GRAB A BALL
DODGE HARD
TEAM UP
HAVE FUN

TWO EVENTS. ONE **EPIC** DAY.



DATE:

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 11TH,
2026



TIME:

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM



WHERE:

NEWLONSBURG
PRES CHURCH GYM



WHO:

ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENTS
WELCOME!



GREAT MUSIC
GOOD VIBES
BIG ENERGY



COMFORTABLE
CLOTHES &
SNEAKERS



BRING WATER
STAY HYDRATED
STAY STRONG



PRIZES
BRAGGING RIGHTS
MEMORIES

DANCE IT OUT. DODGE IT OUT. **ALL OUT FUN!**

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

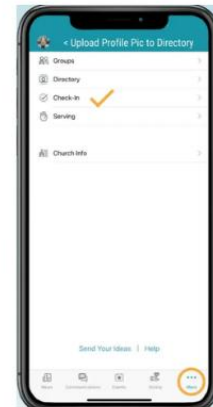
Need more
information?



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

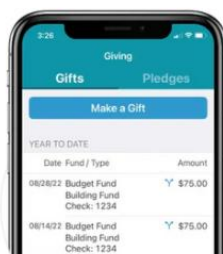
You can receive news, announcements, and notifications to always get the most up to date NPC information.

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

 *Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church*
WORSHIP • SERVE • GROW

The Good Newlonsburg: September 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:

September 10th, 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