

June/July 2025

THE GOOD NEWLONSBURG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

What is the most important thing to do? "It depends on the context," you might reply.

O.K., so let's think through some contexts. Coming to church? The most important thing to do is?... Deepen friendship with Jesus and others. Getting ready for a job interview? The most important thing to do is?... Know about the position and company. Recently retired? The most important thing to do is?... Prayerfully consider how to use your talents to glorify God and better humanity! Raising a child? The most important thing to do is?... Teach and practice the faith of Jesus to invite into friendship.

If you just came back from the dead? The most important thing to do is?... Read Luke 24:36-53.

Notice how Jesus' concerns aren't about telling us about Heaven. You would think Jesus would tell us all about Heaven. How awesome it is. How to get in. What it is like. But Jesus is not that concerned about the afterlife; Jesus is concerned about our lives right now. Are you living well now?

I ask, "Are you living your best life now?" because Jesus gives us three things to focus on to live Heaven on earth. 1) Jesus demonstrates that Heaven is a full-bodied experience. 2) Jesus gives us our purpose in this passage. 3) Jesus tells us He wants to be an ever-present friend.

1) Heaven is a full-bodied experience. The resurrection accounts are some of the funniest reads in the Bible. Jesus appears and disappears in a moment. He is Spirit. Jesus shows His flesh and bones. He's not a ghost. Jesus eats. He is physical. This is consistent with the entire story of the Bible. In the beginning, God creates and the creation is good. We are created to care for the creation. God wants to save everything you see. To live well, Christians conserve the environment and our bodies.

We are created to care for our bodies and each other's bodies. The body and the physical world are not something to try to escape but to redeem. Many religions teach to escape physical being: this is not Christianity.

2) That brings us to our purpose. Jesus gives us our purpose. Jesus gives us our mission. Tell the good news of repentance and the forgiveness of sins to all nations. Be witnesses.

That leads me to ask the question, "What is the most important thing to do?" Deepen your friendship with Jesus and tell others about the teachings of Jesus.



Inside this issue From the Pastor Summer Series Help Your Neighbor Pentecost Picnic Adult Education Property Ministry Fellowship Events Hunger Offering Power of Hello Trekkers and VBS Realm Connect App. NPC Softball Schedule

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONT.

3) Jesus promises to always be there for us. When I reflect upon my faith, Jesus is an ever-present friend. As a good friend, He wants the best for me and for society. Jesus challenges me to change for the better. Not only does He challenge. He empowers us with His own Spirit. When we worship together, we are more connected to His Spirit. When we pray for each other, we are more connected to His Spirit. When we serve each other, we are more connected to His Spirit. When we serve each other, we are more connected to His Spirit. The Bible teaches that we are the Temples of the Holy Spirit. When we conserve the environment, we are more connected to the Holy Spirit.

Friends, Jesus' faith is holistic. If we ask, Christ's faith informs every area of our lives. Not change for the sake of change, but to be transformed into Christ's hands, feet, and voice on Earth. Together, we are Christ's body. Jesus lives to live in us.

What is the most important thing to do? Prayerfully consider practicing the faith of Jesus Christ! Love,

Pastor Curtis

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The summer worship schedule will begin on June 15th and continue through August 31st. There will be two services each Sunday: the 8:30 a.m. service will be outside, and the 10:00 a.m. service will be in the sanctuary.



COMING SOON! 4TH ANNUAL SUMMER SERIES



This year's theme is "Common Discipleship: Living Out Our Faith in Daily Life."*

Please join Karen and me this summer as we consider the theme "Common Discipleship: Living Out Our Faith in Daily Life." Over this 4week series, we will be diving into some "common" aspects of discipleship - how we spend our time, how we use our resources, how we eat - and exploring how our attention to these areas impacts our collective wellbeing.

In addition to a four-part sermon series during Sunday worship on June 29, July 6, 13, and 20, you are invited to engage this material more deeply through weekly emails, participation in discussions (Sundays in-person at 11:15 a.m. and Thursday webinars at 1:00 p.m.), and podcasts of the sermons (if you missed them or want to listen to them again).

To find out more, and to express your interest in the summer study (registered participants will receive our weekly emails, which include the links for the mid-week webinars and sermon podcasts), please visit:

https://bit.ly/HSHC_SummerSeries_2025

Of course, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone

(724-327-0061) or email (travis.webster@comcast.net).

Thanks!

Travis

*Hosted by NPC in partnership with <u>Healthy Seminarians-Healthy Church</u> non-profit.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

Christ Formed in You! The Process of Spiritual Transformation 5/25/25: "What's the Point?" 6/1/25: Sin: How to Overcome Evil 6/8/25: Spend Time in Intense, Positive Prayer for Christ's Church 6/15/25: The Whole Point: Reconciliation 7/27/25: Everyone Should be Quick to Listen, Slow to Speak, Slow to Anger 8/3/25: T.H.I.N.K 8/10/25: Pursue Holiness 8/24/25: Be Great



HELP LIVINGSTONES HELP THEIR NEIGHBORS!

As part of Outreach's commitment to helping those in need in our local or global community, we are asking for your help in supporting LivingStones (<u>www.livingstonespgh.com</u>) in June and July. LivingStones is a 501(c)(3) organization that was started here in Pittsburgh to help seniors and others who are food insecure, lonely, or need assistance with basic needs. Their mission is to invite neighbors to the table, striving to holistically uplift them through meals, programs, and services that meet their needs, and exemplifying the love of Christ. They currently have a significant need for hygiene products for their clients, and Outreach is asking for your help to meet this need. We will be collecting various hygiene products in June and July (donation boxes will be in the Narthex and by the office.) All products are welcome and more details can be found in

their wish list at the following link: https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/owner-view/29CG7ZDE3H4QF?ref = gr_universal_landing_ggr_;!!AQegZw! bpHm1pDKn4lO7jMbvv0YsppzUDVYuSbMHfjF0wgEIBByKMxrlqWvod0GV3SFsSnCoI2tZjJW5f68_ffy2fy_0dCw\$

Please reach out to Susan Keaney (<u>slkeaney@comcast.net</u> or 412.414.6881) with any questions or if you wish to support this tremendous ministry in other ways. Thank you, Newlonsburg, as always, for your overwhelming support, caring, and generosity. It's a Newlonsburg thing!

PLEASE DONATE TO OUR PSC SPONSORED STAFF PERSON, MICAH!

We are excited to announce that we will be continuing NPC's tradition of sponsoring a Pine Springs Camp summer staff person! This summer, we will be sponsoring a second-year counselor, Micah Davis. Micah's family lives in the Dominican Republic as missionaries, and he just finished his freshman year at Calvin University. As Micah's sponsor, we have committed to bless him with prayers, encouragement, and gifts throughout the summer. Between now and **Sunday, June 22nd,** we will be collecting notes and cards expressing our prayers and support, small devotionals or Christian books, gift cards (preferred retailers include Giant Eagle Get-Go, Eat'n Park, Subway, Applebee's, and Chili's), and any NUT-FREE AND GLUTEN FREE



candy bars, candy, and other fun items that will fit in a shoe box. If we get enough donations, we would love to be able to bless Micah with TWO care packages this summer. Please put items in the box labelled "Pine Springs Counselor" by the office. Most importantly, please pray for Micah and all the Pine Springs summer staff as they carry out the camp's ministry. Thank you for helping us to bless the socks off Micah!

PENTECOST PICNIC

Wear your **RED** clothes for the Pentecost Picnic! Invite family and friends to celebrate the birthday of Christ's Church immediately following the **combined 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, June 8th**. The main course will be catered, and we are asking members to bring a side dish to share (vegetable/green salad, fruit plate/fruit bowl, potato/pasta salad, or dessert). The suggested free will offering will be \$5/person or \$10/family. Look for sign-up sheets or sign up online. All are welcome!

Thanks in advance to our Hospitality Teams coordinating the picnic:

Team #1 Chairs (Judy Radcliff and Jeff & Cynthia Goff) and Team Members: George & Bethany App, Doug & Diane Barbe, Craig & Janet Bauer, Marsha Bayne, Rich & Danielle Beard, Kristen Beard, Ben & Stephanie Gates, Rich & Nancy Gebrosky, Jeff Goff, Owen Goff, Josh & Kristy Johnson, Becky Maiman, Evelyn Maiman, Brett & Kate Montgomery, William Montgomery, John Montgomery, Luke Montgomery, Ann Rittiger, Colin Rittiger, Roger & Vicki Schneider, Dennis & Lisa Skeers, Jocelyn Staite, Michelle Staite, Jeff & Diana Sterniak, Lucas Sterniak, and Judy Washburn.





Team #4 Chairs (Susan Long & Sharon Sharp-Scimio) and Team Members: Brian & Hope Aston, Laura Aston, Janet Baumann, Brian & Samantha Berry, Nancy Borst, Jennifer Breitkreutz, Katie Breitkreutz, Carol Byers, Bernie & Debbie Carlson, Chad & Sarah Carlson, Dan & Kelly Flickinger, Debbi Grimaldi, Jan Hill, Amanda Neeley, Don Pearson, Brian Pirone, Traci Ramey, Jane & Lyle Taylor, Joyce & Carl Vernon, and Dave Williams.

Please sign up on the sign-up sheet across from the office or in the Narthex, or online at our <u>website events page</u>.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR FALL 2025

Wait, fall 2025? Summer hasn't even started yet!

This is true; however, Don Pearson and I wanted to go ahead and get on your calendar for September, when we will start again with our *Along the Way* series. In the 2024-2025 programming year, we thoroughly enjoyed spending time with those of you who joined us to study both the origins of the early church and then the events leading up to, during, and immediately after the Reformation.

In the fall, we will gather again for *Along the Way: On the Road to the Present Age*. In this course, we will pick up right after the Reformation and follow the church's history to modern times. As before, we will use Justo Gonzalez's *History of Christianity*, revised edition (mostly volume 2, with the possibility of some reading out of volume 1), as well as the Great Courses lectures featuring UNC Chapel Hill professor Dr. Molly Worthen, as our primary sources.

You don't have to have taken the previous installments to join us on Wednesdays from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for this course. If you are interested or have any questions, please let me know at 724-327-0061 or <u>travis.webster@comcast.net</u>. Closer to the time, we will also have a Realm sign-up option. We hope you will join us as we continue along the way!

GREAT NEWS WITH A CHALLENGE TO ENABLE CHRIST'S WORK

In the last two years, your generosity has addressed the water infiltration with a wall with new landscaping, a new roof, and, as of this summer, seven new exterior doors.

All these improvements make our facility a welcoming and safe space for members and the community. With our aging building there is more to be done so that OUR FACILITY CONTINUES TO ENABLE CHRIST'S WORK.

The Property Ministry, with Session approval, has identified three near-term projects that need to be undertaken for safety concerns and/or to continue the usability and welcomeness of our facility.

Parking Lot: There are many areas that have deteriorated. Property has evaluated repairs to get a few more years out of the current surface, but repairs would be extensive and costly. Based on the most effective use of our gifts, the Property Ministry recommended a binder course of asphalt to fill the large holes, scratching and build up lower areas to level the surfaces, removing and replacing bumper blocks, a new 2-inch top course of stone asphalt material, and line striping. We hope to receive enough gifts or commitments by July 25th so that we can take advantage of lower-than-expected paving quotes and do work this summer while the lot is less used.

Common Ground HVAC System: This work is a follow up to the successful 2023 water infiltration/wall project. As users of Common Ground know, the original duct work, installed in the 1970s, is in the floor. Due to floor movement, these ducts have collapsed, and the HVAC system is nonfunctional. This project will include new ductwork in the ceiling.

Newlonsburg Sign: As a result of a recent storm, several trees on the property fell, but our volunteers have worked on clearing those. The storm destroyed our NPC sign and surrounding stone. Thankfully no one was hurt. Right now, we have no road signage informing drivers we are here. A new sign is being designed, but it will not be a digital sign due to zoning restrictions.

These three project costs are estimated to total \$127,000. Please consider a gift to maintain our building and grounds so they can continue to be a resource to further the Kingdom of God. Gifts and commitments are requested by July 25, 2025. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and its donations of funds, talent, and time, we can continue to maintain the church as a welcoming facility in good repair.

Donations:

To donate now please send a check with "2025 Capital Improvements" on memo line to church, place in the offering basket, or donate online at



https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/give/property



If a current gift is not feasible, your commitment will allow Property to plan the work. Commitments can be emailed to giving@newlonsburgchurch.org or made online at https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/AddPledge/property



SECOND WORK PARTY!

If you can help with a cleanup work party, please let the Property Committee know at <u>Property@newlonsburgchurch.org</u>. At the end of April, the storm that rolled through knocked down a number of trees and branches in the backyard. The team did a wonderful job of quickly responding to the downed trees. We are looking for help with dragging branches down the hill and putting down grass seed and topsoil. If you are willing to spend part of a day helping, please email the Property Committee.

Fellowship Events

PIRATES GAME

NPC family and friends will gather in some shady seats at PNC Park as the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Texas Rangers at **4:05 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, 2025**. It's free ballcap night at the park, too! Tickets are \$42/each and include a \$5 loaded value for food/beverages/merchandise.

Group tickets have already been purchased, but if you are interested, please contact Stephanie Makosey (<u>stephmakosey@gmail.com</u>) to see if additional tickets can be purchased.

LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

Come to church on **June 29th, 2025,** and stay for lemonade and cookies on the lawn after the 10:00 a.m. service. Meet new people or catch up with old friends. No need to sign up.

SUNDAY SUNDAES

All worshipers are invited to join us for a delicious addition to your Sunday morning on **Sundae Sunday, August 9th, 2025**, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We will be serving ice cream, yummy toppings, and fellowship on the front patio. Come enjoy a sweet treat and catch up with your fellow Newlonsburgers. No need to sign up.



Thanks in advance to our Hospitality Team coordinating these summer events: Team #2 Chairs (Chrissy & Eric Hanchey and Mindy Markovich) and Team Members: Ken & Tara Bird, Bill & Linda Blank, James & Erin Carlisle, John & Nancy Daller, Sean Daller, Alice Doutt, Don Green, Kathy Groll, Tyler Hanchey, Bruce Hanington, Lauren Jessup, Barb Jewell, Doug Jones, Karen Kase, Kim Miskevics, Gail O'Toole, Alan & Kristin Petrazzi, Anderson Patrazzi, Avery Petrazzi, Kara Patrazzi, Mary Ann Roberts, JoAnn Rosenberger, Sherry Shadrach, Curtis & Sharon Southlea, Alan & Terri Thornburg, and Janice Troup. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

-Acts 2:42



QR code for Fellowship Event Sign-up Form



HONOR YOUR DAD ON FATHER'S DAY – BLANKET SUNDAY IS JUNE 15TH

NPC Blanket Sunday will be celebrated as usual this year on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15th. Why not honor both your earthly father and heavenly Father by donating a Church World Service blanket to the victim of a disaster in your father's name? Your gift of \$5 per blanket can make a real difference in the life of a disaster victim this year.

Watch for a beautiful young Outreach assistant to be on hand after each service on Sunday, June 8th and Sunday, June 15th. You can choose from a generous selection of custom NPC greeting cards and then send or give that card to your dad, along with a BIG hug! The card tells him that a blanket has been given in his name to comfort a victim of a disaster. Outreach will see to it that not only does a blanket from Church World Service get to a suffering brother or sister, but that person will also experience the hope, warmth, and comfort of knowing that

other people care. Honor your father – it's a Newlonsburg thing!

JUNE 1ST HUNGER OFFERING TO SUPPORT LOCAL AREA FOOD BANKS

Our Hunger Offering on Sunday, June 1st will be taken to provide some relief to those in need in Westmoreland County communities. Your offerings will be shared jointly with the Trafford/Level Green Christian Food Bank and the Food Pantry at the United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington.

The Trafford/Level Green Christian Food Bank was started in 1985 with the help of area churches after Westinghouse laid off many workers in the area. The unemployment situation is currently severe. Through the years, the food bank has continued to grow, moving from local church to church until finally moving to its new home in the old library on Cavitt Avenue. The food bank now serves an average of 53 families monthly and handles emergency needs. The numbers served continue to grow. Food is distributed on the third Thursday of every month from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington serves as a location for the monthly Westmoreland Food Bank distributions, which are made there on the 1st Saturday after the 1st Thursday. They also serve as an emergency food pantry. 100% of children in the New Ken-Arnold School District have received the federal breakfast and lunch program at the school. It's very likely that this may no longer be available in the near future. Please be generous; this is a multi-racial community struggling with many issues.

Please support those in need in our local area through this important offering. Many thanks from Outreach.

GIVING OPTIONS

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 to "Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church" and mailed to 4600 Old William Penn Highway, Murrysville, PA 15668, or placed in the offering plate. On the memo line, please include your envelope number and "hunger" (for the hunger offering) or "blanket" (for Blanket Sunday).

Give online: <u>https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/-/form/give/now</u> 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.



Murry july 6th HUNGER OFFERING FOR MURRYSVILLE MEALS-ON-WHEELS

For our Sunday, July 6th Hunger Offering, we're continuing our support for Murrysville Meals-On-Wheels. This program currently serves about 50 clients in the Murrysville/ Export area by providing one hot and one cold meal four days every week – on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. A dedicated team of over 200 volunteers performs regular tasks such as purchasing and cooking food, as well as working on a team of a driver and delivery person on one of the three area routes.

Since its inception in 1972 as a service of Lutheran Services in the Pittsburgh area, Murrysville Meals-On-Wheels has been dedicated to providing local homebound residents with nutritious meals and more. Four days a week, fifty-two weeks a year, teams of cooks gather at 8:30 a.m. in the kitchen at the First Presbyterian Church of

Murrysville's Laird Hall to prepare the homebound meals with care. Then, at 10:30 a.m., the delivery teams take over to visit the recipients' homes. In addition to home-delivered meals, these teams provide the important benefit of personal contact, a quality missing from the day-to-day lives of many homebound people. This contact not only reassures the recipient that someone is concerned about them, but should they need emergency assistance, the delivery teams know where to call.

The mission of Murrysville Meals-On-Wheels is to provide a complete, nutritious hot lunch plus a cold supper to people who find it difficult to prepare meals for themselves because of poor health, disabilities, or lack of kitchen skills. This helps individuals remain in their own homes and be independent for as long as possible. In 2010, Murrysville Meals-On-Wheels became an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. That independence has included covering all the costs of the organization without any Federal or State funding. More recently, the cost of food, especially fresh meat, has risen dramatically, and this continues to cause some financial stress. For more information about Murrysville Meals -On-Wheels and to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please see their website at: www.murrysville-mow.org.

Please see the preceding page for giving options.

POWER OF HELLO TRAINING

The Security Management Team invites all to learn how to greet each other in Christ while keeping NPC safe. Please join us on either Sunday, July 27th or August 24th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. You will learn the OHNO approach: 1. Observe 2. Initiate Hello 3. Navigate the Risk 4. Obtain Help. You will also learn Incident Response Best Practices and Active Shooter Response Best Practices.

The SMT's purpose: Jesus commissions Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church (NPC) to invite all people to Him and to protect the lives of all who enter our property in a loving and considerate way. The Security Management Team's goal is to ensure that this is done in a safe, healthy, Christ-like, and careful manner.

BOGET CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The congregation is invited to a Celebration of Life service for Paul and Jennifer Boget, who passed away in December 2024 and April 2025, respectively. They were long-time active members of NPC. Paul served as an elder and loved trains, and Jennifer was an amazing watercolor artist. The service will be on Saturday, June 28th, at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Light refreshments will be served following the service in Fellowship Hall.

SAVE THE DATE FOR TREKKERS

Our Trekkers program is for students going into 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. This year, it will be on July 21st through 24th. Students will experience fun day trips and meaningful mission work. Stay tuned for more details!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY





The Realm Connect App is Ready!

What can NPC members do on the Realm App?

Congregants Can:

- Register for churchwide events
- RSVP to group events
- Send in-app messages
- Interact with your newsfeed
- Set up recurring giving
- See upcoming events
- Communicate with groups
- Search congregant profiles
- Track consistent personal giving
- Create and edit events
- Find new groups
- Call, text, or email individuals from their profile



Downloading the App

The Realm Connect app is available to download for free for iOS or Android devices at the apple app store (<u>www.apple.com/app-store/</u>) or from Google Play (<u>play.google.com</u>).



Logging into the App

When the app is on your phone or other device, you can log in using your user name and password for the Realm Connect Website. If you have not set up a log in, you can visit: https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/Account/Start.

COME SUPPORT THE NPC SOFTBALL TEAM!

We'd love to have you cheer for our team at one of our games! You can find the complete softball schedule at the following website: <u>https://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/default.asp?u=GRACE&s=softball&p=schedule&div=959922</u>



Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church WORSHIP•SERVE•GROW

4600 Old William Penn Highway Murrysville, PA. 15668 724-327-0061

Email: newlonsburgpresby@ comcast.net Website: www.newlonsburgchurch.org

The Good Newlonsburg: June/July 2025

We are a Christ Centered community. In joyful response to Christ's love, we worship God, Nurture Disciples, accept all as 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

August Good Newlonsburg deadline:

Thursday, July 10th, 2025

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church Leadership Team

The Rev. Curtis Lane Paul II, Pastor The Rev. Dr. Travis Webster, Associate Pastor Breana Howard, Youth Director Jennifer Wagner, Office Manager Bettie Jarosz, Choir and Bell Director Matt Klumpp, Early Service Music Director & Organist Leanne Salava, Treasurer Ginny Rygg & Lindsey Berk, Financial Secretaries