

THE GOOD NEWLONSBURG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

How can we tell if we are the bad guys?

If you are like me, when listening to or reading the news, it has been getting harder to tell the good guys from the bad guys. And when I think it is clear, all I have to do is ask someone else's opinion, and they think the exact opposite. How can this be?

For us Christians, we confess who THE GOOD GUY is. Our responsibility as practitioners of Jesus' faith is to examine how our lives compare to Jesus' life.

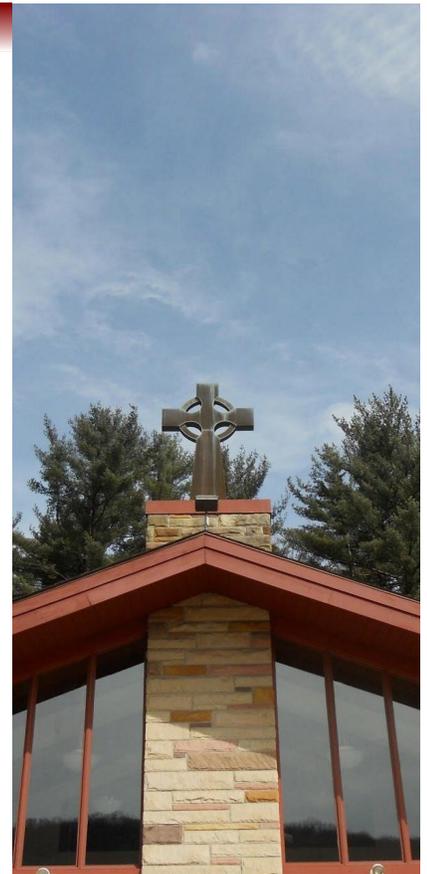
Jesus has no qualms calling out good guys from bad guys in Matthew 23:1-28. Here are a few points that Jesus addresses to help us point out the bad guys:

1. According to Jesus, bad guys place heavy burdens on others without compassion. -Matthew 23:4
2. According to Jesus, bad guys do things for celebrity (to be celebrated). -Matthew 23:5
3. According to Jesus, bad guys demand recognition. -Matthew 23:6-7
4. According to Jesus, bad guys surround themselves with gold. -Matthew 23:27-28

And yet, what is the good news of Jesus Christ? Who does Jesus come to save? Bad Guys!

Nicodemus comes to Jesus in John 3, trying to figure out if he is one of the bad guys. Jesus doesn't drive him away. Nope. Jesus has a conversation with him. Nicodemus is a Pharisee; he is the very kind of person Jesus criticizes in Matthew 23. Jesus doesn't turn away the people he criticizes. Jesus desires to save them. He desires to open their eyes to see the Kingdom of God!

If you find yourself being the bad guy, there is time to be changed. There is time to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Now is the time! Now is the time to be the good guy. Our community needs us. The world needs us. Join



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Jesus to change the world! If you don't know how to join Jesus, simply ask. Ask for Jesus' Holy Spirit to live in you. Ask Jesus to open your eyes to see if you are a good guy or a bad guy.

Each day we have the opportunity to practice Jesus' faith by praying to deepen our friendship with the Lord. Each week we have the opportunity to practice Jesus' faith by worshipping together to examine our lives in the light of Christ and to deepen our friendship with each other.

Jesus' practices of daily prayer and weekly worship empower Him to welcome and forgive the people He criticizes. When we practice Jesus' faith, we invite Christ's Holy Spirit to live in us.

Love,

Pastor Curtis

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Here at Newlonsburg, we are blessed to have a dedicated and committed team of Stephen ministers who serve our congregation and our community. The team is trained to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to folks experiencing life's difficulties. Stephen ministers meet with folks who are grieving, who are experiencing family issues, who are navigating a divorce, or who are coping with a devastating illness, either their own or a loved one's.

So many situations in life call for a helping hand and a loving heart, and our Stephen ministers come equipped with loving hearts and many hours of training to provide appropriate help and encouragement in tough times. The program is a one-on-one confidential meeting once weekly with anyone who desires the support and Christian caring necessary to heal or work through a situation that might seem insurmountable.

Anyone can request a Stephen minister for him/herself or for a loved one or friend. A simple request, which is confidential, to one of the pastors can make the necessary help available. "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the laws of Christ." (Galatians 6:2). This is the core belief and practice of Stephen ministry. It is a ministry of compassion available to all. Just ask.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

IT WAS A SUPER SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

It was an exciting day for Seattle Seahawks fans on February 8th, AND it was also a Souper Bowl Sunday worth cheering about here at NPC! You generously brought in 184 cans of soup and dropped \$210.00 in cash contributions into the large soup pots held by our NPC youth. These contributions will be immediately put to use in the Murrysville Loaves and Fishes Emergency Food Pantry. As of February 12th, with national results still being tabulated, the 36th annual Souper Bowl of Caring campaign had officially surpassed **\$220 million** in total funds and food items raised to date!! Thanks to all who participated here at NPC.



Outreach Ministry



THANK YOU FOR MAKING VALENTINES

Thank you to everyone who lovingly prepared Valentine's Day cards! Your generosity enabled us to send love from NPC to warm the hearts of more than 90 people.

MARCH HUNGER OFFERING TO AID MIGRANT FARM WORKERS

The Hunger Offering on **Sunday, March 1st**, will benefit the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Florida. Migrant farm workers are the poorest of the working poor in this country. They brave the Florida heat to labor in extremely adverse conditions. Ninety percent are from Mexico and Central America. Some remain in one location year-round (seasonal farm workers), while others follow the crops (migrating farm workers). These workers suffer dramatically due to the loss of work when major storms damage crops. Hurricanes caused significant damage in the summer of 2025, and Florida has already experienced several low-temperature and freeze events between late December 2025 and early February 2026. Agricultural producers have reported crop, livestock, or infrastructure losses or damage associated with many of these freeze events.

Workers generally outnumber the available jobs. Many are only able to find work for an average of 30 hours per week for only 30 weeks per year. They struggle to feed themselves and their families. Most farm workers are plagued by nutrition-related health problems. Housing is so scarce that it often consumes half of a family's income. In order to survive, farm workers crowd together in dilapidated trailers and rental units, creating adverse living conditions. Frequent moves hinder the education of migrant children in public schools.

The Beth-El Mission was founded in 1976 to help farm workers achieve self-sufficiency through its open opportunities to worship, its extensive educational programs, and the many services it provides to meet basic needs. The Mission has a 27-acre site located about 20 miles south of Tampa, where it serves the nearby rural population. The Beth-El Farmworker Ministry Hunger Relief initiative supports 500 to 700 families weekly with fresh produce, dry goods, meats, and other essential products that promote healthy living. The main food distribution occurs on Tuesdays at the Beth-El campus. Additional distributions occur through their mission-to-farm outreach.

The Mission operates under a covenant among the Cumberland Presbyterian Church/Grace Presbytery and the Tampa Bay and Peace River Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (USA). See their website at www.beth-el.org.



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.

Please give generously.

Fellowship Events



HOSS'S LUNCH

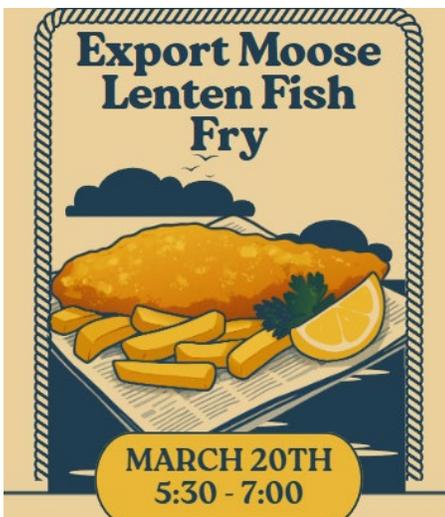
Enjoy a nice lunch immediately after the second service with a group of fellow NPC'ers on **Sunday, 3/3/26**, at Hoss's Steak & Sea House.

MARCH MEN'S SATURDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Saturday Breakfast will be on **March 14th, 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.

FISH FRY FELLOWSHIP

Head over to Export Moose (5903 Washington Avenue, Export, PA 15632) on Friday, 3/20/26 at 5:30 pm. Celebrate the Lenten season with some fellow NPCers. Be sure to wear your NPC attire so we can find each other! No sign-up needed.



FUTURE EVENTS

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

- **Senior Celebration** on Sunday, 4/26/26 after the 11:00 am service

EASTER BRUNCH

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

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



LES MIS N'AT

Take a jaunt down the Great White Way with your Broadway favorites, played by River City Brass, on **Saturday, April 11th at 7:30 pm, at the Palace Theater in Greensburg!** It will feature numbers from A Chorus Line, Les Miserables and more! For those interested, we plan to meet before the performance for dinner at Olives and Peppers in Greensburg (optional) for the first 16 people to sign up. Sign up using the link or QR code below, or on our in-person sign-up sheets by **March 22nd**. Questions? Call Sue Billings, 724-875-5254.

<https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZTJlZjZlYWQtNjE3ZC00MGFhLWExMDgtYjNhODAwMThiNzg4>



FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

The Way of a Follower

On March 17th, we remember St. Patrick, one of the patron saints of Ireland. In *The History of Christianity, Volume 1*, Justo L. Gonzalez writes, "Patrick had been captured in Great Britain by Irish raiders and had served as a slave in Ireland. After an adventurous escape and many other vicissitudes (difficulty or hardship), he had a vision calling him back to serve as a missionary to his former captors...eventually (he) experienced great success, and the inhabitants were baptized." (pg. 257)

Most, if not all, of us can probably relate to St. Patrick's experience of things not going the way we thought they would. Our lives can change so quickly through random encounters, and we see this happen in scripture. In Matthew 24, we hear about James and John, who left their father and their fishing boat when Jesus called them to follow him (Matt. 4:21-22).

In my own life, I have tried to control the outcome of different situations by making certain choices. What I learned from doing this is that I do not have much (if any) control over what will happen. And while I can't control what will happen, I can have faith and trust that God will direct me. The way of a follower of Jesus is a way of faith and trust. All I can do is have faith and let God take care of the rest.

Prayer: Help me, God, to listen and have faith in You to direct my steps. Amen

While you think about how God is directing your path, here are some dates you'll want to add to your calendar:

April 5 - Easter Egg Hunt - More details to come.

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

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

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

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

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.

MARCH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTRY NEWS

CALENDAR

3/1 Sunday

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

3/2 Monday

- 5:30 PM-6:30 PM Lent Study

3/4 Wednesday

- 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Club 345

3/8 Sunday

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

3/9 Monday

- 5:30 PM-6:30 PM Lent Study

3/15 Sunday

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

3/16 Monday

- 5:30 PM-6:30 PM Lent Study

3/18 Wednesday

- 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM Club 345

3/22 Sunday

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

3/23 Monday

- 5:30-6:30 PM Lent Study

3/29 Palm Sunday

- 8:30 AM/11:00 AM Worship
- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Children & Worship
- 12:00 PM Musical Rehearsal
- *Things to note! Collecting One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks!*

3/30 Monday

- 5:30-6:30 PM Lent Study

CLUB 45 is NOW CLUB 345!!!

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

Club 345 occurs on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Club 345 is a kids' club for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders where we spend time playing games, having dinner (pizza and fruit), talking about faith, and having fun! This month, on 3/4 and 3/18, we will talk about Lent and continue working on our outdoor worship space.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGERS (AGE 2 - 2ND GRADE) SING ON MARCH 15TH!

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

We invite you to listen to it on YouTube!

Use this link! [ABCDEFG Jesus Died for You and Me Song - Christian Songs for kids](#)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FISH BANKS! STARTS FEB. 22 ENDS PALM SUNDAY!

A great tradition in our PCUSA denomination is the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. During Lent, 3D paper fish banks are distributed, and all are encouraged to put money in them for those in need. Remember to bring them back to church on Palm Sunday.

EGG HUNT CANDY NEEDED BY MARCH 22ND!

PLEASE CHOOSE NUT-FREE CANDY

We are collecting individually wrapped candy to put in our eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held on Easter Morning during our Easter Brunch at 9:45 am. We want to fill close to 1000 eggs! Put candy in the main office or outside Pastor Lori's office.

THINGS COMING UP!

1. Easter is April 5th.
2. May 6th is the final Club 345 and will be a messy game night!
3. Pentecost Picnic is May 24th.
4. VBS is July 27th-30th.

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

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

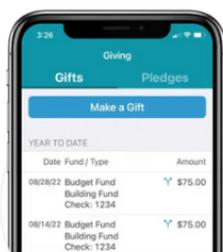
You can receive news, announcements, and notifications to always get the most up to date NPC information.

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: March 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 April issue:

March 12th, 2025

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