

THE GOOD NEWLONSBURG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial. -1 Corinthians 10:23

If you go to your local butcher, and the prime rib is offered as a sacrifice to Zeus, do you eat the meat as a Christian? This was a serious concern for Christians in Corinth. Christians confess Jesus Christ as Lord; do we eat meat sacrificed to another god? That may seem silly to us, but the same sentiment happens in our current cancel culture. If you go to your neighbor's house and they set before you a T-bone dedicated to white supremacy, do you eat the T-bone? As Christians, do we shop at the local retailer because they are in support of Pride month or not? What if the retailer is simply a cold-hearted capitalist at the mercy of their shareholders, only desiring the cheapest price for their goods with no concern for their employees or the environment? Do Christians buy the cheapest goods?

The Lord Jesus is the Lord of your conscience! I have been attempting to buy only American-made products since 2003, after studying economics at the University of Pittsburgh and concluding that I didn't want to support the Chinese communist economy as a Christian because of the lack of human rights in China. However, I have been paying three to four times the amount of money for new stuff made in America, but it relieves my conscience, and it ushered me to discover secondhand clothing from auction websites.

Don't use your freedom for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another! -Galatians 5:13

The Amish were at my bachelor party. The reason was that they were logging Hope's family farm to pay for our wedding. They came highly recommended because they used mules to pull out the logs and didn't disrupt the landscape. They are conservative: they conserve the environment. They used mules but were liberal in their chainsaw and



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Blackberry use. Anyone remember Blackberries? Not the fruit. The precursors to the smartphone. They were really into my bachelor party. I had a pig roast all day with a volleyball net set up. It seems the Amish like fresh roasted pork and volleyball. As we were around the fire, we asked some questions like, "Why not tractors or cars but chainsaws and Blackberries?" The elder spoke up that the Blackberries were still in the exploration phase. Not all were using them, only a few trusted elders. They were to report back to the elders whether they believed they built up the community or would ultimately break down the community. This is how they understood their freedom in Christ.

This is ultimately how Presbyterians figure out what is sin and what is not. Does the action build the community, or does it tear it down? Ideally, this is how laws are written as well. Discuss important issues among yourselves and with your children. Here are some subjects to discuss: casinos, war, social media, romantic physical relationships before marriage, same-sex marriage, smartphones, raw milk, free speech. Do participating in these actions build the community or break it down?

Give no offense...just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, so that they may be saved. -1Corinthians 10:32-33

The ultimate goal for the Christian is the salvation of souls. Jesus wants to save our souls, and once we see the Truth, the Way, and the Life who is Jesus Christ, Jesus commands us to save other souls. When you are on social media and making a post/comment, are your words to build the community? Are you keeping the other person's conscience in mind?

When you are deciding to allow your children to have smartphones or not, what are the boundaries? Set the boundaries. As we are becoming more aware, smartphones and many social mediums are designed to be addictive, so are vapes and fast food. Have these conversations with each other and with your children as Paul is writing back and forth to Christian congregations.

Keeping conversations going, and together, prayerfully considering if technology or actions build the community or tear it down, is how we will live well with technology.

Love,

Pastor Curtis

IT'S TIME TO CANTATA

We must prepare, we must rehearse, we must gather and sing, sing, sing!

Cantata Sunday, December 14th, is very important at NPC, and so there is an open invitation for you to be part of it. Please join us for four Thursday rehearsals on 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, and 12/1 to learn the music in "The Road to Bethlehem" by Lloyd Larson. These rehearsals start at 7:30 pm and last for 45 minutes to one hour. Participating in the cantata will be fun while preparing you for Advent and Christmas. Please direct questions to Bettie at bjarosz5678@yahoo.com.

GENEROSITY IN ACTION – PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

Thanks to generosity of over 75 families and individuals, our church has completed the parking lot and replaced the sign—key achievements in the 2025 Property Improvements Projects. Though we initially fell short of our goal by September 30th, a family's subsequent commitment ensured we reached it, allowing us to proceed with the new Common Ground HVAC.



Your support not only honors our history but also secures our future, continuing the legacy of previous generations. We are grateful for your ongoing faith and contributions. May Christ's grace and peace be with you as we build an inclusive, loving church together.

Session & Leadership Team

RMD AND NPC

As year-end approaches, you may be considering how to meet your 2025 Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) obligations while supporting Christ's work. Making a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA to NPC allows you to satisfy all or part of your RMD tax-free, potentially reducing your taxable income and offering greater tax benefits than donating cash, while supporting God's work in our lives, in our congregation, and in our community. You can allocate your RMD to the Common Good Fund, property projects, youth ministry, other ministries, or a mix of these options. For details, contact the S & F Ministry or your financial advisor.

COMMON GOOD FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Thank you to all those who give in gratitude for what God has given to us.

As of the end of September 2025:

September -Common	YTD - Common Good	YTD Spending-	YTD Budget- Common
Good Giving	Giving	Common Good	Good
\$38,899	\$445,050	\$475,669	\$503,161

Common Good giving includes offerings, short term investment interest, and facility usage. Last year Session approved the inclusion of interest earnings and facility usage under Common Good.

2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

We have a lot to celebrate at Newlonsburg! Newlonsburg is experiencing renewed energy in youth and family ministries with Pastor Lori Bass-Riley and Joshua Kenst joining our staff this summer. Their efforts have already led to higher engagement, including over 60 children at our Sunday School kick-off along with increased RAM participation. Plus, adult education participation and opportunities continue to grow.

Thanks for your generous support for property improvements in the past two years. Your gifts represent more than financial gifts—they are investments to strengthen the spiritual, physical, and communal life of our church. Thank you.

At Newlonsburg, we strive to embrace our mission of worshiping God, nurturing disciples, accepting all as God's children and reaching out in love and service to further the Kingdom of God. We are finding new and meaningful ways to live out this mission—both within our congregation and in the wider community. Through expanded outreach efforts and growing ministry opportunities, your talents, gifts, creativity, and passion help make it all possible.

As you prayerfully consider your 2026 pledge, we encourage you to give generously. If you are able, we invite you to increase your giving to cover rising costs. Your generous support—through time, talent, and gifts—will help make 2026 a meaningful year for Newlonsburg and its mission to share God's love and transform lives. Thank you for your ongoing commitment.

How to Make Your Commitment:

- Mail or In-Person: You can return the commitment card by mail, with your offering, or to the church office.
- **Email**: You can email your commitment to giving@newlonsburgchurch.org.
- Online: www.newlonsburgchurch.org/give



Scan QR Code:

Please return your commitment card by **November 24th** and join us in worship for Commitment Sunday. If you have any questions, please email giving@newlonsburgchurch.org or reach out to the Stewardship and Finance Ministry.

With gratitude and blessings, Your Stewardship and Finance Ministry

NOVEMBER 2ND OFFERING TO HELP AREA FOOD PANTRY

Our November Hunger Offering will go to the "Feed the Flock Community Ministry" located at the New Salem Presbyterian Church in New Salem village, near Uniontown in Fayette County. This food pantry, which celebrated its 15th anniversary this summer, continues to provide much-needed food items for people in New Salem and the surrounding area. As with so many other food banks around our region, their food pantry is helping people in need of food in these challenging times. New Salem village is a small community very similar in size and history to Export, having been an active coal mining town.

Currently there are approximately 60 families served by the food pantry, which is a food distribution center for the Fayette County Community Action Agency. Regular food distributions occur on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Our Hunger Offering will help "Feed the Flock Community Ministry" purchase more food items each month for the families they assist, in order to supplement and make up for the decrease in food from the local food bank.

The church also provides an emergency food bank service which is very similar to our NPC Murrysville Loaves and Fishes Emergency Food Pantry. Your generous contribution will help provide necessary assistance to hungry residents of this low-income community in our area.

Roger Schneider - Outreach Ministry

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.

SALVATION ARMY BELLS WILL SOON BE RINGING!

This year we'll again be seeking NPC volunteers to spend a short 2-hour shift ringing a bell to encourage passers-by to drop a cash contribution into the traditional red kettle. A few hours spent at a kettle location can make a very big difference to a local family in need. As usual, we'll have volunteer locations around the community, including our new location at the Giant Eagle Market District Supermarket.

Current plans are for our first date to be Saturday, November 29th. Dates will then be available on the first three Fridays and Saturdays in December. Please contact Roger Schneider at 412-613-8470 any time of

the day or early evening to volunteer. Your help will be most appreciated. As the Salvation Army motto states, you'll be "Doing the Most Good"!!

Roger Schneider, Murrysville/Export Salvation Army Service Unit project coordinator and NPC member





PUZZLES & PIZZA NIGHT



Calling all puzzlers, age 9 to 90! Join us for some puzzling fun on **Wednesday, October 29**th, at **6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Competition begins at 6:15 pm sharp, so

don't be late! Assemble your own team of 2-4 people or come solo and join some fellow puzzlers for a friendly jigsaw puzzle race. Each adult team will tackle a 500-piece puzzle, and each youth team will complete a 300-piece puzzle. Pizza will be served! Bring a snack or dessert to share and invite your friends. Sign up online through our Fellowship Event Sign-up Form.

NOVEMBER MEN'S SATURDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Saturday Breakfast will be **November 8**th, **2025**, 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.

HOSS'S LUNCH

Enjoy a nice lunch immediately after the second service with a group of fellow NPC'ers **on Sunday, November 9**th at Hoss's Steak & Sea House.

BOY SCOUTS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Come to the Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, November 15**th **between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm** for Boy Scout Troop 205's Pancake Breakfast in honor of local Veterans. Veterans and children 3 and under eat free.



Tickets are available at the door or from any member of Troop 205 (\$10 for Adults, \$5 for Kids ages 4-10). This event is open to everyone in the community.

FUTURE EVENTS

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

- Celebration on
 SATURDAY (yes,
 Saturday), 12/20/25 at
 3:00 pm. It's worth
 scheduling your other
 holiday celebrations
 around this if you can!
- New Year's Brunch
 Potluck: Sunday,
 January 4, 2026 in
 Fellowship Hall between worship services.

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



QR code for Fellowship Event Sign-up Form

ADVENT DINNER



Celebrate the start of Advent with food, fellowship, and carol singing at this year's Advent Dinner on **Sunday, December 7**th **at 6:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Family and friends are welcome.

Thanks in advance to our Advent Dinner Chairs (Julie & Alex Gebrosky, Dodie Hagan, Judy Oates, and Marcia & Rich Smith) and Team Members: Ken & Tara Bird, Bill &

Linda Blank, Ken & Beth Ann Bobish, Amanda Bobish, James & Erin Carlisle, Michael & Barbara Carroll, Todd Caughey, Ben Caughey, John & Nancy Daller, Sean & Nichole Daller, Ron & Caren Donaldson, Alice Doutt, Beverly Evans, Don Green, Kathy Groll, Christine & Eric Hanchey, Tyler Hanchey, Bruce Hanington, Mitch & Bettie Jarosz, Lauren Jessup, Barb Jewell, Karen Kase, Susan Keaney, Bill & Kathy Lukitsch, Mindy Markovich, Kim Miskevics, Tom & Billie Moser, Anne Nevin, Michael & Rachel Oates, Amelia Oates, Lucas Oates, Jill Oster, Gail O'Toole, Alan & Kristen Petrazzi, Anderson Petrazzi, Avery Petrazzi, Kara Petrazzi, Janice Rehwald, JoAnn Rosenberger, John & Diane Schaupp, Sherry Shadrach, Scott & Beth Sherman, Curtis & Sharon Southlea, Alan & Terri Thornburg, Janice Troup, Dave & Betty Trout, Debbie Wallisch, and Christy Weir

CHILI, SOUP, AND BREAD COOK-OFF

Thank you so much to all our star chefs and bakers for cooking up a delicious feast last month and to our judges (Pastor Curtis, Liam Babich, and Gale Lieber) who took their responsibility very seriously. The competition was FIERCE! Congratulations to our winners:

- Chili Judge's Choice: Noah Williams
- Chili People's Choice: Buck Babich (1st), Steve Hudak (2nd), Noah Williams (3rd)
- Soup Judge's Choice: Stephanie Mihleder
- Soup People's Choice: Stephanie Mihelder (1st), Linda Gossar-Loesch (2nd), Lindsay Lippman (3rd)
- Bread Judge's Choice: Lil Newingham
- Bread People's Choice: Lindsay Lippman (1st), Susan Long (2nd), Diane Sciullo (3rd)



2025 SMALL-GROUP ADVENT STUDY

The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem

The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem was one that changed the world, as the events that led to Jesus' birth into the world unfolded in time and space, involving everyday people called into extraordinary circumstances. We will travel with author and pastor Adam Hamilton as he uses historical information, archaeological discoveries, and personal effort to explore where these events took place.

This five-week course will have two sections for adults and one for youth in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The adult sections will be led by Curtis Paul on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45 am (Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21) and Travis Webster on Monday afternoons from 5:30-6:30 pm (Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 8, 15, 22), and the youth section will be led by Joshua Kenst, also on Monday afternoons from 5:30-6:30 pm (Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 8, 15, 22).

If you would like to take part, books are \$13 each. You can register using the following links: Monday Afternoon Adult Session (Travis)

https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YzNlZGQ4NTctMjNkNy000GY0LThjZGYtYjM3NzAxODljNjhi

Monday Afternoon Youth Session (Joshua Kenst)

https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=M2NkZGQyNmUtNDNmZi0 0MDVmLWE1NGEtYjM3ODAwMDA5YmVl

Sunday Morning Adult Session (Curtis)

https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MjkwMWFkNzEtYTE3NC00NmI4LTk2NDgtYjM3NzAxODU3MzRj

You can also call (724-327-0061) or email (<u>travis.webster@comcast.net</u>) Travis if you're interested. A Zoom option will be available for the Monday afternoon adult session. Please register by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 4, so we can get the books in time.

"TEACHINGS OF JESUS" YARD SIGNS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

The yard signs reflecting teachings of Jesus Christ that are currently displayed in front of the church are available for purchase at cost (\$13 per sign) while supplies last. These signs convey simple and direct messages meant to unify our community. Purchasing and reposting these signs in our neighborhoods will continue these efforts--otherwise, these signs will be placed in storage for possible future use. The signs will remain posted for the next few weeks, but you can order one today! If you are interested in obtaining one of these signs, please contact Rachel Oates in the church office at 724.327.0061 or place an order through Realm.

Just as you do to the most vulnerable, you do to me.

—Jesus

Newlonsburg
Presbyterian Church
WORSHIP-SERVE-GROW

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Lessons From the Stars

at night.

I write this the day after returning from time in nature. My fiancé booked a retreat for us over the weekend, and we didn't have any cell phone reception. It was great being able to get out in nature and unplug. During this time, I walked barefoot on a trail, planted a tree, learned about bees and bee keeping, made a fire and s'mores every night, and enjoyed the night sky and surrounding views.

"When I consider Your Heavens, The Work of Your Fingers, The Moon and The Stars, Which You have set in place, What is man that You are mindful of him, The Son of Man that You care for him?"

PSALM 8: 3-4.

I don't know what it is, but I can't help but stop and stare at the night sky. Something about its vastness and the stars is captivating to me. And while I enjoy gazing at it, I don't have any desire to pierce the mystery or go beyond it. I think part of my enjoyment of staring at the night sky is due to its mysterious nature. As I reflect on the night sky, I think about how the stars have been used for navigation, or how the lunar cycle was used for agricultural practices. In our modern world we aren't as reliant on these practices as we once were. And life can be so busy that it's hard to find time to appreciate the moon and stars or to listen for the animals that come out

The psalmist writes, "When I consider Your Heavens, the works of Your fingers, the moon and the stars...what is man that You are mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:3-4). Looking up at the moon and stars, I feel dwarfed by its majesty and endlessness. At the same time, connected. I don't know the math behind my existence, but I know that I am here and that I matter just as much as the trees that stretch above me, the grass below my feet, and the animals that are all around me. The same light from the moon and stars shining down on me is the same that shines down on all of creation. And God cares and is mindful of us, all of us; how humbling!

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nov. 1 – Fall Work Day. The Fall work day is scheduled for Saturday, November 1st at 8AM. This is a great opportunity for community service hours for our young people.

Nov. 19 - Friendsgiving. Come hang out before we take a break from our programming for Thanksgiving. Our Friendsgiving will take place during our Wednesday Evening Youth Group program.

Dec. Advent Study. Pastor Travis and I are looking to do a study for Adults and Young People. More information will be posted in bulletins.

Dec. 7 - Advent Adventure and Advent Dinner. Advent Adventure is scheduled for Sunday, December 7th, from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm, followed by the Advent Dinner. Advent Adventure is a great way for youth and children to interact, and for our middle schoolers and high schoolers to serve the younger members of our congregation. Plus, at dinner, there's food. Who doesn't enjoy food? Both events are a great way to earn community service hours for students who need them.

Dec. 13 - Cookie Walk. Did someone say cookie??? Why yes, we did. Our winter fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th. The time is to be determined.

Dec. 14 - Birthday Party for Jesus. On Sunday, December 14th, we will host our birthday party for Jesus during the Sunday School hour.

Jan. 19 - MLK day of Service. I spoke with Rev. Sharon Woomer, and we are looking at holding an event at Newlonsburg with a speaker from her congregation. More details to come.

Feb. 7 - 9 - Winter Remix Retreat. Pine springs has posted the dates for the winter remix retreat scheduled from 7:00 pm on Friday, February 7th through 1:00 pm Sunday, February 9th. Registration opens **JANUARY 1ST.** I'll share more details and links when they are available.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

CHILD WORSHIP LEADERSHIP!



We want our children to know that they are an important part of our community! We love that our children can begin developing leadership skills at

an early age! We are looking for child acolytes (people who light the worship candles) and liturgists (people who read in worship)! Acolytes should be at least 4 years old and liturgists need to be very good readers and be willing to practice before their participation. Sign them up for a date that works for you! https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AEA82CA2F8CF8-59246032-children

CLUB 45 CHANGES FOR NOV. DATES!

Now on 11/12 & 11/19 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

This month we will have Club 45 on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday (Nov. 12 and Nov. 19). This is so Joshua and Lori can attend a special workshop about suicide prevention on the first Wednesday. We will still meet in the ARC. Dinner is included! Make sure your child is registered! \$5 donation for dinner.



https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MWU4MzQwNjItY2NiNi00Y TU2LTk3ZTItYjM1MzAxMTI4NGY3

MONDAY FUNDAY NOVEMBER 10 9:30 AM-2:00 PM



Save the date! For children grades K-8. Join us at the church for crafts, games, and fun! We will be hosting "Brushes and Beans" to lead us in painting ornaments. Register and pay for a day of fun! (Cost \$25/child - let us know if you need assistance!) Children must bring their own bagged lunch. Snacks will be provided.

https://onrealm.org/NewlonsburgPres/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=Y2ViMThmMTktYWU2NS00 YmZiLWFjMmYtYjM2MzAxM2Q4ODk1

ADVENT ADVENTURE 4:30 PM-5:30 PM AND ADVENT DINNER DECEMBER 7TH

We will have our Advent Adventure and Dinner on December 7th. We are looking for people to help plan and participate in this event! Contact Pastor Lori if you are interested in planning or have been involved in the planning previously! She would love to learn from you!

REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR NEWLONSBURG PROGRAMMING!

We are asking all families to register all your children who are participating in any of our programming - from age 0-5th grade. This way we know we have accurate information on file! Use the link below!









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 (www.apple.com/app-store/) or from Google Play (play.google.com).



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.

4600 Old William Penn Hwy Murrysville, PA 15668



Phone:

724-327-0061

Email:

newlonsburgpresby@comcast.net

Website:

www.newlonsburgchurch.org

The Good Newlonsburg: November 2025

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 December issue:

November 13th, 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