

Matthew 28:16-20

1/26/25

Our mission from Jesus Christ could not be clearer: make disciples, baptize, teach! Our vision from vision Jesus Christ is to deepen our friendship with Jesus. Remember, I am always with you. We desire our friendship to be so deep that we reflect Jesus in the world. That when folks see us in action, they see Jesus' hands, feet, and voice on earth. This is not so that NPC can limp along surviving. The Lord wants us to ***Thrive not Survive!***

Today I want to talk about to thrive, Jesus commands to invite all. To thrive, Jesus commands to share our faith. To thrive, Jesus promises to always be with us.

Let's hear God's vision for Christians in Philippians 2:1-5.

We have much to celebrate for 2024! We welcomed 22 members to the faith of Jesus Christ. This fall, when we offer confirmation class, we may have over 20 students. When we offer our children's sermon, we have around 10 who come up for the early service and well over 20 children come up at the late service. Certainly, we must generously invest in children and young families to thrive as Christ's Church, but it's not simply about children. **To thrive, Jesus commands to invite all.** Our vision is to be transformed by the power of Christ's Holy Spirit to be Christ's hands, feet, and voice on earth. That can start at any age!

The best way to be transformed by Christ's Holy Spirit is to pray and worship to deepen your friendship with Jesus Christ. I am asking everyone who hears God's Word today, to commit to weekly worship. To build intentional Christ-centered community, we need your presence!

The one characteristic that all four gospel writers, Peter, Paul and James highlight is that Jesus is impartial. Jesus does not show favorites. When He meets us, Jesus does not show bias but fairness. In fact, Jesus is criticized for eating with those of ill repute. When rich young rulers (Matthew 19:16-30 & Luke 18:18-30) or rich young lawyers (Luke 10:25-37) ask Jesus the meaning of life, Jesus helps them find life as much as He does when he heals people who have been thrown out of the community. **NPC's mission is to accept all as God's children realizing we all need to change and grow by deepening our friendship with Jesus Christ.** Yes, Jesus accepts our past mistakes. Jesus accepts our flaws. Jesus accepts our wounds that influence future decisions, but Jesus lives to change us. Jesus lives to teach us better ways. When we make mistakes in the future, the Lord forgives, and the Lord knows for us to thrive we may make mistakes along the way. To thrive Jesus commands us to forgive. -John 20:23

Remember the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. The Lord gives talent to each of His servants. The first two invest what has been given to them, and they double their investments. The third, out of fear, does not invest but buries his talent. The Lord doesn't want us to survive in fear, the Lord wants us to generously invest to thrive!



Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP • SERVE • GROW

To thrive, Jesus commands to share our faith. The primary way we share our faith as NPC is to offer Sunday worship. Church comes from the Greek word that means, “to be called out from the world.” To be the visible body of Christ, we must dedicate time to the Lord for worship. When we worship, we show the world that Jesus lives and lives in us.

Thanks to all those who had generously given to or who volunteer at our Loaves and Fishes food pantry. Through your generosity, you enabled us to feed 307 families. **NPC’s mission is to share our faith by reaching out to those in need.** Your generosity enabled us to spend 33% of our common good budget on non-members! Often, we receive emails or thank you cards from cancer patients who receive one of the 404 blankets that our crochet group creates. Or a thank you note from a women’s shelter from the 289 hats that were made. People receive Jesus’ love and presence through this Outreach! Our Outreach ministry inspired 1800 volunteer hours in service to our community. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that a volunteer hour was worth \$33.49 in 2024. That’s an additional \$60K that was generously given to the community on top of Outreach’s mission budget of \$63,638. NPC is dedicated to tithing each dollar given to our budget.

NPC’s mission is to share our faith by offering Christian education to nurture disciples. Yes, we have a thriving Sunday School and desire to transform our students into the presence of Christ, but we also have 3 adult options for Sunday School and Travis and Don have 18 members studying Christ’s Church from the Reformation to the present. We are truly blessed to be able to offer highly quality Christian Education! The goal of Christian education is to deepen our friendship with Jesus so that our friendship deepens. And I didn’t even mention Wednesday night ministry for children of all ages.

To thrive, Jesus promises to always be with us. The most important thing to know and to feel is that Jesus lives and lives in us! We have an intern this semester by the name of James. He has been working with Breana for children and youth ministry, and I meet with him for mentoring meetings because he aspires to be a pastor. You won’t meet him until March 9th when he preaches because he serves a Presbyterian Church as a youth pastor. As I start all my pre-marital council meetings, I began with James, “If you were to ask me the meaning of life. As my friendship with Jesus deepens, I have a one-word answer, ‘Friendship.’ If you were to ask me, ‘Where or what is Heaven?’ As my friendship with Jesus deepens, I have a one-word answer, ‘Friendship.’ If you were to ask me, ‘What is eternal life?’ as my friendship with Jesus deepens, I have a one-word answer, ‘Friendship.’”

We will thrive when all the goals and objectives align with deepening friendship with Jesus Christ so that our friendship with each other deepens.

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1. To thrive, Jesus commands to invite all.
 - A. NPC's vision is be transformed by the power of Christ's Holy Spirit to be Christ's Hands, Feet and Voice on Earth.
 - B. NPC's mission is to accept all as God's children realizing we all need to change and grow by deepening our friendship with Jesus Christ.
2. To thrive, Jesus commands to share our faith.
 - A. NPC's mission is to share our faith by celebrating that Jesus lives and lives in us through offering worship each Sunday.
 - B. NPC's mission is to share our faith by reaching out to those in need.
 - C. NPC's mission is to share our faith by offering Christian education to nurture disciples.
3. To thrive, Jesus promises to always be with us.
 - A. Heaven equals friendship.
 - B. The goal is to deepen friendship with Jesus and each other!