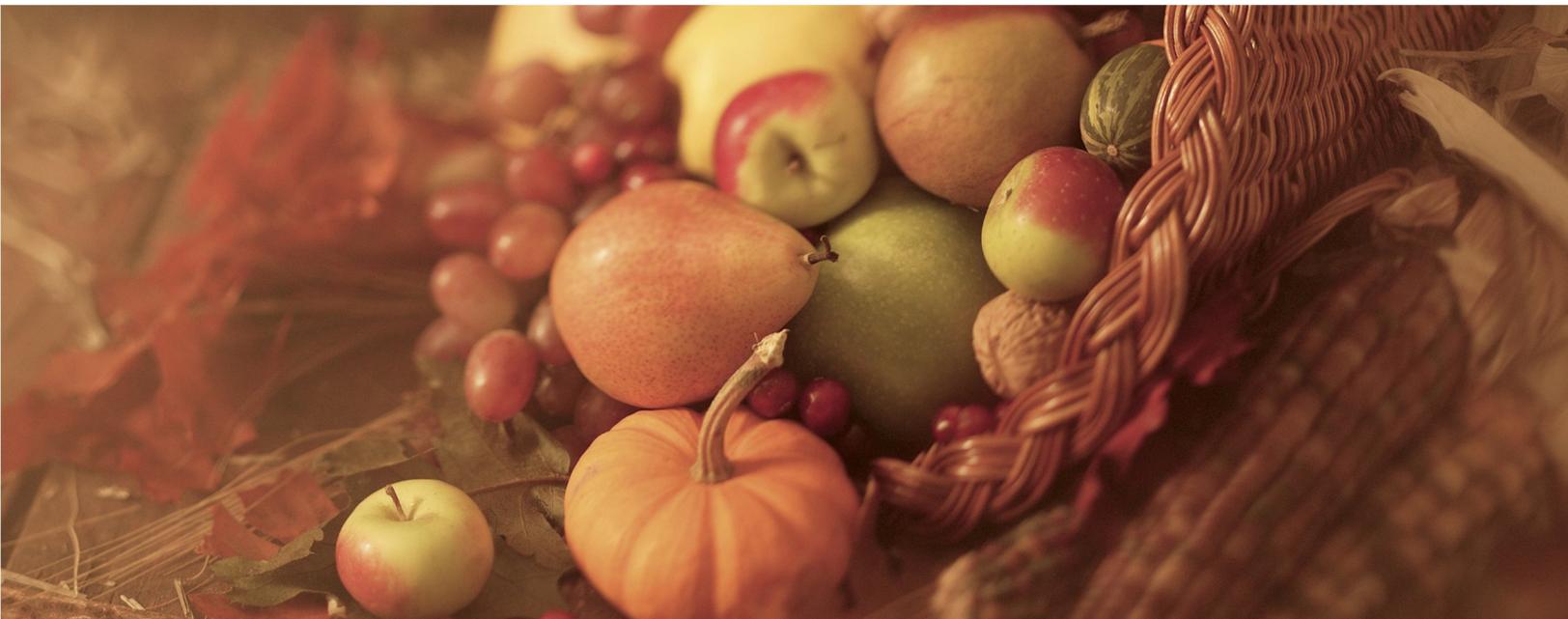


NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA

NOVEMBER 2020



“Where Your Treasure Is”

By The Rev. Dr. Andrew H. Mann Jr.

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A number of years ago Meg and I visited a model train shop. We had spent all that day in diversions; Meg was going into the hospital the next day for brain surgery. The excuse for going to the shop was that I could not find my train track. Moreover, the engine from my old Lionel "O-27" set had been damaged. It would buzz, but it would not run.

I had taken the engine out to be repaired several weeks before and, notified that the work had been completed, Meg and I were now going to retrieve my old toy. Sure enough, the train was ready and waiting. Placed on the track, it raced around and around, belching smoke and looking for all the world like it was 40 years younger.

"Do you know what that train is worth?", the man asked. "I bet you have your whole set. Would you be interested in selling?"

He was right. I did have my whole set, and a pretty elaborate one at that. But I had no real idea how much it was "worth". I had never thought about selling it, so I had never inquired. No, I did not know what it was worth, but I knew very well what its value was, and is, to me.



It is priceless.

That train evokes memories of precious times and even more precious people. It takes me back to Christmases past and leads me off into a future with a vague hope that some descendent of mine (when I am long gone) will put up my trains for a Christmas I will not see and by doing so remember something of me.

Its worth? I have no clue. Its value? That I know very well!

So it is with the truly important things of life. People seem to be able to put a price on everything, but forget that the true value of something has nothing to do with its price. The precious is priceless.

- Drew

Communion Sundays

By The Rev. Dr. Andrew H. Mann Jr.

When: Will begin on Sunday, December 6th at the 10:00 AM service.

Where: During worship, both at your home or in-person

Details

If you will be worshipping with us virtually at home, you need only secure your own grape juice and glasses for all in your home (or wine or any beverage, really, in a pinch) and bread (or crackers or wafers of some type) for all. These will be your home communion elements of which you will partake during the worship liturgy that morning.

If you are worshipping in-person that morning, we will have individual, sealed, sanitary, and no-spill elements to give you. The elements will not be passed during worship but will be given to you as you enter the sanctuary for you to hold until we come to that point in the service where the communion begins.

The good news is that beginning in the month of December we will return to our old habit of sharing communion on the first Sunday of every month. We will do this for our worshippers both at home and in person in the sanctuary. We are excited about returning to this central act of our worship life, and hope to have everyone present either at home or in person.



A Head's Up: If It's Fall, It Must Be Time for Stewardship

By the Rev. Dr. Andrew H. Mann Jr.

Some time around November 10th, a mailing will be sent out to all of NPC's members and friends containing our annual stewardship letter, a 2021 pledge card, and your former pledge card from 2020.

AND On Sunday, **November 22nd**, we will dedicate those 2021 pledge cards in worship. In order to do that, of course, ***those who are worshipping virtually that morning will need to have mailed their pledges into the office the previous week.*** In-person worshippers will be able to bring their pledge cards with them so that they can be placed in the Baptismal Font for dedication, along with each card received by mail during the previous week.

As we anticipate the coming of our new Minister in 2021, it will be truly important to pledge well, in the deep faith that with the coming of our new minister, God's plan for NPC will be unfolding right before our eyes. Prayerfully, let us get ready to support this new era in the life of this part of the Body of Christ.

P.N.C. Update

By Dana Winslow

NPC Congregation,

The PNC continues to make good progress in our efforts to identify our next Pastor. This month, we completed the Minister Information Form (MIF) that is essentially the job description that candidates will read to learn about our church and our goals and objectives for the future. It is a critical first step in the process, and just this week the form was reviewed and approved by the Session. The form has now been submitted to the Presbytery and their Committee on Ministry (COM) for their approval. Once it is approved, we will go through a computerized "speed dating" step where candidate profiles will be matched against our needs, and then we will start receiving responses from prospective Pastors. The PNC has already begun developing questions that will be used in the interviewing process and composing letters we will use to communicate with prospective candidates to let them know where they are in the process. We expect to be working through the interview process over the coming several months, and I will keep you posted as we make our way. We continue to seek God's guidance and blessing through each step.

Gratefully Submitted,

Dana Winslow, Chairman on behalf of the PNC



Mission Committee News

By: Cathy Cocchia

Many thanks to all who supported The Morrisville Food Center through their very generous donations. The mission of the Food Center is to provide supplemental food assistance to families in the Lower Bucks and Trenton areas in a caring and respectful manner. Based on family size, clients receive a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, eggs, dairy products, bakery items, personal care items and household items, as well as diapers and pet food.

Your Mission Committee has designated ***The Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church as our White Gift recipient.*** Please continue to support providing food with dignity to those less fortunate by dropping off food donations to Steve and Cathy Cocchia at 132 Wooden Bridge Rd., Holland, PA (215-322-5843). We are gratified by our congregation's response in helping to meet this great need to provide food. In the words of one of the clients served, "The Food Center is a beacon of light in the community during very difficult times."

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," Matthew 25:35.





Build a Shoebox!
ONLINE

START BUILDING

BUILD IT FOR ME

CREATE A GOAL PAGE



Bless Children Around the
World Without Leaving Home



SEND LOVE



HOLD TRUTH

OPEN DOORS

ENCOURAGE

BRING GOSPEL

OFFER HOPE

XCITE KIDS

© Made Creatively on Etsy

Operation Christmas Child

www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.

We want boys and girls around the world to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them during this time of fear and uncertainty. Children need great joy now more than ever. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We're looking forward to a great Operation Christmas Child season as we prayerfully consider ways to modify our collection and processing in light of COVID-19. We are already monitoring local, state, and national guidelines and making adjustments to help protect the health of those involved in preparing shoebox gifts.

One of these adjustments is the new BUILD-A-SHOEBOX ONLINE option!

With just a few clicks, you can pack an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift online to help share God's love with a boy or girl in need around the world. Simply select toys and other fun items you'd like to include from our collection, and personalize your gift with your own letter and photo. We'll pack the gift for you and send it on its way for a suggested donation of just \$25.

If you choose to build a shoebox on your own, a collection is still being accepted by God's Window Preschool through November 13th.





Financial Update

By Pam Kemper

Dear Friends:

As we enter the final few months of 2020, the church financial picture is unfortunately beginning to show the strain of this very difficult year. The traditional summer dip in giving unexpectedly deepened in September, with a monthly income total of \$15,404 - the lowest monthly income in several years. On the expense side, although much of our programming is still suspended, with preschool back in session and preparations under way for the return to a limited in-person worship our expenses are starting to creep back toward normal levels. As of September 30th, our YTD expenses have exceeded our income by approximately \$9,600.

Despite these challenges, I continue to be impressed with the commitment of our congregation as we have continued to pay our staff, supported our preschool in the vastly expanded task of re-opening the school and attended the endless meetings needed to navigate the new normal. Our Pastor Nominating Committee has also continued their hard work resulting in our Ministry Information Form (i.e., Job Description for a new Pastor) being submitted to Presbytery right on schedule.

Now, as we move cautiously toward coming together not only in worship but in other activities of the church, we need your continued financial support. As a congregation we have always looked to giving as a response to what we have been given by God – and an act of faith supporting our role in doing His work. That is as true now as it was last October.

If you have any questions or are wrestling with the details of giving when life has “gone online” and you are still a hands-on person, please email, text or call me.

In His Name,

Pam

Monthly Financial Report

	Sept 2020	Year to Date	% of Budget
GENERAL FUND INCOME	15,404.60	184,174.87	70%
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES			
PAYROLL	11,080.25	99,452.15	76%
BENEFITS	1,064.42	9,983.99	61%
ADMINISTRATIVE	2,893.08	16,475.77	51%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		233.19	23%
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE		106.17	13%
FACILITIES			
PNC Mortgage	4,705.03	42,345.27	75%
Church Facilities	2,392.63	31,411.17	62%
PASTOR SEARCH	158.89	208.89	21%
PRESCHOOL COST ALLCTN	-1000.00	-7,750.00	29%
STEWARDSHIP		455.03	105%
WORSHIP	137.00	935.88	19%
Total GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	21,431.30	193,857.51	72%
NET	(6,026.70)	(9,682.64)	

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 AM Sunday Worship * In-Person & Livestream	2 7:00 PM Mission Committee	3	4 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study ZOOM	5 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM 5:00 PM Girl Scouts (Outside)	6	7
8 10:00 AM Sunday Worship * In-Person & Livestream	9 7:00 PM Facilities Committee	10 7:00 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM	11 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	12	13	14
15 10:00 AM Sunday Worship * In-Person & Livestream	16	17 7:00 PM Session Meeting	18 4:00 PM Women's Digging Deeper Study ZOOM 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	19 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM 5:00 PM Girl Scouts (Outside)	20	21
22 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 10:00 AM Sunday Worship * In-Person & Livestream	23	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM	25 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream for Thanksgiving	26 THANKSGIVING	27	28
29 ADVENT BEGINS 10:00 AM Sunday Worship * In-Person & Livestream	30					

Livestream Information:

All "livestreamed" messages are broadcasted from our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/northamptonpresby

Livestream service bulletins are posted on our website: www.northamptonpresby.com/bulletins

~Sunday Worship Services are additionally posted on our website: www.northamptonpresby.com/sermon-videos

~Fireside Chats are additionally posted on our website: www.northamptonpresby.com/fireside-chat-videos

Zoom Meetings: (contact npchurch@comcast.net for ZOOM invitations)

~Theology on Tap meets on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on ZOOM.

~Women's Bible Study meets 1st Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on ZOOM.

~Thursday Bible Study meets on 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays at 10:00 AM on ZOOM.

Northampton Presbyterian Church

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