

NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

APRIL 2021



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"The Divine Comedy"

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

It was not my plan to have spent the past 49 years in the pastoral ministry; I had other ideas. My idea was to be a chemical engineer. That was my plan. Organic chemistry dissuaded me from that plan. When I finally decided to go into the ministry, I had planned to do a Ph.D. in counseling and hang out a shingle. The worst thing I could imagine was to end up in the parish. That was decidedly not part of my plan 49 years ago.

It turned out that God had other plans. Who knew?

If it is true that God laughs when we make plans – and in my experience that is certainly true – I have spent my entire adult life listening to God giggling. It is not a mean laugh. It is the laugh of one who is older far and whose age has an accumulated wisdom and vision denied to those who are younger and less experienced in discerning life patterns and gifts. It is a knowing laugh. It is the gentle laugh of a grandparent who is present when a grandchild discovers something new about themselves that the grandparent has known all along. I have found it to be a reassuring laugh, once I learned to recognize it.



I am not alone. I have a clergy colleague – true story - who discovered, after a half dozen years in his church, that his call to that church had been the result of a mistake. It seems that the secretary of the Pastor Nominating Committee had written two letters to mail out to the final two candidates for their pulpit. One letter was to be sent to my colleague telling him that they had chosen another minister as their pastor. And then there was the letter written to the minister the committee had chosen. The thing is that the secretary had mailed the wrong letters to the wrong candidates by mistake. My colleague received the acceptance letter meant for the other candidate. The PNC had not chosen him. His whole ministry had been a mistake, according to the plan of the PNC. But God giggled. God had other plans. God had chosen him.

There are those who would lay all of these events off to chance. Or to human error. Or to a universal madness or whimsy. But that is not what is going on at all.

It is just that God has other plans sometimes. For my life. For yours. It is a wonderful thing, if at first just a bit disquieting, to know that we each have a place in an insistent God's great scheme of things. A place that only we can occupy and that only we can serve by God's good grace. It is a place as unique as our thumbprints.

There is a Facebook post that asks, "How cool is it that the same God that created mountains and oceans and galaxies looked at you and thought the world needed one of you too?"

God thought that for one reason, and one reason only. You and I are each an indispensable part of God's plan to accomplish all that God wants to accomplish. And God finds that so delightful that He just has to giggle at the thought of it.

Blessings,

Drew

The Return of In-Person Worship

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

As you know, we have resumed in-person worship in our sanctuary, and what a joy it is. Worship will be held both in-person at 10:00 a.m. and will continue to be broadcast on Facebook so you can choose for yourself how best to worship.

The guiding principle of how we will worship is "Safety First." This is a standard we have become accustomed to in our daily lives. We will need to be flexible going ahead.



“Reservations”. If you think you are going to be worshipping in-person, please email Val Erdmanis at verdmanis@penncharter.com. We are asking you to make a reservation each and every Saturday evening with Val by 8:00 p.m. at his email address or at his cell phone (215-485-0434) and leave a message. It just helps us be prepared for worship.

To Session, “Safety First” looks like this:

1. Masks for the safety of others, and social distancing are mandatory. Sanitizing gel will be available. Masks will be available for those who have forgotten their own. And someone will take your temperature before you enter. Anyone over 100.4 degrees will be asked to return home to seek medical advice. If you have come with a carload, all will be asked to do the same.
2. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL OR HAVE BEEN EXPOSED WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS TO SOMEONE WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.
3. As a reminder, one should not shake hands or hug others. An elbow bump or a foot tap is best.
4. For the immediate future, there will be no social/coffee/educational time before or after worship.
5. The cloak room will not be available.
6. There will be only space for 50 people in the sanctuary. We ask you to be flexible as we seat you to maximize safely distanced attendance.
7. You will be seated from front pew-to-back. You will be dismissed back pew-to-front. Again, please be flexible about seating; you will very likely not be sitting in your old, accustomed seat.
8. The available rest rooms will be limited to the nursery and new wing bathrooms.
9. We invite families to worship together in the sanctuary. No childcare will be available at this time.
10. Bibles and Hymnals will not be in the sanctuary for the time being.

Hymn singing. We will be able to sing hymns gently, and while masked. Both Drew and Aimee have been fully vaccinated and may remove their masks for portions of the service and wear them for other portions.

After so long a time, as you feel led, let us begin to come back together in joy to worship our God.

- Drew



Nominating Committee

By: Elva Naphy

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!!!

Our church has several opportunities available for members who wish to serve the Lord. The Congregational Nominating Committee will begin meeting soon to find candidates for Session, Deacons and the God's Window Preschool Board. Please pray for them as they work to fill these positions. We also ask that you prayerfully consider using your talents to serve our church.

Barbara Erdmanis (barb.erdmanis@gmail.com)

and Elva Naphy (enaphy@verizon.net)

Nominating Committee Co-Chairs

Minute for Mission: Mission Aviation Fellowship

By: Kathie Pisciella

Some of our NPC Mission envelope/online offerings have been designated to support Tom and Pam Tharp from Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The below is from their website maf.org.

The U.S. offices of MAF serve as a hub for MAF services worldwide. A day in the life here includes specialized flight training, staff mobilization and counseling, purchasing and shipping of aircraft parts, finance and accounting, administration of an Internet gateway for worldwide email, fund raising, printing and mailing of various materials, and many, many more activities. Some staff serve around the country; training future pilots and mobilizing potential candidates to serve with MAF.

Tom and Pam have been missionaries with MAF for over 30 years. Tom began his service with MAF as an Avionics Technician working in the jungle of Zaire. His duties included installing and maintaining the radios in the aircraft, as well as the radios used by other missionaries to communicate with the aircraft. Tom currently manages the Purchasing and Shipping department at headquarters in Nampa, Idaho, where he still helps with the repair of radios returned from the field. MAF missionaries raise support for a pooled fund out of which MAF covers salary, housing, benefits, and staff-related ministry expenses. MAF exercises discretion over the use of missionary support in the exercise of its mission and care of its staff.

God calls the men and women of MAF to serve Him in unique ways. He may also be calling you to a special role in the Tharps' ministry. Please prayerfully consider becoming a ministry partner with them through prayer.

Financial Update

By: Pam Kemper

Dear NPC,

Another month into the new year and it's looking more like spring. However, our financial position is not brightening up as well. February giving was very similar to January, but a jump in expenses – primarily snow removal and our quarterly insurance payment – resulted in a higher loss. For this year – so far – we are approximately \$8,500 in the red.

It is not unusual to begin the year with a loss. But in those years in the past, the church was open and expenses were significantly higher than we are seeing now. Our challenge continues to be a downturn in giving.

Please know that we are not on the verge of running out of money. We have a cushion from previous years that will keep us steady as we move beyond this difficult year. We will meet in person, welcome a new pastor and make new plans. And, to the extent possible, your faithful giving will allow us to look ahead in confidence.

- Pam

Financial Overview

	Feb 2021	Year-to-date
GENERAL FUND INCOME	17,042.58	35,004.18
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES		
PAYROLL	10,832.93	21,763.18
BENEFITS	1,064.42	2,128.84
ADMINISTRATIVE	451.09	2,159.38
FACILITIES		
PNC Mortgage	4,705.03	9,410.06
Church Facilities	7290.54	10,088.46
PRESCHOOL COST ALLCTN	-1,000.00	-2,000.00
Total GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	23,334.01	21,416.51
NET	(6,301.43)	(8,545.74)

BENEFITING THE FOOD CENTER AT
MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A DRIVE-THRU
FOOD DONATION
EVENT

APRIL FOOD DAY

**THURS, APRIL 1, 2021
10 AM - NOON**

**AT THE PARKING LOT OF
NORTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
539 BUCK ROAD, HOLLAND, PA**

ITEMS NEEDED:

- canned beans
- canned fruit and vegetables
- canned meat entrée (stew, chili)
- canned soup
- canned tuna fish
- cereal
- macaroni and cheese in box
- milk (evaporated or shelf stable)
- pasta
- peanut butter or jelly in plastic jar
- rice
- spaghetti sauce in plastic jar




WWW.NORTHAMPTONPRESBY.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/NORTHAMPTONPRESBY

HUNGER QUICK FACTS

From the Food Research and Action Center

- One in ten (10.5 percent) of households in the U.S. experience food insecurity.
- One in eight households with children cannot buy enough food for their families.
- The food insecurity rate for households with children (13.6 percent) is considerably higher than the rate for households without children (9.3 percent).
- The rates of food insecurity were much higher for households headed by African Americans (19.1 percent — two and a half times the rate for white non-Hispanic households (7.9 percent)) and Hispanics (15.2 percent — two times the rate for white non-Hispanic households (7.9 percent)).



“Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, my Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you took me into your home. I needed clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ “Then the people who have God’s approval will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and take you into our homes or see you in need of clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ “The king will answer them, I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me.”

- Matthew 25:34-40

“If you give some of your own food to [feed] those who are hungry and to satisfy [the needs of] those who are humble, then your light will rise in the dark, and your darkness will become as bright as the noonday sun.”

- Isaiah 58:10

“He is a merciful creditor, not keeping the items given as security by poor debtors. He does not rob the poor but instead gives food to the hungry and provides clothes for the needy.”

- Ezekiel 18:7

“A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.”

- Proverbs 22:9

“Rather, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing this you will be heaping burning coals on his head.”

- Romans 12:20

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 MAUNDY THURS 10 AM April Food Day Collection 7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service	2 GOOD FRIDAY	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY 10 AM Easter Service Livestream & In-Person	5 7 PM Mission Committee	6 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	7 7 PM Women's Bible Study ZOOM	8 7 PM PNC Mtg	9	10
11 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person 7 PM Deacons	12 7 PM Facilities Committee	13	14 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	15 10 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM 7 PM PNC Mtg	16	17
18 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	19	20 7 PM Session Meeting 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	21 4 PM Women's Digging Deeper Study ZOOM 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	22 7 PM PNC Mtg	23	24
25 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	26	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM	28 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	29 7 PM PNC Mtg	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 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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