

NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

MARCH 2021



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“The Most Difficult Thing”

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

Peter could not believe that he had heard Jesus correctly. “How often am I to forgive, Master? Seven times?”

“No, Peter,” said Jesus. “Seventy times seven times.” Peter knew that he did not need to do the math. Peter knew that Jesus meant that there was to be no limit to what it means to forgive.

How difficult it is to forgive someone, even ourselves, just once, much less over and over. Yet, that is what Christianity is founded upon. The ashes of that first Wednesday mean nothing if they do not mean forgiveness. The penitence of the Lenten season means nothing if it does not mean forgiveness. The Cross of Calvary on Good Friday means nothing if it does not mean forgiveness. The empty grave on Easter Sunday means nothing if it does not mean forgiveness. Grace has no meaning if it does not mean forgiveness. The Lord’s Prayer is emptied of its potency if our debts are not forgiven as we forgive the debts of others. The love of God in Jesus Christ means nothing more than human love, if it is not given to the undeserving before they can imagine that they could be loved at all.



How difficult it is to forgive. How difficult it is to imagine oneself forgiven.

As I prompt all of you in worship every Sunday, “Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel; in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.” Easy to say. Far more difficult to believe it possible.

The core of Christianity is the forgiveness of sins, is the fact that our past never has the last word in the sublime light of God’s grace. The core of Christianity is that our lives never, ever have to stop on Good Friday. Because after Good Friday comes Easter.

How difficult it is to believe that everything we have ever thought or done wrong can be forgiven. How hard it is to believe that there is nothing which cannot be washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ.

But that is the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

Drew

P.N.C. Update

By: Dana Winslow

NPC Congregation,

Your PNC is involved in the core of the Pastor search process—the selection of qualified candidates from the Pastor Information Forms (PIF’s) submitted by Pastors seeking a new church, and the interviewing of interested candidates. For a variety of reasons, many of the candidates for whom we received PIF’s do not seem to be good fits for our church—some have too little experience as solo pastors, others are focused on churches located in urban areas or serving particular demographic segments (Korean or Hispanic for example), and some just don’t have a preaching style that lives up to what we have been used to. As a group, we have learned how to review the qualifications and select out a group that seems to have good potential for our position. We have conducted first interviews with seven candidates and a second interview with two candidates. We still have several candidates whose qualifications we are reviewing. Each week, we pray for our ability to understand God’s guidance as we proceed through this process, and we feel like we are making satisfactory progress. We are grateful for your prayers and support.

Gratefully Submitted,

Dana Winslow, Chairman on behalf of the PNC



Communion Services

Upcoming Communion Services. Be sure to secure your elements, if you will be joining in communion at home. Pre-packaged elements will be supplied to those worshipping in-person.

- Sunday, March 7th at 10 AM
- Maundy Thursday, April 1st at 7:30 PM
- Sunday, May 2nd at 10 AM

Minute for Mission: Ambassadors Football

By: Kathie Piscella

Some of our NPC Mission envelope/online offerings have been designated to support Lucasse Henrilus at Ambassadors Football in Haiti. The below is from their website www.ambassadorsfootball.org/location/haiti

Ministry Overview: In Haiti we use a foundation modeled around the 3 Bs.

A Ball: Soccer is the most popular sport in Haiti. Ambassadors Football Haiti uses the attraction of soccer to start teams at Christian elementary and high schools and churches. These teams use soccer to reach out to the surrounding communities. In Haiti there is complete freedom to share Christ with the opposing team before or after games, and many players and spectators have trusted in Christ through this type of outreach.

A Bible: The Bible is the basis for the Christian character training provided to players involved in our teams. The curriculum introduces our players to Christian morals in a memorable and practical way. Since our goal is to eventually leave the ministry in the hands of trained Haitian leaders, a select group receives specialized leadership training.

A Briefcase: The Briefcase represents the small businesses we are starting to accomplish two objectives: 1) Provide an additional means of income for the 270-300 Haitians who voluntarily run Ambassadors Football Haiti teams in schools. 2) To create a Haitian source of support for Ambassadors Football Haiti so the ministry can eventually become self-supporting. Our largest program is called "Give a kid a kid in Haiti". This program teaches our leaders and players how to raise goats. They are then provided with a pregnant goat for them to raise and use in building a sustainable income for the ministry.



Financial Update

By: Pam Kemper

Dear NPC,

As we begin the new year, we are in a tighter financial position than expected. Our expenses are in line with this time last year but giving is down. Although it is early, we are beginning in a difficult spot with an ~\$2400 loss for January.

The numbers below also include estimates for February. They are added to show the trend for the year to date. Please note that the income is an actual total for the first three Sundays of the month, while the expenses are estimated for the entire month. This would give us another loss for February – possibly significantly higher than January’s. Hopefully when we add the giving for Feb. 28th and firm up expenses, the numbers will improve.

In closing... it is true that the year of on-line worship, Bible Study and committee meetings is wearing on us all. But there are exciting changes coming with the return of in-person worship and a new pastor on the horizon. We are truly a church family and I know there is a plan for us – together. Please prayerfully consider how you can support our church life and ministry in the weeks and months ahead.

- Pam

Monthly Financial Report

Financial Overview

	Jan 2021	Feb-est	
GENERAL FUND INCOME	17,961.60	15,767.33	as of 2/25
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES			
PAYROLL	10,930.25	10,930.25	
BENEFITS	1,064.42	1,064.42	
ADMINISTRATIVE	1,906.62	500.77	estimated
FACILITIES			
PNC Mortgage	4,705.03	4,705.03	
Church Facilities	2,797.92	5,216.04	estimated
PRESCHOOL COST ALLCTN	-1,000.00	-1,000.00	
Total GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	20,404.24	21,416.51	
NET	(2,442.64)	(5,649.18)	

Holy Week Schedule

Our weekly Lent devotionals: *Praying with Scripture During Lent* published by The Presbyterian Outlook, can be found at:

www.northamptonpresby.com/lent

Palm Sunday Worship Service

March 28th at 10 AM

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

April 1st at 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday Worship Service

April 4th at 10 AM

All services will be held by livestream and in-person (Covid numbers permitting).



March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 PM Mission Committee	2	3 7 PM Women's Bible Study ZOOM	4 10 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM 7 PM PNC Mtg	5	6
7 10 AM Communion Service Livestream & In-Person 7 PM Deacons	8 7 PM Facilities Committee	9 7 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	10 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	11 7 PM PNC Mtg	12	13
14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS STARTS 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	15	16 7 PM Session Meeting	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 4 PM Women's Digging Deeper Study ZOOM 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	18 10 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM 7 PM PNC Mtg	19	20
21 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	22	23 7 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	24 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	25 7 PM PNC Mtg	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY 10 AM Palm Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	29	30 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	31 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream			

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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