

NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

NOVEMBER 2024



KEEP READING FOR...

- ***Project Regeneration Update***
- ***Mission Update***
- ***Thanksgiving Blessings***

Livestream Information:

All livestreamed messages are broadcast from our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Northamptonpresby

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

A Word from the Pastor

Rev. Judith A Dwyer

*When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock
And you hear the kyouck and gobble of the struttin' turkey cock
And the clackin' of the guineys, and the cluckin' of the hens
And the rooster's hallylooyer as he tiptoes on the fence
O, it's then's the times a feller is a-feelin' at his best
With the risin' sun to greet him from a night of peaceful rest...*

With these words of James Whitcomb Riley we greet the season when nature takes a deep breath and begins to settle down for a “night of peaceful rest.” Oh, how we wish we too could enter into a time of hibernation, that state of minimal activity characterized by low body temperature, slow breathing and heart-rate, and a low metabolism. All of which we may indeed feel after a big Thanksgiving meal, and none of which provide the stamina we need to face the oncoming rush of the holidays!

Thankfully we in the church are given the opportunity to take a deep breath in the middle of autumn, as the lectionary draws the long season of “ordinary time” to a close with the celebration of “Christ the King”



Sunday on Thanksgiving weekend. Even as the hustle and bustle of shopping, baking, decorating and more waits just around the corner, we can take a pause and rejoice that Christ is indeed Lord of all.

Believing this to be true, we can know deep down in our bones that the God who has given over the keys of the kingdom to the One both human and divine walks with us in every season of our lives. Even when change we don't want is upon us and all we really want to do is pull the covers over our heads and hide away until Spring comes again.

As I have made my way toward retirement, many were the days when I wanted to do just that. To pretend it will not hurt to walk away from a call I have loved and from the people that make this church such a beloved community. Alas, the day of parting lies in wait and so we begin to prepare to say goodbye.

AND – we know that God is with us. In the changes, in the coming and the going, in the time that has been and is now and shall be. We can ease into our night of rest, and know we will wake “a-feelin’ at our best,” ready to meet a new day in the life and work of this body of Christ here in Northampton. What a privilege!

We have much to celebrate, and will have even more before the end of the year arrives. So let us sit down to our Thanksgiving meals with hearts full of gratitude for all God has done and will do, in God's own time. May the blessings of the season be yours, and may the Spirit breathe the abundant peace of Christ into all your celebrations.

Blessings!

Pastor Judy





NPC and Project Regeneration

Following several visioning retreats and a period of discernment, NPC has decided to partner with the Presbyterian Foundation and its Project Regeneration strategic planning initiative. Members of Session, the Finance team, and several congregational members are working with Rev. Rose Niles from the Foundation to discern what the next chapter will hold for NPC.

This will be a long-term project as the Project Regeneration Team (consisting of Andy Chen, Cathy Cocchia, Steve Cocchia, Corinne Kauermann, Sharon Melsky, Kathie Pisciella, Jessica Stehr, and Dana Winslow) reads a book called “The Sailboat Church” by Joan Gray. We will also be praying deeply for the Holy Spirit to guide us on what should be the next phase of NPC’s life as a church. All options are on the table: staying our current course; reinventing our ministry and our physical space; partnering with another church, through a merger or by sharing a pastor; or possibly even closing. But the key is to hear God’s Word through the Holy Spirit to see where we should be going.

The fundamental premise of Project Regeneration and “The Sailboat Church” (from the PCUSA e-commerce website) is that most churches are either “rowboat” churches or “sailboat” churches. Which is NPC? “Rowboat churches depend largely on human effort. When church budgets shrink and membership declines, rowboat churches frantically row harder against a current, often frustrated and disappointed at their efforts. Sailboat churches, on the other hand, take up the oars, hoist sails, and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide them.”

As we work through the process, we will bring regular updates to the congregation, as well as invite input and participation from you. Please pray for the team as they work to discern what God has in store for us in the future, and please pray for your own discernment of whom the Holy Spirit is calling us to be, and what It is calling us to do.

In His name and service,
Jessica Stehr and Andy Chen



Navajo Code Talker John Kinsel Sr. is recognized by Tse Hootsoi Twin Warriors Society members Henry Watchman, left, and Daniel Yazza on Navajo Code Talkers Day in Window Rock, Arizona.

This coming Monday, November 11, is Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. One group that is worthy of mention on this special day is the Navajo Code Talkers, who are honored in a special exhibit at Window Rock, the seat of government of the Navajo Nation in Arizona.

I have been privileged to visit Window Rock twice in the past two years, most recently with my husband, who is a veteran of the Air Force. Though we both find the story of the Code Talkers compelling, it carries special meaning for those who have served behind the scenes as communications specialists in wartime.

The Code Talkers used their knowledge of the Navajo language to create an unbreakable code that played a crucial role in securing victory for U.S. forces in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Their courage and dedication helped save countless lives and contributed significantly to the military's efforts during one of history's darkest periods.

This past September, our group of Americans for Native Americans were welcomed by Theresa, daughter of John Kinsel (the oldest living Code Talker) at the hotel that was our home base while serving at The Community Pantry in Gallup, NM. Theresa is a ball of energy who shared her father's story, as well as the sad news that he was on hospice at that time. He passed away in October at the age of 107, having served his country in an extraordinary and exemplary fashion.

At his funeral, John Kinsel was celebrated as a symbol of bravery and cultural pride. His passing marks the end of an era, as he was one of the last remaining code talkers, leaving behind a profound legacy of service, sacrifice, and love for his homeland. That is the same legacy honored by all who currently serve and the rich inheritance of all of us who live in freedom thanks to every one of our veterans. This Veterans Day, won't you pause to reflect on the many contributions to our lives selflessly made by those who have served uniform?

~ Pastor Judy

DRAWERS FOR DRAWERS is back!



Building on the success of our 2023 Christmas Mission Project we will again be collecting NEW packages of underwear for the children and teens of the Native American reservations served by ANA.* The need is still great and we can help.

From November 17th through Dec. 15th we will be collecting NEW packages of underwear, boys/girls size 4 to 18-20, for students elementary through high school age. (For the larger sizes, solid colors are preferable.) Packages of underwear can be dropped off in the Narthex or in the Church Office during the week.

*Formed in 1991, ANA is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Native Americans on the Hopi, Navajo, and Zuni Nations by providing essential goods and programs which foster self-reliance and mutual understanding.



BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE !

For those of you who wish to contribute in an all-electronic fashion – or just love to buy books - we are also adding a Book Wish-List to our project. The link <https://bit.ly/Baca-Books> will connect you to an Amazon wish list full of books requested by the teachers at the Jimmy Thomas - Baca/Dlo'Ay Azhi Community School. Buy one or more of the books and they will be delivered to the school directly by Amazon.

The process is familiar to most Amazon users but please make sure that the address selected at checkout is the address for the Jimmy Thomas - Baca/Dlo'Ay Azhi Community School. Sometimes it gets buried a bit.

The children and teachers have been so thankful for all that they have received over the last year. You have made a big difference in the lives of many – let's keep it going.

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November 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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3 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30 am CLGS	4 6:30 pm BSA Troop Mtgs 6:00 pm Troop#2367	5 6:15 pm Merit Badge Grp 7:00 pm BSA Troop Mtgs	6 10:00 am Mission Mtgs	7	8	9
10 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30 am CLGS	11 7:00 pm Facilities Cmte 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	12 6:15 pm Merit Badge Grp 7:00 pm BSA Troop Mtgs 7:00 pm Worship Cmte	13 8:30 am Men's breakfast 4:15pm GS Troop # 2934	14	15	16
17 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30 am GW Open House	18 6:00 pm BSA Troop Mtg 6:00 pm GS Troop#2367 7:00 pm BSA Cmte Mtg	19 7:00 pm BSA Troop Mtgs 7:00 pm Session Mtgs	20 4:15pm GS Troop # 2934	21 6:00 pm BSA Troop Mtgs	22	23
24 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30 am CLGS	25	26	27 9:00 am Women's Break- fast	28 THANKSGIVING	29 NATIVE AMERICAN HERIT- AGE DAY	30