

NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

OCTOBER 2021



CONTINUE READING FOR:

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- Minute for Mission
- Final PNC Update
- Financial Update and Monthly Financial Report
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A Word from the Pastor: Word(s)

By: The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

There was a time in our teenagers' lives when any question we asked was met with this reply: "Word."

This succinct response indicated they heard whatever it was we were asking. Even if they chose not to answer the question at that moment!

The words we use to answer life's big questions often leave us figuratively (or really) scratching our heads. Even the word "word" can do that. We can misinterpret what someone is asking, or saying, if we fail to understand which "word" they mean. In our church lives, for instance, it is very possible to be confused about that word, "word." And that matters because we listen differently depending on which "word" is the subject of our inquiries.

In his excellent book "Streams of Living Water," which details the six traditions that define Christian faith and practice, Richard J. Foster helps us to understand what we mean when we refer to "the Word-centered life."¹ The Word comes to in three forms: written, living and spoken. The written Word has, over centuries, been the focus of what we may and do read in

The Word of God



worship. Until the Bible was compiled, edited and published in a way that allowed common folk to own one, the written Word was interpreted for us by councils and priests.

When we were able to hold a Bible in our own hands and read it, interpretation became more an individual, private matter, depending less on communal understanding. This movement from common to solo understanding led to differing views on who the Living Word was (Jesus/Immanuel/Logos, Sophia) and how we should speak of that Word in proclamation and preaching, creeds, public prayer and social action. These differences gave the Presbyterians a good rationale for forming a committee to wrangle the Written, Living and Spoken Word to the ground!

All of this makes me glad that so many of you take the Word living, written and spoken into conversation following worship on Sunday. The practice of *communal reading* is one that welcomes all of us, no matter how or if we ever learned to read the Bible, into a gathering of folk who are trying to figure out what the Word means for their own, lived lives. Think of it as a “rehearsal space:” a place where no one ever needs to feel as if they don’t know enough to talk about the Word of God but are eager to practice it with others.²

So: feel free to sign up for a Christian Life Group to dive into the Word by calling the church office at 215-357-8282. Or, if the Word is a thing you like to sing – or play – you can do that in Choir or by joining our Praise Band. For more ways to live the Word, go to our Facebook page or website at www.northamptonpresby.com. Can you dig it? Word.

Blessings!

Pastor Judy

¹ Richard J. Foster, *Streams of Living Water: Essential Practices from the Six Great Traditions of Christian Faith, Faith*. Copyright © 1998 by Richard J. Foster HarperOne Kindle Edition, p. 186.

² For more, see Anna Carter Florence, *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God’s Word in Community*. MI: Grand Rapids, Wm. B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2018.

**Reminder - Please complete our
Congregational Questionnaire regarding
future church programming found at:
www.northamptonpresby.com/questions**

Minute for Mission: *Bethany Christian Services*

By: Kathy Hurwitz

Mental Health Help

Crisis Text Line



Text 'PA'
to 741741

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline



800-273-8255

Preventing suicide in PA



preventsuicide
pa.org/

Take a screening



bit.ly/
mh-screen

Get Help Now for substance use disorder



800-662-4357

Veterans in crisis



veterans
crisisline.net

PA's support helpline



855-284-2494

Coping with COVID-19 stress



bit.ly/covid-coping

Disaster Distress Helpline



800-985-5990

Mental Health Month

A portion of mission funds support counseling and therapy scholarships to clients at Bethany Christian Services' office in Jenkintown. As the pandemic enters a second year, there has been a rise in the need for individual and family counseling. Of those who treat anxiety disorders, nearly three-quarters reported an increase in demand for treatment.

The mission of Bethany Christian Services to demonstrate the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting children, empowering youth, and strengthening families – all are important for strong communities. Their core beliefs are simple: love God and love people.



Bethany wants to serve as many people as possible. Normal counseling sessions are between \$85 and \$100 per session. For some, this is too expensive to allow for regular counseling sessions, and their insurance is not in network. This is why the counseling/therapy scholarship was set up.

Mission funds are now assisting a sibling set of three – two teen brothers and an older sister. The goals of therapy are to help process past trauma (unknown birthparents and escape from country of origin) and learn healthy coping skills within depression and anxiety diagnoses, while transitioning to new foster homes.

There are lots of myths, misunderstandings and assumptions around mental health, which can lead to stigma (a feeling mental health is something to be ashamed of or hidden). As mental health allies, we can challenge stigma when we see it. We can also be supportive by actively listening, checking in with folks, getting educated (there's lots to learn about mental health) and validating what another is experiencing.

In addition to your donations, please pray that hearts and minds will be open to mental health services and that Bethany staff will have the opportunity to serve them well.

Counseling services at Bethany: <https://bethany.org/get-help/families/family-counseling-services>

"I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me," Matthew 25:40 MSG.

Final PNC Update

By: Dana Winslow

NPC Congregation: The PNC has been officially dissolved by vote of the congregation on October 3rd. The process, lasting just over a year, was a privilege for all of us selected to serve on the committee. It provided an opportunity for us to learn about the Presbyterian denomination, about each other, about the wide variety of preachers/teachers involved in Presbyterian churches, and about how to listen to and discern the will of God. We each endeavored to be honest and forthright in our discussions and I can testify to the earnest involvement of everyone on the committee. Our Zoom meetings were sometimes difficult, but we remained committed to the result of finding the Pastor that God chose to accompany our congregation on the next chapter of the NPC story. We all believe that we have delivered on that mission.

Finally, I just want to extend my personal thanks to the other members of the PNC. Multiple times I anticipated that we would be moving in a particular direction only to have the other members gently nudge me to a better place. The role of Chairperson was made much easier by having a team that all delivered against their commitments to be honest, hardworking, and gentle nudges. Thanks!

Financial Update

By: Pam Kemper

Dear Friends,

Fall is here and for NPC it is traditionally a time to come back together after a summer lull. It is also traditionally a time for a welcome boost to our finances - and this year was no exception. The month of September ended nicely in the black, helping to chip away at the deficits from earlier in the year.

As we look ahead, however, we will be entering a time of increased spending. Payroll costs will be increasing as our new full-time pastor comes on board and new programs are developed. We will also be making some long-delayed investments in technology and building improvements. This is not unexpected spending. We have budgeted for many of these items and Paycheck Protection funds will help finance others. It is an investment in our future as a family of God dedicated to doing His work.

This is a new and exciting time and the faithful stewardship of this congregation will allow us to move into it with confidence and joy.

- Pam

Financial Overview

	Sept 2021	2021-YTD
GENERAL FUND INCOME	21,653.46	178,818.04
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES		
PAYROLL	10,864.95	98,276.98
BENEFITS	1,181.98	9,697.34
ADMINISTRATIVE	608.10	8,720.09
CHRISTIAN ED		37.10
FACILITIES		
PNC Mortgage	4,705.03	42,345.27
Church Facilities	4,366.86	34,101.24
OUTREACH	54.00	54.00
PASTOR SEARCH	342.58	342.58
STEWARDSHIP		254.29
WORSHIP	563.75	2,346.12
PRESCHOOL COST ALLOCATION	-2,300.00	-9,600.00
Total GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	20,387.25	186,575.01
NET	1,266.21	(8,176.56)



FAITH AND FIRE

Elijah

PRISCILLA SHIRER

Video Week 1: The Start of a Process

In this first session, Priscilla introduces us to Elijah, a man of fiery faith. We often consider the exciting chapters of Elijah's story and the great things God did through his life. But before his courageous cry on Mt. Carmel, God took Elijah through a process of sometimes painful growth. In seasons, God does the same with each and every one of His children, so we can be used to bring glory to Him in this generation.

NEW - Women's "Esther" Circle Starts Tuesday, October 26th at 10 AM

We are starting a new women's circle named the Esther Circle, which will be a combination of our former Naomi and Rachel Circles. All women are welcome!

We will be rewatching the video from the Bible Cafe' (Elijah) for those who cannot make it during the evening meetings.

We'll meet the **4th Tuesday of the month** from 10 am to about noon in one of the rooms in the Adult Ed Wing. Please bring your own snack and coffee/tea/other drink for the time being. At some point, we will probably go back to bringing a snack to share. We'll have snack/fellowship, listen/sing to usually a hymn, watch video, go over a few discussion questions and share prayer requests.

We hope you'll join us whenever you can. If you attend the Bible Café and can't make it one Wednesday night, feel free to come to Esther Circle that month to watch the video and join in on the discussion questions.



***Our Women's Bible Café will continue with
Session Two on **Wednesday, Nov. 3rd at 6 PM.*****

Bring a bagged dinner and a friend. All women are welcome!



DRIVE-THRU FOOD DONATION

NORTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
539 BUCK ROAD, HOLLAND, PA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23
10 AM – 12 PM

HELP THE FOOD CENTER AT MORRISVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS BY
DONATING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR
OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Tuna and Canned Meat
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Soups + Stews
- Rice and Dry Beans
- Cereal
- Canned Fruits + Veggies
- Protein Bars

*NO GLASS CONTAINERS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill a bag with non-perishable food.
2. Drive your donation to the NPC parking lot.
3. Stay in your car and drive-thru to drop off your donation.
4. Feel great about helping your neighbors in need!

Contact npcmissions@comcast.net if you have any questions.



Sign-up to Volunteer:

[www.signupgenius.com/
go/10C0C44AAAF23AAAFAC16-drivethru1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C44AAAF23AAAFAC16-drivethru1)



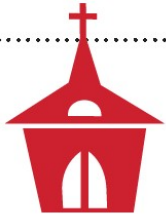
**NPC SHOEBOX
DEDICATION
November 14th**



**SHARING GOOD NEWS,
GREAT JOY!**

120,000+
CHILDREN

on Pacific islands
have received
a shoebox gift.



2,000+
CHURCHES

have been started
around the world in
the last two years in
part through Operation
Christmas Child.



250+
**UNREACHED
PEOPLE GROUPS**

will receive shoebox gifts
and the message of the
Gospel by 2024.

DEAR FRIEND,

Every gift-filled shoebox is a tool for evangelism and discipleship for a local church around the world. At Operation Christmas Child outreach events, boys and girls hear the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ and receive a tangible expression of God's love through one of your prayerfully packed shoeboxes.

I'd encourage you to include a letter and a photo along with your gift as these often become cherished items for the child. One of our ministry partners in Liberia who is also a dean at a Bible college said that some of her students still have the letters they received in their shoeboxes years ago.

We also offer shoebox recipients our follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. Through trained local teachers, boys and girls learn to follow Jesus and share Him with friends and family.

We thank God that through our decades of delivering shoebox gifts, we've shared the Gospel with millions of children in over 160 countries and territories. In the last couple of years, we've also expanded our efforts to remote Pacific islands where we've already communicated this life-changing message to tens of thousands of children. We're also working in unreached ethnic groups, some of whom have never heard the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ before. Praise Him, new churches are starting!

I am thankful for your interest in this unique Samaritan's Purse project. God is working mightily through your generosity. May God bless you.

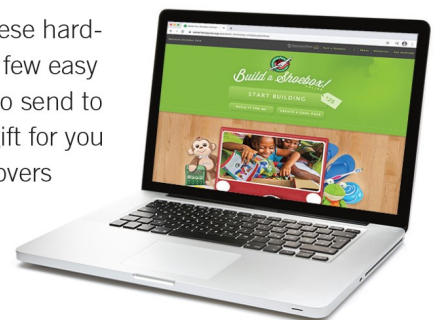
— **Franklin Graham**
President, Samaritan's Purse



Build a Shoebox!
ONLINE

You can help send shoebox gifts to these hard-to-reach areas of the world. In just a few easy clicks online, select items you want to send to a child in need. We'll pack and ship the gift for you for a suggested donation of \$25, which covers the cost of the contents, shipping, and other project costs.

samaritanspurse.org/buildonline



HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX GIFT



As you prayerfully prepare to pack your shoebox gift, please remember that your shoebox may be the only gift the child ever receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last.

1 SHOEBOX



Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted boxes are available on our website.

4 PRAY

Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child.



2 "WOW" ITEM

Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.



5 DONATE \$9 PER BOX

A donation of **\$9** per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing you can give online. If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!



3 OTHER GIFTS

Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.



6 DROP OFF

NPC SHOEBOX DEDICATION
November 14th



06-31-80

samaritanspurse.org/occ

View solicitation disclosure information for Samaritan's Purse online at samaritanspurse.org/disclosure



Do Not Include: candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

For additional gift suggestions and more, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ





October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person 11:15 AM CLGs	11 7 PM Facilities Committee	12 7 PM Worship Committee 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Robin Hood 7 PM Boy Scouts BOR	14 7 PM Choir Practice	15	16
17 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person 11:15 AM CLGs 11:15 AM Deacons Meeting	18 6:30 PM Boy Scouts Committee 7 PM Preschool Board Meeting	19 7 PM Session Meeting 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	20	21 4:30 PM Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM Choir Practice	22	23 10 AM Drive-Thru Food Drive
24 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person 11:15 AM CLGs	25	26 10 AM Esther Circle 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	27 9 AM Women's Breakfast at Manny's Deli	28 7 PM Choir Practice	29	30
31 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person 11:15 AM CLGs						

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

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