

# NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church  
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

FEBRUARY 2023



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Souper Bowl of Caring (2/5) at 10 AM**
- **Lent 'Bible Study for Everyone' (2/7)**
- **Christian Life Groups Lent Study (2/26)**
- **American Red Cross Blood Drive (3/1)**

## *A Word from the Pastor*

*In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree,  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

As I write these words, the weather forecasters – and Punxatawney Phil – are telling us there are six more weeks of winter to endure. Are we surprised? As we make our way through an atypically mild season, save for a few days here and there, we find ourselves searching for signs of new life hidden in the fields shorn of their crops and gardens bereft of buds.

We are also assured that God can see life where we cannot. There's "a spring that waits to be," the hymnwriter reminds us. When temperatures plunge below freezing and ice-covered driveways threaten to throw us off our footing, we are tempted to declare that promise futile. And then something, or someone, comes along to give us a glimpse of hope for a new season to come.

Strange as it may sound, that hope has come to me daily through the songs of the workmen prepping our building for refurbishment. Even in the cold of winter, they have come eager to work. Happy to wield hammers and drills, removing what no longer offers us protection from the elements and building





what will, one layer at a time. The melody of their voices provides a cheerful counterpart to the clanging and banging of their tools.

One day soon, this work will draw to a close, capped off with a final layer of stucco to protect and beautify this house of worship. And we will rededicate our building to the work of God – however God reveals that to us – for the foreseeable future. As joyous as that day will be, it will also serve to remind us that the promise of things to come resides not in any building but in the people that flow in and out of it.

We are God's promise to one another, to our neighbors and to the larger community. Inside each one of us, and within this body of Christ, lie gifts just waiting to be revealed. Things God can use to bless others through nurture of mind, body and spirit. In the midst of winter, it can be difficult for us to imagine that we could possibly have anything worth giving to another – until the sound of their singing penetrates our weariness and we soon find ourselves joining in!

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

This was the promise of God that Natalie Sleeth knew. An organist and composer of hymns and choral music, she married a professor of homiletics. Together, their lives were dedicated to the church and to the glory of God. Mrs. Sleeth's "Hymn of Promise" was composed in early 1985, and dedicated simply "To Ron," her husband, who was diagnosed with cancer and died weeks after its premiere. Soon after the anthem was published, it became a hymn under two different names. You can find it in our hymnal: it's hymn #250, "In the Bulb There is a Flower." In the coldest seasons of our lives, her hymn speaks of the dawn in every darkness. Can we do less?

*In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity,  
in our death, a resurrection, at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

- Pastor Judy







# CURIOUS CHRISTIANS ALERT!

Upcoming Adult Education Offerings

## Christian Life Groups

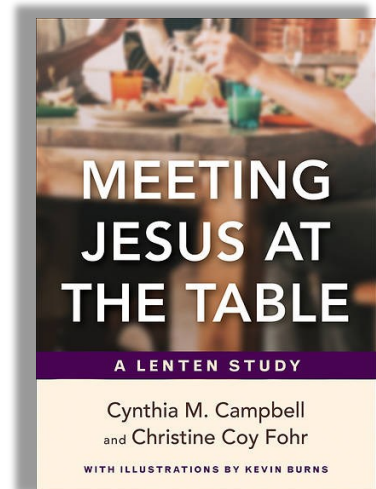
CLG's will meet in our traditional format on 2/5, 2/12 and 2/19.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (2/22). From 2/26 through 4/2, CLG's will engage in a Lenten study of ***Meeting Jesus at the Table*** by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. This study of food insecurity and how churches can meet this need is described below:

*The Gospels are full of stories of Jesus sharing meals with disciples, friends, even tax collectors and Pharisees. Whether multiplying bread to feed a whole crowd, relaxing with his inner circle, or telling curious elites stories about even greater banquets, Jesus imparts wisdom as he shares the wine and grants forgiveness as he distributes the fish. This eight-chapter resource provides biblical insights along with thought-provoking queries regarding our own time, such as whom should we invite to Sunday dinner and who is left out and left behind in our culture today.*

Preaching will coincide with the chapters each week.

If you would like a copy, please email ([npchurch@comcast.net](mailto:npchurch@comcast.net)) or call Melissa in the office. *If you wish to make a donation towards your copy of the book, it costs \$13.49.*



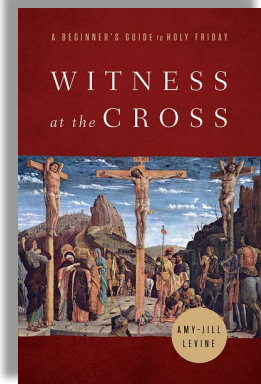
## “Bible Study for Everyone”

Tuesdays at 10:30 AM.

We will continue to study Amy Jill’s work using her short book, “*Witness at the Cross: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Friday*”

Available on Amazon.

2/7, 2/14, (NO Bible Study 2/21), 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21 and 3/28.



## Sharing Sessions

If you missed any of our Sharing Sessions, they have been recorded and posted on the “Special Events” playlist of our YouTube channel. You can find a link to this at the top of our Sermon Videos webpage: [www.northamptonpresby.com/sermon-videos](http://www.northamptonpresby.com/sermon-videos)

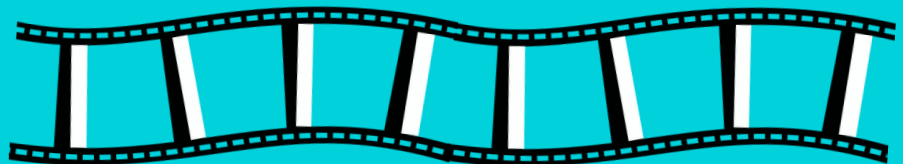
(click on: [Special Events](#))

If you have a hidden interest or talent you’d love to share with us, please call Pastor Judy to schedule a day and time to present.

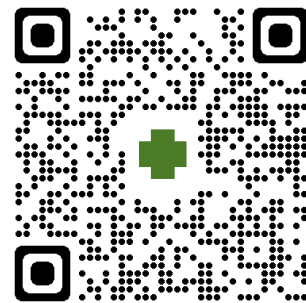
Future sessions include a two-part presentation on **The Work and Faith of JRR Tolkien** (author best known for “*The Fellowship of the Ring*”) by Corinne Kauermann, and a hands-on/visual tour of the wonderful world of **Bicycling** by John Dwyer.



Save the date — We are planning another congregational **Movie Night** for **FRIDAY, MARCH 24th**. More info will be coming soon!







## FOOD DRIVE FEBRUARY 5TH

Benefitting the Morrisville Food Center

In 1990, a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" was delivered to a small youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC led by Brad Smith, who was serving as a seminary intern at the time.

This gave birth to an idea. Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food and fun, to unite the nation for a higher good? Individuals and groups could collect dollars in soup pots and canned food for those in need and send every dollar and food donation DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

### Did you know?

- 48 million Americans live in poverty? <sup>[1]</sup>
- 1 in 7 Americans face hunger every day? <sup>[1]</sup>
- More than 630,000 people in the United States are homeless? <sup>[2]</sup>
- 23% of those struggling went to college? <sup>[1]</sup>
- Or that 16 million children live in food insecure households? <sup>[1]</sup>

### References:

1. <http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-facts/hunger-and-poverty-statistics.aspx> Hunger & Poverty Statistics
2. <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/the-state-of-homelessness-2013> The State of Homelessness in America 2013

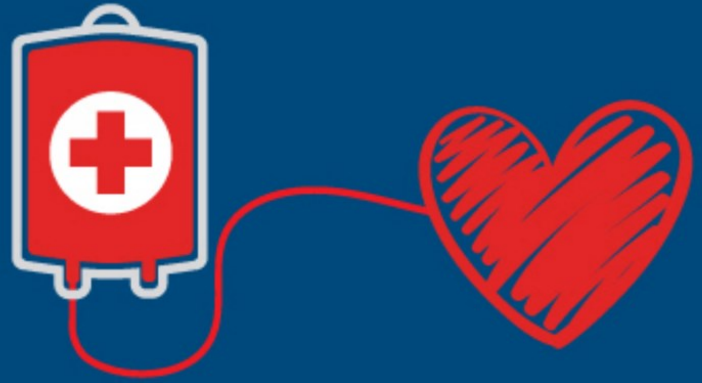
People across the nation work to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. A collection is taken up (many people use a soup pot), asking for one dollar or one item of food, which could be soup for people in need. 100% of our donation goes directly to the local hunger-relief charity of our choice.

For Northampton Presbyterian Church, the Morrisville Food Center is our designated recipient. In 2019 more than 8,00 groups collected over \$9.7 million and food for local hunger-relief charities. Since the pandemic, food insecurity has grown at a tremendous rate. Please help us grow this movement and tackle hunger in America!

Please join us on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup>** for the Northampton Presbyterian Church **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**. Let's all work together to help stamp out hunger in Bucks County! Donations and food will be collected at the end of the worship service.

For more information see the YouTube link:  
<https://youtu.be/4RWCSOGZxbw>

Kindness  
is in your blood.



**American  
Red Cross**

**Blood Drive**  
**Northampton  
Presbyterian Church**

Fellowship Hall  
539 Buck Road  
Holland, PA 18966

**Wednesday, March 1, 2023**  
**1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

Please call **1-800-RED CROSS** (1-800-733-2767) or visit **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter zipcode 18966 to schedule an appointment. Or contact Cathy Cocchia [cycocchia@gmail.com](mailto:cycocchia@gmail.com).

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible **type O, B - or A - donor**, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting **RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass** to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



**ALL BLOOD  
TYPES NEEDED**





# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5</p> <p>10 AM Communion Worship Livestream &amp; In-Person</p> <p><b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b></p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts BOR</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6 PM Cub Scouts (Bears #1)</p> <p>6 PM Girl Scouts Troop 2320</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts—Summer Camp Mtg</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:30 AM Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Robin Hood</p> <p>4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop 2934</p> <p>7 PM Boy Scouts Leaders Mtg.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream &amp; In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 PM Cub Scouts (Webelos #3)</p> <p>7 PM Facilities Com</p> <p>7 PM Cub Scouts (Tigers #2)</p>	<p>14 VALENTINE'S DAY</p> <p>10:30 AM Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>7 PM Worship Com</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15</p> <p>4 PM Women's "Digging Deeper" Study</p> <p>7 PM Cub Scouts (Tigers #2)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1 PM Esther Circle</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>(Church Office Closed)</p> <p>4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop 2545</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream &amp; In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p>	<p>20 PRESIDENTS' DAY</p> <p>(Church Office Closed)</p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts Committees</p> <p>7 PM Cub Scouts (Lions #4)</p> <p>7 PM Preschool Board Mtg.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7 PM Session Mtg</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>22 ASH WEDS LENT BEGINS</p> <p>9 AM Women's Breakfast at Manny's Deli</p> <p>4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop 2934</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream &amp; In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6 PM Girl Scout Troop 2320</p> <p>6 PM Boy Scouts Seabase '23 Mtg.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:30 AM Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>MAR 1</p> <p><b>American Red Cross Blood Drive 1:30-6:30 PM</b></p> <p>7 PM Cub Scouts (Lions #4)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop 2545</p>	<p>4</p>

## Livestream Information:

All "livestreamed" messages are broadcasted from our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/northamptonpresby](http://www.facebook.com/northamptonpresby)  
 Sunday Worship Services are additionally posted on our website: [www.northamptonpresby.com/sermon-videos](http://www.northamptonpresby.com/sermon-videos)

*Northampton Presbyterian Church*

539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966 215-357-8282 Fax 215-364-5867  
 CHURCH OFFICE: [npchurch@comcast.net](mailto:npchurch@comcast.net) PASTOR: [npcdwyer@comcast.net](mailto:npcdwyer@comcast.net)  
[www.northamptonpresby.com](http://www.northamptonpresby.com)