

NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA

JULY 2020



Something Old, Something New

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

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The I had just returned from the bookstore at Princeton Seminary. If ever something was invented to tax my will power, a bookstore qualifies. I love bookstores. I could go broke in bookstores. I could get lost in bookstores. I *have* gotten lost in bookstores.

I ordered a few books. I could not help it. I hesitate to tell you the titles, though, for fear that you will think me daft. But, if I cannot trust the brothers and sisters of faith with my little oddities, who can I trust, right?!!!!

Here goes. I ordered a copy of *The New Testament and Psalms; an Inclusive Version*. I also ordered the two volume set of Schneemelcher's definitive *New Testament Apocrypha* (Honest; there is a guy with the name of Schneemelcher!). And I bought a copy of the Jewish Publication Society's *Hebrew-English Tanakh* (In case you are wondering, "Tanakh" is what our Jewish brothers and sisters call their Bible; you would likely call it the Old Testament).



In any event, this translation of the Hebrew scriptures is lovely: blue leather, gilt edges, and gold lettering, printed on exquisite paper. It is a beautiful book on the outside. But what is truly interesting is the inside. It is a *new* translation of the Hebrew scriptures for Jews.

Reading the forward of the book is fascinating. In it, they describe the challenge of translating ancient, previously translated, and familiar texts into Modern English idiom. In essence, they confront the problem of taking something old and familiar and rendering it into the fresh, yet elegant language of something new. They talk about how difficult it is to hear the old, old story, often told in words whose meaning are fading, in new cadences and images. They talk about trying to do a new thing with something that is so traditionally known. They talk about the struggle of being new and fresh without losing faithfulness to the heart of scripture. They talk about respecting traditional understandings without shutting out God's opportunity to speak fresh wisdom to a modern world.

It is the same old story. Always, always the struggle is to cherish the traditional while adapting to new times and needs. Simply put, we worship a God of history Who relates to us in *modern terms*. God is not done speaking to us, not finished with calling us to do new and wondrous things in God's name. God speaks *contemporary* English. Yet, to lose the traditional means to lose those roots which allow us to remember that the God of history is reliable.

How do we preserve what is precious and traditional to us at NPC while allowing God to continue to lead us in the present and into the future? We need to know the vocabulary of what God has done in the past; we need to be ready to learn to sing a new song, and to speak the different language of the present time. It requires us to listen intently, to worship deeply, to respect voices who use differing idioms, and to lift up what we hold dear. It requires also that we let go of that which is no more than the Pharisaism of the present age.

The life of our church is a fluid thing. We have much to remember. And much yet to say and to do. In Jesus' name.

- Drew



Sunday Morning Worship Policy

At their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday evening, June 16th, the NPC Session decided to extend the present policy of remote Facebook worship through to the Labor Day holiday. After Labor Day, the Session will revisit the policy and again entertain whether to return to in-person worship in our sanctuary.

The reasoning is simple; despite the county entering the green status as a community, in-person worship remains one of the venues often referred to as a “Super Spreader” environment. Even without choral or congregational hymn singing – and there could be none – sanctuary worship presents elevated risks to anyone attending, but especially to those individuals who are in the high-risk categories. A huge percentage of our congregation would qualify as “High Risk”.

It is with sadness, but with conviction that Session has decided to continue their policy of virtual worship. In this we join with nearly all of our Presbyterian sister churches who plan to reconsider the issue following Labor Day.

Nominating Committee Update

By Jacqui Edwards

On June 14th, at the congregational meeting, the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) presented a slate of elders and deacons for election. The congregation elected for Elder Class of 2023: Dana Winslow (2nd term), Kathy Hurwitz, and Cathy Cocchia; for Deacons Class of 2023: Liz Kauermann, Carole Housel, and Carolyn Mee; for Deacons Class of 2022: Mary McCaffrey (2nd term) and Nadine Fern. They will be installed during an upcoming worship service in July.

The CNC continues to work on nominations for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and should be able to present a slate in the next several weeks. If anyone would like to suggest someone for the PNC, please contact that person and confirm that they are willing to serve if elected before passing on the name to a member of the CNC. The current CNC is Andy Chen, Jacqui Edwards, Kathy Hurwitz, Liz Kauermann, and Sharon Melsky.

Once the PNC is nominated and elected in July, the newly elected Congregational Nominating Committee will be made active for 2020-2021. Those members are Andy Chen, Liz Kauermann, and Sharon Melsky. They will be responsible for nominating elders and deacons next spring for the June 2021 congregational meeting as well as nominating for the preschool board which Session elects.

A detailed graphic for the Rocky Railway VBS. It features a steam locomotive pulling a train through a mountainous landscape with evergreen and deciduous trees. A large, metallic-looking sign with the words 'ROCKY RAILWAY' and the tagline 'JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH' is prominently displayed. The background shows a blue sky with clouds and a rainbow arching over the train.

ONLINE VBS AUGUST 17-21

CLIMB ABOARD FOR MOUNTAINS OF FUN AT ROCKY RAILWAY! ON THIS FAITH-FILLED ADVENTURE, KIDS DISCOVER THAT TRUSTING JESUS PULLS THEM THROUGH LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS.

Vacation Bible School Update


By Jacqui Edwards

NPC has hosted VBS every summer for as long as I can remember, and for many years before that. This year is no exception, although there will be some changes for VBS 2020. Instead of meeting in the church and shepherding children from station to station for four nights in June, we will be moving to Facebook as a safer alternative. Music, crafts, lessons, and games will all be prerecorded by volunteers from NPC and posted each day during the week of August 17-21.

This means we need your help. We have “scripts” for all the activities and lessons, but we need volunteers to record themselves leading a small portion of VBS. This year it's even more flexible than past years, as you can record according to your schedule and it will only take a short amount of time. **If you would like to volunteer for this important job, please email me at jajacobs@gmail.com or call me at 484-410-1858.**



JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	2 10 AM Bible Study on Zoom	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 
5 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Livestream	6	7	8 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	9	10	11
12 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Livestream	13	14 7 PM Theology on Tap—Zoom Mtg	15 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	16 10 AM Bible Study on Zoom	17	18
19 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Livestream	20	21 7 PM Session Mtg.	22 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24	25
26 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Livestream	27	28	29 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	30 10 AM Bible Study on Zoom	31	

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

As are Wednesday Night Fireside Chats: www.northamptonpresby.com/fireside-chat-videos

Zoom Meetings:

All upcoming events using Zoom will require a Meeting ID number and Password to join. They will be emailed the week of the meeting. If you have never used Zoom, please download the app or visit www.zoom.us/join to install Zoom onto a computer. **For a tutorial visit** <https://youtu.be/9isp3qPeQ0E>

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