

NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

MARCH 2024



KEEP READING FOR..

- *One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Special Offering*
- *Lent Schedule of Services*


HE IS
RISEN

Livestream Information:

All “livestreamed” messages are broadcasted from our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/northamptonpresby

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

“A LISTENING”

by Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

Going through Lent is a listening.

When we listen to the word,
we hear where we are so blatantly
unliving.

If we listen to the word,
and hallow it into our lives,
we hear how we can so abundantly
live again.

A Word from the Pastor

By: The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

Dear Friends,

Wherever you are when this letter finds you, it will be on your journey toward Easter. That journey invariably begins in the season of the calendar year that is typically gray and changeable, the weather shifting suddenly from howling wind and hail one day to sunny and crisp the next.

Our moody weather seems a fitting backdrop to our Lenten pilgrimage. As those who have only ever existed in a post-resurrection world, we have the advantage of knowing what joy waits for us at the end of our travels. It takes a leap of imagination for us to conjure up a world that was caught in the mood of March, without that resolution anywhere in sight. What did people long for in those dark days, and who did they believe would bring an end to their despair?

The story that comes to us in the word – scripture – speaks of a human yearning for one who would save the world, individually and corporately, from its captivity to all that was life-draining: the iron hand of imperial rule; the lack of enough to feed and clothe all; oppressive practices that enslaved servant and master alike. It must have come as quite a surprise to find that even a Savior was not meant to do the work of rescuing that we, as mortals, are meant to do for one another. Which is just one of the many gifts Jesus brought to a hurting and wounded world.

I like the way Robert Funk writes about our call to action as followers of Jesus:

Jesus did not settle down at Nazareth or Capernaum and then instruct his companions to bring people to him. Jesus went to the people where they were and the stories he told were right out of life: the victim of a mugging on a lonely road; day laborers sitting around on their haunches waiting to be hired; hungry beggars at the city gate; people taking each other to court; homeless, demon-possessed people without caretakers; being rejected by neighbors in his hometown; bankers making loans at usurious rates; a friend banging on the door at midnight. (Funk; A Credible Jesus; p. 11)

We receive life at immeasurable cost in order to become life-givers to others. This means we must go wherever they are, even if the road they are traveling is very dark, to bring them a glimpse of the light we find waiting at the end of our walk toward that empty tomb. I hope you will join us for this season of shadows that turns to daybreak.

Come for worship on Palm Sunday, March 24th at 10 am to hear the remarkable sound of the trumpet announce Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Gather at the table to remember the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, March 28th, at 6:30 pm. Then join us for celebration on Easter Sunday, March 31st at 10 am, when we will declare to a weary world that "He is risen! Christ is risen indeed!" Alleluia! Amen.

- *Pastor Judy*

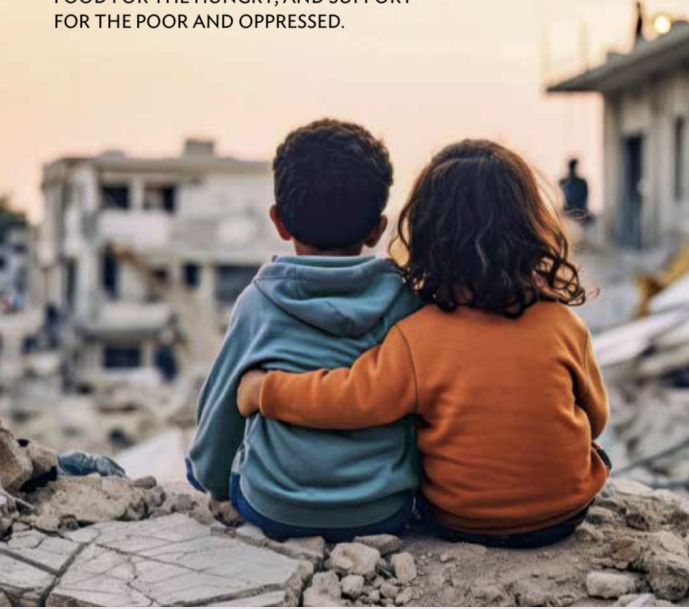


REPAIRING THE BREACH

75 YEARS

— ISAIAH 58

PROVIDING RELIEF FROM NATURAL DISASTERS, FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, AND SUPPORT FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

MINUTE FOR MISSION (from www.specialofferings.pcusa.org)

Repairers of the Breach – Fixing What’s Broken

*“In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.”*

~from “A Brief Statement of Faith” of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

How? How do we heal the brokenness and fear in the world when it seems so pervasive? How can we share hope in a world that is so conflicted? Our political brokenness. Our cultural brokenness. The brokenness of our climate. Even brokenness between and among religious communities. That is not to mention the brokenness we feel in our own lives, and the lives of those we know and love. Physical and emotional and yes, even spiritual brokenness. All of that brokenness coupled with fear — fear of the other, of the unknown, of the future.

How? Brokenness is the human condition. But it is not acceptable to God, so it should not become acceptable to us. In Isaiah 58, God, through the voice of the prophet, calls us to be repairers of the breach. For Isaiah, the primary breach was between God and God’s people. That breach takes on human form in oppression, injustice, hunger, homelessness, affliction.

Isaiah 58, which culminates in our One Great Hour of Sharing theme, is a veritable litany of how we are called to repair brokenness. Read the entire chapter. Note what we are called to do: shout, announce, loose, undo, break, cover, house, and share. We are called to repair brokenness by putting our faith in action — pray, welcome, unmask, hear, work. Give.

The opposite of faith, it has been said, is not doubt, but fear. Doing the work, sowing the seeds through our giving that will transform prayer into action — goes a long way to transform fear into hope. That work can look like many things — offering shelter in the face of natural disaster, providing economic support in the face of poverty, and providing food in the face of hunger.

If we answer the call to be repairers of the breach, we will, by God’s grace, be led into a new season of justice, freedom and peace. For when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray ~ *Help us to delight in you, O God, that we might become agents of healing and hope, repair and restoration. Transform our brokenness and fear into justice and mercy, and bless our work to share your love. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs ~



HOUSE RESTORATION - VILLAT



KASUPE MINISTRIES



CARIDAD GARDENS

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

*Restore Streets
to Live In*

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

*Share your Bread
with the Hungry*

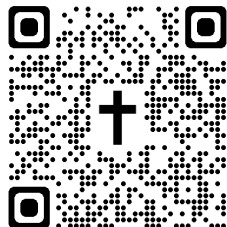
SELF- DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

*Loose the Bonds
of Injustice*

WAYS TO GIVE:

Please use your OGHS envelope, or mark cash or check (*made out to “Northampton Presbyterian Church”*) for **“OGHS.”**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO GIVE ONLINE:



Palm Sunday
March 24th - 10 AM

Mundy Thursday
March 28th - 6:30 PM

Easter Sunday
March 31st - 10 AM

LENT
Services
& Events

In-Person &
Livestreamed



March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30 PM CS Den #1—Tigers</p> <p>7 PM CS Den #3—AOL</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11 AM Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Robin Hood</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10 AM Esther Circle</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6 PM Girl Scout Troop #2367</p> <p>6 PM Boy Scouts Committees</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11 AM Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p> <p>7 PM Session Mtg.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5 PM GS Troop #2934</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 PM CS Den #1—Tigers</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9 AM Women's Breakfast at Manny's</p>	<p>28 MAUNDY THURS.</p> <p>6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>29 GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>(Church Office Closed)</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p>10 AM Easter Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person</p>	<p>APRIL 1</p> <p>(Church Office Closed)</p> <p>6 PM Girl Scout Troop #2367</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10 AM Mission Committee</p> <p>5 PM GS Troop #2934</p> <p>6 PM CS Den #2—Wolves</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>10 AM Communion Service Livestream & In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 PM CS Den #1—Tigers</p> <p>7 PM CS Den #3—AOL</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Robin Hood</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>

Northampton Presbyterian Church

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