

NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

JANUARY 2022



CONTINUE READING FOR:

- *A Pastoral Reflection on MLK Jr. Day*
- *Anti-Racism Resources*
- *Minute for Mission*
- *Thank-you Notes*
- *MLK Day Drive Thru Food Drive*
- *Upcoming Lent Series*
- *Calendar & Livestream Information*

A Word from the Pastor

By: *The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer*

"Ring Out, Wild Bells" (By Alfred Lord Tennyson)

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true*

*Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.*

*Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.*

*Ring out the want, the care the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*





Dear Friends,

I have chosen to share with you a classic poem for the new year by Alfred Lord Tennyson. For me, this speaks to all that comes to us in the space of a year: the joys, the sorrows, the hopes and fears and yes, the many unexpected changes.

Tennyson also eloquently reminds us of our mandate to “ring in the Christ that is to be.” While this is our challenge every year, the past year + has prodded us to consider all kinds of new ways to do just that. As you read this, we are approaching almost two years of living with all that a pandemic means for our lives, both in and outside of the church. What can we bring with us from this experience that will help us live into 2022 with hope and expectation?

We can bring with us the fact that we are still here, as a body of Christ in a particular place. We can bring with us thanksgiving for vaccinations that allow us to gather for worship and even to sing together. We can celebrate new beginnings and embrace new ways of being the church in our time and place. We can rejoice in all the gifts with which God has blessed NPC to reach out to the larger community.

We can bring a newfound flexibility in adapting to changing circumstances and a spirit of creativity in “thinking outside-the-box.” We can bring a gracious capacity to be the church of Jesus Christ in our time and in our way and energy for building on all of these things.

I know you can think of even more we can bring to this exciting new year. God is not finished with us, and that is a thing in which we can rejoice! So ring out the old and ring in the new! Ring in the church that is to be! Alleluia! May it be so.

Blessings!

Pastor Judy

A Pastoral Reflection on MLK Jr Day, January 17, 2022

By: The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

“I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro’s great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen’s Council-er or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to ‘order’ than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says, ‘I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can’t agree with your methods of direct action;’ who paternalistically feels he can set the timetable for another man’s freedom; who lives by the myth of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait until a ‘more convenient season.’ Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.”

~ Martin Luther King Jr, “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” April 16, 1963



For me – a white pastor raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia in the ‘60’s – it has always seemed disingenuous to approach the topic of racism with any sense of authority. Especially when speaking with a white congregation. I know precious little about being a person of color in our nation. Or how to unpack the connection between the church and its long history of participation in racist acts. I ponder what it means to live alongside the poorest large city in America, and how poverty intersects with the color of a person’s skin.

Some years ago I began to explore what I did not know about structural racism. (I had to learn what that meant). I became aware that I was unaware of the biases I inherited throughout my childhood, and how overwhelming that awareness can be. But feeling overwhelmed and giving in to that feeling are two different things. I concluded that none of us can afford to allow our feelings of confusion and defensiveness and fear to rule the day. There is simply too much at stake.

I share this little bit of my truth with you because I want you to know I am still learning. And because I feel a responsibility, as a white pastor in the Philadelphia Presbytery, to let all of us know we are not off the hook. We need to do the work of engaging this reality. Where to begin?

How about with Matthew 25: “‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Jesus’ command has been translated into the Matthew 25 Initiative by our own presbytery, whose excellent livestream series, “Being Matthew 25” begins on the PCUSA Facebook page on January 20 at 1 pm. Anyone can join to learn more about becoming a Matthew 25 congregation.¹

As we celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I invite us to consider what a historically Black congregation calls “MLK Day.” They’ve named it “Beloved Community Day,” remembering Dr. King’s goal of building a beloved community through reconciliation and redemption.² Let us do our part in building that community (See the following pages for additional resources).

~ Pastor Judy

¹ Presbyterian Mission Agency Matthew 25 Program and Mission Quick Links | Presbyterian Mission Agency .

² Kipton Jensen and Preston King, “Beloved Community: Martin Luther King, Howard Thurman, and Josiah Royce.” *AMITY: The Journal of Friendship Studies* (2017) 4:1, 15-31



Anti-Racism Resources

PCUSA:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/racial-equity-womens-intercultural-ministries/gender-and-racial-justice-ministries>

Presbyterian Mission Agency Matthew 25 in the PC(USA): A bold vision and invitation | Presbyterian Mission Agency

Coming to the Table:

<http://comingtothetable.org/lbrh>

Books

- [The Little Book of Racial Healing](#) Thomas Norman DeWolf and Jodie Geddes
- [Anxious To Talk About It](#) Carolyn Helsel
- [Ten Essential Strategies for Becoming A Multi-Racial Congregation](#) Jacqueline J. Lewis and John Janka
- [Good White Racist?](#) Kerry Connelly
- [Caste](#) Isabel Wilkerson
- [Why Are the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?](#) Beverly Daniel Tatum PhD
- [Between the World and Me](#) Ta-Nehisi Coates
- [Me and White Supremacy](#) Layla F Saad
- [I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness](#) Austin Channing Brown
- [How to be an Anti-Racist](#) Ibram Kendi
- [The New Jim Crow](#) Michelle Alexander
- [White Fragility](#) Robin DiAngelo
- [Just Mercy](#) Bryan Stevenson
- [Radical Reconciliation](#) Curtiss Paul DeYoung
- [Where Do We Go From Here: Strategic Living for Stressful Times](#) Dr. David Jeremiah
- [Dear White Christians](#) Jennifer Harvey
- [Between Barack and a Hard Place](#) Tim Wise
- [Devil in the Grove](#) Gilbert King
- [The Warmth of Other Suns](#) Isabel Wilkerson



Articles

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

Becoming less defensive about white privilege | The Christian Century

Movies

- *I Am Not Your Negro*
- *13th*
- *When They See Us*
- *Whose Streets?*
- *Dear White People*

Documentary

Let the World See: Mamie Till-Mobley Let the World See (TV Series 2022–)
- IMDb

Podcasts

- <https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/>
- 1619 on Apple Podcasts
- Floodlines on Apple Podcasts
- Activist Theology Podcast on Apple Podcasts
- Intersectionality Matters! on Apple Podcasts
- Reveal on Apple Podcasts
- The Stakes on Apple Podcasts
- Come Through with Rebecca Carroll on Apple Podcasts



Minute for Mission: *The Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church*

By: Kathie Pisciella

Some of our NPC Mission envelope/online offerings are designated to support the Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church (website: www.mpcusa.org/food-center), as well as non-perishable food donations.

Our church is committed to meeting the physical needs of our community through a strong partnership with the Food Center. We have responded to the increasing rates of those needing food assistance during the pandemic with quarterly food drives, benefiting those in the Lower Bucks County and Trenton, NJ areas.

In addition to the quarterly food drives being held at Northampton Presbyterian Church for delivery to the Food Center, a table and basket are available in our narthex. Please drop off your non-perishable donations any Sunday when you are attending worship. All items are welcome, but if you would like suggested items to purchase, these are some: canned beans, canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat entrée (stew, chili), canned soup, canned tuna fish, cereal, macaroni and cheese in box, milk (evaporated or shelf stable), pasta, peanut butter or jelly in plastic jar, rice, spaghetti sauce in plastic jar.

The mission of the Food Center is to provide supplemental food assistance to food-insecure families in Lower Bucks County and the greater Trenton area in a caring and respectful manner. They have been doing this since 1997. Any individual or family residing in this service area may visit the Food Center for assistance. The Food Center is entirely volunteer operated and is dependent on donations of food and money from the community. Based on family size, clients receive a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, eggs, dairy products, bakery items, personal care items and household items, as well as diapers and pet food.

“Ways to Help the Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church” – Our next Drive-Thru Food Drive is Monday, January 17th from 10 AM to noon. RAIN DATE Sunday, January 23rd from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

“Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him,” Proverbs 14:31.

Thank-you Notes

January 3, 2022

To the Missions Committee of Northampton Presbyterian Church:

On behalf of the Counseling Department of Bethany Christian Services of the Greater Delaware Valley, I want to offer a heartfelt THANK YOU for the donation made by your Missionary Committee to our counseling scholarship fund.

Now more than ever, people are struggling to make sense of their lives. We are living in a season of collective trauma, often complicated by grief, loss, isolation, fear, and other issues that are making adjustment to everyday life difficult. Your gift will make it possible for families who do not have the necessary insurance coverage to obtain the help and support they need.

Christian service is about being the hands and feet of Jesus on the earth. We are excited that you have decided to partner with us as we do this important work. Thank you again for your generous contribution and I pray that 2022 will be a year of blessings and an abundance of God's favor upon your ministry.

Yours in Christian Love,

Sherri Humphries, Ph.D., LPC, NCC
Clinical Supervisor
Bethany Christian Services GDV

January 6, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Praise God! We are so richly blessed by your generous donation. You are making a life changing difference for our guests and are putting God's calling to love the least of these into action.

Thanks,

Elizabeth Hefner, CFRE
Director of Advancement
Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission

BENEFITING THE FOOD CENTER AT
MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MLK DAY

Drive-Through Food Donation Event



**AT THE PARKING LOT OF
NORTHAMPTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
539 BUCK ROAD, HOLLAND, PA**

ITEMS NEEDED:

baby food/formula · canned food (beans, chicken, fruit, soup, tuna, green and non-green vegetables) · cat/dog food · cereal · diapers, especially size 5 or 6 · feminine hygiene products · macaroni and cheese in box · milk (1-qt. shelf stable) · pasta with meat (Chef Boyardee or similar) · peanut butter/jelly in plastic jar · rice (1 lb.) · spaghetti sauce in plastic jar

**RAIN DATE is scheduled for January 23rd, 11:30 AM—1:30 PM.
An announcement will be made this Sunday, if necessary.**



WWW.NORTHAMPTONPRESBY.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/NORTHAMPTONPRESBY

Save the Dates



VOICES OF MISSION

A speaker series on Wednesday nights during Lent.

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!

January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	17 MLK DAY 10 AM Drive-Thru Food Drive (Rain date 1/23) 7 PM Preschool Board Meeting	18 7 PM Session Meeting 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	19 7 PM Boy Scouts Board of Review	20 7 PM Boy Scouts Life-Eagle Session 7 PM Choir Practice	21	22
23 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE 11:15 AM CLGs	24 6:30 PM Boy Scouts Committee	25 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	26 9 AM Women's Breakfast at Manny's Deli	27 12:30 PM Esther Circle 7 PM Choir Practice	28	29
30 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person 11:15 AM Annual Congregational Meeting	31	1 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	2 10 AM SBRM Blanket Group 6 PM Women's Bible Café	3 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 7 PM Choir Practice	4	5
6 10 AM Communion Service Livestream & In-Person 11:15 AM CLGs	7 7 PM Mission Committee	8 6:45 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Worship Committee		10 7 PM Choir Practice	11	12

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

Covid surge conditions continue to be monitored weekly. Look for mid-week announcements notifying us of livestream only services.

Northampton Presbyterian Church

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