

# NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church  
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

MAY 2021



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## “Where to After Easter?”

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

It is pretty clear that there is a hunger in the land for something deeper than the everyday. The isolation of Covid life, the fragmentation of relational living, the speed at which events occur, the unreliability of those things upon which we have depended, the hollowness of material gain... all of these things seem to be prompting a searching for a deeper level of life and awareness. In fact, the largest generation present in our society today has been called by at least one writer “A Generation of Seekers.” It is fair to say that they are still looking.

What we seek is something to which we can anchor our lives. It is perhaps the perversity of our times that we have allotted only our left-over time for that search; who, to be honest, has any “left over time”!

The truth is that we do seek something greater than ourselves. We seek the Holy. We seek the Unblemished. We seek the Faithful. We seek the Timeless. We seek that which transcends the cares and frustrations of this world.

But seeking and finding do not yield to time management. They cannot be allotted a slot on alternate Wednesdays, right after our time to work out at



the gym. Seeking and finding are notoriously messy activities which do not submit to our control. Seeking is not an event to be scheduled; finding is not ours to control. Together they are, instead, a way of life. Or should I rather say, a Way of Life.

Let me suggest a Bible verse to send us on our way into the time following Easter, and hopefully into a life full of seeking and finding. Colossians 3:17 says, “And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him.”

First of all, this is the perfect guide to help us determine what we should (and shouldn't!) be doing. If you seek to know right from wrong, then think on this: If you can do something with Jesus, then it is okay; if you would rather not have him along, then get out of there.

Second of all, the verse implies that we live lives of prayerfulness. In worship, we pray our prayers “in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.” To do something in Jesus’ name means to translate that action into a prayer. It offers us the perfect opportunity to be in prayer a lot, looking for guidance and wisdom and perspective. Imagine the advantage we would have if we went into a business meeting only after having prayed for guidance. Imagine how much easier it would be to hold our tempers and reason kindly with an adversary if we pray first, seeking help for what and how we should say and do. Imagine how much calmer we might be out in the neighborhood if driving home was prefaced by prayer. Imagine how much smarter we might be, how much more temperate we might be, how much more tender we might be, how much more open we might be to the beauty around us if we paused in prayer regularly before taking on the next item on our calendar. In this way, we could be doing everything in the name of Jesus. What a transformation that would work in human life.

We seek that which is Holy. I can tell you that the Holy is seeking us. To make our lives a walk with Jesus is to make our hearts open to his Way. It is to insure that when God has something to tell us, we will be ready to hear. It is in the hearing that finding takes place.

- Drew

## **Directory Updates:**

*Kyle & Laura Wilson  
(new baby boy—Rowan Bray Wilson)  
94 Eventide Lane  
Levittown, PA 19054*

*Phyllis Robertson  
New phone number: 267-803-6686*



# COVID-19 Funeral Assistance from FEMA

*By: Andrew Chen*

For those of you who may have lost a loved one to COVID-19, we grieve with you and extend our sincerest condolences, as well as pray for you. Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

To be eligible for funeral assistance, you (the potential applicant) must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, FEMA encourages you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

- An official death certificate that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- Funeral expenses documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. FEMA is not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

Call 844-684-6333 (Monday-Friday, 9am-9pm EDT) to get a COVID-19 Funeral Assistance application completed with help from FEMA's representatives. Multilingual services will be available.

For more information, including a link to a list of Frequently Asked Questions, please visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

Please feel free to share this information widely, and especially with someone you know who might be aided by this information.



## Minute for Mission:

### ***Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission***

*By: Kathie Piscella*

Some of our NPC Mission envelope/online offerings have been designated to support the Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission (SBRM). The following is from their website: [www.sundaybreakfast.org](http://www.sundaybreakfast.org). SBRM serves those experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia. The Mission offers an array of homeless day services and clinics to men and women. Additionally, the Mission has a 30-day men's emergency shelter, offers a 12-month transitional housing program to men, and a permanent supportive housing program for men 65 years of age and older. The Mission relies on the generous contributions of caring individuals, families, churches, and businesses. We advance our mission of transforming lives by the power of God and seek to activate God-given potential by serving homeless, hungry, and hurting adults in Philadelphia through loving, compassion-based programs and services. Emphasizing our competitive advances of an authentic Christian community experience, lowest-barrier entry, and safe space focused on excellent programs and partnerships, we are sustainable by the faithful stewardship of resources provided by the generosity of God's people through our donors. Serving men and women experiencing homelessness requires that we work together with partners to meet the needs of every person who comes to the Mission hungry, hurting, and homeless. Here are a few of them...

**First Step Staffing** – Since December 2019, SBRM has collaborated with First Step Staffing to host a weekly job fair at SBRM. First Steps Staffing aims to employ those who struggle most to break their own cycles of poverty, giving preference to those who have recently experienced homelessness, military veterans, and individuals who have been previously incarcerated.

**Mural Arts Philadelphia** – In response to COVID-19, SBRM partnered with Mural Arts Philadelphia through their Space Pads project. Collaborating with local businesses and organizations, Mural Arts is giving back and helping Philadelphians practice safe distancing. Space Pads, temporary vinyl floor tiles set at six-foot intervals, are each designed by a local Philadelphia artist. These Space Pads were installed around SBRM's sidewalks as well as inside to help provide encouragement, beauty, and clear indicators for all to stay six feet apart. This is an essential aspect of our COVID-19 response, especially for our seniors who are more vulnerable to this virus. This partnership was the direct result of our partnership with the Community Design Collaborative. From this partnership, an additional mural has been designed and is being installed on Pearl Street adjacent to SBRM's main guest entrance. This mural will provide positive and inspiring visuals and additional aesthetic engagement for all who use this space.

# Financial Update

By: Pam Kemper

Dear NPC,

The arrival of spring has brought a welcome upturn in our financial situation. I have included information for both March and April (to date) to give everyone the most current information.

On the income side, we saw a noticeable increase in giving throughout the Easter season. Hopefully that trend will continue as we re-open and plan for a return to more normal activities. Expenses also reflected the change from winter to spring, with utility and snow removal expenses either reduced or removed. The result was a nice bottom-line bringing the year much closer to breaking even.

My final news is also on the income side. At the end of March, we were able to apply for (and receive) a Second-Draw Paycheck Protection loan. These loans are intended for small businesses that experienced significantly reduced income during 2020 due to COVID restrictions. With our church closed for much of the year and the preschool either closed or operating at reduced enrollment, we fit that description. Like the PPP loan that we received last spring, this loan is eligible for forgiveness after we meet the program's criteria.

*"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances!"  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.*

- Pam

## Financial Overview

	Mar 2021	Apr 2021-est	YTD-est
<b>GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>	<b>24,447.64</b>	<b>23,210.33</b>	<b>82,662.15</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</b>			
<b>PAYROLL</b>	10,874.10	10,874.10	43,511.38
<b>BENEFITS</b>	1,264.41	864.43	4,257.68
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	785.16	1,213.60	4,158.14
<b>CHRISTIAN ED</b>	37.10		37.10
<b>FACILITIES</b>			
PNC Mortgage	4,705.03	4,705.43	18,820.12
Church Facilities	2,952.35	3,861.82	16,902.63
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>		254.29	254.29
<b>WORSHIP</b>	343.88	145.94	489.82
<b>PRESCHOOL COST ALLCTN</b>	-1,000.00	-1,000.00	-4,000.00
<b>Total GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</b>	<b>19,962.03</b>	<b>20,919.61</b>	<b>84,431.16</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>4,485.61</b>	<b>2,290.72</b>	<b>(1,769.01)</b>

# NPC Park-Luck Event

By: Lea Pennington

***NPC's FIRST 2021 PARK LUCK EVENT!!! SATURDAY, MAY 15<sup>th</sup>  
from 4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM***

Back by popular demand, Northampton Presbyterian Church proudly announces the first "Park Luck Event" of 2021 to be held on Saturday, May 15th from 4:30 PM to around 6:00 PM. It will be a chance to socialize and catch up with your NPC friends in a safe outdoor environment.

The "Park Luck Event" will be held on the front patio and adjacent areas of the church. You can park your cars in the front parking lot or on the street, and then find a spot to plant your lawn chairs under the trees or on the patio. If you plan to attend, please bring your own fast-food meal and beverage (Burger King, McDonalds, Pizza, Chinese Food...or whatever you feel like making at home). A lawn chair is a must, and a TV tray may be helpful. We will be maintaining the 6-foot social distancing rule, and face masks will be required unless you are eating. The restrooms in the education wing and the nursery will be available for use.

If the weather forecast is uncertain, you can call Lea Pennington at 215-901-6188 or Cathy Cocchia at 215-801-1533 to see if we plan on canceling. We also plan on having monthly "Park Luck Events" in the future, so check your newsletters and Sunday announcements.

**PLEASE PLAN ON COMING, SO SAVE THE DATE.**

***The following message is from our Mission Committee. The Park Luck Event is also a perfect time to support them! We ask that you bring a food donation with you.***

"The increasing demand for emergency food has resulted in more than half of the region's food pantries running short." We are so fortunate to be blessed with plenty; please also plan on bringing a food donation to support The Morrisville Food Center, sponsored by The Coalition Against Hunger. The Food Center provides supplemental food assistance to hungry families in the Lower Bucks County area. For more information, explore the website:

<http://hungercoalition.org>

The following is a list of most needed items: tuna, peanut butter, canned stew/chicken, cereal, canned fruit, canned/shelf stable milk, diapers (larger sizes).



# MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9 AM Facilities Committee Spring Clean-up Day
2 10 AM Communion Service Livestream & In-Person 7 PM Deacons Mtg	3 7 PM Mission Committee	4	5 7 PM Women's Bible Study ZOOM	6 10 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM 7 PM PNC Mtg	7	8
9 <i>MOTHER'S DAY</i> 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	10 7 PM Facilities Committee	11	12 7:15 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	13 7 PM PNC Mtg	14	15 4:30 PM Park-Luck Event
16 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	17	18 <i>ELECTION DAY</i> 7 PM Session Meeting 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	19 4 PM Women's Digging Deeper Study ZOOM 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	20 10 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM 7 PM PNC Mtg	21	22
23 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	24	25 7 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM	26 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	27 7 PM PNC Mtg	28	29
30 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	31 <i>MEMORIAL DAY</i>					

## Livestream Information:

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

## Zoom Meetings: (contact [npchurch@comcast.net](mailto:npchurch@comcast.net) for ZOOM invitations)

- ~Theology on Tap meets on 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on ZOOM.
- ~Women's Bible Study meets 1st Wednesdays at 7:00 PM on ZOOM.
- ~Thursday Bible Study meets on 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays at 10:00 AM on ZOOM.

*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: [npmann@comcast.net](mailto:npmann@comcast.net)  
[www.northamptonpresby.org](http://www.northamptonpresby.org)