

NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

FEBRUARY 2024



KEEP READING FOR..

- *Upcoming February Services & Events*
- *“Thank you” from ANA*
- *Souper Bowl of Caring 2024*
- *Red Cross Blood Drive*

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

“Starlings in Winter”

by Mary Oliver

Chunky and noisy,
but with stars in their black feathers,
they spring from the telephone wire
and instantly
they are acrobats
in the freezing wind.

And now, in the theater of air,
they swing over buildings,
dipping and rising;
they float like one stippled star
that opens,
becomes for a moment fragmented,

Then closes again;
and you watch
and you try
but you simply can't imagine
how they do it
with no articulated instruction,
no pause,
only the silent confirmation

that they are this notable thing,
this wheel of many parts,
that can rise and spin
over and over again,
full of gorgeous life.

Ah, world,
what lessons you prepare for us,
even in the leafless winter,
even in the ashy city.
I am thinking now
of grief, and of getting past it;

I feel my boots
trying to leave the ground,
I feel my heart
pumping hard. I want to think again
of dangerous and noble things.
I want to be light and frolicsome.
I want to be improbably beautiful
and afraid of nothing,
as though I had wings.



A Word from the Pastor

By: The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

In *Owls and Other Fantasies: Poems and Essays*, one of her many volumes of poetry, the late Mary Oliver frames with her words a murmuration of starlings. They move as one, a visual invitation to other starlings to join their group in roosting for the night. Scientists surmise this keeps the birds warm, safe from larger predators at night, and allows for the free-sharing of information regarding the closest source of food.

In reading this beautiful poem, I could not help but think of our human need to gather as one for warmth and protection (and not a little information-sharing), especially in the depths of winter. In a month that will see the convergence of ice and snow, hearts and ashes; when grief weighs heavy for many and spring seems very far away, the signs of life surround us in nature's amazing display of solidarity.

This is an image the church needs in the winter of its life, when we have lost our cherished signposts and the way forward has been all but obscured. Knowing that even the birds can make their way through this world in a landscape devoid of guideposts should give us hope. Hope for the mending of broken hearts; hope for rising from the ashes; hope for a way forward, even when we cannot see it.

If you are feeling a bit aimless this winter and are searching for the company of others in making your way through this season of cold and gray, your church family at NPC has many offerings in the wings. Join us for a month of hope-making starting Sunday, February 4th when we'll hold our first-ever coffee-tasting following worship! Come back on Sunday, February 11th to hear Rev. Dr Eric Sarwar preach and present a "Sharing Session" of everything he is up to – and it is a lot! – following coffee hour. (The choir at Eric's church in Artesia, California now wears our choir robes!)

Looking for more ways to celebrate hope? Lend your support to our Pop-up Team, who will be taking dinner to the Northampton Township Fire Department to thank them for their quick response to our call last August! And don't forget Fastnacht Day on February 13th! Come to NPC between 9:30 - 10:30 AM for fellowship and fastnachts the day before Ash Wednesday, which arrives on February 14th this year! The Ash Wednesday service starts at 6:30 PM in our sanctuary.

You can also GIVE hope by giving blood at the American Red Cross Blood Drive February 28th in Fellowship Hall, 1 PM - 6 PM.

We are never without the hope that has come to us in and through Jesus Christ. In the season of Lent, when we pause to look within ourselves and consider all God has done for us, we can rejoice that dust and ashes will not have the last word. Our hearts will once again become light, as Easter dawns and we rise as diverse people joined together in one Body. To God be the glory.

- Pastor Judy

FASTNACHT DAY!

FEBRUARY 13 - 9:30 AM

COME TO NPC BETWEEN 9:30 - 10:30 AM FOR A CUP OF COFFEE AND A FASTNACHT! JOIN US FOR AN HOUR OF FELLOWSHIP BEFORE LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY.



Ash Wednesday Service

FEBRUARY 14 - 6:30 PM



Coffee TASTING



We are excited to debut our new coffee makers!

FEBRUARY 4 (During Coffee Hour)

SHARING SESSION



WITH REVEREND DR. ERIC SARWAR

Sunday, February 11th at 11:30 AM



On Sunday, February 11, Rev. Dr Eric Sarwar and his family will be with us. Eric's church in Artesia, California, recently received our choir robes, and we just learned that Eric is currently in residence at Princeton Theological Seminary for a year of research and study.

Eric will preach and present a "Sharing Session" of everything he is up to - and it is a lot! - following coffee hour. Please extend a hearty NPC welcome to Eric and his family and hear about the Pakistani Christian experience through the eyes of one who lives it every day.

POP-UP EVENT

Monday, February 12th

Join our Pop-up Team in taking dinner to the Northampton Township Fire Department!





Americans for Native Americans

THANK YOU

January 4, 2024

Dear Friends,

What an amazing collection of underwear you gathered for our Native American children - a whopping 419 pairs of underwear, 18 pairs of socks and 3 undershirts!! On top of that, you collected \$725 in Walmart gift cards!! These will be a huge help in addressing the requests from the teachers and administrators at our schools on the Navajo reservation.

They will be used to purchase much needed cleaning supplies for their families as well as some snack items. We recently learned that the Bureau of Indian Education no longer allows schools to use their food budget to purchase snacks for the children which are so important at the end of the day ... for many children, these snacks serve as their dinner.

On behalf of the ANA Board and all the children you have so generously provided for ...
THANK YOU!!!

January 30, 2024

Just thought you'd like to know the first use of those awesome Walmart cards. Dr. Billie was referred to us from one of our favorite teachers at Mariano Lake and we know Wingate Schools from our work with the elementary children.

Dr. Billie wrote:

Thank you all for the response and willingness to support. I teach high school students and every day they share how hungry they are. Our school provides wholesome and "home-cooked" meals which the students do actually enjoy. We also have cultural meals at least twice a month. However, I still get students who drop by my classroom and inquire as to if I have any snacks. I was doing this on my own for a few weeks and it was getting pretty pricey for me.

So we are setting him up with a bunch of snacks and also bought a mini-fridge so he can get fresh fruit, which we are working with the Pantry to provide.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

Blessings,

Mary Lee

Mary Lee Reiff
ANA Board Chair



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2024



Caring for Kids

THINK #BEYONDTHEBOWL

WHAT IF EVERYONE GAVE \$1 OR 1 CAN OF FOOD TO HELP TACKLE HUNGER?



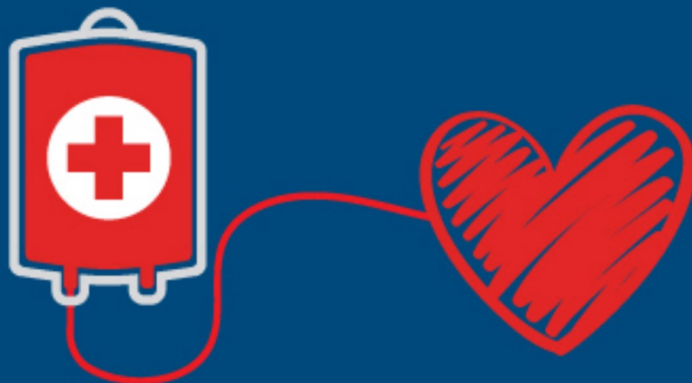
UNITING ALL COMMUNITIES TO TACKLE HUNGER

Bring **ONE DOLLAR** and/or **ONE CAN OF FOOD**
by February 11th (*preschool deadline - Friday 2/9*)
Or donate online by scanning QR Code. —>

Collection is sponsored by Northampton Presbyterian Church
& God's Window Preschool, benefitting the Morrisville Food Center.



Kindness
is in your blood.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive
**Northampton
Presbyterian Church**

Fellowship Hall
539 Buck Road
Holland, PA 18966

Wednesday, February 28, 2024
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call **1-800-RED CROSS** (1-800-733-2767) or visit **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter **zipcode 18966** or **sponsor code nhp** to schedule an appointment. **(or scan QR Code below)**

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>4</p> <p>10 AM Communion Service Livestream & In-Person</p> <p>Coffee Tasting</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6 PM Girl Scout Troop #2367</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11 AM "Job" Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5 PM GS Troop #2934</p> <p>6 PM CS Den #2—Wolves</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM Sharing Session: Rev. Dr. Eric Sarwar</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 PM CS Den #1—Tigers</p> <p>7 PM CS Den #3—AOL</p> <p>7 PM Facilities Committee</p> <p>Time TBD: Pop-up Event with Northampton Twp Fire Department</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 AM Fastnacht Day Fellowship</p> <p>11 AM "Job" Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>6:30 PM BSA Troop Court of Honor</p> <p>7 PM Worship Committee</p>	<p>14</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY VALENTINE'S DAY</p> <p>8:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Robin Hood</p> <p>6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>(Church Office Closed)</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p>	<p>19</p> <p>PRESIDENTS' DAY (Church Office Closed)</p> <p>6 PM Girl Scout Troop #2367</p> <p>6 PM Boy Scouts Committees</p> <p>7 PM Preschool Board Mtg.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30 AM Esther Circle</p> <p>5 PM GS Troop #2934</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 PM CS Den #1—Tigers</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 AM Women's Breakfast at Manny's</p> <p>1 PM Red Cross Blood Drive</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>MARCH 1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 AM Session Retreat at NPC</p>

Northampton Presbyterian Church

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