

# NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church  
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

NOVEMBER 2023



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ***“Low” a new Adult Study for Advent***
- ***Minute for Missions: Drawers for Drawers***
- ***Interfaith Service of Giving Thanks***



## Livestream Information:

All “livestreamed” messages are broadcasted from our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/northamptonpresby](https://www.facebook.com/northamptonpresby)

Sunday Worship Services are additionally posted on our website: [www.northamptonpresby.com/sermon-videos](https://www.northamptonpresby.com/sermon-videos)

## ***My November Guest***

by Robert Frost

My Sorrow, when she's here with me,  
Thinks these dark days of autumn rain  
Are beautiful as days can be;  
She loves the bare, the withered tree;  
She walks the sodden pasture lane.  
Her pleasure will not let me stay.  
She talks and I am fain to list:  
She's glad the birds are gone away,  
She's glad her simple worsted grey  
Is silver now with clinging mist.  
The desolate, deserted trees,  
The faded earth, the heavy sky,  
The beauties she so truly sees,  
She thinks I have no eye for these,  
And vexes me for reason why.  
Not yesterday I learned to know  
The love of bare November days  
Before the coming of the snow,  
But it were vain to tell her so,  
And they are better for her praise.



# *A Word from the Pastor*

*By: The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer*

Dear Friends:

As I write, we find ourselves in the month of falling leaves, windswept trees and offering up our thanksgiving for all the blessings of our lives.

Yes, it is possible to offer our thanks to our Creator, even in this time of war and rumors of war. In the darkest of times, human beings have lifted the stories of their lives – joy, sorrow, suffering and delight - to God through prayer, poetry and music. During the Holocaust, our Jewish brothers and sisters developed a rich body of songs that bore witness to survival, freedom, faith, and hope. Music offered them a way to express their humanity in inhuman conditions, to escape from reality and give voice to their yearning for freedom, and to find comfort and hope.<sup>1</sup>

In similar fashion, our Christian hymnody reflects the full range of our relationship with God. Through song and lyrics we express lament, faith, and our longing for God's kingdom to come here and now. In this season of desolation, we can sing as we look forward to the many ways we can respond to God's call on our communal lives.

One of those ways is through our Christmas collection of items to be delivered to the Navajo and Hopi reservations by our new partner in mission, Americans for Native Americans. You will find a list of items to donate in this newsletter.

Another way of offering our support to one another in these challenging times is by attending the interfaith service of thanksgiving at 3 pm on Sunday, November 19 at Newtown Friends Meeting. Bring a canned good or two for the Mercer Street Friends food pantry.

After Turkey Day is over, come to church on November 26 to welcome Rev. Diane Jamison Fitch to our pulpit and to hear all about her experiences in Pakistan, home to our friend Mehr Austin. I will be with the Flourtown congregation that day by special request to lead worship and talk about my trip to the Southwest.

Whether you plan to celebrate "friendsgiving" or to gather with your family this Thanksgiving, I pray you get a glimpse of the One who is coming soon.

*- Pastor Judy*



<sup>1</sup> © 2023 Yad Vashem. The World Holocaust Remembrance Center





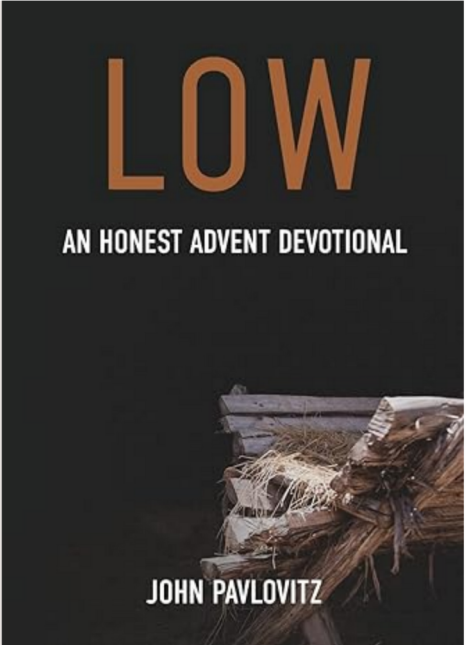
# Coming Soon

**God came to meet us in the  
low places of our lives.**

Adult Study for Advent  
(Date and Time TBD)

# LOW

AN HONEST ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



JOHN PAVLOVITZ

This Advent season, Pastor Judy will lead a time of reflection and discussion using *Low*, as described below, by author John Pavlovitz. The devotional is available in the office for \$5 (or on Amazon, scan QR code).



*Amidst the bright lights and wrappings of a sentimentally saturated Christmas season, we tend to forget about the gritty, messy reality of the Advent story as it was experienced 2,000 years ago. In this honest Advent devotional, best-selling Christian author John Pavlovitz reminds us that God came to meet us in the low places of our lives -- and that Jesus continues to come low this Advent season. When we plant our feet firmly in the dirt of everyday life, we see Jesus meeting us in the low places: when we live humbly, when we seek forgiveness, in our grief and suffering, when we act on behalf of someone else, when we pray. As we walk the road of Advent, Jesus reminds us the invitation is not to escape this world to an elevated Heaven somewhere else, but to bring Heaven down. "God with us" is Jesus, getting low. Each devotional includes a scripture and Advent reflection on Jesus meeting us on the ground.*



# *Minute for Missions*

*By: Pam Kemper*

From the Mission Team

This fall, the newly renamed Mission Team added a new organization to our list of supported ministries. The organization is called Americans for Native Americans (ANA.) ANA was formed in 1991 when members of Doylestown Presbyterian Church became aware of the depth of need on the Native American reservations in New Mexico and Northern Arizona. Beginning with two tons of blankets shipped in response to the deaths of 17 Native American men from exposure, ANA has greatly expanded its partnerships with Native Americans in the Southwest. Beyond attempting to meet immediate needs, such as blankets, clothing and shelter, ANA has initiated projects designed to help Native Americans help themselves. Since then, ANA has provided goods and services to the reservations it partners with: Hopi, Navajo, and Zuni. Training nurses, helping improve animal health, and equipping children with necessities (food, clothing, and school supplies) to allow them to focus on learning are some of the ways ANA is empowering self-reliance.

We are beginning the relationship with a Christmas project that enlists not only the congregation, but also the families of God's Window. The project – A Reservation Christmas - will supply items specifically requested by the teachers and staff at the reservation schools. Items that address the needs of both the children and the families who struggle to provide even the basics.

NPC will be collecting underwear (Yes, underwear – the most requested item by the kids and the most expensive item for families to purchase. When families have to choose between underwear and food, food wins.) and Walmart gift cards. The gift cards will be used by the teachers to purchase cleaning supplies which they send home with the children. Gods Window will be collecting small toys and other fun items which the teachers use to provide a birthday/Christmas gift (sometimes the only one the child receives) as well as classroom incentives.

Donations will be collected from Nov 12th through December 17th. The underwear (boy/girl sizes 4 to 18/20) can be dropped off in the Narthex while gift cards will be collected via the offering plates during worship. Gift cards can also be sent to the church office – attention Mission Team.

Going forward, this is just a start. We plan an on-going relationship with ANA supporting additional projects and potentially working on-site with the group as it travels to NM/AZ twice a year. Keep an eye out for mission updates!

More information about the work of ANA is available at:

[www.americansfornativeamericans.org](http://www.americansfornativeamericans.org)



**Americans for Native Americans**





NPC MISSION PROJECT FOR 2023

# DRAWERS FOR DRAWERS

*Benefitting Americans for Native Americans*



WE WILL BE COLLECTING  
CHILDREN'S UNDERWEAR AND  
WALMART GIFT CARDS THROUGH

**DECEMBER 17**

LOOK FOR THE DRESSER IN THE  
NARTHEX!

## A RESERVATION CHRISTMAS

Imagine visiting your neighborhood elementary school and asking a 4th grade class, "If you could receive anything you want, what would it be?" Would it be a bike, a Playstation or the latest "hot" sneakers... Now imagine asking the same question in a school on a Native American Reservation? The teachers did - and the answer was "Underwear!"

This is not just a story. This is the reality in the reservation schools where teachers and staff provide not just lessons, but food, clothing and other supplies that families cannot. Hands down, underwear is the most needed item and constantly requested by school staff. Ironically it is the most expensive to purchase. Frankly when families have to choose between underwear and food, food wins.

So, how can WE help? By helping Americans for Native Americans (ANA). Formed in 1991, ANA has been coming alongside the schools to help provide the supplies that they need. This Christmas, that is underwear for the kids and Walmart gift cards that will be used to purchase cleaning products to send home to the families.

Beginning now **through December 17th** we will be collecting NEW packages of **underwear (boys/girls) size 4 to 18-20.** These will be provided to students elementary through high school age. (For the larger sizes, solid colors are preferable.) **Walmart gift cards** may be purchased in any amount.





# **Newtown Yardley Ministerium** **Interfaith Service of** **Giving Thanks**

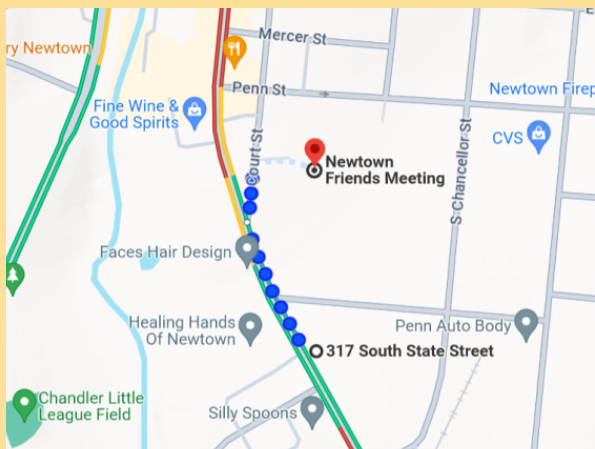
**Sunday, November 19, 2023**

**3:00 pm**

**Newtown Friends Meeting**  
219 Court Street, Newtown, PA 18940

***All are Welcome!***

*Nonperishable food and children's clothing (Socks, underwear, undershirts and hats for children ages 3 to 5, sizes 4T to 6/7; or hats, gloves, and scarves for ages 5-14) and monetary donations will be gathered towards helping ministries of Mercer Street Friends. (Please make checks out to "Newtown Yardley Ministerium.")*



*Limited parking is available on site for priority parties (limited mobility, etc.), and additional parking is available graciously a block down in a larger lot located at 317 S. State Street.*



# November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>12</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream &amp; In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs: Israel &amp; Palestine</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 PM CS Den #1 —Tigers</p> <p>7 PM CS Den #3— AOL</p> <p>7 PM Facilities Committee ZOOM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12 PM Fall Adult Study</p> <p>6:45 PM BSA Troop Merit Badge</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p> <p>7 PM Worship Committee</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Esther Circle</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9 AM BSA Court of Honor</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream &amp; In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs: Israel &amp; Palestine</p> <p>3 PM Service of Giving &amp; Thanks (Newtown Friends)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6 PM Girl Scout Troop 2367</p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts Committees</p> <p>7 PM Preschool Board</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:45 PM BSA Troop Merit Badge</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p> <p>7 PM Session Mtg</p>	<p>22</p> <p>(Church Office Closed)</p> <p>9 AM Women's Breakfast at Manny's Deli</p>	<p>23</p> <p>THANKSGIVING DAY</p> <p>(Church Office Closed)</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>(Church Office Closed)</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream &amp; In-Person</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 PM CS Den #1 —Tigers</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop, High Adventure Crew</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:45 PM BSA Troop Merit Badge</p> <p>7 PM BSA Troop Mtgs</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5 PM GS Troop #2934</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7 PM Choir</p>		

## Livestream Information:

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*Northampton Presbyterian Church*

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