

# NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church  
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

SEPTEMBER 2022



## CONTINUE READING FOR:

- *"Bible Study for Everyone"*  
with Pastor Judy, in-person /  
Zoom (9/14)
- *Homecoming Brunch* (9/18)
- *"Just the Basics"*  
CLG Study (9/25)
- *Interim Music Director*
- *Women's Bible Study*
- *Art Kit Collection*
- *Calendar & Livestream  
Information*



## *A Word from the Pastor*

By: The Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

### **"New Beginnings"**

Most of us look forward to September as a month of new beginnings – in the world of education, career and childcare and yes, for church. For our Jewish friends, the celebration of Rosh Hashanah – the "head of the year" – marks this seasonal turning point by remembering the creation of Adam and Eve. The shofar sounds and apples dipped in honey, foods symbolic of a sweet new year, are eaten.

This year, we are in transition from meeting in our homes, the location of most high holiday celebrations in the Jewish faith, to returning to public gathering spaces. Our sanctuaries and fellowship halls once again resound with the music and laughter of communion and community. In what we hope is the "afterward" of COVID chaos, we begin again and anew.

New beginnings carry with them both promise and challenge. We are thrilled to see old friends and welcome new, and we are also tentative and cautious. Will COVID revisit us as we try to return to in-person meetings and celebrations? How will the winter months play out for us this year? Will people come back to church? Will we be able to stay open?

It is easy to make plans for what, and whom, we already know. We understand what our friends like and what will bring them back into the arms of fellowship here at NPC. The greater challenge for any church in these days of uncertainty is



planning for those who are not yet here. Who are they? How can we meet them? What can we do to strengthen our connection to the neighborhood? To the community?

In a season of starting over and anew, we can affirm our belief in the many ways God is even now at work, creating a new thing. We can celebrate new possibilities and build relationships with our friends of faith in other congregations and in community organizations. We can be curious about the ways they put their faith into action and tell them about the ideas we have for the future. We can find new ways to pray, work and play together.

Even while we mourn what has been lost in the long night of the pandemic, we can embrace what is new. We are exploring the dynamics of peacemaking in "Bible Study for Everyone!" on Wednesdays at 11 AM (in-person and on Zoom!) We are making repairs to the building to make it viable for years to come. We are welcoming an interim music director even while we search for new leadership. We've begun another year of preschool, with the sounds of children filling our halls. Women's Bible Study, choir, CLG's and more begin again. Life, in all its fullness, goes on.

We are learning the true meaning of hope. Hope is not about baseless optimism or platitudes, but is a resilience that "bears all things, endures all things, and believes all things" will come to fruition in due time. In God's time, which is not like ours. So we walk on, even while we wait. And, as we "come home" to our church family, we are given a glimpse of that sweet communion we are promised in our new life with God and all the saints, when the time is right.

Shanah tovah! Happy new year! And welcome back!

- Pastor Judy

**"BIBLE STUDY FOR  
EVERYONE"  
Wednesdays at  
11:00 AM**



"Bible Study for Everyone" begins Wednesday, September 14th at 11:00 AM and will use "The Things that Make for Peace," a peacemaking bible study from the PCUSA Mission Agency. The study will be offered in a hybrid format, with a Zoom link provided for those who prefer to join our in-person group from home or work. A link to the Zoom Invitation will be published on our church website next Monday. The same link will take you to a PDF of the lesson for each week.

More resources for reflecting on the work of peacemaking are here:

[https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/the-season-of-peace-is-a-time-of-reflection/?fbclid=IwAR0YvAvkOy-r00cYoKlq6CEEnS\\_2vsG59NR5wijnAX9wOQ538QbTZmickvog](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/the-season-of-peace-is-a-time-of-reflection/?fbclid=IwAR0YvAvkOy-r00cYoKlq6CEEnS_2vsG59NR5wijnAX9wOQ538QbTZmickvog)

In this "Season of Peacemaking," won't you join us to learn more about the art of making peace?

- Pastor Judy



# homecoming brunch

**Sunday, September 18th**

Let's celebrate returning together after the summer season with a time of fellowship following the Worship Service. Held in the Fellowship Hall.

Please sign-up in the narthex or email RSVP to [npchurch@comcast.net](mailto:npchurch@comcast.net)

**Presbyterian  
Questions,**

**Presbyterian  
Answers**

Revised Edition

**Donald K. McKim**

**A SAVE THE DATES!**

**"Just the Basics"**

**Join us for CLG's in September!**

Where do Presbyterian churches come from? What makes Presbyterians different from Lutherans, or Methodists, or Baptists? Are there errors in the Bible? What does it mean to be saved?

Join us on Sundays following worship from **September 25th - October 23rd** for a look at these and other interesting questions! We'll be using a little book designed to answer your questions about the Presbyterian faith in an easy-to-read format. We will order a few paperback copies for those who do not have access to a kindle reader (Kindle edition available on Amazon).

Contact the church office to reserve a copy!  
215-357-8282 / [npchurch@comcast.net](mailto:npchurch@comcast.net)



Shirley Keiter

*While our search for a permanent Director of Music continues, we are pleased to welcome Shirley Keiter as our Interim Music Director!*



## **INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR, NPC**

Shirley has spent 50 years in church music and is honored to continue her ministry with us as interim organist/choir director for the next two months.

A Music Education graduate of Temple University and Liturgical Music major at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary), she most recently served as organist/choir director at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church in Ambler and as organist at Little Zion Lutheran Church in Telford.

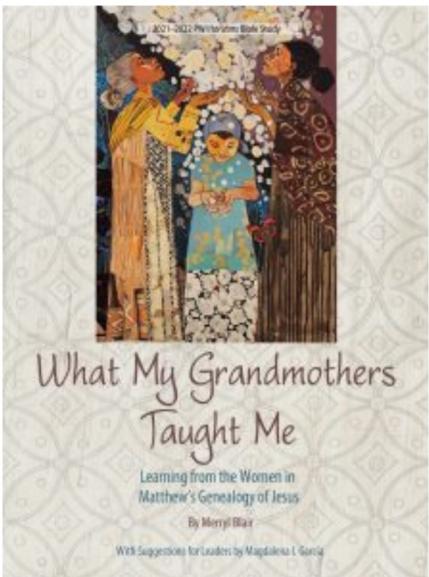
Her home church, from 1990-2000 and 2015-present, is Abington Presbyterian Church where she is enjoying her retirement through singing and ringing handbells in the Chancel and Oratorio Choirs and Celebration Ringers, and serving as Chair of the Music at Abington Concert Committee.

She is married to Alan and together they are the proud parents of adult children, Lauren and Amy. Shirley is looking forward to working with the people of Northampton Presbyterian Church and with Pastor Judy.



# WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

*What My Grandmothers  
Taught Me*  
by Merryl Blair



Study books will be available for \$10 on Sunday Sept. 11th or during the following week in the church office.

*If you are new to these groups and aren't sure which to try, email [ptkemper@yahoo.com](mailto:ptkemper@yahoo.com) or [kathpisciella@gmail.com](mailto:kathpisciella@gmail.com).*

## OVERVIEW

The Gospel of Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham through to the birth of the Messiah. People have often been intrigued by the appearance of five women in this traditional male-dominated genealogy of Jesus. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. *What My Grandmothers Taught Me* explores who these women are, examines the challenges and choices they faced, and considers what contributions each made to the ancestral line of Jesus. By examining these stories together, we can learn from their examples and be inspired to call on God to empower our own witness and actions through good times and bad.

## SCHEDULE

Both the "Digging Deeper" group and Esther Circle be using this study, so pull out your calendar, look at the times below and plan to join the group that works for you.

### **Beginning Sept 14th - Digging Deeper**

Twice a month on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 4 PM - 6 PM at Cathy Cocchia's home.

### **Beginning Sept 15th - Esther Circle**

Monthly on the 3rd Thursday from 1 PM - 3 PM at NPC, Lg Conf Rm (4).



# Art Kit Collection

A SUPPLIES DRIVE BY NPC  
AND GOD'S WINDOW PRESCHOOL

*Coming in October*

- MORE INFO COMING SOON -

Meanwhile, stock up on some backpacks or  
art related school supplies while they are on sale!

- pad of paper/notebooks
- colored/construction or origami paper
- crayons (box of 64)
- markers (water-soluble, not permanent)
- pencils (lead or colored)
- erasers
- watercolor paints (small box)
- scotch tape
- glue sticks
- pencil sharpener
- post-it sticky notes
- pens
- mesh pencil pouches
- rulers

*(Please, NO SCISSORS or other items which could be unsafe for children)*

# September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>11</p> <p>10 AM Communion Service Livestream &amp; In-Person</p> <p>6:30 PM Cub Scouts Sign-ups</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10 AM In-reach / Outreach Committee</p> <p>7 PM Facilities Committee</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7 PM Worship Committee</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 AM Men's Breakfast at Robin Hood</p> <p>11 AM Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>4 PM Women's "Digging Deeper" Study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1 PM Esther Circle</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop 2545</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream &amp; In-Person</p> <p>11:15 AM Homecoming Brunch</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:15 PM Boy Scouts Committee</p> <p>7 PM Boy Scouts—Seabase '23</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7 PM Session Mtg</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11 AM Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop 2934</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream &amp; In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs "Just the Basics"</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 AM Women's Breakfast at Manny's Deli</p> <p>11 AM Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>7 PM Boy Scouts—Board of Review</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts Committee Mtgs</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>OCT 1</p>
<p>2</p> <p>10 AM Communion Service Livestream &amp; In-Person</p> <p>11:30 AM CLGs "Just the Basics"</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11 AM Bible Study for Everyone</p> <p>4 PM Women's "Digging Deeper" Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>4:30 PM Girl Scouts Troop 2545</p>	<p>8</p>

**\* Vacation Notice:**

*The Office Administrator will be on vacation Sept 26th & 27th and October 3rd—7th.*

**Livestream Information:**

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

*Northampton Presbyterian Church*

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