

NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

JUNE 2021



CONTINUE READING FOR:

- **Away Notice**
- **In-Person Worship Guidelines Update**
- **PNC Update**
- **Minute for Mission**
- **Financial Update**
- **Monthly Financial Report**
- **July 1st Food Drive**
- **Calendar & Livestream Information**

“Hot Time, Summer in the City; Back of My Neck Gettin’ Dirty and Gritty.”

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

Well, it is indeed getting to be summer. Things change. The weather warms; days lengthen; air thickens; life slows. It is a time of relief for so many, perhaps never more than this year. It is a time when favorite activities relocate our lives to the beach or mountains, or at the very least to our back yard or front stoop.

Cooking often involves the use of charcoal and a grill. Diet changes. Fresh vegetables bring us the profound flavors denied us during the winter. Meals become lighter with the warmer weather. There is a wooden table out back at which we eat. Birds chirp. Insects buzz. And this year cicadas swarm, even if but briefly.

That which occupies our time changes as well. Replacing all other sports, baseball is played by the boys of summer. And it is played in a park, not a stadium, conjuring up images of moist green grass, with straight white lines against the vivid green. Things become fair or foul. We splurge for a ticket. Or we watch on Comcast.

We read books, and, at times, allow our minds to drift from the pages we



have been reading into phantasms of thought or vision. The mind drifts in the warm evening air. Clouds play themselves into fantastic shapes, animated by our imaginations.

In summer, there is time. How shall we spend this time, this marvelous, opportune time? What to do with this different time, this time which we do not usually allow ourselves during the other seasons of the year.

Let me urge you to spend this precious time in Sabbath. "Sabbath" is much more than the seventh day of the week. To be sure, there is a day of the week called "the Sabbath". But in truth, SABBATH is a way of life in the Scriptures. Sabbath is a life that obeys the simple rhythm of a life that cycles between work and rest.

God began that pattern, of course. It is a pattern that rebounds between a time of purpose-giving work and a time to enjoy restorative rest. God showed us that pattern, lived it during the Creation, and then told us that we were made to enjoy that same pattern.

Sabbath is a time of recreation. It is no accident that recreation also spells re-creation. God told us to re-create. Or recreate. Either way, take this wonderful, different, summer time to enjoy the gift of Sabbath. I urge you to do this on Sunday mornings, certainly. But also I urge you to chase this remarkable opportunity in the cadences of the warm summer days that lay before us.

- Drew

Away Notice

Pastor Drew will be out of the office June 1st - 10th, celebrating his and Meg's 50th Wedding Anniversary (a year late).

*Join us for a special **Lay Sunday Service on June 6th**. In place of a sermon, selected members from our congregation will be sharing their personal experiences as Christians.*

Communion Sunday will be moved to June 13th.

Other calendar updates:

- No Adult Bible Study on June 3rd*
- No Fireside Chat on June 9th.*



In-Person Worship Guidelines

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

Update 05-21-21

At Session's regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 18th, action was taken to further open up our church in response to the recent CDC advisories. As of Sunday, May 23rd, the following guidelines will be in force:

1. Fully vaccinated people will be invited to worship together in the sanctuary without wearing masks. Certainly, there are those whose comfort levels will prompt them to continue to wear masks indoors, and we honor those personal choices.
2. We will ask anyone who is NOT fully vaccinated to continue to wear masks inside the building. This would be in accord with the continuing CDC recommendations. We will be asking those folks to abide by these rules using the honor system, for the benefit of all.
3. For the present, at least, we will continue to ask for attendees to continue spaced seating while in the sanctuary.

This is an exciting time for all, but it is also a time of uncertainty for so very many. Gradually, gradually, we will all be adjusting to this time of returning to a "normal" way of life. Be certain that Session will continue to respond to the latest wisdom from the CDC on the safe way to open our church to all we had been accustomed to in the past.

We look forward to seeing everyone again as they return to the sanctuary for worship.

Blessings,

Drew



PNC Update

By: Dana Winslow

NPC Congregation,

We have had several people ask us for more specifics on the process we are pursuing to identify God's choice for our next Pastor. All Pastor candidates fill out a form called the Pastor Information Form (PIF) and submit it to a database provided by the Presbyterian Church. In addition to the basic information (years of experience, recent jobs, education background), the form contains answers to four key questions:

1. Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.
2. Describe the ministry setting to which you believe God is calling you.
3. What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?
4. Describe a time when you have led change.

The answers written by each candidate provide us with important insight into their priorities and sensitivities. Once we review each candidate's PIF, we then look to locate videos of sermons they have preached recently—as with NPC, many churches have begun to stream worship services due to the pandemic and this gives us critical insight into the preaching capability, personality and style of each candidate. After each of us have completed our initial research, we come together (virtually) to discuss our conclusions and decide which candidates we would like to invite for interviews. To date, we have screened approximately 100 candidates, and find that about 1 in 6 merit further follow-up.

We have developed a set of questions we ask of each candidate in a first, and potentially a second, interview. We think it is important to be consistent in our questions so that we can be fair in comparing answers across candidates. We record each interview so that we can come back and review them if we have questions. Interviews are on either Monday afternoons or Thursday evenings, and we discuss our reactions in our subsequent weekly meetings. All through the process, we are communicating regularly with the candidates so that they know where they stand, and we know of any change in their situations.

While we have spent considerable time and effort developing and implementing our process, we all know that the single most important part of our job is listening for the will of God, for the direction He is leading us on behalf of our church. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the church in this critical task.



Minute for Mission: Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need

By: Kathie Piscella

Some of our NPC Mission envelope/online offerings have been designated to support Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need (AHTN). AHTN is new to our Mission Budget for 2021. It is a Bucks County interfaith nonprofit that serves the homeless and those in need by providing year-long access to emergency shelter, food and other life-sustaining services with dignity and compassion. The below is from their website (www.ahtn.org). Please note there is also information on how to join their volunteer team – orientation is available online through a training video. Cathy Cocchia or Kathy Hurwitz from the Mission Committee can also tell you more about volunteer opportunities.

Currently, AHTN has five missions – Code Blue, Those in Need, Rejuvenation Station, AHTN Mentors and Wheels to Meals. The Wheels to Meals Mission provides transportation using AHTN buses for homeless guests and others in need. We provide transportation 365 days a year to a shared meal provided by one of over 39 houses of worship in Lower Bucks County.

The following are some of the things AHTN assists with or provides access to: Emergency Shelter, Rent Assistance, Gas Assistance and Small Car Repair for those who need to get to work or look for work, Food Assistance via Free Shared Meals, Shower Assistance, Laundry Assistance, Transportation Assistance (to doctors, hospitals, mental health appointments, court hearings), Utility Assistance, Prescription Drug Help.

AHTN offers different volunteer opportunities throughout the year: Drivers, Attendants, Kitchen Help, Code Blue Shelter Staff, Administrative Support, Homeless Outreach Team and many more. Please follow the following steps to register as a volunteer. New for the 2020-21 season, AHTN's Volunteer Orientation will be available online through a training video. Those wanting to join our volunteer team will need to complete the following: Create an account on the Volunteer HUB. <https://ahtn.volunteerhub.com/>. Watch the volunteer orientation video. The link for the training will be emailed to you after creating an account through the Volunteer Hub. Answer the orientation video questions. Sign the Volunteer Agreement and Volunteer Waiver and submit electronically. Complete the background check. Once you have completed all steps and your background check is returned you will receive an email that you are approved to volunteer. If at any time you have questions during the process, email shastings@ahtn.org

Financial Update

By: Pam Kemper

Dear NPC,

With a fifth Sunday in our calendar month, the General Fund Income below – which is showing a significant drop from March and April – is not complete. I expect that the number will go higher as the month closes. Expenses are down as well, with May currently in the red by only a small amount. We are holding our own as we begin to move toward a more normal church operation!

Just a reminder though, the summer months are usually a slow period in giving so please take advantage of online giving (or the US Mail) over those months. I can also help set-up automatic giving over just the summer months if that would be of help. You can email me at nptreas@gmail.com.

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

- Pam

Financial Overview

	Apr 2021	May 2021-est	YTD-est
GENERAL FUND INCOME	23,549.60	16,532.33	99,533.75
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES			
PAYROLL	10,855.66	10,430.25	53,923.19
BENEFITS	864.43	1,064.42	5,322.10
ADMINISTRATIVE	1,213.60	508.03	4,666.17
CHRISTIAN ED			37.10
FACILITIES			
PNC Mortgage	4,705.03	4,705.43	23,525.15
Church Facilities	4,160.60	1,561.44	18,762.85
STEWARDSHIP	254.29		254.29
WORSHIP	299.47		643.35
PRESCHOOL COST ALLCTN	-1,000.00	-1,000.00	-5,000.00
Total GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	21,353.08	17,269.17	102,134.20
NET	2,196.52	(736.84)	(2,600.45)

NPC July 1st Food Drive

By: Cathy Cocchia

**DRIVE-THRU
FOOD DRIVE**

**THURS. 7/1
10am-12pm**

Northampton Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a drive through community-wide food drive to support the Morrisville Food Center on **Thursday, July 1st from 10 AM—12 PM** in the Church parking lot. Thank you for the Congregation's generous and continuing support of this so very important cause near and dear to my heart. The Food Center's mission is to provide supplemental food assistance to families in Lower Bucks county and the Trenton area. They have been serving the needs of food insecure people since 1997, in light of the pandemic the need is great. In 2020, over 9,500 clients were fed with over 550 new families served. An average of 60 -70 families are served each week. Total income from donations, grants and investment income for the past year was \$85,345, that included our White Gift donation.

A new iPad program with expanded computer database allows the Food Center to better track clients. Recent renovations to the basement permit additional shelving to store food. Additional items given to clients include fresh fruit and vegetables, diapers and formula, cat and dog food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, paper goods and LED light bulbs. I believe God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love and compassion, the marks of His kingdom: ***"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," Matthew 25:35.***

Volunteers for this effort are always welcome! We need help with parking lot safety, collecting the dropped off food, and transporting it to Morrisville. Please see Kathy Hurwitz (267-252-7475), Kathie Pisciella and Cathy Cocchia (215-801-1533) with any questions.

Or email: npcmissions@comcast.net

I am so very grateful to be blessed with the opportunity to serve those in need of basic food with dignity and thank you for being a giving Congregation open to feeding the hungry.

Respectfully yours on behalf of the Mission Committee,

Cathy Cocchia



June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7 PM Women's Bible Study ZOOM 7:15 PM Boy Scouts Philmont	3 7 PM PNC Mtg	4	5
6 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	7 7 PM Mission Committee	8 6:45 PM Boy Scouts Court of Honor	9	10 7 PM PNC Mtg	11	12
13 10 AM Communion Service Livestream & In-Person	14 7 PM Facilities Committee	15 7 PM Session Meeting	16 4 PM Women's Digging Deeper Study ZOOM 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	17 10 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM 7 PM PNC Mtg	18	19
20 FATHER'S DAY 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person	21	22 7 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM	23 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	24 7 PM PNC Mtg	25	26
27 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream & In-Person 11 AM Congregational Meeting	28	29	30 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	10 AM Food Drive		

Livestream Information:

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

Zoom Meetings: (contact 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 PASTOR: npmann@comcast.net
www.northamptonpresby.org