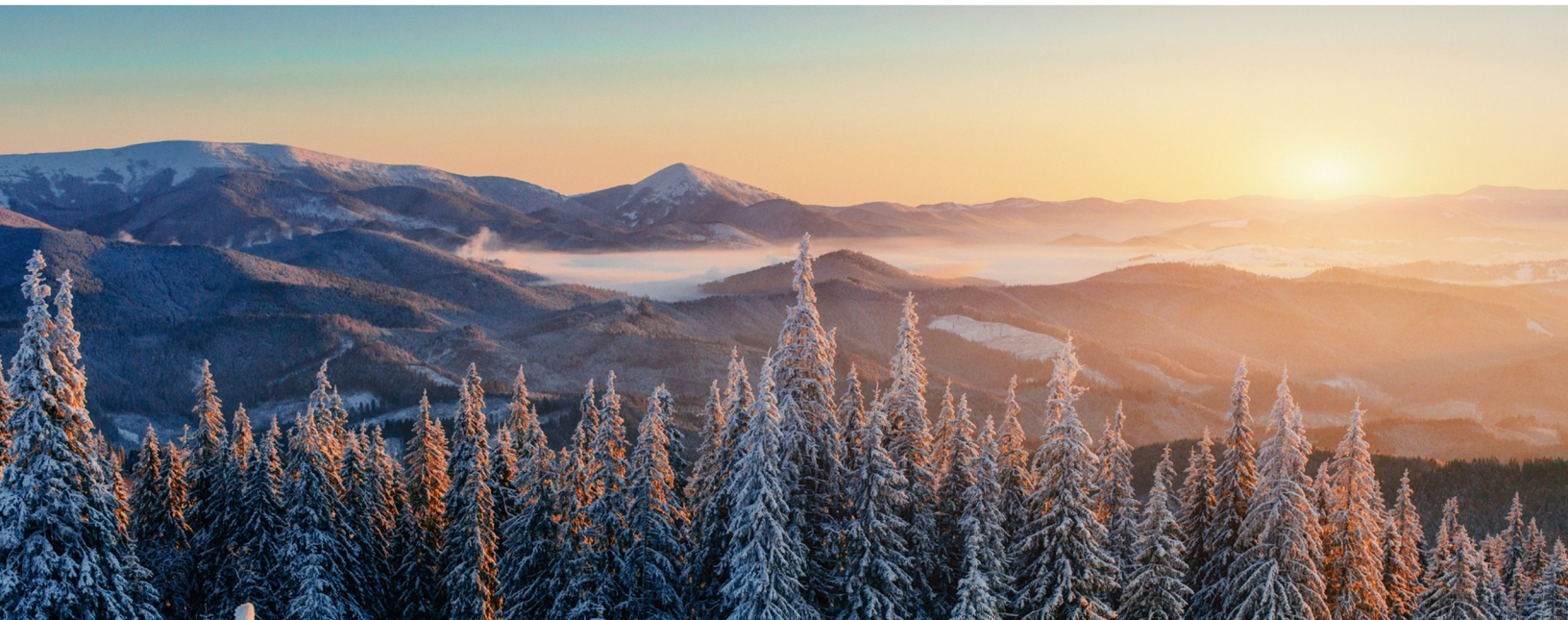


NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA 18966

JANUARY 2021



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“And a Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven...”

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

I do not know how old I was when I saw my first Walt Disney nature movie in school, but I was not very old. I remember the scene about the “Industrious Ant”. We were shown an immense nest of ants, millions of them, scurrying around with a single-minded purpose. The hill was bursting with energy, and it seemed in perpetual motion. All of the ants raced around as if they were terrified of running out of time to complete all they had to do.

Later in the same film, we were shown the same kind of frenetic activity in a comb of honeybees.

And at yet another time, Disney’s Alice in Wonderland introduced me to the White Rabbit, who ran breathlessly ahead of poor Alice, brandishing a pocket watch and shouting, “I’m late! I’m late! For a very important date!” Alice never could keep up with him, struggle as she might.

Is it any wonder that my generation grew up in high gear, replacing the relatively placid home life in which we grew up with one run by multiple calendars and digital clocks? Adults, all the children in any given home, and all of their friends, both young and adult, share a common disease:



we never have enough time. We are scheduled from the moment we rise to the time we retire.

We do not have time for ourselves. We do not have time for our spouses. We do not have time for our children. Or our parents. We do not have time for pleasure, for play, for work, or for our homes. No longer does the average American worker take two consecutive weeks off for vacation; there is not time. Trying to find a date to go out to dinner with friends is sadly futile; everyone is booked. Trying to find time for the now-quiet family dinner is nearly impossible.

We, like the White Rabbit, run about crying out, "I'm late! I'm late". It is a breathless existence. It is not healthy, for either our bodies or our spirits. And it is destructive to all of our relationships.

Perhaps most odious and most tragic of all, our lives no longer have time for God, either. My folks read the Bible. So did my grandparents. It was a regular feature of their daily life.

They went to church, too. Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday evenings... at the very least Church was three times a week.

And they prayed. Fairly frequently every day.

Does anyone not recognize this as a lifestyle that exists only in the faint memory of the increasingly old?

We have no time for anything. The tyranny of the urgent thrusts forward lives once ordered by the important.


But I have good news for the weary. The ancient poetry of the book of Ecclesiastes still tells the Truth. There is time for our lives. All that we have to do is take it back.

Every one of us has 24 hours in every day. What we need to do with this time is to remember what is important, and not yield to what is merely urgent.

The reality of life is that we have lost perspective on what is important. We forget that our families are important. We forget that our physical and spiritual health is important. We forget that Mystery and Wonder and Awe are important. We forget that friends and their lives are important. We forget that God's Word to us is important to hear. We forget that we actually need prayer. We forget that there are still wonderful things to learn. We forget that Jesus has called us to fill our life with meaning and not with activity and appointments. Remember that it was Jesus who said, "I come so that you might have life, and have it abundantly."

"Busy-ness" is not "abundance".

Believe it or not, that for which we sacrifice the important things of life is not all that important. In fact, even our jobs are not important enough reasons to destroy either our families or ourselves.



Let me suggest that the single most important thing to which we can attend in the new year is to re-examine what is important in life. God, people, family, neighborhood, relationships, play, sanity, prayer, country, higher values, Sabbath. And then MAKE TIME for those things which are important, and sacrifice whenever possible that which is merely yelling loudly in our ears for attention.

It is a new year. How shall we spend the time it gives us? What life shall we fashion?

- Drew

P.N.C. Update

By Dana Winslow

This month we have focused on reviewing Pastor Information Forms for the candidates we have received either through the matching program or through self-referrals. In their PIF's, candidates are required to provide answers to four questions:

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

These answers provide important information on the qualifications and potential fit for our church. In addition, most candidates have included links to sermons they have given in their current churches so we have had the opportunity to see/listen to them "in action" in a natural church setting. We have done our reviews as individuals and then come together in our weekly meetings to discuss our reactions. We have been able to "whittle down" the list of candidates to a group we will now interview (via Zoom) just after the holidays with the goal of finding the candidate God has chosen for our church.

Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 24th at 7:00 PM on ZOOM. Zoom invitations and Annual Reports will be made available on Sunday, January 17th.

Please submit all Annual Reports to the church office by **January 10th**.



Giving Envelopes

2020 Contribution Statements have been mailed. *(Please note—the mail has been running very late. Any additional 2020 gifts received in the next weeks will be added to your statement, and a corrected statement will be sent).* If you have any questions or adjustments to be made regarding your statement, please email the church office at npchurch@comcast.net.

2021 Giving Envelopes are available for pick-up outside, during preschool hours. Please email the church office if you would like a set mailed to your home. Online giving continues to be available at northamptonpresby.com/online-giving. Thank you for faithfully supporting NPC!

Minute for Mission: Mission Aviation Fellowship

By: Kathie Pisciella

Some of our NPC Mission envelope/online offerings have been designated to support Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The following is from their website maf.org. Nate Saint had a strong sense of purpose and conviction to serve the Lord. He served in the Army for 3 years, and during this time became aware of the need for missionary aviators. In 1948, he and his wife set out with MAF to open a base in Ecuador. Nate was driven by his desire to reach the lost for Christ. Even the Aucas (now called Waoranis)—a tribe known for their unprovoked killing sprees—had a place in his heart. After a few successful air drops to deliver gifts to this tribe, Nate and four others (Jim Elliot, Ed McCully, Peter Fleming and Roger Youderian) decided to attempt a face-to-face meeting. On January 8, 1956, they flew to an area near the Auca village and landed at Palm Beach. Despite some encouraging initial meetings, they were all martyred at that beach when the tribesmen attacked with spears a few days later. Their sudden deaths shocked the world. Many MAF supporters still remember hearing the news on the radio.

But evangelism to the Aucas did not stop because of this; in fact, it was hastened. Many in the village came to accept Christ, including six of the killing party. The missionaries' tragic martyrdom was only the beginning of a powerful message of salvation that has spread from Ecuador's remote Waodani community across the world. Knowing God had a plan for them, Jim Elliot's wife Elisabeth and their 10-month-old daughter decided to stay in Ecuador and continue the work Jim had left behind. A turning point came when two women left the tribe to meet with Elisabeth, thereby opening the door for both her and Nate's sister Rachel to make contact with the Waodani. They lived with the tribe for two years, bringing them God's Word, teaching them to forgive fearlessly and love tremendously – transforming their way of life forever. MAF has been a vital part of that message and has taken Nate's vision to use small aircraft to spread the Gospel into thousands of remote communities in more than 25 developing countries.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2
3 10 AM Communion Service Livestream 7 PM Deacons	4 7 PM Mission Committee	5	6 7 PM Women's Bible Study ZOOM	7 10 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM 7 PM PNC Mtg	8	9
10 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	11 7 PM Facilities Committee	12 7 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM	13 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	14 7 PM PNC Mtg	15	16
17 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE	18 MLK DAY 10:30 AM Girl Scouts MLK Bags (Outside)	19 7 PM Session Meeting	20 4 PM Women's Digging Deeper Study ZOOM 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	21 10 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM 7 PM PNC Mtg	22	23
24 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream 7 PM Congreg. Mtg ZOOM	25	26 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM	27 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	28 7 PM PNC Mtg	29	30
31 10 AM Sunday Worship Livestream						

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 2nd & 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

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