

NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON

Northampton Presbyterian Church
539 Buck Road, Holland, PA

SEPT/OCT 2020



“Dream a Little Dream with Me”

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

*“your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.”*

That is what the prophet Joel said long, long ago.

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Worship**

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I wonder what prompted him to say that. I wonder if he said it in a time when most folks would have doubted such a thing to be possible. I wonder if he said it in a time of great cynicism, when hopes and dreams were considered the playground of fools. I wonder if he said it in a time when people felt that God was far away. I wonder if he said it in a time when most folks were just so busy just staying alive that they did not have time to imagine doing such a thing.

I wonder if he said it in a time when the economy was tight and things seemed to be getting worse all of the time. I wonder if he said it in a time when life seemed dangerous and threatened. I wonder if he said it in a time when some of the leaders of the people seemed out towards the edge of lunacy. I wonder if he said it in a time of previously unimaginable



violence. I wonder if he said it in a time when most folks thought that their children would not have it as good as they had had it. I wonder if he said it in a time of strife everywhere people turned. I wonder if he said it in a time where people had lost their jobs and their homes. I wonder if he said it in a time when people's dreams seemed to be perishing right before their eyes.

I wonder if he said it in a time when people were just so tired or confused or afraid they had given up dreaming.

I wonder if that is why he said it then.

I wonder if he would say it now.

I think he would.

Perhaps, just perhaps, it is time to dream again.

- Drew

The Return of In-Person Worship

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

On Tuesday evening, the NPC Session voted to begin In-Person worship again on Sunday mornings. The committee tasked with bringing this about is made up of Drew Mann (Minister), Jacqui Edwards (Worship), Barb Erdmanis (Worship Chair), Val Erdmanis (Facilities and Head Usher), Kathie Piscella (Facilities Chair). Andy Chen is serving as our Public Health consultant.

Our target date to begin (assuming all goes well) is **October 18th**. The service will be held both in person at 10:00 AM and will continue to be broadcast on Facebook so you can choose for yourself how best to worship.

The guiding principle of how we will worship is a non-negotiable "Safety First." Safety will require that we approach worship quite a bit differently than what we remember as "normal." These things may change over time as new information and experience present themselves to us. We will need to be flexible going ahead.

In order for us to best anticipate how to manage this new protocol, it would be extremely helpful if we could have some estimate of how many of you want to return to in-person worship. For now, if you think you are going to be coming to the building on Sunday mornings, please email Val Erdmanis at verdmanis@penncharter.com. Once we actually open, we will ask you to make a reservation each and every Saturday evening with Val by 8:00 PM at his email address or at his cell phone (215-485-0434) and leave a message.



To Session, “Safety First” looks like the following:

- Masks for the safety of others and social distancing will be mandatory. Sanitizing gel will be available. Masks will be available for those who have forgotten their own.
- PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL OR HAVE BEEN EXPOSED WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS TO SOMEONE WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.
- We would discourage those over 65 years of age or anyone with a chronic health condition from attending in person for the present time.
- As a reminder, one should not shake hands or hug others. An elbow bump or a foot tap is best.
- There will be no social/coffee/educational time before or after worship.
- The cloak room will not be available.
- There will be only space for 50 people in the sanctuary. We ask you to be flexible as we seat you to maximize safely distanced attendance.
- You will be seated from front pew-to-back. You will be dismissed back pew-to-front. Again, please be flexible about seating; you will very likely not be sitting in your old accustomed seat.
- The available restrooms will be limited to the nursery and new wing bathrooms.
- We invite families to worship together in the sanctuary. No child-care will be available at this time.
- Bibles and Hymnals will not be in the sanctuary. You are welcome to bring your own Bible if you choose.

Music in worship will also be very different from before. Music will be exclusively instrumental for the present. Because of the extraordinarily high risk of exposure inherent in group or solo song, we will not be singing hymns or solos. Vocal singing has been shown to be a super-spreader activity.

Generally speaking, we want the “flow” of the morning to look like this:

- After parking your car, enter by way of the narthex entrance. That is the only entry door that will be open.
- The floor will be marked at six-foot intervals to aid in spacing. We will ask that you seat from front pew to back; if you have an accustomed seat, we ask that you be flexible and sit in designated seats. The usher/s will guide you.
- There will be no handheld program or worship materials. The bulletin will be shown on the sanctuary screen.
- Offering plates will not be passed. There will be a collection point in the narthex upon exiting.



- At the conclusion of worship, we will dismiss you beginning with the rear pews and moving forward.
- As you leave the building, we will ask you to move directly to your car so others can easily exit the building without bunching up. If anyone must converse with another please do so in the parking lot, maintaining your distance and masking.

We hope that this all makes sense to you. Considerable effort and thought have gone into this design as we try to afford you both the physical sense of community and the safety of appropriate spacing.

Whether you choose the Facebook broadcast or in-person worship, we will still join with one voice every Sunday morning in praise to our God.

If you have any questions, please let me know at npmann@comcast.net.

In Christ:

Drew

P.N.C. Update

By Dana Winslow

NPC Congregation,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the work that your **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** is doing on your behalf. We have been meeting every Thursday evening via Zoom for the last month, and focused on many of the preliminary activities necessary for our task: we have identified a chairperson (myself) and a Secretary (Corinne Kauermann); we have set up an electronic filing system for all of our various documents that we can all access; we have had an orientation on the entire Pastor search process from the Presbytery Committee on Ministry; and we have reviewed the Mission Study that will serve as the basis for our “job description”. Our first major step is writing this description, known as the Minister Information Form (MIF), and we have made good progress on this step. We expect to have a completed form that can be submitted for approval to the COM in October, and then actually begin receiving backgrounds from Pastor candidates in late October/November. In each step, we look for God’s guidance and blessing as we do this important work. I look forward to keeping you informed of our progress in this newsletter.

Gratefully Submitted,

Dana Winslow, Chairman on behalf of the PNC

Fireside Chat News

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

Going forward, Fireside Chats will NOT be held on Wednesday nights conflicting with the 7 PM Women's Bible Study (They will continue, as usual, on all other Wednesday nights). We want to encourage all women to join the Women's Bible Study. Please see the following page for more information on their new study.

In October, Fireside Chats will not be held on October 14th.

Park Luck Event

Saturday, October 17th from 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

***** We will also be saying our farewells to Leslie Chatty, who has moved *****

The "Park Luck Event" will be held in the shady areas around the church parking lot. You can park your cars in the center of the lot or on the street, and then find a shady spot to plant your lawn chairs under the trees or in the shade of the building.

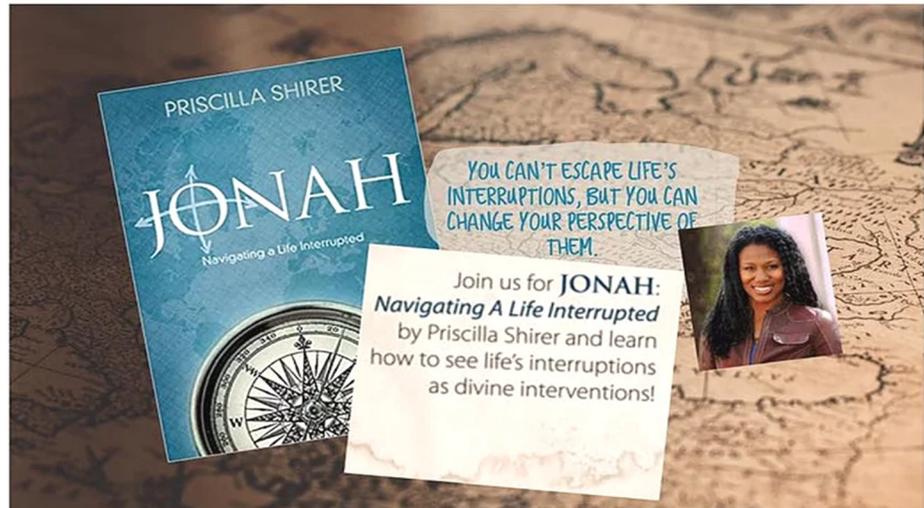
If you plan to attend, please bring your food/beverage, a lawn chair; a TV tray may be helpful. We will be maintaining the 6-foot social distancing rule and face masks will be required, unless you are eating. Restrooms will not be available, so plan accordingly. If the weather forecast is uncertain, you can call Lea Pennington to see if we plan on canceling.



Food Pantry Collection at the Park Luck Continues:

Please bring a food donation to support The Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian - tuna, peanut butter, canned stew/chicken, cereal, canned fruit and canned/shelf-stable milk, diapers (larger sizes), etc.

Women's Fall/Winter Bible Study



JONAH: Navigating a Life Interrupted by Priscilla Shirer

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (All are invited!)

Begins October 14th from 7 PM – 9 PM

On-going: **FIRST Wednesday** of the month

Interruptions. They're aggravating. Sometimes infuriating. But how we handle interruptions actually tell us more about ourselves. What do we do when God interrupts our lives? Many times, like Jonah, we run. Priscilla redefines interruption and shows that interruption is actually God's invitation to do something beyond our wildest dreams.

An evening study where we will view a video and discuss questions afterwards (on Zoom). No book required & no homework.

DIGGING DEEPER STUDY

Begins October 21st from 4 PM – 6 PM

On-going: **THIRD Wednesday** of the month

DIGGING DEEPER is for women who are looking to spend time on their own and in a group – studying, writing and discussing God's Word in their lives. The Digging Deeper group will meet twice a month and will be using a workbook that they will complete at home in advance. The first meeting of the month will be the larger JONAH video session. The group would then meet (on Zoom) for a daytime session later in the month.

The DIGGING DEEPER discussion will come completely from the *Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted* workbook utilizing the earlier video session as groundwork.

Monthly Financial Report

	Jul-Aug 2020	Year to Date	% of Budget
GENERAL FUND INCOME	40,166.10	168,770.27	64%
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES			
PAYROLL	22,160.50	88,371.90	68%
BENEFITS	2,128.84	8,919.57	55%
ADMINISTRATIVE	4,495.48	13,582.69	42%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		233.19	23%
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE		106.17	13%
FACILITIES			
PNC Mortgage	9,410.06	37,640.24	67%
Church Facilities	5,376.18	22,268.54	44%
PASTOR SEARCH		50.00	5%
STEWARDSHIP		455.03	105%
WORSHIP	193.00	798.88	16%
Total GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	43,764.06	172,426.21	64%
NET	(3,597.96)	(3,655.94)	



SEPT/OCT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Livestream	21	22	23 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	24	25	26
27 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Livestream	28	29 (GW Orientation)	30 (GW First Days of Preschool) 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	1 (GW First Days of Preschool) 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM	2	3
4 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Livestream	5	6	7 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	8	9	10
(The Office Administrator will be on vacation October 5th-9th)						
11 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Livestream	12	13 7:00 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM	14 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study ZOOM	15 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM	16	17 4:30 PM Park Luck Event / L. Chatty Farewell
18 10:00 AM Sunday Worship * In-Person & Livestream	19	20 7:00 PM Session Meeting	21 4:00 PM Women's Digging Deeper Study ZOOM 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23	24
25 10:00 AM Sunday Worship * In-Person & Livestream	26	27 7:00 PM Theology on Tap ZOOM	28 7:30 PM Fireside Chat Livestream	29 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study ZOOM	30	31

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.

~Thursday Bible Study meets on 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays at 10:00 AM on ZOOM.

Northampton Presbyterian Church

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