



FYI

VOLUME 168

NORTH PARK CHURCH

JUNE 2021

**MY FLESH AND MY HEART MAY FAIL, BUT GOD IS THE
STRENGTH OF MY HEART**

AND MY PORTION FOREVER.

PSALM 73:26 ESV



NORTH PARK CHURCH

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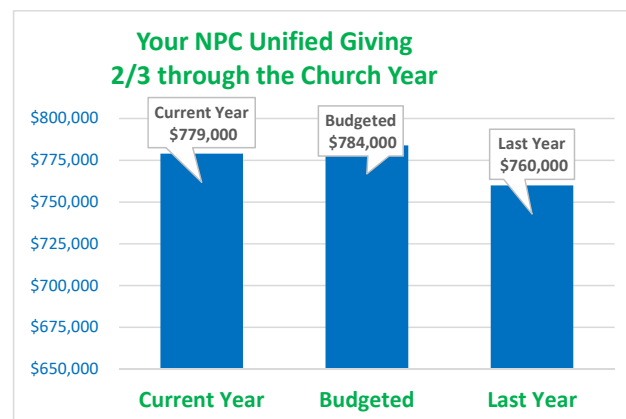
FEATURES

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **John Bivens** is our new custodian....that **John and his wife Karen** recently moved here from Port Clinton, Ohio....that our Summer Sunday Worship Services start at 9:30 A.M. and runs through Labor Day....that we will have special hours on July 25 for our 40th Anniversary service....that despite its length, the neck of a giraffe is not long enough to reach the ground....that the ManUp Pittsburgh event will be June 12 at Victory Family Church in Cranberry....that **Alison Sanders** and her identical twin sister gave birth on the same day, Peter's birthday....that a fly's taste buds are located in its feet....that The Church at Magee is a group that meets each fourth Sunday at 4:00 P.M. in front of Magee Womens' Hospital to stand against the abortion practice prevalent there....that **Dan Hendley** will be speaking at the June gathering....that a woodpecker can peck 500 times per minute....that Naval Academy gymnast, **Ben Zaiser**, son of **Barry & Kim** once won the USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Championship in the vault....that **Brian Osmond** was once lead camera-man for a Nickelodeon TV show called 'Supah Ninjas', which was filmed in Pittsburgh....that no two cows have identical nose-prints....that **Bill & Pat Hargest** used to live in Milwaukee....that **Drew Laird** has graduated from Messiah and is looking for a teaching position....that 46% of American high-school students cannot name a single country that borders on the Pacific Ocean....that **Sarah Kuchma** will be going to Grove City College, like her mother....that June 13 is our Grad Sunday at NPC and we have seven graduates....that cypress wood outlasts granite....that those who read the FYI last 12% longer than those who do not? Did you know these things? I thought you should.



GIVING UPDATE



HISTORY CORNER

The renewal of the Church will be in progress when it is seen as a fellowship of consciously inadequate persons who gather because they are weak and scatter to serve because their unity with one another and with Christ has made them bold. This is the only kind of Christianity that can stand up to the challenge of the militant paganism and the fanaticism of the New Left. It will win, in the long run, because it is more revolutionary than they are.

D. Elton Trueblood,
1900-1994, *The Incendiary Fellowship*

FAMILY OF THE MONTH: SCHOGREN

I bet you have seen a video promoting one of the many ministries here at NPC. Did you ever wonder who the genius is behind the bulletin, worship slides, website, livestream, FYI, and more? Well, it is time to meet our Media Director, Heather Schogren.

Heather has lived her whole life in the North Hills and graduated from North Allegheny Senior High School. She went on to graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) in 2018 where she earned a BA degree in Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies with a certificate in Digital Arts & Culture.

During her time there, her internship was working as a Videographer for UWM making videos for their social media. She also was a part of the campus ministry Cru holding a leadership position for social media and audio/visual manager.

After graduation Heather was hired at NPC as the part-time Communications Secretary. In September 2020, she was hired on full-time as the Media Director. Heather has been with NPC for about three years. She likes working with God's people in a good church where she is using her gifts for the glory of God.

Her family has been long time members at Allegheny Center Alliance Church where she regularly attends and is pursuing membership. She also serves as a Video Director on their Media Team. But you may have seen her on some Sundays at NPC helping with the slides or livestreaming for worship. She is even in the Hepners' Care Group.

When I interviewed Heather, she was wearing a shirt that said, "Dog Mom." In January of this year, she rescued an older puppy from a shelter in West Virginia. In the first week of May her collie/hound baby dog, Goldie finished her training with "Sit Means Sit" and weighed in at 70 pounds. Hopefully Heather and Goldie will be a good team babysitting for her brother's three children which Heather also enjoys doing.

Heather's other passion is playing video games and watching Marvel movies. Spider-Man is her favorite superhero. I don't know if she is better than Nathanael Hepner or not, but you can watch her play video games on Twitch where she streams herself. I hope you now appreciate and know more about an important behind the scenes employee at NPC. **- Jim Ludwig**



FAVORITE VERSE:

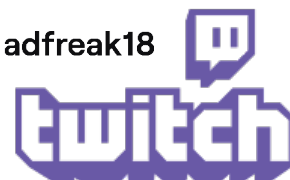
Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. - 1 Peter 5:17

PRAYER REQUEST:

For her to be able to hear God's voice and guide her future.



adfreak18



I enjoyed getting to know Heather better and I'm looking forward to interviewing others for the Feature Family. It is a little like getting the vaccine. Kelly Laird inoculated 36 families starting in May of 2016 and I have done about 19 more since October of 2019. You can volunteer for this feature and you will be immune from another interview for at least 10 years. I thought you should know that those who regularly read the FYI are 27% more likely to be featured than those who don't.

SMALL TOWN THEOLOGIAN

Former NPC Student Ministries Director, Jonathan Shirk, pastor of Jerusalem Church in Manheim, PA, has launched out into new fields of ministry in three ways. First, he has published a book titled *Predestined for Joy: Finding Comfort in a Controversial Doctrine*. It is available on Amazon.

Secondly, he launched a podcast titled Small Town Theologian. You can listen on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts, or Anchor. Thirdly, check out his blog at smalltowntheologian.org. Give Pastor Shirk a read or a listen and let him know at smalltowntheologian@gmail.com. The Shirk family is planning to attend our 40th in July!



VANITY OF VANITIES

We are in the process of remodeling our master bathroom. Tore out the 70's-era baby blue molded fiberglass shower surround (apparently stylish at one time), and set our sights on some sort of hip, trendy subway tile. Of course, other outdated features and failing fixtures had to go as well.

We tore out the fiberglass, parts of the walls and ceiling, and chipped out the outmoded tile floor, which we replaced with a cool hexagon tile design. It didn't set right, so THAT was torn out and redone. So far, we've pulled down and replaced the cement backerboard for the new shower three times, and removed and reinstalled the plumbing four times to make corrections. We don't necessarily want perfection, but it has to be just right, you see. Gut and replace everything—including the vanity.

The vanity is appropriately named. We spend a lot of self-absorbed time with it, hoping to become beautiful. In all actuality it does have a practical purpose, since

there isn't anyone who wants to go out in public with something dangling out of your nose, or a piece of spinach stuck prominently in your teeth. So there's that.

We searched high and low, and finally settled on a vanity set that was all that and then some. When it arrived (delivered by a Croatian refugee—citizen of the US and heaven—but that's a future article), we unpacked it and found a countertop was chipped. So, a month later, the replacement arrived; all good to go. Literally takes up half the bathroom. Talk about vanity.

Did you know the word “vanity” appears in Ecclesiastes 26 times? Assuming Solomon is the author of the book, he knew something about vanity (though with 1,000 wives and concubines, I'd think he owned well more than 26 vanities). The phrase “vanity of vanities” opens and closes the Ecclesiastical discourse. I'm coming to a new understanding of the vanity of vanities. Installing the plumbing, getting the thing centered just right, figuring and installing the backsplash—so much trouble for the value.

But then, there's the vanity of vanities. Everything we chase after—searching, as the Teacher before us, to discover some meaning in life apart from the gospel-centered relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ. We sing about Christ's sufficiency: lines like You can have all this world, but give me Jesus; All to Jesus I surrender; Jesus I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee; What a beautiful name it is, nothing compares to this.

I find that talk is cheap. I don't know about you, but I have a hard time convincing myself I actually believe what I'm singing when my heart is so easily prone to wander, Lord I feel it. Ok, well, I believe that line. The world is full of all sorts of good things given to us by God; things we greedily pursue as an end to themselves. It leads to the end of ourselves instead, and we come to the Teacher's conclusion—all is vanity. Fear God; keep His commandments. Enjoy Him forever. I constantly have to rid myself of the attachment I have to worldly pleasures, and refocus on the Source of those blessings. It helps to examine myself in the mirror with an air of suspicious realism instead of, well, vanity. Hey—I know just where to do that. - **Brooke Hopkins**

✝ WORSHIP

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

JUNE 6

Youth Group

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

North Park Church

JUNE 13

Youth Group

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

North Park Church

JUNE 19

Car Wash

Fundraiser For

Missions Trip

9:00 - 2:00 P.M.

North Park Church

JUNE 20

No Youth Group

Due to Father's Day

JUNE 27

Youth Group

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

McKinney's House

4800 Andrews Drive

Gibsonia, PA 15044

SUMMER KIDS' WORSHIP

Plans are in place for summer Kids' Worship. We will continue to offer Kids' Worship on the first, third and fifth weeks of each month during the summer right before the sermon. All kids will head to Room 208 where parents can pick up their parent safety tag and drop off their child. We have several teams in place as we study the following themes.


June - Fathers


July - Freedom in Christ


August - Jesus' Miracles


We will also still offer Kids' Messages on the second and fourth weeks when the kids stay in the worship service. Our leaders for the summer Kids' Messages will be Pastors Dan and Ben, Brooke Hopkins, Nancy Van Sickel and myself. - **Kelly Laird**


GRADUATING SENIORS

 **John Faber** – Graduated from Pine Richland High School and will be attending the University of Alabama for Mechanical Engineering and an MBA.

 **Luther Hopkins** – Graduated from the Cambridge Academy and will be taking a gap year to work and develop his musical skills to prepare for a potential college degree.

 **Sarah Kuchma** – Graduated from Norths Hills High School and will be attending Grove City College for Biology/Pre-Health.

 **Josh Laird** – Graduated from Eden Christian Academy and will be attending Waynesburg University for Digital Media Communications.

 **Ben Lish** – Graduated from Hampton High School and will be attending the Farmer School of Business at Miami University for Supply Chain Management and Finance.

 **Sophie Wilkin** – Graduated from Eden Christian Academy and will be attending the University of Toronto for International Relations.



VBS 2021 JUNE 21 - 25

VOLUNTEER ROLES STILL NEEDED:

Set Up Crew - (Friday night, June 18 and/or Saturday, June 19)

Runner/Helper - Someone to run errands or do odd jobs during camp week

Camp Nurse/Doctor - Monday and Tuesday afternoons only

Clean Up Crew - Friday afternoon, June 25

DONATIONS

There are still a few items needed for VBS faithLAB! Contact me if you can supply them. Also, there will be many small tasks needed to complete during the first three weeks of June. If you can help, even for just an hour, please let me know.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITY

Let's pray for our campers! If you are looking for an easy way to help with VBS, please consider praying for our campers and their families. Here are a few specific prayers:

- That God would draw them near and they will feel His presence at camp.
- Pray for safety, that all campers and volunteers would arrive at camp safely and get to enjoy camp all week without sickness or injury.
- Pray for our camp collection, that we would raise the funds needed for Eduations Hope Academy to purchase necessary Science laboratory equipment.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for the directors and good health for them and their families especially during the week of camp.
- Pray that the biblical messages learned at camp will stay with campers all their lives!

END OF CAMP CELEBRATION

On Sunday, June 27, campers and their families are invited to attend church where they will sing a couple camp songs and enjoy a slideshow of pictures from throughout the week. We will also be treated to the Kona ice truck in our parking lot afterward. Hope you can make it!

NURSERY DURING CAMP

Every year, we offer a nursery for any volunteer's child(ren) who need it. So, if you offer to help, you get free child care for the week while you are here helping. The nursery will be open from 8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. every morning of camp. If you should need nursery services for your children during camp week so you can help or if you can serve in the nursery, please contact Kelly Laird.

WE ARE READY FOR VBS!

- Curriculum has been chosen
- Directors' plans are in place
- Campers are registered and getting excited
- Decorations are made and ready to hang
- Prayers have been offered in abundance and many answered!
- Science Devotions leaders are prepared
- Science Project leaders are ready
- Volunteers have stepped up
- Elective leaders are ready



Over the past year, with many activities canceled, I have had a lot of time at home with my family. We played games, completed puzzles, baked soft pretzels; I successfully used yeast! — You can congratulate me later. We went for walks, and on hikes and some bike rides. We had dance parties, fire pits, and did some crafts—we made LOTS of slime!

But before you're tempted to think more highly of us than you should, I'll include some of the other things that happened in our home. We screamed, sometimes at each other. We cried—a lot. We argued, locked ourselves in our rooms, and ignored one another. Over and over again we had to apologize and offer forgiveness.

Writing lists like the ones above makes the last year sound so quick, so neat and so simple, but it wasn't. It was a messy year, and while we've picked up some of the debris and dusted off a few of the surfaces, don't look in the closets or under the rugs! If you do, you may find more than dust bunnies. In those tucked away places, there are scars and wounds in various stages of healing.

It was a messy year because we are messy; I am a messy. Don't get

me wrong, I like a neat and orderly home, and too often I try to order my life by keeping things tidy on the outside, but that doesn't work because my heart is messy—as the prophet Jeremiah says, its “deceitful and desperately sick.”

And my heart is hurting as I grieve my sin, my sick heart, and the wounds that I've inflicted on those closest to me as a result of my sin. You see, some of the scars and wounds you'd find in our closets and under the rugs are mine, but many belong to others and are because of me. While apologies and forgiveness have been offered, it's sometimes difficult for me to look anywhere other than ‘in the closets and under the rug’. Have you heard the saying by pastor Robert Murray McCheyne, “For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.”? YES! That's what I need to do and maybe you do too?

This is why I am so excited for Mugs and Muffins this summer, where we will remember together the glorious truths of Romans Chapter 8!

- No condemnation
- Fulfillment of the law
- Life and peace
- Adoption as (daughters)

- Heirs
- Future glory
- Redemption of our bodies
- HOPE
- God's everlasting love
- We are more than conquerors
- FREEDOM in Christ!

McCheyne goes on to say, “(Christ) is altogether lovely. Such infinite majesty, and yet such meekness and grace, and all for sinners, even the chief! Live much in the smiles of God. Bask in his beams. Feel his all-seeing eye settled on you in love, and repose in his almighty arms.”

Ladies, the story of your past year may differ from mine, but I know that there are truths in Romans 8 that God can use in your life, to set you free from whatever may be lurking in the messy places of your heart and to give you rest in His almighty arms, so I hope that you will join us for as many weeks as you are able this summer to meditate on these truths.

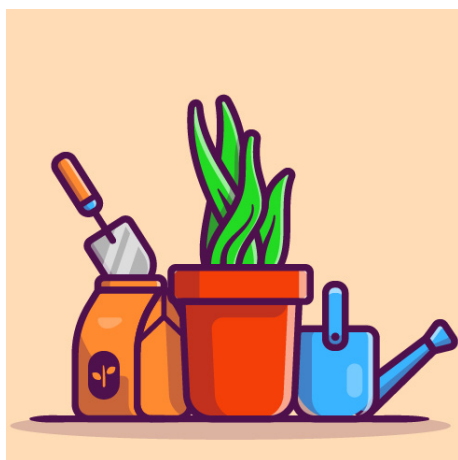
DETAILS:

- Wednesdays on June 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28, and August 4
- 9:30-11:30 A.M. OR 7-8:30 P.M.
- Room 112
- Bring your favorite mug to enjoy a coffee or tea with friends! (Paper cups will be available.)

There will be childcare (**mornings only**) for children ages 0-11. We need you to sign up for childcare so that we can ensure that we have enough workers available. Emily Harrer and Kelly Laird will be leading crafts for our older children. Sign up using the link in the Thursday Epistle or by emailing Amber Stites (amberstites@northparkepc.org) and Contact Kelly directly for childcare. - **Amber Stites**



CONNECT



WORK DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 5 | 9:00 A.M. | NPC

Spring is here, and the Building & Grounds Team is seeking industrious volunteers to tackle some clean-up and repair projects that will help to keep the North Park Church campus beautiful and welcoming. This is a great service activity for families. We will gather at the church on Saturday, June 5 with a rain date of June 12. All tools and supplies will be provided. Lunch will also be provided for all volunteers. The projects are many and varied, so there is certain to be a task for every interest and skill level. Descriptions of the projects and signups will be available at the Welcome Center through May 30. We look forward to you joining us! Questions? Email Dan Sherwin (danielsherwin613@gmail.com). - **Dan Sherwin**

COMPASS: PICNIC & GAME NIGHT

TUESDAY, JUNE 15 | 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. | NPC

Come join all of your North Park friends for some hot dogs, hamburgers, and outdoor games. We'll be cranking out the grill and setting up the volleyball net. The most important piece, though, is you. Come prepared to reconnect with your old friends, but don't overlook the opportunity to make some new ones too. Those with last names ending in A-L should bring an appetizer and those with last names ending in M-Z should bring a side or salad. We'll cover everything else! If you plan to come, please, sign up in the lobby or email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).

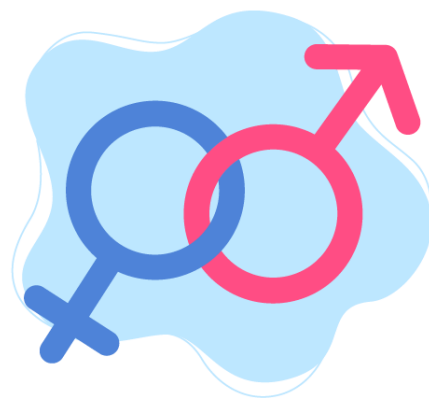
PARENTING FORUM: GENDER IDENTITY & PARENTING

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. | ROOM 112

What are you supposed to do when the neighbor boy comes over to play wearing a dress? How should you respond when the neighbor girl tells your daughter she wants to be a boy? Parenting in the 2020's has its challenges and parents face questions they didn't as a child.

In this parenting forum, we are going to help you as a parent face these kinds of situations with grace and truth. The time will feature a presentation by Pastor Ben on the topic and have sufficient time for discussion of the specific situations and circumstances that you are facing in your parenting. You are invited to join us for this enlightening forum. If you need childcare for children 12 and under, email Kelly Laird (kellylaird@northparkepc.org) to schedule.



GLORY TO GOD 40TH Anniversary

COME JOIN
THE PARTY!
JULY 23-25

FRIDAY GOLF OUTING

12:00 P.M. | NORTH PARK GOLF COURSE

- \$29.75 - 18 holes w/cart
- Men and Women invited
- Sign up by emailing Jim Ludwig (jim@blumen.com)

SATURDAY PICNIC

3:00- 7:00 P.M. | NORTH PARK CHURCH

- 3:00 P.M. |** Registration in the Blue Room
 | Games & Activities on the Lawn
- Corn Hole
 - Volleyball
 - Face Painting
 - and more!

4:30 P.M. | Welcome

5:00 P.M. | Catered BBQ dinner

6:00 P.M. | Music w/Brooke and guests

including Deb Stauffer's NPC inaugural song

SUNDAY WORSHIP & LUNCH

9:00 A.M. | Sunday School: Meet & Greet w/former pastors

10:15 A.M. | Preaching by Dan Lacich

12:00 P.M. | Catered Lunch & Cookie Table

- Vegetarian and Children's meals available
- Testimonies to God's Glory



IMPACT

**Remember those in prison
as if you were there yourself**
Hebrews 13:3

FRIENDS FOR PRISONERS

As Christians seeking to be like our Lord in caring for and visiting prisoners, here is an opportunity to do that very thing without leaving your home – You can develop a relationship with a prisoner (man or woman) through the mail and all the administration is done for you. If interested please check out metanoiaprisonministries.org. For questions or to learn more, contact Beth Hendley (beth.hendley@gmail.com).



MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH: PAT PREMICK

Pat has been a member missionary serving overseas in Asia. In 2020, God opened a door for her to transition her ministry to Taiwan where she now serves. Transitioning in the middle of the pandemic was difficult as it meant reduced ability to build relationships and connections in the community and country. This made her first year in Taiwan rather isolated. If you felt lonely and disconnected over the past year as a result of the pandemic, imagine moving to a new country and experiencing the social distancing of the past year. That is a small sample of what Pat has journeyed through this past year. Nevertheless, she does believe God has called her to Taiwan to disciple others and build the church through discipleship.

PRAYERS FOR MINISTRY

- Continue to meet with more potential ministry partners, exploring what God might want me to do here.
- Develop strong and healthy relationships with my Hsinchu team and the larger Taiwan team that I'm a part of.
- God's leading in some coaching opportunities with Taiwanese people, Christian and non-Christian alike.
- Starting to lead my own worship team at my International English Fellowship.



PRAYERS FOR PERSONAL

- COVID will calm down so I can get Mia, my cat, rescheduled to fly here. Safety for her travels.
- Taiwan's water, electricity, and COVID situation to all be under control. They are under water restrictions because of a severe drought.
- Spiritually enriching times with God.

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Sandy Skillen | 14 Chris Cirucci |
| 2 Gabriel Hopkins
Ezra Miller | 15 Kristen Satariano |
| 4 Catherine Ashworth
Dan Dupee | 18 Ruth Cox
Wesley Lukas |
| 6 Jackson Keeney | 19 Reuben Bright |
| 7 Deborah Reed | 21 Tirzah Hopkins |
| 8 Kelly Pennington
Philip Van Sickel | 23 Lauren Fowler
Laura Gilbert
Gerri Ilnicki
Madeline Karpiak
Charlotte Librich
Andrew Stites |
| 9 Bruce Allison
Ryan Hoover
Cameron Wilkin | 24 Ryan Murphy |
| 10 Barbara Buirge
Kristen Smalley | 25 Rose Anderson
Megan Carey |
| 11 Dan Hendley
Luke Longmore
Carol Shoemaker
Benjamin Smalley | 26 Daniel Peel |
| 13 DeAnne Alberti
Amana Morley
Dan Sherwin | 27 Diana Rush |
| | 29 Jane Anzaldi |
| | 30 Isaac Librich
Bethany Osmond
Scott Shriver
June Yoder |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 Andy & Michele Moir
Paul & Ann Spangler | 9 Bruce & Jane Allison |
| 3 Aaron & Kaitlyn Sullivan | 11 Daniel & Kelly Pennington |
| 7 Brian & Julie Harrer
Brooke & Gayla Hopkins
Terry & Susan Meeneghan
Scott & Kate Shriver | 16 Graham & Catherine Ashworth |
| 8 Dawson & Kim Haytock | 17 Bill & Judy Jacobs |
| | 21 Scott & Laura Dzadoovsky
Andrew & Joyce Kish |
| | 24 Pete & Elaine Longjohn |
| | 28 John & Deb Holt |