



# FYI

**VOLUME 172**

**NORTH PARK CHURCH**

**NOVEMBER 2021**

**Oh GIVE THANKS to the Lord, for He is GOOD,  
for His steadfast LOVE endures forever!**  
*Psalms 107:1*



## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **TIRZAH HOPKINS** is recently engaged to marry Matthew Brown on January 5 in Montana....that **MARK ALTMYER** is recently engaged to marry Morgan Valentic....that the average marriage lasts 23 years....that **GHEYSIKA AGAMBILA** just released his latest novel, *The Shrinking Bowl*....that **THE HARRERS** are looking for a home for their 8-year old 20 lb dog that prefers men....that **GRACE STITT** plays #2 on her Hampton high school tennis team....that we have a Thanksgiving sharing service at 6:30 P.M. on November 21....that **BROOKE HOPKINS** attended the Getty "Sing" conference in Nashville....that **JULIE HARRER AND NATALIE KARR** provided food for the recent North Park Encounter....that one in eight couples will celebrate a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary....that **NATALIE KARR** has been approved to join our A & P committee....that November 28 all adult Sunday School classes will meet in Room 112 with Pastor Dan....that **CHRIS AND ANNETTE WU** are celebrating a first grandchild – Olivia Mae, daughter of Wesley Uhler....that if any 24 people are together, odds are that two will have identical birthdays....that Memorial Park Church has called a new pastor from California named Chris Eatough....that **VIOLET SHRIVER** recently was married to her husband, Garrison....that **BROOKE AND GAYLA HOPKINS** recently visited their son Peter and his family in England....that the Dallas Mavericks of the NBA once had three point-guards on the roster, all of whom were born on the same day in 1984....that **JEN BURKHOLDER** was a victim of Southwest Airline pilot problems and spent 30 hours in the Orlando airport....that **TACEY HOPPER** is recently back from a European trip with her son, Luke, which included a visit with daughter Jesse and her family....that a genius, someone with an IQ over 147, will only be found in every 1000 persons... that those who read the FYI are 26% more likely to be a genius than those who do not? Did you know these things? I thought you should.

## HISTORY CORNER

"To You I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and call upon the Name of the Lord"  
*Psalms 116:17*

How does one offer such a sacrifice? It means to thank God when one does not feel like it. It means to thank God when there seems to be nothing for which to be thankful. It means to thank God when circumstances are absolutely contrary to the giving of thanks. It means to thank God with the will rather than the emotions. It is to give God thanks for who He is rather than what He gives. Thank God for Himself rather than for His gifts! Thanking God just for obvious blessings and benefits and gifts is to miss life's choicest reasons for thankfulness. In retrospect, often life's trials bring the chiefest blessings. Small the man who thanks God only for what God gives. Blind the man who measures thankfulness by the benefits of God rather than the God of benefits. Thanking God for Himself is the sacrifice of thanksgiving because it is for God Himself alone, not for what He does or gives. It is the sacrifice of thanksgiving because it is more than emotional sentimentality; it is an action of the dedicated will. Offer God the sacrifice of thanksgiving daily.

Rev. Richard Halverson (1916-1995)  
Chaplain of the U.S. Senate from 1981 - 1994

## NPC TO HOST PRESBYTERY

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

On Saturday November 13, our church will host a meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. The meeting, which will mostly focus on evangelism training, will start around 8:30 a.m. and end mid-afternoon. We could use help setting up, welcoming, serving lunch and more. See Mark Sharpnack or Dan Hendley if you are available to help our Hospitality Team with this event.

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 | 6:30 P.M.**

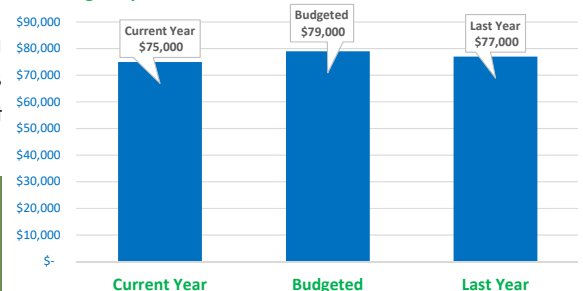
We look forward to a special time of rejoicing in the mercies of our Savior in a thanksgiving service. The evening will feature an open mike sharing time of how God has been moving and blessing in the past year and we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Plan to join us for this wonderful gathering with the entire church family. No child care for this event.

## GIVING UPDATE

After one month, Unified Giving of \$75,000 for our church year is 5% below our budgeted amount and 3% less than last year.



**Your NPC Unified Giving through September 30, 2021**



## FAMILY OF THE MONTH: BROWN

North Park Church is blessed to have a Pastor dedicated to serving our youth for going on 7 years. That is four times longer than the average tenure of a youth pastor. As a bonus his wife Kate majored in youth ministry at Geneva and brings her skills and support to our youth. Both Taylor and Kate grew up in North Hills. Taylor went through Eden Christian Academy while Kate was at Seneca Valley. Taylor grew up attending Northgate Baptist Church with his family. Kate was an infrequent Catholic attendee who was attracted to Northway's youth group and the tutelage of Rachael Rowland.

Fate or God's providence would bring both of them to attend Geneva College. In 2012, when Taylor was a junior and Kate a sophomore, they took a class together and a life together had begun. After graduating from Geneva with a degree in Christian ministries, Taylor went to Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, KY where he got his Masters in Divinity. They were married July 26, 2014.

You probably didn't know that Kate's maiden name is Bortnyik, which is Hungarian, or that she started a business as a photographer in 2013. If you need baby pictures, graduation pictures, or a family portrait, call Kate. Of course, wedding pictures are the big ticket and Kate often needs an assistant like Taylor or Lindsay Altmyer. Kate also works part time at Bethany Christian Services, an adoption and foster care agency in Wexford.

Samuel was born on October 18, 2019 and expects to have a sister this coming January. Samuel shares his father's

passion for reading, loves all fruit, sleeps with a "Snoopy" doll, and his favorite toy is a plain, old, plastic apple.

Taylor and Kate love to travel. Besides youth mission trips to interesting towns, they have been to New York City, New Orleans, Charleston, Chicago, Nashville and Washington, D.C. When child #2 comes along in January, traveling together will build even more memories.

If you have heard Taylor preach, you know he may relate some of his weaknesses or idiosyncrasies from his childhood to make a point. He told me someone taught him not to take himself too seriously but take God very seriously. If you read Taylor's favorite verse, *Philippians 1:21*, that drives home what is important to him. Taylor is glad to be done with school and pursuing degrees for now, but is still an avid reader of, to no surprise, theology. His favorite pastors besides Dan and Ben include the likes of Charles Spurgeon and Martin Lloyd Jones. He also enjoys movies and occasionally a good fiction book.

Kate's favorite scripture is *2 Corinthians 12:9-11*. Maybe I didn't interview her well enough to discover any of her weaknesses. She seems like someone who succeeded through childhood and has become an excellent wife and mother. Even their first adoption five years ago, Murdock, their Golden Retriever, has been raised to become Samuel's best friend and protector. I'm sure the high school care groups that Kate and Taylor lead get to know them more intimately.

I get to greet Taylor's parents in church every time he preaches because they sit up front with me. Taylor and Kate also moved into the neighborhood where I raised my five children. If you haven't met Taylor and Kate, you are either really new to the church or don't have any school-aged children. Don't be a stranger. You will be blessed to know them. - **Jim Ludwig**



# DEAR **Peter Pan** & **CHOOSY MOM**

A column to answer all your PBJ questions

## AM I PRAYING FOR **PBJ** WRONG?

If you have a PBJ question that you would like answered,  
please send it to [pbj@northparkepc.org](mailto:pbj@northparkepc.org)

### DEAR PETER PAN & CHOOSY MOM,

In regards to PBJ, I've been praying for my heart to be receptive to God's calling in my life, but someone told me that I have to pray for someone outside the church.

Am I praying wrong? — **CONFUSED PBJER**

### DEAR CONFUSED PBJER,

We certainly need to be praying for receptive hearts to God's direction in our day to day life, so that is fully in line with the hope for PBJ prayers.

At the same time, the other person is right in that part of what we are praying and asking God to do is to provide opportunities to love others outside of our church, though it does not need to be a specific person.

However, even though the intention is to bless others outside the church, the Spirit might direct you to someone in our church that needs a loving touch. If so, follow through on it. That totally counts! PBJ is ultimately about offering ourselves to God in prayer and then following through when he gives us opportunities.

— **PETER PAN**

### DEAR CONFUSED PBJER,

Nope, you're not doing it wrong! PBJ is a tool we can use to assist us in stretching ourselves to obey God's call in our life. Stretching can be uncomfortable, but those stretching places are unique in each of us and how God calls us and uses us is also very different than how he may use a friend and fellow church member.

God may be calling some of us to stretch our roles or relationships within the church to better support and equip those who He is calling to stretch outside of the church.

The P (pray) is a time when we get to talk with God to ask Him when, where, how or with whom He would like us to stretch ourselves.

It sounds like your "someone" friend is praying and asking God, "with whom" while your prayer is asking more along the lines of, "Help me to know when You answer my when, where, how or with whom questions." These are both excellent prayers that God delights to answer! — **CHOOSY MOM**

## GOD IS WORKING IN AND THROUGH OUR CHILDREN!

### AMANA & JOEL MORLEY:

"It's been a blessing to see my kids desiring to be so actively involved in the life of our church and the community."

They each look forward to writing a prayer request each week and in turn, taking a card to pray for during the week. My kids have adamantly prayed for the people on the cards. I love that they have the opportunity to pray for others in the congregation that they might not even know!

They both took the PBJ Pal very seriously. We went beyond praying and thought of how we could bless others too with the pal tagging along. Joel was able to make cards and bring cookies to bless his soccer coaches as well as make a card and cookies for our new neighbors.

Amana wrote with chalk on our street to encourage people walking in our neighborhood. We watched a teenage girl walk by it, stop, turn around, and read it early in the morning on the way to the bus stop. After witnessing this, Amana and I took time to pray for this girl and we continue to pray that God will be the ultimate good she finds during hard times." — **Beth Morley**



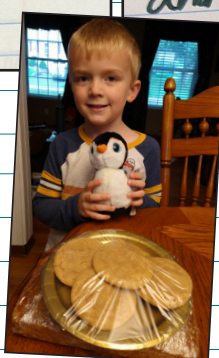
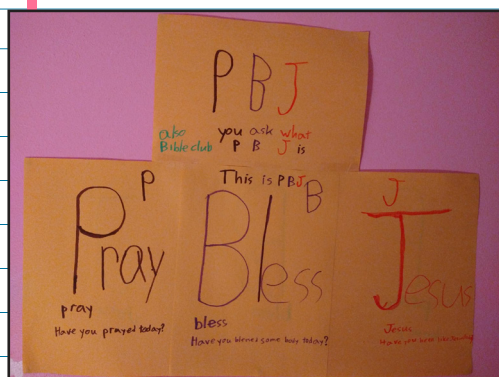
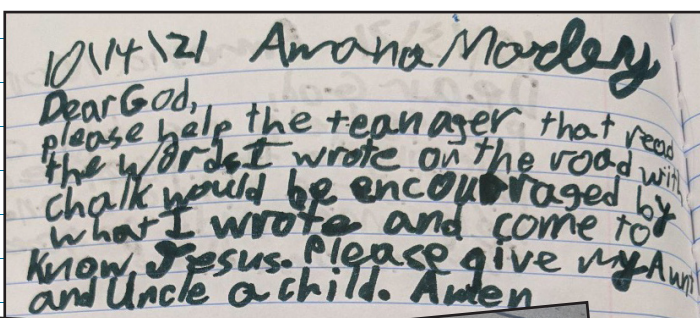
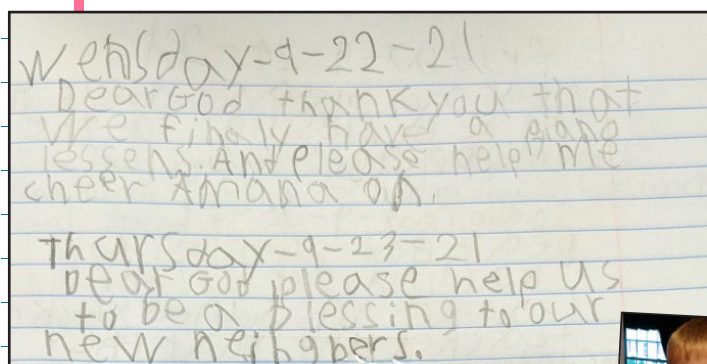


## REBEKAH STITES:

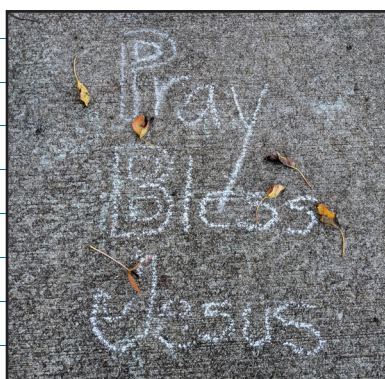
(an excerpt from a devotional she's been writing)

Do you ever decide not to pray because you don't know what to say? Don't worry! God loves it so much when you talk to Him. He wants you to talk to Him anywhere and about anything!

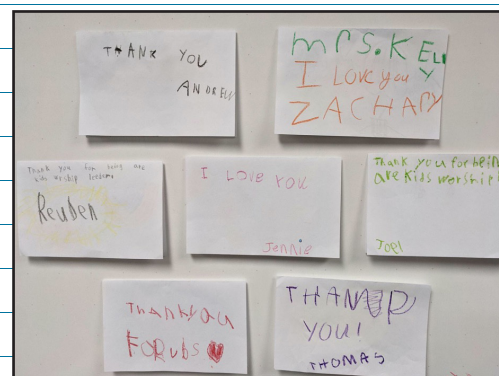
You might be thinking, "Anywhere? Anything? What?!" But it's true! God is so pleased when you talk to Him. He loves it! You can say your prayer in your head or out loud. You can ask, thank and just talk about anything in your prayers!



Home decorations that explain and remind.



Kids at TREKKERS



The Kindergarten and First Grade class made sweet notes to say thank you and I love you to Miss Kelly. Talk about PBJ! They really surprised and blessed her!

## HITTING THE PRAYER WALL

No, I'm not talking about dropping by the prayer wall at the back of church, though, you should certainly do that. I am talking about hitting a wall with prayer, especially in PBJ prayers for opportunities to love others. Are you feeling like you just want to stop praying? Maybe you're finding it boring to ask for the same thing each morning. Maybe you're not sure if anything is happening, and it feels useless. If you started off a month ago with some excitement and are wondering where it has gone, guess what? You're not alone.

When we piloted PBJ, we all had a lot of excitement when we started. We were curious about what God was going to do and perhaps a bit nervous about what God might ask us to do in response to our prayers. However, at about a month to six weeks into our discipline of praying, we noticed the excitement waned, and it almost abruptly grew hard for all of us. Yes, it was just a simple prayer, but it suddenly felt like a chore to keep up the habit of offering ourselves each day to God with the simple prayer of "Whom should I bless today?"

If you're there today or if you hit this place in the next few weeks, first of all, know this is normal. The second thing I encourage you to do is to share it with others. If you're in a care group, tell them. If you don't have a care group, share it with another friend you have in the church. Letting others know what you're experiencing helps us not feel isolated. Finally, I encourage you to keep offering yourself to God through these simple prayers. Like the importunate widow in *Luke 18:1-8* who annoys the judge into hearing her case, Jesus invites us to be persistent in prayer. However, I would invite you to start praying about what God is revealing about your heart through all of this.

I don't know what God may be doing in you, but when that initial season of dryness in prayer for PBJ opportunities hit our group, we all realized that we needed God more than we ever imagined. We had started off pretty confident in our desire to see the process through and were quickly confronted with the reality that our stamina was not very deep. We needed God to transform our hearts to even want to pray this 30 second prayer each morning. If you're not feeling motivated to keep praying this simple prayer, maybe you can back up one level and pray another: "Lord, help me be the kind of person who wants to pray and ask you for opportunities to love others each day."

On the other hand, you might not be feeling like you've hit a prayer wall, and God has been giving you opportunities to love others on a regular basis. If that's where you find yourself as you read this, great. Feel free to share that with your North Park friends as well and don't forget to tell us since we're collecting stories about God's goodness to help motivate us to stay faithful.

**- Pastor Ben**

## BLESSING OPPORTUNITY!

Looking for a tangible way to bless others by doing PBJ? You can do it just by talking! We have international students living locally and attending La Roche University that are in need of conversation partners to improve their English. You do not need to be an expert in English, just a native English speaker. The time commitment is one week for an hour each week. If you'd like to be involved, contact Sister Veronica Kim at [veronica.kim@laroche.edu](mailto:veronica.kim@laroche.edu) for more details.





# WORSHIP

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY?

**KIDS' WORSHIP** is in full swing! All of our leaders have taught the new curriculum twice now and the kids are responding eagerly to their instruction! The first few weeks, we have been studying Samuel and David and God's work in their lives. Fun Fact: Some estimate that Goliath's armor and weapons weighed over 175 pounds - as much as two twelve-year-olds!!! Enjoy some pictures from our recent lessons.



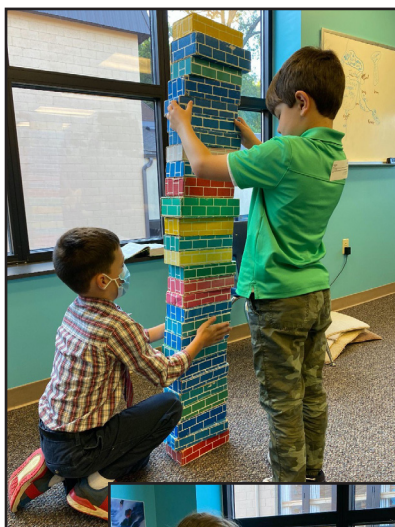
Our preschool class making a bracelet, necklace or a crown for a friend, because, "friends love at all times."



Our first and second grades group estimating how tall they thought Goliath was.



Zachary made a crown for Miss Susann!



One boy's yarn measured 20 feet! Goliath ended up being as tall as one Mrs. Smalley and one child!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

is also cruising along, our kids studying Year 2 of the Dwell curriculum. Our preschoolers have been learning about Joseph and Moses. Our kindergarten and first graders have been studying how Jesus changed Paul's life and sent him out to tell others all about it. In our second and third grades class, the kids are diving deep into Old Testament characters such as Isaac, Rebekah and Jacob. And our fourth and fifth graders are learning about Solomon, his wisdom and many wives and Elijah and the miracles God performed through him. Enjoy these shots from Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Kish's class when studying the Tower of Babel.



Abbey's Ritz and peanut butter Towel of Babel.



## NEW CHECK-IN PROCEDURES AND STATIONS

I am sure you have noticed by now, if you have been to church recently, that we have two new areas in our church. On the first floor right inside the entry and on the second floor on the nursery side of the lobby, you'll see our new Check-In stations. This is where parents and grandparents now check in their children for our Sunday morning programs as well as Trekkers.

The system is very user friendly and we have spent the first few weeks ironing out the wrinkles and learning more about this newer and safer system. Thanks to all of the families for their patience as we put this into place, tweaked it to work best for our faith community and adjusted things so it would look nice too!



Thanks to Kim Haytock for making the station idea happen.

## TREKKERS

NOVEMBER 14, 2021 | 4:30 - 6:00 P.M.

Trekkers is like a junior youth group for our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, led by Chad & Beth Morley and Jonathan & Kim Mycyk. Bring a friend and your Bible. We will be outside (as weather permits) and inside as well.



## CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

This Christmas, we would like to bring back the Christmas musical for kids. Although we try to keep it fairly simple, this will require several people to make it happen. There will be a need for people to help with scenery, props, staging, and costumes. We also need teen and child singers and actors. If you would like to be a part of any of this, please contact our Children's Director, Kelly Laird.

## SNOW REMOVAL HELP

It's that time of year again. We're in need of your help shoveling snow for Sunday mornings. Information and sign-ups are available at the Welcome Counter.



## YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

### NOVEMBER 5-7

Fall Retreat  
Ligonier Camp &  
Conference Center

**NOVEMBER 7**  
No Youth Group  
due to the Fall Retreat

**NOVEMBER 10**  
Small Groups  
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

### NOVEMBER 14


Youth Group  
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

**NOVEMBER 21**  
Student Led Service  
no Youth Group

**NOVEMBER 28**  
No Youth Group  
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.



# IMPACT



## EDUNATIONS BENEFIT CONCERT

FEATURING

### *Sandra McCracken*

DECEMBER 3RD @ MEMORIAL PARK CHURCH

REGISTRATION AND DETAILS AT [EDUNATIONS.ORG/BENEFIT-CONCERT](https://edunations.org/benefit-concert)

One of our longstanding missions partner organizations, EduNations, who provides Christian education in remote regions of Sierra Leone is holding a benefit concert at nearby Memorial Park on Friday, December 3 starting at 7:00 P.M. Registration ahead of time is encouraged. See [edunations.org/benefit-concert](https://edunations.org/benefit-concert) to register.

## MISSIONS UPDATE

At the beginning of 2021, North Park Church raised over \$40,000 for EduNations to build a church in Rokassa, Sierra Leone. I am happy to report that as of October 2021, the church building was complete enough to begin holding services.

While there are still some things left to complete, they have been able to gather the village and the students at the school to worship weekly since the first Sunday of October. Thanks for your contributions that are making an impact across the world. Will you continue to pray that God uses this local body of believers to bring many more to Christ in Sierra Leone? - **PASTOR BEN**





# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1	Beth Hendley	16	Austin Dzadoovsky
2	Gerry Richardson	19	Kathy Schadel
	Mike Safreed	21	Mark Altmyer
3	Henry Lish	22	Josh Laird
4	Jim Rimmel		Jeffery Buirge
5	Laura Osmond	25	Carl Shoemaker
6	Luke O'Brien	26	Anna Warmbrodt
	Grace Wu		Diane Glancy
7	Selasi Bakah	27	Pat Hargest
8	Jim Gregory		Edward Muzyn
	Elizabeth Haytock		Jessica O'Brien
10	Hugo Havener		Autumn Glancy
	Davey Pinkerton	29	Rachel Sharpnack
13	Nellie Luther		Marge Stauffer
14	Susann Pinkerton		Carol Dupee
15	Chad Morley	30	Holly Murphy
	Fiifi Kwakwa		

5	Kevin & Alison Sanders
13	Steve & Natalie Karr
16	Jim & Gloria Baldauff
17	Dan & Beth Hendley
20	Mike & Jeanne Safreed