



FYI

VOLUME 175

NORTH PARK CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2022

*And this is His commandment,
that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ
and love one another, just as He has commanded us.
1 John 3:23*

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NPC FEATURES

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **EMMY ELISE BROWN** was born to **TAYLOR & KATE** on January 7....that **CARI DOYLE** and **ASHLYN GRIM** are due this Spring....that **TIM & ROSEMARY CRAFT** welcomed their first grandchild on January 2....that 64% of Americans believe humans will walk on Mars in this century....that the **HOLTS** are hosting the elders retreat in early February....that **BEN BURKHOLDER** is recently back from an Alpha conference in Arizona which he attended with the **SHRIVERS** and the **STITES**....that 39% of Americans believe humans will contact intelligent life in outer space in this century....that March 6 will be our Winter congregational meeting during Sunday School hour to elect a nominating committee....that **NATHANAEL HEPNER** continues to do a stellar job running our livestream of services....that there are 2.7 workers for every person receiving Social Security instead of the 16.6 workers per recipient in 1950....that **KIM RUNYAN** is facing knee surgery early in February and she and **DOUG** had to postpone their big trip to Florida....that **PHIL VAN SICKEL** is on assignment for his company in Spain....that there are now 84,000 Americans over the age of 100....that 80% of these are female....that those who read the FYI are 14% more likely to make it to 100 than those who don't? Did you know these things? I thought you should.



HISTORY CORNER



SIX REASONS TO LOVE THE CHURCH:

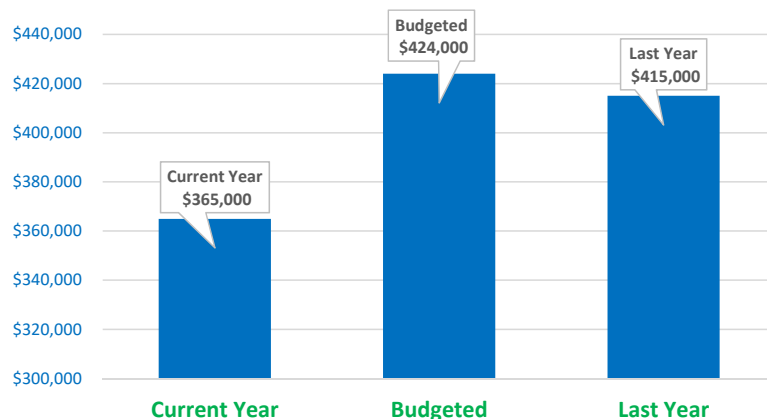
1. It is the only institution that Jesus builds and promises to bless.
2. The church is going to win in the end.
3. It is the most precious possession God has on earth.
4. It is the earthly expression of the heavenly kingdom.
5. It is the place of worship; a corporate dynamic to stimulate one another to love and good deeds.
6. It is the beginning place of world evangelization.

John MacArthur (born 1939)



WHO IS WHO ON YOUR NPC STAFF?

NPC GIVING UPDATE



After four months, Unified Giving of \$365,000 for our church year is 14% below our budgeted amount and 12% below last year.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH: DOYLE

The second Sunday in Advent 2021 a young family came up to read the devotions. I didn't know them. Did you?

They visited the first time in February of 2021. Ben Burkholder welcomed them and Kelly Laird made them feel comfortable leaving their now 1 ½ year old Molly in the nursery. It wasn't long until their search for a "sound" church was over and they were part of a care group with the O'Briens, Lukases, Hoovers, Nichols, and Haveners.

I'll share some of what I learned when I interviewed them in their West View home not far from my home. Cari and Steve met through Christian Mingle but the radius that each of them set to meet people did not intersect. Divine Providence helped Steve to find Cari's profile.

Both Steve and Cari grew up in Christian families. Steve was the middle child of 5 with his younger two siblings being adopted from Bolivia and Guatemala. Cari's father is a fourth generation farmer and she is the oldest of 4 children. Steve graduated from Widener University with a major in Criminal Justice. Cari graduated from Roberts Wesleyan University with a Nursing degree. Steve has been in the Army Reserves for almost 8 years now. He did software support for Frontline Education and is currently working remotely for Copado as a "Customer Success Architect."

Cari's first jobs were in Critical Care Units in Buffalo and then Rochester. She was employed as a "travel nurse" in Cooperstown, NY and Steve was in West Chester, PA when they met on Christian Mingle in September of 2016. As the relationship grew, Cari was able to take a traveling nurse contract in Philadelphia for January – July of 2017. Philadelphia is much closer to West Chester than Cooperstown and their circles more easily intersected. They were engaged in March of 2017. They were married near Cari's home town of Alden, NY (close to Buffalo) December 16, 2017.

Fortunately for NPC they chose to live in Pittsburgh because it was between their families in Alden, NY and West Chester, PA. Not knowing anyone in Pittsburgh made their first years together as a married couple tough. Hopefully we can make them feel part of a church family.

Steve has shared his musical talent on the electric guitar with the worship team. Cari jumped in to organize the Women's Christmas Tea this year, is helping to clean the church nursery, and has become part of MOMS Ministry. Steve's favorite scripture is *Jeremiah 17:7-8* and Cari's is *Hebrews 12:1*. If you read both of them you will see that they both realize that they are just beginning their journey together serving God and raising a family.

They have a wild and crazy dog named Katie that fortunately is great with their daughter Molly. They both like to get outside. Steve enjoys playing music. He also has a hobby that maybe some people would have heard of...a trading card game called "Magic: The Gathering." Cari enjoys playing the piano, reading, crafts, and scrap-booking.

A secret would be that this small farmer's daughter grew up lifting and stacking 60 lbs. bales of hay. It is not a secret that they are expecting a son in early April and Cari asks for prayers for her pregnancy because it wasn't easy with Molly and her current pregnancy has been tough so far.

So don't be a stranger to the Doyle family or anyone else you haven't met a NPC. How can we be an effective body if we don't know our family members or reach out to our visitors?

- **Jim Ludwig**



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

A column to answer all your PBJ questions

COLD AND CONFUSED!

If you have a PBJ question that you would like answered,
please send it to pbj@northparkepc.org

DEAR PETER PAN & CHOOSY MOM,

It's the middle of winter. I don't know many of my neighbors. How can I **BLESS** them if I don't even know them?

— A FRIGID FRIEND

DEAR FRIGID FRIEND,

I have definitely been in that place where life feels like a whirlwind and my mind is racing on to the next thing. I would encourage you to think of PBJ more as how you will do all the things that need done and less about adding another thing to that overflowing list. How can you be **BLESSING** others in the course of your daily routines?

We all have to go to the grocery store, for instance. When you are checking out and hear the exasperation in the cashier's voice, can you pause for just a minute to ask what else is going on? Or, maybe you are rushing here and there to make it to your children's sporting events. Maybe you notice that your child's teammate had an excellent game. Why not share that with them as an affirming word when you leave? Acts of **BLESSING** can be small. They just need to be intentional.

In the end, instead of thinking of PBJ as one more thing to add to your life, think of it as something that shapes what you are already doing. — **PETER PAN**



DEAR FRIGID FRIEND,

Great question! Things do seem a little harder during the cold, winter months. Maybe it would **BLESS** your neighbors just for you to get to know them. Winter is a lonely time. There are certain activities that draw my neighbors out of their house even during the cold, snowy days...

- Walking the dog
- Shoveling the driveway
- Getting the mail
- Taking out the trash

These are a few that I can think of. You could make it a point to watch/listen for them and then go out at the same time that they do to...

- Go for a walk
- Shovel your driveway
- Get your mail
- Take out your trash

While you "happen" to be out at the same time as them, approach them to say hello and ask how they are doing. You may be surprised at their willingness to engage your question. Try to listen well, follow up with more questions and take a mental note of something you could ask the next time you "happen" to bump into them. — **CHOOSY MOM**

HOW WILL YOU BLESS THIS FEBRUARY?

- Donate hats or gloves to a local shelter. You could hide a bible verse inside.
- Write a thank you note to the police or fire department.
- Offer to walk a neighbor's dog (give them a break from the cold.)
- Learn a joke that you can share with someone to bring them laughter.
- Send a care package to a missionary.
- Shovel someone's driveway.
- Take someone a pot of soup.
- Say "good morning" with a smile to everyone you see each morning this week.
- Take a winter care package to someone (hot chocolate, coffee, tea, sweet treat, mug...)
- Volunteer at a local non-profit.
- Drive downtown and deliver a blanket and McDonald's gift card to a homeless person.
- Do a siblings' chores.
- Donate blood and thank the Red Cross employees while you are there.
- Give someone (who would appreciate it) a hug.
- Share a puzzle that you've completed.

NPC WORSHIP

KIDS' WORSHIP

In Kids' Worship this past month, the kids have been learning all kinds of Bible stories - specifically about Jesus and the start of his ministry. We talked about Jesus' trip to the temple. Did you know that priests at the temple would read from the Bible, God's word, that was printed on scrolls? Fun facts from Explore the Bible Kids - One particular scroll is worth noting - the Great Isaiah Scroll. Discovered in the mid-1900's in the caves of Qumran, Israel, it measures 23 feet in length! Scholars say it is over 2,140 years old and is the only complete bible book! One of the greatest things found in this book is the promise of a Messiah. Jesus revealed that He was the Messiah Isaiah promised! We also learned that He didn't do ministry alone. He chose people (his disciples!) to serve alongside Him. What a great lesson for us to learn too!



Some of our younger Kids' Worship kids practicing fishing after learning about what Jesus meant by "fishers of men."

TREKKERS DATE CHANGE

Our next Trekkers will be held on February 6, (not the 13th as originally planned)! Bring a Bible and a friend and come learn how you can be confident that God is always with you, like He was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.



Some of our older Kids' Worship kids diving deeper into scripture to read from the Bible!



VBS
JUNE 13-17, 2022

SAVE THE DATE! (This is one week earlier than usual to accommodate those who would like to attend our annual EPC General Assembly meeting being held the usual week.)

STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE: LOVE THROUGH LISTENING SUNDAY, MARCH 6 | 6:30-8:00 P.M.

How can listening be active?
What is reflective listening?
What do nonverbal cues have to do with listening?
How does listening show care and love?
Why is listening so important to **BLESS**ing?

Mark your calendars! The Stephen Ministry Team would like to invite you to "Loving through Listening." PBJ's emphasis on **BLESS**ing others through listening encourages us to grow in this area of relating to others. We want to better equip you to feel confident in reaching out to others who don't know Christ by using this tool. We look forward to sharing this journey with you! Questions? Contact Susan Meeneghan, Rachel Sharpnack, and Mark Sharpnack.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 2
Small Groups
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 19
Ice Skating at
North Park
12:30 - 2:30 P.M.

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

FEBRUARY 20
Youth Group
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 13
Super Bowl Party
6:15 P.M. at the
Morley's House

FEBRUARY 27
Youth Group
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 16
Small Groups
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

NPC CONNECT

MATTHEW 25 CHALLENGE BY WORLD VISION FEBRUARY 7-13

MONDAY (2/7)
Skip Lunch and Eat Rice
and Beans for Dinner

TUESDAY (2/8)
Drink Water Only

WEDNESDAY (2/9)
Sleep on the Floor

THURSDAY (2/10)
Wear the Same Clothes
Again

FRIDAY (2/11)
Reach Out to Someone

SATURDAY (2/12)
Prayer Walk

In the midst of a world of warm houses and copious amounts of food, we can forget that, in other parts of the world, people are struggling to put food on the table, locate clean water, and find adequate shelter. For the week of February 7-13, we are going to invite you to challenge yourself to give up some of our modern comforts to simulate some of the challenges others face throughout our world. Drawing inspiration from the story Jesus tells in Matthew 25:31-46 of the judgment when those who have given food, water, and clothes to the needy are welcomed into eternal life, we are going to lay aside some of our comforts to help us understand the needs of others.

What's entailed in the Matthew 25 challenge? Each day will start with a reading of *Matthew 25:31-45* and then a short video will give an overview of the day's challenge and how others in our world face that condition every day. Since some of the challenges will take a little bit of preparation, an overview of the challenges for the week is listed in the box to the left.

More details about how to participate in the Matthew 25 Challenge will be given in the church service on February 6. If you are unable to be present that Sunday, we'll be sending communications via email to the church outlining steps to participate. We look forward to doing this together as a congregation and hearing what the experience is like for you. If you have questions about the Matthew 25 Challenge, contact Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).

VALENTINE'S DAY Date Night

COMPASS EVENT:

DATE NIGHT AT NORTH PARK CHURCH

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. | ROOM 112

Are you tired of fighting the crowds on Valentine's Day when all you'd really like to do is spend some time with your spouse? Then, plan to spend Valentine's Day with us for our next Compass event. We will be having a catered dinner and decorating the Multipurpose Room so it looks and feels like a romantic venue. Our evening will give you time to enjoy relaxed conversation with your spouse and process what you appreciate about your significant other. We will also have a short program as a part of the evening to add some light-hearted fun for the evening.

Sign up to join us in the lobby or by emailing Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org). The recommended attire for the evening is smart casual, and the meal is offered at no cost. Childcare will be provided for those 12 and under to allow parents the opportunity to enjoy a relaxed evening. Children in childcare will also enjoy a separate meal from the adults.

ALPHA

Have you ever wanted to watch someone realize their broken past can be forgiven and discover that God's grace and mercy are large enough to include them as well? Alpha is a chance for you to do just that. What is Alpha? Alpha involves a number of things. First of all, it involves building relationships over food. Like Jesus who built relationships with all sorts of people over food, Alpha allows time for people to build relationships over something that we share in common: our need for food. Second, it involves watching a video series that does a beautiful job of articulating the Christian faith with compelling examples and testimonies. Even as a life-long Christian, I find them inspiring. The episodes range from 20-30 minutes long. Third, it involves shared discussion over the videos. To be clear, people are free to express their questions, their doubts, and their concerns. We don't expect people to give a textbook answer but instead give them space to wrestle honestly and openly. You will be surprised at what people share, even when you go through Alpha with people you've known for a long time.



Do you want to be a part of Alpha this year? Perhaps you would like to experience it or would like to invite a friend to it? This year, we're doing an abbreviated version that will start on February 10 and run through March 17. We will be meeting weekly on Thursday nights from 6:00-8:15 p.m. at Scott and Kate Shriver's home. If you're interested or have questions about COVID and how we'll handle that, email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org) or sign up in the lobby. - **PASTOR BEN**

BIRTHDAYS

- 1** Sarah Faber
Beth Morley
Denise Velarde
- 2** Jim Childress
- 3** Kayleigh Layden
- 4** Jeff Smalley
- 7** Isadora Pinkerton
Ann Spangler
- 10** Gloria Baldauff
- 11** Hope Bolibruck
- 13** Nancy Cullen
- 14** Iona Pinkerton
- 15** Steve Karr
- 20** Benjamin Haytock
Grace Stitt
James Warmbrodt
- 21** Annalese Layden
Doug Reed
- 23** Benjamin Lish
Elijah Whittington
- 25** Andrea Blackburn
- 25** Rich Lukas
- 26** Ben Fowler
- 28** Robby Brown
Barry Zaiser

ANNIVERSARIES

- 18** Brian & Stacy Altmeyer
- 27** Jim & Joanne Rimmel

