



F Y I

VOLUME 181

NORTH PARK CHURCH

OCTOBER 2022

**Blessed is the
one whose
transgression
is forgiven,
whose sin is
covered.**

Psalms 32:1

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NPC FEATURES

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **PAIGE STITT MCBRIDE'S** new devotional book, *Beauty Not Beheld*, is available now at www.hosannarevival.com....Did you know that **MORIAH BURKHOLDER** was received as a confirmed member of our church....that **ANNA WARMBRODT** is in college at Malone....that 26% of Americans prefer their steaks rare....that **DICK SKILLEN** and **DICK LUTHER** labored to perfect the wooden table in the conference room....that **BEN BURKHOLDER** is teaching Greek at Grove City College this Fall....that three times as many people put ketchup alongside instead of on top of their fries....that **ROSS AND CHRISTIE WILKIN** are rejoicing in the birth of their first grandchild, Henry Thomas, to Katie Kauffman....that former NPCer, **ALEX GELB** is now living in Katy, Texas and is getting married next summer....that 84% of American men eat a sandwich cookie intact, but 41% of women pull it apart to eat the insides first....that **BROOKE AND GAYLA HOPKINS** recently attended the Getty's Sing Conference in Nashville....that **SCOTT SHRIVER** and **DAVID PINKERTON** were elected as new elders....that 68% of Americans prefer their toilet paper to unwind over the spool, not under it....that **MICHELE MOIR** was elected as a new deacon and **TERRY MEENEGHAN** was elected to return to the office....that a turkey crashed through a window in our breezeway....that 65% of Americans put their peanut-butter and jelly on the same slice of bread....that over 300 ladies are registered for this year's Community Bible Study....that **LYDIA MILLER** is at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale....that the liver is the heaviest organ in the human body....that a large movie crew will be using our facility on Monday, October 17 as they film an Eathan Coen movie....that **DAN AND BETH HENDLEY** will be out west for a Yosemite visit and a basketball tournament in early October....that Christmas is on a Sunday this year....that a two-day old gazelle can outrun a full-grown horse....that those who read the FYI can run 8% faster than those who do not? Did you know these things? I thought you should.

HISTORY CORNER



In the French Revolution a civil liberty was for every Christian to agree with the unbelieving majority; in Calvinism, a liberty of conscience enables every man to serve God according to his own conviction and the dictates of his own heart. Or, as [Alexander] Hamilton himself expressed it, that he, "considered the French Revolution to be no more akin to the American Revolution than the faithless wife in a French novel is like the Puritan matron in New England." Calvin admonished, "O peoples, to whom God gave the liberty to choose your own magistrates, see to it that you do not forfeit this favor, by electing to positions of highest power, rascals and enemies of God."

Abraham Kuyper

Stone Lectures on Calvinism, 1898



WHO WANTS TO COME CLEAN?

- Do you have the gift of service?
- Do you enjoy working behind the scenes?
- Do you want to catch up on some podcasts or audio books while helping to maintain the church facilities?

We are looking for volunteers to vacuum and empty the trash. If you could serve in this way a couple times throughout the year, monthly or weekly, it would be a blessing to many who use our church building. Please contact Mark Sharpnack (marksharpnack@northparkepc.org) or Amber Stites (amberstites@northparkepc.org) to find out more or to sign up.

NPC FINANCE UPDATE

It's Fall and that means we're into a new budget year here at NPC and an opportunity to see how God will work through the giving of His people to accomplish His mission here in the North Hills of Pittsburgh and around the world. Giving over the past budget year (ended August) totaled \$1,078,421 and expenses totaled \$1,155,994 which enabled:

- over \$150,000 of missionary support
- our staff to lead several areas of ministry
- over \$200,000 of campus maintenance and capital projects (including a new digital sound board)
- funding the ministries of the church aimed at our Worship – Connect – Impact mission statement
- and many other things!

Thank you for your support of this tremendous ministry work over the past year, both in your giving and in your service!

This year's budget, which was presented at the August Congregational Meeting, is \$1,198,250. In an inflationary environment, your leaders are keeping the budgeted expenses at less than a 4% increase from last year's actual costs. But to make this budget a reality, Session is asking for an 11% increase to last year's giving so as to not dip further into our limited cash reserves. The Session knows that this is a big ask, but asks that you be in prayer about your giving and for the operational decisions that need to be made throughout the year to steward the level of giving received.

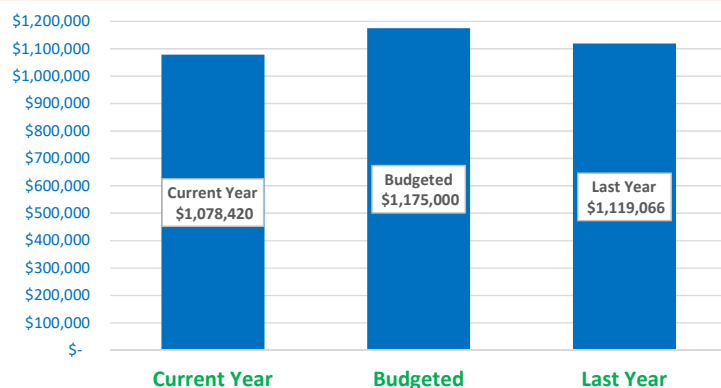
Also mentioned in the Congregational Meeting, Session is contemplating how to act based on the recommendations of a team of congregants that evaluated ways to enhance the use of our upper building area (commonly known as the Blue Room) to transform the way ministry is done here at NPC for the next generation. This would be a substantial investment in the future and is beyond the budget approved for this year. Please also be in prayer for the Session as they seek the wisdom of the Lord in this matter. Hopefully, you'll be hearing more about the path forward soon!

— **KEVIN SANDERS, NPC FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**



OUR NPC GIVING THROUGH 8/31

Unified Giving of \$1,078,420 for our church year was 8% below our budgeted amount and 4% below the prior year.



DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY SEARCH UPDATE

We have had the director of student ministry search running for several months, and you might be wondering what is happening. During that time, our team has drafted interview questions relevant to the position, reviewed the slow, steady trickle of resumés we've received, and scheduled some first round interviews. The process has been slower than desired, which I think can be attributed to the record unemployment and the fact that our search began after many graduating seminary or college students have likely landed in some form of work. At the same time, I am grateful that the search is happening at a pace that is manageable with the other responsibilities in life.

When God brings our team to mind, please pray for patience as we wait on the Lord for the candidate who will fit best in our context. In addition, pray for discernment as evaluating candidates in interview settings doesn't always provide a full picture. Finally, pray for the current adult leadership team that has just been doing an amazing job creating an energizing and fun atmosphere for the students.

- **PASTOR BEN**





PBJ SURVEY RESULTS...

Back in May we asked you to fill out a survey about **PBJ** to help us evaluate how to move forward. Many of you answered this call and provided us with some great feedback. THANK YOU!

We'd like to share some of what we learned from the survey with you, both to encourage you and to spur you on in your **PBJ** endeavors.

- 48% of you said that you are **PRAY**ing more for non-Christians
- 46% of you said that you are **BLESS**ing (Affirm, Give, Eat, Listen, Serve) more
- 37% of you said that you have been more willing to share **JESUS** with others

We are thankful for this spiritual growth and look forward to more.

We also are extremely grateful for your critiques and creative ideas. Here are some of your ideas that we are planning to implement this year:

- Focus more on the outreach & **JESUS** portion
- Offer trainings and more instruction on how to share **JESUS**
- Give us specific challenges and reminders to be intentional
- Offer many opportunities, like Compass, where we can invite friends, coworkers and neighbors
- Look at what other churches are doing
- Share more personal testimonies
- Improve the **BLESS** wall with more specific ideas and resources (see below article)

We did hear some of your frustrations and pains as well and we are prayerfully considering how to address those. Please know that we feel honored when we have the opportunity to chat with you about both your **PBJ** celebrations and frustrations, so please don't hesitate to share with us. - **AMBER STITES**

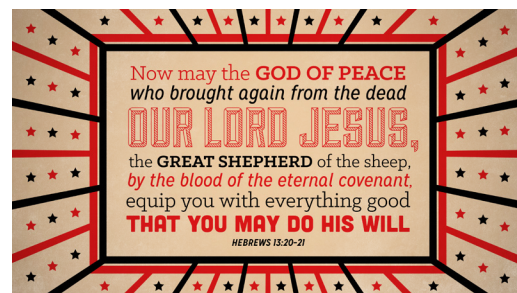
UPDATES TO THE **PRAY** AND **BLESS** WALLS

As a result of some of the fantastic ideas we received through the **PBJ** survey, I'm excited to share a couple changes to the **PRAY** and **BLESS** walls, which are located in the back of the sanctuary.

1. **PRAY** Wall: We have added an answered prayer section! The board on the left will continue to house rolled up prayer request cards. Anyone is welcome to add a prayer request and/or take one to pray over throughout the week. NEW this year, the board on the right side will be for praises and answered prayers. Anyone can write a praise on one of the tags on the back table and use a clothespin to attach it to the right board. Get ready to see God's abundant goodness to us!

2. **BLESS** Wall: We will continue to have tags with blessing ideas on the board to the left, but the board to the right will now have resources for you to take, read, implement and return.

It is our prayer that God will use these new additions to help you see His faithfulness and to challenge and equip you to do more of what He has created you to do.



NPC WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS

We started up Sunday School again for the school year on September 11, 2022. We have GREAT teachers, who do a fantastic job teaching kids at North Park Church all about God's word and stories from the Bible. Here are some shots from that first day.



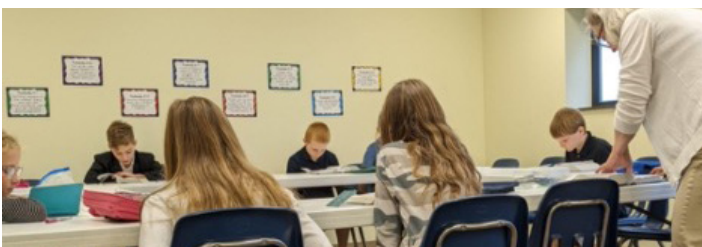
Some of our preschool class and their teacher working with Play Dough.



A few of the Kindergarten-First Grade boys with their teacher.



The second and third grades learning about Zechariah being muted and the temple.



Our fourth and fifth grade class reading the bible for themselves while being led by one of their teachers.

TREKKERS KICKS OFF

Trekkers also began on September 11 and they started with a bang! The kids heard, talked and learned about TRUTH - how we can know what that is and where we can find it. (Hint: check God's Word!) They were blessed with a meal of walking tacos, baby carrots, and delicious cookies. (Thanks again Kate Shriver!) Then they played a fun game of Penny Chinny. Don't know what that is? Ask any of our 3rd, 4th or 5th graders or one of our leaders and they can show you! We've got some wonderful leaders and great teen helpers this year. If you couldn't make it in September, try again in the upcoming months. Here are some action shots from some of the fun in September.



TREKKERS SCHEDULE 2022-2023

Trekkers meets once a month.
Join us for one our meetings on:

October 9
November 13
December 11
January 8
February 5
March 12
Apr 16
May 7

KIDS' WORSHIP ROLLING ALONG

Kids' Worship continues all year long, not taking a break for the summer anymore. We did have some great volunteers step up just for the summer, so some of our regular volunteers could travel or take the summer off. Thanks to Barb Buirge, Susan Burke, Jan Muzyn, Kiley Librich, Emily Harrer, and Stacy Altmeyer for being our summer substitutes!

FUN FACTS FROM EXPLORE THE BIBLE KIDS CURRICULUM:

- Did you know that God did some amazing miracles through ANIMALS? Yep! Aaron's staff became a serpent. God sent doves or ravens to provide food for Elijah. Lions' mouths were shut and Daniel was safe. Balaam's donkey spoke words! And Peter found a silver coin inside a fish's mouth. God works in mysterious ways.
- You think Pittsburgh is wet? One of the wettest places on earth is Lloro, Colombia, which receives over 500 inches of rain each year! And one of the driest is a polar desert in ANTARCTICA! Its valleys are "hyperarid and receive no precipitation!" What?!
- God sometimes sends really windy weather. Can you define these windy terms: Cyclone, Tornado, Dust Storm, Derecho, and Whirlwind?
- Some rivers that God has made are very L - O - N - G! Check out these lengths:

- Jordan River: 20,592 school buses long
- Tigris River: 155,892 school buses long
- Euphrates River: 229,680 school buses long
- Mississippi River: 305,976 school buses long
- Nile River: 548,988 school buses long



Also, we have been working on giving kids an opportunity to talk to God each week in our Younger Kids Kids' Worship class. Here are some of the questions that have been asked recently:

- What does heaven look like, God?
- God, can you do a cartwheel?
- Please keep them safe.
- How does my body work?
- God, please help me remember that when I'm scared, I can trust in You.
- Oh God, please help me to have energy.

EDUNATIONS SPONSORED CHILD: KADIATU

North Park Church sponsors Kadiatu, a 12-year-old girl in Rokassa, Sierra Leone, Africa. She attends the EPC church in Rokassa and loves to sing and play the drums. Learn more about Kadiatu and the country in which she lives by visiting the bulletin board in the second floor hallway, between the nursery and the Kids' Worship rooms.





STUDENT MINISTRY — FALL RETREAT NOVEMBER 4-6 | LIGONIER CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

Our students always say going on the Fall Retreat is one of the keys that help them feel connected to the youth group. This year, we are changing a few things up. Our group will be staying at Ligonier's brand-new Joshua House. As for adventure, Middle Schoolers will experience the climbing tower and low ropes, while High Schoolers will try the Vomit Comet and Cargo Net/Quick Jump. As for engaging the Bible, our guest speaker for the weekend will be Eric Tucker, one of the pastors we served alongside on our summer Mission Trip to West Virginia.

Finally, we want our students to invite their friends. Unchurched friends will be able to attend the retreat for free with the promo code *Friends2022*. For those already attending church regularly (North Park or any other local church), the retreat is \$95 per student. If cost is a deciding factor for your child not attending the retreat, especially when multiple children are involved, please contact Pastor Ben. We want everyone to be a part of this life changing weekend.

Students need to be at the church by 5:30 P.M. on Friday, November 4 and will return to the church by 1:00 P.M. Sunday, November 6. Meals will be included for Saturday and breakfast only on Sunday.

Registration and payment are online this year at www.northparkepc.org/student-ministry. Registration will be open until Sunday, October 9. If you have questions about the retreat, contact Lisa Arnold (blarnold@verizon.net). — **PASTOR BEN**

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

As we launch into October, we want to let you know that we're excited about the plan for Youth Group this month. We will be meeting as usual at the church from 6:30-8:30 P.M. for fun, food, and discipleship for our October Sunday evenings. This month, Grant and Deborah McKinney will be leading the teaching time with a focus on prayer. Feel free to reinforce this emphasis on prayer at home and make space for your family to pray together.

Also, don't forget to register for the fall retreat and encourage your teen to invite some of their friends to join them.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, October 2 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.
Topic: The Posture and Purpose of Prayer

Sunday, October 9 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.
Topic: How to Pray when Stressed, Angry, or Grieved

Sunday, October 16 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.
Activity & Leadership Panel

Sunday, October 23 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.
Topic: Praying with Expectancy and Belief

Sunday, October 30 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.
Topic: Prayer

YOUTH SMALL GROUPS

Wednesday, October 12 | 7:00-8:30 P.M.

Wednesday, October 26 | 7:00-8:30 P.M.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, October 5 | 7:00-8:30 P.M.

Wednesday, October 19 | 7:00-8:30 P.M.

STEPHEN MINISTRY LOVES B.A.G.E.L.S.



Remember what
B.A.G.E.L.S. stands
for from **PBJ**?

The Stephen Ministers at NPC are here to **BLESS** others in and outside the church by using their **GIFTS** of **LISTEN**ing and care to **SERVE** others. We have 3 male Stephen Ministers who are ready and willing to walk alongside other men who need support. Whether it's a job loss, a transition to retirement, or the loss of a parent or spouse, the Stephen Ministers want to help.

Please check out the new Stephen Ministry bulletin board on the first floor hallway as you come into the church. You will find more information there as well as on our church website. Contact Mark Sharpnack (marksharpnack@northparkepc.org), our Referrals Coordinator, if you or someone you know would like to be connected to a Stephen Minister.

BLESS • AFFIRMATION • GIFTS • EAT • LISTEN • SERVE



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAYS | 6:30-7:30 A.M. | ROOM 106

Come join the Thursday's morning Men's Fellowship group at NPC, as we begin a new study of Philip Keller's classic, *A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm*. We aim to complete the study and prayer time by 7:30 A.M. Questions? Contact Mark Sharpnack (marksharpnack@northparkepc.org) or Jim Yoder (jevyoder0102@yahoo.com).

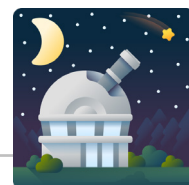
NPC CONNECT

NIGHT AT THE PLANETARIUM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27 | 6:00-8:00 P.M. | MEMORIAL PARK CHURCH

Have you ever looked up at the night sky and wondered what constellations you were seeing? Or maybe you just enjoy seeing the stars on a clear fall night. If so, come, marvel with us about God's handiwork with a night at the planetarium. For this event, we are going to have a traveling planetarium give us a tour of our galaxy. Due to the space requirements, we will have to host the event off site, and Memorial Park Church (8800 Peebles Road, Allison Park, PA) has graciously allowed us permission to use their Clayton Center for the event.

We will have two separate viewings of the planetarium to accommodate our entire group. The first will start promptly at 6:00 P.M. and the other will start at 6:45 P.M. The group that is not in the planetarium will get to enjoy dinner from Chipotle. As a result, there is no need to plan to bring a side or anything to share. Just bring your sense of wonder and enjoy the night sky with us. Please, sign up in the lobby or email benburkholder@northparkepc.org. — **PASTOR BEN**



TASTE OF ALPHA

OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, AND 23 | 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Have you heard about Alpha? I hope you've heard about it if you've been at our church for any amount of time, but would you know if it is safe enough to invite your friend to it? In October, you'll get the chance to experience Alpha for yourself and make that assessment. On October 2, 9, 16, and 23 from 6:30-8:30 P.M. we are going to offer a sampling of Alpha, and we want everyone in the church to plan to come to at least one of those evenings and hopefully to all of them. We will be offering this concurrently with Youth Group, so parents can plan to attend while their kids are at YG. Childcare will be offered for children 11 and under.

This "Taste of Alpha" experience is designed for our church members, and the purpose is to make sure North Park people experience Alpha firsthand as a safe place so we would be comfortable inviting our friends and neighbors to it in the future.

What will happen at a Taste of Alpha? It will look a lot like a normal Alpha meeting. We will begin with a meal where we spend time developing and deepening relationships, even if you think you already know the people sitting with you. For "A Taste of Alpha," we are also going to do a short introduction to the guidelines that make Alpha a safe space during the meal. Then we will watch one of the opening Alpha videos, which do a fantastic job of presenting the faith in a compelling way. After the video, we spend the remaining portion of our time discussing our responses and reactions to the content, which are guaranteed to take you past the surface level we often stay at on Sunday morning.

If you've been hearing about Alpha and wondering what it would actually be like, wonder no more. Come join us on one of those Sundays. Bring your family, bring your care group, or come by yourself. Sign up in the lobby or email Ben Burkholder especially if needing childcare (benburkholder@northparkepc.org). — **PASTOR BEN**

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Miles Lukas | 5 Jonathan Mycyk |
| 2 Spencer Mitchell | 8 Aaron Whittington |
| Lisa Moriconi | Abryanna Whittington |
| 3 Oliva Hopkins | 12 Bethany Mitchell |
| 4 Andrew Glancy | William Smalley |

- | |
|-------------------------|
| 16 Jeff Fowler |
| Mary Warmbrodt |
| 20 Adele Radacsy |
| 23 Hope Wiggins |
| 31 Emily Harrer |
| Christie Wilkin |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Grant & Deborah McKinney |
| 5 Chuck & Judy Brooks |
| 8 Edward & Jan Muzyn |
| 12 Mark & Rachel Sharpnack |
| 19 Dale & Laura Wiggins |
| 20 Henry & Lisa Lish |