

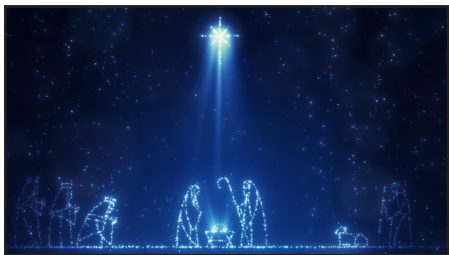
Therefore, having
been justified by faith,
we have peace with
God through our Lord
Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1



HISTORY CORNER

Paul was considerably disturbed by the commissions and charges that followed in the wake of his preaching. He was accused of being “a pestilent fellow, a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world” (Acts 24:5). In Philippi the townspeople cried that he troubled their city and taught customs which were not lawful for them to receive (Acts 16:20-21). All troubles, calamities, famines, wars were laid to the charge of the Gospel of the apostles. However, the apostles were not deterred by such calamities from preaching the Gospel. They knew that they ought to obey God rather than men, and that it was better for the world to be upset that to be ignorant of Christ
Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians* (1535), **Theodore Graebner** translation (1937)

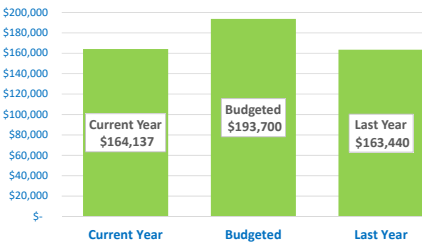
VBS SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 12-16, 2023



CHRISTMAS IN
WEXFORD, PA
Saturday, December 24
7:00 P.M.

We’ll attempt one fabulous Christmas Eve service this year. Nursery will be offered for those under three. Pastor Dan will preach, and we’ll worship with great traditional Christmas hymnody, ending with a candlelight singing of Silent Night. Please plan to come with your family and bring a friend. Please contact Kelly Laird (kellylaird@northparkepc.org) if you’re available to assist in the nursery for the service.

GIVING UPDATE
THROUGH 10/31



Unified Giving of \$164,000 for our church year was similar to the prior year and 15% below our budgeted amount.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **STEVE AND CARI DOYLE** have recently become confirmed members of our church...that **STEVE** plays guitar in our praise band... that **CARI** grew up on a farm in NY...that a duck’s quack does not echo and no one knows why...that **BEN BURKHOLDER** is just back from going elk hunting in Wyoming...that **BARB BUIRGE** has recently taken a position with Urban Impact...that the letters “ough” can be pronounced nine different ways as in this sentence: *A rough-coated dough-faced, thoughtful, ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed*...that **SUNDAY SCHOOL** is cancelled December 18 through January 1...that a **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JIM CHILDRESS** will be December 27 at NPC...that the only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is “uncopyrightable”...that **CALEB & LILY STITES** play on Ultimate Frisbee teams at NA...that **ROSEMARY CRAFT** is one of nine children...that the words “facetious” and “abstemious” contain all the vowels in order...that **WAYNE DARVILLE** once lived in Syracuse...that **STEVE AND NATALIE KARR** just celebrated anniversary number 40.....that **BILL HARGEST** is a chemical engineer and creates the sermon slides...that on ostrich’s eye is bigger than its brain...that those who read the FYI have brains 430% larger than the average ostrich...did you know these things? I thought you should.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH: BURKE

Susan Hickox was born in Abington, PA where her father began his career as a mechanical engineer. She is the compliant middle child with an older and younger brother. She recognizes that she was a recipient of God’s grace and protection through her childhood because of her family and ancestors. She can remember in grade school trying to keep the 10 Commandments and knowing that she failed daily. While in Abington they worshipped at a Presbyterian Church whose congregation is older than our nation.

They moved to Chicago during Susan’s high school and college years. There they were part of an Assemblies of God Church and Susan said she went to church Sunday morning and evening, Wednesday nights, youth group Thursday nights and Bible studies sometimes in the morning before school, as well as a weekly Young Life meeting. She graduated from Wheaton College with a degree in Christian Education and has never lost her passion for teaching kids. She did 1 ½ years of mission work with M.A.P.S. in Brussels, Belgium, mostly doing layout for brochures.

Susan married Eugene Burke in 1987. They spent their first year together in Monterey, CA where Eugene was pursuing a Russian & International Affairs career and Susan worked in a Christian Preschool Day Care teaching phonics. When the “Iron Curtain” came down plans changed and they moved back to Pittsburgh. Katie was born in 1992 and Malcolm would follow two years later. Susan was enjoying Northway Church where she was the “Story Teller” for all of the Sunday School kids before they broke into smaller age appropriate classes. Her marriage experienced undisclosed problems and ended after 10 years. Susan told me that she experienced God’s grace again as He lifted her and extracted her from difficult times.

Feeling uncomfortable at Northway, God led Susan to another Church (where Katie had sometimes played oboe in their band) and she began to lead their Junior High kids. She describes this as God’s grace as He walks with and guides us. She became an elder at this church but felt she could not continue when the Presbyterian USA Church began to ordain homosexual pastors. That led her to visit North Park and another EPC church. She chose North Park because she instantly felt welcome by people like the Wannigers sitting nearby and others that greeted her warmly. Soon she would find herself part of a women’s group including Stacy Tessaro and Kristin Brown. Recently she joined a care group with the Stites, Dupees, Millers, and Susan O’Leary. Susan is currently co-teaching 2nd and 3rd grade Sunday School with Joyce Kish. She did one term as a Deacon at NPC but since both of her parents are at St. Barnabus and needing more attention, she declined a second term.

During her life, Susan has worked for different companies in accounts payable, inventory control, reverse mortgages, and mortgage processing and closing. She sees God’s guidance and humor that the ultimate calling for this “compliant middle child” would be as a mortgage compliance officer with Howard Hanna. She has been with Howard Hanna for 21 years and currently works 40-50 hours a week. If she has any leisure time, because she grew up near Philadelphia, she still loves beach time at Ocean City, NJ.

What impressed me most as I spent time interviewing this constantly smiling, confident, optimistic woman was her awareness of God’s

grace through her ups and downs. He lifts her out of pits, walks with her and protects her. Her favorite verse is a little unusual, Exodus 20:21. “The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.” She wants to run towards God. Her prayer concerns revolve around her children. Katie, who just returned from serving as a missionary in Ireland is working on her master’s degree in Biblical Counseling and is seeking God’s guidance for what comes next. Her son Malcolm is also trying to find a vocation/job that he can enjoy.



Susan’s journey with God brought her to NPC in 2014 and her passion for Christian education has blessed many of our children from pre-school to junior high ages. I encourage you to reach out and make new visitors feel welcome at NPC not just because we might benefit from another gem like Susan but because God wants us to be “known by our love for one another.”

CHRISTMAS CAROLING
Sunday, December 11 | 2:00–3:00 P.M.
Ashton Commons

Join us in giving Christmas cheer to our local neighbors at Ashton Commons (551 Cooper St., Wexford, PA 15090). We’ll be meeting in their chapel area to sing some carols with the SonShine ministry. From there, we’ll carol throughout the building to sing to the other residents.

Just a fair warning up front, **we’re requested to wear masks** when moving between locations in the building and when near residents. If you’d like to participate, email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).

GINGERBREAD HOUSE
CONSTRUCTION, CO.
Saturday, December 3
2:00–3:15 P.M. &
3:30–4:45 P.M. | Blue Room

Pray about whom you should invite! Invite cards are available at the table in the lobby.

We’ll have our annual Gingerbread House Construction party in the Blue Room. This is a fun evening of refreshments, storytelling, and making gingerbread houses. It’s also an opportunity for you to invite your friends and family--especially ones that don’t come to our church--to experience a fun family night and celebrate Jesus’ coming to earth. This year we are going to be hosting two different times with specific end times to space things out for families. To register for either option sign up at www.northparkepc.org/events.

All participants need to **bring one can of vanilla icing per person** to serve as the glue and cement for their tasty creations. Other building supplies will be provided by donors. If you’d like to donate candy for the gingerbread houses, see the table in the lobby to sign up for the needed supplies.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS CALENDAR

December 2
Women’s Christmas Tea
6:30 P.M. | Blue Room

December 11
Christmas Caroling
2:00-3:00 P.M. | Ashton Commons

December 24
Christmas in Wexford, PA
7:00 P.M. | Nursery provided

December 3
Gingerbread House Construction Inc.
2:00-3:15 P.M. & 3:30-4:15 P.M.
Blue Room

December 18
Coffeehouse Christmas
9:00 A.M. | Blue Room
Sunday Worship
10:15 A.M. | No Sunday School

December 25
Sunday Worship
10:15 A.M. | No Sunday School

LADIES CRAFT NIGHT

You know when you put a bunch of women in a room together that ideas are going to fly! Well, when I attended a women’s fellowship event in February, I was talking to a few ladies about books we were reading and I mentioned that I like to read books that take place in the 1800’s. I mentioned that I had read that the women back then would gather for a quilting circle or a sewing circle. The idea fascinated me and so I asked if anyone would be interested in doing something like that. Everyone seemed very interested.

That is where the idea for a Ladies Craft Night originated. Our first monthly event was held Wednesday, November 9. As you can see from the pictures, it was such a sweet time of crafting and fellowship. We even had a yummy fall snack!

Our next event will be on Wednesday, December 14 and we would love for you to join in this wonderful time with us! Even if you don’t craft, you are welcome to come to fellowship with us. You could bring some of your Christmas gifts and wrapping paper to work on. That—folding and taping—sounds crafty to me.

We also have some ladies who are willing to teach knitting and hand lettering! Mark your calendars and plan to join us from 7:00-8:30 P.M. for these Ladies Craft Nights:

- December 14
- January 4
- February 1
- March 1

For more information, or to sign up to come, or if you have a crafty skill that you would be willing to teach, please email Michele Moir (michelelmoir@gmail.com) - **Michele Moir**

SAVE THE DATE! WOMEN’S SPRING RETREAT
April 21-22, 2023 | Lutherlyn

Yes, it’s not even Christmas yet, but Spring is on the way! We plan on staying one night in cabins at the beautiful Lutherlyn Camp at 500 Lutherlyn Lane, Butler, PA 16001. You will be encouraged to learn you are “Rooted in Christ” enabling you to use your unique gifts. There will be times of teaching, small groups, worship, games, laughter and free time activities.

This will be a special time of personal growth as we explore how to nourish our “spiritual roots” and discover our unique personal gifts. We know the Lord wants us to be rooted in Him, so we can minister to others in love.

Ephesians 3:16-19 says
“...May He grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Stay tuned for more information. Meanwhile, pray about who you too might want to invite to this special weekend. You are invited to join the retreat planning team. If you have any questions, contact Joyce Kish (joycemkish@gmail.com) or Amber Stites (amberstites@northparkepc.org).



5,000 BLANKETS MOVIE NIGHT
Monday, December 12 | 7:00 P.M.
Cinemark North Hills

When her husband has a mental breakdown and goes missing, a determined woman and her young son set out to find him on the streets, sparking a movement of compassion towards those in need and inspiring a city. Join folks from North Park Church as we enjoy the movie and gain inspiration for more PBJ opportunities. Tickets are \$12.50 and can be purchased by visiting <https://www.fathomevents.com/events/5000-Blankets?date=2022-12-12> Choose the December 12 show at Cinemark North Hills.

NEW HOPE CHRISTMAS STORE TREE

Thanks to all of you who have already taken an ornament from the New Hope Christmas tree. If you haven’t done so yet, there is still time. Donations will need to be returned to the church unwrapped by Sunday, December 11. If you are unable to grab an ornament, gift cards and cash donations can also be given towards the purchase of gifts along with new (not used) hats, gloves, and scarves for winter weather. Questions can be directed to Janie Koska (janekoska@yahoo.com).

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY UPDATES

SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL GUESTS

Aaron and Amy Speitelsbach, while they were in town, stopped by and gave our kids’ Sunday School classes a treat! Aaron and Amy told the kids all about what life is like in Liberia, West Africa - what kinds of food the Glarro people gather by farming and hunting, what the weather is like (THINK HOT!), what transportation looks like, how far things are from them and the conditions in which they live. They also talked about what they are doing there, translating the Bible into the Glarro language, teaching the people to read and preparing to teach the Bible to them too. They even taught us some words in Glarro! Our kids and teachers were very engaged. We’re so grateful that Aaron and Amy made some time to share about their exciting lives as missionaries for Christ!



TREKKERS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 11 | 4:30-6:00 P.M. | Room 112

All 3rd, 4th & 5th graders are invited to celebrate Christmas at Trekkers! Invite your friends and get ready for a FUN TIME! Bring your Bible and a NEW PAIR OF SOCKS, stuffed with GOODIES! Think candy, small toys or a treat! Tie the socks together with a ribbon and bring it for an exciting gift exchange (Please keep it at \$5 or less).

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

The student ministry has had a tremendous November with the great majority of our youth going on the Fall retreat for the first weekend and continuing from there with Pastor Dan and the Thanksgiving service. As we start into December, we wanted to let you know the upcoming dates and plans for each of the evenings.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 | 6:30 P.M. | Chad Morley talking about Technology

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 | 6:30 P.M. | Pastor Ben

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 | 6:30 P.M. | Christmas Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 | No Youth Group

BIRTHDAYS		24	Nancy Van Sickle
1	Patricia Schaefer	25	Nicole Hoover
	Natalie Smalley	27	Kristin Brown
2	Joan Castillo	29	Emily Stimpson
5	Elaine Longjohn	31	Anna Fowler
6	Judy Brooks		Laura Wiggins
15	Jennie Mycyk		
16	Brian Harrer	ANNIVERSARIES	
	Todd Murphy	11	James & Mary Warmbrodt
19	Frank Librich	12	Bill & Pat Hargest
21	Jim Baldauff		Gary & Kelly Laird
	Denny Koska	14	Jane & Paul Anzaldi
22	Chad Fairfield	16	Steve & Cari Doyle
23	Jon Gay	27	Timothy & Rosemary Craft
	Aubrey Mitchell		

