

NPCFYI

184 | FEBRUARY 2023

So God created man in His own image,
in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them..
Genesis 1:27





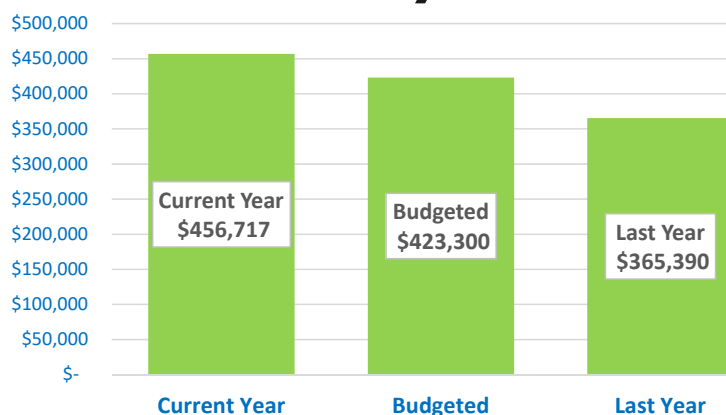
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GIVING UPDATE THROUGH 12/31



Unified Giving of \$456,717 for our church year was 25% more than the prior year and 8% above our budgeted amount.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that **VIOLET MCBRIDE**, first grandchild of **MIKE & KELLY STITT**, was delivered by **PAIGE MCBRIDE** on January 5....that **BOONE WESLEY BROWN** was delivered by **TIRZAH HOPKINS BROWN** on December 21.....that the highest point in PA is lower than the lowest point in Colorado....that Judge Cheryl Allen, of the PA Family Institute, will be speaking on CRT at the Hampton Community Center, February 16 at 7:00 P.M.....that you can get six months in prison for impersonating a postman.....that on February 25, First Pres Beaver is hosting a one-day seminar by Serge, called Gospel Centered Life: <https://serge.org/gcl-weekend-pittsburgh>....that the average lifespan of a major-league baseball is seven pitches....that we will hold a **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday, March 5 to elect a nominating committee and more....that **CHRIS AND JANET LOCHNER** recently ran the half-marathon at Disney in Orlando....that the Queen Elizabeth II moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel fuel that it burns....that reindeer like to eat bananas....that those who read the FYI are 9% more likely to eat bananas than those who do not. Did you know these things? I thought you should.



HISTORY CORNER

Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord, Who rises with healing in His wings...
In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue;
The theme of God's salvation, and find it ever new.
Set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say;
Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.
It can bring with it nothing but He will bear us through;
Who gives the lilies clothing, will clothe His people too.
Beneath the spreading heavens, no creature but is fed;
And He Who feeds the ravens will give His children bread.
Though vine nor fig tree neither their wonted fruit should bear;
Though all the field should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there;
Yet God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice;
For while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

William Cowper (1731-1800), *God Moves in a Mysterious Way*



SIGHT & SOUND TRIP - MOSES

Our church is looking to put together a trip to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA to see *Moses* this coming summer. If you might be interested in going on this trip, please send Kelly Laird (kellylaird@northparkepc.org) a quick email to help her gauge if there's enough interest by the end of February.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

KIDS' WORSHIP

Recently, Pastor Ben came into the Younger Kids' Worship class to talk to the kids about baptism. He explained what it is and how our church treats it. He even brought the baptismal font into the room so the kids could see up close what it looks like. Pastor Ben explained that there's nothing magic in the water that makes baptism special. It's the heart change of the person being baptized that has been affected by the Holy Spirit that is special. The kids were very engaged and seemed to learn a lot. Thanks for coming in, Pastor Ben!



TREKKERS

This past December, Trekkers kids had a fun stocking-themed Christmas celebration. Our kids were able to decorate and fill stockings to give as a blessing to a friend at school as a part of our **PBJ** initiative! We also learned about the prophecies surrounding Jesus' birth that were fulfilled. Of course the evening was filled with fun and games as well! The kids wrapped each other up as gifts and "stuffed" the gifts in a stocking. Everyone brought a fun pair of socks filled with goodies for an exciting Right-Left Nativity game! One more stocking game was guessing the objects inside a stocking — they did really well, but the teeny-tiny Christmas lightbulb was a tricky one to guess! It was a wonderful celebration of Christ's birth together!



YOUTH GROUP

Sundays | 6:30-8:30 P.M. | Room 304 & 306

We look forward to another exciting set of opportunities for our youth this month. Here is what we have planned for February. More details will be emailed out to the parents of our students each week. If you have any questions or would like to have your students involved, the student ministry (6th to 12th grades) meets each Sunday evening.

February 5 — Creation Night

For this evening, high school and middle school students will be separated. The high schoolers will have a local speaker who specializes in comparing Christian and atheistic accounts of the origin of the world. The middle schoolers will have our own Stacy Tessaro addressing them on the same topic.

February 12 — Super Bowl Sunday

Celebrate together with a hang out at the Morley's house.

February 19 — Youth Sunday

Our students will be leading the main parts of the morning worship service and Pastor Ben will be preaching. In the evening, there will be regular youth group, and Leslie Van Newkirk will be speaking to the students.

February 26 — Creation, Gender, and What to Do About It

Pastor Ben will be speaking on God's plan for gender in creation. The talk will be appropriate for both middle school and high school students.

NP-SEE

What God's Been Doing

Sunday, March 19 | 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. | Blue Room

**You are the God who works wonders;
you have made known Your might among the peoples.**

Psalms 77:14

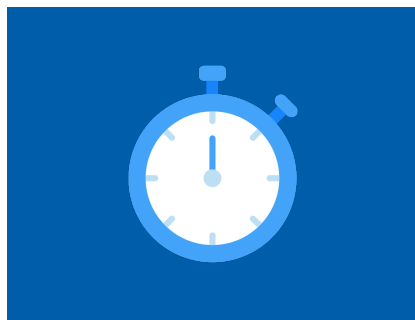
GOD IS DOING MARVELOUS THINGS! — Life is demanding and there are so many things vying for our attention, so we often fail to see the wonders that God is working, even when they are right in front of us. And, when we don't see what God is doing and give Him the glory for doing it, we more easily forget Him, His power and His faithfulness, which then causes us to look to ourselves or other worldly things to satisfy our longings.

That's no good! So, we are going to take a moment to SEE what God is doing right here, in and through the many ministries of North Park Church!

Simply put, NP-SEE is a time that we are setting aside to hear about different ministries at North Park Church and, more specifically, to hear what God is doing in and through these ministries. God is at work in our church and we want you to SEE some of His splendor and majesty and give Him the glory for what He has been and is doing!

Mark your calendars and save the date to join us for lunch and a celebration of God's goodness to us.

We couldn't have done this event last year without our AMAZING kiddos. We are in need of some youth (kindergarten to 5th graders) table leaders again this year, so if your children are interested in serving in this way, please contact Amber Stites (amberstites@northparkepc.org).



The Stephen Ministry team is preparing to teach a new Sunday School class starting Sunday, March 12, called, *Me, an Evangelist?: Learning to Share Your Faith Through Listening & Caring for Others*.

We will help you discover how to care for others, and share your faith compassionately with those around you in ways that fit for you and help others feel welcome.

Some topics we will be exploring are:

- Putting the Care in Caring Evangelism
- Listening: The Most Important Evangelizing Skill
- How to Uncover the God-Sized Needs of Others
- The Three Elements of an Effective Witness
- Prayer Empowered Evangelism

In class we will have times for discussion, brainstorming, imagination exercises, hypothetical situations and role play. We hope you will join us as we continue to expand on the mission of **PBJ** here at North Park Church.

God bless! - *Rachel Sharpnack, Stephen Leader*



SAVE THE DATE

FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

Saturday, March 11 | 6:00-9:00 P.M. | Blue Room

Save the Date! The men's ministry is happy to bring the Father-Daughter Dance again this year. Mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday, March 11. More details will come in the March FYI, but we don't want you to double book it!



JOURNEY THROUGH GRIEF

**Saturdays, February 25-March 25
2:00 P.M. | Ashton Commons**

This class is designed to educate individuals about the grief process and to create a safe space to share grief experiences with one another. Expect to learn from others' journeys, walk alongside each other, and spend time understanding the process of grief and the many emotions and thoughts that result from it. The class will consist of one-hour weekly meetings on Saturday afternoons at 2:00 P.M. for five weeks.

The facilitator, Kiley Librich, is a licensed social worker who has more than 20 years of therapy experience. Currently she has her own private practice out of Zelienople, PA. She counsels individuals, families and couples and treats a variety of mental health issues including but not limited to, depression, anxiety, trauma, abuse, family conflict, relational issues, and anger management. She has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Grove City College and a Master's in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh.

Class size may be limited. Participants must be 13 years or older. Classes to be held at Ashton Commons in McCandless at 551 Cooper Street, Wexford, PA 15090. To register, contact Mark Sharpnack, Director of Connection, at marksharpnack@northarkepc.org or sign up in the church lobby. Questions? Contact Mark at North Park Church via (412) 367-5000 ext. 223

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Saturday, February 11 | 6:00 P.M. | Blue Room

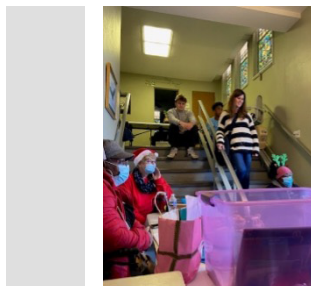
Cost is \$15/person for dinner from Moe's

As winter gets into full swing, the long dark days can feel challenging and lonely. So, we once again want to offer a respite from the gloom with our Ladies Night Out. This is a great opportunity for fun, fellowship, and a little friendly competition. This year we are adding dinner along with our pampering, games, and clothing swap. There is a little bit of fun for everyone.

If you have a few clothing items you no longer wear but think someone else would love, clothes will be collected in the church office from January 29-February 5, or bring them with you to the event. Please label your donations with "Ladies Night Out". If you have a favorite board game you'd like to share with the group, feel free to bring it along as well.

Please sign up using the link in the Thursday Epistle, on the website or by contacting Kirsten Lukas. Payment can be made with cash or check made out to North Park Church.

Plan to join us and invite your care group, friends, family, and neighbors for a fun, low-key evening out. If you're new to NPC, this is a great way to meet some friendly faces. Questions? Contact Kirstin Lukas (kirstinlukas@gmail.com).



NEW HOPE CHRISTMAS STORE

New Hope sends a huge THANK YOU to NPC! Once again, NPC provided an impressive amount of gifts and dozens of cookies to our sister church, New Hope. Memorial Park Church also donated gifts and cookies to help with the "store." Ann Spangler donated several boxes of children's books and Tim LaBarre and his friends at Highpoint's Rebecca Retirement Center provided about 30 hand crafted wood trains and trucks. Those extra gifts were a big hit. We also provided new hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and some items for their stockings!

Eighty-four families which included over 200 children were served from December 17 through Christmas Eve. Sixty-one families came on the actual date of the "store" but Linda Collins, the New Hope liaison, was able to keep enough toys aside to serve late coming families. Twenty-three families called on her up until as late as Christmas Eve! You may have read in the Prayer Letter that Linda is struggling with health issues but that didn't slow her down. She organized the gifts and kept track of those in need so the day went smoothly.

We have really enjoyed the New Hope Christmas Store ministry for the past five years and even though dealing with COVID took away some of the hospitality opportunities, we were still able to give generously and show love to our neighbors. We are very grateful to Jeff, Kristen, Will, Ben and Natalie Smalley for stepping into this ministry to continue the relationship with the New Hope Christmas Store as we step down. We look forward to the new ways NPC can support the Smalley family in this effort. - **Denny and Janie Koska**



COMPASS:

MYSTERY DINNER

Wednesday, February 22

6:00-8:00 P.M. | Blue Room

Are you savvy enough to unravel the clues to solve the mysterious set of circumstances that have unfolded at North Park Church? Come find out if you can piece it together while enjoying dinner with all of your NPC friends and guests. God might have been moving in you to invite. Our cast features some of the finest thespians in North Park Church, and you just might be surprised by who will be performing.

If you'd like to register for the event, you can do so at www.northparkepc.org/events. Be sure to invite at least one friend or neighbor (it will be harmless, I assure you).

We'll cater the dinner, so you won't have to bring any food, just attend. Childcare will be available for children ten and under down in the Children's Ministry wing.

Finally, we are still looking for more actors, particularly guys. If you're interested in acting or supporting the play in any way, email Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1** Sarah Faber
Beth Morley
Denise Velarde
- 3** Kayleigh Layden
- 4** Jeff Smalley
- 7** Isadora Pinkerton
Ann Spangler
- 10** Gloria Baldauff
- 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
Rich Lukas
- 26** Ben Fowler
- 28** Robby Brown
Barry Zaiser

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

