

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church

4600 Old William Penn Highway

Murrysville, PA 15668

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2012

Non-Profit Organization

Presorted Standard

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit No. 1

Website:

www.newlonsburgchurch.org

Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

Childcare offered at both services

Office Hours

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. Monday - Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Fridays

TIME VALUE DO NOT DELAY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

In This Issue: Officer Assignments, Sunday School, Outreach, Birthdays, Youth Activities, etc



A Simple, Generous 2012 Resolution

Electronic Giving

(Direct Debit from your savings or checking account)

Electronic Giving benefits the Church and you by:

- Will reduce our yearly deficit issue.
- Helps your stay on track with your pledge.
- Provides the church with a consistency in cash flow.
- Reduces the staff time needed to cash checks.
- Eliminating frequent check writing.

Sign Up Today

On line at www.newlonsburgchurch.org and click the "Give Now Button" or pick up an authorization form from the rack in the Narthex. **You do not need a computer to participate.** Call Andy Jarabak at 724-339-9925 for questions.

*The deadline for the March issue of the Good Newlonsburg is **February 12th** (to be mailed Feb. 21st). Submit all information to Shelley at administrativeassistant@newlonsburgchurch.org with GN referenced in the subject line, or drop off articles in her mailbox in the church office. (Receipt of email articles will be confirmed via a return message.) Please include your name when submitting an article in case there are questions.*

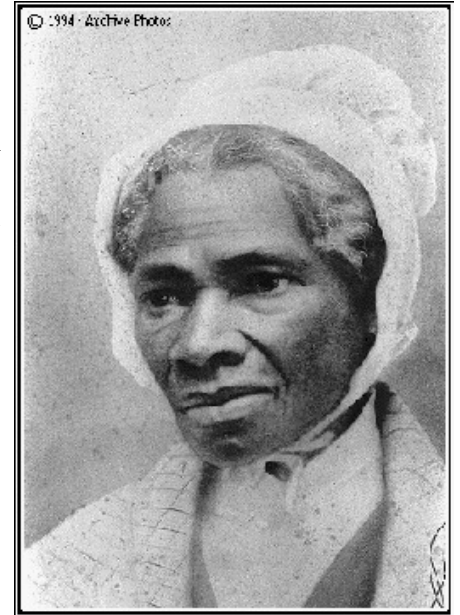
Good Newlonsburg

February 2012

As I write these words, it is the day after Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Hope and I, along with dozens from Newlonsburg, attended the fifth annual "Let Freedom Sing" choral festival held at Franklin Regional High School. *The Pittsburgh Gospel Choir* performed along with two or three other performers. The night was amazing. This event leads us to Black History month celebrated during February.

A Christian, abolitionist woman to remember is Sojourner Truth (Isabella Baumfree). She was born into slavery in 1797. By her thirteenth birthday she had been bought and sold three times: 1) 1806, bought in an auction for \$100; 2) 1808, bought for \$105; 3) 1810, bought for \$175. John Dumont, her third owner, forced her to marry an older slave, and she bore five children to him until she escaped with her infant Sophia in 1826. New York emancipated slaves who were born after 1799 in 1826.

Sojourner Truth converted to Christianity in 1828 and began to serve the Lord and humanity as an abolitionist and preacher. Her first major victory was winning a court case in 1827 to free her son, Peter, who was illegally sold into slavery in Alabama. She and Peter then moved to New York City in the early 1830's and she worked with two New York Christian evangelists.



By 1843, Isabella changed her name to Sojourner Truth and continued to work as a traveling preacher. By 1850, she purchased a home for \$300. That same year Oliver Green wrote, *Narrative of Sojourner Truth*. Through the 1850's, Truth began to speak at abolitionist and feminist rallies. Here is an excerpt from her most famous speech which is entitled "Ain't I a Woman:"

"That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gives me any best place, and ain't I a woman? ... I have plowed, and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me -- and ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man (when I could get it), and bear the lash as well -- and ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children and seen most all sold off to slavery and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me -- and ain't I woman?"¹

Remembering Truth helps us to reflect upon our past to understand where we are, where we have come from and how our Christian faith can influence the culture that surrounds us. Our calling is much different from hers. Nonetheless, let us not forget our sister in Christ. Let us use February and everyday of our lives to reflect upon our past and the power of the Christian faith.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Curtis Lane Paul II

¹ Women in History. Sojourner Truth biography. Last Updated: 1/17/2012. Lakewood Public Library. Date accessed 1/17/2012. <http://www.lkwdpl.org/wihohio/trut-soj.htm> & <http://www.sojournertruth.org/History/Biography/Default.htm>.



Session/Deacon Ministry Assignments

Our new Officers were installed on January 29th and the committee assignments for 2012 are:

Session Assignments

Affirmation

Christel Thompson - Chair, '13
Sharon Southlea, '14

Care of Members

Diane Sciullo, Chair, '13

Communication

John Schaupp, Co-chair, '13
Amy Hieber, '14

Equipping

Jill Wilson - Chair, '12
Diane Delbridge, '12

Finance

Susan Keaney, Chair, '13
John Daller, '14

New Member Evangelism

Gale Lieber, Chair, '14
Cynthia Goff, '12

Outreach

Roger Schneider - Chair, '13

Personnel

Chuck Russell, Chair, '14

Property

John Shultz - Chair, '12
Bob Johnson, '13

Clerk of Session

Joyce Holben

Deacon Assignments

Moderator - Cindy Hopper, Correspondence Cards, '12
Secretary - Debbie Andrachek, '12
Photo directory Coordinator - Tim Kyper, '12
Flowers - Kate Montgomery, '12
8:30 childcare - Michael Oates, '13
11:00 childcare - Jason Scheible, '13
Greeters - Kelly Thomas, '13
Rosebuds/Baptism books/COM Liasion - Judy Washburn, '13
Coffee - Ann Himelein, '14
Counters - Barbara Carroll, '14
8:30 set up/Ushers - Mel Wohlgemuth, '14
Reminder Cards - Sybil Marshall, '14

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on Saturday, February 11th, at 8:00 am. in Fellowship Hall. All the men of NPC and their male guests are invited to come for food and fellowship. No need to sign up - just show up. Call Carl Vernon if you have any questions at 724-327-7788.



Flower Calendar

The new flower calendar still has some openings for 2012. Sign up to reserve your special date to provide flowers to enhance worship for a Sunday service. Only one name per date, please. The flowers can be taken home following worship or left for a shut-in. An informational form is located by the flower calendar which will give you more details and offer space for your dedications. Return the sheet and a check for \$35 to the church office with flowers noted in the memo section.

Offering Envelopes

If you have not yet picked up your envelopes for 2012, please make an effort to get them as soon as possible. They may be found on the table in the office hallway. If you do not want/need envelopes, please leave a message for the financial secretaries in the church office at 724-327-0061.

Per Capita

Newlonsburg has "pledged" a First Fruits offering to the Presbytery of \$30.00 per member for 2012. Please use the first envelope in your 2012 box of offering envelopes to help honor this pledge! Extra blue per capita envelopes for those who use direct deposit can be found in the hall racks.

Newlonsburg Church Preschool

The Newlonsburg Church Preschool will be having registration for the 2012-2013 school year on Thursday, February 16th. The Preschool has a Nursery group, (ages infant to two) a Just for Twos (age two by 9/1/2012) a Threes Class (age three by 9/1/2012) a Four Year Old - Pre K (age four by 9/1/2012). Please call Debbie Wallisch if you would like to visit or tour the preschool or for more information Tuesday through Thursday at 724-325-4749 or at 724-744-0164.



Ash Wednesday Worship



We will mark the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday worship service on February 22th at 7:30 pm. in the Sanctuary. This service of communion, prayers, scripture and reflection will include the imposition of ashes. Lent gives us a season of 40 days to reflect about how our lives align with being called Christian and walking in the footsteps of Christ.

Youth Sunday Coming in February

February 12th will be Youth Sunday when our Senior High Students lead us in worship. And on this day we will receive a special offering to support our youth in their mission work trips coming this summer. Please be a partner in this mission outreach as you support the offering.

Gifts for Ministry

The church has received several gifts in recent months to enhance the ministry of the church. Through gifts over and above pledges, we have received:

New chairs for the adult ed space in Common Ground. These upholstered stackable chairs are a great improvement over the stained red and lime green chairs that had been in use there.

Flat Screen TV and DVD player for use in the ARC lounge for the Large Group time of Elementary Sunday School and for Youth ministry. The students can now see the DVD clearly!

New octaves of handbells have been purchased with a memorial gift in memory of Alberta Luketich, a gift honoring Joyce Frost's 90th birthday, a gift over and above a pledge and with funds designated by session to honor all that Marnie has done for NPC. Listen for their debut later this winter. They join the existing bells given in memory of Ann Zatezalo, Martha Gounley's mother.

We are grateful for these gifts and all the gifts and pledges to the Common Good Fund that allow us to do ministry to the glory of God!

Quiet Saints

Thanks to:

- Joyce Holben for taking laprobes made by the crochet group to residents at Hempfield Manor.
 - Alice Doult who calligraphies Baptismal Certificates.
 - Bob Oates, Ty Radcliff and Len Scimio for building and installing a video cabinet and outlets in the ARC lounge and to Steve Meyer for installing the electronics as well as procuring them.
- To these and all the other quiet saints.....Thank you!

Lenten Book Study Opportunities

Lent is a good time to do something to grow closer to God. How about a book study? We will offer 2 here at the church.

Marnie Silbert will offer a class on Thursday mornings 10:00-11:30 beginning February 23 and continuing for 6 weeks through March 29th. We will work our way through Jack Haberer's book **Godviews**.

This book looks at generic sorts of church members and what each brings to the community of faith and also at what liabilities each type would be up against without the other sorts of people in the mix of the church community. Jack is a Presbyterian minister who served in Texas before becoming Editor of "The Presbyterian Outlook" a bi-monthly news journal about our denomination. We will have some copies for sale in the office (\$17.00) or you may find your own. Please let the office know if you plan to take part. The more the merrier.

Curtis Paul will lead:

Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and Its Fashionable Enemies

A Lenten Book Study on Mondays at 7pm in room 101 starting 2/27 - 4/9

A summary in Curtis' words: "Christianity changed the human mind. The Christian faith revolutionized how we humans value one another. Before Christianity we humans were violent brutes. Even in the 20th century we had governments systematically murdering its citizens or others (Germany, Russia, Japan, Turkey and Rwanda)."

Here is the blurb from Yale Press:

Currently it is fashionable to be devoutly undevout. Religion's most passionate antagonists—Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Sam Harris, and others—have publishers competing eagerly to market their various denunciations of religion, monotheism, Christianity, and Roman Catholicism. But contemporary antireligious polemics are based not only upon profound conceptual confusions but upon facile simplifications of history or even outright historical ignorance: so contends David Bentley Hart in this bold correction of the distortions. One of the most brilliant scholars of religion of our time, Hart provides a powerful antidote to the New Atheists' misrepresentations of the Christian past, bringing into focus the truth about the most radical revolution in Western history.

Hart outlines how Christianity transformed the ancient world in ways we may have forgotten: bringing liberation from fatalism, conferring great dignity on human beings, subverting the cruelest aspects of pagan society, and elevating charity above all virtues. He then argues that what we term the "Age of Reason" was in fact the beginning of the eclipse of reason's authority as a cultural value. Hart closes the book in the present, delineating the ominous consequences of the decline of Christendom in a culture that is built upon its moral and spiritual values.

David Bentley Hart is the author of several books, including *In the Aftermath: Provocations and Laments* and *The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Truth*. He lives in Providence, RI.

The book can be purchased from Amazon for roughly \$10 or cheaper if you buy used.

I hope to see you on Mondays in Lent.

-Pastor Curtis

Souper Bowl

SORRY STEELERS - No Super Bowl for you. But Newlonsburg has one!

February 5th is our very own SOUPER BOWL when we get to tackle our arch rivals. No, not the Ravens, the Cowboys or the Browns, but "The Hungries."

Bring your cans of soup to worship on February 5th and be a part of the Chicken Bowl Curtain as our team scores points against hunger.

Our cans will march down the field to the Food Pantry for a touchdown against a growling stomach. To help run up the score Outreach will always let you substitute a check at no penalty.

Be part of our team and get your soup in the line up. See an Outreach Coach for details.



It's a Newlonsburg thing!

February Hunger Offerings



Our first Hunger Offering of this month will be taken on Sunday, February 5 to benefit The Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Florida. Migrant farmworkers are the poorest of the working poor in this country, with about 90% coming from Mexico and Central America. Some remain in Florida year round, while others follow the crops. Workers always outnumber the available jobs and most are only able to find work an average of 30 hours per week for only 30 weeks per year. Many struggle just to feed themselves and their families.

The Beth-El Mission was founded in 1976 to help farm workers achieve self-sufficiency through its open opportunities to worship, its extensive educational programs, and the many services it provides to meet basic needs. It operates under a covenant among the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Tampa Bay and Peace River Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Please give generously.

Our late February Hunger Offerings will be taken on Ash Wednesday February 22 and on Sunday, February 26 both to benefit the people of Haiti. The year 2010 brought the horrendous earthquake in January and a cholera epidemic broke out in the fall. Two years later, an incredible number of people are still struggling just to survive. The needs are great and your gifts will make a significant difference.



Good News for Haiti

Very soon the people of the LaCroix mission in Haiti will be receiving your gifts of 28 shade trees, 86 fruit trees, \$2418 for Sam's Club gift cards for the preschool breakfast and lunch program and \$600 for the Haiti teachers. These gifts will greatly enhance the daily life of the people. This year's gifting came to a grand total of \$4632. Thank you so much for your generosity. YOU are the ones who made this possible. When Jack Metcalfe and Barb Rissler return from their January 14 trip, we can expect to see some new pictures that show the students, the facilities and the greenery. Watch for this information on the Outreach bulletin board in the hallway.

- Outreach

News from our Sunday Children's Ministry Program

The good news is our children have been listening to their leaders as we focus even more on the faith skills they need to connect to God. In January we celebrated a new calendar year, learned about how important it is to support and serve on missions in our community and globally and we spent three weeks in Proverbs. Proverbs is packed full of wise and visual verses to challenge our thinking—especially about the topic of Self-Control. In February we will finish up Self-Control with two more Bible lessons about Self-Control before we move on to Honor in Mid- February and early March.



What's on deck for February?

On February 5th, we really get to the heart of what we should do. We should use the Bible to guide our thoughts. Today we will learn it is not just our temper, our words or our choices that get us into trouble. No, it's what comes before all that and it can happen so fast it's hard to catch. Our thoughts lead to all our actions. We want our kids to understand that our thoughts lead to all our actions. That's why we will focus on self-control by talking through the biblical principle in Philippians 4:8 of watching what you think about.

On February 12th, the Proverbs principle we will focus on compares someone without self-control to a city with broken down walls—defenseless (Proverbs 25:28). God doesn't expect us to have self-control all on our own. Today we will learn to ask God to help us practice self-control so we can have a positive affect on everyone around us in positive ways. In our monthly memory verse, the very beginning of James 1:19 begs us to pay attention and be quick to listen. Today's Bottom Line is: **God can give you the power to control yourself.**

Now stop and think about someone you really admire.

Are you thinking of someone? Whether that person is a teacher, coach, friend or family member, he or she is valuable to you. You recognize this person is important because what they do impacts your life. But did you know that everyone is valuable? Every person has value, not because of what they do, but because each and every person has been put together by God.

In Mid-February we begin taking on the Ultimate Challenge of showing the highest degree of honor. We'll be looking to David as a mentor and exploring his life in 1 and 2 Samuel, and we will define honor as "letting someone know you see how valuable they really are."

On February 19th, we're looking at how God chooses the next king from an unexpected place—the youngest boy watching sheep in the fields (1 Samuel 16:1-13). We'll notice that God doesn't see as the world sees; He looks at the heart instead. Bottom line: **Honor those who are overlooked.**

On February 25th, we're discovering friends can show honor to each other. We want to show others, including our friends, that everyone has value because they belong to God. A great way to show someone they matter to God is by honoring them with our words, our time, even our favorite things! This month, we define honor as **letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.** How would your friends respond if you honored them more than yourself?

I can't wait to see what happens when we take on the Ultimate Challenge of showing the highest degree of honor!

Hope to see you in the ARC lounge Sunday mornings. ☺

Blessings,

Miss Angel

FEBRUARY



phillipmartin.info

!Youth Sunday!

Youth Sunday is February 12,!! This is the chance for the high school students to take part in the Sunday services. The adults get the Sunday as the youth do everything from Music to ushering to scripture readings. Youth Sunday is Feb. 12 and we will have a practice on Saturday February 11th. If you would like to be involved please call or e-mail Steve.



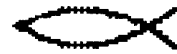
Lost Sheep

Lost Sheep meetings are spread out this month. We are meeting on the 5th at 5:30 to go over some Youth Sunday things and after you are welcome to watch the Super Bowl at the Church. The 12th is Youth Sunday so there will be no sheep that night. The 19th we will not meet because on Monday the 20th we are going on a Mini work trip to Off the Floor, like we did in Nov. We will meet again on the 26th at 7:30 like normal.

Don't miss out!

!!Off The Floor!!

On Presidents Day Monday February 20th the Sheep are heading down to help out at Off the Floor Pittsburgh, a mission to help furnish the less fortunate people of Pittsburgh. We went down in November and had a great time helping them fix up the warehouse. Any questions just ask Steve.



F.I.S.H.

F.I.S.H is meeting twice this month on Feb.5th at 4 till 5:30 and again on the 19th at our normal time 5:30. Due to a lack of snow the tubing night that was planned for January 27th maybe rescheduled some time in February there will be an e-mail blast coming your way.

R.A.M.

R.A.M. continues every Tuesday and Thursday.

When there is school at F.R.M.S. there is R.A.M. Anyone in 6th-8th grade is welcome to come after school from 3-4:30 to come down and play some games and eat some snacks. If you have any question please ask Steve.

Any Questions Ask Steve

Phone:724-327-0061

E-mail: npcyouthdirector@comcast.net