Dear NBPC Family:

It is a pleasure to introduce myself to you as your Transitional Pastor, to outline the process that I will be following over these next months, and to share my commitment to you.

I have been called and served as a pastor for over 17 years now, being called out of the business world and into full-time ministry when I was 40 years old. I have served exclusively here in Western Pennsylvania, first at Hillcrest UP Church in Monroeville and then as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown.

After Bakerstown, I was called into the world of transitional ministry, having completed a three-year assignment at Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church. NHPC was a unique assignment, in that the church was not only adapting to the retirement of their 30-year pastor, but had also — at the same time — disaffiliating from the PCUSA and was needing to negotiate a separation AND take Elder exams to be fully admitted as EPC members. With all aspects of the assignment successfully completed, God has called me here, and what has impressed me first and foremost is the health of your congregation. I am prayerful that this will enable the transitional process to go smoothly over this next year.

Phase one of the process is Assessment, assessing where the church is right now. This will involve me conducting SWOT interviews with many of you here at NBPC, including members, Session, Deacons and staff. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats and is really focussed on the area of church outreach. This will be coupled with something else I will introduce very early in my ministry with you: a Missional Posture Survey. This will help assess NBPC's attitude towards reaching out to the community around it with the good news of Jesus.

With the completion of those interviews and the survey, I will be tasking a small SWOT Analysis Team to look at all my interview notes in order to discover commonalities and produce a written report for your Session.

From this, Phase two will involve re-creating a Vision Team at the church to prayerfully determine, in light of the interviews, survey, report and the retirement of your pastor, the answer to the following questions: "Who is NBPC trying to reach with the good news of Jesus," "What are the needs of the surrounding community," and "How can the church best connect with and serve the community outside of the congregation's walls?" Answering these questions, the Vision team will create a Church Life and Ministry Vision with preliminary action strategies for the Session to review, amend and approve.

With Session approval, Phase two will move to Implementation, with Session and an Implementation Team working through the plan to align strategy, structure and people. As this is underway, NBPC will move to Phase Three.

Phase Three will involve the creation of a Pastoral Search Team which will conduct a search according to EPC constitutional procedures. This will also involve regular consultation with the Presbytery.

My role will be to work in concert with Session, the SWOT Analysis Team, the Vision Team and the Implementation Team so that they operate with one voice, and to work with your church's Coach in the EPC's Presbytery of the Alleghenies to provide additional support. Prayer will be a big part of every aspect of this process, and there will be many opportunities for prayer warriors at this church to be involved.

At the same time that I am involved in all this, it will be my privilege to share God's word with you each Sunday in a manner that I pray is real and relevant to your life, to provide pastoral care when needed and, once Connie and I rent out our townhouse in the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh, to get involved in the life and ministry of this caring community for the length of time that we are here.

My first sermon series will kick this all off, as I preach a series from the Old Testament book of Nehemiah about the authority and tools Jesus gives us to share the good news. The name of the series is called "Take the Keys."

Connie and I look forward to doing life and ministry with you during this transitional period, as we build on and honor the work that Pastor Doug and Kim have done here for 23 years. May God bless you and your families!

Pastor Dan and Connie

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Elected Judy Riethmiller as Clerk of Session**
- **Elected Collin Fulkman and Bob Shafer to the Nominating Committee**
- **Elected Sam Jones and Scott Phillips to the Personnel Committee**
- **Approved Dennis Jones to serve as a Deacon**
- **Reviewed both year end and December Financial Reports**
- **Approved Communion dates for 2021**
- **Approved Head Usher Schedule for 2021**
- **Reviewed the Head Usher Responsibilities and Counting of Offering Guidelines**
- **Approved purchase of equipment to turn double room into a virtual classroom**
- **Received report from Administration Committee of walk-through done with Pastor Doug of manse, list was developed of projects that need attention**
- **Received report from C.E. Committee: The Seekers class is in need of a leader.; AWANA does not have enough leaders because of COVID concern. T&T continues to meet on 2nd & 4th Wed. Puggles/Cubbies/Sparks are meeting via Zoom.; Lee is exploring Couples Retreat for Feb. 26-28.; A new MOPS leader is needed for the 2021-2022 school year.**

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Please remember in prayer the following persons who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have requested prayer.



Lavon Rogers----------John XXIII Nursing Home
Larry Pence----------Shenango Home
Dot Shillingburg----------Home
Erma Gorley----------Nugent's Nursing Home

Birthdays in February

2/02 – Paul Cummings
2/02 – Aleah Deal
2/02 – Nancy Phillis
2/03 – Dawn Harris
2/03 – Roberta Moorehead
2/04 – Harry Cornman
2/04 – Shirley Freeman
2/04 – Alexandra Lambert
2/04 – Austin Whiting
2/05 – Pam Liddell
2/07 – Marty Marshall
2/07 – Martha Miller
2/07 – Nancy Rudzik
2/08 – Len Halt
2/08 – Laura Harshbarger
2/09 – Barbara Sander
2/15 – Bowen Fulkman
2/15 – Shirley Snyder
2/22 – Lisa Magee
2/22 – Amanda Quinn
2/26 – Donald Pence
2/27 – Don Craig

Birthdays in March

3/03 – Gene Bicehouse
3/03 – Steve Fox
3/08 – Sue Bluedorn
3/12 – Mira Fulkman
3/13 – Doug Houk
3/15 – Larry Bluedorn
3/17 – Jake Emery
3/19 – Dan Dieter
3/20 – Ed Rudzik
3/22 – Beth Kendall
3/24 – Jennifer Saulpaugh
3/25 – John Book
3/26 – Jamie Phillips
3/27 – Robert Bretz
3/27 – Ryan Morse
3/29 – Judy Stuhlmann
3/30 – Helen Bicehouse





Congratulations to Mitchell & Cassidy Whiting on the birth of their son, Bennett James! Bennett was born on 1/24, he weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz. and is 19.5 inches long. The proud grandparents are, Austin and Julie Whiting! Congratulations to the entire Whiting family on the birth of this precious baby boy!!

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I want to thank the Deacons and everyone that sent cards and prayers after my surgery. I am doing better everyday and soon hope to be back in church. Blessings – Scott Phillips

Thank you to all of our Church Family for the gifts, cards and prayers that we received during my father's illness and passing. -Steve Fox & Family

NBEPC Staff – Thank you all so much for the beautiful Wind Chimes! -Doug & Kim

NBEPC Choir/Bell Choir – Thank you for the gift card! -Doug & Kim

NBEPC Worship Team – Thank you for the camping gear and snacks! -Doug & Kim

Dear New Bedford Family,
Words are inadequate to express our love for you all. We are so grateful for this congregation that became so precious to us.
Thank you for the beautiful worship service. Thank you for the music, the flowers and the lovely Wendell August tray.
Most of all, we thank God for our time here. A lifetime for some and a blink for others. New Bedford is a place of love and health and healing. It is a place where Christ is proclaimed in word and in deed. We are so grateful that we were allowed to be partakers!
May the Lord richly bless you and keep you all. May He guard, protect and guide you.
With Love – Pastor Doug & Kim

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The Women's Association will have a take-out soup sale on Saturday, February 20th from 9:00A.M. until NOON. The cost is $7.00/quart. Available soups will be Potato, Broccoli Cheese, Tomato Basil, Wedding, Beef Vegetable, Stuffed Pepper and Chicken Noodle. Someone will be in the narthex Sunday, February 7th & 14th for you to sign-up for available quarts or you can call the church office during working hours. You will pick up your soup in your car at the church entrance.



2021 LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00P.M.

Palm Sunday Worship Services – Sunday, March 28 at 8:30A.M. & 10:40A.M.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service – Thursday, April 1 at 7:00P.M.

Good Friday Worship Service – Friday, April 2 at 7:00P.M.

Easter Morning Worship Services – Sunday, April 4 at 8:30A.M. & 10:40A.M.



In-Person Club will meet 5:00-6:45 PM
Drop off is at the Main Doors for kids to go to the Sanctuary
Doors will open at 5:00
Please wear a mask & bring a water bottle
as the water fountain is unavailable.
If you want more information about Awana please contact Dawn

Puggles-Ages 2 & 3 Cubbies–Preschool Sparks–Gr. K-2 T&T-Gr. 3-6

Date	Cubbies/Sparks Meets	T&T Meets
Feb. 3rd	Zoom Meet	Zoom Meet with Miss Lori
Feb. 10th	At Home Lesson	In-Person Meet
Feb 17th	Zoom Meet	Zoom Meet with Miss Lori
Feb 24th	At Home Lesson	In-Person Meet

An email will be sent out Tues. of each week with the Zoom Meeting ID for the Club Meetings.

If you are willing to 'mask up' and feel lead to serve in this ministry please contact Dawn.
Thank you for the continued prayers for the children's ministries at NBEPC.

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Letters from Jerusalem is a family faith kit designed to be used during the season of Lent. Families focus on 6 stories from the last week of Jesus' life on earth: The Triumphal Entry, Jesus Clears the Temple, The Last Supper, The Garden of Gethsemane, The Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. The devotions for this resource are written as letters from the disciples to their families back home. They are sharing in the letter all the details of what is happening during the last week of Jesus' life. Each devotion is Bible-based but written from the viewpoint of a disciple.

This kit includes 6 weeks of the following: Color of the Week, Family Devotion, Bible Memory Verse, Bible Story Art, Family Craft, Family Activity, Family Letters, and Family Snack (1 of each of these per week).

If you would like a *Letters from Jerusalem* Kit for your family please email Dawn at Dawnhnbpc@aol.com or call the church office to request a kit. Kits will be available for pick up at the church beginning February 14th. (Lent begins February 17th)

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For any questions contact Dawn Harris, Director of Children's Ministry
Call/Text: 330-881-8110 Email: Dawnhnbpc@aol.com

Family Ministries Calendar
February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5** RSVP date for Super Bowl and RETREAT	**6**
7 Jr high 3-4pm Sr high 4-5:30 Super Bowl party 5:30-end of game	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**
14 Jr high 12:30-2 Sr high 2:30-4:30	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
21 Jr high 12:30-2 Sr high 2:30-4:30	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26** Van leaves for youth retreat at 5pm	**27**
28 Return from youth retreat around 2pm No Youth Group	**Looking Ahead: COUPLE'S RETREAT….. A get-away for all Married Couples is being planned. The cost is $110 +tax. The tentative dates would be either March 5 & 6 or March 12 & 13. Right now I am trying to figure which weekend would be best. If you are interested in attending please let me know which weekend you prefer by filling out the sign-up sheet in the vestibule or you can call the church office. A date will be selected by Feb. 14th based on the majority then registration forms will be available.**					

NEW BEDFORD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
151 Woodland Drive
Pulaski, PA 16143
Phone: 724-964-8055

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #147
New Castle, PA 16101



Redeeming Times Newsletter
FEBRUARY 2021

Church website: www.newbedfordepchurch.org
Church e-mail: newbedfordchurch@verizon.net



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Sunday Schedule:

8:30a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service

9:30a.m. – Children's Sunday School

10:40a.m. – Traditional Worship Service