

# The Communicator

December 2021

North Hills Community Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Tim Spring, Pastor

Join us this Christmas Season  
for these special events

## **Children's Christmas Pageant**

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

During 11:00 Worship



## **Christmas Eve Service**

**Friday, December 24, 2021**

6:30 p.m. Pre-Service Music

7:00 p.m. Service



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My Dear Church Family,

As we enter this time of Advent, I'm reminded that a period of waiting is frequently followed by a period of great change. As our worldwide community has been waiting and preparing for the continuation of life after the pandemic, so too are we as a local community waiting and preparing for a great change within our church.

With the imminent departure of our beloved pastor, we must now prepare for many coming changes and wait with baited breath for the time when a new pastor will emerge. The process of preparation will be a significant effort and one which we haven't performed in decades. It is my expectation that our entire church community will be involved in this preparation and selection process and I know that we will come together to support one another as we have done so many times in the past.

As of this writing, the Pulpit Committee is nearly complete and I have every confidence that they will move quickly towards the selection of an Interim Pastor and a new, permanent Head Pastor. The American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD) have already pledged their support of this process and I know that their resources will be invaluable both to the Committee and to our larger church community. In the larger context, American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) are also available to help us. In addition, the Committee will, of course, have the full support of all the established church committees and I know they will be able to count on the participation of the entire church membership.

The Pulpit Committee's first goal will be to select an Interim Pastor in time for that person to be in place around the end of January when Pastor Tim's retirement takes effect. We are blessed to have many options for substitute preachers, but it is clearly important to have a person to fill the role of pastor during this time of preparation and transition. ABCOPAD has much experience in this process and maintains a list of qualified candidates that we will clearly take advantage of.

Following that, the Committee will engage in the task of selecting a Head Pastor. Again, advice and assistance from ABCOPAD and ABCUSA will be invaluable as will the participation of the entire congregation. None of us should expect this to be a short process! I suspect the process of gathering information from the congregation, collecting candidates, conducting interviews, analyzing sermons, discussing and deciding will take many months. Do not forget that this is your process as well. While I know that the Committee will do its utmost to select the right candidate, it is ultimately up to a congregational vote to approve the candidate the Committee selects. I would ask that any questions or concerns you have with this process be brought to the larger church leadership (e.g. myself, your Deacon, etc.) so that the Committee can focus on the task at hand.

Finally, let us not lose sight of the many joys and blessings we have enjoyed with Tim and all those good things that we continue to celebrate and give thanks for. With Tim's departure it is extremely important to stop and assess where we've been and where we're going. We need to take time to celebrate what we've accomplished and reflect on what we can do better. Information about our celebration of Tim's time with us will be forthcoming and I know that we will all want to take time to thank him in our own ways. Let us use these moments of preparation, thanksgiving, and reflection to center ourselves for the bright future that is to come.

It is my prayer that these coming months will knit us even more tightly together and create in us a newly reformed community, stronger together than separate. It is my privilege to count myself among the members of such a community and I cannot adequately express my appreciation for your support of the church leadership.

Sincerely,  
Matt Clark  
Moderator



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# NHCBC Security and Safety

This month's safety and security update addresses how to best exit the building in case of a fire or other emergency.

## NHCBC Evacuation Plan

Should evacuation of the church building be necessary, please remain calm and follow instructions that are announced. Evacuation exits are posted on or near each room's door. Please only take essential items with you and proceed to the designated meeting area. **Our designated meeting place will be in the lower parking lot near the garage.** Assignment will be given to a designated person to assist with the evacuation of those who are disabled and require evacuation assistance. In each classroom, the teacher will be the designated person. For other instances, church staff, church moderator, or event facilitator will be the designated individual to assist in an efficient evacuation.



Room-specific exit routes will be posted in all rooms by the end of November, either on the back of the door or next to the doorway. A big thanks to Ryan Buschmeyer for creating these floor plans.

For 2022, the Security Committee plans to coordinate emergency training at our church. This will include Ross Township Police, Fire, and EMS to train on various emergency scenarios. More information to follow.

As always, should you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the safety and security at NHCBC, please reach out to Mark Mendicino (Committee Chair) or email the committee at [security@nhcbc.com](mailto:security@nhcbc.com).

As we approach the end of 2021, your continued financial support is greatly appreciated. Your 2022 Estimate of Giving is important as we plan the financial future of the church, but just as important is finishing 2021 strong. 2021 NHCBC Pledged Giving (those funds that are given as an Estimate of Giving, including verbal commitments by long-time contributors) stand at approximately 82%. This means we have just a few more weeks to hit our 100% goal. Information regarding your 2021 Estimate of Giving amounts can be obtained from Mark Mendicino. Please email him at [markjmendicino@gmail.com](mailto:markjmendicino@gmail.com) and you'll be provided your year-to-date giving amounts so you can prayerfully consider your year-end giving. It is understandable that personal situations may have changed during this year. Friendly reminders will be emailed in early December to those more than 10% away from their 2021 EOG goal. This is being provided as just a courtesy, not as a bill collection agency, and is for your information only. As always, thank you for your commitment to NHCBC.

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## It's better to give than receive...

And the **Mission Board** wants everyone to participate in at least one of our Christmas collections. The following is a list of different collections we will be conducting to care for our Pittsburgh neighbors.



Pleasant Valley Shelter - Items being collected are underwear (all sizes), t-shirts (all sizes), warm hats and warm gloves.

Hats and gloves should be lined and if possible waterproof.

These items will be collected until Dec. 24 then taken to the shelter when we take dinner on the 28th.

Angel Tree - Take a tag from the Christmas tree in the Cafe anytime during the Advent season and mail your monetary gift directly to North Hills Community Outreach (NHCO) and help our North Hills neighbors pay for energy bills and food. (Known as the Winter Warmth Program through NHCO, serving over 500 senior, disabled adults and families.)

Rankin Christian Center - Several families in the Rankin area are in need of Christmas presents for their children. The Center has provided us with the ages and gender of the children and the type of item requested. If you'd like to buy an item for one of these children please contact Janet Brogan at [jbrogan621@aol.com](mailto:jbrogan621@aol.com) or (412) 367-7230. Marcy B. and Dave Jones have volunteered to deliver the items to the Center. Donated gifts need to be returned to the church by Dec 12th.

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering - The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) benefits the ministers and missionaries (m&m) who have dedicated their lives to serving the church ministry and mission work. The offering is traditionally collected during the Christmas Eve Service. You can also make your donation online through the church website at [NHCBC.com](http://NHCBC.com). In addition, the Mission Board will be having a drive-by donation at the church on Sunday December 19th from 12:30-2:00.

Meals on Wheels - If anyone is interested in donating hard candies, to be used in gifts for Meals on Wheels and in nursing homes, please turn these in by Dec. 10 to the church office.

We are so grateful to your team at the **North Hills Community Baptist Church** for all of your amazing support for many years to NHCO! We just received your kind \$3,000 donation and are very grateful for your continued generosity. Your church has now provided close to \$50,000 (\$48,203 to be exact) of financial support over the years. It is truly a remarkable commitment that you have displayed of caring about our essential work and the services provided here through NHCO. We are truly thankful for you!

Sincerely,

**Tom Baker**

**Executive Director, North Hills Community Outreach**



## Youth News

Thank you to all who supported our youth mission fund at our Vendor Fair by buying pies and handmade items made by our talented youth!

And thank you to all of the youth that showed up to help decorate the church for Christmas. It was a busy November!



In December, members of the youth group will be helping out with cooking and serving at the Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter. If you are able to provide food to help support this important mission, look for the sign up in your email.

## Upcoming Catalyst Events and Meetings

- Dec 3:** Children's Christmas Program dress rehearsal: 6 pm in the sanctuary for those youth involved in this production
- Dec 5:** Children's Christmas Program live recording 12:30 - 2 pm in the sanctuary  
Pizza lunch provided.  
Catalyst 6-8 pm
- Dec 12:** Youth Christmas Program Practice: 9 am in the sanctuary  
Christmas Program 11 am - 12 pm  
Catalyst Family Christmas Potluck Party 6-8 pm
- Dec 19:** Movie Night! 6-8 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Dec 26 & Jan 2** - No Sunday Catalyst Meetings, Christmas Break
- Dec 28:** Cook and serve for Pleasant Valley Shelter  
Cooking Shift (church kitchen): 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Serving Shift (PVS): 7:30 - 9 pm



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# The Prayer Group

As I was complaining about my pains and discomfort after my 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccination for Covid, I started thinking about things I should be thankful for instead of whining about my discomfort.



I started remembering a childhood without running water in the house, no bathtub, baths once a week whether or not we needed them, electricity, flush toilets, washers and dryers, telephones, you name it. Others which are more important such as life and family who are mostly healthy. These are perhaps because of vaccines that God has helped make possible by giving us people like Lister, Pasteur, Leeuwenhoek, Sabin and Salk who developed some of the vaccines which helped make possible the one for Covid that we have available now.

Who gave them the intelligence to do so? God! What would we do without God? We would not have many of the things we now have that are considered necessities, rather than wants. We many times forget to say "Thank you" to God, and we should do it not only daily, but every second of our day, each and every day.

Here is one way to start doing so:

King James Bible Psalms # 100, verses 1-5 : "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God; It is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto Him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good. His mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

If we pay attention to this verse and follow the advice in it, we can live a good Christian life.

For the Prayer Group: Mary Michalek

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## It's time to get together for a Helping Hands day!

If you are able and willing to meet with others at the church to make some small Christmas presents, join the Helping Hands group on Monday, December 6 from 10:00 am - 12 noon in the church Cafe. This month we will make candy poppers for Meals on Wheels, bookmarks for nursing homes, and pack some presents for PVS. Most everything we do is done sitting down, so come out and fellowship with your friends while helping make the holidays special for our Pittsburgh Neighbors!



If you can't make it but would like to participate, we need donations of small hard candies (think peppermints, butterscotch, etc.). Donations can be left in the church office or above the mailboxes.

Hope to see lots of folks with Christmas Cheer and a loving heart there!  
(Ugly sweaters optional!)

See Amy Mendicino if you have any questions!!

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**Pastor Tim and Pauline Spring**  
invite the congregation of NHCBC to a



at their home  
3088 Haberlein Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044

Saturday, December 11th from 3 to 6 pm.  
Appetizers, cookies and punch will be served.

In order to safely and comfortably accommodate everyone,  
we ask that those with **last names beginning with:**

**A through F to attend from 3-4 pm,**  
**G through O to attend from 4-5 p.m and**  
**P through Z to attend from 5-6 pm.**

Please do not park in the driveway.

Parking is available on the roadside.

Carpooling from Poff Elementary School (¼ mile away) is an option.

\*Please **RSVP by Saturday December 4th** so we can prepare.\*  
724-766-6889 (Pauline)



# December 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<b>Sunday Schedule</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, All Ages 10:35 a.m. Coffee and Goodies in the Café 10:50 a.m. Sanctuary Doors Open 11:00 a.m. Worship In-Person and Online			1	2 10:00 am Coffee with the Pastor 6:30 pm Choir 8:15 pm Song Leader	3 6:00 pm Children's Virtual Program Dress Rehearsal	4
5 Reg. Sunday Schedule 12:30 pm Children's Program Recording 6:00 pm Catalyst	6 10:00 am Helping Hands	7 10:00 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Hugs with Joyce	8	9 10:00 am Coffee with the Pastor 6:30 pm Choir 8:15 pm Song Leader	10	11
12 Regular Sunday Schedule (Children's Pageant) 6:00 pm Catalyst	13 6:30 pm A Capella	14 10:00 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Hugs with Joyce	15	16 10:00 am Coffee with the Pastor	17	18 9:00 am Men's Choir 10:00 am Full Choir 11:00 am Frauencore
19 Regular Sunday Schedule 12:30 pm Faithbuilders 6:00 pm Catalyst	20	21 10:00 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Hugs with Joyce	22	23 6:30 pm Choir and Choir Christmas Party	24 6:30 pm Special Music 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 
26 11:00 Worship In-Person and Online	27	28 6:00 pm Pleasant Valley Shelter	29	30	31	
					The church office will be closed December 24 through January 3	



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North Hills Community Baptist Church  
7801 Thompson Run Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-6346  
Phone: (412) 366-2662  
E-Mail: [nhcbc@nhcbc.com](mailto:nhcbc@nhcbc.com)  
[www.nhcbc.com](http://www.nhcbc.com)

*Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Spring, Pastor*  
*Rev. Felicia Zamora, Director of Pastoral Care*  
*Heidi Clark, Director of Worship and Arts*  
*Christine O'Neil, Youth Pastor*  
*Cheri Barnes, Custodian*  
*Greta Zewe, Sanctuary Production Manager*  
*Libby Benna, Nursery Worker*  
*Kerri Buschmeyer, Administrative Assistant*

Be sure to check your email, the NHCBC website, and Facebook page for announcements and information on upcoming events and changes to the NHCBC schedule.

Follow us on Twitter! @nhcbc\_pgh  
Like us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/nhcbc.pittsburgh](http://www.facebook.com/nhcbc.pittsburgh)

Church office hours are  
Tuesday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The church office will be closed  
Friday, December 24, 2021 through  
Monday, January 2, 2022

**Financial Information** may be found in  
the copy room above the copier.

*The Communicator* is published monthly.  
July/August issue combined. Articles are  
due the next to the last Sunday of the  
month. Articles may be sent to the church  
secretary, [secretary@nhcbc.com](mailto:secretary@nhcbc.com) anytime  
during the month up to the due date. *The  
Communicator* is available the last Sunday  
of the month.

## Happy Birthday to the Following And Especially to Those We May Have Missed

### December

2	David Corsello	20	Luke Cisar
4	Chinene Miller	20	Katie Marinack
5	Brighton Early	23	Nick Hodos
5	Warren Nichols	23	Sonnie Morrow
6	Cindy Rudolph Dugan	23	Ashley Zuk
6	Riley Goelz	25	Elissa Yeager
7	Olivia Berarducci	26	Tegan Duncan
8	Walter Blyth	28	Michael Simmons
8	Allen Faulhaber	28	Brian Wallace
8	Josie Yao	31	Rachel Gongaware
11	JoAnn Swihart		
13	Olive Tiller		
14	Manuel E. Bautista		
14	Michael Stott		
19	Cristina Adams		
19	Nathaniel Smith		



If we missed your birthday, please let the church office know so we can add you to the list.