NORTH PARK CHURCH

A CHURCH PROFILE DEVELOPED BY THE PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM

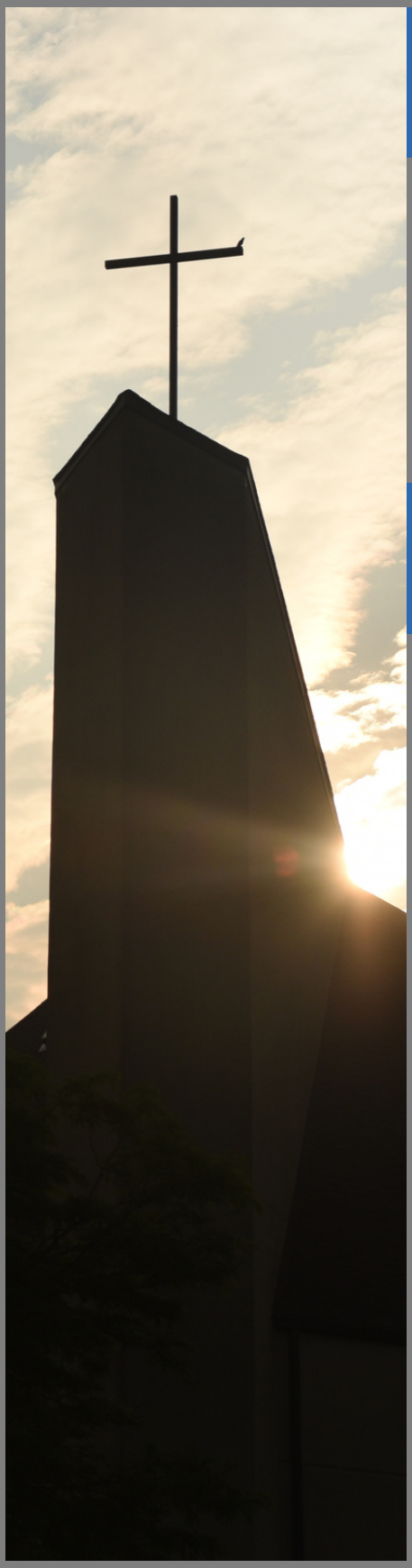
2023

WELCOME TO NPC

Thank you for taking a few minutes to get to know North Park Church! We are a reformed congregation in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) denomination. Over the past 41 years, God has faithfully provided biblical leadership and shepherding through four senior pastors. Because our former senior pastor has moved on to follow God's call toward retirement and family, NPC is now in search of a new senior pastor. In this transition, we trust God will lead us in His perfect timing to the man He has chosen.

We believe the Lord will use our next senior pastor to help us continue to grow in unity as disciples of Christ, loving God, loving one another, and sharing the gospel.

We are looking for a man who loves Jesus, humbly depends on the Spirit, and embraces God's calling to pastor a vibrant reformed church in the North Hills of Pittsburgh.



OUR MISSION

To make disciples of Jesus who WORSHIP God passionately, CONNECT with each other in caring community, and IMPACT the world through word and deed

OUR CORE VALUES

1. **CHRIST** – Jesus is preeminent, the One from whom, through whom, and unto whom are all things.

2. **TRUTH** – God's word is powerful and is to be learned, loved, and lived.

3. **DEPENDENCE** – God is the Source of all our strength, wisdom, and love; therefore we pray.

4. **THE LOST** – Both near and far, unbelievers matter to God and to us.

5. **FAMILIES** – Healthy marriages and children are vital to God's mission in the world.

North Park's HISTORY

It began in 1924 with a small group of Christians meeting in a former schoolhouse, led by a local seminary student. In 1939, a congregation of 55 members organized with the Allegheny Presbytery and became Mellwood United Presbyterian Church. Over the next 40+ years, the church saw tremendous growth in membership and facilities.

After much prayer, Mellwood United Presbyterian Church voted to disaffiliate from the UPC and joined the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) denomination in 1981. In 1982 the church changed its name to North Park EPC and moved to a new location in a former Sportmen's Club, which is the property where the church still resides today.

Throughout the decades, God has been kind to His people at North Park Church (NPC). In the early 1990s NPC built a sanctuary and planted a cross-cultural urban church in Pittsburgh. In the early 2000s the focus was on Christian education, new construction, and planting a church near the campus of Slippery Rock University. In more recent years NPC has focused on ministry to families, building a caring community, and growing discipleship. God has been faithful through turbulent times including Covid, continuing to raise up servant-leaders who seek His heart for His church.

In 2021 we began our outreach initiative called PBJ, which is described in more detail on page 5. Looking forward, we desire to build on this foundation and have a greater impact on our neighbors and local community. We want to continue to pursue unity in the gospel and the mission of Christ, being formed in His likeness, all for His glory!

P B J

We launched our PBJ (Pray, Bless, Jesus) initiative in 2021 because we want to grow in impacting the community with the Good News of Jesus. PBJ is a helpful way to intentionally build relationships that lead to discussing the gospel. The foundation is **prayer** because our ability to reach the lost rises and falls on God's work. We ask Him to lead us to opportunities and empower us to share Christ's love.

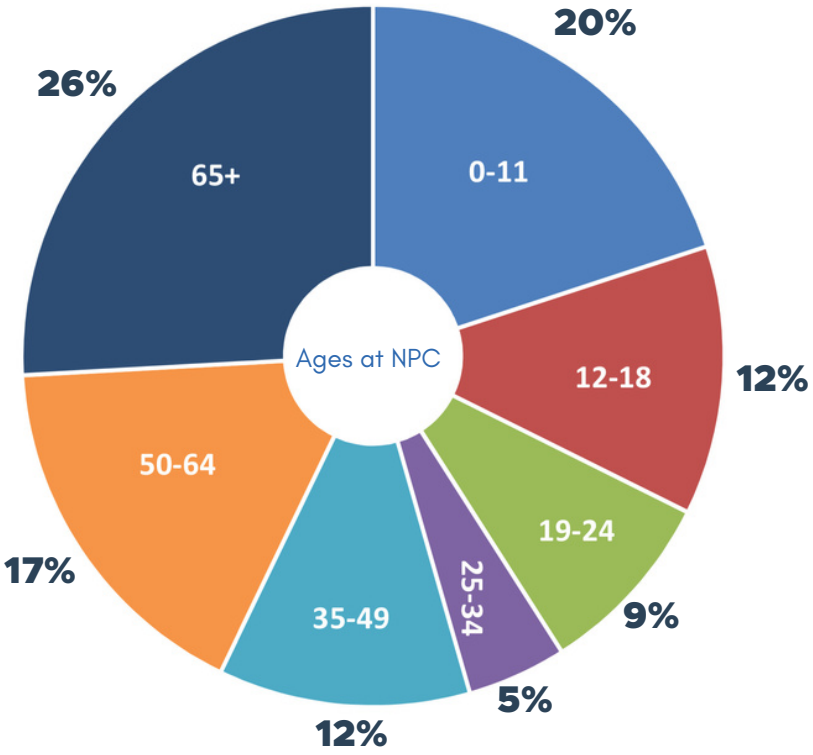
A way to build relationships that lead to the gospel is to **bless** others, reflecting God's generosity and kindness. **B**lessing may include **a**ffirming someone with words, giving **g**ifts, **e**ating together, **l**istening well, or **s**erving, (our acronym Bagels) all for the purpose of building genuine, trusting friendships and showing people they matter to God. We want to be saturated in the Gospels, knowing and closely following **Jesus**, and trusting His deep love for us. As we behold Him and the beauty of His character, we can then authentically invite others to follow Jesus with us. When the foundations of prayer, blessing, and learning from Jesus are established, opportunities will arise for us to share the hope of our Savior with people God has put in our lives.

We are seeking a senior pastor who cares deeply for the lost and is eager to lead us to share the hope and love of Jesus with unbelievers around us.

We love to celebrate what God is doing at NPC! We look forward to rejoicing over souls that have risen from death to new life in Christ!

DEMOGRAPHICS & FINANCIALS

- **Age ranges are out of 371 regular attenders**
- **283 are currently members**



We have been blessed by the Lord with financial stability and consistency.

Church Income				
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
$1,126,975	$1,129,530	$1,132,956	$1,099,817	$1,165,633

Key Financial Highlights:

- Debt free for over 10 years on a campus valued at approximately $4.5M
- Over $500,000 in campus improvements in the last five years
- Annual missions budget greater than $150,000
- More than 170 active "giving units" averaging more than $6,000 in annual giving

CURRENT STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Staff

Ken Priddy - Transitional Senior Pastor
Ben Burkholder - Associate Pastor
Travis Finley - Director of Student Ministry
Brooke Hopkins - Director of Music & Worship
Kelly Laird - Director of Children's Ministry
Diana Rush - Office Manager
Mark Sharpnack - Director of Administration & Connection
Heather Shogren - Media Director
Amber Stites - Director of Ministry Engagement

Elders

Dan Dupee
John Holt
Andy Kish
Rich Lukas
Grant McKinney
Chad Morley
David Pinkerton
Scott Shriver
Phil Van Sickel

Deacons

Carol Dupee
Holly Fairfield
Lauren Fowler
Jeff Layden
Hank Lish
Lisa Lish
Terry Meeneghan
Michele Moir
Rob O'Brien
Doug Reed
Kate Shriver
Stacy Tessaro
Nancy Van Sickel
Jim Warmbrodt

We hold to a complementarian view with respect to the office of teaching and ruling elder.

WORSHIP

We gather for corporate worship to glorify God, to celebrate His love for us in Christ, and to be strengthened by His Spirit together.

North Park Church gathers every Sunday at 9:30am in the summer. During the school year we meet at 10:15am, with Sunday School classes for all ages offered at 9am. We believe God meets with us through the study of His word, prayer, sacraments, and song. NPC is committed to Reformed theology, and sermons are focused on Biblical exposition. Our worship service usually lasts about 75 minutes and includes corporate prayer and scripture reading, a ministry highlight, greeting time, musical worship, and a monthly celebration of the Lord's Supper. We value prayer and an elder is available in the Prayer Corner after each service. The nursery and Kids' Worship are available for our smallest worshippers, from birth through 2nd grade.

Music at NPC is led by our worship director and many volunteer musicians. We incorporate a variety of traditional hymns and contemporary songs to guide our hearts and minds in praise to the Lord. With theologically rich lyrics, we encourage one another by singing truths of the gospel.

MINISTRY TEAMS

North Park Church is blessed to have the majority of members engaged in ministry and service to the church.

Worship

The Worship ministry faithfully serves the congregation by leading us musically, and includes many instrumentalists, singers, and occasional children or adult choirs.

Impact & Outreach

The Impact & Outreach ministry engages in the community to share the love and joy of Christ with others. It includes Alpha, Beta, annual events, missions, etc. We hope this ministry will flourish as we grow in personal and corporate evangelism.

Hospitality

The Hospitality ministry serves with warm smiles as greeters, ushers, at The Great Awakening coffee bar, and at the welcome desk.

Mercy

The Mercy ministry provides care behind the scenes with calls, visits, cards, meals, flowers, etc. This team includes our Stephen Ministers, a grief ministry, and prayer connection.

Tech & Communications

The Tech & Communications ministry serves to make graphics, publications, and videos. They also manage social media, develop Sunday slides, and run the livestream.

Building & Grounds

The Building & Grounds ministry includes our Safety & Security Team, gardening group, kitchen coordinator, campus decorator, and others.

DISCIPLESHIP
at North Park

Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry exists to support the men in our church. There are usually two morning Bible studies that meet early on weekday mornings. In addition, there are 2-3 yearly events designed to give dads time to be with their children. In the spring we hold a Father-Daughter Dance, and in the fall dads and older kids enjoy a Sporting Clays event. Men also meet socially on a casual basis to connect and encourage one another.

Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry exists to encourage women in heart and unite them in love so they may grow in Christ and shine their light to others. This happens through a weekly Bible study and small and large group gatherings throughout the year. There are also regular women's retreats and conferences for women to connect, grow, and invite friends.

Care Groups

As a church committed to making disciples of Jesus who connect with each other in caring community, we place great emphasis on care groups. They are places for deep relationships of support, where we pray for one another and grow together into mature disciples of Christ. These are the front lines of congregational care. Most groups meet bi-weekly from September to May for discipleship and study. Many groups have developed deep connections over several years.

Seniors

Seniors at NPC enjoy meeting together most Tuesday mornings for JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship. These gatherings often include lunch, and always involve time in God's word, worshipping the Lord through great hymns, and supporting one another in prayer. We have many seniors who have served within the congregation for decades, and we deeply value their wisdom, insight, potential for mentorship, and their example of dependence on God through prayer.

THE NEXT GENERATION

At NPC, our children and youth ministries exist to assist parents in developing children who genuinely love God (WORSHIP), love each other (CONNECT), and love the world (IMPACT).

Children

Nursery – Newborns through 36 months are lovingly cared for by volunteers and staff who pray for, play with, and read Bible stories to them.

Kids' Worship – Age 3 to 2nd grade come weekly during the service for Bible reading, prayer, and multi-media activities led by solid Bible-believing adults using 'Explore the Bible' curriculum.

Sunday School – Age 3 to 5th grade kids are divided into four age-level classes to study God's word and talk about how to apply it to our everyday lives. We use Dwell, a Reformed curriculum.

Trekkers – 3rd-5th graders gather monthly for a junior youth group. They learn how to know and defend what they believe at their own age level, and enjoy lots of games, prizes, and dinner!

VBS – Age 3 to 5th grade campers learn God's love and His word through Bible class, crafts, Missions, fun electives, off-site activities and worship. Many campers come from outside NPC.

THE NEXT GENERATION

Students

Youth Group - 6-12th graders meet Sunday nights to connect with Jesus and each other. They play games and learn together, then separate for middle and high school discussion groups. They grow in discipleship under godly leaders and learn how to go into their world and live the gospel. They enjoy annual retreats, a missions trip, and many opportunities to lead and serve.

Small Groups - Students meet Wednesday nights throughout the school year to discuss life, pray together, and celebrate Jesus and each other.

Sunday School - In September-May, students study a book of the Bible together in depth.

OUR FACILITY

North Park Church sits on 12 acres with ample parking, green grass, and a wooded outdoor chapel. Our sanctuary seats 450 people, and our beautiful education wing includes a colorful three-room nursery, a youth space for over 100 students, rooms of varying sizes, and an ADA-code elevator.

Our original building is attached to the sanctuary by a causeway. It includes a spacious community room which seats 200 for a meal and a large, nearly commercial grade kitchen. The basement has seven classrooms and houses Blackburn Study Center, which meets twice a week with 100 students.

We share our space with many external groups. CBS meets with 350 women, and BSF meets with 60 people, both on a weekly basis. Our "Blue Room" community space hosts elections, Compass events, receptions, etc. We have also allowed local film crews to rent our space - all to the glory of God!

Pittsburgh & Wexford

Pittsburgh and its suburbs frequently appear on "America's Most Livable City" top 10 list, and for good reason! Our big city has a small-town feel, offering all the culture and opportunity of a metropolis with the accessibility and connection of a mid-size city. Top universities have helped shape this 'Steel City' into a hub for tech and robotics, medicine, advanced manufacturing, banking, and the arts. Museums, theater, festivals, huge parks, lots of green space, a hip culinary scene, and affordable housing make Pittsburgh a desirable destination. Our sports scene is strong, with plenty of black-and-gold teams to support year round! Combined with a rich history and hometown pride, these things connect long-time locals to the more recent influx of newcomers from around the world.

Wexford and the North Hills of Pittsburgh have excellent schools, great healthcare, and family-friendly recreation in all four seasons. Our church's nearby namesake, North Park, offers over 3000 acres for hiking, biking, fishing, water sports, and snow-shoeing throughout the year.

Next Steps

Thank you for getting to know us better.

As you prayerfully consider God's call on your next stage of ministry, we want you to know that North Park Church offers an excellent opportunity to serve a congregation that loves the Lord, enjoys each other, submits to the authority of Scripture, and desires to impact our neighbors with the Good News of Jesus.

If you are interested in pursuing this Senior Pastor position, please send your CV or resume to **ApplyNPC@groups.io** and include your EPC Personal Information Form (or equivalent) if you have completed it. Please answer the following question in the body of your email: *After reviewing our Pastor Profile, Church Overview, and Church Information Form, how do you believe your specific calling, gifts, and experiences are a good fit to lead North Park Church?*

In Christ,
The Pastoral Search Team

Photo Credits:

Brian Osmond and Ryan Reax

NORTH PARK
CHURCH