



New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

www.newcov-church.org

(302)378-4446



THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING THE BRIDGE OF COMMUNICATION

"I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4

Dear friends,

As the people of God, we are called to form relationships that reflect the love and purpose of God. Our relationships are forged and expressed through our interactions with one another, as we serve God **IN** and **THROUGH** our congregation. It becomes quite clear that the quality of our relationships depends largely on our ability to **COMMUNICATE** skillfully and respectfully. We are called to be partners in ministry, as we faithfully answer God's call.

It is no accident that the words community - communion - and communication - all sound alike. They share common roots and spring from the Latin words *cum* (with) and *unus* (one). All involved some form of being "one with" another. Two become one in marriage, and many diverse people become one Body in Christ in a congregation. The relationship between pastor and people is somewhat like a marriage or partnership. It requires that all parties involved be committed to healthy communication, in order that the Body might honor and serve God to the best of our abilities.

God created each of us to be unique and diverse, and we are called to appreciate **unity in diversity**. Community is an expression of being one with others, where unity is felt and appreciated. How sad it would be if God called together a group of people who were all the same - the same personalities, interests,



February 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CLICK ME!

[A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR.. 1](#)

[CALENDAR.....3](#)

(EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES)

[FELLOWSHIP.....4](#)

[WORSHIP.....5](#)

[SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY.....6](#)

[CLERK'S REPORT.....7](#)

[WHO'S WHO 20238](#)

[CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.....9](#)

[FROG CORNER.....10](#)

[MISSION & TRUSTEE REPORTS ...11](#)

[FINANCE REPORTS12](#)

[STEWARDSHIP REPORT13](#)

[WOMEN'S RETREAT.....14](#)



abilities, and leadership styles. It is when a blend of all attributes and abilities complement each other in the Body of Christ that we function best.

A sense of oneness in regard to a congregation's central values/beliefs/and purposes connects those who live in community together. Communication also involves a sense of being present to one another as bridges or understanding are built. At the most basic level, community and communion are the fruit of healthy and respectful communication. As a congregation of disciples of Christ called to serve God, in order to be successful to our calling, we must foster communication styles that express **respect** and encourage **trust** among friends and members.

As we learn to express ourselves in fruitful ways, we learn that the expression of ideas and feelings involves more than just words. Our gestures, facial expressions, eye movements, and tones of voice, all convey information about what we are thinking and feeling. When our body language and words do not match, we send mixed messages, and the **lack of congruence** in our communication causes a lack of trust and respect. When there is no congruence in our communication, the people in a group are not able to bond into a united community of faith and caring.

Another area of communication where matching or congruence is needed, is how we express "ownership" of our perceptions, thoughts, and emotions. Clear communication involves stating our thoughts and perceptions in a way that acknowledges that they spring from our own unique perspective. The **use of "I" language** clearly states the source of perceptions and opinions, and leaves room for others to have differing viewpoints. It also minimizes defensiveness on the part of the listener, whereas beginning feedback statements with "you language" tends to be interpreted as blame.

Concreteness refers to expressing observations and ideas in specific, rather than general terms. Communicating in concrete terms enables us to share more of ourselves with others, and keeps us grounded in the everyday reality of our lives. It eliminates vagueness and abstraction. And finally, the development of a norm of **appropriate levels of self-disclosure** among group members helps the group to function well.

Healthy communication lies at the heart of building community within a congregation, which is what Paul encouraged. It provides the key to growth in trust and depth of sharing within the Body of Christ. While effective communication begins with the desire to open up and reach sisters and brothers in Christ, its realization requires the development of skills in both expressing ideas and feelings, and in listening to others.

When we own our thoughts and feelings through the use of "I" language, we responsibly express our opinions, and leave room for others, either to agree or disagree. The word "respect" comes from the Latin word *respicere* - to behold. When we communicate respectfully, we are basically beholding our sister or brother as someone separate and different from ourselves. We do not assume that our opinions are the "right" ones, or that our feelings are universally felt. We must learn to honestly share ourselves, all the while making room for the other person to do the same. All that we do in the church is meant to build up the Body of Christ. It is only when we truly learn to "speak the truth in love" that we grow into Christ's faithful disciples, honoring and serving him as scripture calls us to do.

As one who is called to serve as your pastor, I encourage you as the people of God at NCPC - my partners in ministry - to commit yourselves to helping establish healthy communication patterns here. May our desire be to make this congregation a shining example of Christ's love, because we truly trust and respect each other in all of our diverse glory. Let's make this a serious priority, that our church might flourish. I think God would be very pleased with us, as we lay the foundation for fruitful ministry together.

Your partner in ministry,

Carol

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Our Daily Bread	4
5 Deacons Meeting c	6 Bells @7pm	7	8 Choir @7pm	9	10	11
12 Trustee Meeting	13 Bells @7pm	14	15 Choir @7pm	16	17	18
19 Session Meeting	20 Bells @7pm	21	22 Choir @7pm	23	24	25
26	27 Bells @7pm	28				

2/3 Our Daily Bread

Carol L. McBride Birthday

2/5 Deacons Meeting

2/8 Beverly Cook Birthday

2/11 Dan Moody Birthday

2/12 Trustee Meeting

Janet Grimminger Birthday

Kathy Henry Birthday

19 Session Meeting



This month let's think of all the ways we can share the Love of God with others!

Fellowship

January

BINGO AND DESSERT NIGHT 1/29

We gathered for a good time of fun, food and This newsletter is being distributed on the same night we plan on enjoying bingo together. We are looking forward to gathering for a good time of fun, food, and fellowship! Stay tuned next month for pictures.



February

MOVIE NIGHT ON 2/26 AT 6 PM

Come out and join your friends for Movie Night. Please bring your own snack and drink. We will be viewing **Dog Gone** with Rob Lowe starring in the movie. It should be a heartfelt, funny, tearjerker of a movie. It is a new favorite for 2023!



ROB
LOWE

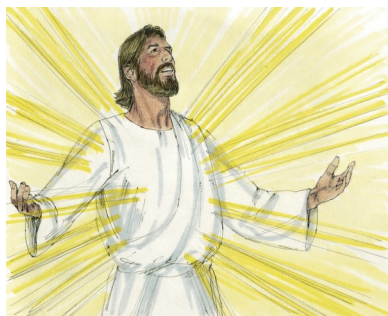
JOHNNY
BERCHTOLD

KIMBERLY
WILLIAMS-PAISLEY

A NETFLIX FILM

Worship

Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday - Feb. 19th



Transfiguration Sunday celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus' radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the LORD at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus' baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased.

The Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus' ministry in which he "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), where he would die.

In Jesus' transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. Jesus is the One who fulfilled the Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets, of whom Elijah is the greatest.

Ash Wednesday Service Feb. 22nd at 7 pm

The season of Lent begins early this year. We barely have time to get through the Super Bowl with all its excitement, when we were called to hunker down and prepare ourselves for a season whose focus is on serious reflection and penitence. I hope you will join us for the Ash Wednesday Service. If you do not make this year, at least you can look forward to next year's service.

It is a quiet service based on a style of worship known as **Taizé**. Taizé worship combines simple songs, silence and the reading of scripture. The words of some songs are repeated to allow them to become like "breath prayers" – like a prayer which you breathe in and then out. There are also traditional hymns, and the sanctuary is decorated in such a way as to invite you into a season of meditation. All are invited to come ~ and listen for the voice of God ~ that we might enter this holy season by entering into deeper discipleship with God.



Palm Sunday ~ April 2
Maundy Thursday ~ April 6

Good Friday ~ April 7

Easter Sunday ~ April 9

Procession of Palms
Communion/Reflection on Christ's Sacrifice
Time to Pray/Reflect and Give Thanks
Easter Breakfast and Resurrection Worship

Saint Valentine's Day

"From Your Valentine..."

Valentine's Day, also called St. Valentine's Day, holiday (February 14) when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century.

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love.

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica, Contributed by: Alice Megonigal





Clerk's Report

A congregational meeting was held after worship service on Sunday, January 8th to elect new officers for Session, Deacons and Trustees. Ken Hudson presented the slate of officers and the slate was unanimously approved.

Session: Bev Cook, Barb Bookhart, Jane Adams

Deacons: Jim Inners, Skip Leeson, Judy Cook

Trustees: Bill Shields, Al Grimminger

The session met on Friday January 13th via Zoom to review and approve the 2023 budget in advance of the Congregational Meeting scheduled for Jan 22nd. The Session approved the budget as presented by Ben Urban, 2022 chairman of the Stewardship committee.

The Annual Congregational meeting was held after worship service on Sunday, January 22nd. The approved budget was presented, by Ben Urban, to the congregation for their approval and it was unanimously approved. In addition, the pastor's new Terms of Call were presented by Pam Leeson, chairman of the Personnel Committee. For 2023, the Presbytery raised the minimum required salary for full time pastors and the Board of Pensions raised the percentage to be put into the pastor's benefits package. This and the outsourcing of the lawn mowing to a lawn service increased the budget for 2023 by about \$14,000 over the 2022 budget.

Concerns were raised that the current pledged funds only cover about 60% of the approved budget for 2023 and we as a congregation will need to find ways to increase our pledged funds, non-pledged funds and save on expenses. We have had to borrow money from the reserves for the past couple of years and we will need to work hard to prevent that for this year.

January has been a very busy month but we are off to a good start with a new class of officers, high hopes and faith in the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Happy New Year to all!

Yours in Christ

Pat Wright, Clerk of Session

Who Is Who at NCPC in 2023

STAFF

Pastor: Dr. Carol C. Fisher

Office Administrator: Georgia Mackay (6 hrs. per week)

Music Director: Ken Hudson **Pianist:** Jenny Hugh

SESSION

Class of 2023

Barbara Montazella
Pat Wright

Class of 2024

Jane Adams
Pam Leeson

Class of 2025

Barbara Bookhart
Beverly Cook

Moderator: Dr. Carol C. Fisher

Clerk of Session: Pat Wright

Treasurer: Paul Willbanks

DEACONS

Class of 2023

Skip Leeson
Cheryl Shields

Class of 2024

Kathy Henry
Alice Megonigal

Class of 2025

Judy Cooke
Jim Inners

Moderator: Skip Leeson

Secretary: Alice Megonigal **Fellowship:** Cheryl Shields

TRUSTEES

Class of 2023

Fred Noll

Class of 2024

Bill Shields

Class of 2025

Al Grimminger

2022 Nominating Committee:

Members unknown at this time; will be nominated and voted on later in the year.

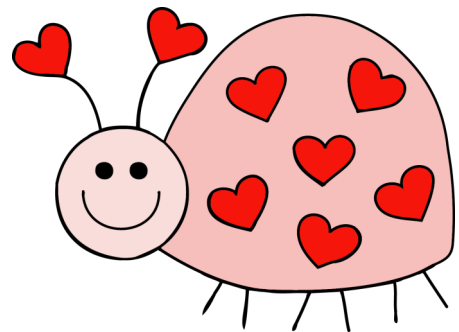
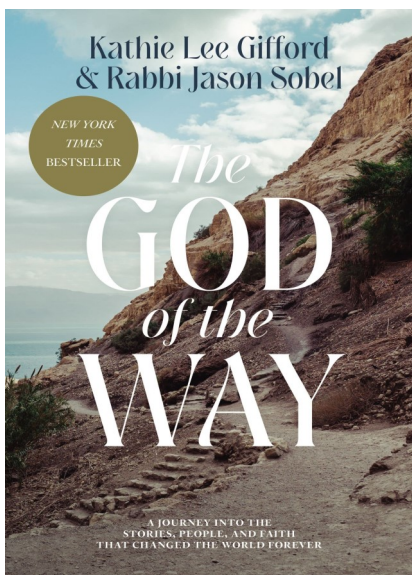
Christian Education

JUMPING INTO 2023

We are continuing our biblical studies in the new year. Last year, the Sunday and Tuesday morning groups are using a resource by Kathie Lee Gifford and Rabbi Jason Sobel. They had released new materials entitled *The God of the Way: A Journey into the Stories, People, and Faith that Changed the World Forever*.

Class participants will journey into God's word, from the creation of the world through the desert and empty places, the Hebrew nation, and meet Jesus, the disciples, and his followers. As we do, we will see how we are part of God's epic story of redemption – a radiant testimony to the truth that belief in God's promises is never wasted.

Please let Jane Adams know if you are interested in participating so we can be prepared. Let's continue to delve deeper into our studies that we might draw closer to God.



Frog Corner

F.R.O.G. CORNER: *Forever Rely on God*

Don't forget the meaning behind the acronym

R.I.B.B.I.T. - **R**evere, **I**nvoke, **B**less, **I**nspire, and **T**rust in the Lord

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.



John 15:12: My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Luke 6:31: Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Corinthians 16:14: Do everything in love.

A BIT OF VALENTINE HUMOR FOR YOU:

A Love of Biblical Proportions:

Q: Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

A: No, they had an apple.

Sparks are Flying:

Q: What did the flame say to his buddies after he fell in love?

A: "If found the perfect match?"

A Proposal:

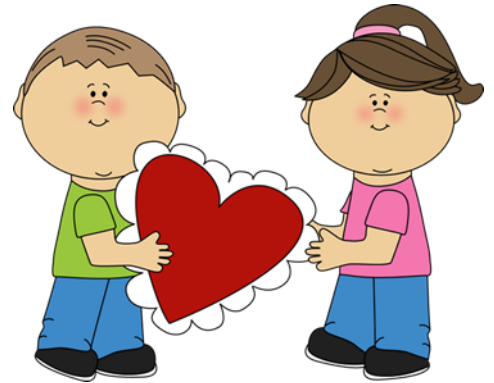
Q: How did the telephone to its girlfriend?

A: He gave her a ring.

Out of this World:

Q: What do astronauts say to their sweethearts?

A: I love you to the moon and back.



Mission & Trustee Reports

OUR DAILY BREAD & NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

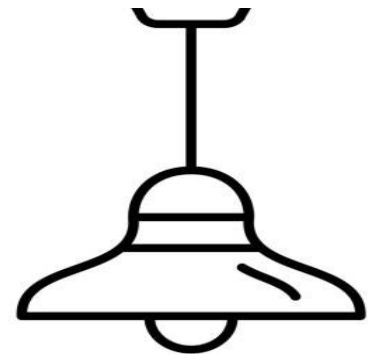
In January we provided 148 meals to members of our greater community who are in need through our mission to Our Daily Bread.

We provided 10 complete dinner boxes (non-perishables) for Thanksgiving and 16 for Christmas through Neighborhood House. We were also able to provide 4 frozen turkeys.

We collected \$150 for the Joy Offering collection which helps provide funds for the Board of Pensions Assistance Program that assists current and past church leaders who are in crisis. The offering also supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges in communities of color for the development of possible future leaders.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

As the winter months creep in, the Trustees focus with regards to buildings and grounds is turning to inside projects. Bill Shields recognized that a lot of the sanctuary lighting was energy consuming incandescent, so most all of the bulbs that could be easily changed have been converted to low watt LEDs. All that remains to be changed are pendant lighting fixtures. These fixture's bulbs do not have common bases, so there are plans in the making to change all eight light fixtures. We will begin the selection and conversion process after the holidays.



Another small change that you will see is a TV screen has been mounted in the Fellowship Room. This will allow us to use a TV to broadcast DVDs and canned programs that will be created for special events.

An item of note will be the eventual removal of the aged scrubs at the front entrance area of the church. Time to replace them with new growth in the spring. Sandy Phillips is working with a long time friend who owns a tree service to remove the old plants in preparation for the spring planting. Thank you Sandy and Clark.



Last item, is snow removal. We will plow and shovel as the weather turns cold and white, but PLEASE, WATCH YOUR FOOTING as you leave your car. There will always be patches of ice that will challenge your determination to stay vertical.

- Your Friendly Trustees

NCPC FINANCES



TREASURER'S REPORT

By Paul Willbanks

YTD December 2022 Financials

Monthly Contributions (Pledges, Non-Pledge and Open Plate)	95,785.55
All Other Income	4,226.50
Total Income	100,012.05
Missions	45.72
Buildings & Grounds	15,217.01
Finance/Operations	6,484.05
Personnel	92,358.67
Total Expenses	114,105.45
Net Income/Difference	(14,093.40)

Two Ways to Support Your Church:

We're at the beginning of a new year and we wanted to let you know about 2 additional ways to support NCPC financially. One is by helping to defray the cost of envelopes which is about \$3 per person.

The other is to consider donating toward the Per Capita cost which is \$30 per person. Read the article on this page to find out more.

If you decide to donate toward either of these, please mark them accordingly. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

What Does Per Capita Do?

Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church.

Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

- ♦ It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better ruling elders, teaching elders and deacons, and ministers.
- ♦ It is how Presbyterians are helped to discern God's call in their lives. :
- ♦ It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church by serving on General Assembly committees and commissions, regardless of distance or financial resources. :
- ♦ It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with "all persons in every nation" (*Book of Order*, G-4.0101)

All Presbyterians are called to take part in the ecclesiastical and administrative work shared by the whole church though per capita giving.

The annual rate is a per-member **apportionment** that is assessed biennially by the General Assembly. Per Capita this year is **\$30 per person**. If you are able to pay your share, please note that it is for "per capita" on the memo line. We thank you for your support! Per capita is the tie that binds us to our congregation, our presbytery, the General Assembly and Presbyterians all over the world!



Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP FOR 2023

Greetings one and all!

Our 2023 Budget is set at \$136,004. So far, we have received commitments totaling \$82,323, leaving us short \$53,681. There really is no area that can be cut further without some serious changes. We appreciate all that many of you have already done by committing your time, talents, and financial resources. However, we need to do more to be able to continue our current ministry and staffing. There are a few suggestions in this newsletter about additional ways to help out, but most of all, we seriously ask each person or family to prayerfully consider how you might help to decrease the deficit in our budget. Anything you give in addition to your pledge will help. May God lead us forward in faith and trust.

Ben Urban, Finance & Stewardship Chairperson for 2022

Barbara Bookhart, Finance & Stewardship Chairperson for 2023



Women's Retreat

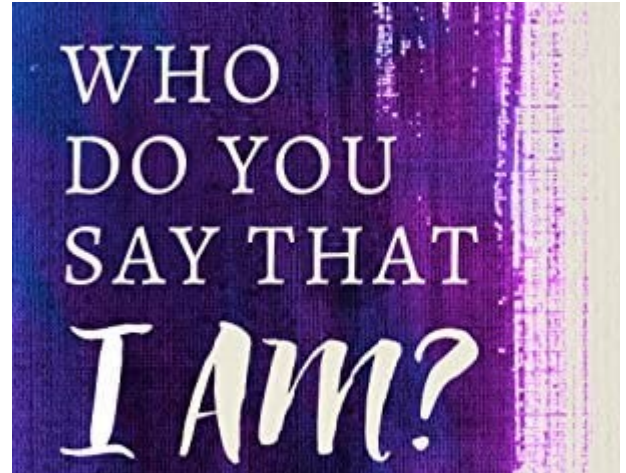
"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM"

2023 WOMEN'S RETREAT — NORTHBAY ADVENTURE CENTER

FRIDAY 4/21 - SUNDAY 4/23

FAVORITES RETURNING:

- FIRESIDE FORGIVENESS SERVICE
- WHY I LOVE JESUS ART PROJECT
- SECRET PAL
- SHARING MEAL PREPARATION/CLEAN UP
- SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP CEREMONY WITH COMMUNION
- CLOSING CEREMONY
- NORTHBAY ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES:
- OZIP LINE, ROCK WALL
- OKAYAK/CANOE
- OGIAANT SWING



NEW THIS YEAR:

- GUEST PASTOR ELIZABETH BRINEGAR FROM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ARKANSAS
- GUEST PREACHER FEATURING REVEREND ROBERT BANKS
- SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON THEME

TWIN BED ROOMS DOUBLE OCCUPANCY \$300 PER PERSON

KING BED ROOM SINGLE OCCUPANCY \$435 PER PERSON

50% DEPOSIT DUE 11/30