



# The New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

[www.newcov-church.org](http://www.newcov-church.org)

(302)378-4446



March 2023

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Dear friends,

We are in the holy liturgical season of Lent where our attention is drawn to Christ's sacrifice for us and we are called to respond with lives of service. We often speak of Jesus as our Savior and Lord, but I wonder: Do we TRULY UNDERSTAND what impact this acknowledgement has on our lives?



If you're a fan of email, then you probably receive a myriad of stories and jokes from your friends and associates. This one caught my attention recently. It's entitled "Heaven's Computer Contest":

*Jesus and Satan were having an ongoing argument about who was better on his computer. They had been going at it for days, and God was tired of all the bickering. Finally, God said, "Cool it. I am going to set up a test which will take two hours and I will judge who does the better job."*

*So, Satan and Jesus sat down at their keyboards and typed. They played with their mice. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They sent emails even with attachments. They downloaded documents. They did some genealogy reports. They made cards and they did every known job to do.*

~ continued ~

*But ten minutes before the time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, the rain poured, and, of course, the electricity went off. Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld.*

*Jesus just sighed. Then the electricity flickered back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically, screaming, "It's gone! It's all gone! I lost everything when the power went out!"*

*Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all his files from the past two hours of work. Satan observed this and became even more irate. Satan yelled at the top of his voice, "Wait! He cheated! How did he do it?!? And then God shrugged and simply said, "JESUS SAVES."*

My friends, this may be a humorous story but it tells the truth: Our Savior, Jesus Christ, does save us from our sins. This is the message of our faith and one to be shared whenever we have the opportunity. Make a commitment to do so.

Your partner in ministry,

*Carol*



***Jesus Fighting Satan***

# March

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

LENT: 2/22, 2023 - 4/6, 2023

3/1 — Nancy Carol Willis & Paul Willbanks' Anniversary

3/3 — Brenden Kirk's Birthday

3/4 — John Easter's Birthday

3/12 — Trustee Meeting

3/17 — Saint Patrick's Day

3/19 — Session Meeting

Jeff Volkman's Birthday

3/22 — Beth Kramer's Birthday

3/26 — Chili Cook-Off @ NCPC, 5:30pm

Deadline for April Newsletter

YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

By Edna Massimillam

Thank you, Lord, for yesterday,  
 Thank you, Lord, for leading the way,  
 Thank you, Lord, for tender care,  
 Today and tomorrow, we know you are there.  
 Thank you, Lord, for every plight,  
 Thank you Lord, it will turn out right,  
 Thank You Lord, for yesterday,  
 Today and tomorrow, Lord, leading the way.

# Fellowship

## February

### MOVIE NIGHT ON 2/26 AT 6 PM

Many of us came out to enjoy **Dog Gone** for Movie Night. It was a heartfelt film and we enjoyed our popcorn and snacks as we watched the movie. Hope to see others of you for the next Movie Night. It is amazing how these warm-blooded fuzzy creatures can steel our hearts away!



## March

### CHILI COOK-OFF ON MARCH 26TH AT 5:30 PM

We are looking for about 4-6 people to enter our Chili and Cornbread Cook-off contest. Date: March 26th in fellowship hall. Come enjoy some country western music and judge our chili and cornbread.

After dinner we will watch a dvd of Wallace and Gromet. A fun evening will be had by all. A few salads or desserts would be a most welcome addition to our meal.

Please let Cheryl Shields know if you want to enter you chili or cornbread.



## April

### EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

We will be hosting a breakfast before Easter Sunday service. According to Skip, there will be an omelet station! Those who are able, please consider adding some food to the serving line.



### GOD'S POWER AND LIGHT PRESENTS: JANE EYRE, APRIL 13-16TH

Cheryl will provide more details in next months issue!

*If you ever are in need of a ride to a church service or event,  
please contact one of your shepherds (page 9) for assistance.*

**Colossians 3:12- Therefore, as GOD'S chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**



# Worship

## Lent continues through March

Many of us enjoyed our Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 22nd. It was a time of reflection and promise. We hope you take note of the sanctuary symbols to remind us of Jesus's sacrifice for us. There is a brief explanation of them on a handout in the narthex. Please be in preparation for Holy Week to begin the first week of April.

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



# Holy Week

# Saint Patrick's Day

## History

St. Patrick's Day celebrates the life of Saint Patrick—the patron saint of Ireland. This influential missionary has been credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. St. Patrick's Day takes place on March 17 each year because St. Patrick's death is believed to have been on March 17, 461. The Church began observing a special feast to honor him on this day starting in 1631.

## Saint Patrick's Breastplate

"Saint Patrick's Breastplate" is an Old Irish prayer of protection. It is supposed to have been composed by him in preparation for his victory over paganism.

The first five sections of the prayer or hymn begin *atomruig indiu* "I bind unto myself today", followed by a list of sources of strength that the prayer calls on for support.

The first three sections of text are as follows:

*I bind to myself to-day,  
The strong power of the invocation of the Trinity:  
The faith of the Trinity in the Unity  
The Creator of the elements.*

*I bind to myself to-day,  
The power of the Incarnation of Christ, with that of his Baptism,  
The power of the Crucifixion with that of his Burial,  
The power of the Resurrection, with the Ascension,  
The power of the coming of the Sentence of Judgment.*

*I bind to myself to-day,  
The power of the love of Seraphim,  
In the obedience of Angels,  
(In the service of Archangels,)  
In the hope of Resurrection unto reward,  
In the prayers of the noble Fathers,  
In the predictions of the Prophets,  
In the preaching of Apostles,  
In the faith of Confessors,  
In purity of Holy Virgins,  
In the acts of Righteous Men.*

[To read the text in full, please click here!](#)





# Clerk's Report

On February 12<sup>th</sup> the Session met in a special Called meeting with Rev. Tracy Keenan, New Castle Presbytery's Missional Presbyter and a Advisor to the Presbytery's Ignite Committee. She came to review and discuss the denominational Vital Congregations Initiative. The Session decided to review the program further and to discuss it again at the upcoming Stated meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting it was decided to send Barbara Montazella and Beverly Cook to the Presbytery retreat in Cambridge, MD (March 3-4) to learn more details and to see how New Covenant could implement it. Carol will be attending as well.

The Session's regular Stated meeting was held on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Trustees Al Grimminger and Bill Shields attended the meeting to present the Trustee's recommendation that we approve the request of the Transformational Congregation ( a small Hindi language, Christian congregation) to use our sanctuary for their services on Saturday evenings. There are still more details to confirm and a contact committee to set up but the Session agreed to accept a 6 month trial if the final details are satisfactory to the Trustees. We are still working out details of this arrangement.

The Session approved the 2023 schedule for communion which will be held on Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday and the first Sunday of each month with the exception of April, as that Sunday is Palm Sunday and communion will be held on Maundy Thursday.

We are always open to any questions you may have and our meetings are open to all.

Yours in Christ

*Pat Wright, Clerk of Session*



# Shepherds Caring for the NCPC Flock

## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

In case you haven't noticed, the members and friends at NCPC do a pretty good job of caring for each other. We are like a family and we love and care for each other. In a sense, we are playing the role of God for our friends when they are hurting or in need. This is the primary role of our deacons and one of the most important ones of our pastor. But we must all work together to make our community of faith one of love, support and encouragement.

When we try to be faithful to be good friends and neighbors to and for each other, it may appear that God has been left out, but that is not the case. You see, God is **NOT PART** of the process of caring. God **IS THE PROCESS**. It is the Spirit of God that leads us to be the loving, caring people God created us to be.

The God we worship is the God of the whole person - thoughts, emotions, and actions. Therefore God works at every level of human personality because he is the God of everything. Even if a friend is able to get in touch with his or her own thoughts, feelings and actions and knows what to do to solve a problem, from where does the power come to solve the problem? It comes from God.

We believe that the best way to show Christ's love to a hurting friend is simply to be there. Martin Marty suggests that the real meaning of the hymn, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* is "What a Jesus We Have in a Friend." By being a friend, a sister or brother in faith, trying to care for one another, we are the Body of Christ, through the Spirit, to a friend in need.

When we attempt to provide the love and care a sister or brother needs, we develop relationships which can go much deeper than a friendship. We become like family. And for those who us who have no blood family nearby, I can't tell you just how much that means to us. It's like we become earthen vessels of God, pouring out the love of God to each other. And as we care for one another, we find ourselves growing closer to God. That's the paradox of faith: The more you give away of God's love, the more you receive.

Love and care can be needed and expressed in many ways. Our pastor, deacons and elders try to stay in touch with all the NCPC Flock, so that we might know what each one's needs may be. It may be a listening ear, or a ride to an appointment, a meal when sick, or a visit to the hospital. Whatever is needed, we try provide in the name of Christ.

So, how do we do that? We have 6 groups of Sheep (meaning you) with 2 Shepherds appointed to be your Shepherd. Each group has an Elder paired with a Deacon to do their best to care for the whole flock of folks who are a part of our ministry. On the next page, you will see who is in each group of "flock" and who is assigned to be your "shepherd." Help your shepherd care for you and we all will be stronger as a result. May 2023 be a year full of love and caring!



# 2023 NCPC Shepherd Groups

**Pat Wright (elder)**  
**Judy Cooke (deacon)**

Joyce Artysiewicz  
Ivonne Bernal & Beth Kramer  
Donna Casey  
Skip & Pam Leeson  
Norma Dunn  
Carol A. McBride  
Carol L. McBride/Mike Easter

**Beverly Cook (elder)**  
**Alice Megonigal (deacon)**

Jane Adams  
Tom & Barbara Bennett  
Win & Barbara Bookhart  
Scott & Dottie Burkley  
Alayne Fitzpatrick  
Barbara Montazella  
Betty Lou Schafer

**Pam Leeson (elder)**  
**Cheryl Shields (deacon)**

Jay & Carol Fisher  
Al & Janet Grimminger  
Elizabeth Harlan  
Ken & Debbie Hudson  
Jeny Hugh  
Russ & Rita Morris  
Dan Moody & Georgia Mackay

**Barbara Montazella (elder)**  
**Skip Leeson (deacon)**

Beverly Cook  
Don & Judy Cooke  
Kathy Henry  
Ruther Keiderling  
Pam Kidd  
Tom Kimble  
Scott & Amy Kirk

**Barbara Bookhart (elder)**  
**Kathy Henry (deacon)**

Pat Deverell  
Jim Inners  
Bonnie Lawrence  
Carolyn Recla-Stoecker  
Ben & Karen Urban

**Jane Adams (elder)**  
**Jim Inners (deacon)**

Janet Glaser  
Earlene Kelter  
Bob & Alice Megonigal  
Fred & Lynne Noll  
Sandy Phillips  
Bill & Cheryl Shields  
Paul Willbanks & Nancy Carol Willis



# Christian Education

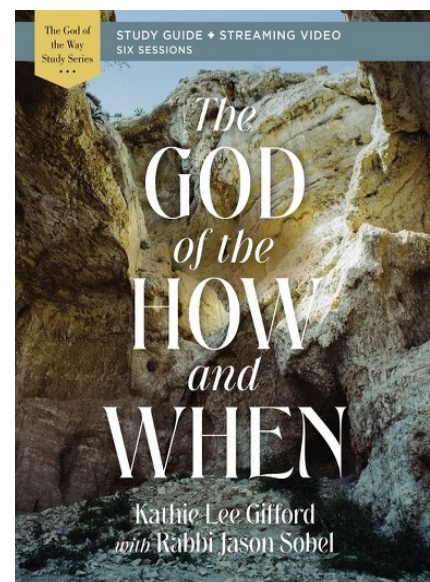
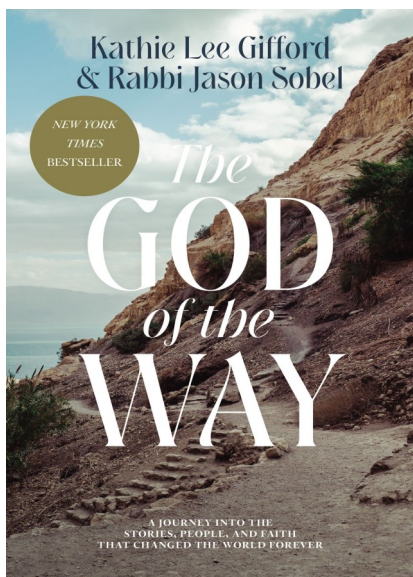
## JUMPING INTO 2023

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

Class participants are thoroughly enjoying learning from Rabbi Jason, especially with his emphasis on the meaning of some Hebrew words used to tell the stories of the Holy Land, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Joshua and Mary.

This study will continue for several more weeks and we are looking at what new study we might begin after Easter. We are open to any suggestions. Our goal is to delve deeper into our studies that we might draw closer to God.

Please read over the Women's Retreat details on [page 15](#).



# 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.

Life **WITHOUT** God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point!

Seen along an Indiana State Road:

*If you are looking for the road to heaven, turn right and keep straight!*



## **The Lord's Prayer:**

You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once say "I."  
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer and even once say "My."  
Nor can you pray the Lord's Prayer and not pray for one another.  
And when you ask for daily bread, you must include your neighbor.  
For others are included...in each and every pleas,  
From the beginning to the end of it, it does not once say "Me."

- From the Omaha Home for Boys

## **Saint Patty's Jokes**

What should you say to someone running a St. Paddy's Day marathon? Irish you luck!

What did the baby leprechaun find at the end of the rainbow? A potty gold.

What did one leprechaun ghost say to the other? Top o' the moaning to ya!

What do you call a leprechaun who collects used cans, newspapers, and plastic bottles? A wee-cycler.

How can you spot a jealous shamrock? It will be green with envy.

What's Irish and sits outside all day? Patty O'Furniture!



# Mission & Trustee Reports

## OUR DAILY BREAD & NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Our Daily Bread: We served 125 meals on First Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Neighborhood House: We continue our regular donations of non perishable food items to the community organization that services the Middletown-Odessa-Townsend area.

*Why I Love Jesus*: See Nancy Carol Willis's special report on [page 14](#).

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

As the winter months creep in, the Trustees focus with regards to buildings and grounds is turning to inside projects. We are replacing all the hanging light fixtures with more energy efficient fixtures that will provide better light and cost us less energy.

We continue to plan for a spring upgrade to our shrubbery with the help of Sandy Phillips and some friends who run a landscaping business.

We have been blessed that we have not needed any snow removal so far this year. We'll see how that continues...

- Your Friendly Trustees





# NCPC FINANCES



## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Paul Willbanks

### YTD January 2023 Financials

Monthly Contributions (Pledges, Non-Pledge and Open Plate)	14,838
All Other Income	.55
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14,838.55</b>
Missions	
Buildings & Grounds	1,948.55
Finance/Operations	512.12
Personnel	7,960.73
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10,421.40</b>
<b>Net Income/Difference</b>	<b>(4,417.15)</b>

### 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.

## A Stewardship Parable

A faithful member of a church went to the shop of another of his church's members to get a haircut. In the course of their conversation, the customer suggested that since the barber's business was prospering, he hoped the church could count on his faithful and generous supplier of their ministry.

This seemed to irritate the barber. "Money, money, money!" he exclaimed. "That all I hear. It think a person should give what he pleases instead of hearing about tithes and proportionate giving."

The customer said nothing, but when his haircut was finished, he gave the barber 30 cents. The barber declared, "This isn't enough!" "But I thought you said one should give what one pleases," said the customer.

"But," protested the barber, "I can't make ends meet on this." Producing the rest of the regular fee, the customer said, "Neither can the church." As the customer left, the barber looked thoughtful. Perhaps he got the point.

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

Funny how ten dollars looks so big when you take it to church, and so small when you take it to the store!

# Supporting Kenya with WILJ

Submitted by Nancy Carol Willis for [Why I Love Jesus: Sharing My Faith Story](#)

## Fundraiser for Kenya 2023

There will be an online fundraiser from 6pm March 2 – 6pm March 3 hosted at [this link by Do More 24 Delaware](#).

Donations can earn extra dollars for our June Kenya mission trip

VERIFIED 501(C)3 NONPROFIT

### Why I Love Jesus: Sharing My Faith Story

Our mission is to teach ordinary Christians worldwide how to share their personal faith stories. We have a special calling to girls in Kenya.

How I Love Jesus christ.

Across

Jesus Has  
Forgive  
me my  
Sin.

Jesus  
is the  
SAVIOUR

Jesus Love  
us.

Jesus  
is our  
HELPER

Jesus  
is our  
HELPER

LOVE Jesus

Jesus is our HELPER

\$0 raised from 0 donors. Be the first to donate!

\$1,250 goal

You can start a fundraiser starting on March 2, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Remind me to donate

Start a fundraiser

Share Tweet Embed

Your gracious donations will buy all school supplies and Why I Love Jesus workshop materials for 600 school age girls. Last year we were blessed to help 77 girls at a rescue center share their love of Jesus. [Hear Joan share part of her faith story](#). God truly has something special planned for her life.

Funds will also provide food support in this drought devastated country. Recently, Kenya has suffered severe food shortages due to successive droughts. Monies raised can buy food staples in bulk for the schools such as, beans, rice, corn, and porridge.

[Why I Love Jesus: Sharing My Faith Story](#) helps ordinary Christians of all ages and cultures share their faith. Visit [WhyILoveJesus.org](https://www.whyilovejesus.org) to experience authentic faith stories that reach seekers and non-Christians with a message of God's love and salvation.

Here are YouTube links to two girls from 2022 sharing their faith stories.

<https://youtu.be/CMpNa-vTPs4>

<https://youtu.be/P3rgZLGHYbs>

# Women's Retreat

Submitted by Donna Casey

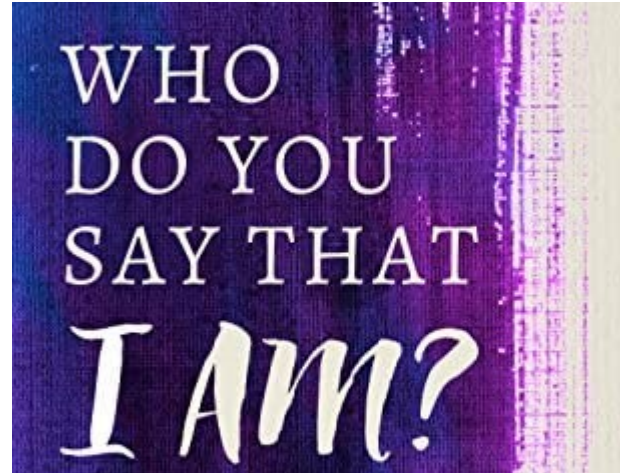
**"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM"**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT 2023 — 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
- GIANT 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**