



# New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

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

(302)378-4446



May 2022

## Where Are You Looking?



*"But on the first day of the week...they came to the tomb...they found the stone rolled away... and they did not find the body...Two men stood beside them... and said..."Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." (Verses from Luke 24).*

Dear friends,

We can understand why the women went to the tomb early that first Easter morning. After all, Jesus had meant so very much to them, and now he was gone. And so, like many people do, they went to his gravesite to cry – to grieve – and to remember. Think about how many people go to Arlington Cemetery to visit the grave of President Kennedy, or the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and pause to reflect on the lives of those people. And many of us visit the gravesites of our loved ones, to recall fond memories of them, or to place some flowers there to honor their memories. That's what the women were looking to do on that first Easter morning. They wanted a place to go to remember the way things were with Jesus, their Lord.

But when they arrived there, they discovered that their wish would not be possible. They saw the stone had been rolled away – that they no longer even had a grave where they could go and visit their Lord. Instead, the angels who met them said, "You don't need a grave, because Jesus is alive!"

~ continued on next page ~

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Today in Jerusalem, there is considerable uncertainty as to exactly where Jesus was buried. One ancient tradition locates the site of his grave inside what is now the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This church, in fact, was erected there to honor Jesus, although some people question whether this is his actual burial site. Others believe that Jesus was buried in a cemetery garden, a few hundred yards outside the city walls, but no one knows for certain. So, we are left in confusion as to where to go if we want to visit Jesus' grave and remember him. This can leave us feeling anxious, but the Easter angels tell us not to worry, because it really doesn't matter exactly where Jesus was buried, because he is NOT there.

Some of us have visited churches which were created as a result of the ministry of the Apostle Paul. Many of them are in Turkey, which was one of the main centers of Christianity for centuries. Unfortunately, today, for the most part, Christianity has died in Turkey, with Christians making up less than 1% of their population. There, many of the beautiful cathedrals have been abandoned, and relics of their former beauty have been donated to museums.



It makes one wonder if that same thing could happen to Christian churches in our country. With the decline in membership of most Christian denominations, could the institutional church be facing extinction? If we don't want our churches to be turned into museums, then we need to be sure that we don't treat them as if they already were museums. A museum is a place to visit to remember the way things were long ago, and is certainly NOT what the church is called to **DO** and **BE** today.

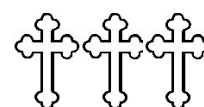
Yes, the story of Jesus being born, living and dying for our salvation, is a story that reaches back thousands of years. And we are called to GO and SHARE this Good News with all that have ears to hear. But our PURPOSE or MISSION is NOT just to lead people on a guided tour of the way things used to be. As the angel said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" To be sure, nearly 2,000 years ago, the women who went to the tomb early on Easter morning, discovered that Jesus was not dead, for God had raised him from the dead, and he was ALIVE! Our goal is NOT just to remember that first Easter morning. Our goal is to realize that the story of the women at the empty tomb is also OUR STORY – that Jesus was not just found to be alive on that first Easter morning, but that he is ALIVE WITH US TODAY!

This year may the Easter season be much more than one day when you celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. May it be a season in which you do not focus on the Jesus of the past, but on the Jesus who wants to transform your life today. Invite him into your heart anew and allow the Spirit to work in and through you, enabling you to be an ever more faithful disciple.

Your partner in ministry,



*Carol*



# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Deacons' Meeting	2	3	4	5	6 Our Daily Bread	7
8 B&G Meeting	9 Bells @7pm	10 *See Note	11 Choir @7pm	12	13	14
15 Session Meeting	16 Bells @7pm	17 *See Note	18 Choir @7pm	19	20	21
22	23 Bells @7pm	24 *See Note	25 Choir @7pm	26	27	28
29	30 Bells @7pm	31 *See Note				

**\*On Tuesdays there is a 10:30am Bible study and a 7:30pm Book Study**

01 - Deacons' Meeting

Tom Bennett Birthday

06 - Our Daily Bread

08 - B&G Meeting

11 - Kevin Njoroge Birthday

14 - Jenny Hugh Birthday

15 - Session Meeting

18 - Harry Kidd Birthday

19 - James Casey Birthday

20 - Pam & Harry Kidd Anniversary

21 - Scott Kirk Birthday

22 - Cheryl & Bill Shields Anniversary

26 - Janet & Al Grimminger Anniversary

27 - Barbara & Tom Bennett Anniversary

## Hello May

Maybe life isn't going upward

As you wish, but if you can learn from

Yesterday, you can win tomorrow





## Kenya 2022, May 30 – June 12



New Covenant Presbyterian Church will support its 6th mission trip to Kenya

[Purchase School Supplies - Click Here](#)

Paul Willbanks and Nancy Carol Willis will join members of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic this June to help build a church and school in Kenya. Stu Ross, East African Mission Consultant for Outreach Foundation, is our project's leader in Kenya.

**NCPC has supported six mission trips over 15 years by creating church banners and collecting school supplies.**

The construction of churches and schools is a joint commitment between local Kenyan communities, Outreach Foundation, and teams from the USA. The way it works is that a community applies to Outreach Foundation for assistance in building a church. The community raises the funds to purchase land and have Outreach Foundation pour the concrete foundation and erect the steel framework and roof.

The US team raises the funds to complete the construction of metal walls and doors, and to paint all exposed metal. *Pictured is the new Githima church upon our arrival.*

NCPC will create two 4 x 8 foot banners to decorate the church. Then, the community and dignitaries from the Presbyterian Church East Africa (PCEA) dedicate the new church and celebrate with a feast afterward. *Pictured are the procession to dedicate the new church and our banners.*

The church will start a school with a feeding program in their building during the week. Typically, in two years the school grows large enough for another Outreach team to build an adjacent two-room schoolhouse.

To support the new church and the two-room school, NCPC collects school supplies. *Pictured are school supplies collected in 2016.*





Try to imagine learning reading, writing, and arithmetic without paper, pencils, or teaching aids, like flash cards, blackboard, or chalk. *Pictured is a typical classroom.*



By the time we arrive on the scene, the concrete has been poured and the metal frame and roof have been erected on the new, spacious two-room schoolhouse. We add the walls, room divider, blackboards, seating, and paint all exposed metal.

There is a dedication ceremony, where the children perform songs and we present them with the school supplies that all of you contributed.

In previous trips, the team has visited the Maasai Girls Rescue Center in the Maasai Mara region. In the Maasai culture wealth is determined by the size of a man's herd of cattle. In order to manage large herds, a man must have many sons, and many wives to produce the sons.



Families with girls arrange marriages in exchange for cattle. Girls as young as nine are married. They typically receive no education or healthcare.

Some years ago a missionary travelled into the Maasai Mara and converted a chief to Christianity. Slowly, the Maasai culture is changing.

Outreach Foundation has built a church and a Rescue Center, where girls ages nine to 18 who escape from these marriages are sheltered, educated, and cared for. *Pictured is the 2016 team at the Maasai Girls Rescue Center.*



This year, the team may be able to lead a *Why I Love Jesus* faith sharing workshop with the girls.

Please pray that we are granted permission, and please pray for the girls themselves. They are the future for women in Kenya.

**You can support this mission trip by purchasing school supplies.** A wish list of school supplies has been created on Amazon at the link below. Please have them shipped to Nancy Carol Willis, 1322 Bayview Road, Middletown, DFE 19709. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!! [https://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2BPGSGBMV54KV/ref=cm\\_wl\\_huc\\_view](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/2BPGSGBMV54KV/ref=cm_wl_huc_view)

# Kenya Banners

The banner ministry met on Friday the 18th of March. There are two teams working in tandem to finish the banners. One team has met at the house of Norma Dunn and the other team consists of Pat Wright and Barbara Montazella.

This is the sixth set of banners that we have created and taken to Kenya to hang in the new church that we work with local communities in Kenya to build.





# Clerk's Report

What a joy it is to have some new faces grace our worship and other events at NCPC. As always, we welcome one and all to our church family!

Our membership remains constant and, for that, we are thankful. As is typical for churches, some folks still are not comfortable attending in-person, but we generally have 5-6 people tune in on Sunday mornings and about 15 others viewing the service during the week. It seems as though having an "online presence" for worship is becoming a regular part of the church's ministry.

For the past several months, we have been in a trial period of evaluating how the responsibilities formerly handled by the trustees (buildings and grounds plus finance) can be managed by the Session. We have been operating with two new Session committees: Buildings and Grounds and Finance and Stewardship. Since the Session is the primary governing body in PCUSA congregations, we felt it necessary to educate our elders in regard to our finances and to help them grow in their management of them. All has been going well with Fred Noll chairing the Buildings and Grounds committee and Ben Urban chairing the Finance and Stewardship committee.

All is going well with Buildings and Grounds (thanks Fred!) and we are in process of educating our elders in regard to our finances. We shared a financial training course and Ben's goal is to have regular meetings with his committee and our treasurer (Paul Willbanks). After discussion at our last Session meeting, we feel that it is time to move forward with making this change in our structure official by voting to change the bylaws. This involves the congregation voting to make these changes, and so we are calling a Congregational Meeting for May 22<sup>nd</sup> following worship. The Session feels like this would be a wise move for our congregation but we also appreciate all of the commitment and hard work the trustees did for several years.

The dinner and evening program on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with the former members of the African Children's Choir was a resounding success. The meal was enjoyed by all and the program was very lively and uplifting. Ken Hudson even got up and played drums with his African drummer cohorts for a couple of encore selections.

The newsletter is going very well (Thank you Georgia!) and the digital format is beautiful, however we recognize that there is still a need in our congregation for some hard copies. The Session decided to print up a few copies, in black and white (1) to send to the shut-ins, (2) to place in the Welcome Bags for visitors who attend worship service in person and (3) to have a few copies available in the back of the sanctuary for those in the congregation who are more comfortable with a printed format than a digital format. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the information in the newsletter.

Yours in Christ,

Pat Wright, Clerk of the Session

# Worship & Fellowship

## APRIL

### MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP WITH A SEDER DINNER



We had about 34 people attend our Seder Dinner Service. It was a moving service where we celebrated Passover with the Hebrews, as they were blessed as God passed over Egypt and saved their families. We also reminisced about our Savior facing Good Friday and his giving of his life for all of our sins. We shared a Passover meal and Communion. The Bells and Choir added to the mood of the service. We had several new people join us for this event. I wanted to give a big thank you, to all those who helped to make this evening possible. "Next Year, may we meet in Jerusalem once again!"

### EASTER BREAKFAST

On Easter Morning, many gathered to enjoy a breakfast. It is always amazing how the Lord encourages us to be creative and giving, as so much wonderful food arrives to be shared with one and all. We enjoyed great food and a good time was had by all. Thank you to all the cooks who brought and shared food.





# Fellowship

## APRIL (Cont.)

### EASTER WORSHIP AT NCPC



Easter at New Covenant Church was glorious this year. Both the Bell Choir and Vocal Choir prepared and shared special music during all three worship services of Holy Week. Thanks to all! One other thing for which to be thankful is that we FINALLY found a good home for the Lent/Easter cross. We kept having to move it from place to place whenever the one of the choirs was performing and we finally found a new home for it = behind the communion table. Praise God! And thanks to all who helped make the Lenten and Easter seasons meaningful for all. (Pictures on the next page.)

## MAY

### PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Spring is here, and that means on Saturday May 14, 2022 at 4PM, we will be meeting at the home of Jane and Mike Adams, 401 Reading Lane, Middletown, DE for our appetizers and wine tasting. We will then be assigned to our host homes for our entrees.



## Progressive Dinner





Our Bell Choir, April 10th, Submitted by Beverly Cook



Our Easter Decorations, April 17th, Submitted by Beverly Cook

# African Children's Choir

On Tuesday, April 5, New Covenant Presbyterian Church welcomed a group of six adult ambassadors representing the African Children's Choir (<https://africanchildrenschoir.com>) for an absolutely wonderful evening of dinner, singing, dancing, drum playing and a lively question/answer session with the Ambassadors. Following the event, we were entertained as Ken Hudson joined the Ambassadors for a spontaneous drum jam session.

The Ambassadors included:

Jessica Katumba, who toured with the very first Choir (from Uganda)

Sandra Nakalanda, who toured with Choir #24 (from Uganda)

Emmanuel Opolot, who toured with Choir #26 (from Uganda)

Joash Kiragge, who toured with Choir #27 (from Uganda)

Mwai Githingi, Kenyan Director (from Kenya)

Tina Sipp, Staff member (from Spokane, Washington)

The African Children's Choir is composed of African children, aged 7 to 10 years old. Many have lost one or both parents through the devastation of war, famine, and disease. They represent all the children of a continent and they demonstrate the potential of African children to become strong leaders for a better future in their land.

Once the children finish their respective tour and return home, the umbrella organization, *Music For Life*, continues to provide for the children's needs, including education, until they finish their schooling at adulthood.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, the choir has been placed on hold until later this year. However, the Ambassadors were in the United States for two weeks promoting the charity and raising money. We were able to host them as they stopped Delaware on their way from New York to North Carolina.

I would like to thank all of you who participated in making this event a tremendous success. A special thank you to Bill Shields and Ken Hudson for providing audio/visual assistance, Georgia Mackay for promotion and maintaining the RSVP list, Pat Wright and Barbara Montazella for arranging dinner, Alice and Bob Megonigal for ushering, Kathy Henry and Donna Casey for each hosting two ambassadors at their respective homes, Carolyn Recla for her help at the sales table and Nancy Carol Willis for recording the event.

Win Bookhart









ABOVE - ACC, Submitted by Nancy Carol Willis

BELOW - ACC, Submitted by Nancy Carol Willis





# Buildings & Grounds

Submitted by Fred Noll

With the coming of Spring, Building and Grounds has been working towards keeping the outside and inside of our buildings bright and tidy. The grass cutting team has been working to keep ahead of the sun and rain. Beth K. and Ivonne B. showed us what skills they have, both inside and out. Mulching the flower beds at the Sanctuary entrance really leaves a "cared about" look. Inside, with lots of help from Jay and Carol Fisher, you should take a look at the small conference room in the Education Building. It will blow you away!

The small shed left by the Day Care, is now the decoration shed. Karen and Ben Urban have organized and literally stuffed this shed with mostly Christmas decorations from the attic. No more (well almost) climbing the attic ladder.

Lots of thought going into the design of new church signage for 896 and Jamison Corner Rd. Bill Shields is lining up a contractor to ditch some underground cable, while Pat W., Bev C. and Sandy P. are working to come up with some design recommendations. More to come next month, so stay tuned.

My thanks to all mentioned and many others who have contributed to the beautification of our facilities. It is no small task keep the House of the Lord in tip top shape. Praise the Lord!

Fred Noll

B&G Moderator





# Christian Education

Submitted by Donna Casey

**Youth:** The middle school youth retreat to Massanetta Springs is getting closer – June 21-24. Jackie Easter, James Casey & Jackie's friend Phoebe will be attending this year. Last years' conference was transformational for the youth that attended. They built relationships with each other and with God - that will last a lifetime. Please pray for our youth that they again experience the Holy Spirit during this very special opportunity that we are so blessed to be able to support them in attending. Great thanks to New Castle Presbytery who awarded each attendee \$300 scholarship to help fund the trip.



**Adults:** The women's retreat is even closer – April 29 – May 1. We have 16-18 women attending the retreat at NorthBay Adventure Center in North East MD. It will be a weekend of worship, relationship building, rest and rejuvenation. Please pray for the women attending this retreat that the Holy Spirit will be a strong presence and each attendee will discern His presence.



**And speaking of Scholarships** – The New Castle Presbytery has also granted 2 x \$300 scholarships to Paul and Nancy to support their mission trip to Kenya. Our church has received a total of \$1500 in scholarships to support mission and education from the New Castle Presbytery.

The Adult Christian education classes continue very strong. The adults have completed "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado as the Lenten Bible study. The Bethel group continues to study "Where do we go From Here" by Dr. David Jeremiah as an adjunct to the Revelations chapter of the Bethel Bible Study. There are only a few weeks left in that study and then we will take a hiatus for the summer.

We are considering starting another class for Bethel. Joan Sabbato is interested in also serving as faculty to teach the course so we anticipate having participation from other Churches in Middletown. We will start in early September. It is 20-week study of the Old Testament and 20-week study of the New Testament. Please let Donna Casey know if you are interested in studying Bethel with us. Email her at [docasey@verizon.net](mailto:docasey@verizon.net).

## Why Women Cry

Submitted by Carol Fisher

A little boy asked his mother, “Why are you crying?” “Because I am a woman,” she told him. “I don’t understand,” he said. His Mom hugged him and said, “And you never will.”

Later the little boy asked his father, “Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?” “All women cry for no reason,” was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women cry. Finally he put in a call to God, and when God got on the phone, he asked, “God, why do women cry so easily?”

And God said, “When I made the woman, she had to be special. I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort. I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth, and the rejection that many times comes from her children. I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue, without complaining.

I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances, even when her child has hurt her very

badly. I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart. I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife, but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unfalteringly. And finally, I gave her a tear to shed. This is hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed.”

“You see my son,” said God, “the beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart – the place where love resides.”

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY TO  
ALL WHO HAVE  
“MOTHERED” ANOTHER  
IN THIS LIFE**



## From "Chicken Soup for the Soul"

I'm not old enough to play baseball or football. I'm not eight yet. My mom told me when you start baseball, you aren't going to be able to run that fast because you had an operation. I told Mom I wouldn't need to run that fast. When I play baseball, I'll just hit them out of the park. Then I'll be able to walk.

*Edward J. McGrath, Jr.*

*"An Exceptional View of Life"*

*Submitted by Alice Megonigal*

## Senior Moments

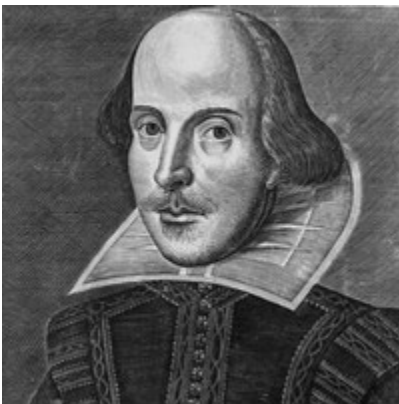
Here's a moment to remember, Lord. I asked my neighbor if I could borrow a wrap for tonight. She came over an hour later with a frozen chicken-and-cheese wrap. I had something different in mind - a shawl to wear over my dance dress.

Lord, today my husband announced that he just purchased two rowboats - one for him and one for me - to use on the lake this summer. I asked why two. He reminded me that when he gets bossy I always tell him to row his own boat.

*From "God Bless My Senior Moments"*

*Karen O'Connor*

*Submitted by Alice Megonigal*



"As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer."

— William Shakespeare





# Freebies



## Georgia's [Yucca plant](#)

This bad boy is 7 feet tall.

It needs a home with a big window it can sit by. It is heavy and will not survive the winter, so I would not suggest putting this outside. You will not want to move it twice.

Yuccas are amazing plants! Very low maintenance, water when soil is dry - every other or every third month. The soil is part sand part dirt and there is fake moss on top to deter Pepper from digging in it.

It is capable of flowering but is not happy enough in my house to do so. Even in bad conditions it will not stop growing. Once the summer hits and it has the proper lighting it will get more leaves and maybe even flower for you!

You do not have to take the “grow light” if you do not want it, the only reason this Yucca is functioning as a lamp is because it wasn't getting enough light.

There is nothing wrong with the plant, I just need to reclaim the space so I can move in my vinyl collection and record player.

# How You Can Support Your Church

Financial donations to church can be made by either:

1 - Mailing them directly to the church at:

New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Attn: Treasurer  
1125 Jamison Corner Rd  
Middletown, DE 19709

2. Contact your bank, and they can set up an automatic payment schedule so the donation can be sent to the church (at the address above) on a certain day each month – most banks offer this as a FREE service. This will save you a stamp and no need to remember if you sent in your offering.



We are also looking at accepting donations via PayPal – the only down side of that is that PayPal takes 2.2% of the donation (i.e with a \$50 donation, the church gets \$48.90). Although I completely understand the ease of PayPal, if you want 100% of your donation going to the church, it's best to have a check sent to the church. With PayPal you can make a one-time donation or automatically donate on a certain day each month.

Thank you for supporting the work and mission of New Covenant Presbyterian Church with your donation.

Yours in Christ,  
Ben Urban



Do you shop with Amazon? There is an easy method to have Amazon donate 0.5% (that is ½ of 1%) of your purchases to New Covenant Church. There is no charge to you and no increase in the price. I know 0.5% is not a lot of money but over time, if most of the church family uses smile.amazon.com, the money will add up. So if you are already using Amazon, why not have Amazon donate some money to us.

To quickly register to support the New Covenant Presbyterian Church [Click Here](#)

Then remember to use smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com

Reach out to me if you need any assistance.

—Ben Urban