



New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

www.newcov-church.org

(302)378-4446



July 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE (CLICK ME)

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

[CALENDAR.....4](#)

(EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES)

[CLERK'S REPORT.....5](#)

[BUILDINGS & GROUNDS.....6](#)

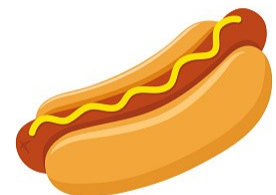
[CHURCH UPDATES.....7](#)

[FELLOWSHIP UPDATE.....9](#)

PCUSA GENERAL

[ASSEMBLY ROUNDUP.....10](#)

[HOW TO DONATE.....12](#)



HOT DOGS & SUNSETS

I LOVE hotdogs! Some brands rise above others which won't get me as a repeat customer. But, if it looks like a hotdog, chances are, I'm buying.

A former parishioner told me once of visiting a hot dog plant – watching what went into the ballgame-campfire-convenience store menu staple that led him never to eat a hot dog again. Personally, I've never been, so I'm still enjoying a hot dog now and again.

I'm not denying that lots of cow and pig parts find a new home in my frankfurters. I'm not naïve enough to think my Oscar Mayer or Hebrew National or Ball Park is as pure as the ribeye steak I occasionally enjoy. But it doesn't matter because I daresay I will always love my dogs.

It's nice to know that God feels the same way about us. Lots of stuff that I'd rather not have show up on the "ingredient list" that goes into making my life. And I imagine that the same goes for your life.

~ continued on next page ~

Stupid mistakes that ruin relationships and dissolve families. Intentional self-serving decisions wrapped in an outer shell of “love” as if selfishness wasn’t the main ingredient. Secret parts of our lives that we hope no one discovers and seek to self-justify when they do.

God looks at us and knows about all the fillers and trashy parts in our lives. And yet, our heavenly Father **ONLY SEES JESUS** – his perfection – his obedient nature – his totally selfless demeanor – IN US.

I am reminded of the song by Bette Midler – *From a Distance* The printed words are on the next page, or [click here to listen](#).

As I reflect on the concept of God seeing and knowing EVERYTHING about us, it is hard to comprehend. How can God be that intimately involved with each and every one of his creations, and still love us? Amazing, to say the least.

And yet, dear friends, one of our own – Ivonne Bernal – as she looked at our church from the parking lot - a beautiful picture was before her, and she grasped that picture on her camera. As you look at her picture, take note of how the evening light shines through the 2 columns on the breezeway. It made her – and me – and perhaps even you – notice how it is as if GOD IS WATCHING US. The light shining through these columns looks like the eyes of God watching over us.



I believe that God is always watching over us but what a wonderful reminder of how much God cares, loves, and wants to be involved in our lives. May you take comfort, peace and serenity in that knowledge, and I hope that you can enjoy this picture as much as I have.

May God bless and keep you and may you have a wonderful month of August!

Your friend and partner in ministry,

Carol



Bette Midler – *From a Distance*

*From a distance
The world looks blue and green
And the snow capped mountains white*

*From a distance
The ocean meets the stream
And the eagle takes to flight
From a distance
There is harmony
And it echoes through the land*

*It's the voice of hope
It's the voice of peace
It's the voice of every man*

*From a distance
We all have enough
And no one is in need
And there are no guns
No bombs, and no disease
No hungry mouths to feed*

*From a distance
We are instruments
Marching in a common band
Playing songs of hope
Playing songs of peace
They are the songs of every man*

*God is watching us
God is watching us
God is watching us
From a distance
From a distance*

*You look like my friend
Even though we are at war
From a distance
I just cannot comprehend
What all this fighting's for*

*From a distance
There is harmony
And it echoes through the land
And it's the hope of hopes*

*It's the love of loves
It's the heart of every man
It's the hope of hopes
It's the love of loves*

This is the song for every man

*God is watching us
God is watching us
God is watching us
From a distance*

*Oh, God is watching us
God is watching
God is watching us*



August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Our Daily Bread	6
7 Deacons' Meeting	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Trustees' Meeting	15	16	17	18	19	20 Pool Party
21 Session Meeting	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

05—First Friday @ Our Daily Bread

07—Deacons' Meeting

12—Earlene Kelter's Birthday

14—Trustees' Meeting

Ken Hudson's Birthday

15—Bill Shield's Birthday

17—Carol Fisher's Birthday

20—Pool Party

21—Session Meeting

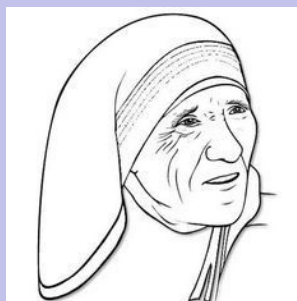
23—Jay Fisher's Birthday

27—Betty Lou Schafer's Birthday

Joy is prayer, joy is strength, joy is love.

God loves a cheerful giver. The best way we can show our gratitude to God and the people is to accept everything with joy.

Mother Teresa



Clerk's Report

The meeting was called for the purpose of reviewing a request from the Trustees to establish a new fund for monies that were donated to the church by Beth Kramer's parents to be used for beautification projects for the church.

Carol explained that Beth's parents were impressed with the way in which the NC congregation welcomed Beth into the church and wanted to show their appreciation with a donation to the church. The Trustees suggested that these monies be used for beautification projects around the church as these are of special interest to Beth. Of particular interest, at this time, is adding plantings around the approved new sign for the church and to replace some of the old shrubs around the church building.

It is the recommendation of the Trustees that a new fund be created for these monies. Fred Noll had already spoken with Treasurer Paul Willbanks who confirmed that a new fund could be created. The Trustees are now requesting that the Session review the plan and vote on approval of the new fund.

Discussion was held and a motion to approve the creation of the new fund was made (Pam), seconded, (Barbara) and approved by the members present.

Yours in Christ,

Pat Wright, Clerk of Session



Buildings & Grounds

Submitted by Fred Noll

New Road Facing Sign:

The new double sided sign for our church entrance has been ordered. Simple, eye catching and compliant with county sign policy. Six to eight weeks until delivery. After self installation, the 3 old weathered signs will disappear. You may have noticed as you enter the church driveway a line of disturbed soil running next to the parking lot. Electrical cable was run 2 weeks ago in order to provide lighting for our new sign as well as 2 future light post for parking lot lighting. Work is slow, but it does happen!

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

76"x38" Double-Sided Sign



Grass Cutting; NEED YOUR HELP - PLEASE!!!!

Cutting grass at NCPC is one of the most physically demanding and time consuming chores we must tackle each year during the growing season. It takes on average, 4.5 hours for a single member to mow 5-6 acres each week. Much of the time, the weather does not cooperate, so scheduling a cutting day or time can be difficult. Very few if any of our active cutting team members look forward to their week to cut.

Trying to keep the grounds in a presentable shape is a formidable objective. What we could use is an additional small group of people to "trim around the ears" so to speak. Small plots of land like the circle, under trees that cannot be reached with a rider, and weed whacking around posts and curbs as well as blowing off walkways is quite often overlooked because after hours on a mower, no one is excited about doing the trim.

We have a push mower, we have a cordless blower, I can buy a cordless weed whacker, what we need is few good outdoors people that can spend maybe 1 hour per week "trimming around the ears" of the church.

Let the Lord inspire you to give just a bit more. Thank you in advance!!

Fred Noll

Church Updates

Being Good Stewards of Our Blessings



I'm really not sure of the origins of the piano that was living in the choir/storage room until recently. For several months, I sought to determine how necessary it was to keep this instrument since we had an offer of a much nicer, more portable instrument. But I waited until it seemed best to move forward with the transition and then I let our familiar trustee, Fred Noll, who is always so handy when you need him, know that it was time to find a new home for this piano. And that is exactly what he did.

The old piano, pictured above, was removed from the room, piece by piece and it was also **memorialized and repurposed**. The picture below on the right shows a few pedals and keys as they were mounted and hung in the choir/ storage room.



But the best thing of all is that Fred made new mailboxes for the church office out of the piano's wood, and I painted them to blend in with the newly decorated office. So, take a look at the picture or stop in to see Fred's handiwork! We are blessed to have such a wonderfully talented trustee who helps wherever help is needed. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Church Updates

The Church Office Makeover

Thanks to Fred Noll, Beth Kramer and Ivonne Bernal, we came up with a better design for the church office. We cleaned out the filing cabinets, putting some files in the shed, rearranged the furniture we had, and we painted (the walls, cabinet and mailboxes), added a new valance (made by Pam Leeson), and some pictures. All in all, it gave the space a fresh look and made it neater and more functional. Thanks to our great helpers!



Fellowship

July



GARDEN PARTY

The Garden party in July at the Shields was a nice function with about 20 people attending. We all had a good time and it was nice enough to have some people be able to sit outside.

August

PUTT PUTT

Come join in the fun playing putt putt and enjoying an ice cream treat afterwards. Please sign up soon!

August 12th



POOL PARTY

Our August outing will be a pool party at the home of Donna and Jim Casey, 105 Asbury Loop , Middletown, DE. August 20, 3-6pm.

Donna will supply hotdogs and all the fixings. Please feel free to bring a dish to share. Don't forget your swimsuit and towel.

Now that the 2022 General Assembly has ended – the first-ever hybrid assembly – the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will try to live into the commitments made and the work ahead. Ruth Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis, the new co-moderators, stood for election using the theme “Unbounded We Thrive,” and the assembly spoke its mind on issues affecting the church and the world.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 225 ROUNDUP

Israel/Palestine. The assembly **voted 266-116 to approve** one of the most controversial items before it — **INT-02**, declaring that the PC(USA) recognize the laws, policies and practices of the Israeli government regarding the Palestinian people “fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid.” Some have criticized the PC(USA) stance towards Israel as antisemitic, saying it hurts interfaith relations. Others say the assembly spoke courageously in supporting human rights for the Palestinian people.

Climate change. Voting 340-41, the assembly directed PC(USA) entities to **divest from five oil and gas companies** it concluded are not moving quickly enough to try to slow global warming — Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66, and Valero Energy. The vote reflected continued support for the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI)’s strategy of corporate engagement and selective divestment. Action on another item, **ENV-09**, also affirmed “that working in the fossil fuel industry is a necessity for many” and assured Presbyterians that “divestment is not a condemnation or judgment of their choice of employment.”

Litany of repentance. One of the assembly’s most powerful emotional moments came when White Presbyterians recited a litany of repentance from **RGJ-08**, offering an apology to African Americans for the sin of slavery and its legacy. **One assembly committee** focused exclusively on **issues of race and gender justice** — including violence against **Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**, disparities experienced by **Black women and girls**, and racial disparities in **health care**. Other concerns: confronting **White supremacy in the PC(USA)** and working for **reparative justice**.

Gun violence. With recent mass shootings still echoing, the assembly approved **VIOL-07**, declaring 2022-2032 a “**Decade to End Gun Violence**” — asking the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to develop tools for faith-based advocacy against gun violence and for studying “the intersection of white supremacy culture, Christian nationalism, and gender with gun violence.” It also approved **VIOL-11**,

directing MRTI to begin a process of corporate engagement with Walmart, Dick's Sporting Goods, and Kroger, three publicly-traded companies included in the investment portfolios of either the Board of Pensions or Presbyterian Foundation, and which sell guns not classified as semi-automatic and assault-based weapons. (Those weapons previously mentioned are already on the divestment list.)

Family leave. The assembly approved a **proposed amendment** to the PC(USA) constitution to say a minister's terms of call shall include at least **12 weeks of paid family medical leave** (covering the birth, fostering or adoption of a child; care for ill or disabled family members; and healing following a loss or tragic event). To take effect, the proposed change needs approval from a majority of the presbyteries.

Immigration. The assembly voted 340-25 to declare the PC(USA) a "**sanctuary and accompaniment church**" — saying the denomination stands with immigrants and asylum-seekers and is committed to working for justice in U.S. immigration policy. **That work** often involves Presbyterians accompanying immigrants by offering housing and legal assistance, going with them to immigration hearings and other appointments and trying to get people released from detention.

Restructuring. Supporting recommendations from a **special committee**, the assembly voted to **create a commission** with the power to act and the responsibility for unifying the PMA and the Office of the General Assembly — basically, to restructure the top level of the PC(USA). Citing **financial stress on congregations and presbyteries**, the assembly also created a team to develop experimental models as alternatives to the current **per capita funding system**.

Reproductive justice. In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, the assembly approved a **resolution on reproductive justice** — **saying the PC(USA) rejects** "attempts at all levels of government to reduce, limit, or eliminate access to contraceptive and abortion care."

LGBTQIA+ equity. The assembly created a **new LGBTQIA+ Equity Advocacy Committee** as a permanent committee of the General Assembly — equivalent in access and accountability to the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice and the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee.

Per capita. The assembly set the **new General Assembly per capita assessment** at \$9.85 per member for 2023 and \$9.80 per member for 2024. **That compares** to the current per capita rate of \$8.98 per member.

2024 General Assembly. Presented with four options, the assembly **opted for a hybrid approach** again for the 2024 assembly — choosing **Plan Omega** with online committee meetings and in-person plenary sessions in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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