



New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

www.newcov-church.org (302)378-4446

2 Timothy 1:9: "He has saved us and called us to a holy calling - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace."

A Word from Your Pastor

Dear friends,

Have you ever considered that YOU were *custom-built* - that you were created *in God's image*, but with your own particular qualities and traits, thus making you a unique creation?



Several years ago, I was invited to tour the home of a friend and her husband - a new custom-built home in Chesterfield County, where I lived and went to high school. This is the only friend with

whom I've maintained a decades-long relationship, and it's one that I cherish. So, I was really looking forward to this tour, and yet there were things that surprised me about their home.

As an avid observer of anything and everything, I'm always fascinated by architecture - brand new structures and quaint, older ones. I'm intrigued at how each home takes on a different character, according to its design.

As I explored each area of the beautiful 3,500-plus-square-foot home, my friend or her husband, described the purpose and intent of each room. "This is my office. It's where I run my consulting business." A computer, desk and file cabinets lined the walls of this room.

"That room over there," she pointed out, "is the room where our grandson sleeps and plays, along with his new step-sisters." And then my friend began to describe her son's remarriage and how they were all working through new members added to the family.

~continued~



2026

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A Note From Our Pastor (Continued)

Finally, the grand tour ended where we started - in the kitchen which was open to the den and dining area. In the kitchen, there were shiny stainless-steel appliances, granite countertops and a nice, cozy dining room table all of which took their rightful places in the spacious and well-lit room.

But in the midst of my admiration of their seemingly perfect dwelling, it occurred to me that what wasn't *in* or *near* to this area of the home, was a toilet, which I was in need of finding. There was no evidence of a toilet in the middle of this "great room" which included areas for cooking, eating, and relaxing - pretty much everything you could imagine wanting or needing - *except for a toilet*.

No commode sat in the middle of the room because toilets were specifically made and designed to work best in bathrooms, not kitchens or great rooms. And, just as rooms are designed, wired, and used for specific purposes, God has custom-built each one of us. This can easily escape us as we constantly compare ourselves to our next-door neighbors, our friends, or our favorite celebrities.



Jeremiah 29:11 - 'For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you a future and a hope.'

It's easy to forget that just as God made that strikingly beautiful actress or that successful entrepreneur, he also wonderfully and fearfully made "regular old us." And so, in a world of status and glamour, it's easy for statements like, "If only I had legs like Cindy Crawford" or "If only I had talent like my best friend" to enter our minds. But let's not forget that Cindy Crawford's legs were created for a distinct purpose. And your friend's talent is his or her own individual talent.

When we consistently focus on functioning outside our design, we become frustrated and annoyed. Ever tried squeezing your foot into a shoe that's two sizes too small? We can try to force the shoe to fit, but it's physically and emotionally painful.



Does that mean that we shouldn't attempt new and challenging tasks? Absolutely not. Often we have to try different things to move closer to discovering our God-given purpose. We can continue to work hard and pursue those interests, but when the specifications don't quite fit the design, we end up punishing ourselves. We even go so far as to label ourselves inadequate, and that is NOT God's plan.


Despite life circumstances, family backgrounds, or financial statuses, there are certain things that God has created **ONLY YOU** to do. You can reach people and positively affect society in ways that no one else can. So, embrace your own design and your individuality. Let's rehabilitate our structures instead of wanting to so quickly demolish them. Every room occasionally needs a coat of paint. Every floor periodically needs new carpet or to have the floors refinished. And know that toilets were made to work in bathrooms, not kitchens.

Have no doubt that God intentionally designed you to have everything you need to be the best that you can be. Let's focus on embracing and improving **WHO WE ARE**, instead of worrying about **WHO WE ARE NOT**. And may our lives reflect God's purpose for us as we serve our Creator, giving thanks for the privilege of loving and honoring him.

Your partner in ministry,

Carol

MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2 Deacons' Mtg 10 am	3	4	5	6 Our Daily Bread	7
8 Trustee Mtg. 11:30am		10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Pat's Day 	18 Session Mtg. 10 am	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				29

EVERY SUNDAY—CHRISTIAN EDUCATION @ 8:30 AM; WORSHIP AT 10 AM FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP;
 EVERY TUESDAY – CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM @ 10:30 AM
 BELL CHOIR—CHECK WITH JENNY FOR DATES/TIMES

- 3/1 Linda Lee's Birthday
2nd Sunday of Lent
Communion & ODB Offering
- 3/2 Deacon's Mtg @ 1pm
- 3/4 John Easter's Birthday
- 3/5 Bin & Linda Lee Anniversary
- 3/6 First Friday @ Our Daily Bread
- 3/8 3rd Sunday of Lent
Trustee's Mtg @ 11:30am
- 3/14 Matt Miller's Birthday
- 3/15 4th Sunday of Lent

- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/18 Session Meeting @ 10 am
- 3/22 5th Sunday of Lent
Beth Kramer's Birthday
- 3/29 Palm/Passion Sunday



Worship & Trustee Reports

WORSHIP DURING LENT



All were invited to come and enjoy a quiet, contemplative service on Ash Wednesday. It was meant to be a time of reflection and promise. We also hope you take the time to note all the religious symbols in our sanctuary during this season. Each of them reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice for us. There is a brief explanation of each of them on a handout in the vestibule. May each of us be in preparation for Holy Week which will begin on March 29th - Palm Sunday. Here is a schedule so that you might prepare yourselves for this holy season:

Ash Wednesday	February 18th	Contemplative Service
Palm Sunday	March 29th	Procession of Palms
Maundy Thursday	April 2nd	Communion/Reflection on Christ's Sacrifice
Good Friday	April 3rd	Time to Pray/Reflect and Give Thanks
Easter Sunday	April 5th	Easter Breakfast and Resurrection Worship



**Barbara Montazella,
Worship Elder**



TRUSTEE REPORT

The Trustee Meetings are open to all and are normally scheduled each month on the 2nd Sunday after Church Service. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 15 Mar 2026.

We are still looking at what we may want to do to increase the security around our property with all the construction going on around us.



Still need some landscaping in the main electrical connection in the middle of the grass area around the church. The bricks have been installed and all is good as far as it goes, but we need some flowers, or something in the middle. This is scheduled for Spring of 2026.

Had a meeting with Blenheim Builders as to where our sign(s) will be placed to let people know how to get into our Church. This should be completed within the next month or so.



We may have a "Tramonto Woodfired Pizza" business in our Parking Lot sometime within the next 2 or 3 months.

If there are any questions, just let me know: al.grimminger@icloud.com

**Your Friendly Trustees,
Al Grimminger, Bill Shields and Bob Megonigal**

Clerk & Christian Education Report



Session met on February 18, 2026.

The minutes from the Stated Meeting on 12/18/25; the Congregational meeting on 12/21/25; the Called Session meeting on 1/8/26, and the Annual Congregational meeting on 2/1/26 were all approved.

- ◆ The next Stated Session meeting will be on 3/18/26.
- ◆ The New Castle Presbytery's Annual Bay Retreat will be held on March 6-7 in Dewey Beach, DE. Carol Fisher will attend.
- ◆ Financial Status: We ended 2025 with \$21,000 over our expenses thanks in large part to our "church angels" who have generously assisted with several large projects that needed to be done. Our January 2026 month end report has us \$9,000 in income over expenses.
- ◆ Membership is now at 42.

Kathy Henry passed away on February 18th.

Paul and Carolyn (Recla) Stoecker have transferred to St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Middletown.

Pat Wright, Clerk of Session

Weekly Christian Education Classes

We have a great group of folks enjoying classes based on Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible - Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*. We have covered the first section of the book which covers *The Nature of Scripture, the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Questions About the Nature of Scripture*. We are now in the second section which helps us in *Making Sense of the Bible's Challenging Passages*. This section applies Hamilton's way of interpreting the Bible to various issues. We offer classes each week on Sundays @ 8:30 am and Tuesdays @ 10:30 am.

Jane Adams, Christian Education Elder



WANTED: 1-2 people to assist with cleaning the sanctuary and bathrooms. We currently have two teams and each team cleans once a month. Sadly we lost the youngest team member in January, so

now our teams are comprised of 75-85 year old women. We would welcome anyone who can run a vacuum cleaner or clean bathrooms. (Yes that means men would be welcome too!) It's about a two hour commitment once a month. We also could use substitutes for when we are out of town. Please consider this request and contact Pam Leeson if you can help out.



Mission Report

Our Daily Bread: We served 184 meals on First Friday in February. The *Our Daily Bread Fund* continues to cover the cost of preparing the meals.



Neighborhood House: We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Neighborhood House. They provide food items for people in the community who have urgent need. They need a wide range of non-perishable items but are in particular need of pasta, particularly spaghetti, and pasta sauces. In addition, there is always a need for simple items like peanut butter and jelly.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering This Special Offering began in Lent and it ends on Easter Sunday. This offering helps support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) and the Self-Development of People program (SDOP) (“restore streets to live in, share bread with the hungry and loose the bonds of injustice”).



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by OGHS all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.



Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Total for 2025 - Taking the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth! Thank you for partnering with Operation Christmas Child to take the Good News to millions of boys and girls around the world. The shoebox gifts that you packed last year - **12,205,900** - will help open doors for us to reach even more children this year!

These shoeboxes go to the very ends of the earth - from jungles to deserts, from megacities to remote villages. One of the most powerful testimonies we've received recently comes from one of our teams deep in the Amazon rainforest of Peru. The Chapra people are an indigenous tribe, far removed from modern life in many ways. Recently, more than 1,000 Chapra children received shoebox gifts, most of them hearing about our Savior for the very first time.



**Pat Wright,
Mission Elder**

Deacon Ministry



DEACON MINISTRY

Deacons may be individually commissioned or organized as a board of deacons. We have been organized as a board, and our ministry is under the supervision and authority of the session. Deacons may also be given special assignments in the congregation, such as caring for members in need, collecting and disbursing monies to specific persons or causes, maintaining the log of memorial gifts and organizing fellowship events.

We, the New Covenant Deacons, truly believe in caring for the members of our church. As you know we have set up a shepherding program to keep in touch with our congregation. Our congregation has been divided into 5 Shepherd Groups with each one being cared for by an elder and a deacon. Be sure to take note of who your Shepherds are and keep them informed of any needs that arise. Together, we will be stronger and no one should be left behind.

In addition to our caring for each other, we also plan fellowship events. We have several upcoming events but you can get more details on the fellowship page of the newsletter. A few highlights:

- **In March** On the 15th @ 5 pm- **St. Paddy's Dinner**. Wear green for the luck of the Irish, or orange if you like. Potluck (which includes lots of blessings) dinner, so bring some Irish food. Sign up at the back of the sanctuary.
- **In April** On Sunday, 4/6 - Continental **Easter Breakfast** at 8:30 am
- **In May** Friday, 5/15, **Dinner at Pat's + Jesus Christ Superstar** at the Everett

We hope that you all can participate. God is good all the time!

Your Friends in Christ,

The Deacons



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Article taken from *Parish Publishing*

A challenging issue modern Christians face is our financial obligation to the work of God's church. How much is enough? How much can we afford? How much do we want to give? What about tithing? Can we do that?

Abraham's descendants gave their first fruits . . . their best . . . to God. They gave one-tenth (10%) right off the top. They honored God first. We should also want to honor and thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon us. But does God expect of us what he did from them? The answer will differ for each of us. We know that God wants us to give willingly, with an open heart. However, we have no grain, lambs or bulls to offer. Some of us have limited resources if we are single, working or a senior citizen. What can we do?

We can support church activities that are near and dear to our hearts. We can share our talents and resources helping others meet their challenges. We can look upon tithing as a goal, contributing a little more to the church each year. We may not make 10% this year or the next, or maybe never, but the goal is something for which we can strive.

How can we show God that we are truly thankful for His gifts to us? It is something to think about.



The Good Steward

I am a Steward over my life. My purpose is to use God's gifts of time, talent and treasure that others can come to know God through my life. In other words, I live my religion.

I am a Steward to my family, my relatives, my neighbors and my fellow humans everywhere. I give them my love and share my life and bounty with them.

I am a Steward to my church. I give my time, my best thoughts and talents. I support it financially. I extend to all the warmth of my love of God, whether members or strangers. I pray that my church can be the conscience of the community, encouraging brotherhood and curbing inhumanity.

I am a Steward to my community and any of the agencies that serve it. I serve to ensure that the authority it wields is inspired by God.

I am a Steward over my corner of God's Earth. I seek to preserve its productivity and beauty for this and future generations.

In summary, I am a faithful steward. I am dedicated to a life of service to both God and humankind, for all of my days, in everything I do or say.



**Barbara Bookhart,
Elder for Finance and Stewardship**



Frog Corner

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

Don't forget the meaning behind the acronym **RIBBIT** :

Revere, Invoke, Bless, Inspire, and Trust in the Lord.



Question: Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

Answer: Noah -- he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Question: What did God say after he created Adam?

"I can do better than that." And so, he created woman.

Question: Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

Answer: Pharaoh's daughter -- she went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little profit. *Oops. That should read "prophet".*

Question: What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?

Answer: Ruth-less.

Question: What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

Answer: Yahweh drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a **Fury** (an automobile produced by Plymouth from 1955 to 1989).

Israel's **Triumph** (a British automobile produced from 1921 to 1984) could be heard after the death of Goliath (2 Samuel 17:52, *New Living Translation*).

Acts 2:12 says Jesus' followers "were all in one **Accord**," a car continuously produced by Honda for 50 years.

Psalms 83 seems to say that the Almighty owns both a **Pontiac and a Geo**. The passage urges the Lord to "pursue your enemies with your Tempest (Pontiac) and terrify them with your Storm (Geo)." -- Psalm 83:15.

God may favor **Dodge** pickup trucks since the Israelites were warned not to follow Moses up on the mountain "until the Ram's horn sounds a long blast." -- Exodus 19:13.

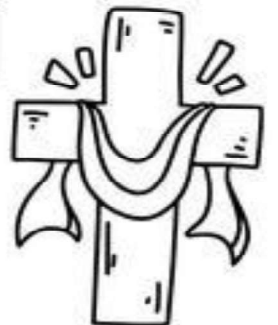
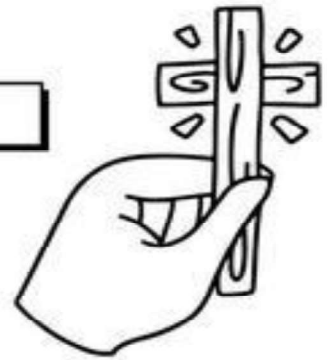
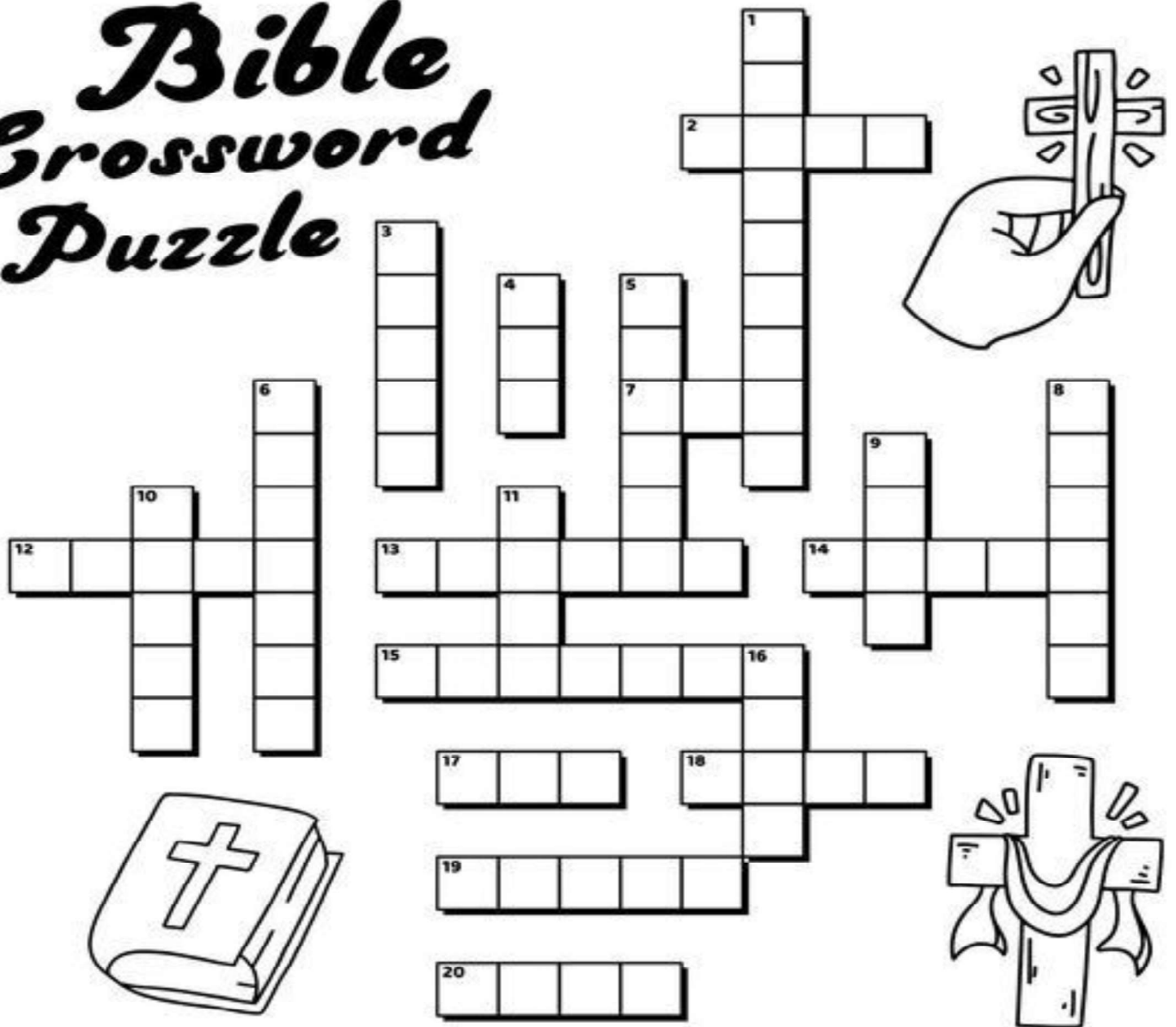
2 Corinthians 4:8 describes a group traveling in a classic **Volkswagen Bug**: "We are hard pressed on every side."



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I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS FAITH ISSUES



Bible Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. This led the wise men to baby Jesus
7. The first woman
12. The queen of what country came to see Solomon
13. What is it called when we talk to God?
14. Who wrote the 23rd Psalm?
15. Wisest man in the world
17. God created the world in how many days?
18. Two ladies argued about this
19. Who parted the Red Sea?
20. What kind of bird did Noah send out of the ark to see if the land was dry?

Down

1. The town Jesus was born in
3. Long sharp weapon
4. Who created everything?
5. How many disciples did Jesus have?
6. Who was the first Jew?
8. What Solomon asked God for
9. The first man
10. Who is a descendant of Abraham and King David, and is the Savior of the world?
11. The first king of Israel who died in battle with his son, Jonathon
16. He built the ark

Word Bank

Solomon	Baby	Sword	Sheba	Adam	Eve	Wisdom
Star	Saul	Bethlehem	Moses	Abraham	Jesus	Noah
Dove	God	David	Twelve	Prayer	Six	

