



New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church



2025

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR ..1

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(EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES)

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SOMETIMES IN ORDER FOR GOD
TO DO SOMETHING GREAT IN
OUR LIVES,
HE HAS
TO LEAD US THROUGH
THE WILDERNESS.

**WILDER-
NESS
TIMES
ARE
IMPOR-
TANT!**



Dear friends,

Not too long ago, I preached a sermon about Elijah and how he fled into the wilderness out of fear and exhaustion. The prophet’s journey took him into the same territory where Moses received much of his divine guidance, and where he exercised much of his prophetic leadership. Elijah’s cry of despair echoes Moses’ own sense of inadequacy in attempting to shepherd the people of Israel. It’s interesting that one of scripture’s ways of marking a genuine prophet is by noting the prophet’s sense of reluctance to assume the burdens of his/her call.

Elijah ended up sitting himself down under a solitary broom tree which indicates his sense of complete and utter despair. Just as God provided manna and quail for Israel when they were in the wilderness, God provided a cake and water to nourish and rejuvenate Elijah. God knew what lay ahead for the prophet and he provided for his needs. But Elijah needed more than mere food and water. Elijah needed rest and an encounter with God that he might discern what his future would be. Yet again, God showed his power by providing the prophet with a great wind, an earthquake, a fire and, finally, the sound of sheer silence.



~continued~

A Note From Our Pastor (Cont'd)

My friends, Elijah ran until he could run no more after faithfully serving wherever God called him. He knew that he needed something or someone, but he didn't know where to go or what/whom to seek. How about you? Are you like Elijah in that you spend time running away from things/people, or do you turn toward something or someone? This spring I challenge you to find ways to nourish and renew your spirits.

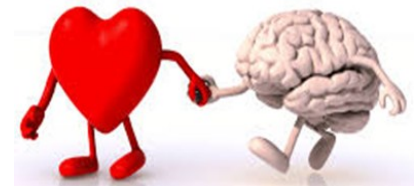
Refresh
Your Spirit
and
Renew Your Mind



I have learned through observation, reading and prayer that there are some good ways to remain spiritually healthy. I don't know about you, but I am a creature of habit which feels comfortable for me, BUT I also realize that routine can be a killer of the human spirit. There are a few things which help most of us to be spiritually alive and they mostly revolve around being open

to new ideas, risking some new experiences and taking care of our bodies, minds and spirits.

Over time, I've also learned that there is a connection between the mind and heart. Open minds create open hearts. And the more open our hearts, the more love we can give and receive. Consider a few ways to help yourself be more open to all that God has created for you and all of creation:



- Acknowledge that there is always something new you can learn, which probably means that some of the knowledge you currently possess is outdated. Consider taking a class or reading a book on a topic you find interesting.

- Visit local museums and libraries regularly. Attend learning events. Explore at least one new topic a year that you find interesting.

- Engage in long conversations with family and friends, old and new. Relearn the art of good conversation. Talk with children whenever you get a chance.

- Take a starlit walk by yourself or with someone close to you and just talk about the wonder of creation.

- Each day, try to do one thing you have never done before. It's not easy, but life becomes much more exciting when you do these things.

With open minds and hearts, we allow the fresh air of creation to circulate around and within us. We remain vibrant when we allow the wind of the Spirit to blow through our lives, and we are more interesting to those with whom we share life. We also become better stewards of creation when we take the time to appreciate it.



Friends, like wildflowers, we need nourishment or we wither and burnout. There is no way to stop the passage of time, but we can make our life's journey more interesting and fulfilling. We can look around and view God's creation with new eyes each day. We can regain excitement for the gift of each day. May God bless our efforts at opening the windows of our minds and hearts this spring, that the Spirit might blow through, cleaning out the cobwebs and refreshing our spirits with rest, renewal and rejuvenation!

Your partner in ministry, *Carol*

APRIL 2025

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Our Daily Bread	5
6 Communion & Offering for ODB	7 Deacon's Mtg @1p	8	9	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday Trustee mtg	14	15	16	17 Maundy Thurs Service @ 7p	18	19
20 Easter Sunday; Breakfast @8:30	21	22	23 Session Mtg. @ 1p	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|------------------------------------|
| 4/4 | Jeff & Lillie Volkman Anniversary | 4/20 | Easter Sunday |
| 4/4 | First Friday @ Our Daily Bread | | Jane Adams Birthday |
| 4/6 | 5th Sunday in Lent & Communion
ODB Special Offering | 4/21 | Nancy Carol Willis Birthday |
| 4/7 | Deacons' Meeting @ 1pm
Win Bookhart Birthday | 4/23 | Ruth Keiderling Birthday |
| 4/8 | Paul Stoecker Birthday
Pat Wright Birthday | 4/27 | Session Meeting at 1 pm |
| 4/13 | Palm/Passion Sunday
Trustees' Meeting @ 11:30 am | 4/28 | 2nd Sunday of Easter |
| 4/14 | Pam Leeson Birthday | | Barbara & Win Bookhart Anniversary |
| 4/17 | Maundy Thursday Service @7pm | | |





Clerk's Report

The Session's regular Stated meeting was held on March 19th.

The calendar for the Presbytery meetings for 2025 is as follows:

May 17th (In-person or by Zoom) - Pat Wright + Pastor

September 20th (in-person or by Zoom) - Pam Leeson + Pastor

December 2nd (by Zoom only) - Jane Adams + Pastor



Carol and Barb Bookhart attended a called meeting (by zoom) of the NC Presbytery on March 6th. The meeting was called to examine Myles Thompson for ordination and installation as Pastor of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church, and to receive him into membership. After examination and discussion, the motion to accept was approved.

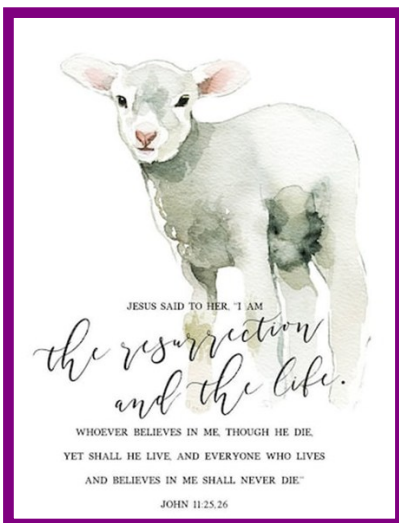
The Session approved a motion to create a Memorial Fund in which to deposit any memorials or donations in honor of someone. It will be a special fund, not part of the annual budget. Donations may or may not be designated for a specific purpose/project. The Session will be responsible for managing this fund. Barbara Montazella will work with one of the Deacons, on the details for managing thank you notes to those who donate.

Emails: **Pastor:** pastornewcov@gmail.com

Clerk: clerk.ncpc24@gmail.com

Office Administrator: newcov.office2@gmail.com

*Yours in Christ,
Pat Wright, Clerk*



Worship



Holy Week



Palm Sunday

April 13th

Procession of Palms

Maundy Thursday

April 17th
7 pm

Communion/Reflection
on Christ's Sacrifice



Good Friday

April 18th

Time to Pray/Reflect and
Give Thanks

Easter Sunday

April 20th

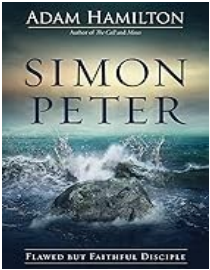
Easter Breakfast (8:30) and
Resurrection Worship



Barbara Montazella
Worship Elder

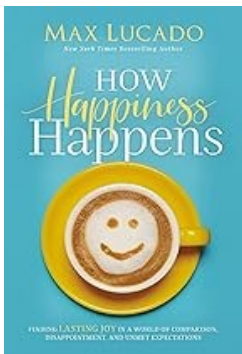
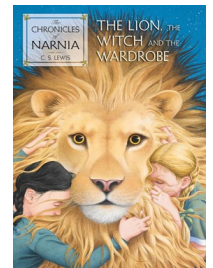
Christian Education Report

Weekly Christian Education Classes



Adult Christian Education continues on Sunday mornings at 8:30 in the Pastor's study and on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 there as well (with a zoom attendance option). We completed our study of the book *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton, using the book, DVD and leaders guide. Many people have commented that this particular study has been very enlightening. We wonder how we have never heard many of the things Hamilton is teaching us.

We have begun a 3-Week study of Part 2 of the *Chronicles of Narnia* series, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis. This study is most appropriate during Lent as we get close to the end of Christ's life. This study will run for the last three weeks of Lent beginning on Sunday March 30th/Tuesday April 1st and will conclude on Sunday April 13th/Tuesday April 15th (Palm Sunday) It will be led by Pat Wright and Barbara Bookhart.



After Easter, we will begin a new study which should take us until our summer break. It is by Max Lucado and its title is *How Happiness Happens, Finding Lasting Joy in a World of Comparison, Disappointment, and Unmet Expectations*. Here is something to whet your whistle:

Do you feel happy? How long has it been since you felt a level of contagious, infectious, unflappable, unstoppable happiness? Maybe your answer is "I feel that way all the time. If so, God bless you! But for many of us, the answer is: "Well, it's been a while. I used to be happy, but then life took its toll."

If this topic sounds interesting to you, let Jane or Carol know so that we can order you a book. The study is accompanied by a DVD.

The Bethel class is taking a break until Skip Leeson returns to DE.



Christian Ed Report (Cont'd)

From the Porch

“Home”

Home

- the place you love to be and enjoy; a place one calls their own
- the place you find peace within its walls and feel God’s presence.
- the place to rest your head
- the place of solitude, and comfort

Home

- a place where a warm meal and families welcomes you
- a place where to welcome friends and strangers.
- a place where you share a meal and fellowship.

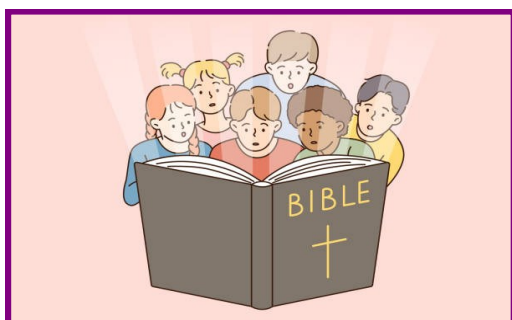
Home is a destination. It has an address, an identity, and a personality of its own. Wherever it may be, all roads lead to the front door. Home can be temporary or a more permanent place. We’ve known friends who have lived in ten or more locations. We on the other hand have spent almost fifty years rooting ourselves, like a giant oak tree, to the property God gave us to nurture. As with others, we have, at times, felt the nudge to move to a new destination, to a new address, and one with a new identity where we can sow the seeds of God’s good news.

Regardless of our earthly address we call home and how many times we move, ultimately, our road and our journey in life leads to a new heavenly home. This home whose address awaits us, is one that is already prepared for us, a place of rest, a place of comfort, a place where all our needs are met, a place where the door is always open, and a place where the morning light shines through the windows and washes over us.

So, in our journey of life some roads are rocky, some are smooth sailing, some are unbearable, while others are pleasant. If we stay on the right path we will eventually arrive home. We just need to keep pressing forward.

Let your eyes look directly forwards, and your gaze be straight before you. Keep straight the path of your feet, and all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.
Proverbs 4:25-27

**Jane Adams,
Christian Education Elder**



Mission Report

Our Daily Bread: We served 184 meals on First Friday, in March. ODB has lost 2 major grants due to the cutback in social programs by the federal government. (suspension of the “Emergency Food and Shelter” program and cutbacks in funding to Food Banks in the US). This may or may not impact our 1st Friday mission but for now we will continue as usual. ODB is trying out a new program aimed at Saturdays. They are testing out a project to prepare sandwiches on Saturday to be placed in the community refrigerator on Saturdays and Sundays. They are looking for volunteers (group or individuals) to make sandwiches (approx. 1.5hr on Sat morn.) and are also looking for sponsors who can help cover the cost. If anyone is interested please contact me (Pat Wright - newcov.office@gmail.com).



Neighborhood House: We continue to collect non-perishable food items for Neighborhood House. There is a constant need for spaghetti/pasta sauce and jelly but any non-perishable food item is welcomed with open arms. The suspension of the federal “Emergency Food and Shelter” program may impact Neighborhood House’s programs.

Kenya Mission Trip: Nancy and Paul are again planning their next mission trip to Kenya in May this year. They participated in the DO MORE 24 a state wide on-line fundraising platform for non-profit organizations.



The One Great Hour of Sharing special offering: This special offering began March 23rd and will run through April 20th, Easter Sunday. In Isaiah 58, God calls us to be repairers of the breach. For Isaiah, the primary breach was between God and his people. That breach takes on human form in oppression, injustice, hunger, homelessness and affliction. In Isaiah 58, we are called upon to repair the brokenness. We are to shout, announce, loose, undo, break, cover, house and share. We are called to repair the brokenness by putting our faith into action – pray, welcome, unmask, hear, work and give.

The opposite of faith is said to be **fear, not doubt**. Doing the work, sowing the seeds through our giving that will transform fear into hope. That work can look like many things-offering shelter in the face of natural disasters, providing economic support in the face of poverty and providing food in the face of hunger. If we answer the call to be repairers of the breach, we will by God’s grace, be led into a new season of justice, freedom, and peace. For when we do a little it adds up to a lot. This offering supports: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Presbyterian Committee on Self Development of People.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

We are celebrating Christmas in July again with packing shoeboxes at the Fellowship Hour on July 13th. Start doing your shopping now to be able to “stuff” the boxes with lots of goodies that day. Shopping list:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| School supplies | Soft plush animal |
| Comb/hairbrush | Tshirts |
| Toothbrush | Socks |
| Small toys | No soap, liquids, food or war toys |

Pat Wright, Mission Elder

Trustee Report

The Trustee Meetings are open to all and is normally scheduled each month on the 2nd Sunday after worship and fellowship time. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 13 Apr 2025.



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.

In the near future, we will be installing one new LED light-head in our parking lot to see how it works out before we invest in additional light-heads. This may need additional financial help since this could be a Capital Expense, but not sure at this time.



We are discussing a new entrance sign to be put up letting everyone know how to get into our church property, since the road changes have been made in the development next to us.

If there are any questions or comments you would like to make, please let us know. You can use my e-mail address: al.grimminger@icloud.com

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

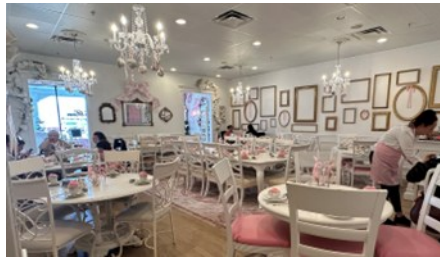


Deacon Ministry & Fellowship

The deacons strive to care for our congregation through our Shepherding Ministry. Every person in the congregation is cared for by an elder and deacon who partner to be their shepherds. The shepherds assist the pastor in ensuring that all know they are loved.

The other thing deacons do at NCPC is organize and hold Fellowship Events. Here are some of our highlights this spring:

March 12th Ladies Tea Party at the Wee Fancy Tea Room in Glasgow



March 16th International Dinner with food from China, Jamaica, Hungary, Italy, Ireland and Korea. Fun Was enjoyed by all!



April 4-6th God's Power and Light Company will present "Children of Eden" at The Everett Theatre, 47 W. Main St. Middletown, DE. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 7:30PM, Sunday matinee at 2PM. You can see or call Cheryl for Tickets or visit the Everett Theatre for online tickets. Open seating. Adult \$16.00 and Students 2-18 \$12.00. Several church members are in this production.

Easter Breakfast Join your friends for a Continental Breakfast at 8:30 am.
April 20th Everyone is invited to bring their favorite dish to share.



April 30th & May 21st, 4-7 pm Food trucks in our parking lot – *Out of the Ordinary* with Chef Robert Yalley. Please share this info with family, friends and neighbors. Come and bring your appetite!

May 17th Progressive Dinner

This is one of the highlights of the church calendar - a time to connect with friends in different settings and of course great food. It's a chance to meet people in smaller groups and have some good conversations.



**Skip Leeson and Cheryl Shields,
Your deacon leaders**



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. Genesis 2:15

Wendell Berry wrote a book of essays called *What Are People For?* The Bible suggests an answer to that question. In Genesis we find several places where God gives human beings things to do. For instance, after finishing his creative work in Genesis 1 and declaring it very good, God places human beings in a garden with gardening responsibilities. God gives Adam and Eve responsibility for a specific part of God's creation. In a broader sense, God's action conferred on all people a basic task in this world. In Hebrew terms, we are to *abad* and *shamar* God's garden.



These wonderfully common words describe common activities. There is nothing mysterious about them. The Hebrew term "abad" is the root of words related to "service". As a noun, it refers to as a servant and as a verb, it means "to serve". *Shamar* means "to protect" or "to keep". The famous blessing that the descendants of Aaron were to pronounce over the people of Israel (and that ends many of our worship services) uses the word *shamar*, "The Lord bless you and keep you." Think of those words that resonantly describe their meaning as: serve and preserve, enhance and protect, or tend and keep. Our God-given task in the world is to serve and preserve God's garden.

From the standpoint of stewardship, this makes a fundamental difference in the way Christians live in the world. Rather than seeing the whole world as created for our use, we are placed in the world as caretakers to serve the creation – to enhance and protect its capacity to glorify God.

Sometimes this makes so much sense. During an early morning hike through a field or a forest or the local park, there is a sweetness in the sky, air and land that reminds us of our task to nurture and protect creation. When backyard gardeners get down on hands and knees to tend their garden, it is easy to see the close connection between working the soil and prayer. Prayer and work are the mainstays of every gardener. They become one and the same thing.

But what about the time when we feel disconnected from the creation? Many of us spend most of our lives in offices, warehouses and malls surrounded by concrete and asphalt. Sometimes it seems as if the natural world simply provides the raw stuff with which we live our "real" lives. Some people spend more time in the virtual world of cyberspace than in the real world of God's creatures.

Sadly, Christians have justified exploiting the creation instead of tending it by considering humans as the center and crown of creation. Doesn't Psalm 8 says that we are created just a little less than God, with all things placed under our feet? Weren't we given dominion over the earth? Isn't creation "for us"?

Such questions confront us with the fundamental meaning of Christian stewardship. The earth is the Lord's. As Jesus noted, those who would be great must be servants. Our greatness is in our task of caring for God's glorious creation. Our greatness is in serving God by serving the creation and enhancing its capacity to praise and glorify its creator.

God's world is beautiful, full of potential and rich in possibilities. For whom and for what purposes do we tend it?

Barbara Bookhart
Finance & Stewardship Elder

Outreach

Are we recognizing that we cannot do what we used to do. Are we facing a change, a future with unknowns? We can begin by reviewing and revising. We can recognize what we can do and act to accomplish as the Spirit guides. As we act with obedience and with love, we will glorify God. Changing old behaviors to new behaviors, is often referred to as "behavior modification".

Sure, there are elders who are more determined than ever to hold on to lifestyles to which they have grown accustomed and continue to treasure. But if we're honest, don't we know people in their 40s - or even their 20s - who do the same thing? The ability and desire to change are *not* age-determined. They are a function of an individual's curiosity, flexibility, confidence, and courage. Personality traits that can be developed at any time and, in fact, are more likely to *grow* as we age.



The above message is on a reusable tote bag I received at a Presbyterian retreat. One explanation is that grace is a disposition or an inclination in the nature of God. So the message on the tote is that we are sparked by Grace. God's gift of **Grace** helps us **Transform** the church. Romans 12:2 states, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." This verse highlights the importance of actively changing our thought patterns and to align with God's will.

We plan to begin our Outreach with Food Trucks again beginning on April 30th and May 21st (4:30 pm –7:00 pm) and perhaps more during the summer months. We will place a table right next to the Out of the Ordinary food truck in our parkin lot. We may offer a free gift of a flower with ribbon, a pen with our name or other item that will include a message such as "Jesus Loves you". The gift will include our informational brochure. We will work with our Social Media Director, Frank Cerniglia to promote our event. We have other ideas that are still in the making. Contact anyone on the outreach committee with suggestions.



Offering from the food truck - cheese steak and fries.

TOGETHER WE GROW AND MEET NEEDS

Beverly Cook, Outreach Elder

Ivonne Bernal, Beth Kramer, Alayne Fitzpatrick

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.

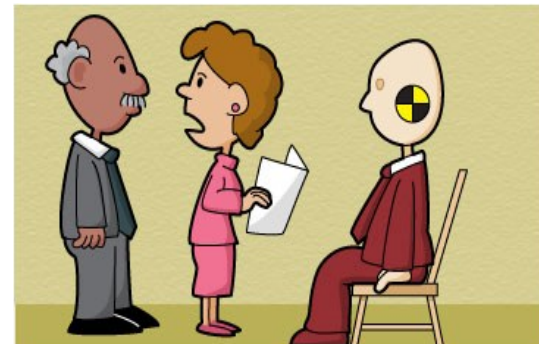


The coin toss: By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. “Why are you so late?” asked his friend. “I couldn’t decide between going to church and going to the football game. So I tossed a coin,” said Bobby. “But that shouldn’t have taken too long.” said the friend. “Well, I had to toss it 35 times.”

Sandwiches and weddings: A Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest were good friends. At a picnic one day, the priest was eating a ham sandwich. “You know,” he said to his friend, “this ham sandwich is delicious. I know you’re not supposed to eat ham, but I don’t understand why such a good thing would be forbidden. When will you break down and try it?” To which the rabbi replied, “At your wedding.”

Top 10 reasons God made Eve:

1. God was worried that Adam would frequently become lost in the garden because he would not ask for directions.
2. God knew that one day Adam would require someone to locate and hand him the remote.
3. God knew Adam would never go out and buy himself a new fig leaf when his wore out and would therefore need Eve to buy one for him.
4. God knew Adam would never be able to make a doctor, dentist or haircut appointment for himself.
5. God knew Adam would never remember which night to put the garbage on the curb.
6. God knew if the world was to be populated, men would never be able to handle the pain and discomfort of childbearing.
7. As the Keeper of the Garden, since he didn't have metal sheds or greenhouses, Adam would never remember where he left his tools.
8. Apparently, Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden.
9. As the Bible says, “It is not good for man to be alone!”
10. When God finished the creation of Adam, he stepped back, scratched his head and said, “I can do much better than that!”



This church bulletin should be safe.
I tried it on the crash test dummy.