

# New Covenant Connection

## New Covenant Presbyterian Church

“A Church Family – A Church Home”



March 2018 Volume 27

### New Covenant Church

#### Ministers

The Congregation

#### Assistant to the Ministers

Interim Pastor Rev. Jeffrey Howard

Accompanist: Jenny Hugh

Music Director: Ken Hudson

#### Session

Skip Leeson, Clerk	449-1942	Clerk
Barbara Montazella	845-813-1374	Worship
Susan Pedersen	378-0902	Evangelism
Carole A. McBride	378-5359	Christian Ed.
Sandy Boyce	378-2902	Personnel
Paul Willbanks	410-829-9161	Mission
Ben Urban	376-844	Stewardship
Pam Leeson	449-1942	Congregation Life

#### Deacons

Alice Megonigal	2020	376-6172
Melissa Padgett	2021	610-554-4488
Laura Pedersen	2022	378-0902
Don Bauer	2020	378-2317
Landa Lindgren	2021	378-0914
Kathy Henry	2022	832-5510

#### Trustees

Alan Pedersen	2021	378-0902
Tom Kimble	2020	376-1770
Al Grimminger	2019	378-2252

#### Church Information

Church Phone 378-4446  
 Pastor's Home Phone 319-1511  
 CCLI license 649817  
 Treasurer, Cyndi Daniels 299-5373  
 Worship Service 10 a.m. Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

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



“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:20 NIV



### COME CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK AT NEW COVENANT CHURCH

*Palm Sunday – March 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.*

*Maundy Thursday – March 29<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.*

*Easter Sunday Sunrise Service – April 1st 6:45 a.m.*

*with breakfast following at 9:00 a.m.*

*Easter Sunday – April 1st 10:00 a.m.*

Palm Sunday will be a Sunday service of waving palms and uplifting music which precedes the coming somber Holy Week and glorious Easter Sunday. Palms will be distributed and please be sure to take one to any shut-in who may not be able to attend a Palm Sunday service.

Both our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services will include special Choir music and a Drama Ministry Team presentation.

Maundy Thursday service will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The final act of this service is the evocative stripping of the worship place. This is most effectively done in silence and in an unhurried pace. All candles, flowers, cloths and vessels are removed. The stark, bare, unadorned church now reflects Jesus ‘abandonment at Gethsemane. The church is dressed again for Easter.

This year we celebrate with two Easter services. One as a Sunrise service and the second at our normal Sunday service time. There will be a light breakfast available in the Christian Education building to attendees after the sunrise service.

March 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**\*Special Dates\***

- \* March 02, 2018 World Day of Prayer
- \* March 11, 2018 Daylight Savings Begins
- \* March 17, 2018 St. Patrick's Day
- \* March 20, 2018 First Day of Spring
- \* March 25, 2018 Palm Sunday
- \* March 29, 2018 Maundy Thursday
- \* March 30, 2018 Good Friday



Only a short month until our annual Progressive Dinner. Saturday, April 7th, at 4:30 PM we start at the home of Jane and Mike Adams for appetizers and to get the assigned homes for the different courses for our meals. We need host/hostess homes for the salad and main courses. Sign up sheets will be in the back of the church. We need everyone that is planning on attending to sign up and if you are able to serve a course you can indicate that as well. It has always been a wonderful night of fellowship and good food! See you there!

*Submitted by Pam Leeson, Congregation Life Team*



**Worship Ministry Team**

The month of March is entirely in the Lenten season and our paraments are purple as a reminder to dedicate ourselves to the coming of Christ. Lent is observed for 40 days and then changes to the Easter season until Pentecost.

Maundy Thursday is historically celebrated in a somber atmosphere in preparation for Good Friday. A special service is being planned for Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and includes the transformation to an unadorned church.

This year New Covenant will be holding an Easter Sunrise service outside of the church. It will begin at 6:45 a.m. on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairs will be available on the lawn.

A breakfast will be offered at 9:00 a.m. in the Christian Education Building in between services. Our regularly scheduled Sunday service will still be held at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

*Submitted for Barbara Montazella, Worship Elder*



**PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The first meeting of the Pastor Search Committee was held on January 14, 2018. Donna Casey and Brian Lindgren were named co-chairs of the committee, Alice Megonigal as Correspondence Secretary, Joan Sabbato as Minutes Secretary and Nancy Carol Willis as Editor of the Mission Study Document. Information gathering has begun in all areas that will be informative and of interest to a possible pastoral candidate. We want to create the interest and desire to relocate to Middletown and join our church family. Don't be surprised if you are approached for your own ideas and suggestions via a survey to the congregation which will be coming your way soon!

On February 11 we met to review the information gathered so far. The areas we have researched are: Membership; Worship and Attendance; Community Information and Concerns; Educational Programs and Additional Programs and Missions; Property Information about who uses our facility, etc.; A complete list of our Missions--both inside and outside of our church; reports from all three boards, i.e. Elders, Deacons & Trustees and an explanation about the Technology we use to operate New Covenant Presbyterian Church and last, but not least is the financial sustainability for calling a pastor.

We will update you monthly right here in New Covenant Connections! Our next meeting will be March 11. Please keep your church and the Pastor Search Committee in your prayers that we find the specific person God has already chosen to lead us into the future.

Submitted by Joan Sabbato, Minutes Secretary

***THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: GOD DID NOT START LOVING US BECAUSE OF WHAT WE WERE, AND HE WILL GO ON LOVING US IN SPITE OF WHAT WE ARE.***



## BIBLE QUIZ

According to Matthew's account, what was torn when Jesus died?

- A. Mary's headdress; she tore it as a traditional sign of grief
- B. A Roman guard's sash; Peter grabbed and ripped it in anger
- C. Jesus' robe; the soldiers divided it among themselves
- D. The temple curtain; torn in two from top to bottom

(Answer from February: **E** All of the above. See Romans 8: 38-39.)



A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. One Great Hour of Sharing, received during the season of Lent (February 14 – March 31), makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Look for the special giving envelopes in the Sunday Bulletins or in the pews.

*Submitted for Paul Willbanks, Missions Elder*

**"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."**

**—St. Catherine of Siena**



## NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

The March donation schedule is for pasta of all kinds spaghetti; macaroni; vermicelli; etc. Plus, jars of sauce would be a perfect match for a hearty meal.

Thank you everyone for your soup donations last month. We had a successful drive that matched the Eagles drive to victory!

This month's donations can be placed in the Neighborhood House box by the sanctuary coat rack.

Thank you all for helping our community!

*Submitted by Jane Adams, Neighborhood House coordinator*

## Deacon's News



Deacon and Elder training was held prior to the Deacon meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Jeff Howard led the training with video and printed material from "Theocademy" entitled "Being Presbyterian,

Preparation for Ordered Ministry".

Immediately following the training, the Deacons' meeting was held with the newly elected members. Landa Lindgren read the minutes and edits were made to a few items. It was agreed that the Deacon contact for transportation needs would be posted on the Deacon bulletin board in the sanctuary. Melissa Padgett offered to donate a small cabinet to hold specifically all of the Deacon materials. Rev. Howard agreed it could be kept either in his office or in the secretary's office. The purchase of specialized post cards was discussed as well as revised "New Member" bags. Our list of prayer concerns was reviewed and updated. The next meeting will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Submitted by Alice Megonigal, Deacon Moderator*



3/3 Brenden Kirk 3/27 Kyle Rawding



3/1 Nancy Carol Willis and Paul Willbanks

**A Merry Heart Doeth Good  
Like a Medicine  
Proverbs 17:22**

When my granddaughter Keilei was eight, she asked me, “Grandma, does God answer prayers?” “Yes, he does,” I replied. Then she asked, “Will he give you whatever you ask for?” Again, I replied yes. Then Keilei lifted her arms and yelled, “Thank you, Jesus! Grandma’s getting me a dog!”

I do five sit-ups every morning. That may not sound like much, but there are only so many times I can hit the snooze button.

**Pete:** Why did the Easter egg hide?

**Harry:** He was a little chicken.



Good catch, Lord! You flagged me before I inserted my Target card into the ATM slot.

My goal was to lose 10 pounds this year. Only 15 pounds to go.

We were sitting at the table for a meal and my wife and sister we discussing recipes. When a dump cake was suggested, my four-year old daughter, Hannah, announced, “Yuck, that has trash in it!”

How many animals’ backs did we jump on before we figured out that horses are OK with it?

Apparently, you can’t use “beef stew” as a password. It’s not stroganoff.

I took part in the sun tanning Olympics...but I only got bronze.

**Q:** Why is it hard to talk to a ram?

**A:** He keeps butting in.

The energizer bunny was arrested on the charge of battery.

While carrying three-year old Matthew up the stairs, I told him, “Just think, when you get older you can carry me up the stairs.” He thought about this, and then, with a worried look, he asked, “Will you be any smaller?”

Phorism: a short, pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation or a general truth.

1. Why is it that at class reunions...you feel younger than everyone else looks?
2. There are no new sins...the old ones just get more publicity.
3. No one ever says “It’s only a game” ...when their team is winning.
4. The trouble with bucket seats is that...not everybody has the same size bucket.
5. Scratch a cat (or a dog) ...and you will have a permanent job.
6. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

**Q:** What disease do chickens dread the worst?

**A:** Peoplepox.

*Denial:* A river in Egypt.

**Marty:** What goes up white and comes down yellow and white?

**Sue:** It’s unknown to me.

**Marty:** An egg when you toss it in the air.

**Q:** How are computers like soldiers?

**A:** They all have to boot up.

I’ve always thought that my neighbors were nice people. But then they put a password on their Wi-Fi.



Ta-da! Lord, thanks to you I found my car keys – in the ignition. Fortunately, the car was still in the garage.

**Susie:** I’ve found a marvelous way to eliminate wrinkles!

**Annie:** Tell me!

**Susie:** I take off my glasses when I look in the mirror.

I was third in line at the checkout, and the lady at the cashier was buying basic items. Two cans of cat food, a can of tuna, a loaf of bread, a quart of milk, and a package of cookies. Her money was in her hand as the cashier gave her the total. She was 86 cents short. She checked her purse to no avail. “I can put something back,” she said. The man ahead of me reached into his pocket, palmed a dollar, bent down as if to pick something up, and said, “I think you dropped this.”



## **From the Pastor's Desk, March 2018**

Dear New Covenant Church,

As I write this letter I am preparing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I have worked with a group of seven people who will walk in the very footsteps of Jesus. Preparation is necessary so that we understand what we see before we go.

Preparation is the theme of Lent. Moses spent 40 days fasting before God gave him the Ten Commandments. Jesus also spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry on earth. And we will spend 40 days, excluding Sundays, preparing ourselves for the events of Holy Week when Jesus was tried, crucified, buried, and the triumphantly raised from the dead. Lent begins with a reminder of our own mortality with Ash Wednesday. And concludes with Christ contemplating his own mortality on Palm Sunday.

Lent is a somber journey set aside for spiritual renewal. That is why we are focusing on the Ten Commandments this season. Through this, we will receive wisdom from God for how best to live our lives. Join us on Sundays at 10 am as we look at these ten principles for living a good life.

Holy Week will begin on Palm Sunday, March 25 when we will gather in the sanctuary at 10 am to remember Jesus entry into Jerusalem to begin the final week of his life. On March 29 we will gather around the communion table to remember the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples. Our Maundy Thursday service will begin at 7 pm on March 29.

And then, on April 1, we will join some women at Jesus tomb with a Sunrise Service at 6:45 am (this is not an April Fools Joke) on the lawn in front of the church. Stay for breakfast and attend our traditional service at 10 am.

May all of God's blessings be with you this Lenten season.

Pastor Jeff

*"Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments." (Exodus 34:28)*



## NEW COVENANT CHURCH NEWS FROM THE PEWS

*“Greater love than this no man hath.”*

This basically is what it’s all about. How great a love God had for us to send his only son to redeem us, to help pay back all the debts that we had run up. And how great a love Christ has to give his life for us on the cross to help us understand more fully the meaning of that word “love” and exactly how much his Father loved us.

We are now in the season of Lent. In these few weeks we try to re-enact much of the life, as well as the death of Christ. We can learn many things through these times!

Everyday during this season and for the rest of the year we have a chance to give back a little of what has been give to us. There are a number of ways to show our love. We can do this by working for a charitable organization, giving to the mission causes, or to our church. Just through our example, by a smile in our daily chores, by a cheerful hello, by an extra special favor...giving generously our time, our money, or our talents.

Our job is no easier than Christ’s job was. We must learn to live every day, and to give every day to add our little bit to that which Christ gave to us during that Easter season long ago.

*Stewardship is faithfully handling the possessions God has provided, and regularly giving a worthy portion to support the ministry of God’s church. Have you ever met anyone who really had their “heart set to give,” who did not testify that he or she was the one who benefited by the giving? It is in giving that we truly receive.*

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### WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,  
The falling of a tear,  
The upward glancing of an eye  
When none but God is near.

—James Montgomery

*(Source: The Newsletter, March 2006)*

**Craig Schafer** is at home recovering now. He appreciates the prayers and cards he has received.

**Congratulations** to **Laura Pedersen** who moved into her new home in Middletown! We wish you an uneventful move and many hears of happiness.

**Don Bauer** had his trach replaced and is very happy with the new one since it is easier for him to manage.

**Janet Glaser** has returned from her family visit but brought along a cold! Her brother is in assisted living.

**Carol McBride** is traveling to visit family and friends and Don asked for traveling mercies for her.

**Jacalynn Easter** sold Girl Scout cookies in the sanctuary for her troop. If you are still interested, please contact her for any leftovers!

**Pam Leeson’s** mother broke her hip and asked for our prayers in her recovery

**Ruth Vicari, Pam Kidd’s mother,** celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday Ruth!

**Cody Varnes** is an expecting father! Congratulations to the entire family.

**Don and Judy Cooke** are visiting family and friends in the warm south! Best wishes for a safe trip.

**Alice and Bob Megonigal** are also traveling south and hope to avoid the last snowstom of the season!

**Rev. Scott Burkley and Dottie** are taking a trip to Pigeon Forge, TN to visit their son and his family, then off to Williamsburg, VA to visit their daughter.

**Mark Urban** is at Fort Gordon until May 2018. He would love to receive mail at:  
PFC Urban, Mark  
Charlie Co, 551 Sig Bn 15<sup>th</sup> Reg Sig Brig  
Fort Gordon, GA 30905

The **Israel** travelers have returned home. Ask them about their trip and adventures!

## Nurturing Christian Leaders World Mission College of the Greater Washington



Last fall, God gave me a wonderful opportunity to teach Christian education to international students at World Mission College of Greater Washington (<https://www.wmcgw.org/>). World Mission College is an outreach of the Korean churches in Washington and Baltimore. All the students come from Kenya. They arrived with F1 visas with support from their home churches and Kenyan Christians in the U.S. Some of them have their families here while studying. Others are young singles. They study at the bachelor's and master's levels. What I have learned from them is that all are poor. They are different than Korean international students at other universities that I have worked for. Two-thirds of the students do not have personal computers. World Mission College keeps tuition affordable, only \$1300/ per semester, through generous contributions of area churches. And professors work for a very small honorarium.

I knew that New Castle Presbytery had some very talented pastors. So, I invited some as guest teachers. John Paderson, Scott Burkley, and Jeff Howard all taught one class, and two Methodist pastors also participated: Paul Owens, and Roger Fredrick. This semester, I am teaching "Introduction to New Testament" with Randy Otto. It is amazing to realize that God sent these instructors to help me and to have more students this semester.



My prayer is that students can get an internship in an American church. Their English is good and they are very sincere Christians. Randy Otto (Ph.D.) said that "it is not easy to find seminarians who are so sincere about studying God's word". Some pastors from Kenya, who are in my class, will be participating in worship at New Covenant Church on April 22. World Mission College of Greater Washington can only exist through generous contributions of faithful believers and churches. I am so thankful for the scholarships provided by Speer Trust last year. If you have used communters or laptops, please, contact me (302-593-3063). Also I ask for your generous support. Please send your tax deductible contributions to: **World Mission College of the Greater Washington**. May God bless you!

Rev. Dr. Grace Howard, (pulpit supply at New Castle Presbytery & Adjunct Professor, WMCGW)





## THE ROSE PALM

A grandmother and her young granddaughter are walking down a busy city street. They pass by a homeless man. He is sitting against the cold granite wall of a high-rise building. The man doesn't have a sign, or a cup for begging; He is busily making roses from palm leaves. There are three roses beside him.

The grandmother stops and asks if she could buy one of the beautiful handmade roses. The homeless man smiles and says, "For you kind Lady, it is free." The grandmother takes out her purse and gives the homeless man \$5.

As they walk away, the young girl asks her grandmother, "Why did you give him money? He will probably just buy beer and cigarettes."

The grandmother replies, "Dear one, it may be his nature to take the money buy beer and cigarettes, but it is my nature to help a man in need."

*GIVE without expectations or without conditions. Give because it is your nature, not because you want or expect something in return.*

~ Laura Barrette Shannon

SOURCE: <http://truthbook.com/stories/the-power-of-love/the-rose-palm>