

New Covenant Connection
 New Covenant Presbyterian Church
www.newcov-church.org (302)378-4446



Dear friends,

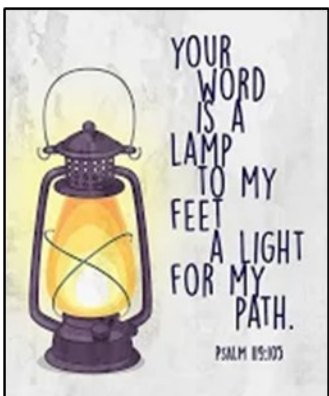
Traditionally, September is the month during which we think about getting back in our routine after a summer break. But it comes to my mind, that too many of us let ourselves off the hook when it comes to the disciplined study of scripture, and the need to continually learn and grow, no matter our age, or what month in which we find ourselves.



So, this month, I invite you to turn your minds and hearts to Psalm 119: 105 which says:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

May you dwell on this verse for the entire month of February and as you discern how to live it out, may the Spirit bless and keep you open and growing in new and different ways.



It is my strong belief and conviction that every Christian disciple who takes their faith journey seriously should be taking part in some sort of opportunity where your faith is stretched and you are learning and growing.

Over the past year, we have seen some growth taking place in the classes we offer on Sunday and Tuesday mornings. It makes me smile to see your commitment to learning increase and we are always open to hearing suggestions of topics that you would like to study. And yet, I understand that these 2 weekly opportunities when we offer classes might not fit into your schedule. But don't give up on learning. Just find another time or place to gather with other learners or do some individual study. Talk to me and I will offer some suggestions.

Just remember that there is no reason that each and every one of us shouldn't be studying in order to grow our relationship with God and to help shape our relationships with each other. No matter what age we are, how could we ever think that we know enough or that we are already close enough to the One who created us?

~continued~

2025

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR ..1

CALENDAR3
 (EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES)

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A Note From Our Pastor (continued)

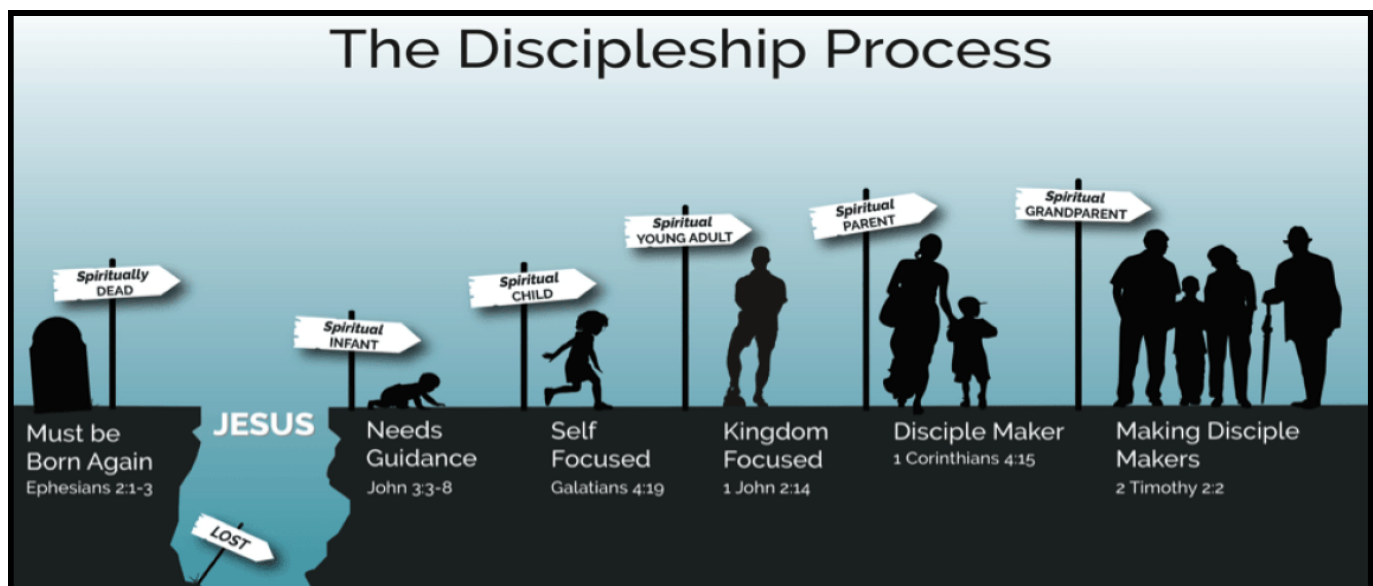
In my recent reading, I came across a quiz that I think could be helpful for all of us. Read over the questions and take the time to reflect on your answers. I honestly believe that these reflective questions could help you discern if you are living in such a way as to truly nurture and grow in your discipleship. Here are the questions:

1. Have you talked to someone about Jesus this week?
2. Have you used your time wisely?
3. Have you taken the time to thank the Lord this week?
4. Have you had quiet times to commune with your Creator?
5. Have your attitude and actions toward your family this week reflected the love of God?
6. Have you said hurtful things about another person, in either private or public, this week?
7. Have you allowed your feelings of anger or resentment toward another fester, without working towards reconciliation?
8. Have you lacked honesty and integrity in any business deals or have you spent your money recklessly, not being a good steward of your God-given blessings?
9. Have you answered all of these questions completely and honestly?








Friends, what are you currently doing to grow in faith? Make a commitment to do more and invite a friend to join you. There is no limit to the possibilities of learning and growing in discipleship! I am committed to deepen the discipleship in our congregation and I hope you will join me and your sisters and brothers in faith. And never forget that the word “disciple” means one committed to learn and grow.

Your partner in ministry,
Carol

Take a look at this diagram of the Discipleship Process and reflect on where you are and where you want to go and grow:



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Groundhog Day 	3 Deacons' Mtg 11:30 am	4	5	6	7 Our Daily Bread 	8
9 Trustee Mtg 11:30 am	10	11	12	13	14 Valentines Day 	15
16 Chili Cook-off and Movie	17 Presidents' Day 	18	19 Session Mtg 1pm	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27		

PLEASE NOTE TIME & DATE CHANGES: DEACONS NOW MEET ON THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10 AM (with some exceptions); TRUSTEES CONTINUE ON THE 2ND SUNDAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP; SESSION NOW MEETS ON THE WEDNESDAY FOLLOWING THE 3RD SUNDAY AT 1 PM (with some exceptions)

EVERY SUNDAY - WORSHIP AT 10 AM; FELLOWSHIP 11AM; CHRIST. ED - SUNDAY(8:30 AM) AND TUESDAY (10:30 AM)

- 2/2 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Communion & ODB Offering
Groundhog Day
- 2/3 Deacons' Meeting
Carol L. McBride—Birthday
- 2/7 Our Daily Bread
Kylie Fitch—Birthday
- 2/8 Beverly Cook—Birthday
- 2/9 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Trustee Meeting

- 2/12 Janet Grimminger—Birthday
Kathy Henry—Birthday
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/16 6th Sunday after Epiphany
- 2/19 Session Meeting
- 2/23 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Let's Celebrate!

TAKE NOTE: A NEW LOST AND FOUND BOX RESIDES UNDER THE COAT RACK IN THE EDUCATION BUILDING. IF YOU FIND SOMETHING, PLEASE PUT IT THERE. IF YOU ARE MISSING SOMETHING, TAKE A LOOK.



Reports from the Clerk and Trustees

CLERK'S REPORT

The Session's regular Stated meeting was held on Wednesday January 22nd.
The next stated session meeting will be February 19th.

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

Fri. Feb. 28–Sat. Mar. 1: (in person) Bay Retreat, Hyatt Place, Dewey Beach, DE

Sat. May 17th Ocean City, MD (Hybrid)

Sat. Sep. 20th TBD (Hybrid)

Tue. Dec. 2 (via Zoom only) Jane Adams, commissioner

Carol and Barbara Montazella gave us a report of the presbytery meeting in January whose purpose was to install the Moderator and Vice Moderator and all enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Chestertown Church.

The 2025 Bay Retreat is coming up. Topic: Fearless Dialogues—new and unique ways through art, music and unusual hospitality to create spaces for dialogue between unlikely partners. Goal—to work toward transformation and change in self and other.

Membership is at 49 due to the death of Norma Dunn in 2024.

Email addresses: Please note the new email addresses for the church office and for the treasurer. Try to direct your communications to the appropriate address. If you are unable, use the new church Office address. This will be checked on a regular basis and if necessary, forwarded to the appropriate individuals. We hope this will make electronic communications smoother and more efficient.

Clerk: ncpc24@gmail.com Office: newcov.office2@gmail.com **NEW**

Pastor: pastornewcov@gmail.com Treasurer: treasurernewcov@gmail.com **NEW**

Yours in Christ, Pat Wright, Clerk

TRUSTEE REPORT:

The Trustee Meetings are open to all and is normally scheduled each month on the 2nd Sunday after Worship. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 9 Feb 2025.

The new LARGE screen for our sanctuary ILO of the 4 smaller screens, has been installed, is in good working order, and is much appreciated. Come see how it looks.

The one heater/AC in the Fellowship Room will be completely insulated and closed off. We may wait until the spring of 2025 to complete this.

The use of our hand-held mic for our Children's Message has proven to be a good addition to our service.

As stated before, the completion of our new entrance to our church is still in the process of being completed. It is noted that the snow removal to our parking lot was completed without any problems.

We are in the process of extending the grass cutting contract for the next two years on our property.

With all the developments going on around our church we need to look at additions to enhance security around our property. **Your Friendly Trustees,**

Al Grimminger, Bill Shields, & Bob Megonigal

Mission & Fellowship Reports

Our Daily Bread: We served 156 meals at our First Friday meal in January. In addition to providing 7 hot meals each week, the Our Daily Bread Dining Room, maintains a Community refrigerator and freezer. These are stocked with donated food, food rescued from local stores and restaurants and any extra meals that are left over from the meal service. The community is welcome to take what they need, when they need it, 24/7. ODB is there to serve anyone who is hungry. There are no questions and no means test. ODB is a vital part of our Mathew 25 Mission.



Neighborhood House: We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Neighborhood House. They provide food for people in the community who have urgent need. They need a 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.



Special Offerings: Our next offering will be the One Great Hour of Sharing which will begin with Lent in March. This offering helps support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People program (restore streets to live in, share bread with the hungry and loose the bonds of injustice).

Pat Wright, Mission Elder

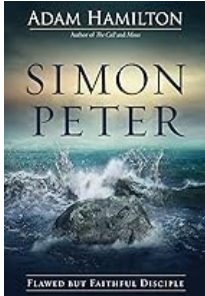
FELLOWSHIP IN FEBRUARY 2/16 at 5 pm—Chili Cookoff

On Sunday, 1/19, we had planned to have our Annual Chili Cookoff. But that was not to be since the Eagles ended up in the playoffs and have even become Super Bowl contenders. So, we rescheduled the event for Feb. 16! Come one and all and let Cheryl know if you want to enter the contest for best chili or cornbread. Of course, salads and desserts are always a delight at NCPC. Can't wait to join you for this fun event! And we even have a movie scheduled after dinner.



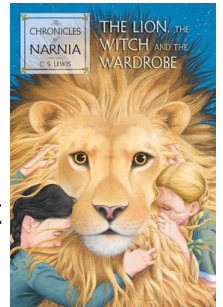
Christian Education Report

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 are presently studying the book *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton, using the book, DVD and leaders guide.

Back by popular demand and planning ahead: We will delve into the 2nd half of the Narnia Chronicles book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. This study will happen for several weeks in the season of Lent and will be led by Pat Wright and Barbara Bookhart.



Skip Leeson continues to teach the Bethel series to adults following fellowship time each Sunday. Let him know if you are interested in participating.



The Greek word translated as “disciple” comes from the verb that means “to learn.” That means, disciples are learners, students, or pupils, and they spend their time and resources learning, studying, and training. Disciples strive to adhere to the teachings of another, meaning they willingly submit to the instruction and guidance of whom they have chosen to follow.

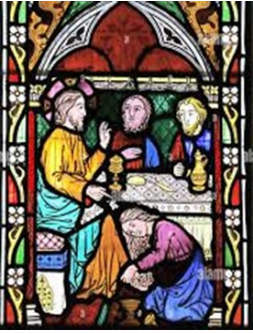
Jesus called his disciples to follow him, meaning learn his ways and live what he teaches. Following Jesus meant imitating his way of life and embracing his mission. Jesus invested in his disciples by allowing them to know him, learn from him, and ultimately take up his mission on earth – make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). In their uniqueness and in their specific context, Jesus’ disciples chose to be in relationship with Jesus so that others would come to know who Jesus is and could embrace a relationship with Jesus.

May we each strive to be a faithful disciple of our Lord.

**Jane Adams,
Christian Education Elder**

Stewardship & Finance Report

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. John 12:1-3



In St. Hedwig Catholic Church in Detroit, a stained-glass window depicts Mary caressing Jesus' feet with her hair. It is a highly sensual scene. Some have suggested that the stained-glass window should have a maturity rating like the one assigned to movies.

In any culture, what Mary does is scandalous. She approaches Jesus, who is reclining at the table, with a vessel of precious perfume worth approximately a year's wages. She pours it over Jesus' feet, undoes her hair, and massages the perfume into Jesus' skin, thereby creating a pleasing aroma around them both. By doing this she is linking the two of them through scent, the most evocative and provocative of all our senses.

If Jesus were the prim and prudish figure he is often made out to be, he would have told Mary to stop. Instead, Jesus commends her for her actions. His response indicates that acts of love and devotion are by their very nature extravagant – and in some cases, the most extravagant, the more fitting.

This extravagance starts with God. When you look at all the details God put into creating the world we live in and the beauty that surrounds us, you see the extravagance of design and beauty. It should come as no surprise that Jesus does not discourage Mary's extravagant gesture of devotion and love.

Extravagance – pursuing something with holy abandon – has its place. A pastor was giving a presentation in a neighboring church. As he was setting up the presentation, someone from the church came up and asked him what he thought of the communion table. It was six-sided, comprised of triangular oak panels joined expertly together. It had taken countless hours to make and for this, the craftsman had not received a single cent. This was a labor of love, an extravagant act of devotion, and a testimony to the worth-ship of God.

So rather than make Mary the patron saint of scandalous gestures, let us remember her as the patron saint of extravagance in worship. Mary's gift of love should remind us that while a good steward finds occasions for service, for listening and learning, for caring for the poor, a good steward also has an impulse for extravagance directed toward God. That is extravagant giving!



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



A Financial Update:

The **budget for 2024** included **income of \$111,816** and **expenses of \$127,964**, leaving a **projected deficit of \$16,148**. By the end of 2024, we received a **total income of \$118,184.31** and **expenses were \$121,207.08**. **Our actual deficit at the end of 2024 was \$3,022.77**. Thanks to all who helped our giving increase and our expenses to decrease.

Our **2025 Stewardship Drive** generated a **total projected income of \$125,825**. With **projected budgeted expenses of \$132,407**, we have a **projected deficit of \$6,582** for 2025. Let's all do what we can to decrease this deficit. And thanks to all who contribute their time, talents, and in-kind gifts that help our ministry thrive. May God be glorified through our giving.

Outreach Report

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

John is perhaps best known as the “disciple whom Jesus loved.” After John spent much time on earth and many years as the leader of the early Church, his message became basic, “**Love one Another.**”

On February 14th, we celebrate love on Valentines Day. The Heart: The most popular symbol of love, a heart is used to represent the center of emotion, including affection and love, especially romantic love. Candy hearts, also known as Sweethearts, are often printed with messages like "Be Mine", "Kiss Me", "Call Me", "Let's Get Busy", "Miss You", or "I'm Yours".



John’s teaching about love, did not involve cute conversation messages, nor sweet treats. Again, his message became basic as he learned to love the Lord and he encouraged us to do the same.



At our January Session meeting, we were encouraged to persevere through all the issues and reports as we were reminded to love one another and the body of people we serve. After a devotional we prayed for God’s guidance. Like, John, your church leaders have spent many years learning more about the love of God and how to love one another. Your prayers and support encourage all of us to continue with patience, perseverance and love, even in the midst of storms.

And yet, as we heard at our Annual Meeting, 2024 was a good year for New Covenant and we all contributed to make it so.

John said, “Little children, let us love not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” (1 John 3:18) That is a description of **OUTREACH** - When Jesus’ love overflows through us into the lives of others.

The 4th-century theologian Jerome tells a story about the Apostle John. At the end of his life, **John was carried through the congregation saying one thing over and over: “love one another.”** Because if we do that, all else falls into place.

**Together We Grow and Meet Needs,
Beverly Cook, Outreach Elder**

Worship + Valentine Ruminations

JANUARY WAS FULL OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE

We enjoyed 2 special liturgical days in January:

- Epiphany JAN. 6TH
- Baptism of the Lord Sunday — JAN. 12TH

There are no special days to observe in February, but in March we will observe the Transfiguration Sunday on 3/2 and Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday—2/5 with a special worship service. Stay tuned for more details.

Some Valentine Thoughts:

Beyond Candy Hearts & Roses



The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards, candy and flowers. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine’s Day is as good a reminder as any.

Faith’s Role in Love

In *It’s Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27, ESV).

But we can’t love that way without faith, Walsh writes. “I’m not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn’t do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We’re called to love him with more.” That “more,” she explains, involves these paradoxes: “We love with all our heart, even when it’s broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it’s almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don’t understand.”

Even if God’s purposes and plans don’t make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: “When we cannot trace [God’s] hand, we must trust his heart.”

A Suggestion for February: Inhale love. Exhale gratitude.

Frog Corner

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

Don't forget the meaning behind the acronym **RIBBIT** :
Revere, **I**nvoke, **B**less, **I**nspire, and **T**rust in the Lord.



Some Valentine Riddles:

Q: What did one volcano say to another on Valentine's Day?

A: *I lava you!*



Q: How did the phone propose to his girlfriend?

A: *He gave her a ring.*



Q: What did one cat say to another cat on Valentine's Day?

A: *You're purr-fect for me.*



Q: What do you call the world's smallest Valentine card?

A: *A Valentiny.*



Q: What's the most romantic ship?

A: *A relation-ship.*



Q: What do you call a Valentine's Day card from a dog?

A: *A paws-itive, loving one.*



Q: Why did the Valentine get arrested?

A: *For stealing someone's heart.*



Some Groundhog Day Jokes:

Q: How does Punxsutawney Phil greet his parents?

A: *With hogs and kisses.*

Q: Does anyone know a good Groundhog Day joke?

A: *For some reason, I keep hearing the same one over and over again.*

Q: What is a groundhog's favorite drink?

A: *Hole milk.*

Q: Why is it annoying to watch TV with a groundhog?

A: *They hog the remote.*

Q: What does Punxsutawney Phil use to clean his laundry?

A: *Hogwash.*

Valentine's Day



Hope you enjoy
the month of
February!

