



# New Covenant Connection

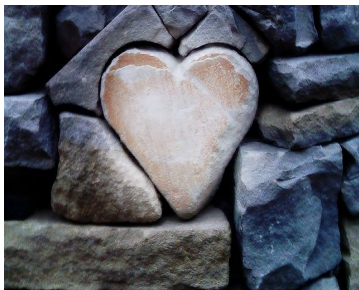
New Covenant Presbyterian Church

[www.newcov-church.org](http://www.newcov-church.org) (302)378-4446

Dear friends,

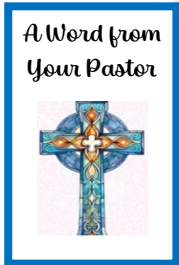
In our Christian Education classes, we have been learning things about Simon Peter that we never knew before. We are enjoying how our study of Adam Hamilton's book, *Simon Peter, Flawed But Faithful Disciple*, points out details about situations and people who are used by God for great purposes, even though they were not perfect.

One of the scriptures used comes from I Peter 2: 4-5: *Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.* We have learned that Jesus himself was a LIVING



STONE, and as we increasingly put our trust in him, we are becoming living stones, built into a spiritual house, or temple, where God dwells. We become a holy priesthood, offering our lives in service to God.

Jesus was sent by his heavenly Father to save all of God's people from sin. He was resolute and never strayed from his mission. He was the Living Stone to which we can look for direction. He was a servant who was stable, strong and reliable, never faltering. That's why I love the image of a stone shaped like a heart, which symbolizes the great love that Jesus had for us. Yes, he had great love for one and all, and he also was willing to give his life for us. A good thought on which to focus and give thanks during the upcoming season of Lent.



2025

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# A Note From Our Pastor (Continued)

As God's living stones, we are more than mere physical stones that don't seem to have much of a purpose. Each of us is unique, with talents and a God-given purpose. We are called to be resilient and adaptable, seeking guidance from the Spirit, and then offering our lives and all that we have to God.



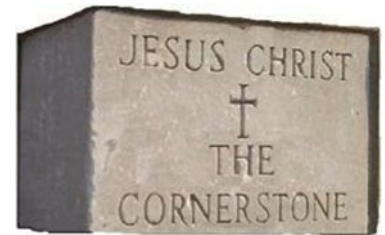
In Bible times, stone city walls had one main purpose - to keep the enemy out and to keep the people inside the walls safe. In some ways, those who belong to God are like a strong wall - not to keep people out, but to keep evil out, and to give people a safe and secure place where they can get to know God and grow in their discipleship.

Unlike the heavy stones that were used to build city walls, we are somewhat different. We are LIVING stones shaped to fit perfectly in the place that God has chosen for us and, together with other believers (stones), we are becoming a spiritual house (temple).

God has made each of us unique and special so that we can use our abilities to help each other. In this way we all need each other and depend on each other. This is what makes the wall (or building) strong - when each of us fills our place and the love between us holds us tightly together. Ephesians 2: 21 says, *In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.*

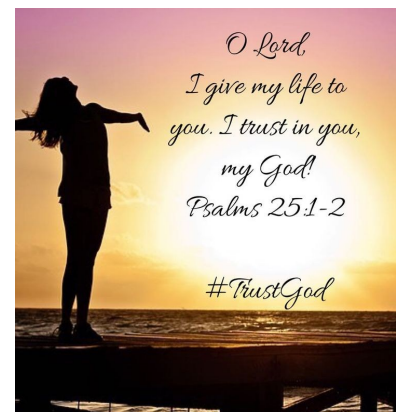
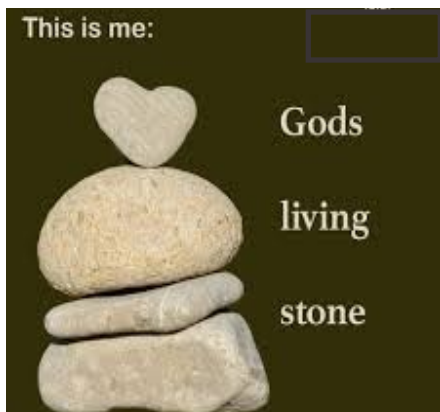
Friends, never forget that Jesus is your cornerstone and he is the cornerstone of the church. Have you ever noticed the cornerstone of our church? Take a look at the entrance of the sanctuary - a good reminder. And use each day of your life to honor the Lord and serve him because he knows your name and you have been chosen by him and are precious to him.

May the example of your life shout out your praise of him as you seek to **BE A FAITHFUL LIVING STONE FOR HIM!**




**Your partner in ministry,**

*Carol*



# MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion	3 Deacons' Mtg 10 am	4	5 Ash Wed. Service 7 pm	6	7 Our Daily Bread	8
9 Trustee Mtg. 11:30am	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 St. Pat's Day 	18	19 Session Mtg. 1pm	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	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  
Paul & Nancy Carol Anniversary
- 3/2 Transfiguration Sunday  
Communion & ODB Special Offering
- 3/3 Deacon's Mtg @ 1pm
- 3/4 John Easter's Birthday
- 3/5 Ash Wednesday  
Bin & Linda Lee Anniversary
- 3/7 First Friday @ Our Daily Bread
- 3/9 1st Sunday of Lent  
Brenden Kirk's Birthday  
Trustee's Mtg @ 11:30am

- 3/14 Matt Miller's Birthday
- 3/16 2nd Sunday of Lent
- 3/19 Jeff Volkman's Birthday  
Session Meeting @ 1 pm
- 3/22 Beth Kramer's Birthday
- 3/23 3rd Sunday of Lent



# Fellowship

**FEBRUARY**      **Sunday, 2/16**      **Chili Cookoff & a Movie**



We gathered for our Annual Chili Cookoff and everyone had a great time. It was delayed due to the Super Bowl but that didn't stop the fun and fellowship at NCPC. Many brought chili, cornbread, sides and desserts. And we even enjoyed a movie afterwards - *The Forge*. It was an inspirational movie about a young man, a year out of high school with no plans for his future. He is able to chart a better course for his life with the help of his mother, some prayer warriors and a mentor who helped him discover God's purpose for his life.



**MARCH**      **March 16th at 5 pm**

We will gather on the 16th for our International Dinner. There is much to which to look forward as we will experience many different flavors, textures and smells which will tickle your nostrils and delight your taste buds. If your background or culture is from a different country, or if you just like to cook an international food, then come and bring a dish to share or just come and enjoy!



# Worship & Trustee Reports

## WORSHIP DURING LENT



All are invited to come and enjoy a quiet, contemplative service on Ash Wednesday. It is meant to be a time of reflection and promise. We 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 April 13th - Palm Sunday. Here is a schedule so that you might prepare yourselves for this holy season:

<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	March 5th	Contemplative Service
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	April 13th	Procession of Palms
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	April 17th	Communion/Reflection on Christ's Sacrifice
<b>Good Friday</b>	April 18th	Time to Pray/Reflect and Give Thanks
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	April 20th	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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Church Service. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 9 Mar 2025.

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. It is insulated and does not concern us with the cold or hot weather.

With all the developments going on around our church we need to look at additional security around our property. As stated last month about this issue, it is still being looked at by your Trustees as to what we may want to do to make sure our people and property will be safe. This is an issue not only with our church, but with other churches in our area.

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](mailto:al.grimminger@icloud.com)

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

# Clerk & Christian Education Report



Session's regular Stated Meeting was held on Tuesday February 19th

- > Approved the Minutes of the 1/22/25 Stated Session meeting
- > Approved the Minutes of the 1/26/25 Congregational Annual Meeting

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

Sat. Jan. 4th (in person) Moderators Installation and Lunch, Chestertown

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

Carol Fisher

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

Sat. Sep. 20 TBD (Hybrid) —

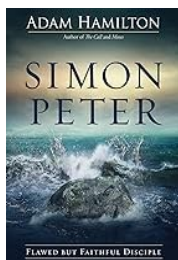
Tue. Dec. 2 (via Zoom only) — Jane Adams

Membership remains at 50.

*Pat Wright,*

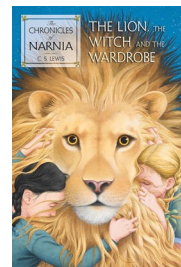
*Clerk of Session*

## 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 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 during the season of Lent. It will run for 3 weeks 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.



Skip Leeson continues to teach the Bethel series to adults following fellowship time each Sunday. These classes will be by Zoom since Skip is in FL for a few months.

**Jane Adams, Christian Education Elder**

# Mission Report

**Our Daily Bread:** We served 194 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 begins with Lent in March. 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.

**PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance):** (2023) \$6.1 million in grants to 27 US states and 46 countries; 131 National Response Team members deployed to 46 presbyteries; 1,837 work team members served in AR, CA, FL, KY, LA, MS, NC, TX and Puerto Rico = 127,755 hours and totaling greater than \$4 million in volunteer time.

**PHP (Presbyterian Hunger Program):** (2023) Gave 84 grants totaling \$1.1 million impacting 19 countries including the US and Puerto Rico. Partnered with 12 Presbytery Hunger Action Advocates, 80 Hunger Action Congregations and 304 Earth Care Congregations across the US.

**SDOP (Self Development of People):** (2023) Partnered with 15 different projects in the US including: Payson Homeless and Homeless Veterans initiative (Payson, AZ); Newark Water Coalition (Newark, NJ); West Georgia Farmers’ Cooperative (Hamilton, GA); Greenmount West Community Center Foundation (Baltimore, MD); Quad Cities Interfaith (Davenport, IA); ARISE Adelante (Alamo, TX); Bridge to Freedom (Chicago, IL); Center Pole (Garryowen, MT).

**Operation Christmas Child** - The final count for shoeboxes donated in 2024 was just under 12 million! What an amazing thing that so many children around the world received not only the gift, but also the introduction to learn about Jesus. Their families and their community may also become Christians. What a joy for our small congregation to be a part of this ministry! We hope to continue to do the Lord’s work by filling shoeboxes! It’s never too early to start shopping for the items we need to do this: small toys, stuffed animals, toothbrushes, washcloths, combs, tshirts, school supplies, etc. No soap will be allowed this year! We will have a Christmas in July packing day. Last year we packed 68 boxes and would love to top that number. Thanks to all of you that participated!



**Pat Wright, Mission Elder**

# Frog Corner

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

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

**R**evere, **I**nvide, **B**less, **I**nspire, and **T**rust in the Lord.



*A Sheepish Recovery:* A devout old shepherd lost his favorite Bible while he was out looking for a wayward lamb. Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!" "Not really," said the sheep. "Your name is written inside the cover."



Have you heard about the first baseball game in the Bible? In the big inning, Eve stole first and Adam stole second. Cain struck out Abel and the Giants and the Angels were rained out.



*A Backyard Neighbor Funeral:* Mr. Green peered over his fence and noticed that the neighbor's little boy was in his backyard filling in a hole. Curious about what the youngster was up to, Mr. Green asked, "What are you doing, Jimmy?" Tearfully, little Jimmy replied, "My goldfish died, and I've just buried him." "That's an awfully large hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Mr. Green said. Patting down the last bit of earth, little Joey replied, "That's because he's inside your cat!"



Bent over and obviously in pain, the old man with a cane hobbled laboriously through the sanctuary and into the pastor's office while the choir was practicing. Ten minutes later he came out, walking upright and moving with grace and speed. "Good gracious," the choir director exclaimed. "Did the pastor heal you by faith?" "No," the old man said with a smile. "He just gave me a cane that wasn't six inches too short!"



*A man died and went to heaven.* He was met at the Pearly Gates by St. Peter who led him down the golden streets. They passed stately homes and beautiful mansions until they came to the end of the street where they stopped in front of a rundown cabin. The man asked St. Peter why he got a hut when there were so many mansions he could live in. St. Peter replied, "I did the best I could with the money you sent us."



*The Hand of God:* Little Philip was walking home in the rain with his mother following Sunday worship. It finally stopped raining as they rounded the corner, where to their surprise and delight appeared a vivid double rainbow in the sky. "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this rainbow?" his mother exclaimed. "I bet God painted this just for you!" "Yes," replied Philip, "God did it, and he did it left handed." Confused, his mother asked him, "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?" "Well," said Philip, "we learned in Sunday School that Jesus sits on God's right hand."





# 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. The next page of this newsletter contains the list of Shepherd Groups. 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 Ladies Tea at The Wee British Tea Room in Glasgow 3/12 at 12:30  
International Dinner on 3/16 at 5 pm
  - In April Children of Eden performed by God's Power and Light at the  
Everett (4/4-6)  
Easter Breakfast on 4/20 at 8:30 am
  - In May Progressive Dinner on 5/17; more info to follow
- We hope that you all can participate. God is good all the time!

**Your Friends in Christ,**

**The Deacons**



# NCPC SHEPHERD GROUPS

## 2025 SHEPHERD GROUPS

Each group is led by an elder and deacon who partner to provide the care of our congregation, together with our pastor. Feel free to contact your shepherds if you have a need. You will note that each group has at least one person who is homebound and may need additional care (names printed in green). There are printed copies of our church's active participants available, with contact information for each. If you need one, just let us know.



### **Pat Wright (elder) & Judy Cooke (deacon)**

Joyce Artysiewicz, Ivonne Bernal & Beth Kramer, Donna & Jim Casey, Kathy Henry, Jim & Josi Inners, Skip & Pam Leeson, Carol A. McBride, Carol L. McBride & the Easters

### **Beverly Cook (elder) & Skip Leeson (deacon)**

Jane & Mike Adams, Win & Barbara Bookhart, Scott & Dottie Burkley, Alayne Fitzpatrick, Tom Kimble, Barbara Montazella, Marcy Murphy, Betty Lou Schafer

### **Pam Leeson (elder) & Cheryl Shields (deacon)**

Frank Cerniglia & Gina Goodbred, Jay & Carol Fisher, Al & Janet Grimminger, Elizabeth Harlan, Jenny Hugh & Eric Dunford, Pam & Harry Kidd, Georgia Mackay, Russ & Rita Morris, Danielle Sawyer

### **Barbara Bookhart (elder) & Kathy Henry (deacon)**

Don & Judy Cooke, Pat Deverell, Ryan Emerick & Tabitha Platt, Bonnie Lawrence, Matt & Clarisa Miller, Carolyn Recla-Stoecker, Pat Wright

### **Jane Adams (elder) & Carol A. McBride (deacon)**

Beverly Cook, Janet Glaser, Ruth Keiderling, Earlene Kelter, Bin & Linda Lee, Alice & Bob Megonigal, Sandy & Clarke Phillips, Bill & Cheryl Shields, Paul Willbanks & Nancy Carol Willis



# STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

*“[The master said,] Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw the worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* Mt. 25:28-30

Jesus’ “Parable of the Talents” in Matthew 25:14-30 helps us think about our responsibility to steward the abilities that God has given us – in large part through a quirk of the English language. The Greek word *talantus* used in Matthew 25 for “talent” has only one primary meaning. It was a standard weight of gold or silver. A talent of gold weighed approximately 200 pounds and a talent of silver weighed half that amount. A single talent would be several years’ wages for most people. In the parable, the master comes, weighs out an appropriate amount of precious metal, and leaves the stewards to multiply the wealth.

In English, however, the word “talent” can refer either to the ancient weight of precious metal or, more commonly, to a gift or ability. This double meaning is entirely in keeping with the intent of the parable. God, the Master, gives good things to his servants, intending that they multiply their value by putting them to work for others.

What distinguishes the servants is that God gives to them according to the “ability” they have. Each person is energized and enriched by God’s gifting, each is able to actively engage the world. Time, talents and money are all channels through which the power of God can flow to effect change in the world.

The master leaves no instructions as to how the talents are to be used or invested; he simply “entrusts” his property. For the first two servants, there is no hesitation when the master doles out the wealth. “At once” they go out and put it to work, creating even greater wealth. Those servants are eager at what the master has entrusted to them. That serves as a good model for Christians stewarding God’s gifts. We should be eager to use what God entrusts to us.

When he returns, the Master hands out the grades. The good servants are those who have been faithful and stewarded the master’s gifts well by putting them to use. Their reward is joy because the master, the servant, and the community itself have all been enriched.

Everyone has at least one talent. All Christians and all Christian communities need to ask themselves in what ways has God gifted them. The greater the wealth of gifts, the greater the wealth of the community and what it has to offer the world. Primary among those gifts is the gift of imagination. With imagination, every gift God gives can be used to enrich the life of the community. As individuals and as members of a community of faith, we need to ask ourselves, What do I/we do well? What do I/we do that God gives me/us joy in doing? Nothing reduces the effect of God’s goodness than a limited view of what Christians “have” to do or the belief that there are only a few acceptable ways God opens to serve the world.

A little bit of holy imagination goes a long way toward earning interest on our talents.

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

# Outreach Report

## UNITY

*We are all called to lead a life “.... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another with love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* - Ephesians 4:2b

Paul and Barnabas struggled as they dealt with the early church, teaching that Gentiles should be received into the churches. This was difficult because Jews and Gentiles had so little in common in the ancient world — different histories, cultures, traditions, even languages. Some church members argued that Gentiles must not be received unless they were circumcised according to the law of Moses. Paul and Barnabas and others went to Jerusalem to discuss this with the prophets and Elders. After much debate, it was decided, as testified by Paul, that God willed **unity**, not for agreement, political or otherwise, but for the **kind of unity that fosters community across diversity and division, a unity that serves the common good.**

Bishop Mariann Budde delivered a sermon at the National Prayer Service in Washington, DC on January 21. She said that we need to pray for unity as a nation - not for agreement. We will always have conflict with some issues in our churches, but we also need to pray for unity as Christ's disciples. Unity is a way of being with one another that **encompasses and respects differences**. Jesus taught that unity is desirable and possible, and that it's important to love and forgive one another. He prayed for unity among his followers, and he demonstrated unity with his Father.



Church outreach today is no different. When there is conflict, division prevails and then our churches betray Christ's teaching and loses it's appeal. Jesus reached out to all kinds of people, sinners, the marginalized, and fishermen as well as those who were wealthy. We are charged to do the same - to reach out to ALL in our community. **Our goal - our calling** - is to find ways to reach out to everyone in the community, sharing the love and mercy of God - the Good News - with one and all!

**TOGETHER WE GROW AND MEET NEEDS**

**Beverly Cook, Outreach Elder**