

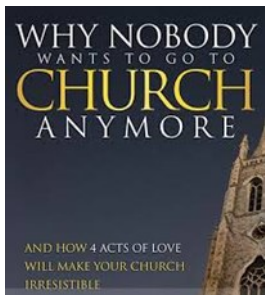


**New Covenant Connection**  
**New Covenant**  
**Presbyterian Church**



Dear friends,

I have been spending a good deal of time of late reading a book by Thom and Joani Schultz - *Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore and How Four Acts of Love Will Make Your Church Irresistible*. It's not that the basic idea of this book is anything new or life-changing. In fact, most church leaders have been lapping up this type of book for several decades now. But there is something different about this book, and I want to share a little with you.



The book's introduction begins with, *"There's no easy way to say this, but it needs to be said: The American Church is Broken."* And so the Schultz challenge us to take a serious look in the mirror. They share that they are *"passionate about the transformational power of a Jesus-centered life and God's desire for the church to embody that."*

Their goal is to see lives transformed. Thom and Joani have spent their entire adult lives serving the church and challenging the status quo. They are the founders and chief operating officers of Group Publishing, a company whose resources I have found to be very helpful throughout my ministry.

I would agree completely with their premise and I believe that they have an engaging and challenging way of getting right down to the meat of this issue. Their basic question is: **How can Christians/the Church create a space that turns regular people's objections into affirmations?** They have 4 main observations and conclusions. The diagram on the next page shows how they suggest we might rethink the way we do church:

~continued~



**2025**

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# A Note From Our Pastor (Cont'd)

## When people say...

"I feel judged."



"I don't want to be lectured. You don't care what I think."



"Church people are a bunch of hypocrites."



"Your God is irrelevant in my life."

## Imagine Jesus saying...

"You're welcome just as you are."



Your thoughts are welcome; your doubts are welcome."



"We're all in this together."



"God is here, ready to connect with you in a fresh way."

## The church practices...

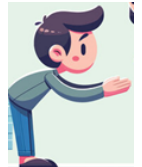
RADICAL HOSPITALITY



FEARLESS CONVERSATION



GENUINE HUMILITY



DIVINE ANTICIPATION



And so, we would all be encouraged to focus on the middle column and to make these statements, which characterized Jesus' way of living, our own. And when we do that, then we would be making the practices in the third column our mission: **RADICAL HOSPITALITY - FEARLESS CONVERSATION - GENUINE HUMILITY - DIVINE ANTICIPATION.**

As we move forward into what might seem like an uncertain future, I will continue to speak to you in more depth about this way of thinking and being church. It is my prayer that God would lead us in being faithful to our central mission of reaching people with the transforming presence of Jesus Christ.



Your partner in ministry,  
*Carol*





# MAY 2025



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 Our Daily Bread	3
4 Communion & Offering for ODB	5 Deacon's Mtg @10 am	6	7	8	9
11 Trustee Mtg @ 11:30 am 	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21 Session Mtg. @ 1p	22	23
25	26 	27	28	29	30
					31

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

- |      |  |      |                                   |
|------|--|------|-----------------------------------|
| 5/1  | Tom Bennett Birthday                   | 5/20 | Pam & Harry Kidd Anniversary      |
|      | National Day of Prayer                 | 5/21 | <b>Session Meeting at 1 pm</b>    |
| 5/2  | <b>First Friday @ Our Daily Bread</b>  | 5/22 | Bill & Cheryl Shields Anniversary |
| 5/4  | <b>3rd Sunday of Easter; Communion</b> | 5/25 | <b>6th Sunday of Easter</b>       |
|      | <b>ODB Special Offering</b>            |      | Gina Goodbred Birthday            |
| 5/5  | <b>Deacons' Meeting @ 1pm</b>          | 5/26 | Al & Janet Grimminger Anniversary |
| 5/11 | <b>4th Sunday of Easter</b>            |      | Memorial Day                      |
|      | <b>Trustees' Meeting @ 11:30 am</b>    | 5/27 | Tom & Barbara Bennett Anniversary |
|      | <b>Mother's Day</b>                    |      |                                   |
| 5/14 | Jenny Hugh Birthday                    |      |                                   |
| 5/18 | <b>5th Sunday of Easter</b>            |      |                                   |
|      | Harry Kidd Birthday                    |      |                                   |
| 5/19 | James Casey Birthday                   |      |                                   |





# Clerk's Report

The Session's regular Stated meeting was held on April 23rd.

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

May 17<sup>th</sup> (In-person or by Zoom) - Pat Wright + Pastor

September 20<sup>th</sup> (in-person or by Zoom) - Pam Leeson + Pastor

December 2<sup>nd</sup> (by Zoom only) - Jane Adams + Pastor



Membership: 46

-Upon hearing that Nancy Carol Willis and Paul Willbanks have joined the LifeHouse Church in Townsend, the Session removed them from our membership roll.

-Pat Deverell, one of our homebound members passed away on April 7th so her name was removed from the roll as well. Memorial contributions, if desired, may be sent to Acts Legacy Foundation, P.O. Box 90, West Point, PA 19486, c/o CH Staff Development Fund.

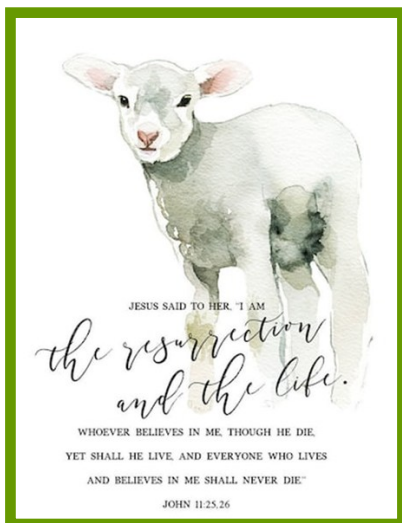
A motion was made, seconded and approved to allow ordained Elders and Deacons to serve communion both in church and at home.

Emails: Pastor: [pastornewcov@gmail.com](mailto:pastornewcov@gmail.com)

Clerk: [clerk.ncpc24@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.ncpc24@gmail.com)

Office Administrator: [newcov.office2@gmail.com](mailto:newcov.office2@gmail.com)

*Yours in Christ,  
Pat Wright, Clerk*



# Worship

Some important dates to remember during May:

**May 1**

**National Day of Prayer**

Give thanks for the gift of prayer; don't take it for granted



**May 2**

**Friendship Day**

Give thanks for the blessing of friends



**May 6**

**Holocaust Remembrance Day**

Show respect and honor to those who endured this tragedy



**May 11**

**Mother's Day**

Remember to show all those who have "mothered" you your love and appreciation



**May 18**

**Presbyterian Heritage Day**

The Sunday closest of May 22nd which was the opening date of the 1st General Assembly of the PCUSA in 1789.



**May 26th**

**Memorial Day**

Memorial Day is a U.S. federal holiday for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.



**May 29th**

**Ascension Day**

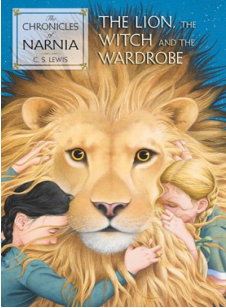
The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ commemorates the Christian belief of the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven.



Maundy Thursday was a treat this year. Thanks to Bill Shields for making our Lenten Cross out of a tree and Dr. Fisher for adding purple candles to it. We enjoyed a Tenebrae Service of Shadows with each candle being extinguished after an appropriate reading, followed by the singing of a hymn.

# Christian Education Report

## Weekly Christian Education Classes

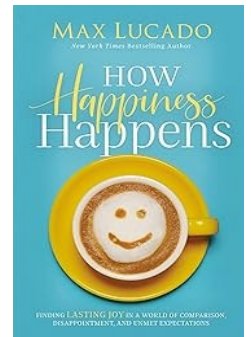


Adult Christian Education continues on Sunday mornings at 8:30 in the Pastor's study and on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 there as well (with a zoom attendance option). We completed our study of the Lenten portion of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, led by Pat Wright and Barbara Bookhart. This study was much enjoyed. Thanks Pat and Barb!

Our current study is one of Max Lucado's book, *How Happiness Happens: Finding Lasting Joy in a World of Comparison, Disappointment, and Unmet Expectations*. In this book, Max will help us discover that -

- Happiness is not selfish;
- People are a joy;
- There is strength in choice; and
- Happiness happens when you give it away.

If this topic sounds like something you would enjoy, come and join us; just let Jane or Carol know. Why not consider opening the unexpected door to joy and walking in? There's no better day than today to start your happiest life yet!



Skip Leeson has resumed his Bethel classes on Sunday mornings following Fellowship Time. Come and join in for some in-depth Bible study!

Jane Adams,  
Christian Education Elder



# Mission Report

**Our Daily Bread:** We served 184 meals on First Friday in April. Our mission with Our Daily Bread has become especially important as they have lost 2 large grants from the Federal Government due to the closing of the Federal Emergency Food and Shelter program. We will continue to prepare and serve our First Friday meal each month and if anyone is interested and able, ODB has begun a Saturday Sandwich program which has groups and/or individuals who have an hour or two on a Saturday morning, to come to the dining room in Middletown to prepare sandwiches to place in the community refrigerator for the weekend. This can help ensure that there are easy meals available in the refrigerator even when ODB is closed for the weekend. If you are interested, contact Pat Wright at church or contact ODB directly at [ourdailybread.2016@gmail.com](mailto:ourdailybread.2016@gmail.com)



**The 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 such as pasta, particularly spaghetti, and pasta sauces. In addition, there is always a need for simple items like peanut butter and Jelly. They also are feeling the pinch from the federal government's decision to discontinue the Emergency Food and Shelter program.

**Special Offerings:** We concluded the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering on Easter Sunday. The total was \$515.

Our next Offering will be the Pentecost Offering which will begin in mid-May and continue through Pentecost Sunday. This is the offering that connects with God's hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith. 40% of this Offering stays here with our congregation. We place the funds into our Youth Club Fund and use the money for any youth directed activities in our church or in our community. Most of the funds have been used to give scholarships to the Massanetta, Montreat and the Triennium conferences.



## Operation Christmas Child

On July 13th during the Fellowship Hour we will be packing some shoeboxes. Please get started with your purchasing of the items we need to fill them. Reminder no bars of soap this year! There will be a bin in the Library that you can drop items in. Let's see if we can top our number from last year! Children around the world will come to know Jesus through this amazing project!

**Pat Wright,  
Mission Elder**

# Trustee Report

The Trustee Meetings are open to all and is normally scheduled each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after worship and fellowship time. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 11 May 2025.

## Financials:

We continue to look into the possibility of online giving to allow people to give in alternate ways. More information to follow.

We also are updating our accounting to allow more visibility for people who donate their money for a project.

We updated contact information with CCLI (video licensing) putting our treasurer as our church contact.

Carol L. McBride, our Treasurer, gave us a list of our "Cash Flow" for period starting as of 30 Nov 2024, ending with 13 Apr 2025 to give us an idea as to how much money we take in each month vs. how much we spend each month. We are a little ahead of the game but that could change as the year goes on because some members pay their annual pledge early in the year.

## Building Issues:

Sanctuary rear window tinting was completed on 25 Mar 2025.

## Ground Issues:

We received the "Certificate of Liability" Insurance for Precision Landscaping Service.

We received a request from an individual requesting the use of our Parking Lot for his Coffee Truck for several days a week. He is in the process of getting permits and licenses he may need. This is a new venture for him, and us. More to follow.

## Projects:

Additional LED pole heads are being discussed. We are going to purchase and install one (1) upgraded light head to see how it works before we invest in additional light-head's. This is a work in progress.



We have run an electrical line, underground from our main church building out to the two signs we have out by Boyd's Corner Road. This allows them to be illuminated.



We have started to discuss the type of sign(s) we plan on having to let people know how to travel through the development to get to and from our church.

We are still looking at what additional security we will be making to increase security around our property with all the construction going on around us. Work in progress.



## New Business:

A hole needs to be repaired in our shed holding seasonal decorations. We are waiting for warm weather.

Pictures of our church's "Groundbreaking" were found in a music folder (Thanks Jenny) and e-mail from Dottie Burkley in reference to additional pictures.



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 of this spring. In April several folk attended God's Power and Light production of *Children of Eden* at the Everett Theatre.

We also enjoyed a delicious Easter Breakfast at church on Easter morning. Everyone brought something to share and there was plenty for everyone.



On April 30th (and again on May 21st) from 4-7 pm, we hosted a Food Truck in our parking lot - *Delightful Souls* in April and *Out of the Ordinary* with Chef Robert Yalley in May.

**Coming in May: Progressive Dinner on the 17th at 4 pm.** Join our friends for an evening of delicious food, great company and some wonderful fellowship time! We will gather for appetizers in one home, enjoy our entrees in another, and then all come together for dessert. Doesn't that sound like fun? Please sign up so that we can plan accordingly.



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



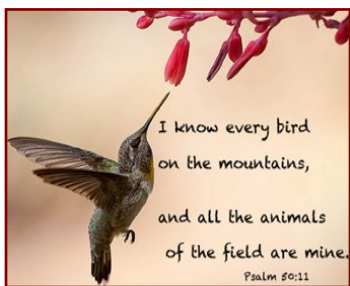
# STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

*For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine.*

Psalm 50:10-11

*Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.*

Genesis 2:19



Psalm 50 asserts God's undeniable claim to everything in creation, in this case every animal that moves on the face of the earth – both wild and domestic animals. God is the God of wild things as well as tame ones, just as God is the God of wild places, as well as civilized.

Humans have a strange relationship with animals. We lavish attention on our pets and sometimes treat them better than we treat other humans, but then we turn around and dispose of them like property. We are fascinated by exotic creatures from other parts of the globe, but consider wild animals nearby a nuisance, sometimes using small animals for target practice.

As stewards, we must begin by recognizing that all animals, whether wild or domesticated, are God's, not ours. They deserve a place to live and move about. Hunting should be done respectfully, not out of simple bloodlust or a desire to assert human domination over creatures.

Domesticated animals too have the stamp of God's ownership. They are not our property, and our convenience should not determine whether their lives are extended or ended. Cattle and hogs are not "machines" for meal production; neither are companion animals such as dogs or cats to be treated as fashion accessories or extensions of our own personality. Humans are called to respect the dignity of all God's creatures.

In Genesis 2, God gives Adam the job of naming all the animals. At first reading, it sounds like God is parading the animals in front of Adam so that he can come up with the names like "giraffe," "orangutan," "puffin," and "stork" – like so many ID tags. But, in the Hebrew tradition, names identify the "essence" of the thing named. It is similar to the Greek notion that **to understand something is to know its purpose and place**. To know something is to discover how it fits in God's grand scheme of things.

So, Adam's task in naming the animals was much more than inventing words for identification. It involved discerning the true meaning and purpose of each animal – its essence and place in the whole creation. And just as the command to serve and preserve the garden is intended for all human beings, not just Adam and Eve, so too this naming the animals is extended to all of us. If we are to tend the garden well, we need to know what is in it. We need to know the purpose and place of each creature.

If, as scientists believe, there are over 10 million species of plants and animals in the world, of which only 1/10th have been identified and named, we still have a long way to go. Tragically, in many parts of the world species are going extinct without ever having been named. We never understood their purpose and place - never understood how God intended them to fit in this marvelous creation.

In order to be good stewards, we need the wisdom of King Solomon. 1 Kings 4:33 tells us that Solomon's wisdom included the ability to "describe plant life, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of walls. He also taught about animals and birds, reptiles and fish." Solomon could serve as the patron saint of every Christian biologist and ecologist. For the rest of us, he is a reminder of our task to care for God's creatures and to appreciate their place in God's world.



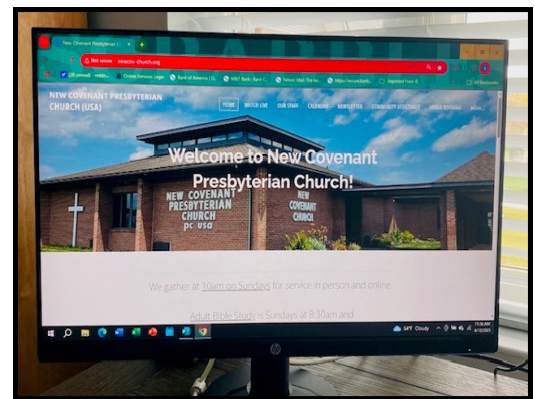
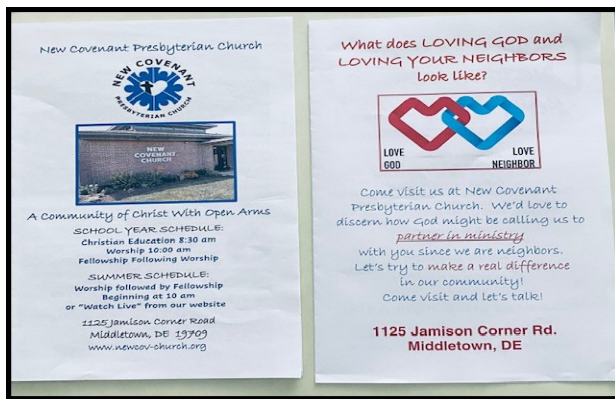
**Barbara Bookhart**  
**Finance & Stewardship Elder**

# Outreach

First of all, then, I urge that supplications prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for everyone... Timothy 2;1a

An important part of outreach ministry is intercessory prayer. While "prayer" is a general term encompassing communication with God, intercessory prayer is a specific type of prayer where you pray for others, seeking God's intervention in their lives or situations, rather than for your own needs. Intercessory prayer can bring people together, creating a sense of unity and shared purpose within a church or community.

Another great outreach tool is promotional publicity media.



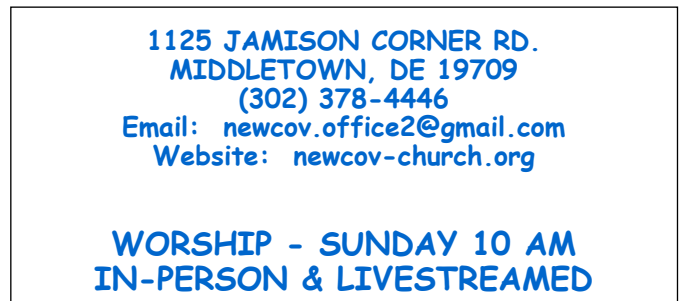
Pastor Carol designed a lovely "quick read" brochure for Holy Week. We have a more extensive NCPC brochure with church information and photos. Online information is available at [www.newcov.church.org](http://www.newcov.church.org).

Another Outreach effort is hosting food trucks in our parking lot. It is a way to invite people to come and find out more about us, plus offer them some great food. We are scheduled to have **Delightful Souls Food Truck** on April 30th and **Out of the Ordinary Food Truck** with Chef Robert Yalley at our church on May 21st. Both events will run from 4:30-7PM. At April's event there will be free ice cream cups courtesy of Megan Aitken Team of Keller Williams. Let's all get out and enjoy some delicious food and fellowship! Why not share this with your neighbors and friends! Below is our new church ministry card. Take some and share them. Thanks!

Front

Beverly Cook, Outreach

Back



# 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.**



### ***A joke about Creation***

An atheist scientist came to God and said, "We've figured out how to make a man without you." God said, "OK, let me see you do it." So the atheist bent down to the ground and scooped up a handful. But God stopped him and said, "Oh, no you don't. Get your own dirt!"

### ***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."

### ***The \$100 and \$1***

Two well-worn bills arrived at the Federal Reserve Bank to be retired – a \$100 bill and a \$1 bill. As they traveled down the conveyor belt, they struck up a conversation. The hundred reminisced about the interesting life he had, traveling all over the country. "I've been to the finest restaurants, Broadway shows, Las Vegas, and amusement parks," he said. "I even went on a Caribbean cruise once. Where have you been?" "Oh," said the one dollar bill, "I've been to a Methodist church, an Episcopal church, a Baptist church, and a Lutheran church." "What's a church?" asked the hundred.

### ***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."

