

New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

“A Church Family – A Church Home”



October 2019 Volume 4

NEW COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ministers

The Congregation

Assistant to the Ministers

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Carol C. Fisher

Accompanist: Jenny Hugh

Music Director: Ken Hudson

Session

Skip Leeson	215-870-9315	Clerk
Barbara Montazella	845-893-1374	Worship
Susan Pedersen	378-0902	Evangelism
Carol A. McBride	378-5359	Christian Ed.
Sandy Boyce	378-2902	Personnel
Nancy Carol Willis	378-7274	Mission
Ben Urban	376-1397	Stewardship
John Hetterly	383-9263	Cong. Life

Deacons

Ken Hudson	2022	376-0294
Melissa Padgett	2020	610-554-4488
Laura Pedersen	2021	378-0902
Don Bauer	2022	378-2317
Landa Lindgren	2020	378-0914
Kathy Henry	2021	832-5510

Trustees

Alan Pedersen	2021	378-0902
Tom Kimble	2020	376-1770
Al Grimminger	2022	378-2252

Church Information

Church Phone 378-4446
 Pastor Phone 303-888-0706
 CCLI license 649817
 Treasurer, Cyndi Daniels 299-5373
 Worship - 10 a.m.; Children's Christian Education –
 During worship following the Children's Message
 Adult Bible Study 8:45 a.m.



“He made the moon for the seasons; The sun knows the place of its setting.” Psalms104:19



On October 6th, congregations around the globe will celebrate World Communion Sunday. Most of us have heard about World Communion Sunday but may not know much about where the celebration originated. According to the website of the National Council of Churches, World Communion Sunday began in 1936 in the Presbyterian Church and was adopted by the Federal Council of Churches (predecessor of the NCC) in 1940. Since then, the celebration has grown into an international ecumenical celebration of Christian unity.

The key word for World Communion Sunday is “communion” or unity. It is a day when we mark the almost universal Christian practice of breaking bread with one another, and we remember both the night of Jesus’ betrayal (when Jesus instituted what we now call the Lord’s Supper as a lasting remembrance) and Jesus’ sacrifice.

So, accounts of the Last Supper feature prominently, by virtue of World Communion Sunday, being a celebration of the Eucharist. But there is a flavor of the Christian celebration of Pentecost as well, when people from around the Mediterranean world came together in mutual understanding and inspiration, by the power of the Holy Spirit. World Communion Sunday is a time for remembering that around the globe - in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy - the Lord’s Supper is celebrated throughout Christendom. At its best, therefore, World Communion Sunday serves two purposes: it is both a joyous and meaningful partaking in Jesus’ sacred meal with his friends, and a mind-opening exposure to different Christian traditions from around the world.



Dear friends,

Anthony Robinson, in his book *Transforming Congregational Culture*, suggests that mainline churches need to reexamine what their **true purpose** is. He goes on to say that his belief is that the **church's true purpose is to be in the business of human transformation – providing opportunities for those who enter our doors to encounter Jesus Christ, and to be transformed by him**. If you think about it, there is a lot at stake here.

In our quest to become a healthy and vital congregation which is faithful to our calling, we need to take this suggestion seriously. One critique of the church has been that everything about it has become trivial. You know, when the church becomes a nice place to visit on Sunday mornings where we are made to feel comfortable – where our needs are met – where we can socialize with our friends – a place which provides means for us to help our communities - but **NOTHING OF ULTIMATE SIGNIFICANCE IS AT STAKE!**

Friends, I agree with Robinson that we are off course if this is the case. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” If our calling is to help people meet Jesus and be transformed by him, then our desire to have the church be merely a place to socialize with like-minded people who desire to be “good folk” and occasionally do good things for others is ill-fated. The church of Jesus Christ is called to **BE** and **DO** more than that.

A spiritually healthy congregation is one “where something is at stake...where our words and actions do matter...where lives are being changed, healed, redirected to positive paths, and made new.” A healthy congregation is one where people **come excited** to be nurtured and fed by the Word of God, and it is a place where they expect to be changed. Members have a “humble confidence that what they do in and as the church matters a great deal.”

So, my question to you is: Do you think the ministry of New Covenant Presbyterian Church truly matters in an ultimate sense? Does our church encourage you to be trans-



What Is At Stake?

formed into a deeply committed disciple of Jesus Christ? I hope your answer is “yes,” but if not, what can we do to change it? And if what we are about makes no real difference, what are we to do? Do you think it is satisfactory to rest on our laurels of what worked in the past, even if it clearly does not work for many people today? Personally, I can't be satisfied with that.

Most people don't come to church these days because it just feels like the right thing to do. If what we offer doesn't impact their lives in a truly positive way, they don't bother. People are pulled in so many different directions that church isn't a priority for many people, and why should it be, IF it makes no real difference? After all, there are civic groups which don't ask much of them where they can be “do-gooders.”

So, as you can see, there's a lot at stake in what we do and how we do it. What is at stake is the lives of people in our church now, and those of people in our community who don't know Jesus and who don't know the difference having a personal relationship with him can make in one's life. Maybe some of you don't even know the difference this can make. Maybe you've only encountered Christ as a form of religion, and not as your personal Savior and Lord. If that is the case, I'd love to talk with you more about how your life can be deeply impacted.

Last month, I was installed as your pastor. The Nominating Committee is about

the task of seeking those whom we believe God is calling to serve NCPC in the coming year. When you agree to serve the church in a leadership capacity, you make a commitment to lead this church in ways that are faithful to scripture, our confessions and the Presbyterian' Church's *Book of Order*.

Your Christian Education committee desires to offer opportunities for all ages to be nurtured in the faith. We believe every disciple should be committed to continually learning and growing in faith. If you have suggestions about topics or classes you'd like to see, please let us know. Currently we are studying *Canoeing the Mountains*, and we invite you to join us. Truly we want to offer classes and opportunities that will challenge you to grow in faith. If you haven't been involved in Christian Education classes or programs in the past, try joining your sisters and brothers as we gather in anticipation of what God wants us to learn, and how we might use our new-found knowledge! Never forget that our faith experience is meant to be a *journey*, and not a destination.

Your partner in ministry,

Carol



This is the Clerk's Corner. As this is the first time I've done this article for the newsletter, please bear with me. It's been a hoot being Clerk for this Church. We have come so far and still have a way to

go. Now that things are starting to settle down and the presbytery has installed our new pastor, let's get to work. We are looking at things we can do to apply for an Ignite Grant from the presbytery. It will be to help the local community by reaching out and showing what we can do as a congregation. We also are asking those who are working with youth to fill out a form for a background check as required by our insurance. Forms are in Melanie's office. Thanks to all for our successful and enthusiastic church. We all can see our accomplishments that God has sent us out to do.

*God is great all the time,
Skip Leeson, Clerk of Session*



TREASURER'S REPORT

The month of August showed a deficit of \$2,753. Expenses were less than budgeted, but the total income was considerably less than anticipated. Please remember your church needs your support, financially, as well as physically & spiritually.



AUGUST FINANCIALS

Monthly Contributions (Pledges, Non-Pledge and Open Plate)	6,952.00
All Other Income	21.00
Total Income	6,973.00
Missions	80.00
Buildings & Grounds	480.00
Finance/Operations	719.00
Personnel	8,447.00
Total Expenses	9,726.00
Net Income/Difference	(2,753.00)

Stewardship

is heart work



Fresh Directions for the Church



This article is a summary of an article in *The Presbyterian Outlook* by Tom Ehrich. I share it with you because I believe it is essential that we **be intentional** about doing what is necessary to grow NCP, both spiritually and numerically.

Ehrich says that many churches feel stuck, continuing to tell the same old stories and rewarding old behavior. Ehrich shares **4 Basic Points for Seeking a Fresh Direction:**

- Look **outward**, rather than inward.
- Focus on **conversion**, rather than **comfort and customer satisfaction**.
- Focus on **congregational development** (rather than **maintenance**) with entrepreneurial leaders.
- Get beyond Sunday morning and **reach people where they live**, rather than inviting them to **where you worship**.

Let's develop each of these points a bit. First, **the place of religion in our culture has changed**. There is no denying that. It used to be that ministry centered around worship services on Sunday. The main questions were: Whom do we welcome in the front door? And, whom do we welcome into leadership? The church tried to be more inclusive but somehow got lost in the shuffle. "Looking outward" means no longer asking what WE want, but asking what the WORLD needs. What does God want us to do in the world? We will discover our identity as we serve the world. This is very practical. Ask where do people hurt or fall short? If those needs aren't likely to be addressed by Sunday worship, we

need to get in touch with practical ways we can make a difference.

Second, **we have relied on institution, rather than faith**. In the past, we have focused on the values of the institution of the church rather than its core mission: **Belonging – tradition – getting (rather than giving) – comfort – and customer satisfaction**, when we should have been focusing on **Being the Church – transformation – giving – collaboration in mission – and conversion**. These are the things that are essential.

Third, **leadership has focused on keeping members happy and engaged**. It's been all about survival and maintenance when what the church needs is entrepreneurial leaders who want to touch lives and transform them, doing whatever it takes to reach new people for Christ and make a difference in the world. We need to be willing to **take risks, embrace conflict constructively, learn from failure, challenge constituents to do more, give more, dare more, and grow more**.

Fourth, **recognize that the weekly worship paradigm stopped working decades ago**. We can't resurrect it, no matter how much we tinker with Sunday morning. We can't just open the doors with better attitudes and stronger performance values. We need to do what Jesus did – meet people where they are. We can no longer expect that droves of new folk will come rushing through our doors. We have to find creative ways to invite, encourage and enable people to grow in faith in new and creative ways.

Friends, I've heard that the definition of insanity is continuing to do the same thing, but expecting different results. Are you ready to seriously look at how God might be calling us to **take a leap of faith** in order to be faithful to making new disciples. I hope and pray that

Life Changers



your answer will be “YES!” If so, I encourage and invite you to come and talk with me or a member of the newly formed **VISION TASK FORCE**. This is a group of folks that will meet with me as we discern what God has in mind for our future, so stay tuned. It’s members are Sandy Boyce, Cyndi Daniels, Brian Lindgren, Joan Sabbato, Bill Shields, and Nancy Carol Willis. Please join us as we prayerfully step out in faith, attempting to be Christ’s faithful disciples. Also, seriously consider joining a class where we are discussing *Canoeing the Mountains* – where we learn about adapting to meet the challenges of our world. Can’t wait to see what happens next!

Carol



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM

Are you interested in joining us as we start a new type of fellowship at NCPC. Would you be interested in joining some fellow church friends around the dinner table? We are hoping to begin Supper Club gatherings in our homes. One person/couple would host and provide the main dish. A few others would join in, bringing side dishes, appetizers and/or dessert. We believe this would allow us to get to know each other better, thus strengthening the bonds of Christian fellowship. Signup in the back of the sanctuary and we’ll give you a call.



*Submitted by John Hetterly,
Congregational Life Elder*



NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

The October donation schedule is for non-perishable food items in small sizes for kids’ lunch boxes, after school snacks, and for one or two person households. Suggestions are: granola/nutrition bars, juice boxes, applesauce/fruit cups, microwave beefaroni, mac & cheese, tuna snack packs, noodle ramen cups, small cans of vegetables and cracker packages.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of this community mission.

*Submitted by Jane Adams,
Neighborhood House coordinator*



WORSHIP TEAM

We are off to a good start with our fall music. Many thanks to those who ensured we had special music during the summer/early fall. Now, the choir has begun rehearsals on Wednesdays and we hope to have enough bell ringers to begin Bell rehearsals in October. For now, the Praise Band is on hiatus. Ken and Jenny would gladly welcome one and all to this important ministry at NCPC.

The Lectionary Readings for the month of October are:

10/6: 2nd Sun. in Ordinary Time – Lam. 1: 1-6; Lam. 3:19-26 or Ps. 137; 2 Tim. 1: 1-14; Luke 17: 5-10

10/13: 28th Sun. in Ordinary Time – Jer. 29: 4-7; Ps. 66: 1-12; 2 Tim. 2: 8-15; Luke 17: 11-19

10/20: 29th Sun. in Ordinary Time – Jer. 31: 27-34; Ps. 119: 97-104; 2 Tim. 3: 14-4:5; Luke 18: 1-8

10/27: 30th Sun. in Ordinary Time – Joel 2: 23-32; Ps. 65; 2 Tim. 4: 6-8, 16-18; Luke 18: 9-14

*Submitted by Barbara Montazella,
Worship Team Elder*



**Deacons
Called
To Serve**

The Deacons are working on some new ideas to serve our congregation and community. Look for more information in the next month. In the meantime, please let us know of anyone who needs prayer, support, meals, a visit or just a note so they know we are praying for them.

*Submitted by Landa Lindgren,
Moderator of the Deacons*

**CARING
FROM THE
Heart** 

NEW COVENANT CHURCH NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The **Bemis** family purchased a winter home in Deland, Florida. They are becoming snowbirds!

Norma Dunn's brother-in-law Don Dunn passed away and she and her family need our prayers.

Harry Kidd continues to need our prayers for healing. His wife, **Pam**, also needs our prayers for her caretaking of both **Harry** and **Ruth**, her mother.

PNC Youth Group enjoyed their trip to the "Putters Paradise" in Middletown plus they had ice cream afterwards.

Emily, Paul Willbanks's daughter, is traveling on an overseas mission trip and hopes to find the mission location that God is calling her to join.

Paul Willbanks enjoyed a recent visit from three of his grandchildren. It was a busy household during the visit. They welcomed the new addition Amanda Carter to the family.

Mark Urban has been moved to a new location. Please watch your correspondence - it may be read. If you wish to send him a letter of cheer, his postal address is:

SPC Urban, Mark A
Charlie Company 198th ESB
APO, AE 09315

Janet Glaser has asked for prayers for her son whose MS is progressing. Please keep them both in your prayers.

Thank you to everyone who helps keep our church such an inviting experience both inside and outside. The flower pots make a joyful walkway into the Sanctuary and Christian Ed./Office buildings.

Cyndi Daniels has a new grandson, Landan Carter Allen. Mother and baby are doing well, and he will be baptized the last Sunday of this month.



"God Can Do It: We Can Help"

There is no typical volunteer. People who donate their time are as varied as the jobs they do. At 71, Ed Porter of Newark, N.J. discovered that a leisurely retirement wasn't for him. At his wife's suggestion, Porter

began volunteering at St. Mary's Hospital in nearby Orange, updating their maintenance records.

Seven years later, Porter said, "I get a lot out of my work at St. Mary's, like the personal satisfaction of having a place to go, people to speak to, and something useful to do. It keeps me young."

By way of contrast, Trevor Ferrell was only 11 when he made national headlines for helping the homeless. Moved by the plight of homeless people, he saw on a television news report, Trevor took his own pillow and an extra blanket and persuaded his father to drive him to downtown Philadelphia, where he handed the bedding to a man sleeping on a grate.

What began as a grassroots effort to help street people, ended with the founding of Trevor's Place - a Philadelphia shelter for the homeless.

You're never too old to be a volunteer, and it's never too late or too early to start. Begin by seeing what you can do for your own church.



The question for the committed believer is not, "Will I be God's steward?" Rather, we must ask, "What kind of steward will I be?" The Lord has called the members of his household to be the faithful and wise stewards. Let's grow in our Christian stewardship. (Parish Publishing)



A New Means of Communicating News

Just wanted you to know that we have established another means of sharing news with each other at NCPC. Last month, you heard about our **mailboxes** in the office. This month, we have added a **bookcase** where you can find essential elements for operating as a congregation, things like – minutes, bulletins, newsletters, etc. Next to the bookcase, you will find a **bulletin board** with all the church schedules (just in case you forget when you had volunteered for something). Hope this helps us thrive!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are off to a good start this fall in our Christian Education program. Our pastor has suggested that ALL of us commit to reading and discussing the book, *Canoeing the Mountains, Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. She is teaching a class about this book on **TUESDAY mornings at 9:30 am**. For those who cannot attend during a weekday, there is a class on **Sunday mornings at 8:45 am**, led by Don Bauer. This book will be very helpful in enabling us to reimagine what effective leadership looks like in our rapidly changing world. We would encourage everyone to purchase a book and read it, even if you are unable to attend a class. Books are available at church (through the presbytery) for \$10 each. Or, you might consider ordering one online. Just let us know if you are interested.

Youth Group: *September 20th*: 12 people, kids and adults, enjoyed playing miniature golf at "Putters Paradise".

October 26th (at the Shields' home) 7-9 pm: The planned activity will be pumpkin carving (bring your own pumpkin), and a Doggie Roast with Smores.

Children's Sunday School: 10:15 a.m. for Children's Sunday School program (following the Children's Message in worship). During the fall, the children will study lessons about people who experience God's grace.

Nursery: Sundays, 10:00 a.m. - We still need volunteers for Childcare on an as need basis.

*Submitted by: Carol A. McBride,
Christian Education Elder*



NPCPC COMMITS TO BECOMING A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH

NPCPC has made the commitment to become a Matthew 25 Church. By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, our church can help the Presbyterian Church (USA) become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

Matthew 25:31-46

"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, and even the least of them, you did it to Me.'



*Submitted by Nancy Carol Willis,
Missions Elder*

BIBLE QUIZ

Name the first three kings of Israel in the order of their reigns.

- A. Saul, David, Solomon
- B. Samuel, David, Saul
- C. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
- D. Solomon, Jesse, David

Answer from September: D - 7
See Joshua 6: 1-5

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

A man walked into a country store and noticed a sign warning, "Danger! Beware of dog!" Inside, he saw a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor beside the cash register. "Is that the dog folks are supposed to beware of?", he asked the store owner. "Yep, that's him," came the reply. "He certainly doesn't look dangerous to me." the man said. "Before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

I was addicted to the "Hokey Pokey." Thankfully, I turned myself around.



Expert: An ordinary person a hundred miles from home.

Q. How many programmers does it take to change a light bulb?

A. None. It's a hardware problem.

When I see lovers', names carved in a tree, I don't think It's sweet. I just think it's surprising how many people bring a knife on a date.

God, I was in a panic there for a minute because I thought my car had been stolen. Thank you for reminding me that I drove my daughter's truck to the hardware store.

"Laughter is internal jogging. We have a lot of evidence that shows mirth and laughter affect most

of the major physical systems of the body in a positive way. You can laugh a lot more times a day than you can do pushups." – William Fry, M.D.

Q: Why did the developer go broke?

A: Because he used up all his cache.

Betty: Ouch!

Reggie: What happened?

Betty: The edge of my check sliced my finger.

Reggie: Now that's a real pay cut!

Q: Are any Halloween monsters good at math?

A: No – unless you Count Dracula.

Lord, fill my stomach with worthwhile stuff, and stop me when I've said enough.

A pillar of the church" passed away and was on his way to heaven. When he got to the pearly gates of heaven, he met an angel. The angel asked him what God's name was. "Oh, that's easy," replied the man. "His name is Andy." The angel asked, "What makes you think his name is Andy?" "Well, you see at church we used to sing this song, 'Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me.'"



Meteorite: a space chip.

Thank you, dear God, for helping me before I ordered a full diagnosis on my car. The culprit was a can of soda sloshing around under the driver's seat – not a strange problem with the engine.

Q: Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil?

A: Because it is pointless.

Why does Humpty Dumpty love autumn?






Because he had a great fall.

And did you hear the one about the bishop who hired a secretary who had worked for the Pentagon? She immediately changed his filing system to "Sacred" and "Top Sacred."



October 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>EVERY SUNDAY:</u> 8:45 am-Adult Ch. Ed. 10 am-Worship 10:15-Children's Ch. Education 11 am-Fellowship</p>		<p>1 Book Discussion Group 9:30 am</p>	2	3	4	5
<p>6 World Communion Sunday - Peace & Global Witness Offering</p>	<p>7 Trustees' Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>8 Book Disc. Group 9:30 am Healthy Pastors /Healthy Cong. Workshop 6-8 pm</p> <p> Olivia Padgett</p>	<p>9</p> <p> Sandy Boyce & Carolee Burkey</p>	<p>10</p> <p> Kim Burkley</p>	<p>11</p> <p> Susan & Alan Pedersen</p>	12
13	14	<p>15 Book Discussion Group 9:30 am</p>	<p>16</p> <p> Amy & Scott Kirk</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p> Alan Pedersen</p>	19
<p>20 Deacons' Meeting 11:15 am</p>	21	<p>22 Book Discussion Group 9:30 am</p>	23	<p>24 United Nations Day</p>	25	26
<p>27 Session Meeting 11:15 am Reformation Sunday</p> <p> Carol A. McBride</p>	<p>28</p> <p> Amy Kirk & Joshua Hollick</p>	<p>29 Book Discussion Group 9:30 am</p>	30	<p>31 TRICK or TREAT</p>		



- Birthday



- Anniversary