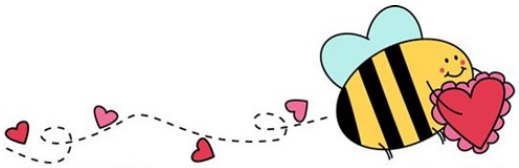

New Covenant Connection

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

Dear friends,

I recently read an article that provided me with some good advice. The author is unknown, but the advice is sound, so I decided to share it with you. I particularly enjoyed this article because, in the early part of my service as a pastor, I was a collector of Noah's Ark items, but I have since let go of that hobby. But let me share this bit of advice as a Noah's Ark devotee. The article begins: *"All I really need to know I learned from the Noah's Ark story:"*

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big. You just never know.
5. Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. We were meant to travel in pairs. It was planned that way.
8. Speed isn't everything. The snails were on board together with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float for a while.
10. Remember the Ark was built by amateurs, and the Titanic by professionals. Then reflect on the two very different outcomes.
11. No matter what comes with the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

~continued~

2026

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR ..1
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(EVENTS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES)
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A Note From Our Pastor (continued)

We are at a time of year when we are reflecting on the past year and planning for the new one. Goals are being set and resolutions made. In Revelation, John quotes the one "seated on the throne" as saying, ***"See, I make all things new."*** This is a verse I have often used at funerals, but I think it is appropriate as we prepare for the year ahead, and on what God is calling us to do.

Winter is upon us but the days are getting longer. Soon seed catalogues will begin to replace holiday gifts, and spring clothes will be on the racks. It's a season of **looking forward, one of expectation and renewal.** But where is New Covenant in this mix? Are we just going to keep doing the same thing, day-after-day, month-after-month, and year-after-year? Is that what God is calling us to do and be?

And are we satisfied with the status quo? Do we want to be a community of faith whose only goal is just to hang on a little longer, because we think God will step in and provide for our needs, making great things happen? If that is WHO we are, then we might as well give up right now because ***WE ARE*** **GOD'S HANDS AND FEET,** and God is looking to us to discern what is best for our congregation, our community, and for the glory of God!

And so **TOGETHER** we need to figure out how to best reach out to our neighbors. Do you have any suggestions? If so, please jot them down and get them to me so that I can share them with the Session. And **PRAY WHOLEHEARTEDLY** for your leaders that we will be led by the Spirit to do our best at **INVITING and WELCOMING** any visitors into our family. And then **PREPARE YOUR SPIRITS** for changes that will come, because I can guarantee you that some will come because **CHANGE IS IN THE AIR**.

And with newness, comes change. So, pray that God will prepare your hearts and minds for what is next. And don't think you can just sit down and applaud as your officers get it done. We need your help too! And we may need to **get outside of our comfort zones** if and when it is necessary. Nobody ever said that the job as a disciple was going to be easy.

We are in a season of PRAYER - DISCERNMENT - and PREPARATION. And that means all of us, friends. Each of us needs to pray and discern what God wants us to do to help this mission succeed. And to that end, I want you to know that I value your participation and hope to enable it. To that end, I am placing note cards in the back of the sanctuary with two fill-in-the-blank statements on them: "I think New Covenant is called to ....." and I commit to help by .....". I hope and pray that each of you will take one of these cards and prayerfully fill it out and return it to me. In the meantime, the Session and I will be praying and discerning on our own, as we await your ideas. And then I imagine that the Spirit of God will enlighten us as we discuss this topic in our next meeting.

And so , partners, let's make this mission move forward with **PRAYER - DISCERNMENT - PREPARATION - and EXCITED ANTICIPATION** about what will happen next!

Your partner in ministry,
Carol

May the Spirit help our outreach bloom and blossom!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Annual Congrega-tional Mtg	2 Deacons' Mtg @ 10:00 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6 Our Daily Bread Bread	7
8 Trustee Mtg 11:30	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentines Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17	18 Session Mtg 10 am	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

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)

2/1 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Communion & ODB Offering
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2/2 Deacons' Meeting
Groundhog Day

2/3 Carol L. McBride—Birthday

2/6 Our Daily Bread

2/7 Kylie Fitch—Birthday

2/8 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Trustee Meeting

2/9 Beverly Cook—Birthday

2/12 Janet Grimminger—Birthday
Kathy Henry—Birthday

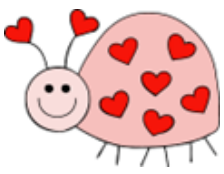
2/14 Valentine's Day

2/15 Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

2/16 Presidents' Day

2/18 Ash Wednesday
Session Meeting

2/22 1st Sunday of Lent



Reports from the Clerk and Trustees

CLERK'S REPORT

Session met on December 18, 2025

Approved the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of November 5, 2025

The Stated Session meeting for January 21, 2026 was cancelled. The next meeting will be February 18th.

New Castle Presbytery Meetings:

Jan 24th (Sat) Installation of 2026 Moderator and Vice Moderator & Lunch
Mar 6-7 (Fri-Sat) Bay Retreat, Dewey Beach, DE
May 16th (Sat) Hybrid Mtg
Sep 10th (Sat) Hybrid Mtg
Dec 1st (Tues) Zoom only Jane Adams & Carol

Carol Fisher attended the Presbytery meeting onJan. 24th, the luncheon and the meeting of the presbytery Staff Relations Committee on which she began a 3 year term of service.

The 2026 Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for January 25, 2026 was postponed due to the snowstorm that closed the church and pretty much everything else for most of the following week. It is rescheduled for February 1, 2026.

Our new officers for 2026 were installed at worship service on January 18th. Officers: Barbara Bookhart, Elder; Judy Cooke and Carol A McBride, Deacons; Al Grimminger, Trustee

Financial Statements: The Session received 2025 Year-to-date (Jan- Dec) statements from the treasurer and the 2026 Budget. These documents will be printed in the 2025 Annual Report.

Membership: 45

Email Addresses:

Clerk:	clerk.ncpc24@gmail.com
Office:	newcov.office2@gmail.com
Treasurer:	treasurernewcov@gmail.com
Pastor:	pastornewcov@gmail.com

Yours in Christ, Pat Wright, Clerk

TRUSTEE REPORT:

No news to report since your trustees took a break in January and did not meet. And yet, if you see something that needs attention at church, please let us know and we will get on top of it.

Your Friendly Trustees,
Al Grimminger, Bill Shields, & Bob Megonigal

Mission & Fellowship Reports

MISSION

Our Daily Bread: We served 184 meals on First Friday in January. ODB continues to assist us with ingredients for our meal when they have the supplies which keeps our cost at around $150/month. The ODB collection continues to support this thanks to the congregation.

Neighborhood House: We continue to collect non-perishable groceries and personal care products for NHH. Jane Adams organizes this mission and regularly delivers our supplies to them. We donated 59 bags of non-perishable groceries along with 2 fresh turkeys, several large packages of fresh chicken and various personal care items in 2025.

Special Offerings: Our next Special Offering is the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in mid March thru Easter.

Christmas Child Shoeboxes Mission: The final count for the shoe boxes was 96 including 12 boxes from the Korean Church congregation. In addition the shipping cost for the boxes ($10/box) was completely covered by donations from the 2 congregations. An extremely successful campaign thanks in large part to Pam and Skip Leeson who organized and guided it all the way.

Pat Wright, Mission Elder

FELLOWSHIP IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

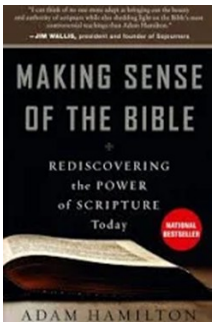
On **Sunday, 1/11**, we had a very successful International Dinner. The food was Dutch, Chinese, Puerto Rican, Jamaican + some American food. Plus, our Korean friends joined us and brought some delicious food entrees. As usual, we had plenty and no one went home hungry, with everyone really enjoying themselves.

On **February 11th at 12:30** we will have a church luncheon at Jackson House. These lunches started out being for women, but NOW ALL are invited and included. So, come on out men! Please sign up so we know how many tables we need to reserve. Thanks and see you soon!

Cheryl Shields,
Fellowship Chairperson

Christian Education Report

Christian Education Classes



We have a great group of folks enjoying classes based on Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible - Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*. We have covered the first section of the book (The Nature of Scripture, the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Questions About the Nature of Scripture) and we have a lot more to which to look forward. We took a break over the holidays and now we are about to begin Section Two - Making Sense of the Bible's Challenging Passages. We offer classes each week on Sundays @ 8:30 am and Tuesdays @ 10:30 am.

Hamilton invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible and the book helps to address some very common questions. Class members find Hamilton's approach to be very inviting as they begin to better understand and appreciate often misunderstood biblical themes. Come one and all to join in the learning and fun!

Christian discipleship is the lifelong, intentional process of following Jesus Christ, embodying His teachings, and becoming more like Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. It involves active learning, obedience, and spiritual growth, often facilitated through mentoring relationships and the community of the church to fulfill the Great Commission.

Key Principles and Components

- Following and Learning: A disciple is a learner (apprentice) who studies the life and teachings of Jesus to apply them to daily life.

- Transformation: The goal is to move from a new believer to a mature follower who reflects Christ's character.

- Relationship-Driven: It often involves one-on-one mentoring (strategic) or peer-to-peer accountability (organic) to foster growth..

- Four Essentials: Effective discipleship relies on the Word of God, the people of God, the Spirit of God, and the mission of Jesus.

Jane Adams,
Christian Education Elder

Stewardship & Finance Report

Taken from *Parish Publishing*

I used to treat time just like water. We've all brushed our teeth and left the water running. Or let it run for several minutes to get cold, instead of using some ice. In essence, we act like it will last forever.

A few years ago, a young man from our church died suddenly. The mourners packed the church and related how this man touched their lives with the love and truth of Christ. His use of time showed his faith. It wasn't all about him. He gave of himself.

It made me embarrassed to think of how I've wasted so much time on unimportant things. The Bible teaches us to "Build treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:22), not to get sidetracked by wasting time chasing or lusting after things that won't last.

A decision to invest time

The day of that funeral I made a decision to start investing my time. God led me to Men's Ministries and now I'm offering up my time to God as a thanks-offering.

Time is just like water, and yet it never stops running. It won't last forever. One day we'll give an account of just how we spent ours. Ask God today how you can invest in a Kingdon that will last forever.

New Years Resolutions

Here are 6 resolutions to help you be a better steward in 2026:

1. ***I'll improve my stewardship of prayer by an unhurried talk with God each day.***
2. ***I'll improve my stewardship of faith by reading good religious literature.***
3. ***I'll improve my stewardship of life by practicing the presence of God and living the teachings of Christ wherever I may be ... whatever I may be doing ... always remembering my final accountability.***
4. ***I'll improve my stewardship of time by eliminating the trivial and concentrating on the important.***
5. ***I'll improve my stewardship of activities by using them more effectively for God and my fellow human beings.***
6. ***I'll improve my stewardship of possessions by setting aside a meaningful percentage of my income and prayerfully dedicating it to the work of God's Kingdom on earth***.

The next time you are challenged by a needed task at church or in God's world, don't be concerned with talents; rather consider all the many capabilities that God has given and is giving you. Capabilities include the gifts of good health, inspiration and insight, which we receive from God.

Barbara Bookhart,

Elder for Finance & Stewardship

Worship Report

JANUARY WAS FULL OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE

We enjoyed 2 special liturgical days in January:

- Jan. 6th EPIPHANY

- Jan. 12th BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY, when we renewed our baptismal vows, were marked with water on our foreheads and received a blue, water-colored stone as a remembrance

FEBRUARY INCLUDES

- Feb. 15th TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
- Feb. 18th ASH WEDNESDAY
- Feb. 22nd THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Transfiguration Sunday (2/15) celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus' radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the Lord at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus' baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased.

This Sunday, immediately prior to **Ash Wednesday (2/18)**, is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus' ministry in which he "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), where he would die.

In Jesus' transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. Jesus is the One who fulfilled the Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets, of whom Elijah is the greatest.

On **Ash Wednesday (2/18)**,we will begin to prepare ourselves for a liturgical season of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ, whose life and teachings are the foundation of the Christian faith. This 40-day period is called "Lent" after an old English word meaning "lengthen." The 40 days also help us to remember the time Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan.

There are many symbols of Lent leading us from Penitence to Hope. They are: Ashes, the color purple, pretzels, fish (fasting), palm fronds (Palm Sunday), cross with a violet stole (season of penitence), a water basin & towel (Maundy Thursday's washing of the feet), bag of 30 pieces of silver, etc.

On **Ash Wednesday (2/18 at 7 pm)**,we will have a quiet, reflective Taize service with simple chants, silence and the reading of scripture. Come and join us as we set our minds and hearts on what Jesus did for us.

Barbara Montazella and Pat Wright, Worship Ministry

Frog Corner

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

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

Some Valentine Riddles:

Q: Where do you find love in a grocery store?
A: Aisle B ... there for you.

Q: How do vampires know if they had a successful Valentine's Day?
A: If it's love at first bite.

Q: Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?
A: No, they had an apple.

Q: What do you call a romance that starts at the aquarium?
A: Guppy love.

Q: What did the man say to his banker on February 14th?
A: You've caught my interest.

Q: What did the painter tell his girlfriend?
A: I love you with all my art.

Q: Why shouldn't you fall in love with a pastry chef?
A: He'll dessert you.

Q: What did the paper clip say to the magnet?
A: I find you very attractive.

Q: What did the gardener say to is his date?
A: I dig you.

Q: What's Cupid's favorite band?
A: Kiss!

Q: What did the cucumber say to the pickle?
A: You mean a great dill to me.

Q: What did one plate say to the other on Valentine's Day?
A: Tonight, dinner's on me.

Q: What did the elephant say to his girlfriend?
A: I love you a ton.

Hope you enjoy the month of February!