New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
www.newcov-church.org

A Word from Your Pastor

Dear friends,

Lately I have been thinking a lot about the idea of **community** and what it takes to create a sense of togetherness as we minister in Christ's name. I have been reading *Common Grace* by Anthony Robinson and *Making Room* by Christine Pohl. Several thoughts have been circling through my mind that I want to share with you.

First, a central part of Reformed tradition is the idea that **ALL of life is lived *before and unto* God**. This means that human beings cannot divide up their lives into separate compartments such as family life, career, political life, and our spiritual lives. Our religious or faith life is NOT just for Sunday, after which we're something different or someone else on Monday. We are whole beings with all the parts of our lives united. All of life is lived before and unto God, and all of life is interrelated and whole. The trick is to see all of life through the lends of faith, and to seek to serve God with all that we have and are.

Did you know that the word "religion" can be traced etymologically to the word from which we derive the word "ligament?" In a world so fragmented into a thousand bits and pieces, religion is about the connections - our social and spiritual ligaments - those things that connect us to each other and to God. Robinson points out that "As we discover the links and patterns, weaving the varied threads together, and delighting in the connections that are discovered that we are fulfilled. That is why the Biblical image of us being various parts of the body connected to one another, each working to serve the whole body makes sense. Truly we are tied together as we serve God, and we will only be able to serve effectively as we strengthen our ties and work together rather than separately.

It is important for us to make building a sense of community a priority. This is not easy in a world that promotes individualism. I had never put the pieces together

~continued~

2025

A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR ..1

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A Note From Our Pastor (Cont.)

in my mind before, but Robinson points out that three (3) post W.W. II devices have contributed to Americans losing a sense of community. The three devices are the automobile, the air conditioner, and the television.

Think about it! The automobile's prevalence means that people can travel farther and more often, staying home less time. Before air conditioning, people spent time in their yards and porches visiting with neighbors. And the advent of television meant that people began staying home more for entertainment as opposed to going out to socialize with others. Since these 3 things have taken hold, we might consider adding to the list - the internet, cell phones, and things like Facebook and Instagram that have us communicating with screens rather than face-to-face with people.

About the same time that inventions of the modern age were taking hold, Harry Emerson Fosdick wrote a hymn - *God of Grace and God of Glory*. One phrase that describes our society is "Rich in things, but poor in soul." He might have said, "Rich in things, but poor in community."

It is true that with the advent of modern technology, a serious blow has been struck at true community - koinonia. Whereas people used to gather in neighborhoods, churches, community centers and the like, these gatherings simply don't happen as much as they did in the past.

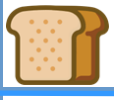
It would be difficult to place a value on community for it isn't easy to quantify, but it is worth a great deal. It is worth a lot when you have people with whom you share the chapters of your life - when you care about each other and your community. It means everything to have brothers and sisters in Christ when difficult times come.

My friends, let's intentionally and with deep commitment, work together to create a deep sense of community at NCPC where the ties that bind us are strong and cannot be broken. It is possible to have strong ties to each other EVEN WHEN we don't always agree with one another. I encourage you to reflect on what our community of faith means to you and to deepen your commitment to help it grow and strengthen. Reflect on times when you have turned to sisters and brothers in faith for strength and encouragement as well as to celebrate. How sad it is that some people try to go this life alone without this kind of community.

Remember that true community that is worthy of the name is always a mixed bag. Community is not made up of only pleasant people - our friends, or people who are bright, happy, healthy and good-natured. In community, we learn patience as we learn the art of forbearance and forgiveness. And as we do, we become aware that others have been patient in putting up with us as we have done with them. When we learn to love, accept and respect each other, then God uses us to create true community. May God guide us as we learn about Christian community and learn to live its principles each and every day!

Your partner in ministry,

Carol

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Our Daily Bread 	5
6 Commun-ion; ODB Offering	7 Deacons' Mtg@ 10	8	9	10	11	12
13 Trustee Mtg; @ 11:30	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Session. Mtg @ 1 pm	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

EVERY SUNDAY—WORSHIP AT 10 AM FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP;

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ON A SUMMER BREAK; BELL CHOIR—SUMMER BREAK

7/2 Birthday - Seung Bin Lee

7/4 Birthday - Scott Burkley
- Richard Shrout
First Friday @ Our Daily Bread
Independence Day

7/6 4th Sunday after Pentecost
The Lord's Supper & ODB Offering

7/7 Deacons' Meeting @ 10:00 am

7/7 Birthday - Catheryn Driscoll

7/11 Birthday—Christina Schafer

7/14 5th Sunday after Pentecost
Anniversary - Skip & Pam Leeson
Trustees' Meeting @ 11:30 am

7/20 6th Sunday after Pentecost

7/23 Session Meeting @ 1 pm

7/24 Birthday—Georgia Mackay

7/25 Birthday—Judy Cooke

7/26 Birthday - Tom Kimble

7/27 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Birthday - Logan Fitch

7/28 Anniversary - Sandy & Clark Phillips

Clerk's Report

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Session had its regular Stated meeting on June 18th. The Minutes of our May 21st Stated Meeting and our Called Meeting on May 27th were approved. Our next Stated Meeting will be on July 23rd.

The calendar for New Castle Presbytery meetings for 2025 is:

- Sept. 20th - Pam Leeson will serve as commissioner, reporting back to the Session what she had learned.

- Dec. 2nd - Jane Adams will serve as commissioner.

Carol Fisher and Barbara Bookhart have met with our treasurer to assist her in inputting all the information in order to have monthly financial reports.

At our Called Meeting, we reviewed the results of New Castle Presbytery's churches who participated in Vital Congregations and compared it to our church. Our results were mixed but we did gain insight and knowledge even though it hasn't, as of yet, led to much concrete change.

- Our membership remains at 46. The church's email are:

Clerk (clerk.ncpc24@gmail.com); Office (newcov.office2@gmail.com); Treasurer (treasurernewcov@gmail.com); Pastor (pastornewcov@gmail.com)

Yours in Christ,

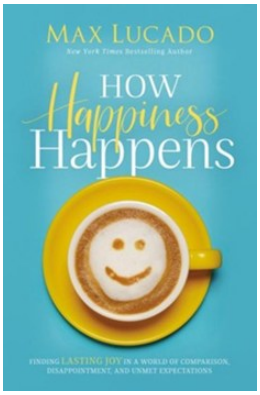
Pat Wright, Clerk

Just a thought..... Several scriptures emphasize the importance of encouraging one another. **1 Thessalonians 5:11** states, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." **Hebrews 3:13**, encourages believers to "encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today.'" These verses highlight the ongoing need for mutual support and edification within the Christian community. May God find us to be faithful in **ENCOURAGING AND BUILDING UP ONE ANOTHER**. If we do as good of a job as the crew building up new houses all around us, God will be pleased.

Christian Ed. & Worship Report

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are taking a summer break from our weekly classes. We got halfway through Max Lucado's study winding down for the summer with our Christian Education classes. In the fall we will begin with chapter 4 in his book, *How Happiness Happens*.



Skip Leeson, who teaches the Bethel Class following Fellowship time on Sundays will probably be finished with the Old Testament study and will pick up in the fall with the New Testament.

Jane Adams, Christian Education Elder

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WORSHIP IN JULY

There are no particular religious events or days to celebrate in July but we can always give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy as we celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. Our American Flag is a symbol of freedom = the birth of the United States as an independent nation, marking the end of colonial rule and the beginning of self-determination. It represents the ideals of freedom, democracy, and the right to pursue happiness, which are fundamental to the American identity.

And, as Christians, we believe that God gave us freedom so that we may freely choose him and do what is true, good and beautiful. Sometimes, when we look at the world around us, it is is tempting to question why God gave us freedom in the first place, but we are not God who created, redeemed and sustains us. May we remember to trust in God. **Barbara Montazella, Worship Elder**

Mission Report

Our Daily Bread: We served 183 meals on First Friday, in June. The Our Daily Bread Fund, collected each month on the first Sunday, continues to cover the cost of preparing the meals. In July, we would not normally be serving a meal at ODB because it is on July 4th and ODB is usually closed for holidays. However, we were asked and decide to serve a "lunch" that day. It will be a little different with take-out only and the menu is Hot Dogs, Potato Salad and Chips. We will prepare and serve the meal from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm so everyone can still be home for afternoon and evening festivities with friends and family. A great way to celebrate both our commitment to our country and to our Matthew 25 mission to care for the less fortunate in our community. If anyone is interested ande able, ODB has begun a Saturday Sandwich program which has groups and/or individuals who have an hour of so on a Sat. morning to come to the dining room and prepare sandwiches to place in the community refrigerator for the weekend. This can help ensure that there are easy meals available in the frig even when ODB is closed for the weekend. If your are interested, contact Pat Wright at church of ODB directly at: ourdailybread.2016@gmail.com

Neighborhood House: We continue to collect non-perishable food items for Neighborhood House. At this time there is a particular need for spaghetti/pasta, sauce, peanut butter and jelly but any non-perishable food item is welcomed with open arms. The hunger and food insecurity in our community has not gone away and there is a constant need for both food and personal items. A few weeks ago, Jane Adams took 8 bags of pantry items there from our congregation. Thank you all for your continued support!

Pentecost Special Offering: We completed this special offering and thank you to all who contributed to this valuable mission. We collected $195 and our congregation retains 40% ($78) will be added to our Youth Fund to help young people.

Peace and Global Witness Offering: The next Special Offering will begin in September, ending with World Communion Sunday on 10/6.

Christmas Child Shoeboxes: Merry Christmas during the SUMMER!

The last Sunday in July (the 13th), there will be a "Christmas in July event" during Fellowship Time, for putting together Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Get a jump on Christmas and be prepared to add some items to these Christmas boxes. It's a good time to stock up on items to help us make these gifts special Let's try to do even more than we did last year.

Pat Wright,

Mission Elder

Trustee Report

The trustee Meetings are open to all and they are normally scheduled each month on the 2nd Sunday after Worship. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 13, 2025.

We are still looking at what we may want to do to increase the security around our property with all the construction going on and eventually, with many new neighbors.

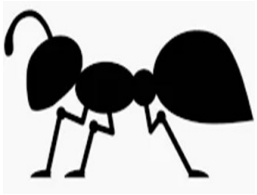
The new LED lights for the parking lot have been installed during the week of 7/23. We will need to add a landscape bed around the main electrical connection so that anyone mowing the grass does not hit it. Thanks to Bill Shields, John Easter, Al Grimminger, Jay Fisher, Bob Megonigal and Win Bookhart, plus all who helped provide food and water to our work crew.

We are still considering the type of sign we plan to have to let people know how to navigate through the new development to get to and from our church. It is still a work in progress but we will be setting up a sign committee to further this work.

The Coffee Truck in our parking lot several times a week should start soon. The owner plans to serve high-end coffee/espresso drinks, homemade breakfast sandwiches and pastries.

The trustees received another request to use our parking lot for another Food Truck to use it 7 days a week. We are in the process of setting up times to allow this to move forward.

We are beginning cleaning out our storage room in the CE building. We have sold the old chair rack with old chairs and several old, heavy tables. We still have a rocking chair if anyone is interested. Please let Carol know if you are interested.



If there are any questions or comments you would like to make, please let us know. We are here to serve our congregation. And please remember that we are in ANT SEASON so keep any food or drink well covered.

Your Friendly Trustees,

Al Grimminger, Bill Shields, and Bob Megonigal

Stewardship & Finance

"Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. I am the Lord. If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit. . . . But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands . . . I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze. . . . Then the land will enjoy its sabbath years. . . . "

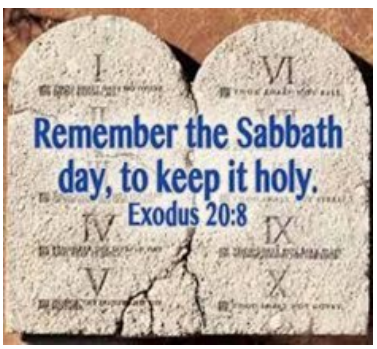
Leviticus 26:2-4, 14, 19 and 34

When visiting the many wonders of this world, we are left with the thought "Only God could have made that" and a close cousin to the question "What was God thinking when He made that?" Both are statements of faith. We ask questions because it shows that we pay attention and that is exactly what God's creation deserves.

God's idea of Sabbath is an invitation to delight in creation. Observing Sabbath requires that creation be allowed to participate in Sabbath. Land, water, animals and plants need an opportunity to participate in the festive rest with which God crowns creation.

When the Israelites were about to enter Canaan, God sat them down for some last-minute instructions. He had already given them rules for respecting God and each other. Now they needed to know how to respect the Promised Land they were about to enter by respecting the Sabbath.

One out of every seven years, the land was to have its rest. God was serious about this. In fact, at the end of two chapters of instructions, God warned Israel what would happen if they worked the land too hard and treated it harshly: God would turn the sky to iron and the ground to bronze. The land would refuse to give up its food. Invaders would come and drive the Israelites out. When they were gone, then God would give the land the Sabbath rest that the people of Israel had neglected.



Not being good stewards of the Sabbath would demand a steep price, if God decided to take matters into His own hands. However, this passage gives us hope. God intends for us to live in harmony with creatures and land. Therefore, it is possible for us to come to love a vision of people, creatures, land and God delighting in Sabbath rest.

Barbara Bookhart, Elder

Stewardship and Finance

Deacon Ministry-Care & Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP

In **June**, many of us (about 28 people) joined in fun and fellowship as we gathered for our **Garden Party** which was held at the Shields' home (1636 Caldwell Corner Rd., Townsend, DE). The Party was on **July 14th.** Cheryl provided the main dish and attendees brought side dishes, appetizers and desserts. No one went hungry. We enjoyed the music provided by the One-Man Band (Rich Goldberg).

In **July**, all are invited to an Ice Cream Social and Movie Night at 6 pm. We will have brownies too. If you have suggestions for a movie, let Cheryl know. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary so we can know how many are coming and if anyone can bring some brownies. Can't wait to see you!

Cheryl Shields

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

For all who are a part of our church family, you are encouraged to join in any or all of the upcoming events. And consider inviting your friends and neighbors too. But, most of all, KNOW that the primary task of your elected deacons is to CARE FOR OUR OWN. If you have a need with which the church could help, please let us know. We are here to help, support, pray for, and encourage all those around us. This is WHO we are all called to be - loving shepherds for our flock and all who join us in our journey of faith. All are invited to join in this adventure of faith.

Skip Leeson

Outreach

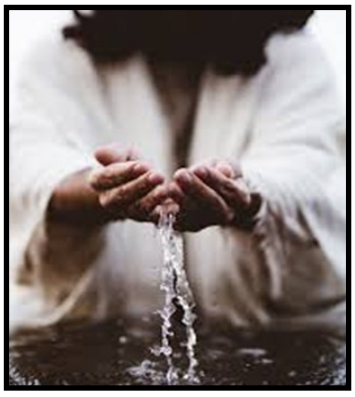
The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

Jesus' words in John 4:14b

Jesus encountered a woman from Samaria while she was drawing water from Jacob's well. He asked her for a drink. Because Jews did not share things in common with Samaritans, she asked him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria? Jesus engaged her in conversation, He told her of his living water (living water symbolizing the Holy Spirit).

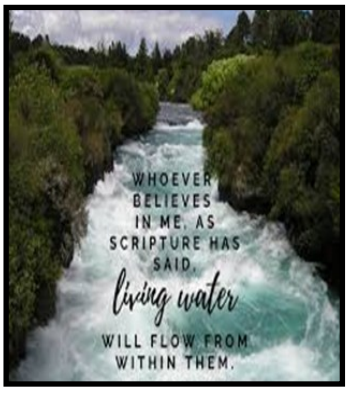
When NCPC was built, the water source was an Artesian well. It was eventually replaced by a main drain. Main drains, also known as main drainpipes or main sewer lines, are the primary conduits responsible for carrying waste water and sewage away from your home or building. Think of them as the central highway in a complex network of pipes. We will soon have many new neighbors around the church. Let us follow the example of Jesus. We can engage them in conversation and offer the Living Water of the Spirit and salvation.

NCPC old water well, on the circle in front of the church.



TOGETHER WE GROW AND MEET NEEDS

Beverly Cook, Outreach Elder



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.

Q: Why didn't Noah go fishing? **A:** He had only two worms!

Q: When was the longest day in the Bible? **A:** The day Adam was created because there was no Eve.

Q: Why did God create man before woman? **A:** God didn't want any advice.

Q: What do you call a sleepwalking nun? **A:** A roamin' Catholic!

Doctor: 'Your recovery was a miracle!' **Patient:** 'PRAISE GOD. Now I don't have to pay you!'

Q: Why did Moses wander in the desert for 40 years? **A:** Even then men wouldn't ask for directions!

Mrs. Smartt was fumbling in her purse for her offering during worship when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle. The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, "Do you always carry your TV remote to church?" "No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."

God is talking to one of his angels and says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?" The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?" God says, "I think I'll call it a day."

Enjoy these thoughts -

May they bless you!