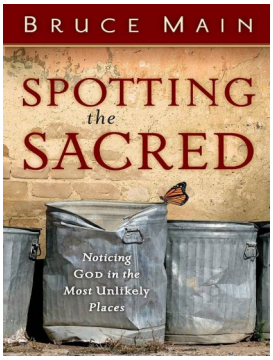
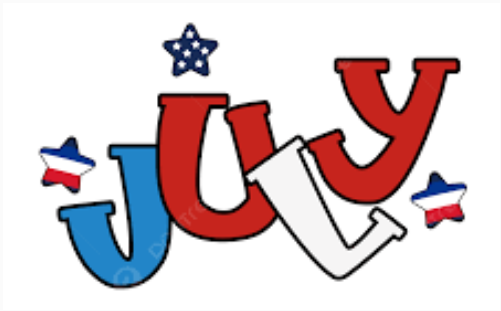
New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
www.newcov-church.org





2026

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A Word from Your Pastor

Dear friends,

This month I want to encourage you to take on **a new spiritual practice - that of noticing God in the most unlikely places.** I have been reading Bruce Main's book, *Spotting the Sacred* lately and it has really helped me to OPEN my eyes and senses more to the presence of God every day. And I hope it will enable you to do the same.

Dolores Leckey said, *"The miracle of mindfulness in the savoring of ordinary life is the lens that enables us to experience all that is sacred."* Main helps us to understand what this means by relating his experience of driving in a foreign country (France). He shares how overwhelmed he was by cars going much faster than he was accustomed, and by not being able to read the road signs in order to find the right places to turn. The nuances in foreign languages and the customs of foreign countries can be challenging for sure.

It's just a fact that the differences in foreign travel compared to all that is familiar and routine can leave us flabbergasted. And driving when we are tense is NOT pleasant or safe. So, what is it about everything that is unfamiliar that calls us to PAY CLOSER ATTENTION and has the potential of **AWAKENING US TO NEW THINGS?**

BE OPEN TO LEARNING NEW THINGS

I'm sure that we are all aware that when we rush through meetings and/or encounters with people we meet, then we miss opportunities to see and experience God in the ordinary events of our lives. We simply become content to just skim through life without ever pausing to consider that the events in our daily lives may have a deeper, spiritual quality to them.

Ray Bradbury's prophetic novel *Fahrenheit 451* picks up this idea as he describes a future world full of superficial people who live at such a hurried pace that they never slow down to appreciate anything. And many of his ideas have come to fruition in our world, things like television sets that are never turned off, the continual bombardment by advertisements, and our so-called "need" for constant stimulation through entertainment. And sadly, for many, life becomes a blur and much of it is barely noticed, much less appreciated.

A Note From Our Pastor (Cont.)

Being open and vigilant to see and experience the **NEWNESS** of creation can be exciting and challenging. Sitting on the edge of one's car seat, with our eyes riveted for clues toward our destination, is certainly a helpful metaphor for our lives - especially if we want to live with a fuller awareness of what is happening around us. This allows us NOT only to see the road signs more clearly, but it helps us to see more of life taking place **BETWEEN** the signs. Isn't this what great artists and poets do? They help us to look at - to **SEE** - in a different way, ordinary things in life. So, let's jump out of our easy chairs and really **NOTICE** all the beauty around us.

But the arts folks aren't the only ones given the opportunity to notice the deeper dimensions of life. **PEOPLE OF FAITH are CALLED TO NOTICE** life and all of its intricacies. As people created by God, we are called to become people who marvel at creation and celebrate its beauty. With a bit of imagination and creative insight, we can learn to fully appreciate our world, and when we **CHOOSE TO NOTICE**, we can discover that underneath our routines, there are new dramas unfolding all the time. These dramas beckon us to participate and they coincide with the intentions of God. They are dramas being acted out by ordinary people, like you and me, who are behaving in ways that capture the spirit of Jesus' teaching.

The speed with which we move has a seductive ability to lull us into complacency and diminish our ability to see much that exists beyond the physical plane. And the more our days become depleted of spiritual meaning, the busier we make our lives. Busyness tends to provide momentary meaning and artificially abates our spiritual hunger.

It is a reality that our world is full of distractions that blur our vision, prohibiting us from leading a full life, as God intended. Many of us have jobs, families that require attention, and lots of other commitments. So, how are we to be fully involved in the world without it consuming all of our attention? The answer is to learn to live as if God is at work in our midst **ALL THE TIME** and, further, to realize that the amount of time we spend in prayer has nothing to do with God's nearness and activity in the mix of daily life. The psalmist affirms this in Ps. 139: 7-8: **"Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there."** There simply is NO escaping God!

May we learn to be aware of God's presence in ALL places, not just in churches on Sundays. And remember that God's presence and activity in the world are NOT conditional upon the success or failure of OUR solitude, even though our solitude helps to enrich our spiritual lives by creating a sanctuary-type environment where our eyes and hearts can be opened to see what God is ALREADY doing in our midst. And, as our eyes begin to open and we cultivate the discipline of NOTICING, then the opportunity arises for us to see that **ALL OF LIFE CAN BE "TIME WITH GOD."**

And so, dear friends, SIMPLY LIVING IN THE WORLD means that WE ARE ALREADY SPENDING TIME IN GOD'S PRESENCE! And if we truly embrace this idea, then instead of looking for ways to significantly change our life patterns by building in uninterrupted times of solitude, we can begin to discern how to live more attentively in the midst of our active lives - each moment. Remember - just as God was active in Jesus' day, God continues to be active in our time. So, do all you can to glimpse God's holiness in your midst for we are called to live a noticed life.

Your partner in ministry,

Carol

JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Deacons' Mtg@ 10		1 Funeral Service for Alice Megonigal 12-1pm	2	3 Our Daily Bread Lunch	4
5 Communion; ODB Offering	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Trustee Mtg @ 11:30; Ice Cream & Movie 6pm	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Session. Mtg @ 10a	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

EVERY SUNDAY—WORSHIP AT 10 AM FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP; CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & BELL CHOIR ON A SUMMER BREAK BUT CHERYL SHIELDS WILL BE OFFERING A CLASS IN AUGUST.

7/2 Birthday - Seung Bin Lee
7/3 First Friday @ Our Daily Bread
7/4 Birthday - Scott Burkley
- Richard Shrout
Independence Day
7/5 6th Sunday after Pentecost
The Lord's Supper & ODB Offering
7/6 Deacons' Meeting @ 10:00 am
7/7 Birthday - Catheryn Driscoll
7/11 Birthday—Christina Schafer
7/12 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Trustees' Meeting @ 11:30 am
7/14 Anniversary - Skip & Pam Leeson
7/19 8th Sunday after Pentecost
7/22 Session Meeting @ 1 pm
7/24 Birthday—Georgia Mackay
7/25 Birthday—Judy Cooke
7/26 9th Sunday after Pentecost
Birthday - Tom Kimble
7/27 Birthday - Logan Fitch
7/28 Anniversary - Sandy & Clark Phillips

Clerk's Report

CLERK'S REPORT:

Stated Session Meeting was held on June 24, 2026
Approved the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of April 22, 2026
Next Stated Session meeting will be July 22, 2026

New Castle Presbytery Meetings
Sep 10th (Sat) Hybrid Mtg Barbara Bookhart & Carol
Dec 1st (Tues) Zoom only Jane Adams & Carol

Presbytery Meeting Report: May 16, 2026

Church of the Covenant was officially closed. The building will be stewarded by a new non-profit organization "Covenant Community Services" thru a lease agreement with NC Presbytery. A member of NCP will sit on the board of directors. Remaining members of the congregation will be transferred to NCP for up to 3 years. An administrative commission will work with the West Nottingham session and congregation.

Peace and Justice Team listed "Indivisible", ACLU (DE and MD), and "Poor Peoples' Campaign" as organizations that local congregation could partner with locally to pursue peace and justice in their communities.

Financial Statements:

At the end of May, our YTD Income/Revenue = $64,984.17 and our YTD Expenses=$53,031.60. The revenue over expenses =$14,952.57. So as of the end of May we are in the black by $14,952.57. As the year progresses this may change as some submit their entire annual pledge at the beginning of the year. Also looking at the month of May, we took in more revenue than we spent that month.

Carol's Sabbatical Leave is scheduled for January 2027. Presbytery gave us a grant of $1000 to be used for Pulpit supply during her sabbatical, and $1000 to Carol for expenses..

With the passing of Alice Megonigal, our membership is at 41.

Yours in Christ, Pat Wright, Clerk

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE The nominating committee will be meeting soon to discuss officers for next year. Pam Leeson is the chairperson of this representative committee. We welcome any suggestions you have for positions on Session, Deacons, Trustees, or the Nominating Committee, or if you are interested in joining these dynamic groups! Just let me know, please. - Pam Leeson

Christian Ed. & Worship Report

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are pausing for a summer break in regard to our Christian Education Classes. We have been meeting every Sunday morning at 8:30 am and Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Our study's focus was Adam Hamilton's book study - *Moses, A Reluctant* Prophet. The group really enjoyed the book as well as the videos which gave us a bird's eye view of the lands of our faith and of the Bible.

Summer Christian Education Class: Cheryl Shields is offering and a study and discussion of the Book of Enoch, chapters 6-36. It will be offered on **August 9, 16 and 23rd at 8:45 am** in the Fellowship Room. Enoch is an ancient Jewish religious text attributed to Enoch, the great-grandfather of Noah. The theme is of Fallen angels (Watchers) who defy divine orders which leads to their punishment and the creation of the Nephilim. This study will help you see Genesis through a new lens. Please let Cheryl know if you are interested so that she can order the book which is $15.

Jane Adams,
Christian Education Elder

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 this year, we celebrate our 250th Birthday!

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 180 meals on First Friday, in both May and June. This included meals we served and meals that were put into the community refrigerator which provides meals available on the weekend. ODB also has a Saturday program which has groups and/or individuals who have an hour or so 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 for the community even when ODB is closed on weekends. If you are interested, contact Pat Wright at church or contact ODB directly at *ourdailybread2016@gmail.com.*

Neighborhood House: The Neighborhood House facility in Middletown has closed its doors and all the services they provided have been transferred to their Wilmington facility. We will continue to collect non-perishable food items but will donate them to ODB so they continue to aid and assist the greater MOT community. Jane delivered 6 large grocery bags of non-perishable foods to ODB this past week. Jane Adams will continue to collect and deliver our food donations.

Special Offerings: We collected $280.20 for the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering. PCUSA has reduced the number of special offerings this year to 3 instead of 4. The Pentecost offering has been eliminated so the next special offering is on World Communion Sunday which begins around Labor Day and ends of on the 1st Sunday of October.

Christmas Child Shoeboxes: We will again have a "Christmas in July" event to fill shoeboxes for the Christmas Child Campaign. It will be held on July 26th in the Fellowship Room after worship. See Pam or Skip Leeson with any questions. Pam has posted lists of what kinds of things to purchase for these shoeboxes in the back of the sanctuary and in the Education Building. Start looking for sales and bargains on items for these boxes.- school supplies, small toys, stuffed animals or dolls, tshirts, combs, brushes, hair bows, clips, coloring books, etc. - Pam Leeson

Pat Wright,

Mission Elder

Trustee Report

The Trustee Meetings are open to all and is normally scheduled each month on the 2nd Sunday after Worship. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 9 August 2026.

There was an approved recommendation to upgrade/renovate the Ladies Restroom, which is in the progress of being planned and the goal is to complete it before fall. Anyone willing and/or able to help with painting and minor remodeling (changing out the cabinet for a larger storage cabinet, changing out the mirror and towel holder, etc.), please let Carol or Pam know.

We are still looking at what we may want to do to increase the security around our property with all the construction going on around us.

Landscaping (some artificial plants) to be placed around the main electrical connection in our front yard has been ordered.

The Church sign, to be placed on the development property next to us went to the New Castle County Land Use Department this past Thursday and was approved. There are still a few other items to be completed before it is done. Stay tuned.

Flipside Trailer is no longer in our Parking Lot. They have moved to a location in Bayberry North. It is appreciated that New Covenant Church Parking Lot gave them a good start to their business.

We have approved the request to use our Parking Lot for a "FARMERS MARKET" for several days a week. This is still in the works and may happen shortly.

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

Your Friendly Trustees,

Al Grimminger, Bill Shields, and Bob Megonigal

Stewardship & Finance

Taken from *Parish Publishing*

Children constantly show joy by clapping their hands. Put apple sauce before them and they clap. Give them a toy and they clap eagerly. Tell them the family is going to the mountains for a picnic and they break into applause. These joyous children bring to mind the words of Isaiah to the effect that "a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6) Certainly happy children can lead those who dwell in gloom and doom into a new and joyous lifestyle.

In I Timothy 4:4 St. Paul says: ***"Everything created by God is good ... provided it is received with thanksgiving."*** Children know that already. Receiving life "with thanksgiving" is the key to living victoriously. It starts with observing all of the good things which God bestows on us daily and receiving them with joy. That should prompt us to be "handclappers" - not "handwringers." If we do become grateful for God's overflowing goodness to us, we are called to become generous givers ourselves. We will begin to practice the stewardship of all that God has given us. In short, we will open our hands and hearts to serve the Lord. After all, handclappers spread their joy everywhere.

**Who flew the kite? "I did," said the wind. "I did," said the string. "I did," said the paper. "I did," said the child. In reality, ALL flew the kite. Each had its own part to play. Whether you are on the front lines of ministry, in the main office, or providing financial support and prayer, together you are ALL winning people to Christ. Just like the kite, if one part fails, all fail.*

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 **June 13th.** 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).

On **July 16th**, 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

Deacon's are a reflection of the heart of Christianity. While all Christians are called to be involved in the ministry of caring for persons in need, the ministry of the deacon is the light that guides the way. As our country faces some of its most challenging times, people will once again be in need of care and compassion. Those who are called to be deacons will be needed to model and extend the love of Jesus Christ as they reach out to those in need. Please let the deacons know of anyone within our church community that needs our help.

Skip Leeson

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.

The Choir's Secret Weapon: Picture this: The church choir is practicing diligently when the director notices one member singing off-key. Concerned, the director approaches the choir member and asks, "Why are you singing the wrong notes?" The choir member replies, "I'm singing the same notes that the congregation is singing!"

Holy Speeding Ticket: An elderly gentleman is pulled over for speeding. The police officer asks, "Do you know how fast you were going, sir?" The senior replies, "I was trying to get to church before the devil does!"

Senior Saint and the GPS: A group of seniors is discussing modern technology at the church picnic. One senior proudly declares, "I've mastered this newfangled GPS device. I programmed it to take me to the church, and it led me straight to the confessional!"

Sermon Slumber: A pastor notices an elderly gentleman nodding off during the sermon. The pastor leans over and whispers, "I hope I'm not boring you, sir." The senior replies, "Not at all, Pastor. It's just that I'm practicing for the resurrection!"

Divine Forgetfulness: At the church potluck, a senior is asked, "Have you tried the new memory-enhancing supplements?" The senior responds, "I did, but I can't remember if they worked!"

Holy Golf Game: Two seniors are discussing their plans for the day. One says, "I'm torn between going to church and playing golf." The other replies, "Well, it's a tough decision. Let's pray for a hole-in-one at church!"

Pious Parrot: A senior brings his talking parrot to church. During the sermon, the parrot squawks loudly, "Amen! Hallelujah!" The pastor, amused, asks, "Does your parrot always praise the Lord?" The senior replies, "Well, only when he gets a little birdseed!"

Holy Weather Forecast: As the congregation exits the church, a senior looks up at the cloudy sky and remarks, "I think the weatherman is a member of our church. He always predicts a little 'Sonshine' on Sundays!"

Confession Confusion: During confession, a senior admits to the priest, "Father, I have a habit of exaggerating the truth." The priest responds, "My child, you must put an end to this. You don't want to end up in a sermon illustration!"

Enjoy these jokes -

May they bless you!

Word Search

Bible Books Word Search

E G P V F N E H E M I A H S I M G C
B E G S S J D E U T E R O N O M Y K
M N U A A U D Y B U E Z R A L I F I
C E F M L L D L E V I T I C U S T N
J S W O T V M H V T O S A M U E L G
N I V S I I D S R I U B Z J T E V S
A S C H R O N I C L E S A J O G I G
H U M L D A N I E L W R W D O E Z F
U V P K I S A I A H H U L E I N L D
M E X O D U S L C H F T I H V A A Q
D G M E Z E K I E L F H P L Q J H H
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DEUTERONOMY
OBADIAH
EXODUS
KINGS
CHRONICLES
EZEKIEL
DANIEL
RUTH
ZECHARIAH
GENESIS
SAMUEL
AMOS
LEVITICUS
ISAIAH
JONAH
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
PSALMS
NAHUM
JOEL