New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church

www.newcov-church.org

A Word from Your Pastor

Dear friends,

Does inconsistency and/or hypocrisy exist in the Christian Church? I would have to say "yes, at least to some extent." I wish that I could deny its existence but we are all human beings after all, so that means that we sin. The hypocrisy creeps in when we try to pretend that we are perfect, or without sin.

Most of us in the church realize this fact even though we wish it wasn't so. The problem comes when people outside of the church try to find reasons for not wanting to be a part of a community of faith. These people often have no intention of becoming part of a church so they say it's due to hypocrisy raring its ugly head within the church's walls.

It seems that, if you really get involved in a congregation, you are less likely to see problems in the church in terms of hypocrisy, and you'll probably see them more in terms of human failure. And when you're talking about human failure, it's easier to include yourself in that category. In fact, many people stay in the church precisely because, though they recognize imperfections among the group, they also see the church as a place where we're called to a higher standard in attitudes and actions.

And, if you take the time to really examine what's happening in churches, it's not difficult to find at least some people who truly are working diligently to follow Jesus in truth and faith. These are the REAL people I'm talking about.

2025

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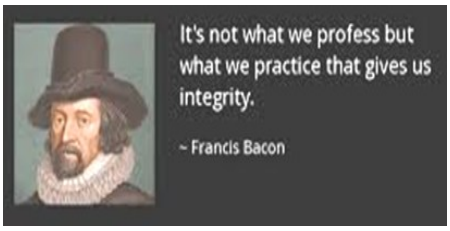
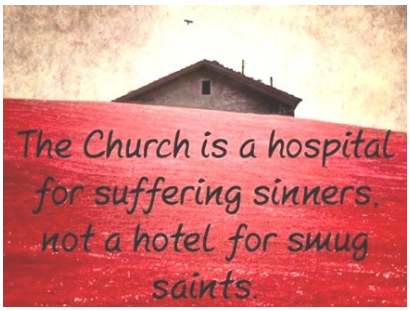
A Note From Our Pastor (Cont.)



Most people want to be better people, wouldn't you agree? And, for that reason, they find it helpful to be involved in a church, because it puts them in the company of other people who also see that gap between their profession and practice, and they care enough to want to narrow that gap.

In church, we find people who aren't that different from ourselves - people who are on faith journeys similar to ours. These people are real because they know they are sinners, and that's exactly why they're in the church - to encourage and help themselves and others to better align their lives with God's design for humanity.



So, it's true that us churchgoers are NOT perfect. In fact, that's EXACTLY WHY WE'RE HERE. Maybe you've heard a common message on church signs which reads - **"The Church is a Hospital for Sinners, Not a Hotel for Saints."** If you take a moment to reflect on this statement, some interesting observations come to mind.

The difference between being in a "hospital" versus a "hotel" would completely change a person's attitude and actions. BEING IN A HOSPITAL intimates that you acknowledge something is wrong with you, and you are there seeking health. It means that you admit you can't do it all by yourself, and you need others to help, both God and neighbor. It means that you look to professionals, like medical personnel, to lead you to become healthier. And it often means that you must take an active part in your treatment, changing your behavior to achieve better health.

On the other hand, BEING A GUEST IN A HOTEL brings a totally different set of expectations and actions. Guests in hotels want to receive good value for what they pay. They want to be waited upon and they have high expectations for their stay, not wanting to have to do anything other than enjoy their stay. They want to relax and be spectators, not being actively involved in making their stay pleasurable. Hotel guests don't have to join with other people in the hotel to do anything. It's all about them, and they expect their needs and desires to be satisfied. Hotel guests expect others to do it all for them and, IF it's not done to their satisfaction, they complain until their service is up to par.

These are some interesting reflections, I believe. Perhaps, part of the problem of the modern church is the fact that too many people look at the church as a hotel for saints, rather than it being a hospital for sinners, which is Christ's intention. Remember that we are called to strive toward being Christ-like, realizing that as hard as we try, we will never fully attain this ideal, but we are called to keep on trying. And, we are called to follow the example of Jesus who said he came to serve, not to be served.

Your partner in ministry,

Carol

OCTOBER 2025

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

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)

10/1 Birthday - Alayne Fitzpatrick

10/3 Rita & Russ Morris' Anniversary
First Friday @ Our Daily Bread

10/5 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY/17th Sunday after Pentecost/ODB Offering

10/6 Deacons' Meeting @ 10:00 am

10/7 Birthday - Carolyn Recla's Birthday

10/12 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Trustee Meeting

10/17 Clarisa & Matt Miller's Anniversary

10/19 19th Sunday after Pentecost

10/22 Session Meeting

10/25 Birthday - Jim Inners

10/26 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Birthday - Carol A. McBride

10/29 Birthday - Clarisa Miller

10/31 Jenny Hugh's Anniversary

Clerk's Report

CLERKS REPORT:

The Session met on September 24, 2025

Next Stated Session meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2025.

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

September 20th (in-person or by Zoom) - Pam L.& Carol

December 3rd (by Zoom only) - Jane A. & Carol

Our membership: remains at 46.

Email Addresses:

Office: newcov.office2@gmail.com

Clerk: clerk.ncpc24@gmail.com

Yours in Christ,
Pat Wright, Clerk

Financial Update from the Treasurer

The current favorable change to net assets of approximately **$31,680** is primarily due to pledged donations being received earlier in the year. This early inflow of pledged income has bolstered the church's financial position beyond initial expectations.

Key Points:

- Operating expenses average around **$10,000 per month**.
- Up to August, incoming cash has been sufficient to cover all expenses.
- About **95% of pledged donations** have now been received, supporting the current surplus.

As the remaining 5% of pledged income is received from September to December, it is anticipated that the financial position will **adjust closer to the budgeted loss of approximately $6,000** by year-end.

Thanks for doing your part to help our church!

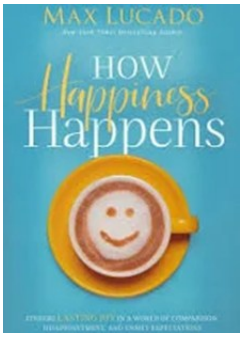
Carol L. McBride,

Treasurer

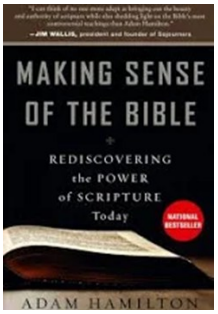
	Mth Aug	YTD	Budg 25	Diff
Revenue	**$ 7,479.90**	**$ 126,091.15**	**$125,225.00**	**$ 866.15**
Build/Prop	$ 3,059.36	$ 21,889.74	$ 23,325.00	$ 1,435.26
Personnel	$ 8,741.95	$ 67,031.54	$ 99,592.00	$ 32,560.46
Other Exp	$ 1,827.55	$ 6,979.96	$ 7,990.00	$ 1,010.04
Net Expenditures	**$ 13,628.86**	**$ 95,901.24**	**$130,907.00**	**$ 35,005.76**
Net Operating Rev	**$ (6,148.96)**	**$ 30,189.91**	**$ (5,682.00)**	**$ 35,871.91**
Net Other Revenue	$ (242.44)	$ 1,490.34	$ (900.00)	$ 2,390.34
Change to Net Assets	**$ (6,391.40)**	**$ 31,680.25**	**$ (6,582.00)**	**$ 38,262.25**

Christian Education Report

Christian Education Classes



We resumed our regular Christian Education classes in September to finish up the last half of Max Lucado's book on happiness. On October 26th, we will begin our new study on Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible*. We have classes in person on Sundays at 8:30 am and on Tuesday at 10:30 am, plus we zoom the Tuesday class and even have recordings for people who can't attend at that time. Come one and all to learn and grow in your faith!



A BETHEL CLASS BEGINS SOON

Skip Leeson will begin his New Testament class in October. Just like the Old Testament study had 20 lesson, so does the New Testament study. It will require some time devoted each week to read and study.

Skip is looking forward to teaching and still learning about the Bible. It is an open course for everyone to participate, not a lecture series.

Come one and all to learn more about God's Word. All are invited to participate. If you are interested, please contact Skip so he can make sure everyone will have a book.

Jane Adams,
Christian Education Elder

HELP WANTED!!

As we are sure you have noticed, we are sprucing up the former choir/storage room, so we are in need of persons that could be available to help empty the room so we can paint. There is a bit more patching to do and then we will be ready to remove items from the room so that we can paint. There are several shelving units that need to be emptied and after the room is painted, replaced back on the shelves. Please let Pam Leeson know if you can assist with this. Call 215-284-2344 or Email: noseelmom@aol.com. Please leave your name and phone number. This would be during the week, not on the weekend, and it would only require a few hours. With some help, a lot can be accomplished! Thank you in advance.

Mission Report

Our Daily Bread: We served **200+** meals on First Friday in September. This was the largest meal we have served to-date. Not sure why the large jump in meals this time, but it is clear that our community still struggles with food insecurity. ODB continues to assist us with ingredients for our meals when they have the supplies. This helps us maintain our cost to about $150/month. The *Our Daily Bread Fund*, collected on the first Sunday of the month, continues to cover the cost of preparing the meals.

Neighborhood House: We continue to collect non-perishable food items for Neighborhood House. Any non-perishable food item are welcomed with open arms. Jane Adams organizes this mission for us and regularly delivers our supplies to them. The hunger and food insecurity in our community has not gone away and there is a constant need for both food and personal care items.

Peace and Global Witness Offering: The next Special Offering was collected during the month of September through the first Sunday in October which is World Communion Sunday. On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends through out all creation, Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. Through participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. 25% of this offering remains with our congregation to use in our community. 25% goes to the mid-council, to be used in regional projects, and 50% goes to PC(USA) for Peace and reconciliation across the globe.

Operation Christmas Child: We are coming down the homestretch with preparing our shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Due to the generosity of all of you we have a lot of supplies to fill more boxes. We will have two more packing times during the Fellowship Hour on October 19 and 26. November 9th we will dedicate the boxes and have an offering to cover the costs for shipping them (the cost is $10 per box and we may have nearly 100 boxes!) Please plan on joining in on the fun and send the love of Jesus to children around the world!

Pat Wright,

Mission Elder

Ministry of Fellowship

SEPTEMBER

On September 14th we hosted our **ANNUAL PIGNIC** at our church. The church supplied pulled pork and everyone brought a side dish or dessert to share. There was lots of great food and wonderful fellowship. NCPC really knows how to enjoy each other's company to build up the Body of Christ!

OCTOBER

Lunch at the St. Augustine Tavern

Oct. 8th at 12:30 pm

AUGUSTINE
TAVERN

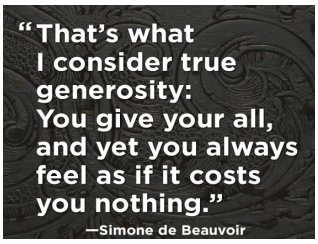
On Wednesday, 10/8 we will have another Ladies' Lunch BUT this time we are inviting EVERYONE, male or female. Join us for a delicious lunch at a beautiful historic local tavern Please sign up ahead of time so we can reserve enough spots for all. Call Cheryl Shields if your have questions.

Stewardship & Finance

How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord?
Acts 5:9

Which is better: to be generous or to appear to be generous? Most people would agree that the former is better. But, if generosity sees beyond our reach, how many of us would settle for appearing generous?

The early days of the Christian church were a heady time. In the euphoria that accompanied conversation and the experience of the love of the risen Christ, impulses toward selfishness and self-preservation faded. The possibilities of selfless community became intoxicating. Impressive generosity became the norm.



Those early Christians let go of "mine" and "yours" and embraced "who needs what?" They pooled their resources and found out how rich they were when everyone chipped in. Some with extra property sold it and placed the proceeds at the apostles' feet in a festive ritual. They embodied in a special way the practical effect that Christ made in people's lives.

Acts 5:1-10 tells the disturbing story of Ananias and Sapphira. If these events had occurred today, the apostle Peter would be under criminal investigation and the story line would end up on social media and nightly news programs: "Husband and wife struck down while meeting with church leaders; two people dead after attempting a fraudulent gift to the church."

Even though Scripture never makes an explicit connection between the lies of Ananias and Sapphira regarding their gift and their deaths as retribution from God, but it is hard not to make the connection. Shaken by the untimely coincidence of deceit and death, the community perceived this as God's judgment.

In Acts 5:3, Peter says "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land." We do not know what triggered Peter's suspicion, but he suspected something was wrong. He did not ask Ananias why he didn't give everything to God. He affirmed the basic freedom we all have in giving. God entrusts property to us and we are free to decide how to use it for God's glory.

This story should make us take an honest look at our own motives in giving. Would we prefer the appearance to the reality? Does our own urge for recognition lead us into deceptive practices? What does this story have to do with stewardship?

First, it is best to be careful in our giving. True reward comes to those whom God sees acting in secret. If our motivation in giving is to arouse the admiration of others, then what we are giving is not a gift at all, rather it is the purchase of a public reputation. Second, the euphoria and goodwill associated with generosity should not leave us blind to the realities of being human. Sinful impulses run deep – no one is immune.

Finally, simple and genuine generosity is spectacular in its own way.

Barbara Bookhart, Elder for Stewardship and Finance

Trustees' Report

The Trustee Meetings are open to all and is normally scheduled each month on the 2nd Sunday after Church Service. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 12 Oct 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 around us. We can now say that the pole/lights in our parking lot have now been completed which will help to increase our security.

Still need some landscaping in the bed that was created around the electrical control boxes for our new outdoor light fixtures. This bed, surrounded by a circle of pavers should prevent any mowers or cars from hitting these light control boxes. We hope to have the landscaping done soon.

The sign committee met and came up with a simply-designed directional sign that should allow people to know how to get into our church when they enter the new neighborhood next to the church. We have submitted it to Blenheim Builders for their approval.

The Bindu Bhetalam "Indian Food Truck" is open for business. They have good food and seem to be doing a good business. The *Flip Side* Breakfast food truck continues to do well each morning except for Sunday and Mondays.

The former Choir/Storage room is slowly being cleaned out, reorganized, and will ultimately be painted, with the addition of new blinds and a valance, as well as the addition of a heavy fabric curtain to separate the kitchenette/meeting space from the storage area in the back of the room. A larger mini-frig has been purchased which has a small freezer which means that we can now have some ice in the education/admin building + we have increased storage with more shelves in this new frig. Plus, new LED lights have been installed in the ceiling.

The front section of this room now has – (1) a food & supplies storage cabinet, (2) a credenza with a microwave and Keurig coffeemaker plus storage, (3) our new larger frig, and (4) a round table to sit down and eat or meet, that can be moved due to the addition of rolling wheels on the bottom, plus (5) 4 comfy rolling arm chairs! The staff will probably enjoy this during working hours during the week, and everyone is invited to make good use of this space whenever needed. Of course, this renovation project is not complete yet, but we wanted to give you a heads-up. We are in midst of patching and painting the ceiling and walls and waiting on the curtain divider and valance. Can't wait to see the end result. This project has also required the sale of some items no longer needed to make space and to provide some funds for new purchases.

The Library has been completely cleaned and set up for use. We recently installed a TV in this room. And, if you are ever looking for the church's vacuum cleaner, it is kept in the library so as to allow for its use by one and all.

Before long, we should have lights on the two signs along Boyds Corner Road with different color lights to help advertise our Church and we are considering some sort of Christmas decoration to be placed near the signs.

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

Worship

Every year on the last Sunday in October (this year, October 26th), many churches set aside the day as ***"Reformation Sunday."*** If you didn't grow up with this practice, you may wonder where this tradition comes from, and why some congregations continue to practice it. So … what is Reformation Sunday, and why should we care?

The History of Reformation Sunday

Our story begins in the 16th century – 1517, to be exact. If a person – out of contrition for their sins and as a sign of repentance – made a financial gift to help with the building of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, then the church would furnish that person with a certificate acknowledging that gift and promising that they or their loved ones would be freed from a portion of the misery expected in the afterlife.

In short, the church at that time taught that even those bound for heaven had to be cleansed of their earthly sins, and this cleansing (purging) in the afterlife took place in a place called Purgatory. The certificates offered by the church **(called "Indulgences")** promised to lessen this time of cleansing for oneself or others who have already died. There were some very nuanced explanations of this practice at the time. And there were other very crass explanations that basically amounted to people paying to be forgiven.

November 1st was an important day for the selling and buying of these indulgences, known as All Saints Day on the church's calendar. The day before, a German Monk named Martin Luther, posted a list of 95 Theses – 95 reasons that he objected to this practice of selling indulgences. Along with other writings by Martin Luther, those 95 Reasons went viral. Luther insisted that we are not forgiven because of anything we do – including the buying of Indulgences or doing enough good work. ***Instead, we are forgiven because of who God is.*** We are loved and forgiven because God is full of grace and mercy. His teachings and writings got Martin Luther kicked out of the church. But he didn't go alone. Others agreed with him, and after his death those who agreed with Luther became known as Lutherans and also as Protestants. Every Protestant church traces their roots back to this moment in history.

Why Does Reformation Sunday Matter?

October 31st, 1517 was a long time ago. Why does it continue to matter and be remembered in our churches today?

1. Reformation Sunday gives us a chance to tell our story – a chance to remember.

2. Reformation Sunday reminds us of the most important things.

3. Reformation Sunday challenges us to do better. Through retelling our story and returning to the core of our faith, Reformation Sunday prods us to do better. We are called to be more loving and grace-filled, because God was gracious and merciful to us. We are called to repent of the times that we have placed barriers that have kept others from hearing the Good News. We are called to remember that all that we are is a gift from God. In the church in Wittenberg where Martin Luther preached, there is a wonderful painting. In it Luther stands in the pulpit on the right hand side, and the people stand on the left. In between people and the preacher is Christ on the cross. Reformation Sunday is a reminder that this is the bedrock of our faith – the grace and mercy given to us in Jesus Christ. Keeping the most important thing in the center of the picture is the only hope for for our faith and for this community that we call "church." ***Happy Reformation Sunday - 10/26!***

RE•FORMATION
THEN • NOW • ALWAYS

Barbara Montzella,

Worship Elder

GRACE ALONE FAITH ALONE
SCRIPTURE ALONE

Outreach

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the light". John 14:10

Young adults are searching for hope and truth in an era where two generations have mostly not attended a church. 39% of Millennials report attending church on a weekly basis, according to Barna's recent *State of the Church* report. This is a significant increase over years prior and places them at a much higher rate of attendance than Generation X and even the Boomer generation, which had previously been more faithfully in attendance than their younger counterparts.

According to Barna, 16% of Christians who regularly attended church services before COVID no longer attend at all. Surprisingly, Boomers had the highest drop off rate, with 22% self-reporting as no longer attending church services either in-person or online. In comparison, 13% of Millennials who attended regularly pre-pandemic have abandoned church services now. Born between 1981 and 1996, Millennials make up the biggest surge in returns to the church.

We will soon have many new neighbors as the massive construction continues around our area. Jeff Keuss, author of the book *The Brothers Karamazov*, wrote, "Young people are seeking connection. They are also looking for hope". If we experience the return of Gen Z and Millennials, will we be ready to relate and encourage their faith in Jesus? Yes! We might engage any newcomer in conversation and listen long and hard. We might find new ways to assist in any needs. We might offer ways to connect to community with outreach projects like Our Daily Bread.

May the Spirit guide us as we share the truth and light.

Our promotional table used at a recent Food Truck event.

At right, residents of Meadowcrest, Middletown facility with assisted living, independent living and memory care, engage in making 100 sandwiches for Our Daily Bread on September 17th. They were very pleased to be engaged in this community outreach.

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.

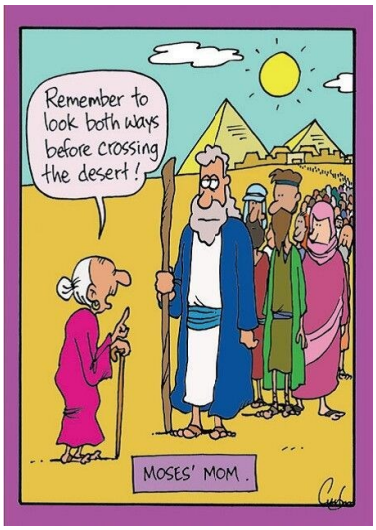
When Your Pastor Stops by for a Visit

A new pastor was visiting the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a business card that had printed "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it for just such an occasion, and stuck it in the door. When the offering was counted the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

Q: What was the first math problem in the Bible?
A: When God told Adam and Eve to, "Go forth and multiply!"

Q: Who was the greatest financial planner in the Bible?
A: Pharaoh's Daughter, because she went down to the Bank of the Nile and pulled out a profit.

Q: Who were the three people in the Bible without Fathers?
A: Adam, Jesus, and Joshua the son of Nun.

Q: What was Jesus' favorite fish?
A: "A Gupee" (*agape* means "love" in Greek).

Q: What was Jesus' favorite part of the newspaper?
A: The Cross word section.