New Covenant Connection

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
www.newcov-church.org

2025

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A Word from Your Pastor

Dear friends,

I read a devotional recently about a group of abbots who were part of a religious order that was dying out. It was only when they took the suggestion of a neighboring rabbi to LOOK FOR THE MESSIAH AMONG THEM, that things began to improve. When they began to imagine that one in their midst might be the Messiah, their love and respect for one another grew to the point of making their way of life inviting once again to outsiders. Friends, our denomination and our congregation are in the same situation - needing to know how to be more inviting.

Consider these 2 quotes:

- Our greatest fear as individuals and as a church should not be of failure, but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter. - Francis Chan

- You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you. - C. S. Lewis

Many people believe that the church must change or it will die. Your Session is having important discussions about this very topic, and we invite you to become a part of this discussion. As your pastor, I have been encouraged to try creative ways to engage the congregation, that we might all be inspired and be welcoming and inviting to others who do not know God. So, stay tuned and watch for what is coming and get involved in being a part of the solution to a complex dilenna that many churches are facing.

The Rev. Clay Allard, pastor of Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church in Dallas, wrote an article entitled *Christ in Me, In You* that was part of an issue of *The Presbyterian Outlook* magazine. I think this article can help us in our situation, so I share it with you. Rev. Allard says:

"Parish ministry is a daunting calling, not necessarily in the short run (though the first 5 years of Saturday night were tough!); it is the long obedience in one direction that is the Mt. Everest of this calling. One of the most dispiriting things about this season in the history of Christ's body in our culture is that so few seem to make it to the finish line still running.

I was part of a class of over 100 people who `mastered Divinity' together graduating in 1989; very few of us are still running that race set before us in a parish setting. I don't know why or how I made it this far - but I have watched so many faint and grow weary. With every stumble, every catastrophic fall I have endured, I have learned to let go of my pride, and in humble obedience to die to self, so that rising with Christ I can serve him better. ~continued~

A Note From Our Pastor (Cont.)

But in our common life together, pride has destroyed us. It has led us into a zero-sum game with our disagreements, leaving us with no perceived alternative but to win or leave. We have spent 40 years fighting that proud war, rather than proclaiming the saving love of God incarnate in Jesus Christ our Lord, even while the words of love have been constantly on our lips.

Now, decades into this race, most of my friends are quitting the race in the PCUSA. While we all endured the hazing that the institution inflicted on us from the beginning (I do not know an evangelical in the PCUSA who hasn't been told that he or she will lead a church out of our denomination, if they haven't already), it seems that many of us have finally given in to the pressure, and conformed to what progressive folks have always believed about us. The final fruit of proud despair is yet another divorce.

So what happens next? How do we run the race that is set before us? Let me be clear: Jesus Christ came into my life in a PCUSA congregation; he called me into parish ministry in another PCUSA congregation. This is where my Lord put me. I will not leave. I will not give in to "protestantitis" - the incessant splitting and dividing that has trivialized the legacy of Luther, Calvin, Bucer, Zwingli and Knox. But what happens now to those evangelicals who stay in the PCUSA? We will not conform to the mindset of the progressive majority - we cannot, anymore than that progressive majority could when it was a minority. Most of those who are leaving or who have left are afraid of being a minority inside the PCUSA, precisely because conservative minorities have historically not been quite as equal as progressive minorities in the life of our denomination.

If there is to be peace, this must change. We must commit to real tolerance - not tolerance of people who speak what we believe more loudly, but of people who speak what we do not wish to hear. We must commit to protecting the conscience of people whose faith commitment may make us uncomfortable. We must make these commitments in our governing documents in a way that clearly protects the rights of the minority to disagree with the majority and to allow that minority to train and call its teaching elders and ruling elders according to its conscience.

A sister in the Lord used to always come up to me, whether we were on good speaking terms that day or not, and say, "The Christ in me greets the Christ in you." The Christ in me is not under my control - I am under his control. I do not choose where I will lead Christ - Christ chooses where he will lead me. The Christ in each of us forces us to confront the truth of who we are, who the other person is and who Christ is.

What would happen if all of our meetings (deacons, trustees, session, and presbytery) were organized around passionate commitment to Jesus Christ rather that parliamentary procedure? What would happen if we could see the Christ in one another, even while we disagree fundamentally with the way each of us interprets Scripture? What if our congregations were challenged to bring Good News, to BE Good News to each other in our different contexts, and we held each other lovingly accountable to make sure that there are not those around us who have not seen/heard/experienced the love of Christ?

The way we live together must change or we will continue to shrink in size and to die as an organized body of Christ. This calling cannot wait. We must act now. Let us take this difficult time to recommit ourselves to Christ who called us each together to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. That love is powerful enough to not only hold us together, but to raise us from the dead."

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Friends, not all of what Rev. Allard says directly applies to our congregation, but much of it does. Being a faithful disciple of Christ is not for sissies. We all need to take this important task seriously and work together in a spirit of cooperation and encouragement, doing whatever we can to build up the Body of Christ, rather than tearing it down. Yes, we are Protestants, but that doesn't mean we have to spend the majority of our time and energy protesting all manner of things.

So, let us do our best to minister together, sharing the best of what we have and who we are to serve and honor God and neighbor. ***Your partner in ministry, Carol***

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY	2	3	4	5 Our Daily Bread	6
7 Commun-ion & ODB Offering	8 Deacons' Mtg@ 10	9	10	11	12	13
Trustee mtg 14 Church Pignic 3 PM	15	16	17	18	29	20
21 CE	22	23 CE	24 Session Mtg 1 pm	25	26	27
28 CE	29	30 CE				

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 FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP (11:00 AM) CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AS NOTED ON CALENDAR (CE) AND IN THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ARTICLE

9/1 Labor Day
9/5 First Friday @ Our Daily Bread
9/5 Birthday - Barbara Bennett
9/7 13th Sunday after Pentecost
The Lord's Supper & ODB Offering
9/7 Birthday - Janet Glaser
9/8 Deacons' Meeting @ 10:00 am
9/9 Birthday - Bob Megonigal
9/10 Carol L McBride & Mike Easter Ann
9/14 14th Sunday after Pentecost
9/14 Trustee Meeting @ 11:30am
9/15 Birthday - Rita Morris
9/15 Carol and Jay Fisher Anniversary
9/20 Birthday - Donna Casey
9/20 Birthday - Tabitha Platt
9/21 15th Sunday after Pentecost
9/23 Birthday - Cheryl Shields
9/24 Session Meeting @ 1 pm
9/28 16th Sunday after Pentecost
9/30 Birthday - Pamela Kidd
Donna & Jim Casey Anniversary

Clerk and Worship Reports

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Session did not meet in August.

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

WORSHIP REPORT - The History of Labor Day

The first weekend of September involves Labor Day. This weekend marks the unofficial end of summer for many. Do you know its significance? Simply put, Labor Day celebrates Americans who labor. It is a day to appreciate the economic and societal impact of hardworking Americans, and to reflect on the progress our country has made as a result of the American workforce. It is celebrated on the 1st Monday of September every year and it has been a national holiday since June 28, 1894.

The decades following the American Civil War were a time of great change in the United States. In the second half of the 19th century, working conditions in railroads, mines, factories, and mills were some of the worst in American history. Poor ventilation, long hours, low pay, dangerous conditions, and child labor were just a few of the concerns of the working class.

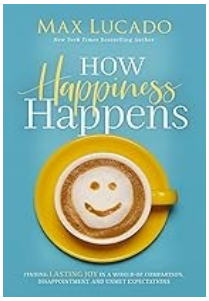
A labor movement began as a result of poor working conditions at the time. It was the heyday of the Industrial Revolution, and it was not uncommon for employees to work over 80 hours a week on a regular basis. The five-day, 40-hour work week that most Americans experience today didn't become commonplace until the 1940s.

Labor unions started to become more popular as American workers demanded better conditions, higher pay, and fewer hours. Strikes and protests such as the 1886 Haymarket Riot in Chicago, which resulted in the death of seven policemen and four civilians, made it evident that something had to be done. The Pullman Strike of 1894, so named for the Pullman Palace Car Company, was the first effort to receive the full attention of Congress and the President. There were troops involved, violence and two men were killed.

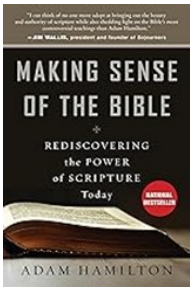
In an effort to ameliorate tensions, President Grover Cleveland signed a law passed by Congress establishing Labor Day as a national holiday on June 28, 1894.

Christian Education & Nominating Committee Reports

Christian Education Classes



We are beginning our regular classes where we will study the second half of Max Lucado's book on 9/21 or the 23rd, 9/28 or the 30th & 10/5 or the 7th beginning with Session 4 - *Forgive One Another* which will require reading chapter 10 in the book Sunday morning classes are at 8:30 am and Tuesdays at 10:30 am. Then we will take a break due to people being out of town and start up a new study on 10/26. That study will be Adam Hamilton's *Making Sense of the Bible, Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*. Let us know if you want to join this class so we can get you a book, and then you can start your reading anytime you'd like and we'll see you in September!



A BETHEL CLASS BEGINS IN OCTOBER

Skip Leeson is planning on teaching the Bethel Bible Study starting in October after Fellowship Time (around 11:45 a.m.). The group finished up the Old Testament during the summer and looks forward to gathering again to study the New Testament. Please let Skip know if you are interested. Come one and all!

Jane Adams, Christian Education Elder

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee has met and they have filled positions for Deacons and Trustees due to the willingness of many officers to serve another term. We were unable to complete all positions for Session so it was decided to have one less person on this board. We need to grow our church family. Officer positions can only be filled by persons who are members. We actually have a lot of active people who have not joined, so they are not actual members, which means that they can not serve as officers. This makes being a small church difficult because it literally takes ALL of us to continue all of our ministries. So, let's all help out and invite people so that our rolls and ministries can expand. Take note of the man in the blue suit in the picture and let us know where to find more like him please! Looks like he already has a halo! Thank you to Bob Megonigal, Carol McBride, and Tom Kimble for serving on this committee.

Mission & Deacons' Reports

Our Daily Bread: We served 180 meals on First Friday, in August. The Our Daily Bread Fund, collected each month on the first Sunday, continues to cover the cost of preparing the meals.

Neighborhood House: We continue to collect non-perishable food items for Neighborhood House. Their dry food pantry is quite low at this time. The impact of major changes in government food assistance programs is quite evident. The hunger and food insecurity in our community has not gone away and there is a constant need for both food and personal items.

Peace and Global Witness Offering: The next Special Offering will begin in September, ending with World Communion Sunday on 10/5. 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: Our Christmas in July shoebox packing went very well. Wonderful donations from everyone made it so easy and fun but we have so much that we need to package more! Starting the middle of September we will once again set up our assembly line during Fellowship Hour. So far we have packed about 45 boxes…let's see if we can get 100 boxes ! Children around the world will come to know Jesus through these gifts and their family and communities will too!

Pat Wright, Mission Elder

Deacons' Ministry Report

Deacons are 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 Deacons 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. We at New Covenant Church have established and are using the Shepherding Program. Please let us know of anyone who needs our help. **Upcoming Events:** 14 Sept **church picnic** 3PM; We are putting together an **International Luncheon** for October; Shields **Halloween party** at the end of October; We will choose a date for **Christmas Dinner** shortly

Skip Leeson, Chairperson

Trustee 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, 14 Sep 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 still have one pole/light to correct before we can say the parking lot lights are completed.

We are in the process of working on a landscaped bed/wall around the new light controls. This should prevent any damage being done to the controls and we hope to add some beauty to our yard. This should be completed by our next report.

The type of sign(s) we plan on having to let people know how to travel through the development to get to and from our church is a work in progress. We have set up a Sign Committee to look at this issue.

The Coffee Truck in our parking lot several times a week started on 6 Aug 2025. His hours are from 6:30 – 11:00 AM on Tuesday through Saturday. He plans to serve high end coffee/expresso drinks, homemade breakfast sandwiches and pastries.

There is another Food Truck that will use our parking lot 7 days a week which was scheduled to start on 1 Aug 2025 but will start in about 2 weeks because of some other issues. They are scheduled to be there until about 11:00 P.M. Yes 11:00 P.M. Let's see how this works out.

The cleaning out of our storage room in the CE Building is in progress with a few changes to this room to make it a Storage/Refreshment/Meeting Room.

It is noted that the Library is cleaned up and as soon as the TV Screen is taken off the table and put up, this will be another meeting room along with a Library. We have stored extra chairs in that room.

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

Ministry of Fellowship

AUGUST

On August 9th we gathered for Earlene Kelter's 90th Birthday Party. There were many members of her family and some old friends plus many of our regular participants attended as well. We showered her with cards and we all enjoyed a light lunch plus ice cream (6 flavors) and cake. Fun was enjoyed by all! Keep it up Earlene; you're doing great!

SEPTEMBER Save the date: 9/14 at 3 pm

On September 14th, we will host our **ANNUAL PIGNIC** at church. The church will supply hamburgers, hotdogs and pulled pork. Everyone is invited to bring a side dish or a dessert. For more information, call Cheryl Shields (302-602-1638).

Stewardship & Finance

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God am holy. . . . When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.'"

As a general rule, God provides more than we need, if we work steadily, conscientiously and with a sense of what is appropriate. Six days' labor covers seven days' needs – plus extra. A bushel of wheat planted and allowed to germinate would yields dozens of bushels at harvest time. Not a bad deal!

From Israel's earliest days, God instructed the people about what they were to do with the excess. They were to give a tenth to the Levites who performed religious duties. But the excess went beyond a tenth. Grain from the edge of the field and grapes that fell to the ground were to be left for the poor, the widow, the orphan and the immigrant. No one was to be denied access. Everyone should be allowed the opportunity to work and gather food in dignity. God provides.

Jesus' story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) is a morality play on these insights from Leviticus – transferred in this case to a city setting. The fact that Lazarus is "longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table" indicates that even the rich man's leftovers were denied him. In a chilling turn of events, after he dies, the rich man is denied Paradise while the beggar is welcomed in.

From the rich man's standpoint, it hardly seems fair. After all, he barely noticed the beggar sitting at his gate. He may well have never even seen Lazarus. While we usually think that our eyes tell our minds what we see, in reality it is our minds that tell us what to see as well as what not to see. The rich man did not want to see the scabbed and scurvy beggar.

Even though he passed by Lazarus every time he went in or out, the rich man did not see Lazarus. A beggar simply did not fit the normal pattern of the rich man's life – shopping for expensive suits, dining at five-star restaurants, attending to business. All these pursuits left little time for noticing a beggar at the door, let alone providing for him.

The patterns of our lives determine what we see and what we do not see. If these patterns include the things God tells us have eternal significance (such as noticing the needs of others), we find ourselves flowing toward God. If not, we flow away from God. And if that happens, we may find ourselves on the other side of the great chasm, cut off from eternal life.

The rich man's request to have someone return from the dead to warn his brothers was refused. But there is a word of grace in the story. We have Jesus Christ, the One who returned from the dead to remind us to keep our eyes open and to notice who is waiting to put God's excess to good use.

Barbara Bookhart, Elder
Stewardship and Finance

Outreach

Jesus said,

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **Mark 12:31**

Fred McFeely Rogers, also known as "Mister Rogers", was a Presbyterian minister, composer, musician, and television personality who created and hosted the children's show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* from1968 to 2001. Rogers was a pioneer in children's media who used his talents to educate and inspire children, teaching them to feel good about themselves and learning. The show addressed complex social and emotional issues through a gentle and respectful approach.

Fred Rogers was the creator of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* as well as the host of all 895 episodes, the composer of its more than 200 songs, and the puppeteer who imagined 14 characters into being. More importantly, he changed the face of children's television and transformed the way we think about the inner lives of young children.

Rogers died of stomach cancer in 2003, aged 74. His work in children's television has been widely lauded, and he received more than forty honorary degrees and several awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Emmy in 1997 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002.

Jesus showed deep love and care for children, actively welcoming them, blessing them, and using them as examples of faith and humility. He rebuked his disciples for trying to keep children away. He said, *"Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it".* Luke 18:17

Let us follow Christ's example, always reaching out to share the Good News so that people might live abundant lives. It doesn't happen by itself. We have to **PARTNER** with God, working to be faithful disciples. Don't forget about our church's logo which shows people ***reaching out*** to share Christ's love, ***inviting*** them to join our community of faith.

TOGETHER WE GROW AND MEET NEEDS

G.R.O.W.
GOD REWARDS OUR WORK
Outreach Ministry

Outreach Continued

Food Truck Event

The NCPC parking lot hosted a food truck event on Tuesday, August 19th. L'OCEAN food truck boasted a sign that said they "Beat Bobby Flay" on the TV Food channel. The owners, Jennifer Lazzarini, pictured below and Julio made spectacular food. The photo of the burger and fries below is a testament to the food quality. Their Rhino logo is taken from the Egyptian culture where it stands for strength and rebirth. We hope to have them back, possibly in October. Going forward, our plan is to have a food truck on the 3rd Tuesday of the month April to October always 5-7 pm. This is a way to reach out to our community and share with them about our church. 9/16 we will have Out of the Ordinary food truck with Chef Robert 5-7 pm. Come one and all!

We were able to use our new NCPC tablecloth at this event. We offered church information and a free small cookie package with our church business card attached.

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 did the Christian chicken go to the other side of the road?
A To get a Cross.

Q: What do you call a priest who becomes a lawyer?
A: A father-in-law.

Q: Why wouldn't Pharoah let the Hebrews go?
A: He was in de-Nile.

Q: Why is Swiss considered the most religious type of cheese?
A: Because it's hole-y.

Q: What's a Christian's favorite shot?
A: Holy water.

Q: How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?
A: Not sure; they are still circled up praying for the light to come back on.

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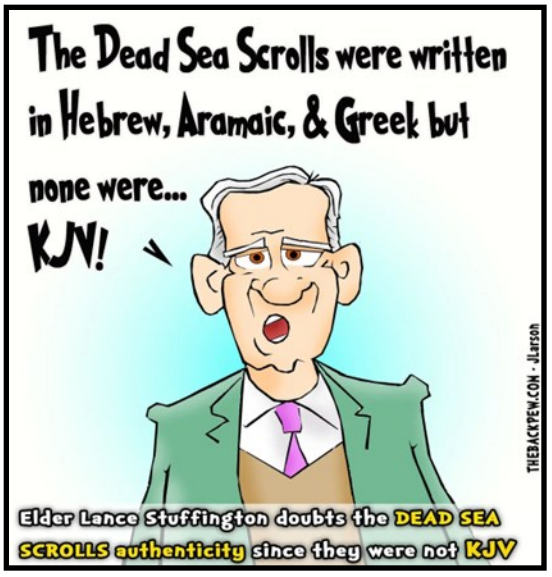
At our prayer meeting I asked my pastor to pray for my hearing. He placed his hands on my ears and prayed. Afterwards, he asked if my hearing was better. I said I wouldn't know until Monday when I appear before the judge at the courthouse.

I went to my pastor because I'm addicted to Facebook. My pastor said, "Sorry, I don't follow you."