New Covenant Connection

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

2026

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A Word from Your Pastor

Dear friends,

Since early this year, I have been trying to improve my health by eating less, exercising more, and developing healthier habits in several areas. Last week after worship, I actually received a compliment about my "new" dress. And yet, it actually was an old outfit; it's just that I am now able to wear it again due to losing some weight. Amazing how good we can feel **emotionally** when our **physical** health is improving!

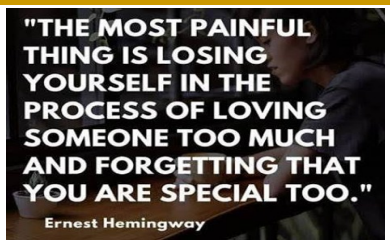
Many of us think often about physical training to help our physical health but what about **spiritual training?** If we want to be spiritually fit, ***where*** or ***to whom*** do we turn? Naturally, we think of our mentors, pastors, and trusted friends. And yet, who could be a better personal trainer than **Jesus - the one who specializes in forgiveness fitness?**

I recently read about Scarlett Lewis who lost her 6-yr-old son, Jesse, in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. He was one of the 20 children killed in that horrific attack in 2012, which made it an absolute nightmare, come to life. Parents such as Scarlett were devastated.

She says that, at first, her anger sapped all of her energy and strength. Her rage was directed at the shooter and also at his mother who unwittingly armed him. But then she says that she made a choice to forgive. "Forgiveness felt like I was given a big pair of scissors," she told the *Forgiveness Project*.

~continued~

A Note From Our Pastor (Cont.)



These scissors helped her to cut her tie to the shooter and regain her personal power. "It started with a choice," she said, "and then became a process." At her son's funeral, she urged mourners to change their angry thoughts into loving ones. She saw this shift as a way to change the world.

Forgiveness starts with a choice, and then becomes a process. Jesus urges us to make this choice for ourselves when he responds to Peter's question about the number of times we should forgive. "Lord," asks Peter, "if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive?" Once...twice...three times..."as many as seven times"? "Not seven times," says Jesus, "but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." Other translations of this verse say "seventy times seven times"...totalling 490 times.

However you count it, Jesus is saying that our forgiveness should be countless - limitless - numberless. He is like a personal trainer at the gym, urging us to increase our reps and get stronger every day. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-77-490. **Jesus - the ultimate forgiveness trainer.**

At the end of August, the Parable of the Unforgiving Slave was one of our lectionary readings. We learned that the large debt a man owed to his lord was completely forgiven; and yet, could he return this favor to another slave who owed him money? No way! And so, we are reminded that we are called to be full of grace and mercy, forgiving others as we have been forgiven. Wow! Our Forgiveness Trainer (Jesus) is tough. He demands that we forgive others, based on the fact that we have all been forgiven, whether we deserved it or not. Jesus insists that we make the choice to forgive, day after day, and turn it into a practice that makes us stronger.

And, whether we choose to believe it or not, **FORGIVENESS HAS POSITIVE BENEFITS!** It has been proven that our emotional and psychological health can greatly improve as a result of practicing forgiveness. So, why wouldn't we want to give it a try? As Scarlett Lewis discovered after the Sandy Hook attack, forgiveness helps people to regain their personal power.

This does NOT mean to let people off the hook - to not hold them accountable for their actions; but, to do so in the most forgiving and loving way. According to Jesus, our solution to this situation is to MAKE THE CHOICE = FORGIVE OTHERS. Matthew 18: 35 says, "Forgive your brother or sister from your heart." When we forgive, we counteract the stress response along with its chemicals that make us feel like helpless victims. When we make the choice to forgive, we wipe all of the stress away. And when we turn forgiveness into a choice that is regularly practiced, it becomes a part of WHO WE ARE! And I believe Jesus would be very pleased with that choice!

Your partner in ministry, Carol

SEPTEMBER 2026

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 CE Trustee mtg	14	15 CE Food Truck Night	16	17	18	19
20 CE Pignic 3 pm	21	22 CE	23	24	25	26
27 CE	28	29 CE	30			

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

9/4 First Friday @ Our Daily Bread
9/5 Birthday - Barbara Bennett
9/6 13th Sunday after Pentecost
The Lord's Supper & ODB Offering
9/7 Birthday - Janet Glaser
Labor Day
Deacons' Meeting @ 10:00 am
9/9 Birthday - Bob Megonigal
9/10 Carol L McBride & Mike Easter Anni-versary
9/13 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Trustee Meeting @ 11:30am
9/15 Carol and Jay Fisher Anniversary
9/20 15th Sunday after Pentecost
9/23 Birthday - Cheryl Shields
Session Meeting (Cancelled)
9/27 16th Sunday after Pentecost
9/30 Birthday - Pamela Kidd

Clerk and Worship Reports

CLERK'S REPORT:

Stated Session Meetings for August 19 and September 23, 2026 were cancelled (lack of a quorum) due to vacations.

The next Stated Session meeting will be October 21, 2026

New Castle Presbytery Meetings

Sep 19th (Sat) Hybrid Mtg (Princess Anne, MD) Barbara Bookhart & Carol

Dec 1st (Tues) Zoom only Jane Adams & Carol

Session approved the final draft of the Funeral/Memorial Services Guidelines.

Sabbatical Leave: 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.

Membership 41; With the passing of Alice Megonigal, our membership is now 41

Email Addresses: Clerk: *clerk.ncpc24@gmail.com*; Office: newcov.office2@gmail.com; Treasurer: treasurernewcov@gmail.com; Pastor: pastornewcov@gmail.com

Yours in Christ, Pat Wright, Clerk

WORSHIP REPORT - The History of Labor Day

The first weekend of September includes 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 became commonplace. 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.

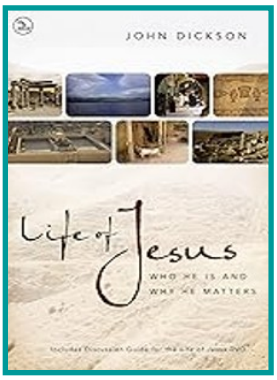
In an effort to ameliorate tensions, President Grover Cleveland signed a law passed by Congress establishing Labor Day as a national holiday on June 28, 1894. We should be thankful for the protection workers now have.

Barbara Montazella, Worship Chairperson

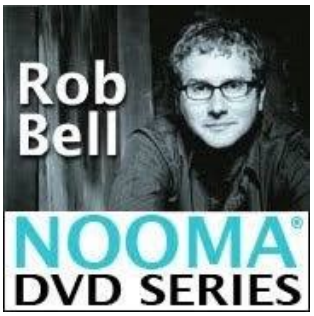
Christian Education & Nominating Committee Reports

Christian Education Classes

Summer C. E. Class: Cheryl Shields offered a class on the Book of Enoch for 3 weeks during this summer. Several people really enjoyed this short study which was intriguing and informative. Thanks Cheryl for helping us continue to grow and learn.



Fall Study: Our study of John Dickson's book, *The Life of Jesus, Who He Is and Why He Matters* will begin in October. If you are interested, let Jane Adams know so that we can get you a book.



In September, due to several people being out of town, we will offer 3 classes on 9/13, 20, & 27 (Sundays) at 8:45 a.m. and on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Each one will offer a topic where scripture is applied to it. These videos are *Nooma* videos which are part of a series meant to provoke us to think biblically about how we live. The 3 topics we will discuss are: (1) ***Noise*** - Why are we so afraid of silence?; (2) ***Kickball*** - If God really cares about us, why don't we have what we want?; (3) ***Sunday*** - Do we get so wrapped up in religion that we miss out on what's really important to God?

Whatever class is offered, all are welcome, so come and enjoy..

Jane Adams, Christian Education Elder

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our committee had a challenging task this year as we sought to fill vacancies in our 3 boards for next year. The Session discussed this issue and we have a new plan for our small congregation. In 2026, on the Session, we have 5 of the six positions filled, and all of those individuals plan on continuing their service.

As for the Board of Deacons, we are recommending a **change from being a board to a ministry.** In 2026, we had 5 of the 6 positions filled which meant we were already short, and then Kathy Henry died, so we were down to 4 people. With Skip rotating off next year, that would leave 3 people. Session is recommending shifting to a **Ministry of Deacons** with 3 people who meet as needed to ensure the care of our congregation and to plan fellowship events. We will be having a Congregational Meeting on 11/8 following worship for the congregation to approve this change in our By-Laws. We will be having an additional meeting in February of 2027 to finalize this change.

As for the trustees, this year all 3 positions were filled. One is rotating off and needs a break. We are still looking for a new person to fill this position. Prayers would be appreciated. Stay tuned, friends, for updates. **Pam Leeson, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee**

Mission Report

Our Daily Bread: We prepared and served 180+ meals on First Friday in August, some of which went into the Community Refrigerator which is available 24/7. ODB continues to assist us with ingredients for our meal when they have the supplies. NCPC's monthly collection to support this ministry happens on the 1st Sunday of each month, appropriately on communion Sundays. Following our 1st Friday meal in September, the ODB Dining Room will close for major renovations. We may be preparing our meal in October at the Middletown Senior Center if the renovations are not complete in time for our meal. **Jane Adams** will continue to collect non-perishable foods to be donated to ODB. **FYI:** Some of the folks who had been with the Middletown location of Neighborhood House have started a new initiative in Middletown called **Middletown Outreach Initiative**. They are currently located in space at Connections Church in Middletown.

Special Offerings: PC(USA) has reduced the number of special offerings this year to 3. The next Special Offering will be the World Communion Offering to begin in September and conclude on World Communion Sunday, October 4th. "What does the Lord require of you?"…"to do justice and to love kindness and walk humbly with your God'" Micah 6:8. This is the focus of this special offering: actions and commitment to share kindness and mercy, and to promote racial and gender justice, global witness and ecumenical and interfaith engagement.

Christmas Child Shoeboxes Mission: We had our "Christmas in July" event to fill shoeboxes for the Christmas Child Campaign on July 26th in the fellowship room after worship. We all had a great time. Look for another packing event in the fall. We hope to meet or exceed our goal from last year. Pam has posted a list of suggested items for the shoeboxes, so if you want to do some shopping and take advantage of the back-to-school sales while supplies are plentiful and less expensive, go for it! If you have any additional questions, check with Pam or Skip Leeson. This is a wonderful campaign that will warm your heart as you shop and pack.

Pat Wright,

Mission Elder

Trustee Report

The Trustee Meetings are open to all and are normally scheduled each month on the 2nd Sunday after worship. Our next Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 11 Oct 2026. There will not be a Trustee meeting during the month of September 2026.

Still working on the upgrade/remodel to the Ladies Restroom. Work in progress. Thanks to Pam Leeson for stripping the wallpaper border and painting the new mirrors yet to be installed.

We are still looking at the issue of increasing the security to protect our property.

Landscaping to be placed around the main electrical connection in our front yard has been completed with several artificial plants and a sign which helps beautify this space. Compare these 2 pictures to note the improvements made. The flowers may change according to the season.

Our Church sign to be placed on the Bayberry community next to us is still a work in progress with New Castle County Land Use Department. Additional contacts have been made with Shane from Blenheim, and County Councilman Dave Carter. We will receive a form to be sent to County Board of Adjustment.

The request for a Farmers Market to use part of our parking lot a few days a week has started with the first Thursday being 6 Aug 2026. The times are from 5:00 – 8:00 P.M. At the present time they will only be at our location each Thursday but are looking at extending to include Friday's and Saturday's in the future.

We are in the process of getting the ground spicket in the front of our church hooked back up.

A new Laptop computer to take the place of the one that is used in the Sanctuary has been received and is in the process of being set-up. This new computer is needed because of the lightning strike that took out our older computer. Thanks to Bill Shields for purchasing it and getting it up and running.

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

FOOD TRUCK Tuesday was on 8/18. Thank you to all who attended. Robert from *Out of the Ordinary* was there and we enjoyed his fish and fries, Jamaican jerk chicken and cheesesteaks. The food was very good as usual, but attendance was low. Our last Food Truck of the year is **September 15th from 5-7PM**. We will have **Aliza's Kitchen Truck**, new to our church but not to the Farmers Market that is at our church on Thursdays. She does empanadas, beans and rice, and other delicacies! Let's make this the best attended one yet!

On **8/26,** 13 of us went to the **Chesapeake Inn** for a delightful lunch. We stayed outside to enjoy a wonderful breeze. Stay tuned for future outings.

SEPTEMBER

On September 20th, we will host our **ANNUAL PIGNIC at 3 pm at church.** The church will supply pulled pork and buns. Everyone is invited to bring a sweet or savory side dish or a dessert. Please sign up so that we can plan accordingly. For more information, call Cheryl Shields (302-602-1638).

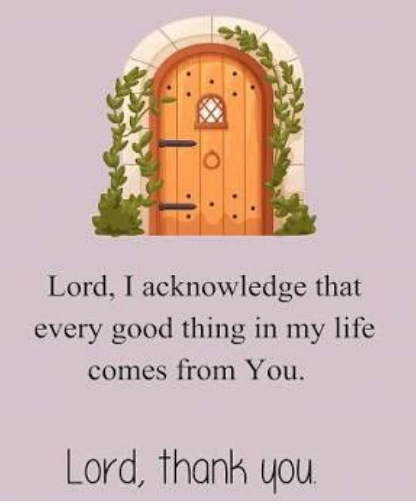
Cheryl Shields,

Hospitality Chairperson

Stewardship & Finance

A MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP
- Taken from *Parish Publishing*

What is a good steward? A good steward shares his or her God-given gifts. From time-to-time, we should quietly reflect on the immense goodness we receive from God.



The greatest gifts are His son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, the constant presence of His spirit and the opportunity to live by, and in the power of, His spirit. God endows each human being with certain personal gifts, talents and material possessions.

Stewardship requires us to always acknowledge the source of each gift received and each possession accumulated. Although we are recipients of almost limitless gifts, our tendency is often to call them our own and claim them for ourselves exclusively.

Christian stewardship reminds us that these gifts are not our own, but that we have a trusteeship over them, not an ownership. Stewardship appeals to our noblest instincts to thank and to share. To give some portion back to God to those in need and to give away some portion because so many have less than ourselves, is a way of expressing directly our thanksgiving to God for these gifts.

The best way to lead is by example. As Christians, our responsibility is to set a positive example for others. When we put Christ at the center of our lives, that witness draws others to service and support of the church's mission.

Barbara Bookhart, Stewardship Chair
& Financial Report from
Carol A. McBride, Treasurer

FIN. SUMMARY YTD 2026		JAN-JULY
Operating Revenue		
Revenue		**$99,271.99**
Expenditures		
Building/Property	$10,392.40	
Personnel	$59,914.94	
Other Expenses	$5,269.18	
Net Expenditures		**$75,576.52**
Net Operating Revenue		**$23,695.39**
Other Revenue (aka Special Funds)		
Fund	(190.54)	
Passthrough	$370.20	
Net Other Revenue		**$179.66**
Change to Net Assets (aka Profit/Loss)		**$23,875.05**
Note: Actuals include In-kind Donations & Expense; Net Other Revenue 538 is the change to Fund Bals this yr. Total Fund bal		

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 goal of this page of the newsletter is to put a smile on your face and occasionally to give you something to ponder. Here are 2 jokes that I received this past week from our own group about preachers and their congregations:

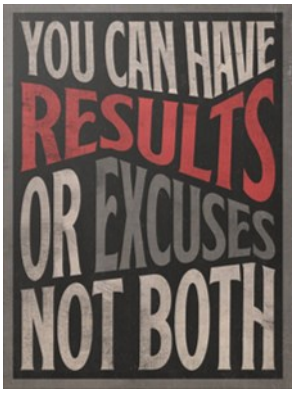
Preacher Tow

The minister's car wouldn't start and he called the garage to come and tow it in for repair. When the truck driver appeared at his house to get the car, the minister said, "I hope you'll go easy on me. You know, I'm only a poor preacher." "I know," said the tow truck driver, "I've heard you preach!"

A minister said to his congregation, "Next week I'll be preaching about the sin of lying. To prepare, I'd like everyone to read the Gospel of Mark chapter 17."
The next Sunday he asked, "Who read Mark 17 like I asked?" Every hand went into the air. Then the minister grinned and said, "The gospel of Mark only has 16 chapters. So, let's start talking about the sin of lying!"

* * * * * * * * * * *

While on vacation, I visited one of my favorite gift shops in Richmond and Jay and I bought a couple of books. The one I got is entitled, ***Wouldacouldashoulda - Rapid Results, No Excuses***. Here are a few gems that it contains:



- Benjamin Franklin once said, "He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else."
- Robert Brault said, "Success is a tale of obstacles overcome, and for every obstacle overcome, an excuse not used."
- John Green said, "Scared isn't a good excuse. Scared is the excuse everyone has always used."
- John Wooden said, "Never make excuses. Your friends don't need them and your foes won't believe them."

Carol