



The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington

601 Fifth Avenue
New Kensington, PA 15068-6508
724-339-6618

E-mail: churchoffice@tupcnk.org

Website: tupcnk.org



June 2024
Newsletter



Our Mission

is to serve God by:
Preaching God's Word,
Teaching God's Love,
Healing God's People

Our Staff

The Rev. Becca Siddle Covenant Pastor
pastoroffice@tupcnk.org

Holly Lightner Organist/Choir Director

Mary Ellen Hicks Secretary
churchoffice@tupcnk.org

Lynn Crumley Custodian
Bob Berisko Custodian

Deacons Food Bank

Office Hours:

Monday — Thursday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Regular Sunday Hours:

11:00 (Sept - May Worship)
10:00 Adult Sunday School

Note from the pastor

*Greetings, friends! Summer is upon us in all its sun-shiny glory and I hope you will make the most of these warm months. Because it was requested we include in the newsletter the review I prepared for the 2023 Annual Report (which the congregation just approved a few weeks ago), it appears below and will serve in place of my usual message to you this month. **Reminder: the 2023 Annual Report reflects only on the year 2023; the first half of the current year is not included.***

PASTOR'S REPORT - 2023

Beginning my time here at the halfway point of the year, I have only seven months to report on thus far. But they've been seven revealing and encouraging months, and it's important to me that **you**, the members and friends of this church, hear that.

Many of you will recall that I served this church during the summer months of 2015, immediately before Pastor Wendy arrived. I was not here then to do intentional interim work; I was simply the "temporary designated pastor." And I will never forget: on my very first day here back then, several of you approached me with greetings a bit like "you don't know what you've gotten yourself into!" *But of course I knew.* And fast forward eight years, I knew the situation I was coming into in June 2023! Friends, churches are microcosms of **LIFE**. By definition, they contain seasons of growth *and* decline. They ebb and flow with periods of deep joy, frustration, resentment, grief, and sometimes just restful, peaceful stages in which they are called simply to *be*.

Like Jacob in the Old Testament, you have *wrestled* – not only with God, but with your identity, your mission, your resources, and now with your future. But as I said above, the time I've spent here most recently has revealed to me who and what you consist of! Your faithfulness runs deep, your commitment to the neighborhood and community does not waver, and the compassion you hold for one another is sincere. It's easy to feel down about the state of the collective church in our post-pandemic world, and it can feel overwhelming when we recall how large and bustling this particular church was 30 years ago. But our calling is still the same: simply to love - to love God and to love each other. What follows is a sampling of how we've continued to do just that in the last seven months alone:

- After several years of absence, we reconnected in fellowship with our friends at Logan's Ferry Church for Unity Sunday in August.
- As one of our 50th anniversary activities, the children in the neighborhood (and some grown-ups too) were thrilled to receive popsicles and popcorn on a hot summer afternoon (and to see Miss Stacey for the first time in a long time, too)!
- We opened our church to host AVAC's Festival of Faith in October, welcoming folks from eight different nearby churches. It was a wonderful evening of worship and fellowship!
- We shared traditional breads from different parts of the world with each other as we experienced World Communion Sunday together.
- We sponsored and served the community meal at KNEAD café as part of our anniversary celebrations.
- The Advent Bible Study brought 15 of us together each week to enjoy conversation with each other as we pondered together how God's Word resonates with us today.
- The worship committee (and others!) decorated the church this year both inside AND out – we wanted our neighbors to see that Christmas really is something worth getting excited about!!
- Our informal worship in the chapel on Christmas Eve morning was a peaceful reprieve from the season's busyness to sing carols of hope and simply enjoy *being* together.

(cont. on bottom pg. 3)



**Book Club Schedule
6:30 pm, Library**

June 26th *Thale’s Folly* by Dorothy Gilman
July 24th *The Ocean Between Us* by Susan Wiggs

We have August 28th as a planned meeting but have not picked a book yet.



The Prayer Shawl Group is meeting Wednesday, March 6th at 1:00 in the Library. We don’t just knit, we fellowship! Come,

enjoy some treats and renew old friendships (or make new ones)!

June Birthdays

Gloria Lauffer	6/1
Lou Ann Burford	6/3
Judith Yates	6/4
Sandra Mozzy	6/5
John Zavadak, Jr.	6/6
John Sharick II	6/15
Kaylee Polena	6/17
Alyssa Pistininzi	6/18
Elijah Schulz	6/19
Colette Zavadak	6/20
Michael Matyas	6/20
Catherine Brady	6/24
Dorene Matyas	6/27
Cecil Yates	6/29

Adult MeetUp—Friday, June 14th, 6:00 pm

We had nine people at our May Adult MeetUp; delicious food, shared pizza and apps, and Woodpecker specials. An enjoyable time was had by all (although a bit hard to hear around the table)!



For June Adult MeetUp we will be gathered at Bears Inn, 710 Hite Road, Harwick, PA 15049. This is sort of a “hole in the wall place” with fantastic wings and a full menu of appetizers and other yummy options. Come spend the evening with us! We can have a large table, engage in conversation and maybe even play a game after our meal. Everyone is welcome to join us!!



Our Summer Bible Study Fellowship group will start up again Wednesday, June 12 at 6:00 pm. We will meet for four weeks, then pause for vacations, family time, etc. and begin again in late summer. The topic for this two-part series is “Forgiveness: Making Peace with the Past.” This group has proven to be a supportive place to bring hard topics and the fellowship is genuine. We would love for you to join us!

None of these items were huge undertakings, but they *were* significant for the life of this church. Never lose sight that God is always in our midst and God is always doing something new. Our daily task is to discern how and when we’re being called to be part of it!

Keep the faith, and may the grace of Christ always be our compass,

Becca

Pastor Becca



We have a NEW ministry team at church (and its name defines exactly what it's all about): Community Outreach and Engagement! While we haven't had an official Sessional committee with this title, we absolutely have a long history of doing this exact form of ministry – and it's time to get it back in gear! In addition to engaging our immediate neighbors, the work of this committee will also be about networking with others in the community and coordinating/supporting partnerships. In other words, we need to be “out and about” – that's where the Gospel has always called us; we just have to open ourselves to imagining what that may mean in the year 2024!

We're already off to a great start! Perhaps you saw us a few Saturdays ago picking trash up from along the railroad tracks, 5th Ave (and the alley), and several vacant lots along the way. We joined in with volunteers from Olde Towne Overhaul, New Ken Downtown Partnership, UPMC, Green Building Alliance, and Valley High School – many hands make less work!



We're also excited to share that the **Slow Roll Bicycling Program** will be adding TUPCNK as another join-up point for their weekly neighborhood ride. Last summer, the group began each bike ride at 18th and 4th, but they wanted to include children and youth from the area around the church as well. We're very happy for them to store ten bikes and helmets in our garage so they can do just that! The program is geared primarily towards younger folks BUT anyone can ride. Those under 12 must be accompanied by an adult, so don't be surprised if you see some church folks joining in as one of those “accompanying” adults!



Also...watch the bulletin and the Church Facebook page for more information about our potential “Christmas-in-July” combined event with Sonward.

Our new “Out and About” committee is just getting started, but it promises to be not only great fun, but important work for both the church and the community as well. As of now, members include Stacey Oden, Alyssa Pinstinzi, Kathryn Whitacre, and Pastor Becca. If you have some ideas for potential projects or would like to be a part of this ministry team, by all means, have a conversation with either Stacey or Becca (and it doesn't matter if you're already serving on a different committee; you can always be a part of any committee as an “at-large” member)!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONDAY, May 2024 STATED SESSION MEETING

The Session of The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington met for a Stated Session Meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Statistical Report: There are 138 members on the Active Roll.

To maximize Church Communications, TUPCNK's staff have been updating the membership information. To-date, 54 addresses/numbers have been verified.

The Youth Room walls need to be repaired and painted. The Assistant Treasurer position is open.

An AED (defibrillator) has been mounted on the wall outside of the sanctuary – Training will begin shortly.

A new Session Committee has been formed -- Community Outreach and Engagement. Stacey Oden will chair the committee and the Communication Committee will fall under it.

The next stated Session meeting is on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie S. Davis

Marie S. Davis, Clerk of Session

Graduates, congratulations on your achievements and we pray God's blessings upon you for the road ahead!



Claudia Long's grandchildren:

Joshua Miller – James Madison University, *magna cum laude*
Jacob Miller – Duquesne University, Doctorate of Pharmacy

Jack and Joan Conte's granddaughter:

Emma Kathleen Conte – Burrell High School

Lori Greenwald's granddaughter:

Karlee Thimons - Burrell High School

Becca and Aaron Siddle's daughter:

Hollyn Siddle—University of Pittsburgh, *magna cum laude*



A Note from Our Deacons 2024 Presbyterian Giving Offering

As Presbyterians, we are a people rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ. It is our gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join in God's mission in the world, with ministries of love and justice, reconciliation and peace.

Generous gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted and sharing our faith with young and old. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world.

The Board of Deacons is once again sponsoring this special offering during the month of June. Please place your donation in a pew envelope marked "Presbyterian Giving" or write it on the memo line of your check.



Deacon's Report

May 4th Food Bank

82 Households: 4 New, 29 Senior Boxes, 12 Doubles, 3 Birthday bags. We had 19 volunteers, working a total of 64 hours.

June 2024 Food Bank

Truck Delivery - June 6
Distribution - June 8

Food Pantry / Cooler Ministry Wish List

- Peanut Butter & Jelly (plastic jars)
- Canned potatoes, Canned Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, Beef-a-Roni (~15 oz)
- Instant Lunch, Cup of Noodles, Cup of Soup, Ramen Noodles
- Individually packaged crackers, chips

Funeral Dinners - 4/13/2024, Anne Jacobus (53 served including volunteers)

Next Deacon Meeting: June 11, 2024
@6:30pm

Submitted by Amy Grillo Dameron
Deacon Secretary

Prayer List: Please keep in mind that we will keep folks on the prayer list for six weeks unless otherwise notified.

Bobby Long*	Sandy Mozzy*
Alyssa Pistininzi	Mark Zellefrow
Gary Chickerella	Jackie Chickerella
Lou Ann Burford*	Betty Tylinski*
Betty Lou Sharick*	Ed Yockey
Sydney Brandt	Ray Pinson

Young adult "children" of TUPCNK
Bentley—great grandson of Gloria Lauffer
Kasey Lipinski—daughter of Robin Sorch's friend

* Denotes those who are home bound and nursing home residents. Also, please pray for foster parents, those suffering from depression and anxiety and our military personnel: Nate Szanto and Mark Brenner.

Please call the office to let us know if anyone is in the hospital OR if you would like to receive a pastoral visit from either a deacon or Pastor

Marian Yates' Memorial Service will be here at the church June 22, at 1:00 pm for family and church friends. There will be no luncheon afterward.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain, please call the church at 724-339-6618 with your request. You may also notify any of the following:



Sandy Mozzy
Charlotte Claypool
Cheri Mosley
Gloria Lauffer
Robin Sorch

At a Glance...

June 2	Summer worship will start at 10:00
June 6	Food Truck—delivery
June 8	Food Bank—clients
June 12	Summer Bible Study begins
June 16	Father's Day



June 2024

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							1
2	10:00 Communion Worship	3 10:00 Care Group 6:30 AA	4	5 1:00 Shawl Group	6 9:00 Food Truck Delivery	7	8 9:00 Food Bank Clients
9	10:00 Worship	10 10:00 Care Group 6:30 Session 6:30 AA	11 6:30 Deacons	12 6:00 Summer Bible Study	13	14 6:00 MeetUp at Bears Inn, 710 Hite Rd, Harwick 15049	15
16	10:00 Worship Happy Father's Day	17 10:00 Care Group 6:30 AA	18	19 6:00 Summer Bible Study	20	21	22 1:00 Marian Yates' Memorial Service. No lunch- eon afterward
23	10:00 Worship	24 10:00 Care Group 6:30 AA	25	26 6:00 Summer Bible Study 6:30 Book Club	27	28	29
30	10:00 Worship						

**The United Presbyterian Church
Of New Kensington
601 Fifth Avenue
New Kensington, PA 15068-6508**