



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



November 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 Worship Hours:
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

Pastor's Message

Greetings, friends and peace to you and yours.

Since I penned last month's letter, I know that for many of you, the world we know and love feels like it's being turned upside down. Everything from deadly hurricanes to election fever has caused the solid ground we've always relied upon to shift and quake in unsettling ways. Whether we're wrestling with tense relationships within our own families, friendships coming unraveled because of political differences, or desecrated communities in the states we call home, we're searching for respite, relief, and repair...something - anything - that will stabilize us in the whirlwind that has become our reality today.

I realize it's when the world feels too chaotic for us that we often forget; we forget that our Creator God was here long before we were even glints in someone's eye, and our Creator God will be here long after we have gone. It is our God who made us, and it is our God who will always have the last word: not the politicians or those scheming to have them elected, not social media, not the cousin or neighbor who just cannot understand why we would "err" on the side of love or grace. Only God.

Below is a prayer I stumbled upon several weeks ago. I encourage you to return to it over and over in the coming weeks - or truly, *anytime* you're struggling to find your place or wavering over how to help heal this broken world. Its timeliness is too spot-on not to share:

O Lord our God, [during these days of ever-expanding chaos and confusion]
we pray your blessing on the peacemakers:

Where there is illness, give kindness to those who bring healing.
Where there is anguish of soul, give tender strength to those who console.
Where grief is fresh, give strength to those who comfort.
Where there is stress in our homes, give confidence to those who bridge differences.
Where there is tension in our town, give voice to those of fair intention.
Where there is division in our state, give words to those who see a greater vision.
Where there is bickering in our nation's capital, give courage to those of character.
Where civil wars fester and rage, give tenacity to those who value another's clan.
Where tyrants reign, give conviction to those who speak truth.
Where there is conflict among the nations, give discernment to those who seek accord.
Where life and homes are shattered by flood and by earthquake, give stamina to those who bring relief.

And, O Lord God, where your church struggles to find itself, give us a vision
of the Prince of Peace, that we might aid in the answer to those other prayers we make.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

- James S. Lowry

May you be restored and refreshed during this month of gratitude and may all your thanksgivings fill your heart with joy.

Blessings,
Becca
Pastor Becca

* Gilliss, Martha S., ed. *Let Us Pray: Reformed Prayers for Christian Worship*. Geneva Press, 2002.



STEWARDSHIP MONTH

Because November is the month to celebrate gratitude, it's also the month to put stewardship front and center. For people of faith, the two go hand-in-glove. Stewardship, after all, is about far more than simple fundraising: it's a way of life rooted in God's grace. It's a way by which we care for and faithfully abide by *all* the gifts God has given us – from our treasures and talents, to time, relationships, nature, work, etc. This way of living life intentionally is characterized not only by gratitude, but by generously giving back of ourselves.

During the first full week of November, you will receive our annual stewardship letter. Please read it, and please say a prayer over it. Please pray not only for generosity of heart, but for wisdom and foresight among those God has called to plan for the future ministry of TUPCNK. There is much work still to do, much love still to give, and many folks in need of that love – now more than ever!

Please complete your pledges and bring them with you to church on **November 24**. We will receive them as part of worship and will do so with great thanksgiving!



Thank you to members of our Worship & Fellowship committee for not only making the sanctuary wonderfully “Scottish” for **Heritage Sunday**, but planning the lunch afterwards. They also kept us on our toes with a fast-paced trivia game that kept us entertained (mostly by our own answers)!

The winners of our Heritage Sunday trivia game were Nancy Deiseroth, Julia Yockey, and Wil Delancey (not pictured). Congratulations to you all!





REQUEST FOR DEHUMIDIFIER(S)
 Do you happen to have a dehumidifier at home that you no longer use? We would gratefully take it off your hands! The downstairs areas at church would benefit tremendously from 2-3

dehumidifiers keeping the moisture at bay. If you have one you might be willing to donate to TUPCNK, please let Lynn Crumley know and we will happily pick it up and transport. Thank you!!



November Birthdays

Mark Bondra	11/5
Timothy Beckes	11/5
Haley Greenwald	11/16
Richard Davis	11/18
Colton Bing	11/21



Year-To-Date (YTD) Update from the Finance Committee

Congregational Income (as of September):	\$71,476
Year-To-Date Expenses (as of September):	\$124,576
Difference:	-\$53,100*

*This figure does not include our endowments, but please keep in mind, our endowments are not allowed to be used for items such as heating the sanctuary, making payroll, paying for electricity, etc.

Interested in online giving to the church? Naturally, we want to make it as easy as possible for our members and friends to support the church, but we need some idea as to potential interest. If online giving is your preference, please call or email Mary Ellen to let us know. That will help us determine the path forward. Thank you!



The **Prayer Shawl Group** is meeting **Wednesday, November 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)!



Book Club Schedule 6:30 pm, Church Library

No meeting in November.

Dec. 4

We are suggesting that each person read a Christmas book and share what they liked about the book.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Join us in worship **November 3 for All Saint's Sunday.** In the Protestant Church, All Saints' Sunday is the day set aside to honor the faithful from our own church family who have died during the past year. It's a day of gratitude for those who have passed away who shared their faith with us, and a time to reflect on how we can continue to share our faith with others.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Yes! We ARE planning to have a Bible Study again this year during Advent, but setting the dates is going to be tricky because the 4th Wed. (our usual meeting day) is actually Christmas Day! So please stay tuned!!



Veteran's Day Invitation

Monday, November 11th, we will have lunch at Red Robin at Pittsburgh Mills at 12:30. Please call Mal Zellefrow at 724-339-3940 and leave a message if you plan to attend. Since our numbers have gone down, if you have a friend that is a veteran and would like to attend, they are more than welcome!



WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA Sunday, December 8

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship. This is a wonderful tradition that you won't want to miss! A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex.

Adult MeeTUP, Friday, December 6

The Adult MeeTUP is having a Christmas gathering in the back room of Gunny's Lounge, 902 McCandless St, New Kensington. Please join us for holiday fun!



LIVE NATIVITY— Saturday, DECEMBER 14!

We will be welcoming the band of blessed animals who got to witness the birth of Christ to our church! Well, actually, they'll be in the vacant grass lot we own just down the street from the church, but regardless, put it on your calendar now! We're excited for the neighborhood children to visit with the animals, but we also hope you'll let your own neighbors, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews – EVERYONE – know! Watch for more details to come.



Deacon's Report

October 5th Food Bank

- ◆ 85 Households: 13 New, 28 Senior Boxes, 16 Doubles
- ◆ 1 Birthday Bag
- ◆ We had 17 volunteers, working a total of 59.5 hours.

November Food Bank

Truck Delivery - November 7

Distribution - November 9

Food Pantry / Cooler Ministry Wish List

- Peanut Butter and Jelly (plastic jars)
- Applesauce, Juice (plastic jars)
- Spaghetti Sauce (plastic jars)
- Canned potatoes
- Canned Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, Beef-a-Roni (~15 oz)
- Cereal
- Sloppy Joe / Manwich
- Individually packaged crackers, chips

Funeral Dinners - None

Next Deacon Meeting: November 12, 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.

Betty Tylinski*	Jackie Chckerella
Lou Ann Burford*	Gary Chickerella
Betty Lou Sharick*	Marge Landfried
Bobby Long*	Russell Waltz Family
Lou Ann Burford*	

Military personnel & first responders
Youth and young adults
First responders and foster families

*Denotes those who are home bound and nursing home residents.

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 Becca.

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:



Charlotte Claypool
Cheri Mosley
Gloria Lauffer
Robin Sorch






SESSION MEETING

Highlights from the October 14, 2024 Meeting

1. Active Roll is 136 members
2. T-Shirt orders are temporarily postponed due to size and color adjustments
3. Advent Study will be conducted with dates and time to be determined
4. Women's Tea - Sunday, December 8
5. Live Nativity will be on Saturday, December 14
6. Next Meeting will be Monday, November 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna McLaughlin

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3</p> <p>All Saints Day 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 Care Group 10:00 Garden Club 6:30 AA</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:00 Shawl Group in Library</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>9:00 Food truck delivery</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>9:00 Food bank clients</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 Care Group 6:30 Session 6:30 AA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 Deacons</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 Care Group 10:00 Garden Club 6:30 AA</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 Garden Club 6:30 AA</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>Office closed</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>30</p>

2024 Hurricane Season



As we reel from the multi-state devastation of Hurricane Helene, we know there will be more storms this hurricane season. As of this moment, another, Hurricane Milton, has developed into a life-threatening category 5, en route to several of the same affected areas. Your gifts to support our response this season will ensure no community is left behind and give us the ability to respond even when there is little media coverage. **It will take years to recover.** After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing emotional and spiritual care and long-term recovery to address unmet and ongoing needs.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE: Donations can be made online by **scanning this QR code** with your mobile device, **calling** (800) 728-7228, ext. 5885, or **mailing** a check using the reply device below.

ACT: Assemble emergency cleanup buckets (visit pcusa.info/heart). Learn how you can help families affected by hurricanes. Stay informed and like us on Facebook (facebook.com/PDAcares).

PRAY: *God of grace and compassion,*

May your Spirit move in this, your creation, bringing peace amid the turmoil and breathing hope into the places that feel broken. May your Spirit continue to be the quiet but constant reassurance that you are with your children and creation, even in the darkest moments, guiding us toward healing and restoration.



\$500 \$125 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/PIN _____

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church, or mail with your check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



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