



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



April 2025
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

1



Rev. and Mrs. Mark (Marge) Landfried (TUPCNK 1982-1990)



2



Rev. Lisa Foster (Dormire) (TUPCNK 1988-1993) shown with Marge in the Fellowship Hall



6



When Marge downsized her apartment at Redstone in late 2024, she wanted – more than anywhere else – for her beloved piano to come to TUPCNK...and we are so very grateful, both for the piano *and* for the beautiful story it tells!



Blest Be the Ties That Bind

3



Rev. Lisa Dormire and Rev. Becca Siddle, then both of Redstone Highlands, shown with one of their favorite people, Marge Landfried, in 2022



5



Rev. Becca Siddle (TUPCNK 2015 and 2023 – present) shown with Marge at Redstone, Feb. 2025



4



Marge and her daughter Karen at Redstone with Pastor Becca and longtime TUPCNK members and friends, summer 2023

*The photos (opposite)
tell their own story, but
the text below fills in
some of the details.
Enjoy!*



FROM THE
PASTOR

If you ask Google to define *the ties that bind*, you'll probably get something like the following in return: "the shared beliefs, experiences, connections, or bonds that unite several people, creating a sense of community or belonging." But if you were to ask *me* for a symbol of those ties that bind, I would take you to the chapel in the church and show you something very special: a beautiful walnut piano.

On a snowy morning in January, a team of movers carefully rolled the piano out of a truck that had come from Redstone Highlands in Murrysville; more specifically, it had come from the living room of Mrs. Marge Landfried, who wanted it to come – more than anywhere else – to the church she still loves so very much, The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington.

Most of you know that prior to my coming here, I had been the chaplain at Redstone for nearly ten years. Not only did Marge (and her beloved husband, Rev. Mark Landfried) quickly endear themselves to me all those years ago, but Rev. Lisa Dormire - also employed by Redstone - and I became fast friends over shared connections. And what an honor, in 2014, when Marge entrusted Lisa and me both with Mark's memorial service.

By 2015, when TUPCNK needed a part-time pastor for several months, both Marge and Lisa encouraged me to answer that call. In doing so, all those ties that had bound Marge and Lisa to TUPCNK from so long ago graciously began expanding to accept me as well. I recall one specific example of how those ties never stop extending, but also, never diminish with the passing of time. Bonnie DeLancey, who had served on the search committee that called Mark Landfried to TUPCNK in 1982, was not well herself during the summer of 2015. When Marge heard this news, she told me she'd like to visit Bonnie - so away we went. Escorting Marge down the hall of Bonnie's care home felt a little surreal (since I was doing so on behalf of both TUPCNK *and* Redstone simultaneously), but seeing the sheer joy and disbelief on Bonnie's face when Marge entered her room was nothing short of a holy moment. Only a few weeks later, I would be in the humble position of celebrating Bonnie's life - by way of her memorial service at TUPCNK.

Even after my time at TUPCNK concluded in late summer of 2015, and I returned to Redstone full-time, those ties continued to grow and show up in some lighthearted ways. I often went on the Redstone trips that Lisa coordinates and remember silly moments with Kathryn Whitacre, Karen Grillo, and Marie Davis – of all places – outside the baseball stadium in Chicago! Kathryn, Karen, Althea Joseph and I have shared meals at countless Cracker Barrels in different states, and not long before I returned to TUPCNK in 2023, Lisa and I got to enjoy a lovely lunch with Nancy Deiseroth and Mamie Nixon at the Greenbrier in WV!

You can see in the photo (bottom right) that some special folks from TUPCNK took some of this same fellowship to Marge herself at Redstone – and she was, indeed, incredibly happy to see them! Throughout the years, Marge, of course, has been very aware of the many changes that have occurred at TUPCNK since Mark and she served here decades ago. Nonetheless, she would always tell me, "they are good, *good* people." She knew, and still knows, what it means to be connected (and blessed) by the ties that bind. May her piano - which Mark gave to her as a surprise anniversary gift many years ago - always remind *us* of the same!

Grace and peace to you,

Becca

Pastor Becca

The Bulletin Board



April

Marlis Cicolini	4/4
Halle Shipman	4/4
Eric Yeamans	4/7
Claudia Long	4/7
Jenny Alexander	4/8
Betty Lou Sharick	4/10
Donna Lindh	4/10
Holly Matyas Bulman	4/11
Shannon Peiffer	4/12
Lori Greenwald	4/13
Dean Edwards	4/14
Shelbee Polena	4/19
Nathan Szanto	4/19
George Zavadak	4/19
Frank Grillo	4/19
Curtis Peiffer	4/24
Ryan Duke	4/24
Althea Joseph	4/26
Cyndi Gwillim	4/27

Prayer List: Please keep in mind that we will keep folks on the prayer list for five or six weeks unless Otherwise requested.

- Bobby Long* Jackie Chickerella
- Betty Tylinski* Gary Chickerella
- Lou Ann Burford* First responders
- Betty Lou Sharick* Military personnel
- Marge Landfried* Foster families
- Mildred Wagner Youth & young adults
- Emily Erb
- Nora Pastrick (sister of Bob Thomas)
- Marianne Irwin (friend of Bob Thomas)
- Carl Schultz (Randy's brother)

*Denotes those who are homebound and nursing home residents.

Please call the office to let us know of anyone 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

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is one of our church's special offerings. We will be receiving this offering during Lent, **ending April 13th**. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and HOPE. Envelopes will be available in the pew racks. Thank you for prayerfully considering your giving to the OGHS. This offering currently supports programs in over 100 countries!

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

UPCOMING EVENTS



Lenten Bible Study

Our group continues into April and we'd love to have YOU join us. We normally have 10-12 participants- a good size for good discussion! We meet on **Wednesdays at 4:30 pm** in the Chapel and each class lasts about an hour and a half.

The **Prayer Shawl Group** is meeting **Wednesday, April 2 at 1:00** in the Library. We do some knitting but we also do some fellowshiping! Come, enjoy some treats and renew old friendships (or perhaps make new ones)!



April 13

April 18

April 20

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, 11 am

Good Friday Service, 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday, 11 am



Fresh Express will be held on Monday, April 21, 3:15-5:00 pm. This is a drive-thru event on the 6th Street side of the church. The sign-up sheet will be located in the Narthex.

Book Club is Wednesday, April 26. As of now, no book has been chosen for this date - but stay tuned!



Adult MeetUP

On **April 25 at 6:00 pm**, we will meet at Mercurio's Pizza in Fox Chapel, 1335 Freeport Rd., Pittsburgh. Please call Stacey if you would like to attend. She will need a count for reservations. Come, enjoy the fun with friends and fellow congregation members!



Reminder: The church office will be closed Monday, April 21 for the Easter holiday.





Deacon’s Report

March 8th Food Bank

- ◆ 80 Households: 8 New, 23 Senior Boxes, 11 Doubles
- ◆ 1 Birthday Bag
- ◆ We had 22 volunteers, working a total of 75.5 hours.

April 2025 Food Bank

Truck Delivery – April 3
Distribution – April 5

Food Pantry / Cooler Ministry Wish List

- Jelly (plastic jars)
- Applesauce, Juice (plastic jars)
- Spaghetti Sauce (24 oz plastic jars)
- Pasta
- Canned potatoes
- Canned Soup (non-condensed)
- Cereal
- Canned Tuna
- Individually packaged crackers, chips

Funeral Dinners – None

Next Deacon Meeting: April 8, 2025
@6:30pm

Submitted by Amy Grillo Dameron
Deacon Secretary

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONDAY,
MARCH 10, 2025
STATED SESSION MEETING**

The Session of The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington met for a stated Session meeting on Monday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

Statistical Report: There are 134 members on the Active Roll.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will conclude at the end of Lent.

Lynn Crumley will be Spring Cleaning the Purple classroom and library.

The date for the Congregational Meeting is set for Apr. 27.

The next Session meeting will be held on Monday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna L. McLaughlin
Clerk of Session

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been called for April 27, 2025, immediately following worship for the purpose of reviewing the 2024 Annual Report, electing elders and deacons, and approving the 2025 Budget. The Annual Report will be in the Narthex the week before so you can peruse it in advance.

Below is a snapshot of our January/February 2025 finances:



total revenues = \$28,190
total expenditures = \$40,525
difference = \$-12,335

APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 1:00 Shawl Group in Library 4:30 Lent Bible Study	3 9:00 am Food Truck 3:30-5:30 Sonward	4 Office Closed	5 9:00 am Food Bank Distribution
6 10:00 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Worship	7 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA	8 3:30-5:30 Sonward 6:30 Deacons	9 4:30 Lent Bible Study	10 3:30-5:30 Sonward	11 Office Closed	12
13 Palm Sunday 10:00 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Worship	14 10:00 Care Group 6:30 Session 7:30 AA	15 3:30-5:30 Sonward	16 4:30 Lent Bible Study	17 3:30-5:30 Sonward	18 Office Closed 6:30 Good Friday Service	19
20 Easter Sunday 11:00 Worship	21 Office Closed 3:15 Fresh Express 7:30 AA	22 3:30-5:30 Sonward	23 6:30 Book Club	24 3:30-5:30 Sonward	25 Office Closed 6:30 Adult MeetTUP	26
27 10:00 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Annual Congregation Mtg	28 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA	29 3:30-5:30 Sonward	30			

Board of Deacons Easter Remembrances

The Board of Deacons is once again accepting monetary gifts as a way of remembering or honoring loved ones during the Easter season. The Deacons use the money to help carry out their ministry, both within the church and the community. Complete the information on the order form and either return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate **NO LATER** than **Sunday, April 6th**. Please make your check payable to: **The Board of Deacons**.

Board of Deacons

Name

Phone # _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Total amount enclosed for Deacons:

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