



The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington

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April 2026
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

Easter blessings to you and yours, dear friends!

Although we're still a few days away from Resurrection Day as I type, by the time most of you are reading this newsletter, we will be singing the refrain, "*Christ is Risen.*"

And just as a refrain in music repeats over and over, I encourage you to allow the news of Christ's Resurrection to play on repeat in your hearts and minds for as long as you possibly can. Of course I know that Christians are referred to as "Easter people" year-round, but that's not exactly what I'm referring to here.

I'm referring to the specific action verb of seeking out examples of new life - the new life we recognize all around us *because* Christ is Risen! In last month's newsletter, I challenged you to be on the lookout for the life-death-new life cycle that surrounds us daily on all sides. Aside from the new life that greets us every Spring, other types can be challenging for some of us to put our finger on; perhaps because as children we were taught to understand the Resurrection like this: "*the significance of Christ being raised from the dead is that we also will be raised from the dead to live with him in heaven for all eternity.*"

While that understanding is pretty amazingly significant, believe it or not, it's not the entire package. In other words, the promise of new life is not referring merely to our physical body - and it's not speaking *merely* of the timeframe after death! The promise of new life enfolds and encircles far more and it's relevant NOW. Which means...once we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear, we will be experiencing examples of new life *all around us, all the time!* Some examples that may surprise you could include the following:

- We may see a young adult son now freed of his heavy load of addiction because he finally has a new understanding of grace and acceptance.
- We may witness how an old friend with terminal illness now wants to reconcile with all those he hurt because a new sense of Christ's forgiveness is overtaking him.
- We may experience deep joy when we see the daffodils push through the snow or hyacinths pop up in a dark corner of our yard - because the new growth reminds us that our Creator God still has dominion.

As I said in our March newsletter, if we don't habitually seek, expect, or even look for signs of new life after death (whether literal or figurative death), then how can we really be who we claim to be? The angel in Matthew's version of the Resurrection told Jesus' followers: "He has been raised from the dead and is going ahead of you; you will see him there."

Look for Him, friends. *You will see him there.*

Grace and peace,

Becca

Pastor Becca

Exciting News: Grant Awarded to TUPCNK

As you know, we have been actively discerning where and how the Holy Spirit may be leading our congregation to focus some of our ministry resources in the near future. Although we did tremendous children's and youth ministry in the past, the current needs of both our congregation and the community have changed significantly. While keeping sight of that fact as we were praying and discerning, we started realizing - simultaneously - just how many folks are wrestling with the challenges of dementia in their families and among their loved ones. And this isn't, of course, merely among church members, but also among members of the garden club that uses our fellowship hall and among grandparents of the youth program (Sonward) that meets at our church several days per week...and at the library down the street, and at the YMCA, and at the Catholic Church up on the hill (to name just a few).

In fact, a recent study estimated that the number of adults diagnosed with dementia *each year* in the US is expected to nearly double over the next 40 years, from 514,000 in 2020 to approximately 1 million by 2060.*

We've realized that many of us here at TUPCNK have a heart for making sure friends and neighbors who have dementia continue to feel included, valued, and loved – both in worship and by way of other fellowship activities. We are excited and grateful to have received grant funding from the **Synod of the Trinity** (of which Redstone Presbytery is a part) to pursue different ways that we, as a church, may be able to minister to both individuals and families who are walking this journey. Be on the lookout for more information and for ways YOU can be a part of bringing this ministry to fruition!

"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (Col 3:12).

* Source: Anderer S. Dementia Cases Expected to Nearly Double in the US by 2060. JAMA. 2025; 333(10):838.

What a world of
difference a few
days made!
Thanks be to God!



The Bulletin Board



Bobby Long*
 Lou Ann Burford*
 Mildred Wagner
 Alyssa Pistininzi
 Cyndi & Mark Bondra
 Jackie & Gary Chickerella
 First responders
 Military personnel

Carl Schultz (brother of Randy)
 Marianne Irwin (friend of Bob Thomas)
 Nora Pastrick (Bob Thomas' sister)
 Casey (niece of Robin Sorch)
 Oliver (Casey's newborn baby)
 Richard Vigrasse (Karen Grillo's brother)
 Adam Veino (friend of Robin Sorch)
 Michelle Samios (friend of Robin Sorch)

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

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
 Shelbe 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



Feeding the Community

Food Bank Schedule

Apr. 2, 9:00 - Food Truck Delivery

Apr. 4, 9:00 - Food Bank Distribution

Volunteers are always appreciated!



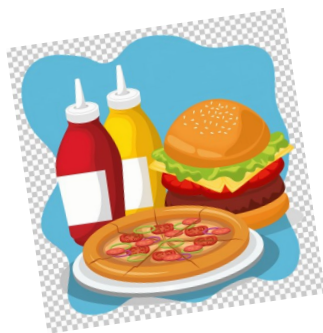
**Maundy Thursday Service,
April 2 at 6:30 p.m.**

Come, join us in the sanctuary as we share a special Table Communion together. Then, through dramatic readings and song, we will witness the symbolic darkness that always precedes the light and joy of Easter morning.



**Easter Worship
April 5 at 11:00 a.m.**

We hope you will bring your family and friends with you to church as we celebrate our Risen Lord. His light shines in the darkness and the power of new life has the last word!



**Adult MeetUP
Friday, April 17, 6:00 pm**

We will meet at **Kuhns Crossroads Inn**, 1127 State Route 356, Leechburg, PA 15656. Come and enjoy fellowship with friends and congregation members. It's always a fun evening!

Monthly Book Club

April 22, 6:30 pm

The Last Thing He Told Me
by Laura Dave

May 27, 6:30 pm

I Still Dream About You
by Fannie Flag

Join us for great conversation!



Highlights were not available at the time of printing.

Next scheduled meeting is April 13, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

Deacon's Report

March 7th Food Bank

- 78 Households served, including 4 New, 25 Seniors, 15 Doubles
- 1 Birthday Bag
- We had 19 volunteers, working a total of 74 hours.

April 2026 Food Bank

Truck Delivery – April 2

Distribution – April 4

Food Pantry / Cooler Ministry Wish List

- Jelly (plastic)
- Applesauce (plastic)
- Cereal
- Tuna
- Cans of Ravioli, Spaghetti O's, Beef-A-Roni
- Ramen, Cup of Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Pasta / Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Mac 'n Cheese
- Juice (plastic)

Funeral Dinners – None

Next Deacon Meeting: April 13, 2026 @6:30pm

Submitted by Amy Grillo Dameron
Deacon Secretary



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 9:00 Food Truck Delivery 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service	3 Office Closed	4 9:00 Food Bank Clients
5 Easter Sunday 11:00 Worship	6 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA	7 2:30 Sonward	8	9 2:30 Sonward	10 Office Closed	11
12 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	13 10:00 Care Group 5:30 Session 7:30 AA	14 2:30 Sonward 6:30 Deacons	15	16 2:30 Sonward	17 Office Closed	18
19 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	20 9:30 Garden Club Brd 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA	21 2:30 Sonward	22 Earth Day 6:30 Book Club	23 2:30 Sonward	24 Office Closed	25
26 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	27 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA	28 2:30 Sonward	29	30 2:30 Sonward		



Wishing you a Blessed Easter!

Therefore, if anyone is in
Christ, he is a new
creation. The old has
passed away; behold, the
new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17