

The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington



Pastor's Letter

Welcome to our new newsletter! The software we've been using for years to publish our newsletters is going away, so we've had to switch gears and start over from scratch - which got me thinking about how apt a metaphor this process has been for life in general.

I think it's safe to say we all know what it means to have to start over. But sometimes - oftentimes - we make it far more difficult than it needs to be. After we got the new format for the newsletter designed, try as I might, I could not get it to print. I checked and re-checked every setting on both the computer and the printer; I deleted and reloaded the software; I opened and slammed shut every door on the machine, and grew more and more frustrated with every minute I thought I was wasting.

Finally, I took what *should* have been my very first step at troubleshooting: I checked the color palette. Much to my complete dismay, the default ink color was set to **white**. White ink printing on white paper looks like...nothingness!

All this to say, it had been printing all along. The worst part about this little story is that the exact same scenario had happened to Karen and Julia only the day before when they tried to print - and I knew about it! But part of me still felt the need to overcomplicate the issue, get frustrated, and resent that I had to "figure it out" on my own.

Friends, the printer was doing exactly what I was asking it to do; but because it wasn't producing what I was expecting - or what I thought I needed - I completely failed to see what it was giving me.

As I said, if this isn't a metaphor for God's presence and provision in our lives, I don't know what is. May the Holy Spirit continue to awaken us - individually *and* collectively as a faith family - to God's never-ending promises.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Becca

In this newsletter you will find:

TUPCNK News

Bulletin Board
(Birthdays, Prayer
Concerns, etc.)

Upcoming Dates &
Events

Committee
Highlights

Monthly Feature

Church Calendar



Pastor Becca will continue as Covenant Pastor

Session is pleased to announce that Pastor Becca will be remaining with TUPCNK, as our Covenant Pastor, for at least one more year. Please join us in the library for refreshments after Worship on **Sunday, July 12**, to wish Pastor Becca a happy anniversary, and to thank her for the work, motivation, and encouragement she has given TUPCNK's members throughout the past three years.

Marie Davis, Clerk of Session

Summer Schedule

Reminder: We will switch to our summer worship schedule, beginning June 7. Worship will begin at 10am instead of 11am so please help remind each other of the change. Also, there will be no adult Sunday School class during the summer months.

Shared Worship with Logan's Ferry Church

This summer we look forward to combining TWO of our favorite traditions: "Worship in the Park" and joint worship (and lunch) with our friends from Logan's Ferry Presbyterian Church. We have reserved several pavilions at Memorial Park, so there will be plenty of space – not only for all the people – but all the food, too! More details to come later, but for now, put this note in your calendar: **August 2 - Worship in the Park.**



Congratulations, Graduate!

Jackson Dameron is graduating from Valley Junior/Senior High School on Friday, June 5th with High Honors (4.0+ GPA). In the fall, he will be attending Penn State University to major in Forensic Science.

Join us in worship **June 14** to celebrate Jackson and his accomplishments!

Bulletin Board



| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Gloria Lauffer | 6/1 |
| Lou Ann Burford | 6/3 |
| Judith Yates | 6/4 |
| 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 |
| Cathy Brady | 6/24 |
| Dorene Matyas | 6/27 |
| Cecil Yates | 6/29 |

We Need You!

And our church BUILDING needs you, too! Projects like the porch columns, clogged downspouts, failing soffit fascia, etc. need several church members to help make some calls to contractors, get a few estimates, and help determine a plan of action. We know your time is valuable. Gone are the days of needing to commit to serving a 3-year term on a committee to make things happen. Instead, PLEASE consider helping us see one maintenance project through at a time. Sometimes a little bit of help goes a very long way. Please mention your willingness to assist to either Lynn C. or Pastor Becca - your efforts will be much appreciated!

Prayer List

Please pray for...

- Bobbly Long*
- Lou Ann Burford*
- Mildred Wagner
- Alyssa Pistininzi
- Cyndi & Mark Bondra
- Jackie & Gary Chickerella
- Carl Schultz (Randy's brother)
- Marianne Irwin (friend of Bob Thomas)
- Nora Pastrick (Bob Thomas' sister)
- Adam Veino (Robin Sorch's friend)
- Michelle Samios (Robing Sorch's friend)
- Marissa Montgomery (Ray Pinson's girlfriend)
- Bill Montgomery (Marissa's father)
- Lana Saugrich (Kathryn Whitacre's friend)
- Corrine Colberg (Kathryn Whitacre's friend)

**Denotes those who are homebound or nursing home residents*

Food Collection

Food Ministry Wish List

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

Upcoming Dates and Events

Sonward Singers

As most of you know, Sonward has been sharing the downstairs space of our church building for 15 years (except during Covid), and it's time to re-introduce them to our congregation. We are excited to welcome the Sonward Singers to help lead us in worship on **Sunday, June 28!** Kim Louis, the Sonward Director, will also join us for a "Minute for Mission," catching us up on all the great things happening on weekdays at our church.



Shawl Group

The Shawl Group will meet on **Wednesday, June 3, at 1:00 pm** in the Library. Come join the fun. We don't just knit, we fellowship and enjoy sharing snacks, too!



Book Club

Join in on the discussion! *The Secret Chord* is a 2015 historical novel that reimagines the life of King David, portraying him as a complex, flawed, and often brutal figure, rather than merely a simple hero.

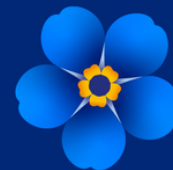
We will meet in in the library **June 24 at 6:30 pm.** Come join us!



Strawberry Festival

Logans Ferry Presbyterian Church will host a Ham BBQ Lunch with macaroni salad, cake, ice cream, strawberries, & beverage for just \$8.00. Eat-in OR Take-out

June 7 from 12 noon - 2pm



I'm a Dementia Friend

Dementia Friends

The first offering of the Dementia Friends sessions will be in the chapel on **Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 pm.**

Please see p. 6 to read up on Dementia Friends and how YOU can become one.

Committee Highlights

Session Highlights



From the May 11, 2026 Meeting:

- There are 131 members on the Active Roll.
- Wear red on May 24 – Pentecost.
- Summer worship will commence at 10:00 a.m. beginning June 7.
- If it's too hot in the Sanctuary, worship service will be held in the Chapel.
- Graduation Sunday is June 14. Jackson Dameron is graduating from Valley High School. Refreshments will be served after service.
- TUPCNK has received a Dementia Grant of \$10,000 from the Synod.
- Pastor Becca will conduct a Dementia Friends Presentation on June 17 at 6:30 p.m.
- The Sonward Singers will participate in worship service on June 28
- The Joint worship service with Logans Ferry Church will be held at Memorial Park on August 2. Pavilions A, B, and C have been reserved.
- The 3-Church dinner (TUPCNK, Grace, and Logans Ferry) will be moved to the Fall.
- Our church secretary, Mary Ellen Hicks, plans to retire by the end of September.

The next meeting will be on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie S. Davis, Clerk of Session

Worship

Members of our worship committee are already thinking ahead...way ahead to Advent. Our creche (nativity) is in need of an overhaul and/or replacement. If you (or one of your friends, etc.) is handy with woodworking and willing to help, please let us know. Our creche is definitely a Christmas tradition we want to keep!

Deacon's Report

From the May 12, 2026 Meeting:

For the May 9th Food Bank:
72 Households served,
including 4 New, 26 Seniors, and
12 Doubles.

We also distributed 3 Birthday Bags

We had 18 volunteers, working a total of 74 hours.

For the June 2026 Food Bank:
Truck Delivery – June 4
Distribution – June 6

For the April Fresh Express :
74 households received 8,924 lbs of food!

Food Ministry Wish List (see p. 3 in this newsletter)

Funeral Dinners – None

Next Meeting: June 9, 2026, 6:30pm

Submitted by Amy Grillo Dameron -
Deacon Secretary

Community Outreach/Congregational Life/Deacons

We have begun planning for a wonderful fellowship opportunity to bring friends - old and new - together: a lovely meal joining three churches together on a Saturday afternoon. We are looking forward to hosting friends from both Logan's Ferry Presbyterian Church and Grace Community Presbyterian Church in our fellowship hall, hopefully, this September (tentatively Sept. 19 at 4pm).

We will need lots of folks to help bring this together, so please be on the look-out for ways you can participate. (It will be a great way to involve church members who can't come on Sundays!)

Monthly Feature



We're excited to finally get the ball rolling on an initiative our Session began aiming for months ago: nurturing a "dementia-friendly" community of faith and fellowship, i.e. one that fosters meaningful engagement and spiritual connection for those living with dementia (and their loved ones, too)!

As one of the initial phases of this goal, we will offer several sessions of "Dementia Friends" - to both our congregation and within the larger community. Dementia Friends is a global movement that is changing the way people think, act, and talk about dementia. Its goal is to help as many as possible in a community understand what dementia is and how it affects people.

Those with dementia often need a helping hand to go about their daily lives and to feel included in their local community (at church, the grocery store, library, bank, etc.) To provide this helping hand, Dementia Friends sessions aim to give people an understanding of the small things they can do - and changes they can make - that will make a difference. From helping someone find a dozen eggs at Community Market to accompanying them at a fellowship lunch at church - every action counts. And the more people there are taking these steps together,

the more dementia-friendly a community becomes as a whole. And THAT is what enables individuals to continue to feel valued, make meaningful contributions, and still enjoy the powerful emotions of feeling *connected*. As the apostle Paul reminds us, "*we are all members of one Body in Christ, and individually, members one of another*" (Rom 12:5).

Our first Dementia Friends session will be **Wednesday, June, 17 at 6:30** in the chapel (led by Pastor Becca). We'd love for you to come! Please either sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office if you plan to attend. If you can't make this one, we will be offering several additional sessions over the next few months. Our goal is to have as many members of our congregation (and community) become a part of this mission of compassion as possible!

Thank you for reading!

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Email the church: churchoffice@tupcnk.org or pastoroffice@tupcnk.org | 724-339-6618 |
| visit our website: tupcnk.org | 601 5 th Avenue New Kensington, PA 15068 |

JUNE 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | 9:00 Sonward | 9:00 Sonward 1:00 Shawl Group | 9:00 Food Truck Delivery 9:00 Sonward | | 9:00 Food Bank Clients |
| 7 <i>Summer Worship Begins</i> 10:00 Worship | 8 10:00 Care Group 5:30 Session 7:30 AA | 9 9:00 Sonward 6:30 Deacons | 10 9:00 Sonward | 11 9:00 Sonward | 12 | 13 |
| 14 <i>Flag Day</i> 10:00 <i>Worship</i> <i>Graduation Sunday</i> | 15 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA | 16 9:00 Sonward | 17 9:00 Sonward 6:30 Dementia Friends Presentation | 18 9:00 Sonward | 19 | 20 |
| 21 <i>Father's Day</i> 10:00 <i>Worship</i> | 22 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA | 23 9:00 Sonward | 24 9:00 Sonward 6:30 pm Book Club | 25 9:00 Sonward | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10:00 <i>Worship</i> <i>featuring Sonward Singers</i> | 29 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA | 30 9:00 Sonward | | | | |

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