



The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington

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May 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

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and encouraged by the continued greening of life all around us. I was off the last two weeks in April and spent much of the time catching up with outdoor chores – but trust me, it wasn't all work! I can't tell you how many times I stopped to watch robins rooting around in the soil for the perfect breakfast to serve their babies or how often I saw the "grown-ups" in my neighborhood deer herd scan for cars before allowing the fawns to cross the road. It reminded me once again, how - as far as I can tell – we are all created for acts of service. And I don't mean acts of service that just feel like yet another task to cross off your list.

I'm talking about ways of serving that truly makes use of the gifts God has given each of you. When you take the opportunity to share those gifts with others? Well, there are very few scenarios in life that can offer back that same kind of *joy*. Your abilities, talents, skills —whether big or small—are meant to be shared and celebrated. And I can tell you firsthand: when you share them with the church, you are making our church family stronger and brighter.

As I mentioned in the Annual Report we'll be reviewing together on May 10, you made it very clear in our congregation-wide discussion last year that TUPCNK still has life and love to give, both inside and outside our walls. And that life and love is a product of all of us, together. I invite you to think about *your* gifts and how you can share them – **in the here and now**. I know many of you carried much of the load of this church's ministry decades ago, and believe me, I hear you when you say, "*I've already done my part*" because I've said that many times myself. I had young children in church once upon a time too – and yes, I can still recite every speaking part in the annual Christmas pageants I coordinated more than twenty years ago. But I don't want to do that again. Not only did I get burned out, that's just not where my current interests are - nor is it where God is most calling me to serve TODAY.

Our callings change; our gifts change. That's why I'm inviting you to consider where and how you can serve the church today, in its current stage. Perhaps you know a bit about construction and would be willing to talk with contractors about repairing the columns in front of the church; maybe you are gifted at coordinating meals for large numbers of people and could help us pull together a fellowship meal with another local church or two. Maybe you have a special place in your heart for engaging folks with mild dementia and would enjoy coordinating some activities for and with them, or perhaps you're gifted at public speaking and would enjoy serving as a liturgist. As Scripture says, *the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few*" (Luke 10:2).

But friends, there is indeed a special place for your unique gifts here. Every act of service, no matter how simple, is a blessing to all of us. I invite you to think and pray about how the Holy Spirit can use *you* in reflecting Christ's love and compassion to our world. And whether you have questions OR answers, I want to hear them – just give me a call and we'll chat!

May God guide and bless you as you serve, and may your gifts bring joy, hope, and encouragement wherever you go,

Becca

Pastor Becca

Church News



Notice of Called Congregational Meeting

We will have our annual called congregational meeting on **Sunday, May 10**, immediately following worship. The purpose will be to review the 2025 Annual Report and to vote on submitted officer nominations. The Annual Report is available in the Narthex, so please be sure to pick one up and read through it beforehand. (Worship will be abbreviated that day to ensure Mother's Day reservations can be met on time!)



May God Bless Hope and John abundantly as they begin the next phase of their lives together! Hope, daughter of Michael and Dorene Matyas, is a beloved child of TUPCNK and we were honored she and John wanted to have their wedding here. They were married April 25, 2026.





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)

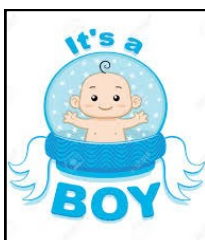
*Denotes those who are home bound or nursing home residents.

May

Jacob Swetof	5/3
Karen Duke	5/8
Brenda Capo	5/13
Anne Grillo	5/15
Debra Neiderhiser	5/17
Karenda Wilson	5/19
Steven Deringer	5/21
Jill Shipman	5/21
Michael Polena	5/25
Jessica Hudak	5/27

Please Mark Your Calendars

We will switch to our summer worship schedule, beginning Sunday, **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.



We celebrate and give thanks for the birth of Jaxson Christopher, son of Emilee (Sorch) and Justin Mazza. Jaxson was born April 15, 2026. Congratulations, Emilee and Justin!



Knitting Group

The Shawl Group will meet on Wednesday, May 6, at 1:00 pm in the Library. Come join the fun. We don't just knit, we fellowship!



Feeding the Community

Food Bank Schedule

May 7, 9:00 - Food Truck Delivery

May 9, 9:00 - Food Bank Distribution

Volunteers are always appreciated!

Adult MeetUP

Friday, May 15, 6:00 pm

China Lobster Buffet

3215 Leechburg Road

Lower Burrell

\$19.50/person plus beverage, tax, and gratuity

Come and enjoy fellowship with friends and congregation members. It's always a fun evening!



Monthly Book Club

May 27, 6:30 pm *I Still Dream About You*, by Fannie Flag

June 24, 6:30 pm *The Secret Chord: A Novel*, by Geraldine Brooks





Highlights from April 13, 2026, Session Meeting

There are 131 members on the Active Roll.

The office computers will be replaced shortly using the monies donated for the Project List.

The Community Outreach and Engagement Committee would like to host a fellowship dinner with Grace Presbyterian and Logans Ferry churches (date to be determined); lots of opportunities for service will be available so please be on the lookout! Also, the Slow Roll Bicycle picnic will hopefully be in July again this year.

Worship Committee is looking for graduates (both high school and/or college). Please contact a committee member with the graduate's information.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna L. McLaughlin
Clerk of Session

Deacon's Report

April 4th Food Bank

- 80 Households served, including 4 New,
- 23 Seniors, 16 Doubles, 0 Birthday Bags
- We had 16 volunteers, working a total of 70.5 hours.

May 2026 Food Bank

Truck Delivery – May 7
Distribution – May 9

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: May 12, 2026 @6:30pm

Submitted by Amy Grillo Dameron
Deacon Secretary

TUPCNK FINANCES AT A GLANCE

Congregational Income (as of March):	\$17, 116	Congregational Income (YTD):	\$35,250
Expenses (March):	\$19,098	Expenses:	\$56,673

NOTE: These figures do 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.

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	4 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA	5 12:00 Worship Committee 2:30 Sonward	6 1:00 Shawl Group	7 9:00 Food Truck Delivery 2:30 Sonward	8 Office Closed	9 9:00 Food Bank Clients
10 Mother's Day 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Congregation	11 10:00 Care Group 5:30 Session 7:30 AA	12 2:30 Sonward 6:30 Deacons 6:30 Garden Club Speaker	13	14 2:30 Sonward	15 Office Closed 6:00 MeetUP	16
17 10:00 Sunday School	18 10:00 Care Group	19 Election Day 2:30 Sonward	20	21 2:30 Sonward	22 Office Closed	23
24 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	25 Memorial Day Office Closed 7:30 AA	26 2:30 Sonward	27 6:30 Book Club <i>I Still Dream About You</i> , by Fannie Flag	28 2:30 Sonward	29 Office Closed	30
31 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship						





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