

The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington



Pastor's Letter

Dear friends,

Remember how, as kids, we never wanted summer to end? The freedom from school work and schedules felt almost as blissful as jumping into the pool on a sweltering day. The excitement of catching lightning bugs was only eclipsed by speeding through the woods on a bike with a banana seat and handlebar streamers!

The memories make me smile – but so does the realization that THIS summer is finally winding down. Not to be the buzz-kill in the room, but the heat and never-ending list of summer chores and activities can leave one feeling weary and worn-out, both physically and spiritually. Our bodies and souls alike need a holy pause.

In the midst of weariness and busyness, Jesus extends a gentle invitation to each of us: *"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"* (Matt 11:28). God's gift of rest is exactly what we need to anchor our hearts.

As an integral part of God's design, rest isn't merely a reward for finished work. It is a sacred command meant to remind us that the world is in God's hands, *not ours*.

True Sabbath rest creates space and opportunity for us to hear the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. It both refreshes us and refuels us.

Setting aside such space and opportunity has to be intentional on our parts; I realize that for most of us, it can't be an entire day at a time. But it can be dappled across each day and throughout the week. Perhaps putting away screens and schedules for an afternoon to focus on family will bring rest to your soul. Perhaps you can take a slow walk to notice the bits of color emerging in the treetops, or sit on your porch at sundown. Or maybe the simple act of gathering around a table with friends will align your spirit with the peace and grace of the Holy Spirit.

Regardless of where you find your Sabbath rest, let this seasonal transition be an invitation from the Lord. May you lay down your labor, quiet the noise, and find blessings in His presence this week.

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





Well, we gave it our best shot! Even though we had a plan in place for rain (that's why we had all three pavilions reserved at the park), the thunder and lightening was a different story altogether. Thank you to our deacons and members of the worship committee who pivoted to the fellowship hall without a hitch. And thank YOU - members of both TUPCNK AND Logans Ferry - for showing up with a smile in spite of changed plans and a torrential thunderstorm. *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt 18:20).*

Fall/Winter Menus in the Works

Hopefully by now you've heard of the monthly meals our Congregational Life team has been preparing and delivering to various church members. This act of friendship and service has been very well received thus far and we are grateful to Donna Lindh for coordinating both the meals *and* the recipients. We also appreciate those of you who have volunteered either to prepare a dish or to join Donna in delivering the meals. **EVERYONE** is invited to be a part of this ministry - please look over the menus below for upcoming months and let Donna know how and when you can help out. She can tell you how much of each item we will need because each month is different. Thank you!!

Sept. 16 - Delivery Day

Mac-n-Cheese - Donna McLaughlin
Side dish - ?
Dessert - ?
Fruit (fresh or cups) - ?

Oct. 21 - Delivery Day

Soups: Cream of Broccoli - Donna L.
Chicken Soup - Lynn Crumley
Potato Soup - Becca Siddle
Dessert - ?
Fruit (fresh or cups) - ?
Jello or pudding cups - ?

cont'd

Nov. 11 - Delivery Day

(No main dish this month)
Pumpkin cookies - Marie Davis
Pumpkin cake - Julia Yockey
Fruit (fresh or cups) - ?

Dec. 16 - Delivery Day

(No main dish this month)
Christmas cookies - Brenda Capo
Christmas snack mixes
Jello or pudding cups -

Jan. 14 - Delivery Day

Beef Stew - Donna Lindh
Side dish -
Fresh fruit -
Dessert -
Individual cracker packets -



Returning to the Sanctuary

Our first Sunday back in the sanctuary will be **September 13** (unless that day happens to be an incredibly hot one). We will also return to our **11:00** start time on Sept. 13. Please help remind each other of these changes.

Scholarships Awarded

Each year we are able to grant small scholarships to students who are continuing their education beyond high school graduation. This year, recipients include Kaylee Thimons (Slippery Rock), Victoria Dameron (Kutztown), and Jackson Dameron (Penn State). Please keep each of these young people in your prayers as they navigate both the joys and challenges of higher learning!

Also, thank you to Mary Beth Yeamans and Dianne Swetof for their continued willingness to serve on the Scholarship committee.

Bulletin Board



PRAYER list

Please keep the following in
your prayers...

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 (Robin Sorch's friend)
Marissa Montgomery (Ray Pinson's girlfriend)
Bill Montgomery (Marissa's father)
Corrine Colberg (Kathryn Whitacre's friend)
Althea Joseph and family
Claudia Long and family

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

Pine Springs Camp "Women in the Woods"

What: A refreshing 24-hour fall
retreat with other women of faith
When: Oct. 2-3
Cost: \$100 (Commuter: \$80)
Go to pinesprings.org to register

Will DeLancey	9/1
Emma Conte	9/1
Janet Howsare	9/4
Robin Sorch	9/6
Maeby Pistininzi	9/7
Evelyn Waltonbaugh	9/9
Jill Allen	9/11
Christopher Peiffer	9/13
Joshua Swetof	9/14
William Davis	9/14
Erika Manges	9/15
Mary Beth Yeamans	9/16
Timothy Guido	9/17
David Keys	9/23
Emily Deringer	9/25
Robert Deringer	9/25

Church Secretary Position

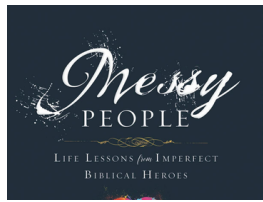
Please keep your eyes and ears
open for someone who may be a
good fit for our secretary position!
Work hours are 9 - 12 each
morning, Monday - Thursday.
Requirements include basic word
processing and an eye for detail,
filing, record keeping, maintaining
office supplies, etc. A friendly and
helpful personality is crucial,
since the secretary is often the
first point of contact others have
with our church. The pay rate for
this position is \$16/hour.



Deacons' Emergency Food Pantry Wish List

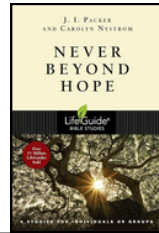
Ramen, Cup of Soup
Peanut Butter Crackers
(individual packages)
Jelly (plastic containers)
Applesauce (plastic containers)
Tuna
Cans of Ravioli, Spaghetti O's,
Beef-A-Roni
Peanut Butter
Pasta / Spaghetti
Spaghetti Sauce
Mac 'n Cheese
Cereal
Juice (plastic containers)

Upcoming Dates and Events



Adult Sunday School Resumes Sept. 13

We will be continuing our Messy People study by Jennifer Cowart. Anybody can jump in at anytime, so everyone is always welcome! The class meets in the chapel every Sunday before church.



Bible Study in September: Never Beyond Hope

In this six-session study, we'll explore how God works through imperfect characters - like Jonah, Martha, and Peter. God loves, redeems, and restores misfits, outsiders, and failures. And he can do the same for each of us! Come join us for this Wednesday afternoon group, **beginning Sept. 9 at 4 pm. in the chapel.**



Shawl Group

The Shawl Group will plan to meet on **Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 1:00 pm** in the Library. If you've ever wanted to learn to knit, what are you waiting for? These ladies will be happy to show you how!



Book Club

For September we are reading The Story Of Arthur Truluv by Elizabeth Berg

The novel revolves around the stories of three unlikely companions: Arthur Moses, an elderly widower who finds solace in visiting his wife's grave, Maddy Harris, a troubled teenager who feels out of place in her own life, and Lucille Howard, Arthur's elderly neighbor grappling with her own loneliness.

Come, join us as we discuss this lighthearted book together. Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 6:30 in the chapel.



Adult MeeTUP

Let's celebrate the return of MeeTUP (and fall!) by getting together **Friday, September 18 at 6pm.** Food and fellowship are always better when they go together! Please let Stacey know you'll be coming.

Rey Aztec is located at 100 Tarentum Bridge Rd, New Ken.

Committee Highlights



Session Highlights

From the August 10, 2026 Meeting:

- There are 130 members on the Active Roll.
- David A Joseph died on July 5, 2026.
- Mary Ellen Hicks' last day as secretary will be October 2, 2026.
- The Slow Roll get together turned out well, with over 45 guests.
- The Three Church Wide Fellowship Meal (TUPCNK, Logans Ferry and Grace Community) is scheduled for October 17, 2026.
- Three meals in July and four meals in August were delivered to congregation members.
- LED lights and two overhead fans will be installed in the "purple" room.
- September's Communion will be on the 2nd Sunday, September 13.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie S. Davis

Marie S. Davis, Clerk of Session

Endowment, Finance, and Mission

Congregational Income	July \$11,491
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Expenses	\$21,033
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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 or cooling the building, paying for water or electricity, making payroll, etc. (Most of our endowments have restrictions placed upon them that ensure the money is used only for the purpose the original donor intended.)

Deacon's Report

There was no stated Deacons meeting for the month of August.

Worship Committee

We cordially invite you to worship with TUPCNK on October 4 to celebrate World Communion Sunday. This is a tradition that started back in 1933, right here in Western Pennsylvania. Not only do members of one specific congregation celebrate Communion, but most Protestant and mainline churches do so simultaneously on Oct. 4, in all corners of the world. The purpose is to remind Christians that we are part of a global community, one that transcends geography, race, culture, and language.

Then on November 1, we will celebrate All Saints Day. This is a Sunday set aside specifically to honor all members, family members, and/or friends of the congregation who have passed away sometime **between Nov. 1, 2025 and October 15, 2026**. We invite you to notify the church office of anyone you would like to add to this remembrance, no later than October 15. Please provide the name and the relationship. May we honor the deceased by remembering them as part of God's family on November 1!



We completely understand there are lots of folks we don't typically see on Sunday mornings - but who *do* read this newsletter. If you're one such person, then this invitation is for **YOU**!

Likewise, if this church once held a special place in the hearts of your adult children or grandchildren (or siblings or neighbors, etc.), then they are still absolutely part of our family. Please make sure they understand the invitation above is for **THEM**!

The Fellowship Meal we are hosting on Oct. 17 is just that - delicious food served at round tables, with the focus entirely on the gift of friendship-past, present, and future-tense, AS WELL AS within, between, and among folks from each congregation.

The meal is not going to be a potluck, nor a buffet. No one will be asked to "bring a side dish to share" and you certainly won't need to provide your own silverware!

Just do these instead:
1) Decide to come
2) Enthusiastically invite those we don't get to see very often (and then follow up too!)
3) Call or email the church office with your RSVP

If we waited till October to put this in our newsletter, it would be too late for many peoples' schedules. So please, mark the date NOW on your calendar and go ahead and email the church today to tell us you're coming. We can't wait to see you!

Email the church: churchoffice@tupcnk.org or pastoroffice@tupcnk.org	<i>Thank you for reading!</i> 724-339-6618 601 5 th Avenue New Kensington, PA 15068
visit our website: tupcnk.org	

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 1:00 Shawl Group	3 • 9:00 Food Truck Delivery	4	5 9:00 Food Bank Clients
6 10:00 Worship (last Sunday for summer hours)	7 Labor Day Office closed 7:30 AA	8 5:30 Session (note change in date/day) 6:30 Deacons	9 4:00 Bible Study	10	11	12
13 Back to regular worship time: 11:00 Worship	14 10:00 Care Group 10:00 Garden Club 7:30 AA	15	16 NO Bible Study	17	18	19
20 11:00 Worship	21 9:30 Garden Club Brd. 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA	22	23 4:00 Bible Study	24	25	26
27 11:00 Worship	28 10:00 Care Group 7:30 AA	29	30 4:00 Bible Study 6:30 Book Club <u>The Story of Arthur Truluv</u> by Elizabeth Burg			

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