

The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington



Pastor's Letter

Dear friends in Christ,

The 3-Church-Meal we've been planning for is almost upon us, and I'm so excited to spend the afternoon of Oct. 17 with as many of you as we can fit around tables!

The final chance to call or email the church office to tell us you'll be coming is Monday, Oct. 5. And since that's not for a few days yet, I'm going to take this last opportunity to say just two more things about this friendship meal.

The first is this: I understand. I understand and acknowledge that for lots of people, Sunday mornings just do not function the way they did when many of us were growing up. If work isn't calling, or the kids' sports practices aren't on Sundays at 10 am, then those precious few hours are – for many – the only down time they get all week.

If this describes you, please do not think for a second that you shouldn't come be a part of our friendship meal (or ANYthing else) because Sundays don't work for you. *Church is about sooo much more than Sunday!*

If you are – or have ever been – a part of this faith family, you hold a treasured place at our table (both literal *and* figurative). Don't ever forget that.

My second point could be considered a friendly challenge, and it's mostly addressed to those who do typically attend on Sundays, and it is this: be bold and sincerely invite someone **to be your guest** at our friendship meal.

Text your favorite great-niece who lives one town over, send a message to your siblings who grew up in this church, call your adult children, go knock on the door of that neighbor you've been chatting with. The truth is, even if the person must decline, most people genuinely LOVE knowing you've thought enough of them to want to *connect*. That's how relationships strengthen and how all friendships start. It doesn't matter if they're not "members" of TUPCNK; by being a part of your circle, they're already part of our circle!

In this newsletter you will find:

TUPCNK News

Bulletin Board
(Birthdays, Prayer
Concerns, etc.)

Upcoming Dates &
Events

Committee
Highlights

Monthly Feature

Church Calendar

Grace and peace,



Pastor Becca

Time for College Boxes

If you would like to help with this annual project, please leave donations in the church office or in the basket in the narthex - and be sure to mark the items "College Boxes." Individually wrapped suggestions include: potato chips, pretzels, crackers, cookies, candy or any snack.

We will collect up to and including **October 18th**. Let's make sure our students know we're thinking about them!

Thank you,
The Board of Deacons

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 for 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 updated menus below and let Donna L. know how and when you can help out - either by providing the items, helping prepare them, or by being a smiling face that delivers them with Donna. Thank you!

Oct. 21 - Delivery Day

Cream of Broccoli Soup - Donna L
Chicken Soup - Lynn C
Crackers - ?
Dessert - ?
Fresh Fruit - ?
Ind. Cookie Pkt - *will use current supply*
Ind. pudding or jello cups - *will use current supply*
Muffin for the next day's breakfast - Althea J

cont'd

Nov. 11 - Delivery Day

Ham Loaf - Donna L
Yams - Donna L
Creamed Corn - Donna L
Pumpkin Cake - Julia Y
Pumpkin Cookies - Marie D (not sure, due to injury)
Goodies - *will use current supply*

Dec. 16 - Delivery Day

(No main dish this month)
Christmas cookies - Brenda C
Christmas snack mixes - ?
Christmas treats - Pam

Jan. 14 - Delivery Day

Beef Stew - Donna L
Side dish - ?
Fresh fruit - ?
Dessert - ?
Crackers to go w/stew - ?

Feb. 10 - Delivery Date

Stuffed Peppers - Donna L
Mashed Potatoes - ?
Applesauce Cup - *will use current supply*
Dessert - ?

Church Secretary Updates

Mary Ellen's last day in the church office will be Oct. 1 and we will celebrate her time with us **during worship on Oct. 11**. We invite you to come and send her off with gratitude and well wishes!

Though we will certainly miss Mary Ellen's presence around here, we are grateful to have someone already in place to assume the position of church secretary. Not only is this individual competent, conscientious, and friendly...most of you already know her! Dorene Matyas will be our new go-to person in the main office and her first day of work will be Monday, Oct. 5. Welcome, Dorene!

Bulletin Board



Pastor Becca Siddle	10/1
Julia Yockey	10/1
Alyssa Dameron	10/1
Kathy Davis	10/2
Amelia Dzierzynski	10/4
Hope Matyas	10/5
Emily Hartz	10/6
Emilee Sorch	10/9
Matthew Grillo	10/13
Kathryn Dzierzynski	10/22
Christian Yates	10/25
Robert Thomas	10/26
Olivia Guido	10/26
Deonte Bondra	10/28
Edward Dzierzynski	10/30
Katie McGinnis	10/30

PRAYER list

Please keep the following in
your prayers...

Lou Ann Burford*
Mildred Wagner
Alyssa Pistininzi
Cyndi & Mark Bondra*
Julie Bondra (Cyndi's sister-in-law)
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)
Corrine Colberg (Kathryn Whitacre's
friend)
Althea Joseph and family
Claudia Long and family
Marie Davis

Deacons' Emergency Food Pantry Wish List



Canned Potatoes
Ramen, Cup o' 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)

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

Upcoming Dates and Events

world communion sunday



The first Sunday in October is always set aside as World Communion, a very special day in the life of the church universal. On this day, millions of people worldwide are partaking of the sacrament, and doing so knowing their brothers and sisters in Christ are doing likewise, whether in France, Siberia, New Zealand, or Zimbabwe.

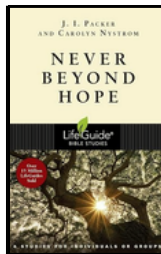
Receiving the nurture and nourishment of Communion is always holy, but receiving this gift of Christ simultaneously with so many others makes its power and grace feel like it truly spans the length and depth of all Creation. A holy gift, indeed! **Sunday, Oct. 4 at 11:00 am.**

Shawl Group



Prayer Shawl
Ministry

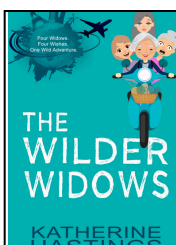
The Shawl Group will plan to meet **Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 1:00 pm.** in the church library. If you enjoy knitting or crochet - or have ever wanted to LEARN - come give this group a try. You'll be glad you did (great fellowship and snacks are also part of the deal!)



Bible Study Continues into October

The Bible Study we started in September will continue for three more weeks into October - and YOU can join in even now. No session is dependent upon any others that preceded it.

At a time when hope sometimes feels thin and transparent, this study draws upon the many examples in Scripture where hope manifests in the surest - and most surprising - situations, people, and dynamics (i.e., all the pieces of the puzzle we call LIFE.)
Oct. 7th, 14th, and 21st at 4 pm. in the chapel.



Monthly Book Club

For October, we are reading The Wilder Widows by Katherine Hastings.

After putting their own needs on the back burner to raise their families, Sylvie, Doris, Alice, and Marge struggle to find purpose now that their kids are grown and their husbands are gone. Loneliness pushes them together while they knit away their days. Then one night, a whiskey-filled pact catapults these ladies onto the adventure of a lifetime!

Come, join us as we discuss this lighthearted book together.
Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 in the chapel.

Committee Highlights



Session Summary

From the Sept. 8, 2026 Meeting:

- There are 130 members on the Active Roll.
- The August 2026 income from the congregation was \$8,625 and the expenses were \$15,873.
- Mary Ellen Hicks is retiring effective October 2, and she will be honored during the worship service on October 11.
- It was MSP to hire Dorene Matyas as the new secretary, effective October 5, 2026.
- Brotherhood Insurance provided a discount on the yearly invoice since a new video camera/doorbell system was installed.
- The next Session meeting will be October 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna McLaughlin.
Clerk of Session, pro-tem

Endowment, Finance, and Mission

As you know, Session has been working with a Special Projects list over the past year. This list is comprised of our building's most pressing needs and has guided the work our Session has prioritized.

Our congregation graciously donated over \$11,000 toward these projects and a total of \$8,822.90 has been spent to date. This represents the replacement cost of antiquated computers, the unpredictable (failing) microphones & amp in the sanctuary, ceiling fans and an LED light strip in the tutoring room (used by Sonward youth), and the new video camera/doorbell system.

Again, thank you for your generosity; we want you to know exactly how the Special Projects money has been spent so far.

Board of Deacons Report

From the Sept. 8, 2026 Meeting:

From the August 8th Food Bank:

75 Households served, including 5 New, 25 Seniors, and 11 Doubles. We distributed 3 Birthday Bags and we had 17 volunteers, working a total of 64 hours.

From the September 5th Food Bank:

78 Households served, including 7 New, 23 Seniors, & 16 Doubles. We distributed 1 Birthday Bag and we had 20 volunteers, working a total of 64.5 hours.

For the October 2026 Food Bank:

Truck Delivery – October 1

Distribution – October 3

Funeral Dinners – None

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

Submitted by Amy Grillo Dameron –
Deacon Secretary

3-Church-Meal Team

IMPORTANT: Tue, Oct. 6 at pm!!!

This will be our last group meeting before the big event! Please make every effort to attend, and bring all the details with you. If you volunteered to get quotes, please have the info ready to share; if you volunteered to pick up certain items, please bring them to the meeting; if you've thought of additional considerations, bring them!

Worship Committee

We will celebrate All Saints Day on Nov. 1. This is a Sunday set aside in the church to honor friends and loved ones who have passed away in the last year (*specifically between Nov. 1, 2025 and Oct. 15, 2026*). We invite you to notify the church office of anyone you would especially like to include in our list of remembrance; please do so no later than **October 15**.

Monthly Feature

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This October 25th, our celebration of Heritage Sunday will consist of more than the usual "Scottish flair;" we will have the unique opportunity to honor SIX individuals who have been members of our church for 70 years or longer!!

Because such a special event occurs so seldom, we thought it would be fun to assemble a photo montage to celebrate these folks - but also to see if YOU can guess their identity. The clues (below) are intentionally minimal - so give it your best shot...and be SURE to come to church on the 25th to celebrate these wonderful "long-timers" with us.

1 - This little cowboy grew up in Westminster Presbyterian Church (the one formerly located where our parking lot is). The church burned when he was in college.

#2 - This youngster was baptized at age 14 by Rev. Armstrong and was able to join Westminster Church the very same day.

#3 - This handsome young man attended Parnassus Presbyterian Church with his parents and brother.

#4 - This lovely lady not only grew up in Parnassus Presbyterian Church, but her own two children also attended Parnassus Church in its final years.

#5 - This young man was a child of First Presbyterian Church and was "adopted" by his 1st grade Sunday School teacher, Miss Anne Kostray (who would later become our own Anne Jacobus)!

#6 - This rosy cheeked young man not only grew up in the Parnassus Church, he sang with the 20-member Boy's Choir of that church.

Have fun with your guesses!

visit our website: tupcnk.org

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New Kensington, PA
15068

Email the church:
churchoffice@tupcnk.org or
pastoroffice@tupcnk.org

724-339-6618

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1 9am - Food Truck Delivery	2	3 9am - Food Bank
4 World Communion 10am - Adult Sun School 11am - Worship	5 Meal Sign-Up Deadline 10am - Care Group 10am - Garden Club 7:30pm - AA	6 12:30pm - Worship 6pm - 3-Ch Meal Team	7 1pm - Shawl Group 4pm - Bible Study	8	9	10 8am - Sonward
11 10am - Adult Sun School 11am - Worship	12 10am - Care Group 5:30pm - Session Meeting 7:30pm - AA	13 6:30pm - Deacons	14 4pm - Bible Study	15	16	17 4pm - 3-CHURCH MEAL!!
18 10am - Adult Sun School 11am - Worship	19 9:30am - Garden Club 10am - Care Group 7:30pm - AA	20	21 4pm - Bible Study	22	23	24 8am - Sonward
25 Heritage Sunday 10am - Adult Sun School 11am - Worship Wear your plaid!	26 10am - Care Group 7:30pm - AA	27	28 6:30pm - Book Club	29	30	31 Halloween

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