

Newtown United Methodist Church

April 2026 Newsletter



Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear NUMC Family,

April brings us into a defining moment, not only in the life of the Church, but in our life together as a congregation. This is a season where important things are being formed beneath the surface, where clarity is emerging, direction is taking shape, and faith is being called into action. Much of this work is not immediately visible, but it is no less real. This is how lasting growth begins, not all at once, but with quiet strength, steady movement, and intentional purpose.



Over the past several weeks, our Leadership Team has been doing important work, prayerfully discerning who we are called to be in this next season of our church. Out of that work, we have clarified a simple but powerful statement of who we are:

Rooted in faith. Growing in Christ. Serving with love.

This is more than a statement. It is a direction. It is a way of life. It reminds us that everything we do begins with a strong foundation, that we are not meant to remain the same but are called to grow, and that our faith is not meant to stop with us, but to move outward in love as we move forward together as a church.

Easter stands at the center of this month, and it reminds us of something essential: new life is not just something we celebrate, it is something we step into. Resurrection is not only about what God did, but about what God continues to do in our lives, in our decisions, and in our life together as a church.

That means April is not just a time to reflect, but a time to move forward by taking ownership of our faith, finding our place in the life of the church, and choosing to serve, connect, grow, and contribute to something larger than any one of us.

Because the church is not built by a few people doing everything; it becomes strong when each person begins to step into their role, and that is where the future begins.

So, as we move through this month, I encourage you to take one simple step, not a perfect step or a fully planned step, but a real one. Reach out, get involved, show up in a new way, and say yes to something that stretches you, even if you do not yet see the full picture, because that has never been a requirement for moving forward in faith. If you are not sure where to begin, I invite you to reach out to me, I would be glad to help you take that next step.

Easter reminds us that life comes where we are willing to rise, and I believe there is more ahead for us, individually and as a church, than we have yet experienced.

Blessings,
Pastor Rodney

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

6:00 p.m. Soup & Bread Supper

7:00 p.m. Communion Worship Service

Good Friday, April 3rd

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Into Your Hands: A Service of Surrender and Release

Easter Sunday, April 5th

9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Worship Service & Children's Easter Celebration



Bible Study

Jesus Today – A New Study for April

Beginning Tuesday, April 14, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, join us for a new study based on *Jesus Today: A Spirituality of Radical Freedom* by Albert Nolan.

This study will explore the life and teaching of Jesus in a way that speaks to our lives today, focusing on healing, inner transformation, and how the way of Jesus takes shape in our everyday lives. Together, we will reflect on Scripture, engage meaningful questions, and consider how Jesus continues to shape us from the inside out.

Whether you are looking to deepen your faith, see Jesus with fresh clarity, or take a meaningful step forward, this study offers a welcoming space to grow.

All are welcome.



JAZZ ON LIBERTY

Jazz on Liberty!

SUNDAY, MAY 3 AT 3:00 PM

Live Outdoor Free Concert

Donations Appreciated!

March Mission of the Month



Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month (Advance) for April is the Great Plains United Methodist Conference in Nebraska. The people of Nebraska have been impacted by four wildfires that have combined to become the largest wildfire in Nebraska history.

Three are still burning. According to Reverend Hollie Patley, local farmers and ranchers are hurting. About 95% of grazing lands are gone, 95% of fences were destroyed, and feed and water tanks for livestock are gone. Some livestock were lost. Many residents had to evacuate and came back to homes that were no longer there.

If you would like to help with this important ministry, you can use the blue envelopes located in the pews in the Sanctuary. You can also send a check to Newtown United Methodist Church, 35 Liberty Street, Newtown, PA 18940. Please mark your check "Advance for April."

Newtown UMC Women's Retreat! April 17- 19

2026 Newtown Women's Retreat: True Blue

Ladies, how would you like to get away for a weekend and relax in your blue jeans, bask under the blue sky, and walk along the blue ocean? We will be using the Ocean Grove seaside as a backdrop to this year's retreat theme, "True Blue." The phrase true blue comes from the middle ages, when artisans in Coventry, England dyed material blue in such a way that its color remained steadfast and true, despite washing. Through Bible study, fellowship, and prayer, we will reconnect to the steadfast love of God, and strengthen our faith so we can remain true to who we want to be, come washing, wearing, or whatever!



On hand to lead the Friday night and Saturday portions of the retreat is Rev. Dorry Newcomer, now pastor at Jarrettown UMC in Dresher, PA. Dorry was pastor of Newtown UMC from 2014 to 2018. She hopes the retreat will help foster faith in God that never fades!

. Cost: Per person, \$200 for shared bath; \$250 for private bath. This covers two nights lodging, continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, dinner Saturday, and all retreat materials. The registration deadline is **April 10, 2026** Registration forms are available on the table in the gallery.

Caring for Friends

Caring for Friends will not meet again until April 15th @ 9:00 a.m. Caring for Friends makes meals for homebound families in and around the Philadelphia area.



UMW Spring Banquet

The women of St. John's Ivyland are hosting a special program on Wed. May 6th at 6:30P.M. They are having a banquet in the fellowship hall followed by a presentation, "Catharine "Caty" Greene, Eyewitness to the American Revolution." Caty is the wife of Nathaniel Greene, George Washington's most valued officer. Carol Simon Levin will be the presenter. A free will offering will be taken.

*They have invited us to join them for this special evening. We will put a sign up sheet in the gallery. Please sign up by Wed, **April 29th** so we can RSVP with a count for them. We can meet at the church to car pool for anyone who needs a ride.*

Please let Susan Smith or Nora Schenk know if you have any questions.

April Schedule



Ushers and Greeters

Ushers for April: Tom He, Randy & Nora Schenk

Greeters:

April 5-Freeman Corson & Monica Flint

April 12-Pat King & Joanne Tomlinson

April 19-Joe & Judi Swerk

April 26-Jim & Helene Mershon



Finance Stewards & Communion Stewards

Finance Stewards: Randy & Nora Schenk

Communion Steward: Pat King

Lay Readers

April 5- Susan Smith

April 12-Judi Swerk

April 19-Erinn Demskis

April 26-Pat King



Fellowship Time

April 5-Easter

April 12-Chris Bethman

April 19-Carol Hauss

April 26-

Circle of Concern

Faith and fellowship during the day! The Circle of Concern will hold its next meeting, Monday April 20, at 9:30 a.m., in the library. We are a circle of women of all ages who gather for prayer, fellowship, and time to learn about United Methodist Women around our country and around our world. If you would like to find out how you can make a difference in your life and in the lives of others, come join us! We usually meet on the third Monday of the month. For more information please call the church office.

United Methodist Women

Mother's Day Geraniums

_____ at \$6.00 each plant

(number of plants)

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY:



Plants can be taken after the worship service.

Please return this form by May 3rd with your payment made out to the NUMC women to the church office or mail to:

Kathy Mershon
35 Liberty Street
Newtown, PA 18940

Spring Rummage Sale

THE UMW SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Our spring rummage sale will be held on May 1st from 9 am –3 pm and May 2nd from 9 am – 12 pm.

We are once again accepting your **gently used** items in our rummage room in the basement from now until April 26th. Beginning April 27th through April 29th, you may put your items in the kitchen or the opportunity room.

Any donations made after April 29th will be saved for our Fall Rummage sale, so please take those items to the basement rummage room.

If you are able, please join us on Monday morning (April 27th) at 11 am to help bring the items in the basement upstairs. Once the items are all upstairs, we will begin the task of sorting, arranging, and pricing. We will be working all week long from 10 am until 4 pm. Please use the sign-up sheet in the gallery to sign up to help. ALL are welcome. We need many hands to make light of this work. As is our custom, lunch will be provided for workers on afternoon.

And, of course, we will need people to help on the days of our sale to serve as cashiers and to monitor and assist buyers.

PLEASE NOTE:

All clothing should be clean and free from stains, tears, missing buttons, and broken zippers

All electric items and electronics must be in working order

Only flat screen TVs no older than 5 years will be accepted

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:

Mattresses or box springs

Entertainment centers

Tube, console, or projection TVs

AC units

VHS tapes

Baby equipment older than 5 years past the manufacture date

Baby car seats and cribs

Upholstered furniture that is stained, ripped, torn, or worn

Computers, monitors, or printers older than 5 years

Appliances older than 10 years

Any items that need repair, are in poor condition, or have missing parts

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT IN MAKING OUR RUMMAGE SALE A SUCCESS!

This Month's Birthdays!

April Birthdays!

4/1-Rich Selah

4/2-Lucie Lyman

4/5-Pat King

4/9-Chris Koelzer

4/11-K.J. Sweeney

4/13- Lois Brailsford

4/14-Barb Rabberman

4/17-Oliver Flint

4/17-Joan Mathias

4/19-Jane Swartz

4/21-Tricia Olmos

4/27-Lukas Demskis



Newtown United Methodist Church



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Newtown, PA 18940

Rev. Rodney Brailsford, Pastor

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Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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Visit us on the web at www.newtownumc.com