



Newtown United Methodist Church

December 2025 Newsletter



OPEN HEARTS.

OPEN MINDS.

OPEN DOORS.

Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear NUMC Family,

As we enter December and the season of Advent, my heart is filled with gratitude for all that God has done in and through our church in 2025. Advent is always a season of expectation, a time when we open our hearts to the promise that Christ comes to us again and again with hope, peace, joy, and love. This year, that message feels especially meaningful as we look back on a season of steady progress, renewed stability, and signs of new life throughout our congregation.



This past year has brought extraordinary blessings. Our worship life has deepened, especially with the arrival of our new Director of Music, Duomi Liu, from Westminster Choir College. Duomi's leadership has restored stability and joy to our choir, enriching our worship with renewed excellence and spiritual warmth. We are entering Christmas prepared to lift our voices with confidence and beauty that honor God and inspire our community.

We have also strengthened our presence in Newtown through meaningful events and outreach. From Pancake Breakfasts and our "Hope After the Storm" Pig Roast for Texas Flood Relief, to our annual Rummage Sale and Peace Pole dedication, NUMC has continued to shine as a place where faith, service, and hospitality flow naturally. This December, we are preparing for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services at 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM, some of the most meaningful moments we share all year. These services beautifully unite Scripture, carols, and candlelight, offering a wonderful opportunity to welcome friends, neighbors, and family into the joy of Christ.

Our discipleship ministries have grown in depth and engagement. This year, our Bible studies explored significant themes, from the Seven Words from the Cross, to Elie Wiesel's *Night*, to our in-depth study of Revelation. These studies have encouraged thoughtful reflection, honest questions, and a deeper awareness of God's presence in every season of life. We also launched a creative devotional initiative that speaks to modern life and nurtures spiritual growth in new ways. I am grateful for everyone who studies, asks questions, and continues to grow in faith.

In addition to growing as disciples, we have deepened our commitment to mission and to compassion for community. Our partnership with the Wrightstown Food Cupboard continues to support families facing food insecurity, and our new relationship with the Bucks County Opportunity Council has opened the door to expanded ministries that can make an even greater impact. These partnerships remind us that our faith is not confined to the walls of our sanctuary; it reaches into the community, offering hope where it is needed most.

Leadership has also grown stronger in 2025. This was our first full year operating under the One Board Model, bringing clarity, unity, and a more streamlined decision-making process. We have also begun forming Team Ministries, which will continue to take shape in the months ahead. Our goal is to finalize and activate the full Team Ministries structure by June 2026. This model will help us engage more members, both longtime members and those who have recently joined, by giving them meaningful opportunities to serve, share their gifts, and become part of the ongoing life of the church. It will also clarify responsibilities and foster a renewed sense of ownership and purpose across our congregation.

Our stewardship efforts this fall reminded us that Newtown UMC is truly *A Legacy in Motion*. I am grateful for those who have prayerfully returned their 2026 Commitment to Giving Cards. Your generosity helps sustain our ministries and positions us well for the year ahead. Your gifts help us build what comes next: strengthening worship, deepening discipleship, and expanding our outreach so that future generations may experience the same grace we have known.

As we celebrate Advent this year, please join us for our three-week gathering, Cocoa & Conversation, on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM. It will be a simple, reflective way to enter the season with Scripture, fellowship, and warmth.

Looking ahead to 2026, I feel hopeful and energized. We anticipate the continued growth of Team Ministries, new opportunities for youth, enhanced communication through our new digital signage, and expanding outreach ministries that deepen our witness in Newtown and beyond. We will continue to build on the foundation God has laid and look forward with expectation to all the ways Christ will lead us.

Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, service, and prayer. You truly are the heartbeat of this congregation, and I am deeply grateful for the ways you embody Christ's love throughout the year. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior and prepare to welcome a new year, I pray that His peace will steady your hearts, His joy will brighten your homes, and His love will surround you and those you cherish.

May this Christmas fill you with wonder and hope, and may the coming year bring renewed strength, renewed purpose, and renewed faith for all that lies ahead. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Rodney

Advent Bible Study

Cocoa & Conversation — A Three-Week Advent Gathering
Wednesdays at 10:00 AM | Beginning December 3
Wesley Hall | Newtown United Methodist Church

Join us this Advent for **Cocoa & Conversation**, a simple and uplifting way to prepare our hearts for the season. For three Wednesday mornings, we will gather in Wesley Hall to enjoy cocoa and light refreshments, read Scripture, and share meaningful conversation around the themes of **Hope, Peace, and Joy**.

Each gathering includes a brief Advent message, a Scripture reading, and time to reflect together on how God is at work in our lives during this sacred season. Whether you attend Bible study regularly or are simply looking for a gentle spiritual pause in the middle of the week, you are warmly welcome.

Dates:

- **December 3** – Hope



• **December 10** – Peace

• **December 17** – Joy

Come as you are, bring a friend, and enter the beauty of Advent with community, warmth, and thoughtful reflection.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve- Candlelight services will be: 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.



November Mission of the Month



Mission of the Month

The **Mission of the Month (Advance)** for **December** is the Prison Ministries and Restorative Justice Team of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church (EPAUMC).

Under the leadership of Reverend Marilyn Schneider, the Prison Ministries and Restorative Justice Team gives support for individuals, families, and communities affected by the criminal justice system. Team members provide books, Bible studies, films, and speakers to educate congregations. They offer weekend retreats for families. They help at-risk youth and formerly incarcerated individuals.

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 December."

The Outreach Team thanks everyone for your contributions to our "Thanksgiving for Families in Need" mission. Thanks to you, many local families were able to buy ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal.

Just a reminder that the team is still collecting non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, and baby items. These items will be given to our sister church, Penns Park UMC, home to the Wrightstown Food Pantry, and to other churches who have requested help.

Thank you for reaching out to help so many others during this busy holiday season!

Caring for Friends

Caring for Friends will meet again on Wednesday, January 21st at 9:00 a.m.



December Schedule



Ushers and Greeters

Ushers for December: Randy & Nancy Scurlock and Allen Fidler

Greeters:

December 7- Randy & Nora Schenk

December 14- Dan & Debbie Boltner

December 21- Freeman Corson & Pat King

December 28- Dave & Kathy Mershon

Christmas Eve: 7:00 p.m. Joanne Tomlinson

11:00 p.m. Joe & Judi Swerk

Finance Stewards & Communion Stewards

Finance Stewards: Randy & Nora Schenk

Communion Steward: Pat King

Lay Readers:

December 7- Erinn Demskis

December 14- Allen Fidler

December 21- Nora Schenk

December 28- Susan Smith



Christmas Eve: 7:00 p.m. Erinn Demskis

11:00 p.m. Gerry Hixson



Fellowship Time

Fellowship Hour!

December 7-Barbara Burger

December 14-Nora & Randy Schenk

December 21-Linda Walsh

December 28-

Angel Tree

This year, continuing our church's tradition to support the holiday toy drive program at Philadelphia Methodist Home for Children, our Angel Tree will be on display in the church gallery from November 9th to December 10th. We ask each family to be an angel to the children in need, bring one or two new and unwrapped toys, books, games and gift cards from Target or Walmart and place under the Angel Tree. The toys will be picked up by Philadelphia Methodist Home for Children on December 9th for its Christmas party of about 100 families with children. Our generosity will bring smiles to the children faces and provide a uplifting to their holiday spirit. Thank you for being an angel.



2026 Flower Chart

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The new flower chart is posted. Please consider donating altar flowers, in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone or for a special occasion. The cost is \$35.00. If you have any questions please call Kathy in the church office.

Poinsettias

2025 Christmas Poinsettias

_____ at \$15.00 each plant

(number of plants)

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY:

YOU MAY TAKE YOUR POINSETTIA HOME AFTER THE 11:00 P.M. CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM & PAYMENT PAYABLE TO:

Newtown United Methodist Church

Attention: Kathy Mershon

35 Liberty Street

Newtown, PA 18940

Phone: 215-968-2662

The Deadline for ordering is

Sunday, December 14, 2025



Dine Around

The annual Adult Christmas dine around, and party will be held Sunday, December 14th starting with salads, at the home of Susan & Donald Smith, at 5:30 p.m. We will then go to various homes for dinner. After dinner we will meet back at the church for dessert and gift exchange. We ask each person to bring a \$20 gift-women for a woman & men for a man. You can sign up in the gallery. We need each couple or person to either be a hostess, bring a salad or a dessert. December 7th is the final day to sign up for this fun event!



Circle of Concern

Fall is here and it's time to gather! The Circle of Concern will hold its next gathering on Monday, December, 15th, at 9:30 a.m., in the library. We are a circle of women of all ages who gather for prayer, refreshment and 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.

Christmas Bazaar Thank You

Dear All,

Thanks to all of you and our adopted helpers, we had another successful Holiday Bazaar. It is so much fun to invite the community into our church for a great lunch of our traditional chicken salad, a craft area which continues to impress all with their beautiful handmade items. The Santa Rooms sparkle by offering a wide variety of holiday items. The Baked Goods Table was sold out by the end of the day so was our selection of Homemade soups.

The energy in the church was fun to experience. We couldn't have done this without the support of the congregation, the community and your hard work. The proceeds will be going to mission opportunities especially for women and children in need. We already have plans to use some of the funds to add to the current Angel Tree campaign. Here are a few pictures from the 2025 Holiday Bazaar. We will also be sharing with you pictures of our final Angel Tree donation once we have that ready. Thanks again, it is a great pleasure to work with all of you.

Sincerely,

Nora

This Month's Birthdays!

December Birthday's

12/2-Becky Miller

12/5-Karen D'Anjolell

12/7-Alice Mae Glover

12/7-Joanne Tomlinson

12/10-Helen Robinson

12/13-Connor Sweeney

12/14-Gerry Hixson

12/16-Sally Lugg

12/18-Amy Stuart

12/18-Sean Payton

12/20-Dave Stuart

12/21-Bob Irving

12/23-Linda Walsh

12/24- Lauren Brailsford

12/27-Corky Swartz

12/30-Eric Johnson





Newtown United Methodist Church



35 Liberty Street

Newtown, PA 18940

Rev. Rodney Brailsford, Pastor

Phone 215-968-2662

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

Email: numc1@verizon.net

Visit us on the web at www.newtownumc.com