

Newtown United Methodist Church

June 2026 Newsletter



Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear NUMC Family,

As summer approaches, many of us begin paying attention to the spaces around us in a different way. The planting of spring has already begun to show itself. Gardens are filling out, lawns need regular care, flowers are blooming and needing attention, and porches and patios become places where people gather again. There is something satisfying about seeing the work of earlier seasons begin to reveal itself.



What is interesting, however, is that beautiful places rarely happen by accident. A healthy garden does not appear simply because the grass is cut each week. The lawn can be maintained, the edges can be trimmed, and the weeds can be pulled, but maintenance alone does not create life. A garden needs planting, watering, tending, and attention. It needs someone to notice where growth is needed and where something new could take root.

There is a difference between maintaining something and helping it come alive.

The same can be true not only of gardens and homes, but also of churches. It is possible for a church to be well cared for, friendly, organized, and deeply loved, while still being called toward something more. It is possible to maintain what exists while missing opportunities for new growth.

The Body of Christ was never intended to be a place where ministry rests in the hands of only a few people. Rather, it was intended to be a living community in which every person brings something unique: a gift, a passion, a skill, an act of care, a word of encouragement, and a willingness to serve.

Over the coming weeks and months, you will hear more about Team Ministries and opportunities to discover places where your gifts can help strengthen our life together. My hope is not that people feel obligated to take on one more responsibility. My hope is that each of us begins asking a different question: *Where might God already be inviting me to help something grow?*

As summer arrives and we enjoy vacations, family gatherings, and longer evenings, perhaps it is also a season for noticing what is growing around us and considering where we might place our own hands in the soil.

After all, beautiful things rarely happen through maintenance alone. They come alive when many hands help tend the garden.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Rodney

VBS

Emerald Crossing: Providing Hope to an Anxious Generation

In a world filled with worry, chaos, and confusion, it is essential for kids to know there is a God who cares for them. At Emerald Crossing VBS, kids will journey through Ireland's green, lush landscapes while exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. Kids will explore the life of the shepherd-king David and will learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd. Get your VBS passport ready and join the adventure through the rolling, sheep-covered hills of Ireland!

Dates: June 22 – June 26

Location: Newtown United Methodist Church Time: 9 AM to 12 PM Ages: Age 4 through 5th Grade

Cost: **Free of charge!**



Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month (Advance) for June is A Woman's Place. Founded in 1976, A Woman's Place is the only domestic violence organization in Bucks County. The staff provides a free 24-hour



confidential hotline, and a full range of assistance and support services for victims of abuse and domestic violence. They and their children can live in a full-service residential shelter and receive individual and group counseling, legal and medical advice, and prevention education. There are children's programs available.

A Woman's Place hopes everyone can live in a society where all individuals are safe in their relationships.

If you would like to help A Woman's Place, 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 June."

Caring for Friends

Caring for Friends will not meet again until June 17th 9:00 a.m. Caring for Friends makes meals for homebound families in and around the Philadelphia area.



June Schedule



Ushers and Greeters

Ushers for June: Nancy Matthews, Donald & Susan Smith

Greeters:

June 7: Joe & Judi Swerk

June 14: Jim & Helene Mershon

June 21: Dave & Kathy Mershon

June 28: Randy & Nora Schenk

Finance Stewards & Communion Stewards

Finance Stewards:

June 7: Janet & Eric Johnson

June 14: Barb & Rich Selah

June 21: Cheryl & Kevin Burd

June 28: Dave & Kathy Mershon
Communion Steward: Pat King



Lay Readers

June 7: Allen Fidler
June 14: Gerry Hixson
June 21:
June 28: Monica Flint



Fellowship Time

Lemonade in the Garden begins June 7th!

Volunteers are needed to serve lemonade after the worship service. Lemonade mix, cups, pitchers, napkins and plates will be on the counter in the kitchen. All you need to provide is something to snack on! **No refreshments will be served on dates without**

volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet located in the gallery. If you have any questions please call the church office at 215-968-2662.

June 7-Membership Nurture
June 14- Sandy He
June 21-Lucie Lyman
June 28-

Game Night

Please join us for Family Game Night on Thursday, June 4, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in Wesley Hall.

Bring a favorite game or learn a new one. We will have fresh buttered popcorn to enjoy while we spend the evening laughing and strategizing with church friends, family, and neighbors.

All are welcome, so please feel free to invite a friend. We look forward to seeing you there!



Questions? Ask Rich or Barb Selah.

Retreat Scholarship

Dear All,

The Newtown United Women's group would like to thank the congregation for their generous support to a recent retreat scholarship fund drive. We received over \$1400 which we plan on using at our 2027 Spring Retreat to support those in need. The purpose of our various activities within in the church is for our mission work to disadvantaged women and children. We also enjoy the fellowship and time for reflections that the retreat setting makes possible. We appreciate your help to offer this setting to as many women as possible. The smiles in the attached picture of those attending reflects the importance of the retreat to UMW. Thanks again.



Thanks again,

Nora

RUMMAGE SALE THANK YOU!

A big thank you for your work and your treasures to the Spring Rummage Sale. It was a huge success. We often have a line of customers waiting for the doors to open on Friday. This is the first time we saw a line on Saturday morning. That tells us, we have good advertising and a reputation for a high quality sale. The sale is work and this team effort is what makes it successful. It is such a pleasure to work with an excellent group of people who understand the purpose of the rummage sale is to support our mission work for women and children. Start organizing your treasures for the Spring Rummage sale, September 25-26, 2026. We look forward to working with all of you again.

Sincerely,

Nora and Judi

Report from Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the Eastern Pennsylvania United Methodist Church (EPAUMC) took place in Wildwood, NJ, from May 19-21, 2026.

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi opened the conference with the theme of "PRAYER," based on Isaiah 55:6. The Bishop led Bible studies both days diving deeper into this theme and following Isaiah 55:1-6, moving us from repentance to redemption and hope. Prayer is the lifeline of the church; it is not optional. Prayer is about intimacy with God, What is God calling us to do?

We heard from two speakers about the history of prayer in the Korean church, and two speakers about the history of prayer in the African-American church.

John Lynch, representing the Wildwood Convention Center, welcomed us and thanked us for contributing diapers that will go to families in need in the area.

EPAUMC clergy and delegates saw two commissioned as deaconesses, three clergy members ordained as elders in full connection, and six commissioned. Reverend Tracy Duncan honored the 11 retiring clergy members. Reverend Joong Hyuck Kim led a memorial service for 3 Bishops, 20 clergy members, 6 clergy spouses, and 11 laity.

Four churches are closing.

Bishop Moore-Koikoi announced the Council of Bishops will convene this October in Canada for the Leadership Conference. EPAUMC is sending Reverend YoungHak Lee and Linda Mier, a lay member. Ms. Mier said that while a UMC-wide survey revealed youth and young adult engagement to be the church's highest priority, the number of young respondents was extremely low. She said looking at young people as just a demographic does not help. We need to think about how we can make our church one they want to come into.

Members voted to condemn dehumanizing immigration enforcement, and advocate for just, humane, and compassionate immigration policies.

Members voted to support the Shelter First Act, which aims to protect the rights of those without permanent housing and provide adequate indoor housing for them.

Members voted to ensure just wages and benefits for pastors.

Danielle Andrews, the EPAUMC's new CFO and treasurer, presented the 2027 budget. Members voted to approve the budget.

Various committee chairs gave reports, and awards were announced.

If you have any questions, or would like clarification on something, let me know.

The entire annual conference, including the incredible music from the conference praise band and the amazing young dancers from the New Life Praise Music Ministry of Drexel Hill UMC, can be seen on YouTube or by going to www.epaumc.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Hixson, CSM

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

This Month's Birthdays!

June Birthdays!

6/2-Jeffrey He

6/3-Kathy Mershon

6/5-Brett Miller

6/5-Janna He

6/8-Kaitlyn Sottile

6/11-Norman Pannapacker

6/17-Monica Flint

6/28-Taylor Boltner



Newtown United Methodist Church



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