

NEWTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 2026 Newsletter



Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear NUMC Family,

August is a month that often feels caught between two seasons. Summer is still with us. The days remain warm, gardens are full, vacations are not quite over, and there is still time to sit outside in the evening. Yet signs of change have already begun to appear. Families are thinking about school supplies and new schedules, churches are preparing for fall ministries, the daylight is slowly shortening, and calendars that once seemed open are beginning to fill. August reminds us that much of life is lived in the space between what has been and what is coming.



We often find these in-between seasons uncomfortable because we like clear beginnings and definite endings. We want to know where we are going, how long it will take, and what will happen when we arrive. Yet Scripture repeatedly shows us that God does some of His deepest work in the middle.

The Israelites encountered God in the wilderness between Egypt and the Promised Land. David learned to trust God in the years between being anointed and becoming king. The disciples lived through the painful time between the crucifixion and the resurrection. Even Jesus spent thirty largely hidden years between His birth and the beginning of His public ministry. None of this was wasted time. These in-between seasons became places of preparation, formation, and grace.

We may find ourselves in similar seasons. We may be waiting for an answer, adjusting to a change, grieving something that has ended, or wondering what the next chapter will hold. We may feel as though nothing significant is happening because we have not yet arrived at the place we hoped to be, but God is still present and active in the middle.

God often works in quiet ways that are not immediately visible. Roots grow beneath the soil before anything appears above the ground, and a seed may look unchanged for a long time before new life breaks through. In the same way, God may be strengthening our faith, reshaping our priorities, healing old wounds, or preparing us for opportunities we cannot yet see.

This August, perhaps we can resist the temptation to rush too quickly into the next season. We can receive these remaining summer days as a gift, taking time to pause, listen, pray, and ask what God may be teaching us in this moment.

As a congregation, we are also standing in an important season of growth and preparation. We are strengthening our connections with one another, expanding our presence in the community, improving the ways we communicate, and preparing for ministries that will unfold in the months ahead. Not every result will be visible immediately, but faithful work is already taking place.

Our mission reminds us that we are Rooted in Faith. Growing in Christ. Serving with Love. Roots are formed in hidden places, growth occurs gradually, and love is expressed through ordinary acts of faithfulness. Together, these practices prepare us for whatever season God brings next.

May this August be more than the final stretch of summer. May it become a holy pause, a time to notice God's presence, give thanks for where we have been, and open our hearts to where God is leading us. We may not know everything the next season will hold, but we can trust the One who will meet us there, remembering the promise of Psalm 121:8: "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

May God bless you richly,
Pastor Rodney



NEWTOWN CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY!

Saturday, August 8th from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

History Comes Alive on the streets of Newtown!

11:00 a.m.- Battle at the Bird-In-Hand

11:45 a.m.- Doan Gang

1:00 p.m.- Old Washy Demonstration

Harriet Tubman, William Penn and Edward Hicks

Revolutionary War Military Encampments

Fifth Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Join us for Pancakes and Worship! Held every month that has 5 Sundays! Our next pancake breakfast will be Sunday, August 30th at 10:00 a.m.



Mission of the Month

The August Mission of the Month (Advance) will go to help Cross Kingdom Ministries in Kerrville, Texas. This area suffered severe flooding and major loss of life a little over a year ago, and we, as a congregation, helped the families affected. Now there has been

severe flooding in the Texas Hill Country again. This flood is actually worse than last year's because TWO rivers have overflowed their banks after 26" of rain fell in two days. However, this time, because of their new advanced warning systems, they were able to evacuate hundreds of residents. Still, so far two people have lost their lives after being swept away. Once again, our friends at Cross Kingdom Ministries have been designated as the Official Flood Relief Distribution Center. Donations go toward cleanup and rebuilding, gas and food cards, and hotels for victims of the flood, many of whom were still trying to recover from last year's flood and in the process of rebuilding their homes. You might remember, 100% of donations go to the families and individuals who need help. There are no administrative costs.

Also, this time, along with the Guadalupe, the Leona river flooded too, going right into downtown Kerrville, flooding businesses and a major highway. One resident said it was a 20 -foot wall of water coming down the main streets.

If you would like to help the people of the Kerrville area who are victims of this flood, 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. Please mark your check "Advance for August."

Jazz on Liberty

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Prester & Samargia- August 23rd @ 3:00 p.m.



Caring for Friends

Caring for Friends will meet on Wednesday, August 12th @ 9:00 a.m. Caring for Friends makes meals for homebound families in and around the Philadelphia area.



August Schedule



Ushers and Greeters

Ushers for August:

Janet Johnson, Dave & Kathy Mershon

Greeters:

August 2- Jim and Helene Mershon

August 9-Dave & Kathy Mershon

August 16-Randy & Nora Schenk

August 23-Pam Rook & Kay Lawrence

August 30-Dan & Debbie Boltner



Finance Stewards & Communion Stewards

Finance Stewards: Dave & Kathy Mershon

Communion Steward: Nancy Matthews

Lay Readers

August 2-Susan Smith

August 9-Pat King

August 16-Nora Schenk

August 23-Denise Dugan





Fellowship Time

Lemonade in the Garden

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.

August 2-Chris Bethman

August 9-Barbara Burger

August 16-

August 23-

Game Night

Our next Family Game Night will be on **Thursday, September 17th 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.



Outreach Backpacks

Can you believe, it's only a few weeks until school starts again! The Outreach team is collecting backpacks and school supplies to help local families who need help securing them. With Chief Duffy's help, we will be donating filled backpacks to local area children. Please pick up a backpack in the Gallery. Inside each backpack is a list of suggested supplies for either elementary or middle/high school age children. Please return your filled backpack to the Gallery no later than Sunday, August 16. If you have any questions, see Barb Selah or call the church office.

Thank you to this year's Vacation Bible School children for selecting the Outreach team's backpack collection as their service project. The children donated school supplies that will be given to other children whose families need help buying them.



UMW News

We are happy to report that UMW with the support of the congregation made donations to the following mission groups:

- Camp Innabah, Spring City, PA: First aid supplies (\$200) for their summer camp program
- Emergency Rescue Services, Langhorne, PA: Pantry food supplies and summer program snacks (\$200)
- Methodist Services, Philadelphia, PA (\$1000)
 - Summer Camp Bags - 22 (reusable cloth bags with sunscreen, swimming goggles, snacks, etc.)
 - New Mom Bags - 10 (reusable cloth bags with onsies, baby wipes, Destin, baby thermometer etc.)



This Month's Birthdays!

August Birthdays!

8/2-Dolores Luff
8/4-Lisa Sweeney
8/8-Sean Gutekunst
8/11-Bill Stetler
8/13 Eleanor Ball
8/14-Erinn Demskis
8/23-Julie D'Anjolell
8/27-Greta Rolli



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