

NEWTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

September 2026 Newsletter



Message from the Pastor's Desk

Dear NUMC Family,

September is an interesting month because it seems to stand between two seasons. Summer has not completely disappeared, while fall is already beginning to make itself known. The days slowly shorten, school routines return, calendars begin filling again, and by the time autumn officially arrives on September 22, many of us will already have settled into the pace of the months ahead.



Seasonal changes have a way of reminding us that life is always moving. One season gives way to another, sometimes gradually and sometimes before we have fully realized that a change has taken place. The same can often be said of our spiritual lives.

Sometimes God changes things dramatically, but often growth happens gradually over time as a new habit begins to take hold, a prayer becomes more honest, a relationship starts to heal, or a question we have carried for a long time begins to look different. We may not immediately recognize what God is doing, but later we can look back and see that something within us has shifted, which is why September gives us such a natural opportunity to pay closer attention to the work God may already be doing in our lives.

At Newtown United Methodist Church, we are entering a season filled with many of the familiar activities that make up the life of a congregation. We will gather for Bible study, welcome the community to our Annual Pig Roast, come together again for our Fall Rummage Sale, and look ahead to Trunk or Treat in October. Along the way, we will continue to worship, serve, enjoy fellowship, welcome our neighbors, and consider how God is calling us to grow as a church.

These activities may look very different from one another, but together they are part of what it means to share life in a church community. Ministry may happen in a Bible study when someone sees a familiar passage of Scripture in a new way. It may happen while people work together around a table, when someone from the community walks through our doors and finds a warm welcome, or in a personal conversation where someone feels heard, encouraged, or understood.

Much of the life of the church is built through moments like these. Some are planned and some happen unexpectedly, but each gives us another opportunity to care for one another, grow in faith, and make Christ's love visible beyond ourselves.

Our mission at Newtown United Methodist Church is ***Rooted in Faith. Growing in Christ. Serving with Love.*** September gives us another opportunity to live those words, not only through the larger things we plan, but also through the ordinary things we do together.

The changing season also gives each of us an opportunity to consider what may be changing within us. Perhaps there is something God is asking you to begin again, a part of your faith that needs renewed attention, a relationship that needs greater patience or grace, or an area of life where you have grown tired and need to remember that God is still at work.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "The one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion" (Philippians 1:6). That promise reminds us that God's work in our lives is rarely finished as quickly as we might like. We continue growing, learning, changing, and discovering new ways to trust Him.

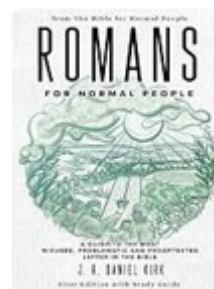
As summer gives way to fall, my prayer is that we will not simply move into a busier season, but into a deeper one. May we become more rooted in faith, more attentive to Christ, more generous in love, and more open to whatever God may be doing next in our lives, our church, and our community.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Rodney

Fall Bible Study

This fall, I would like to invite you to join us for an **8-week Bible study on Romans**, beginning **Tuesday, September 15, at 10:00 AM in Wesley Hall**.

Romans wrestles with some of the biggest questions of the Christian faith: grace, identity, faith, the struggle within ourselves, and what it means for very different people to become one in



Christ. Whether Romans is familiar to you or completely new, we will approach it with fresh eyes and plenty of room for conversation.

We will be using ***Romans for Normal People*** as one of our guides along the way. You can click the link below for full details about the study, including a link to purchase the book:

<https://newtownumc.com/events/romans-grace-identity-the-struggle-to-become-one/>

You do not need to be a Bible expert. Just bring your questions, your curiosity, and a willingness to explore this remarkable letter together.

I hope you will join us!

Congregational Meeting: Team Ministries Guide

Join us **Sunday, September 13**, following worship for a congregational meeting focused on our Team Ministries Guide and this next step in the life of Newtown UMC.

The guide is designed to help everyone explore meaningful ways to serve, connect, grow, and use their gifts in the life and ministry of our church. We will review the purpose of the guide, answer questions, hear your feedback and suggestions, and talk together about how Team Ministries can help strengthen our shared ministry.

We hope you will join us as we continue discerning how God is calling us to be *rooted in faith, growing in Christ, and serving with love.*



Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month (Advance) for September is The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS). Founded in the United States in 1998, it has become one of the most active and leading medical relief organizations working on the front lines of crisis relief in

Syria, Turkey, and neighboring countries. SAMS has established field hospitals, intensive care units, dental and primary care clinics, birth and newborn care facilities, mobile medical units, and dialysis centers to those living in refugee camps. SAMS brings together medical professionals from around the world to provide lifesaving, dignified health care to those in need. If you would like to help with this mission, you can use the blue envelopes 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 September."

Caring for Friends

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE: Caring for Friends will not meet again until **Wednesday, October 7th @ 9:00 a.m.** Caring for Friends makes meals for homebound families in and around the Philadelphia area.



PIG ROAST

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2026 Pig Roast

This year's Pig Roast will be held on Saturday, September 12th (rain date September 13th).

Your help is needed and greatly appreciated! Bring your friends and neighbors for Fun, Food & Fellowship! Sign-up sheets will be located in the gallery soon!

If you have any questions, please give the church office a call at 215-968-2662



Memoir Writing Classes Resume!

Discover the power of your own stories this fall in two welcoming memoir classes at NUMC—free for members and open to all levels.

Memoir Writing Classes at NUMC — Fall Session

Two welcoming memoir classes return this fall, each designed to help you explore your stories with clarity, confidence, and community. Both are free for Newtown United Methodist Church members, and all levels are warmly encouraged.

Class 1 — Evening Session Starts Tuesday, September 22 • 6:30 PM 6-week series • 90 minutes A repeat of the summer memoir class, focused on gentle prompts, short scenes, and supportive reflection.

Class 2 — Morning Session Starts Thursday, September 24 • 10:00 AM 6-week series: A deepening of the memoir process for anyone who wants to go further — still fully accessible, with no prior writing experience needed.

To register, please visit the church website, <https://newtownumc.com>. All are welcome to join this thoughtful, encouraging space for writing and remembering.

Message from the Outreach Team

The Outreach team thanks the Vacation Bible School children and everyone else who helped with our Backpacks for Children collection. Thanks to you, we collected 26 filled school backpacks, along with other school supplies. We gave them to Chief Duffy to distribute to children whose families are in need. Thank you to Barb Selah for coordinating this!

September Schedule

Ushers and Greeters

Ushers for September: Cheryl & Kevin Burd

Greeters:

September 6-Dan & Debbie Boltner
September 13- Jim & Helene Mershon
September 20-Joe & Judi Swerk
September 27-Dave & Kathy Mershon



Finance Stewards & Communion Stewards

Finance Stewards: Cheryl Burd & Kevin Burd

Communion Steward: Barb Rabberman & Barb Burger

Lay Readers

September 6- Cami Haneman
September 13-Janet Johnson
September 20-Monica Flint
September 27-Alan Fidler



Fellowship Time

September 6-Kathy Mershon
September 13-Susan Smith
September 20-Lauren Brailsford
September 27-



Game Night

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.



Circle of Concern

It's time for apple cider and colorful leaves! The Circle of Concern will hold its first gathering of the season on Monday, September 21, 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.

Fall Rummage Sale

Our Fall rummage sale will be held on Friday, September 25 from 9am-3pm and Saturday, September 26 from 9am-12pm.

We are now accepting gently used items for our rummage sale.

Please place your items on the shelves in our rummage room in the basement from now until September 19. On September 20 and 21, you may put your items in the kitchen or the opportunity room. If you need any help unloading your items from your car, please reach out to Randy or Nora Schenk. They will be happy to unload for you.

If you are able, please join us on Sunday, September 20 immediately after church to set up the tables in Wesley Hall and bring up the items from the basement rummage rooms. We will be working on Monday-Wednesday from 9am until 4pm. On Wednesday, we will serve lunch to all the workers. A small crew on Thursday will address final details. We will need people to help on the days of our sale to serve as cashiers and to assist buyers. We need many hands to make this a successful sale. **Please sign up on the sheets in the gallery** to help. ALL are welcome. Contact Judi Swerk or Nora Schenk for any questions.



This Month's Birthdays!

September Birthdays!

9/7– Doug Demskis

9/8-Ethel Hibbs

9/8– Donald Smith

9/12– Janice Barry

9/14– Christine Sottile

9/15– Betty Fidler





Newtown United Methodist Church



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Rev. Rodney Brailsford, Pastor

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Visit us on the web at www.newtownumc.com