

# NEWTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## October 2026 Newsletter



### Message from the Pastor's Desk

*"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together...but encouraging one another."* – Hebrews 10:24–25

Dear NUMC Family,

Some of the most important moments in life are easy to miss. Morning comes, and we begin another day. Someone is hurting, so we sit beside them even though we are not sure what to say. We make the phone call, carry in the meal, offer the prayer, welcome the stranger, and come back again the next week. None of it looks particularly impressive from the outside, but this is often how faithfulness works. God does remarkable things through ordinary people who decide to be present.

Scripture gives us plenty of examples. The friends of the paralyzed man did not simply care about him; they picked him up and carried him to Jesus. After Jesus' death, the disciples did not scatter permanently into their own lives; they continued to gather. The early Christians built a shared life



around prayer, worship, fellowship, and caring for one another. Their faith took shape through what they actually did.

The same is true for us. Church becomes community when people move beyond attending and begin sharing life with one another. We begin to notice who is missing, know one another more deeply, and care about what others are carrying. Children grow up surrounded by people who know and value them, newcomers begin to feel at home, and burdens become lighter because they are no longer carried alone. That is how belonging grows.

October gives us plenty of opportunities to put this into practice at Newtown United Methodist Church. We can worship together, take part in Bible study, gather for *Where Love Meets Health*, share conversation over coffee, participate in mission and outreach, and welcome our neighbors at Trunk or Treat. Beyond scheduled events, there are also quieter opportunities to reach out, reconnect, encourage someone, or step into a ministry we have never considered before.

None of us needs to do all those things. In fact, trying to do everything would miss the point. The question is not, "How much can I fit onto my calendar?" The better question is, "**Where can I be faithfully present?**" It might mean showing up for worship, starting a conversation, serving at an event, checking on a friend, welcoming a family, or simply noticing the person standing by themselves.

Jesus made this kind of presence part of his daily ministry. He noticed people, made room for them, and responded to what was in front of him. He stopped for those others hurried past, listened to those others ignored, and drew near to those others kept at a distance. We can make the practice just as simple: *Be present. Pay attention. Do the next faithful thing.*

So here is my invitation for October: *choose one place to show up with intention.* Do not wait until you have more time, feel more prepared, or know exactly what to say. Simply take the next faithful step that is yours to take, and then pay attention to what God does with it.

We often imagine ministry beginning with big plans, special abilities, or extraordinary opportunities. Very often, it begins much more simply: someone decides to be there. When God's people consistently show up with love, compassion, generosity, and faithfulness, ordinary moments become places where grace can take root.

May God bless you richly,  
Pastor Rodney

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## Fall Bible Study

This fall, I would like to invite you to join us for an **8-week Bible study on Romans**, meets **Tuesdays, 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!

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## Coffee with the Pastor

### Coffee with the Pastor

If you are newer to Newtown UMC, have been attending for a while, or are exploring membership, you are invited to **Coffee with the Pastor** on **Saturday, October 24, from 9:30–11:30 a.m. in the Library.**

Join Pastor Rodney for a relaxed morning of coffee, light refreshments, and conversation as we get to know one another, learn more about Newtown UMC, talk about worship and church life, and explore what membership means.

**Scan the QR code to sign up.**



## Mission of the Month

**The Mission of the Month for October** is Feed the Children, with a focus on Malawi. Malawi is known as "the warm heart of Africa," because of the kindness of its people. Most families rely on agriculture for their income.

Children there attend school through the 4th grade. Many are orphaned due to HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Currently, Feed the Children is focused on bringing clean water to the community. The volunteers teach parents how to safely store the water they get and, with the help of Proctor & Gamble, provide purification tablets so the water is safe to drink. They also teach parents how to prepare nutritious meals and how to practice safe hygiene.

Feed the Children has built Early Childhood Development centers where they teach mothers how to care for their children and lead them to safe and clean play areas.

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 October."

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## Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat Hosts Needed!

Our annual Trunk or Treat is Saturday, October 31, from 5:30–7:30 PM, and we're looking for 12–15 vehicles to help fill our parking lot with decorated trunks and treats!

Want to host a trunk? Scan the QR code to sign up. Decorations can be simple or creative, just keep them family-friendly. Thank you for helping us create a fun and welcoming evening for our community!



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## Caring for Friends

**PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE:** Caring for Friends will meet **Wednesday, October 7th @ 9:00 a.m.** Caring for Friends makes meals for homebound families in and around the Philadelphia area.



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## November 5th Holiday Bazaar & Lunch

Santa Room, Craft Area, Bake Table & Homemade Soup

10am-3pm

Lunch 11am-2pm

**Please volunteer to make our famous cranberry relish! relish making is Thursday, October 29th at 9:00 a.m.**

**We need volunteers to help cut up chicken & turkey on Wednesday, November 4th at 9:00 a.m.**

**Sign up sheets are located in the gallery.**



## UMW Luncheon ... Calling All Servers

Thursday, November 5th

Lunch is served from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.

We need 12 to 14 volunteers

If you have any questions, you can call

Helene Mershon @ 267-491-5226

or call the church office @ 215-968-2662

**UMW Reminder:** The bake table is a great success every year! Please consider making your favorite baked item and dropping it off Wednesday, November 5th or early Thursday morning, November 6th

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## 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.



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## 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 meets Tuesdays, • 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 meets Thursdays, • 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.

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## October Schedule

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### **Ushers and Greeters**

**Ushers for October:** Rich & Barb Selah

**Greeters:**

**October 4-**Randy & Nora Schenk

**October 11-**Pam Rook & Kay Lawrence

**October 18-**Dan & Debbie Boltner

**October 25-**Donald & Susan Smith





## Finance Stewards & Communion Stewards

**Finance Stewards:** Jim & Helene Mershon

**Communion Steward:** Nancy Matthews

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### Lay Readers

**October 4-**Eric Johnson

**October 11-**Gerry Hixson

**October 18-**Nora Schenk

**October 25-**Nancy Matthews



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### Fellowship Time

**October 4-**Linda Walsh

**October 11-**Kathy Mershon

**October 18-**Anita Morris & Liz Hocine

**October 25-**



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### Game Night

Our next game night will be Thursday, October 15th at 7:00 p.m.  
Come and join friends for fun and fellowship.



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### Circle of Concern

The Circle of Concern will hold its first gathering of the season on Monday, October 19th, 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.

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## This Month's Birthdays!

### October Birthdays!

10/4-Chris Bethman

10/5-David Mershon Jr.

10/6-Kristy Terrell

10/7-Dennis Schoener

10/8-Rich Tomlinson Jr.

10/10-Terry Hixson

10/10-Joe Swerk

10/13- Judy Stetler

10/19-Mia Rolli

10/19-Nancy Scurlock

10/20-Judi Swerk

10/28-Rich Tomlinson III

10/29-Paul Mathias



**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

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Visit us on the web at [www.newtownumc.com](http://www.newtownumc.com)