NEWTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2026 Newsletter



Message from the Pastor's Desk



Dear NUMC Family,

A porch light is hardly something most of us spend much time thinking about. We turn one on, walk past another, or barely notice the glow coming from a neighbor's house. But as November brings earlier sunsets and longer evenings, these small lights become a little more noticeable.

There is something reassuring about that familiar glow. Although a porch light cannot eliminate the darkness or illuminate an entire neighborhood, it offers enough light to help someone find their way home. I wonder if gratitude works much the same way.

When we think about gratitude, our attention often turns to the blessings we can easily recognize, including family, friendships, good health, and the opportunities life has given us. Thanksgiving encourages us to pause and appreciate these gifts, but I wonder whether gratitude might also help

us recognize something we sometimes fail to see: the difference our lives are making in the lives of others.

Over the past few months, I have seen some wonderful examples of this within our own congregation. In September, our Pig Roast brought people together for an afternoon of fellowship while raising $1,700 to support the Bucks County Opportunity Council's food program. More recently, our United Methodist Men committed to providing ten student desks through the Liberia Education Project, helping children thousands of miles away have a better place to learn. These may seem like relatively small efforts in a world filled with enormous needs, but imagine what they mean to the individuals and families whose lives they touch. A meal, a desk, an opportunity, or a little encouragement can become something much greater than we realize.

The Apostle Paul encourages us to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Notice that he does not tell us to give thanks *for* all circumstances. There is an important difference.

We do not have to be grateful for illness, disappointment, grief, or uncertainty. Faith does not require us to pretend that everything is wonderful when it is not. But even in difficult seasons, we can discover reasons for gratitude: a kindness offered, a burden shared, a strength we did not know we possessed, or the quiet assurance that God has not abandoned us. Gratitude does not ask us to ignore the darkness. It helps us recognize the light that remains.

As I think about our congregation, I am also reminded of the countless ways people contribute to our life together without seeking recognition. There are those who prepare our sanctuary for worship, sing in the choir, care for our buildings and grounds, organize events, welcome visitors, support our missions, and reach out to people who need a word of encouragement. The preparations for our upcoming Holiday Bazaar and Luncheon reflect the many hands and generous hearts that turn simple gifts, homemade creations, and shared meals into opportunities to bless others. Much of this happens quietly, without applause or attention, yet our church would not be the same without it. Each act of service becomes another small light, reminding us that God's love is often made visible through the generosity of ordinary people.

This November, we can practice gratitude in two ways. First, by paying closer attention to the goodness already surrounding us, including the contributions of people we may sometimes take for granted, and second, by becoming a reason someone else has to be thankful. A sincere word of appreciation, an unexpected act of generosity, or a willingness to share someone's burden may accomplish more than we imagine.

When the evenings grow dark a little earlier this month, notice the porch lights beginning to glow along the streets. Each one illuminates only a small part of the world, but together they make a neighborhood feel warmer and more welcoming. Perhaps that is what we are called to be as a congregation: a community whose individual acts of love, generosity, and compassion help make the world a little brighter.
May we be grateful for the light we receive, and generous with the light we give.

With gratitude and blessings,
Pastor Rodney

Helping Families for Thanksgiving



Helping Local Families in Need with Thanksgiving Meals
For almost 30 years we have been helping local families in need buy food so they can have a complete Thanksgiving dinner. There are so many families who are struggling, and we can help! The Outreach team coordinates this mission.
Retired Newtown Police Chief Martin Duffy has been our contact for these families since we first started collecting the food, and he continues to do this.
We have had donations from the United Methodist Men and the United Methodist Women organizations to buy Giant gift cards for these families. Chief Duffy will make sure the families receive the gift cards.
If anyone else in the congregation would like to help these families in need, please either buy a Giant food gift card or write a check to Newtown United Methodist Church with "Thanksgiving Meals" written on the check. You can mail the check to Newtown United Methodist Church, 35 Liberty Street, Newtown, PA 18940, ATTN: Treasurer, or you can drop off a check in the church office. Please make sure all donations are in no later than Sunday, November 15.

Advent Study

Details to come for a Advent Study that will take place on Tuesdays, December 1st-December 22nd.



The Mission of the Month for November 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 November.”

Caring for Friends

Caring for Friends will meet Wednesday, November 18 @ 9:00 a.m.
Caring for Friends makes meals for homebound families in and around the Philadelphia area.



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, November 5th or early morning, November 6th

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Fifth Sunday Pancakes!

Join Us for the Fifth Sunday Pancake Breakfast!
Sunday, November 29th @ 10:00 a.m.



Save the Date for the Christmas Dine Around

This year our annual Christmas Dine Around will be held on Saturday, December 12th! Please note the day change!



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.

Memoir Classes at NUMC: A Progress Report

The memoir writing classes at Newtown United Methodist Church have quickly become one of our most meaningful adult-education offerings. What began as a simple invitation to explore personal stories has grown into a warm, reflective community where participants share memories, faith experiences, and the moments that have shaped their lives.

Both classes have been wonderfully successful. Writers have responded to weekly prompts that open doors to childhood memories, turning points, challenges, and joys. The discussions that follow are thoughtful, heartfelt, and often surprisingly moving. Many participants say they come for the writing but stay for the fellowship — the chance to listen deeply, be heard, and recognize pieces of their own journeys in someone else's story.

The introductory class has welcomed new writers with accessible prompts and supportive conversation, while the advanced group has begun shaping larger arcs and identifying themes that run through their lives. Together, these classes have created a space where storytelling feels like a shared spiritual practice.

Because of this strong interest, NUMC will offer **two memoir classes again starting in January** — one introductory and one continuing. Both will remain open to all levels, whether you've been writing for years or are just beginning to explore your voice.

If you are interested in joining either class, please contact Nancy McCarthy, nancywriteadvantage@gmail.com or go to the church website, https://newtownumc.com.

November Schedule

Ushers and Greeters

Ushers for November:
November 1st & 8th- Cheryl & Kevin Burd
November 15th & 22nd- Nora & Randy Schenk

Greeters:
November 1-Jim & Helene Mershon
November 8-Joe & Judi Swerk
November 15- Nora & Randy Schenk
November 22-Dave & Kathy Mershon





Finance Stewards & Communion Stewards

Finance Stewards: Barb Selah & Tom He
Communion Steward: Nancy Matthews

Lay Readers

November 1-Susan Smith
November 8-Gerry Hixson
November 15-Helene Mershon
November 22-Pat King



Fellowship Time

November 1-Helene Mershon
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 29



Christmas Tableaux at Bryn Athyn Cathedral



Join us on Sunday, December 13, for a special church outing to Bryn Athyn Cathedral to experience the Christmas story brought to life through a beautiful presentation of the Nativity. The program will take place from 4:15 to 5:00 p.m. and promises to be a meaningful way to celebrate the season together.
Those interested in carpooling may meet at the church parking lot at 3:30 p.m., or you may drive directly to the cathedral. All are welcome!

Game Night

Our next game night will be Thursday November 19 , at 7:00 p.m. Come and join friends for fun and fellowship.

The World Thank Offering



Each year, we have the opportunity to show gratitude for God's blessings through the World Thank Offering. Pastor Rodney will include the World Thank Offering as part of the November 15th Sunday service.
Please place your offering in the jar at the back of the sanctuary, labeled World Thank . Our offering will be counted then sent to the Conference office to support the Methodist Conference Mission Program.
Please see Nora Schenk or Susan Smith for any questions.

Rummage Sale Thank You!

A big thank you! for your work and your treasures for the Fall Rummage Sale. It was a huge success. The weather was beautiful on Friday but not so on Saturday. Sales were brisk on Friday which allowed us to bring everything that was outside in for Saturday. The sale is work and this team effort is what makes it successful. We have a great team who are willing to do what needs to be done. We strive to make it a success for our customers and good fellowship opportunities for our team of volunteers. We also appreciate all who donate their treasures so we can continue to have funds to support our mission work for women and children. Start organizing your treasures for the Spring Rummage sale, May 21-22, 2027. We look forward to working with all of you again.
Sincerely,
Nora and Judi

Circle of Concern

The Circle of Concern will hold its next gathering on Monday, November 16th 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.

This Month's Birthdays!

November Birthdays!

11/1-Holly Hixson
11/10-Richard Tomlinson Sr.
11/12-Cliff Hixson
11/18-Barbara Terrell
11/24-Bill Sandy
11/28-Dorry Newcomer
11/30-Don Lugg



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