



The United Methodist Church

**New Creation Community Church**

**3005 Emig Mill Road**

**Dover, PA 17315**

**717-764-0252**

[newcreation25@comcast.net](mailto:newcreation25@comcast.net)

[www.newcreationforyou.com](http://www.newcreationforyou.com)

**Kurt Herzberg, Pastor**

**Worship Hours:**

**-Traditional Sunday, 8am**

**-Contemporary 10:30am**

**Church Office Hours: by Appointment**

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**Mission:** Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

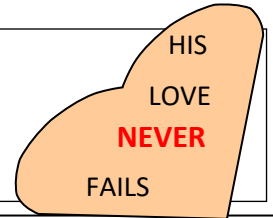
**Vision:** To be a memorial to the community that God is mighty.

**Strategy:** Promoting "Community Groups" that are "Connecting Church to Home."

*"To love one another as Christ does, we need to see each other as He does."*

*Anonymous*

# February



## SEEING GOD: Musings of a Christian

Pastor Kurt Herzberg

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I am currently blessed to be on vacation as I write this. I've testified to this before, and I guess I'm going to do it again, because I have similar experiences every vacation: I don't vacation from God and he doesn't vacation from me. Many times, vacation means not going to church or abandoning quality time for worldly pleasure or rest. I can't help but see Him on vacation. In fact, it's a great encouragement to see how God is working outside my typical sphere of spiritual thought and life. This time, nature surely speaks to me, and I'm only four days into my vacation!

As the scriptures say in Psalm 19:

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
The skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- 2 Day after day they pour forth speech;  
Night after night they reveal knowledge.
- 3 They have no speech; they use no words;  
No sound is heard from them.
- 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.

In theological terms, nature is a form of "general revelation." That is to say, nature reveals truths to us about God because He created it. His fingerprints are on it., and his character influenced what He made.

During my first day of vacation, as I flew in an airplane above the vast arid expanses of Utah, Arizona, and Nevada, my first encounter with God was that I was struck by the aerial view of the topography. (I failed to get a good picture, unfortunately!) You could clearly see that this area had once lay under water depositing layers of sediments, water that has been long gone. Rom over 40,000 feet, I could see the results of erosion, perhaps catastrophic, perhaps over time, leaving canyons and buttes, and also dry crevices and areas that later lay in smaller pools leftover from the original covering. I even saw signs of the upheaval of tectonics. It seemed obvious that what I saw speaks of the global flood described in Genesis.

(Seeing God: Musings of a Christian)

We had a couple days' layover in Las Vegas, and I made a point to go to the Sphere in Las Vegas, the largest spherical structure in the world, and the largest indoor and outdoor video screen in the world. Inside, persons enjoy an immersive video experience. The movie was called "Postcard from Earth," and the subject was preserving (God's) creation, and the peoples in it, by moving to another planet as the earth heals from mankind. It wasn't the intention to point to God, but it wonderfully revealed how amazing God has been in making created things. Not only did I experience this revelation, but I saw this spiritual wonderment upon the faces of others watching, and that was more moving than the video itself! A Creator God could not be denied as we watched the video, and it was in the hearts of many who watched.



Next stop was Hawaii. Arriving in Hawaii is like arriving in paradise to me, and this idea is not lost in the culture of native Hawaiians who have lived here for 1200 years. There's a term, "Aloha 'Aina," you often see or hear. Aloha 'Aina literally means "love of the land." The land is a central idea of Native Hawaiian day-to-day thought, culture, and cosmology. Physical cosmology is the study of the observable universe's origin, its large-scale structures and dynamics, and the ultimate fate of the universe. The ancient Hawaiian culture clearly had a sense of being intimately connected with land and sea. The land and sea was considered a living entity, and



people lived in respect of it. This mutuality between all things still exists on many levels: spiritual, social, cultural, and scientific (they know nature intimately and how to live within it in a respectful symbiotic relationship). Ancient Hawaiians had many gods and demigods representing the different aspects of nature. I believe in one God, but along the theme of nature that God is impressing upon me during my vacation, I

observe that this culture, and all cultures in their own way, understand creation speaks of a Creator that must be recognized and explained spiritually.

How do you experience God? Are you open to seeing and knowing Him outside of your normal practices and places? Look for Him! He's amazing, as are His works! I thank the Lord that He finds ways to help me stay connected to Him! I need that and I give Him the credit because I'm just a sinner saved by grace. In this case, His grace is being revealed in nature. May God bless you in new revealed ways this month.

CARE team--Your care team continues to do great work for you! This month a big shout out to Sue Heindel who served as our Knee Mail prayer warrior for several years. She prayed for all of us, and took all our prayer requests by phone, email, or in person. Thank you, Sue, for your service in God's kingdom! If there is someone in the congregation who feels led to this valuable service, please contact *Melanie Green* at 717-332-6843.

## Youth Ministries

submitted by Sherry Chubb



This past month flew by in the blink of an eye! Our youth group was blessed with the ability to go to Winter Jam again this year where we could worship with fellow Christians from all walks of life. Such events are not possible without the help and support of our church family, so thank you all for the great support!

We will be asking for your support in future events such as the Easter Egg hunt and VBS, but did you know that you could support our youth ministries every Sunday or even once a month? We are seeking roamers for the period of time when youth are back in Junior Church. This job is simple! You sign up for a week and walk the halls checking in on youth ministries being conducted! If you are moved to help us stay within the

rules of safe sanctuaries by doing this, please see me, Sherry!

## Daycare

Our daycare has just received our 2024-2025 certificate! Our inspections went perfectly and we are overjoyed to celebrate another year of being in full compliance with state regulations and standards! Our next adventure is to raise our STARS level, which we are looking forward to getting at least our star two this spring! Please continue to keep us all in prayer as we work diligently towards spreading the love of Christ to our community through this ministry!

This month we will be having a fundraiser to try to help support the upkeep of our building and classrooms! We are selling Chocolate-covered Strawberries and Pretzels. The order form will be located on the hospitality desk on Sunday the 4th as well as the 11th. Pickup for the orders will be during daycare hours on the 13th and the 14th! Thank you for your support!

Submitted by Sherry Chubb

## Check your Calendars!

**February:** 10: Scrapbooking -N -More will be in the family life center. You won't be excluded if you don't scrapbook: any "maker-type" activity will do. We have quilters, card makers, knitters, and many, many more. The cost is \$25, which includes a table, 2 meals, snacks, and runs from 9am -9pm.

14: Ash Wednesday service. 7 pm

17: Drive-thru Chicken Pot Pie- This year we will only be selling quarts of the pot pie to go. Each quart is \$8. Keep an eye out for more information. 11 am-2 pm

**March:** 15: Game Night!

28: Maundy Thursday Worship and Fellowship Meal. 7 pm

29: Good Friday service. 7 pm

30: Community Easter Egg Hunt. 10 am-noon

31: Easter Sunday

April: 27: Spring Craft Show 8 am- noon



**Greeters:** Greeting those we know and love and those we would love to know; that is what we do when we wait by the door at church each Sunday. We are the official “Greeters” but it is our hope that all those who regularly attend New Creation are inclined to do the same.

Many people attending New Creation comment on the warmth of the congregation. Thank you to everyone who comes to church with an open, welcoming, worshipful heart.

I don’t want to miss anyone interested in serving on the Hospitality team; anyone willing to serve as a greeter on Sundays and at special events at New Creation. I will put a sign-up sheet for greeters on the counter outside the sanctuary. One person a week is good, but 2 people or a family unit greeting each week would be great.

If you have any ideas for improving or changing the way we welcome people, please contact Jan Hufnagle, in writing, at [jhufnagle5300@comcast.net](mailto:jhufnagle5300@comcast.net) or by jotting me a note (because I don’t want to forget whatever you share with me).  
Jan Hufnagle, Hospitality Team

**From the Griefshare Files:**

Griefshare, a Christian Grief Support Program, is a 13-week for anyone in the surrounding communities who is suffering from the loss of loved ones and who wants some help on their Grief Journey. We meet from 4 pm-5:30 pm on Thursdays. Those interested are encouraged to join us at any time during the 3-month term.

As the website explains, “A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief... Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you’ll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.” Check Griefshare.org and/or talk to Jan Hufnagle for more information.



**“Not Alone”** is the name for a new monthly lunch group. Anyone who has been or is currently involved in Griefshare is invited to participate, along with a guest, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays of the month at noon at Lyndon Diner. The next date is 3/4/24. Contact Jan at 717-885-7488 by the preceding Friday if you think you will be there.

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2/2 Deb Fullen
- 2/6 Danny Pyle
- 2/10 Kylie Smith
- 2/15 Dave Sigel



- 2/21 Orion Chubb
- 2/23 Ken Stoppard
- 2/23 Snooks Herzberg

# PERSPECTIVE OF THE YOUTH

By Mariah Linn

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Well, it's February, meaning Valentines Day & Ash Wednesday, amongst a few other things. However, before I start talking about Valentine's Day....it is time for a mental health check-in.

Please do try to answer these honestly; your mental health is as important as your physical health. Your answers may surprise even you.

1. Breathe in and out, and notice the emotions that are inside of you. How are you feeling, really? How are you feeling in your body? How about your mind?
2. In the past week, how often have you felt strongly: sad, angry, happy, joyful, proud, etc.?
3. Who do you talk to when you're not feeling your best? How does this person support you?
4. What's the best thing that happened to you this week? What about the worst?
5. How have you been sleeping lately? How have you been eating?
6. Have you or someone you know ever struggled with depression or anxiety? What was that experience like for them?
7. When you're feeling down or stressed, how do you like to be supported?
8. What makes you feel excited and joyful these days?
9. What are the signs that you're stressed or are needing extra support? What do you notice in yourself – what are your mental health “red flags”?
10. How are your friendships these days? When was the last time you felt lonely, and what was that like?
11. What are you doing in terms of self-care? How do you take care of yourself – both your body and your mind?
12. If you were having problems with your mental health, who would you go to for support?\*

A lot of people are struggling mentally, mostly from loneliness which has been recognized as an epidemic in America. How are we to love them if we feel lonely ourselves? God said that we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. For even more calm, I put a playlist for mental health on Slack made up of songs that other members of the church have mentioned were particularly helpful.

Winter Jam was actually really fun! We were close to the middle of all the people, not towards the front or the back. There were a lot of performers and testimonials in between the music acts. Some of the acts included Katy Nichole, New Song, Lecrae, and Seventh Day Slumber.

The entire stadium was filled with people and there was a LOT of standing and flashing lights. I also got to meet Seventh Day Slumber for the second time after the last act (which was Crowder). I got a photo with them and Magdalene Rose—she's another Christian rock singer who tours with Seventh Day Slumber. She didn't perform, but she came to support the group because she's engaged to the drummer/the son of the lead singer. I highly recommend going to Winter Jam to experience it for yourself; I personally am looking forward to Winter Jam for next year!



Now, about Valentine's Day. Y'know—the holiday where companies go out of their way to make single people feel even lonelier and to convince most of us to invest in a bunch of chocolates and whatnot? Well, I

think it's time we talk about the origins of Valentine's Day. While it's said that Catholics believe Feb.14 commemorates the martyrdom of Saint Valentine, who was a Roman priest beheaded in the third century, no one can agree on exactly what he did or why he was executed. Some legends say Valentine was a bishop in Terni, Italy, who healed the sick, including the blind daughter of a prison guard he met while in jail for practicing Christianity in a pagan world. Some say he was sentenced to death because he tried to convert Emperor Claudius to Christianity. Others say the sentence came because he was caught secretly performing weddings, defying a ban on marriage that had been imposed by the emperor as a solution to a military recruitment crunch. The feast day's earliest associations with love and fertility may have been inherited from the pagan festival of Lupercalia, which was celebrated by the ancient Romans between Feb. 13 and Feb. 15. A matchmaking lottery would pair men and women up for the duration of the festival, and the men would slap women with the hides of goats and dogs they had sacrificed to make women fertile, historian Noel Lenski has told NPR. It's also thought that Pope Gelasius I established the feast of Saint Valentine in the fifth century to "Christianize" the festival.\*\*



All in all...Valentine's Day has some weird legends associated with it. However, in the end it doesn't matter what the origins are or how much money companies make from it. It's a strong example of how far people will go to celebrate relationships with others and how deeply we crave love. We are created for love and friendship, but that's because Jesus loves you and that's all that matters. Mariah Linn

# Editor's note: It took me a moment to read through these questions, not because they're hard, but because I found myself considering honest answers. #3 Who do I talk to when I struggle? I have a list, but at the top is always my mom. I'm a big baby, and she's smart and caring and hilarious. 8. What brings me joy? Praise team! Oh wait—Definitely this: a call from my sweet granddaughter who lives 582 miles away (who's counting?) saying, "Grandma, I read a really hard book today!" If you'd care to share any of your responses to these questions, send them via Slack or email to Margie Manley at QuiltGrand133@gmail.com

SOURCES:

\* 25 Mental Health Check-In Questions / Calm Classroom, <https://blog.calmclassroom.com>

\*\* Valentine's Day Meaning: The Real Story of Saint Valentine / TIME, <https://time.com>



Week of **January 28-February 3**

**Center Moreland UMC, Center Moreland  
St Andrews UMC, Milton  
Zimmi UMC, Zimmi—Sierra Leone  
Shiremanstown UMC, Shiremanstown  
Wesley Forest Camp & Retreat Center,  
Weikert  
Huntsville UMC, Shavertown**

**For the Weeks of February 4-17**

***There are no specific Circle of Prayer Churches for these weeks.***

*Instead, for these weeks pray for:*

**All of our Churches in our Conference  
Our Conference Camp Centers  
All of our Sierra Leone Partners  
Our Bishops  
Our Global Church**

## Joshua 4:24—Stories of God’s Mighty Power—Ron Meckley’s Journey

Before we are born, God already knows the plans he has envisioned for us. However, it takes most of us time to get on the same page as he is, and there are detours that get in our way.

Pretty much all who attend the 10:30 services at New Creation recognize Ron Meckley, the lead guitarist for the Praise Team. He’s been here for nearly 3 decades and has words of encouragement and a quick smile for everyone. His story is more than worth a listen.

As a boy growing up in York, Ron had friends who shared his love of sports. In fact, his ability to run and play baseball and basketball were well recognized. Because of his parents’ work schedules, he spent a lot of time at his grandparents’ house and was truly happy. A future as a pro athlete seemed to be in the cards for him. That changed, however, when he was about 9 and his grandmother noticed that he was running “funny.” The doctor diagnosed infantile paralysis, also called polio, in his legs, which was at its peak in the 1940s & ‘50s. He had many surgeries, spending time in the special ward at York Hospital for polio patients, including kids who had it in their respiratory systems and were contained in iron lung machines.

He didn’t believe them when they told him he’d never play baseball or basketball again, although his mom wouldn’t let him sign up for the school teams anymore. He just kept practicing at night so he’d be ready when the polio was gone. He never figured it would do any



permanent damage, “so I played baseball. In fact, I joined every team I could in the community and basketball, too. ‘Practiced every night until I could touch the rim, and soon I could dunk. I became a showoff, I guess.” At one point, though, his legs were in casts, and one started to turn purple. Gangrene, they said. The doctor said the foot had no circulation—a dangerous condition. He got some painful shots and had to learn to use crutches. A third surgery required having a hole drilled into the bottom of his heel so they could run a metal rod up the leg, to be capped with a cork! Once it was eventually removed, “They had to remake a foot for me,” he says. “Didn’t match the other one, but it worked.”

By the time he was 19 or 20, he was hanging out with his friends, and drinking and smoking cigarettes. His parents didn’t drink much; he was just trying to fit in with the guys. He missed the sports he had played so much. He scraped together enough money to buy a guitar and an amp from Sears and went to see the local bands in York every chance he got. John Henry Bradley, a guy in one of the bands, gave him help with basic chords. Little did he know what a big part music would play in his life!

He also enjoyed art. He watched Bob Ross, and loved his use of brush techniques as he swished some happy little trees across the canvas. He was offered a chance to take some art classes beyond high school, but he didn't think it could lead to a career, so he passed. (Can you hear the "But God...?") He tried golf and bowled some, but it wasn't the same, and then he discovered masses in his upper legs. The doctor said his knees were deteriorating, which led to more surgery.

He dated a lot of girls, and married one and had a daughter. The marriage didn't last, as he was working as a bartender—long evening hours, surrounded by drunks and alcohol. He was drinking more and more, and coming home less and less. Eventually, a counselor told Ron and his wife that she should take her husband to a rehab center in MD, and they agreed. It was a last chance for them. She followed instructions, dropping him off at the door without even a goodbye, marking one of the lowest days in his adult life.

Ron took the 31-day program seriously, befriending a younger man from D.C. who had arrived 2 weeks earlier than Ron and had therefore been assigned as his "big brother." They hit it off, and were both serious about making the program work. While some of the other guys were

counting the days until they could get back out on the street to their drugs of choice, Ron listened to the talks the men could attend on beating addiction, finding Jesus, and changing their lives. He was also healthier, not having gotten into drugs.

He was looking forward to graduating from rehab when his big brother informed him everyone had to give a talk at graduation in front of a group of about 40 or people (including his wife), to share how they got to rehab and where they were now after 31 days sober. That about stopped him

his tracks. He believed wholeheartedly that he was not capable of making a speech. But the counselors told them that only 1 out of every 11 of the residents would make it to one year sober, and 2 or 3 members of his graduating class would be dead in that year. He knew he was stronger than that. Plus, you know—God. He delivered that speech and felt good about it.

Being sober didn't solve all the problems, though. His marriage broke up, and his daughter went with her mother. That is still a sorrowful thorn in his side. However, he kept his bartending job for 21 years without letting it derail his sobriety, and tried marriage again. He has 3 grown children he remains close to.

His faith is strong! A television preacher had a great influence on him—a former Marine named Pastor Murray from Arkansas. Ron encouraged his children to watch with him, and his oldest son "got it." He is now a devout Christian.

27 years ago, Ron was looking for a church. He came to the 8:00 traditional service here at NCCC, but didn't feel connected. On his way out, though, he was greeted by Dan and Jeannie Sindlinger as well as Pastor Pam. They suggested he come to the contemporary service, and he felt the difference. The Praise team at that time was just 2 men on guitars, including Dan. Period. LOL But the music spoke to him.



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The Sindlingers invited Ron to their house to jam for the afternoon, and he felt like he'd found his people. And though he couldn't see it at the time, they convinced him that God was calling him to join the praise team.

27 years later, he has poured his gifts into worship services and music missions. He also taught art classes pre-pandemic and has sold and donated some of his paintings at church. (The one I bought gets LOTS of compliments!) He has played guitar with countless singers and musicians over the decades, and encouraged all. He has mentored young people, using guitar and his own experiences to help them sort life out. My daughter hit a crisis point when she was 14, a very scary time for her and me, but she and Ron started connecting over guitars and music, and to my amazement, after a time she started playing with the team during worship. She is 40 now, and music is still a driving force in her life. She and her boyfriend play in our basement, and I get the benefit of the free concerts. They are amazing. Even her son has started playing around with the drums and the keyboard, and loves coming to praise team practice with me! I will be forever indebted to Ron, and to God.

Ron's favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13—I can do all things in Him who strengthens me. Jesus has led Ron through so much, and continues to direct his steps. Since he completed rehab, he's been buying paperback Bibles and reading them until they are worn out. One of his most prized possessions these days is a hardbound Bible that Cheryl Bauer, Daryl Gemmill, and Deb Fullen gave him. He appreciates the singing dates with Timeless and the special worship services such as Christmas Eve—the sense of belonging in the New Creation family. So glad God led him to us!

From our Girl Scout troop:



**Foster Care Bag Donation List ideas:**

- Duffle bag/book bag/ small/med size suitcases (can be like new/new)
- 2 piece Pajama set size newborn to adult)(can be like new/new)
- Stuffed Animal (can be like new/new)
- Throw blanket (can be like new/new)
- New Socks
- New Journal/activity/coloring book
- Books (can be like new/new)
- New Crayons/pens/colored pencils

New Hygiene item suggestions:

- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body soap/bars or liquid
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Lotion
- Feminine products
- Hairbrush/comb
- Hair accessories
- Chapstick
- Baby soap/diapers/wipes


**gshpa**  
 Girl Scout Service Unit 226 Spring Community Service  
 Project to benefit  
 York County Children & Youth

Donation Collection through May 1st

Donations can be handed to Troop Leaders or  
 set up a drop off/pick up to Tracy Tomes 717-854-  
 3845 tracystein@hotmail.com



## FEBRUARY 2024

NEW CREATION COMMUNITY CHURCH						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Praise Team 6-7; Church Choir 7:15	2	3
4	5 GriefShare lunch--noon	6 Men's Accountability group 6:30pm Daycare Board 6 pm	7 Youth Group 6-7:30	8 GriefShare 4-5:30 Praise Team 6 pm; Choir Practice 7:15	9	10 Scrapbooking and More event
11	12 WIC Bible study 6:30-8 pm	13 Men's Accountability group 6:30pm Morning Glory Bible Study 9-10:30 am	14 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm	15 GriefShare 4-5:30 Praise Team 6 Choir Practice 7:15 Trustees 7 pm	16	17 Drive-by Chicken Pot Pie 
18	19 Finance 7 pm	20 Morning Glory Bible study 9am Men's Accountability Group 6:30pm	21 Youth Group 6-7:30 SEND EXTENDED 7 pm	22 Praise Team 6 pm Choir Practice 7:15	23	24
25	26 WIC Bible Study 6:30-8	27	28	29 Praise Team 6 pm Choir practice 7:15		



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Deadline for the March newsletter is Wednesday, Feb. 28th. Please send your articles, photos, or information to Margie at [Quiltgrand133@gmail.com](mailto:Quiltgrand133@gmail.com). Thank you!