



2  
0  
2  
4

# June

**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**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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."

Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading.

Oswald Chambers

## INSPIRED, NOT REQUIRED

Pastor Kurt Herzberg

I just attended my 15<sup>th</sup> Susquehanna Annual Conference in Williamsport last week. As a pastor, I'm required to attend. Pastors don't miss Annual Conference or they get in trouble! Honestly, it can be rather mundane. But, woven into the "regular" business are inspiring messages, and I especially like to hear testimonies of churches who are finding new success or starting new and unique ministry programs! It's awesome to how a congregation has joined together of one mind to accomplish noteworthy, and even their own "mundane" ministries that have become mainstays, but still accomplishing the work of God.

Within our own congregation, ministry consists of the mundane and the new... new because it's the first time we tried something, or new because it's a new theme, or new because it's the first time you



participated. It takes many people to accomplish all the work of the church. I THANK EACH OF YOU FOR SERVING! It's crazy to think of all the hours of commitment people make on a monthly basis within the church and working at home. Do you realize all that goes into our ministry? This past week one church member drove to Williamsport to pick up a new cross and flames for outside. My wife spent hours preparing food for VBS. Over the past two weeks people have spent many hundreds of hours on set work for VBS. Many more will serve all week at VBS making relationships with families and teaching the Gospel to children. Payroll has to be completed. Money has to be

counted every week. Emails and phone calls returned. Meetings attended. Maintenance completed and supplies ordered. We have full-time employees at the daycare each day. People come to open and close for visitors using the facility. The A/V people prepare and lead every service and event. The pianist practices. The band practices. Bulletins are prepared and printed. Greeters show up early and individuals shop for refreshments on Sunday. Upwards begins soon and will last for months, as will the food stand. Candles and paraments are attended to weekly and recently flowers inside and outside the church. Communion elements are shopped for, prepared, and cleaned-up. Teachers prepare for Jr church and Sunday school. I spend hours each week on sermon and bible study prep, as do others who lead and attend. We visit shut-ins, people in need, and make phone calls to visit. People meet to plan ministry. Much effort and cooperation even goes into this newsletter. It never stops, and it takes many people. SO AGAIN, I THANK YOU!

It's a privilege to be in service to the Lord. It's part of our Christian maturity and growth. It's how we grow loving relationships with God and others. It's what we are inspired to do through the Spirit. To fully appreciate the worth of participation, we must begin with a proper attitude of joy, service, and privilege. Part of that joy is understanding we serve a mighty God.

I know I'm not the only one who cringes when a man says "I can't. I have to babysit my kids." (Oddly, I never hear mothers say that!). Be a dad! You aren't "babysitting!" You don't babysit your own kids. That's called parenting!

Likewise, I balk at the secular nature of what it means to volunteer in church. To volunteer means that you are an outside resource, stepping in to help an organization in need. Volunteering is what we do when we pick up trash at the park, or build a house with Habitat, or help sort food at the local food pantry. It's not what church family members do for church. In other words, it's what you do at a place that is important to you—but not at a place that belongs to you. Church is also not a consumer culture where we give according to what we get. No, we give more than we get because we are investing in the present and the future of the Kingdom. We don't dart in and out giving what we deem fit. We serve because we are inspired, not required.

While so much is given, and I say thank you again, so much more is needed to be the church. Some is mundane; hopefully it's also inspiring, making a difference. Please always understand you are appreciated, but you are also needed. Heed the call of God to help in all the ways you can within the church. We do a disservice to our faith, and to the gospel itself, when we reduce the work of the church to something required instead of inspired. We are serving and building something with eternal value! I invite you always to be a vital part of the family! Thank you, again!

### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**



- **6/01 Sherry Chubb**
- **6/05 Walt Durgin**
- **6/15 Tracey Stoppard**
- **6/20 Bob Burris**
- **6/23 Audrey Goodling**
- \* **6/02 Jan Hufnagle**
- \* **6/05 Aida Durgin**
- \* **6/17 Lily Rower**
- \* **6/22 Travis Kroft**

**Anniversaries: 6/22 Ken & Darlene Stoppard**

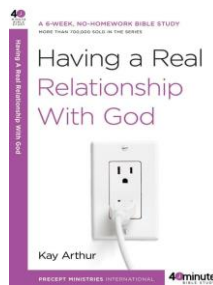
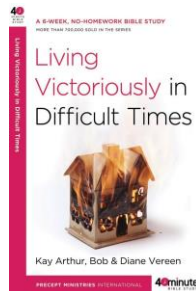
**6/24 Nathan & Stephanie McGlynn**

## **SMALL GROUPS**



Men's Accountability Group meets on Tuesday nights at church to share the challenges of serving God at home, at work, in community, and wherever you are called, in a world that throws curveballs and obstacles. The friendships that come from this group are a true blessing.

The Monday evening women's Bible study, WIC (Women in Christ), will meet occasionally over the summer in fellowship, and plan to pick up a new study book in September titled "Living Victoriously in Difficult Times." They meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday evenings at members' homes on a volunteer basis.



The study book for Morning Glory group, beginning Tuesday, 9/3/24 at 9 am, will be "Having a Real Relationship with God." We meet every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday morning from September through May.

Tuesdays, 6:30pm, the New Testament Bible Study Group meets at church to read through the Bible. We are currently in Colossians. We will continue through the summer but are off until June 25.

Please contact Pastor Kurt or Jan Hufnagle if you want to participate in a small group or Bible study. These are all groups that bond quickly, forgive schedule conflicts, and support each other through joys and burdens, in the midst of growing closer to God. If existing groups don't fit your needs, let's talk about beginning new groups! Jan's email is [jhufnagle5300@comcast.net](mailto:jhufnagle5300@comcast.net)

~~~~~

**Our Church Yard Sale** was a great success! We had a steady stream of customers all morning, of all ages. We had so many donations for the church to offer for sale that we arranged them on tables inside the sanctuary, and the air conditioning was much appreciated, as was the snack area. One new feature was a church **Pop-up Missions table**, with leaflets showing many of our current and future activities and missions for people to pick up as they chatted with our volunteers. The Upwards brochures were especially popular!

## 2024 SUSQUEHANNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

It was a privilege for Pastor Kurt and Ralph Brandt (lay representative for our church), to attend the 2024 Annual Conference held in Williamsport, Pa April 30- June 1. The daily schedule generally ran from 8am-9pm daily, concluding at noon on Saturday. The theme was “The Harvest is Plentiful”



Conference began with individual laity worship and a clergy business session. Then we met for joint worship and the opening of conference. Each day contained worship, preaching, reporting of conference ministries, and corporate reports to be discussed and voted upon, which always covered pensions, clergy compensation, and annual budget. But this year, it also included recommendations for changes to the clergy moving policy and the selling of two properties in our Camp and Retreat Program. Also annually, resolutions are made about the ministry of the church, which this year included discussion on mental health and disability awareness, church and land use, gun violence, and supporting a mission in Africa. But recurring events also include an ordination or recognition of all new pastoral leaders, and announcement of clergy appointments. There is also always a memorial service for clergy, also.

Being the first Annual Conference since General Conference made sweeping changes to the general church’s view on LGBTQ issues, there was some anxiety about how the culture and discussion might change this year at conference. But this Annual Conference was the least contentious that we’ve seen in years. In general, this was because there was very little work that had any controversy behind it. The only difficult work was over the closing of camp and retreat= properties and discussion over a proposed mental health and drug abuse month. It is noteworthy that there seemed to be an effort to not make the event a celebratory one for the changes to the Book of Discipline concerning LGBTQ issues but rather an informational one.

Please consider being a participant at Annual Conference. It’s a wonderful and inspiring experience to be gathered with the sea of United Methodist brothers and sisters (over 1000) gathered for inspiration, worship, and holy work. To look back at the events of Annual Conference, you can check out this link:



[https://susumc.org/annual-conference.](https://susumc.org/annual-conference)

## Teachers Wanted!

Adult Sunday School class is held between the 8:30 and the 10:30 services. We find ourselves in a predicament here, because we do not have teacher volunteers to staff classes for children or youth. In fact, some of the youth are attending the adult class, and contributing in meaningful ways, but we recognize that some of the issues in their lives as teenagers are not being addressed as directly as they might appreciate.

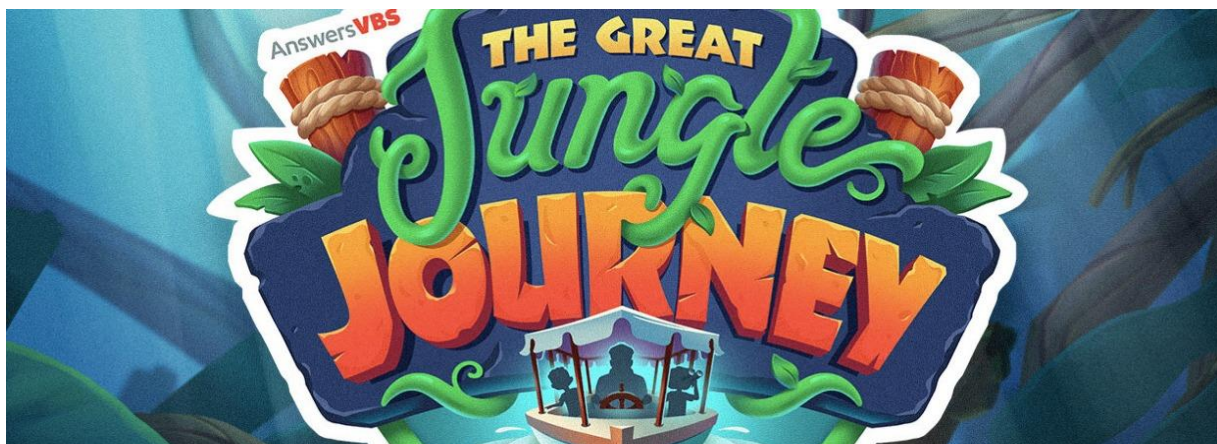


When you think about Sunday School, what comes to mind? NCCC can check almost everything off the list of needs for a successful ministry:

- \* space designated for class <
- \* enthusiastic kids and inquisitive teens <
- \* relevant lesson plans that are easy to follow & easy to engage kids with <
- \* support from the other family and youth ministries volunteers <
- \* volunteers who will dedicate even one Sunday/month to spend helping our kids understand how much God loves them and wants for them \_\_\_\_ (waiting)

As a volunteer, you will not miss your own worship service, but you WILL get to know the people in whose hands God plans to place the future of his kingdom. Talk about being an influencer!

To ask questions, look over a typical lesson plan, meet the kids, or calm your anxiety in any way, see Sherry Chubb or Pastor Kurt. You will be appreciated!



## VBS—Here We Come!!

Pretty sure you've noticed the new look in our sanctuary and lobby—all we're missing is the sounds of the parrots, crocodiles, lions, and gorillas! Our church volunteers really step up for Vacation Bible School, and each year the decor seems to get more inspiring. We've been building and planning for weeks, and we CAN'T WAIT to welcome the kids! Starting tomorrow through Friday, from 6-8 pm.

## Upwards Flag Football—New Season

It's flag football time! We know some players (and parents!) who look forward to this season all year long, and finally, it's happening—at least registration is. Mr. Chip is eagerly welcoming kids from k-6 to sign up and watch for try-outs. He's also welcoming parent and support staff coaches, snack table staff, and sidelines cheering squad.

**Colossians 3:23-24** Whatever you do, do it with all your heart for the Lord, and not for people. You know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. You serve the Lord Christ.



### THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

Amid disaffiliations and the recent General Conference of the United Methodist church, I offer the following information concerning the state of our church.

In the last year, about twenty-five percent of the church has disaffiliated. Likewise, profound changes in the church's social principles and doctrine have recently occurred. Most notably, restrictive language concerning the ordination and marriage of gay and lesbian persons, was changed. The changes now accept both traditional and progressive viewpoints. Please note that individual churches have the autonomy to make decisions for themselves when it comes to holding and officiating same-gender marriages. Pastors will be appointed that align with the culture of each church. While many feel grief, trepidation, or anxiety about the removal of the restrictive language, our Susquehanna Annual Conference will be committed to congregations and clergy who are traditional, those who are more progressive, and everybody in between. The Bishops have noted that all theological positions are recognized, respected, and needed, and that the right of clergy and congregations to make decisions about these matters is honored.

As for our NCCC community of believers, the state of the church is strong. We serve a mighty God who has plans for us – plans to prosper us and not harm us, plans to give us hope and a future. Let us continue to support one another and minister in grace and love as we always have. Let us know that the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds as we remain united in ministry to one another and our community. 28% of the Susquehanna Conference identify with no religious faith, so the harvest remains ripe for ministry, and we will continue to be faithful!

A formal statement from the Susquehanna Conference may be found in the lobby. Peace be with you.

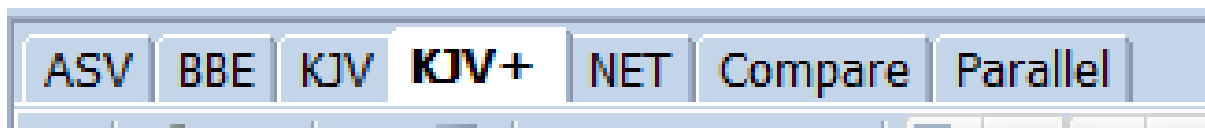
Pastor Kurt

---

## Digging Down: You CAN Understand Scripture by Ralph Brandt

In the 1990's, the early days of my Bible study, I used the Strong's and the Young's Concordances, the Amplified Bible, the King James, NIV, NAS, and at least 2 commentaries. Pre-Internet, these were an investment! Together they weighed about 45 pounds and cost over \$100. But to someone seeking God, the things that help are priceless. I go back to several bibles not available on the PC at times now, but mostly I use 3 platforms: a PC (4 pounds), tablet (14 ounces), and cell phone (6 ounces). The software on the PC is more robust, has note taking availability (I do not use) and is easier to use. ESword is for PC, Mysword is for Android and Apple devices, and all 3 of these are free.

The resources available on this software are amazing. When you first download, you will get a couple of translations, the KJV (King James Version Shakespeare English) and KJV+ which is the same with the Strong's Concordance linked. You can download other versions. I personally like the ASV (American Standard Version), CEV (Contemporary English Version), BBE (Bible in Basic English), and TLB (The Living Bible). The NAS, NIV, and other copyright bibles are available for a fee. I find the ASV is very close to them. You can switch from one to another on the bar below; click "parallel" to see one verse in various translations for comparison.



Side notes from Margie:

How many of you have a clear understanding of the differences between concordances; commentaries; contextual resources including maps, graphs, family trees, and timelines; dictionaries, and the wide range of versions of Scripture? I grew up in the church, but only recently came to appreciate the wisdom and knowledge gained from these sources of research!

Concordance: Basically looks like a big index. It shows where the key words of the Bible appear throughout the Living Word, which allows us to see how the meaning may change over time, or as certain authors use them, or from Old to New Testament. It helps you step away from assuming that the way we use a word today is how it was intended far back in history, as in the word "nice," which of course means pleasant/pleasing today, but in the 1200's meant being ignorant of proper manners!

Commentary: Not a review or criticism of the writing style or behavior decisions of the "characters" in the Bible. It provides you background knowledge or context of the verse(s) you are studying, such as location, characters' relationships, time period, and links between NT & OT. It also helps prevent us from assuming a tone that was not intended, such as anger or sarcasm, as we misinterpret the tone of texts from friends and family today. When Jesus tells

John from the cross that he is to take care of Mary from now on, a commentary will tell us how that fits with or is an exception to what is understood of the times.

Skipping over the maps, graphs...dictionaries as probably self-explanatory (but feel free to ask any questions!), I want to just look at the approximately 900 versions of the Bible in English available today. I do want to mention the value of looking at a few of them on your own. NOT 900, but a varied assortment. A while back, my daughter asked me how we can trust what we read in the Bible, since the books are written, edited, and printed by fallible people over different time periods and small mistakes can have a big impact. Her timing was perfect, as I read very soon after that that by having several versions of the scripture to compare, we can study a verse and pick out a particular difference in a verse we are studying. Try to figure out where the authors of one or 2 slightly different wordings came to their conclusion. You can check those 2 off as “logical, possible, but to be checked later against a Greek or Hebrew dictionary” and feel more confident about the rest.

There will be one more part to this little series. One resource not mentioned here is a set of friends who are known to study scripture. I am sure I drive my mother and several of my NCCC friends crazy when I text them my questions from my devos, but they always sigh, and then give it their best shot.

What Bible version do you get the most out of? What person from scripture do you recall when you're starting to lose it? Good to know we're all in this quest together!

*God Almighty, we lift up our church leaders to You. We pray for our pastors and ministers, SEND team and trustees, teachers and ministry leaders and daycare friends. Instill shepherd hearts in them. Inspire them to dig deep into Your Word and root their lives in You alone. Protect their families and time with their families. We pray for humility as they lead, pouring out Your grace and generosity in them and through them. Preserve their witness – lead them as they walk with You, and give them the capacity to showcase Your love, mercy and forgiveness. Provide accountability as they lead us, and compel us to be faithful to stand in the gap for them. We praise You for the leaders You have raised up in this church! Amen.*

From <https://myeverydaygod.com/2017/09/12/10-scripture-to-pray-for-your-church/>





# CIRCLE *of* PRAYER

For this cycle of Circle of Prayer we will be praying for our churches in the Susquehanna Conference our Sierra Leone Partner Churches and our Conference Camp/Retreat Centers.

## Churches for June 9 - 15

**The Journey**, Harrisburg  
**Laporte UMC**, Laporte  
**12<sup>th</sup> Street UMC**, Huntingdon  
**Mr Pleasant UMC**, Sunbury  
**Messiah UMC**, Shippensburg  
\* **Grace UMC**, Kailahun - Sierra Leone  
**Freedom Avenue UMC**, Burnham  
**State Road UMC**, Linden  
**Stone UMC**, Berwick  
**Druck Valley UMC**, Hellam  
**Hemlock Grove UMC**, Greentown  
**Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center**,  
Windsor, NY

## Churches for June 16 - 22

**Clintondale UMC**, Mill Hall  
**Leesburg UMC**, Shippensburg  
**Salem Guldens UMC**, Gettysburg  
**Christ Community UMC**, Altoona  
**Mainesburg UMC**, Mainesburg  
**Zion Stone UMC**, Halifax  
**Waverly UMC**, Waverly  
**Richfield UMC**, Richfield  
**Woodvale UMC**, Woodvale  
**Lake Winola UMC**, Dalton  
**Camp Penn Camp & Retreat Center**, Waynesboro

## Churches for June 23 - 29

**Christ's Julian UMC**, Julian  
**Curwensville UMC**, Curwensville  
**Avis UMC**, Avis  
**Mount Alto UMC**, Mount Alto  
**Liverpool MC**, Liverpool  
**Albright Wilkes-Barre UMC**, Wilkes Barre  
**Park Coudersport UMC**, Coudersport  
**Campbells Town UMC**, Campbells Town-  
Sierra Leone  
**Trinity Clearfield UMC**, Clearfield  
**Stewart Memorial UMC**, Mifflinburg  
**Greene Hills Camp/Retreat Center &  
RV Park**, Alexandria

For the weeks of June 30 –  
July 6, and July 7 – 13:

Please pray for All  
Congregations and Pastors  
going through a time of  
transition.

## JUNE 2024

| Sunday                         | Monday                  | Tuesday                                                     | Wednesday                         | Thursday                            | Friday | Saturday              |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
|                                |                         |                                                             |                                   |                                     |        | 1                     |
| 2                              | 3                       | 4 Men's<br>Accountability<br>group 6:30<br>Daycare<br>Board | 5                                 | 6 Praise Team 7<br>pm<br>Choir 7:39 | 7      | 8                     |
| 9                              | 10<br><b>VBS 6-8 pm</b> | 11                                                          | 12                                | 13                                  | 14 →   | 15                    |
| 16 FATHERS<br>DAY              | 17 Finance 7 pm         | 18 Men's<br>Accountability<br>group 6:30<br>SPRT 7 pm       | 19                                | 20 Praise Team 7<br>Choir 7:30      | 21     | 22                    |
| 23<br>30<br>Church<br>PICNIC!! | 24                      | 25 Men's<br>Accountability<br>Group 6:30                    | 26 <b>SEND</b><br><b>Extended</b> | 27<br>Praise Team 7<br>Choir 7:30   | 28     | 29 Church<br>camp out |



3005 Emig Mill Road  
Dover, PA 17315

Deadline for July newsletter is Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Please send your articles or information to Margie at [Quiltgrand133@gmail.com](mailto:Quiltgrand133@gmail.com). Thank you!