



**New Creation
Community Church**
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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."

There's a big difference between "Love your neighbor" and "Don't be mean to your neighbor."

NOW WHAT?

Pastor Kurt V Herzberg

The last couple years in the United Methodist denomination have been a difficult period. While members will agree or disagree with the changes that have occurred concerning same-sex relationships, the question is "Now what?" That's a hard question.

 For our church family, joined in community as New Creation, the answer to "Now what?" is not that exciting. With a few exceptions, mostly we do what we've been doing. We invite people to be in relationship with God through our presence in this community. We continue loving, caring, helping, worshipping, ministering, and all the other things that we have done in the past, as well as new things in the future, in an effort to disciple. Our leadership and myself as pastor have generally agreed that while things have changed in the broader UMC, nothing has changed for us. We continue to heed the call of the Great Commission: we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are here to participate in the mission to love God and neighbor as a way of fulfilling God's reign in the world. We do our part in our local community internally and externally. That has never changed and will never change because that is the everlasting command of Christ until the consummation of creation.

For many individuals though, there is still wrestling and discernment and questions. "What shall I do?" I continue to wrestle somewhat with the issue, and I can't answer that for you, but I can give biblical counsel for your consideration. So, I invite you to have a conversation and search together with me for what God would have those persons do that struggle with the changes in the denomination. Quite honestly, the question is not the

Now What? Cont.

subject at hand, but broader considerations around disagreements, disunity, calling, relationship, and yes, doctrinal and theological considerations weigh in. Feel free to contact me if you like.

May God be richly praised and honored!

Digging Into Scripture Part 3 Ralph Brandt and Margie Manley

It hasn't been that long since I've understood how the whole Bible weaves together as one story. The clues are all there. I was just not picking them up. When I would get lost in the identities of the pronouns in a verse (Who's this "he?"), I didn't look further than the verses directly before and after the one I'd been directed to read, and that was often not helpful enough.

Last month Ralph shared how the different versions of the Bible can be helpful, as well as the use of a commentary and a concordance. When we talked recently, we felt like this may be a good time to put a magnifying glass to a sample scripture, to show you.

Remember, E-sword and Bible Gateway.com are sites that offer a wide expanse of resources from commentaries to study plans to versions of scripture. You can download some (or maybe one, to start?) on your phone for quick access wherever you go!

It also makes sense to have more than one version of the Bible at your fingertips; perhaps one NIV, RSV, or MKJB, which are generally considered easier to comprehend, and another KJB or NAS. The King James Bible has a reputation for sounding a little like Shakespeare with its formal, old language, but if you want to make sure you're reading scripture that is closest to the original Greek or Hebrew, this is reliable.

I'm still learning the value of the concordance. (Margie) Today I looked at Matthew 11:5, where John sent a message asking Jesus if he's the expected Messiah. Jesus answers the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the



good news is proclaimed to the poor." The concordance sent me back to the Old Testament, to the book of Isaiah, ch 35, vs. 4-6. It's the same basic statement, in a different context, which is never by accident in the scriptures. The prophet Isaiah is telling the Israelites, "Your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you. Then will the eyes of the

blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.” This tells us these words, this idea, has been known to the Israelites for centuries.

A commentary or a timeline will inform you that there is a 700-year stretch between Isaiah’s prophecies and Jesus’s life on Earth. His words echo Isaiah’s precisely to recall to them what they’ve been expecting for many years. And WE know He is the one who healed the blind, the deaf, the lame, the mute, etc., in the time of the New Testament. But he did not come for vengeance at that time. If the pharisees were in tune with the holy scriptures, they would know that prophecies come true, so for sure there is another Messiah coming! Glad we didn’t have to wait until the Isaiah verses happened to come up in another day’s devotional.



Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners,
but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God... Ephesians 2:19



TUESDAY MORNINGS 8AM, ALL MEN ARE INVITED TO FELLOWSHIP AT SHILOH FAMILY RESTAURANT!



Children and Youth Ministries/New Creation Station

Submitted by Sherry Chubb

Daycare

Our center has been blessed to help so many families in the past and we are just growing more and more. Through hard work and dedication, we now have two group supervisors which qualifies us to help even more children! We welcome our church family to inquire about how they might become volunteers to read stories, give snuggles, and help bring Christ to children! For many of our students, even those who are Christian, this ministry is their first or only experience of receiving The Word.

In mid August we will be preparing our raised beds for fall harvesting! Planting days will be determined and announced very soon. Unfortunately, we will not be having the carnival fundraiser we had so hoped to do. Without enough involvement this year, scheduling and resourcing just became impossible. So starting on Friday, September 6th at 6pm, we will be having planning meetings with our daycare families and hope to see some church family there, too! This fundraiser is to help with renovations in our kitchen as well as to update items on the to-do list of the trustees. This facility is our home away from home, and we hope to make it reflect the beauty and love of all who come here to the community! Any support would be most welcomed!

Youth Ministries

We need your help!!!! At this time we need some friendly faces to help us with upholding the requirements of safe sanctuaries! If we fall lax on this we will lose all youth ministries!!!! Please help the future of not only the youth in our church but the future of Christianity!

WILD WILD VBS? We had an amazing time with this beautiful ministry! We worked so hard to pull together the Jungle Cruise and next year's theme is already decided! We will be taking a trip to the tumbleweed streets of the Wild Wild West! Decorating and planning will be starting much earlier this year, so please stay tuned in! We want to shout a HUGE thank you to the hard

working team we had this year! The decorations were a team effort which resulted in big beautiful structures and fun animal pals. The teaching was sublime with heartfelt lessons which the kids could not help but carry with them as they left. The snack team made the best snacks with fun themes that enriched the heart as well as the palate of all who tasted them! Crafts underwent something new this year by adding science, and from the looks of their volcanoes it really blew the kids' minds! There was so much love poured into this mission that there is not enough room on this page to celebrate each person who helped make this year possible!



NEW BISHOP!

Bishop Héctor Burgos-Núñez has been assigned as the episcopal leader of the Susquehanna Conference. He will be shared with the Upper New York Annual Conference as part of the new episcopal area configuration.

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez was elected to the episcopacy by the Northern Jurisdictional Conference on November 4, 2022. He is the first Hispanic-Latino bishop in the Northeastern Jurisdiction.



Join us in welcoming Bishop Héctor Burgos Núñez to the Susquehanna Conference!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

07/02 Jim Geiselman

07/03 Dani Ellicker

07/06 Dorene Johnson

07/12 Mary Ann Rohrbaugh

07/13 Phyllis Mason



07/25 Delaney McGlynn

07/28 Fusselman, Christine



Circle of Prayer

Celebrating Our Connection Through Prayer

"With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." - 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Circle of Prayer: [June 9 - August 24, 2024](#)

2024

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.



“We’ll be ok—Look! There’s a Goldfinch!”

I’ve seen more goldfinches in my neighborhood this summer than I have in decades past, and they make me smile every single time. Just out of curiosity, I did a little research to see if they were ever a symbol in literature, or history, or religion, and guess what? The 14th century Christians were all over this bright bird!

1. Its main food source is the seed of the thistle, which were thought to help fight against the plague and were also seen as generally blessed plants, symbolically connected to the crucifixion. During the time of the Black Death, the people clung to symbols of hope.
2. They were thought to be kind, benevolent, and maybe even magic. Images and paintings of all kinds of subjects were more desirable if there was a goldfinch tucked somewhere into the background or an unnoticeable spot. Better than Waldo?
3. The red plumage some have around the beak was thought to have been a badge of honor after the bird frantically plucked at the thorns of Jesus’ crown of thorns.

By the 18th century and on until today, the goldfinch was accepted as a protective omen and a symbol of God’s devotional love and loyalty.

CHURCH PICNIC AND CAMPING WEEKEND 2024

We had a hot, then rainy, then hot weekend of July 29-30 for our church camping weekend and worship service! We opted to have worship inside due to heat, but had camping and picnic activities outside. Enjoy these pictures from the weekend!



Everything tastes better when you share it with **FAMILY!**

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Men's Accountability Group 6:30 New Testament Group 6:30	3	4 Independence Day!	5	6
7	8	9 Men's Accountability group 6:30 Daycare Board	10 SEND Core 7 pm	11 Praise Team 6 pm Trustees 7	12	13
14	15 Finance 7	16 Men's Accountability group 6:30 NT group 6:30	17 Youth Group 6 pm Praise Team 6 pm?	18 Praise Team	19	20
21	22	23 Men's Accountability group 6:30 NT group 7 pm	24 SEND Extended 7 pm	25 Praise Team 6	26	27 Community Craft Show 8-2
28	29	30 Men's Accountability Group 6:30 NT Group 6:30				



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Deadline for August newsletter is Tuesday, July 30th. Please send your articles or information to Margie at Quiltgrand133@gmail.com. Thank you!