

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The people of The United Methodist Church

MARCH 2025

New Creation

Community Church

3005 Emig Mill Road

Dover, PA 17315

717-764-0252

newcreation25@comcast.net

www.newcreationforyou.com

Kurt Herzberg, Pastor

Worship Hours:

-Traditional Sunday, 8:00am

-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."

GO TO OUR WEBSITE HERE



ANSWER THE CALL TO LEAD

Pastor Kurt Herzberg

I love my calling to pastoral leadership! Sometimes it's stressful, sad, rewarding, blessed, busy, and sometimes it's just funny. It's funny how people apologize for swearing in front of me. Or they tell me "I didn't know pastors ride cycles" or "listen to 'that' playlist". Some of the questions I get are funny like "What do you do for a living? What's your real job?" Or, "What do you do during the week since you only work on Sundays?" Well, if you ever wondered, I'm about to reveal some of those things!

NCCC will be receiving a new pastor beginning July 1, and we anticipate it will be a part-time pastor. It's imperative for us to help this person because they won't know what or how, or have time, to do many of the things that I currently do as pastor. So, this is a request to pray about the following list of things that I currently do. **It's been my pleasure to do these things**, and they are all important parts of ministry! **But they are things that you can do as a participant in ministry.**

You know the saying "Many hands make light work"? This is a formal request to make the workload light as we prepare for pastoral change. Please consider making the 'work' light for the sake of our ministry. Our mission to make disciples will be challenged or even fail without these things being done. Some items may not seem critical, but again, every item has importance and adds to the fabric of our service and outreach. For some of these items, the right person may not be you, but you may be able to encourage someone who can do a particular item. Most of them require coordination with other people or under the advisement of persons/committees. But ultimately, they must be done together as the church body. So, I thank you in advance for praying over the ongoing completion of the items on this list:

1. Managing posts on the electronic sign
2. Facebook management/posts
3. Website information/management
4. Dover Twp. Newsletter ads. (qtrly 2 months before)
5. Creating Bulletins (weekly)
6. Creating the Newsletter (monthly)
7. Organizing our Sunday School volunteer list
8. Producing Hospitality packets
9. Help coordinating Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk-or-Treat, Christmas Party, Car Show.
10. Help to lead GriefShare
11. Screening phone calls to the church

I will have a sign-up sheet to speak to interested parties. My goal is to have transitioned these positions by the mid-May, so that is only two months from now. I know you all can do this, so let's get started! You are a leader in the church. Leadership has been preached for 6 weeks and at this time and season of the church, God is calling you to exercise the legacy of leadership left to you by heroes like Abraham, Moses, David, Deborah, Joshua, and Nehemiah! Consider how these scriptures apply to you and the call to lead...

Mark 10:45: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"

Matthew 23:11: "The greatest among you will be your servant"

Galatians 5:13: "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love"

Galatians 6:9: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up"



LEADERSHIP SERIES STUDY

Recently, our leadership and others with interest, have been meeting together to gain perspective about how we might lead our church through challenges that are part of ministry. Leading the same way as the past is no longer fruitful when you desire different results. Change is difficult so we've been doing a 4-week book reading series and discussion about how to be adaptive leaders in changing times. The "Practicing Change Series" addresses real-world concerns for organizations that need to transform for success, and the minds of those attending have truly been stirring with excitement about the future of the church. These are some of the thoughts raised from our readings:

- "God, what do you have in store for us?"
- "I'm now trying to see the problem before trying to solve it by asking how, what, and why questions."
- "I am so glad we got to have this group study! The books were short and clear, and each gave us a different tool to become a focused and effective leadership team. As we put each new skill into practice, I think the church and the community will be amazed at what we accomplish!"

Our last book will be "Invest in Transformation -Quit Relying on Trust" meeting this Wednesday, 3/12/25 at 6:30pm.

SERMON CHALLENGE ACCEPTED AND COMPLETED!

A few weeks ago, Pastor Kurt challenged us to make use of a ministry tool we always have in our pocket, your PHONE! He didn't ask us to get on Google or Facebook, use Instagram or TikTok, or play a game. No, he challenged everyone to a simple task... send a text to someone in their contacts. The message?... "I want to talk to you about something next time we meet." The "something" was to talk to them about the Gospel.

Audrey McKinsey took the challenge and sent a message immediately. She already had someone in mind! Then the day arrived she was with that person. It was at a usual hangout, the Dover Senior Center. Inviting this person to sit with her, she confirmed this person was not a believer in God. He said he used to go to church and was involved, but the thought that God allowed bad things to happen was haunting and caused disbelief. Audrey responded to say that Satan, and sin, are the cause of bad things, not God. We're called to fight against these things.

During the conversation, Audrey heard this person say "Dear God" not once, but twice. Both times, she quickly retorted "Who are you talking to?!" She revealed her observation then. She said "You're not an atheist or unbeliever. You're agnostic. You know that deep down God exists." The response was "You're probably right." They talked some more and Audrey said "You're just struggling with some things you don't understand about God. That's when you need faith."

Thank you, Audrey, for being obedient to the call to make disciples. You did good, you're your story will inspire others to be the ambassadors of God we are called to be. We pray your witness has made an eternal difference in the life of this man. Father, draw him unto You! Amen.



VBS PLANNING HAS BEGUN!

Howdy there, partner! You ready for a grand ol' time next summer, discovering the wonder of Jesus? If so, grab yer stirrups and lasso and hightail it out west to *Wonder Junction* where kids will marvel at Jesus and learn that we live for his glory.

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS AND THE CALL FOR KIDS TO LIVE FOR HIS GLORY.

As you may've guessed, *Wonder Junction* is an Old West themed VBS adventure that will teach kids about who Jesus is as they marvel at his birth, his childhood, his ministry, his death and resurrection, and his coming return. It's all about Jesus and the call for kids to live for his glory.

VBS is June 23-27, 6-8pm. Watch for planning meetings and how you might participate through donations or hands-on work. Safe Sanctuaries training is required to volunteer.

Finally, if you didn't order your leader's shirt, sign up today at the Hospitality Desk!

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Thank you again to all church members who have taken the time and energy to be certified in Safe Sanctuaries. It is wonderful to know that our children are in good hands whether they are participating in Sunday School, Junior Church, or the Nursery! **Just a reminder that if you are participating as a volunteer in Vacation Bible School, you must be certified in Safe Sanctuaries.** Our training requires an online video and test, and submission of your PA State Police Criminal Check and PA Child Abuse Clearance. Please be aware that it takes time to get background clearances! Please see Pastor Kurt or Carol Sydor if you have any questions regarding Safe Sanctuaries.



SECRET SISTERS



Secret Sisters is up and running for the new year! We currently have eight women participating in Secret Sisters. If you missed out on signing up for Secret Sisters, please see Carol Sydor. It is not too late to join. Come join the fun of fellowship and praying for your Secret Sister

NCCC CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On February 19, interested church constituents gathered to talk about what pastoral change looks like with the announcement that we will be receiving a new pastor on July 1, 2025. We also revisited our financial stewardship work since our last congregational meeting last fall. Please see the following notes:

At our recent meeting, Pastor Kurt discussed the appointment process of the UMC, explaining that all United Methodist pastors are appointed for one-year terms from July 1-June 30. The appointment season begins in the fall with pastor and church profiles being updated. Each year, SPRT submits whether they are open to a new pastor or not, and likewise the pastor submits whether he is open to the existing or a new appointment. The Bishop and Cabinet (District Superintendents) review the information to set new appointments using the information provided. Ultimately, the Bishop sets appointments each year according to the stated needs and desires of the church and pastor, and the needs of Conference.

Jan Hufnagle, Chairperson for SPRT, discussed our input made to the Cabinet in Sept 2024 by SPRT. The team discussed the options, with Pastor Kurt as part of that discussion, and decided to request consideration for a part time pastor. This decision aligns with our recent focus to equalize ministry expenses with our current income through tithes, offerings, and other sources of money. The potential savings is a function of lower benefits cost and fewer paid working hours. SPRT did so with sadness, as we were not making this request because of any problems with Pastor Kurt. Subsequently, Pastor Kurt has accepted an appointment to St. Johns UMC in Grantville beginning 7/1/25.

At this time, we await hearing who the pastor will be for NCCC. The appointment process runs from Feb-June, so we will wait to hear from Conference to discuss our needs and receive a new pastor. We will let the congregation know when something transpires. Another consideration will be if the parsonage will be needed for a part-time pastor, and if not, what options are available for parsonage use. This will require a discussion with Conference Trustees.

We discussed the need for the congregation to use their talents to fulfill some of the extra roles Pastor Kurt has taken on but a part-time pastor may not be able to do with more limited hours. He will be posting a list for us and asking for volunteers over the next few months.

We briefly discussed NCCC finances. We had an income deficit of \$13,000 or more in 2024 plus some increase in expenses. Wade reported overall, in the past few months, the dollar amount of our offerings has increased. Increased giving is required as well as cost cutting such as our appointment change. This move, and other decisions for stewardship, are helping us be proactive in financial management. Pastor Kurt reminded us of the vitality of ministry and importance of our presence in this community, and that our concerted effort to always support the church promises that NCCC will be open and serving as God has commanded.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Mary Geiselman
 3/3 Solomon Nero
 3/5 Karen Wallace
 3/5 Mariah Linn
 3/8 Bart Pyle



3/9 Drew Hufnagle

3/12 Josie Kroft
 3/17 Jamie Mulhollen
 3/17 Kaleb Mulhollen
 3/24 Aida Durgen

CHICKEN POT PIE SALE

This is the year of anniversaries! This was our tenth year of making chicken pot pie, and we continue to grow and change.

When we began, we served a full sit-down dinner. Unfortunately, after Covid when we could only have pick-up orders, our full dinner service was adapted to selling quarts only.

On two Saturdays in January, helpers showed out to make and freeze pot pie noodles. With many different helpers, it was a great time of sharing and learning for all.

Then came the fun part, making pot pie. On February 20 and 21, Thursday and Friday, anywhere from 6 to 10 people showed up to stir the pot, so to speak. Our goal was to make 200 quarts, and we surpassed that number. This year we made around 230 quarts of pot pie, selling 210. The other 20 quarts were delivered to West Manchester police and West York Borough Police to support their time of mourning over the death of Patrolman Andrew Duarte. Both stations were very appreciative of the offer and thanked us for thinking of them.

The monies raised from the pot pie will be used by the mission team, and a portion going to the church to help where ever needed.



COMING EVENTS/GROUPS

Griefshare:

Griefshare is in the last month of our 13-week series. This program will reconvene in fall 2025. Please see griefshare.org for locations of other groups meeting in our area or for excellent support resources as you and your loved ones process grief. Please contact Jan Hufnagle for assistance at any time.



WOMEN IN COMMUNITY

WIC (Women in Community) is a group of women meeting the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 pm to study the bible together and to pray together and to offer love and support. Our current curriculum is "Living Victoriously in Difficult times". We meet at member's homes. Please pray and consider joining or starting another small group. Text or call Jan Hufnagle at 717-885-7488 with questions.

MORNING GLORY

Morning Glory is a group of women meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9 am. We have currently begun Tim Keller's "The Prodigal God". We meet at a member's home and currently have a full table. If you are interested in joining a daytime small group, please text or call Jan Hufnagle at 717-885-7488. We are always hoping to start new groups.

NEW LADIES GROUP

The Saturday morning women's Bible study group is a lively one! We use a devotional book called Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day, (really!), but don't let that scare you off. It's scripture based. It's a reminder that we all know every kind of experience, from joy to pain to sorrow.

We hold onto Matthew 18:20, "where 2 or more of you are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of you," & 19:26, "with God all things are possible." Hugs & tears & cookies & prayers go a long way as we share our life journey.

We meet at Margie Manley's house every other Saturday at 9 am, w/ good intentions of ending at 10:30. Feel free to bring your children, & we'll supply the book. Call Margie at 717-818-2921 with questions. Hope to see you soon!

"Not Alone" Luncheon:

Every first Monday of the month, those who have participated in Griefshare are invited to meet for lunch at 12 pm. We call ourselves "Not Alone". This is an informal way to stay in touch and share your experiences. Currently we are meeting at Mission BBQ. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Kurt or Jan Hufnagle.

A colorful poster titled "UPCOMING EVENTS!" for New Creation Community Church. The church's address is 3005 Emig Mill Rd., Dover, PA, and it has worship services on Sundays at 8 AM and 10:30 AM. The poster lists several events: a Spring Craft & Vendor Show on Saturday, April 26, from 8 AM to 2 PM; an Easter Egg Hunt on April 19, 2025, from 10 AM to noon; a Scrapbook More event on April 12, from 9 AM to 9 PM, with a \$25 fee for two meals and a table, and all types of crafters welcome; a Yard Sale on May 24, from 8 AM to 2 PM, with vendor spaces for \$15, and a call to reserve a space at 717-764-0252; and a Wonder Junction event on Wednesday, June 23-26, from 6 PM to 8 PM. Additionally, it promotes New Creation Station Daycare, which is currently enrolling, with a contact number of 717-764-2900. For more event information, it directs to the website www.newcreationforyou.com and the phone number 717-764-0252.

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER NEEDED!

Are you creative? Are you a good writer/editor? Detail oriented?

NCCC is looking for a person to take over the newsletter we affectionately call the “Love Letter”. For most years the administrative assistant has done this work, but we have not had that position filled since COVID. The pastor and Margie Manley have each done it ever since. But now we are looking for a new person to take on this important work. The newsletter is an important ministry tool! It...



- highlights events and ministries you might not be aware of or don't participate in,
- disseminates information to announce and organize ministry,
- celebrates ministry and gives reflection on them,
- becomes a place of testimony for our congregants,
- and it's posted publicly on our church website and becomes a window into our church for those seeking to learn about our church.

If you have interest, please see Pastor Kurt. Please pray for God to raise up a person to lead this ministry!

WORSHIP LEADER NEEDED

We suffered a loss losing our last leader, and now our guitarist suffers from health issues. We thank our remaining band members, but now we are seeking a new person to lead our worship music, preferably a pianist, but guitar is welcome. If you have suggestions, see Jan Hufnagel, SPRT Chair, or Pastor Kurt Herzberg.



DAYCARE MINISTRY REPORT

David Nero, Chair, New Creation Station Board of Directors

New Creation Station Child Care



Greetings, New Creation Community Church. Our daycare, New Creation Station, exists as two entities. First and foremost, it is a ministry of our church, bringing the Word of God and the Salvation of Christ to the littlest and youngest of our community. It's also a state recognized daycare entity which provides a very necessary service to our community.

I am happy to share that our license has been renewed following our latest inspection. The staff has worked very hard to not just meet requirements, but maintain them on a daily basis. It is always easier to stay ready than to get ready. Some may not be aware of a grant, the daycare received for improvements and training. Many of the rooms in the building have benefited from this grant. “Pathfinders”, the classroom immediately outside the kitchen, and another room have be improved for dual daycare/church use. Thank you NCS! Not only that, the daycare is helping provide janitorial services for the entire church! Thank you! New Creation Station is vital to our ministry, and they prove it every day!

New Creation Station was designed to be self-sustaining after initial seed money started the ministry. There have been, and currently are, financial struggles, but you can help our ministry! In a competitive market, we ask for your help with enrollment! Hang a flyer or yard sign to help us advertise. If you have had any interaction with the daycare, leave a positive google review! At the time of this writing, we are servicing 37 children. Our goal in order to operate comfortably is 40-45.

New Creation Station staff and board are working to continue God's work through this ministry. We continue to be appreciative of your prayers and support.

YOUTH MINISTRIES WINTER RECAP!

Sherry Chubb, Family and Children's Ministry Coordinator

As we move toward the warmer months and plan for the adventures summer will hold, we would like to recap this winter in New Creation Children and Youth Ministries!

Junior Church welcomed aboard two new teachers and found great success in the help of newly added volunteers! Children's Sunday School has also welcomed two new teachers and additional helpers, all qualified through our Safe Sanctuaries training. Because of this outpouring of help from all of our church family, we have been able to fill needs we had been praying to fill for a long while!

Youth ministries adventured to Bible Baptist for their Living Nativity, a tradition we hope to keep running for a long time, and performed a short musical on Christmas Eve at the family services. We have welcomed new children and families to our church and see instantly how delightful a blessing this has been! Welcome and thank you for jumping right in with us! The last event of winter was our T'NT (Teens' N Transformation) youth's annual visit to Winter Jam!

Looking forward to Spring, we are excited to be holding our Easter Egg hunt with the VBS Raffle baskets on April 19! If you would like to help, this year we will be making the baskets Wild West- themed! We request donations of Candy, Christian prizes geared towards children, and helpers to toss out eggs and help children get their prizes after their eggs are counted! Please sign up for however you would like to help!

T'NT meeting for summer events will be on April 15th at 6pm. We will be meeting in the new youth room, across from the daycare office! Events to be planned are fellowship events, the start of next year's youth group set up, and our 30-hour famine! We look forward to planning together and all are welcome to come and see how they can help.

Have a Safe and Blessed Day!

SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE CHURCH PRAYER LIST

March 9-15

First New Milford UMC,
Milford
Dillsburg Community Church,
Dillsburg
Slocum UMC, *Wapwallopen*
Queen UMC, *Claysburg*
Wayne UMC, *McVeytown*
***First Muncy UMC,** *Muncy*
***Weaver Memorial UMC,**
Bonthe - Sierra Leone
South Montrose Community
UMC, *Montrose*
Faith UMC, *Huntingdon*
Daniels-St Thomas UMC,
Mount Pleasant Mills
Sweden Valley Faith UMC,
Coudersport

March 16-22

Otterbein Newburg UMC,
Newburg
Walnut Street UMC, *Burnham*
Otterbein Sunbury UMC,
Sunbury
Rome UMC, *Rome*
South Auburn UMC, *South*
Auburn
Trough Creek UMC, *Todd*
Orange UMC, *Dallas*
Bethel Brogue UMC, *Brogue*
First Houtzdale UMC,
Houtzdale
Gethsemane Allport UMC,
Morrisdale

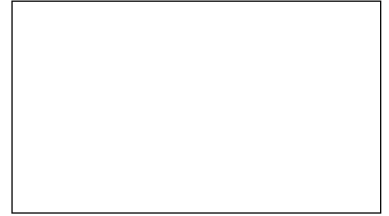
March 23-29

Centre Grove Clearfield UMC,
Clearfield
Ebenezer Middletown UMC,
Middletown
Firwood UMC, *Wilkes Barre*
Faith Sunbury UMC, *Sunbury*
Hollenback UMC, *Sugar Run*
***Runville UMC,** *Bellefonte*
***Hope UMC,** *Hanga - Sierra*
Leone
New Buffalo UMC, *New*
Buffalo
Park Avenue Chambersburg
UMC, *Chambersburg*
Fairview Altoona UMC,
Altoona
Pine Grove Mifflintown UMC,
Mifflintown
Wesley Forest Camp &
Retreat Center, *Weikert*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	.			Praise Band 6pm		1
2 Sermon Series: Legacy of Leadership: Nehemiah – Vision and Determination	3 Griefshare “Not Alone Lunch”, Noon	4 Morning Glory, 9am Men’s Alliance 6:30pm	5 Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm	6 Griefshare 3:30-5pm Praise Team 6pm	7 Game night, 7pm	8
9 Sermon Series: Against All Odds, “What Are the Odds?” -Prayer Meeting 6pm	10 WIC 6:30pm	11 Daycare Board, 6pm Men’s Alliance, 6:30pm	12 “Practicing Change” Reading Group, 6:30pm	13 Griefshare 3:30-5pm Praise Team 6pm Trustees. 7pm	14	15
16 Sermon Series: Against All Odds, “He Was Silent” -Prayer Meeting 6pm	17 Finance 7pm	18 Morning Glory, 9am Men’s Alliance, 6:30pm	19	20 Griefshare 3:30-5pm Praise Team 6pm	21	22
23 Sermon Series: Against All Odds, “He Was Counted Against the Rebels” -Prayer Meeting 6pm	24 WIC 6:30pm	25 Men’s Alliance, 6:30pm	26 SEND Extended 7pm	27 Griefshare 3:30-5pm Praise Team 6pm	28	

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Deadline for March Love Letter is March 31. Please submit your information to Pastor Kurt.