



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



JULY 2025

TRANSITIONING

To everything, turn, turn, turn
There is a season, turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven.

From Turn! Turn! Turn! by The Byrds · 1965

We all react to changes differently. Without change, there would be no growth, no movement. We may sometimes question the direction we're moving, but not God's plan for us.

As we move into our new season, we gratefully welcome Pastor Blanca Baker and her husband, Jim. This Sunday, between the 8am and 10:30 services, share a few minutes of hospitality with them to say hello. On Sunday, July 20th, we have another chance for fellowship and fun at our Summer Picnic. It will begin as a combined service at 10am at the pavilion, followed by picnicking at 11:30.

Please welcome our Pastor and her family with the same love and support we have shown her predecessors.

Blanca Baker's Spiritual Biography

I grew up in the small town of Monterrey, which is just outside of San Pedro Sula, the second largest city in Honduras, Central America. I grew up in the Catholic Church, but one of my uncles, who belonged to the Evangelical Reformed Church, taught me how to read the Bible when I was eight years old and at eighteen, I began attending the Evangelical Reformed Church in San Pedro Sula. My mother's family is native Honduran and my father's Catholic Orthodox family originally came to Honduras from Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the Holy Land.

At the age of twenty-two, I met my American husband, who brought me to Central Pennsylvania to live in 1974. We had two children, but we could not agree on my desire to further my education as he wanted me to stay at home, so we agreed to split up.

In January of 1981, I met Jim, who introduced me to the Presbyterian church. We became members of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church in Mechanicsburg and were married on August 4, 1984. We attended there regularly, participating in

small groups and our children participated in the youth program. In May of 1988, Jim was offered a position in Baltimore, so we moved to the Jacobus area, and we became members of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in York which had an excellent youth program.

This was a highly spiritual time in my life as I had been singing since I was a young child. I loved writing romantic and humorous songs, but I never knew how to write and compose gospel songs. I prayed that God would lead me to write songs for Him and eventually my prayers were answered. I remember praying a great deal and fighting spiritually within my heart, mind and soul. My mind wanted to do what was pleasing to God, but my heart and soul wanted me to continue what I loved, which was writing songs, singing and recording music. Many evenings while I was down on my knees praying for guidance and asking God for help, I prayed to Him; 'God if you really want me to change my songwriting style to write music for You instead of the gift that You have given me, I will give You the glory for the gift of music so please help me to write for You while worshiping and glorifying You! I cannot do it alone, I need YOU!' Suddenly the idea overwhelmed my mind that to write songs for the Lord, I had to study the scriptures to the fullest and I stood up and said: 'Thank You God, I got it!' I started to read the Bible from beginning to end and I no longer fell asleep reading God's word. I felt this unending thirst for the knowledge of God, but in a far deeper way than I ever had ever felt before.

After a couple of years on this journey, suddenly one day I wrote the first song for the Lord. I remember getting down on my hands and knees kissing the floor of my home studio in a state of happiness because God had transformed my song writing gift to praise Him. I started to write more songs until I had enough of songs to record an album for the Lord and I titled it, "He is My Lord and King" in English and "El Es My Rey Tambien" in Spanish. My life was fulfilled again by doing what I love for the Lord and looking back, I realize now that seeking God was the best thing that ever happened to me. I have traveled throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, the southeastern U. S. from Georgia to Louisiana, Mexico and Honduras singing to the Lord in both Spanish and English churches and when I was in these churches, everyone was asking me to preach when I shared the scriptures that had inspired me to write each song, and they were touched by the messages in my songs. At that point in time, I was not comfortable with the idea of preaching a full-blown sermon, and this is when God's call came and led me to the seminary in 2010 as my thirst for God's knowledge led me to pursue a Masters of Divinity, which would provide me with the ability to spread the word of Our Lord Jesus Christ. How true it is that God reveals to us through prayer and the reading of His word so that we can grow our faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ, in God the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit, which has transformed me into who I am today.

- September 2014: Appointed to Lead Pastor at 1st Spanish UMC of York.
- December 2014: Graduated from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio.
- February 2017: Appointed to Associate Pastor at Zion UMC of York.
- July 2019: Appointed to Lead Pastor at the Oakville Charge (Oakville UMC & Big Spring UMC) in Shippensburg.
- July 2024: Retired from the Susquehanna Conference.
- July 2024: Appointed to Lead Pastor at Mt. Pisgah UMC in York. Unfortunately, the members voted to close the church in November.
- July 2025: Appointed to Lead Pastor at New Creation Community Church – a United Methodist Church.

I am extremely excited about the opportunity to serve in the ministry of Our Lord Jesus Christ in this welcoming and loving community of faith to the best of my ability.



WONDER JUNCTION VBS REPORT

From the rising of the sun, to its setting, we will praise the Lord. Psalm 113

Our theme verse for this year's Vacation Bible School, Wonder Junction

What a great time we had! Our five evenings together were a special time to build relationships with Jesus and with each other. Our focus was on the wonders of Jesus; God came to us as a human baby, as a child Jesus experienced much that we do but he was perfect at the same time, he performed miracles and gave us hope during his 3 years of ministry on earth. Because of his immense love for us, he died on the cross for our sins. The wonder does not end there, Jesus arose, he conquered death and we have the hope of eternal life because of Him!

Our decorations were great, Wild West and Trains theme. We had yummy snacks and lessons, fun games, Bible Stories, scripture memory time and good crafts. There were also opening and closing assemblies including Wonderful music lead by Shania, mission moments about hungry kids throughout the world and creature features about some of God's western animals.

The kids were really involved in the music, lifting their voices and praising God with the dance motions too. It was exciting to see them bring their "money bags" filled with coins to feed the hungry kids they learned about each day. Their generosity will provide 1000 meals through the Children's Hunger Fund. The additional offering collected on Sunday provided another 700-800 meals!

This VBS was only possible because of God's empowerment. He moved us, the New Creation Family, to be generous in our prayers, our donations and our gifts of time volunteered. Thank you to the families who allowed us to spend time with your children during this journey to Wonder Junction.



LAY LEADERSHIP AT NEW CREATION

Submitted by Jan Hufnagle, SPRT Chairperson and member of SEND Extended

Some of us are new to this church and have questions about how things are run or organized. Decisions and processes vary from church to church. New Creation's church leadership team is nominated by our nominations committee, and elected at our annual church membership meeting, called Charge Conference. The team called SEND Extended is made up of the chair people of different committees, the pastor and a couple other elected individuals. Wade Smith is the current chairperson of the SEND Extended team.

SEND Extended meets in person once a month and conducts business through the SLACK communications channel throughout the month. This is the decision making team who approves changes suggested by the pastor, the church committees or individuals. This team also delegates responsibility to others to conduct business as appropriate. (for example, delegates Trustee committee and Finance committee to operate according to the guidelines given to them).

If church members and attendees have questions or concerns or suggestions, it is suggested that they approach the committee involved with their issue or suggestion. The big question for many of us is: HOW DO I KNOW WHO TO TALK TO? A handout for the bulletin, identifying who is responsible for what, will be available soon. It will also be posted on the bulletin board in the lobby. We already have a list called "New Creation Community Church Lay Leadership 2025", which will be updated and posted as well. Thank you for your patience in this time of transition and change.



Date: Sunday, July 20

Time: 10am combined worship, picnic 11:30-ish

Where: NCCC pavilion

What to Bring: A side dish or dessert to be shared.

No much culinary talent? Check the sign-up sheets in the lobby for needed supplies.

A chair to sit on, unless you are early enough to claim a picnic bench seat

What to Expect: A combined service with music assistance from the Praise Team

Hot dogs, chicken and drinks provided by NCCC

What Else: If you can come early, there are always details to be done, like prepping food to be served later.

If you can hang around after eating, there are tables to be put away, food to be sorted, garbage to be carried to the dumpsters, etc.

Please ask what you can do to help, before or after. All the extra hands are appreciated.



Watch for more information in the weekly bulletins about our 2025 Never Die Car Show, scheduled for Saturday, August 2, 11am-3pm. It's a big outreach community event!



LUKE IN THE LAND

This 7-session series used both video and discussion to look at Jesus' world with a modern lens. The videos are rich with scenes of the holy land where Jesus lived and ministered. The only homework is reading through the assigned sections of the book of Luke. This study group meets in **Soul Talk** at **9 am-10:30 am**, led by Jan Hufnagle.

June 13 - Read Luke 1-3 June 27 - Read Luke 4-7

July 11 - Read Luke 8-10 July 25 - Read Luke 11-13

August 8 - Read Luke 14-17 August 15 - Read Luke 18-20 August 22 - Read Luke 21-24

Coming in August will be announcements of Fall study groups and topics.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TEAM, LED BY CHIP AND CHERYL FOEKS, AS THEY HEAD OUT ON THE ANNUAL SUMMER MISSION TRIP FROM DOVER PA TO....ASBURY UMC IN YORK PA!

The group of nine will be gone July 6-12:
Teresa King, Nathan Cunningham, Skyler Morris,
Mariah Linn, Shania White, Darius White, and
McKenzi Giest.

We all look forward to hearing about the Team's adventures in serving God's community.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAY LEADER & LAITY LEADERSHIP

Let's Have a Chat

Article submitted by Margie Manley, Lay Leader, Susquehanna Conference

Communication and Transition—two words we've been hearing nonstop recently at New Creation Community Church. We're letting go of some good friends, the Herzbergs, and we're seeing a long standing mission, New Creation Station, close. And change can be scary! So for many of us, our knee jerk reaction is to keep asking each other, "What's gonna happen? What do we do? Where do we go?"

Of course, we don't get any instant answers that way. That's like asking everyone in the waiting room at your doctor's office to tell you what you should do to treat your headache! LOL But the "communications" word—that's an issue we can examine and work on, with guidance from the same all-knowing source that will provide the answers to our "What's next?" question, in His own time.

At the Annual Conference, three speakers focused on all kinds of transitions to celebrate, and provided communication strategies that would serve the greater church as well as individual churches as much needed tools. While we wait to hear more of God's plan for our transitions for church leadership and possibly new missions, I'd like to share what excited me about focusing our messaging practices to each other and to our communities.

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos-Núñez opened the conference with words to set the tone for letting the work and the worship soak in. He set this as an agenda to be followed, in order of priority for the work to be done.

1. Worship the Risen Christ and learn.
 - What if we set a moment for each day to consider the amazing love, creativity, power, etc. of God?
2. Celebrate the lives of those who have served / are serving the church faithfully.
 - It's hard to be "judgy" with someone when you remember they were the first one in and the last one out on a project, or dropped a cake off for a family in need with no fanfare. Some of us seem to be involved in a lot, behind the scenes!
3. Welcome a new class of spiritual leaders.
 - Besides a new pastor, the members of the nominating community will soon be looking for new leaders on every mission team. By the way, I hope you'll consider their calls!
4. Reflect on our shared ministry's realities, challenges, and opportunities.
 - Few tasks run smoothly
5. Discern and decide on various important resolutions
 - We can't wait to start working together on the various improvement projects and mission directions we can go as we head forward!
6. Organize our mission together for 2025-26. Let's truly love our neighbors!

Bishop Robin Dease focused on the fact that when people are experiencing a crisis, they need a message of hope. The bishop reminded conference-goers that we, like preachers, have the opportunity to share the hope of Jesus with those who are in the midst of despair.

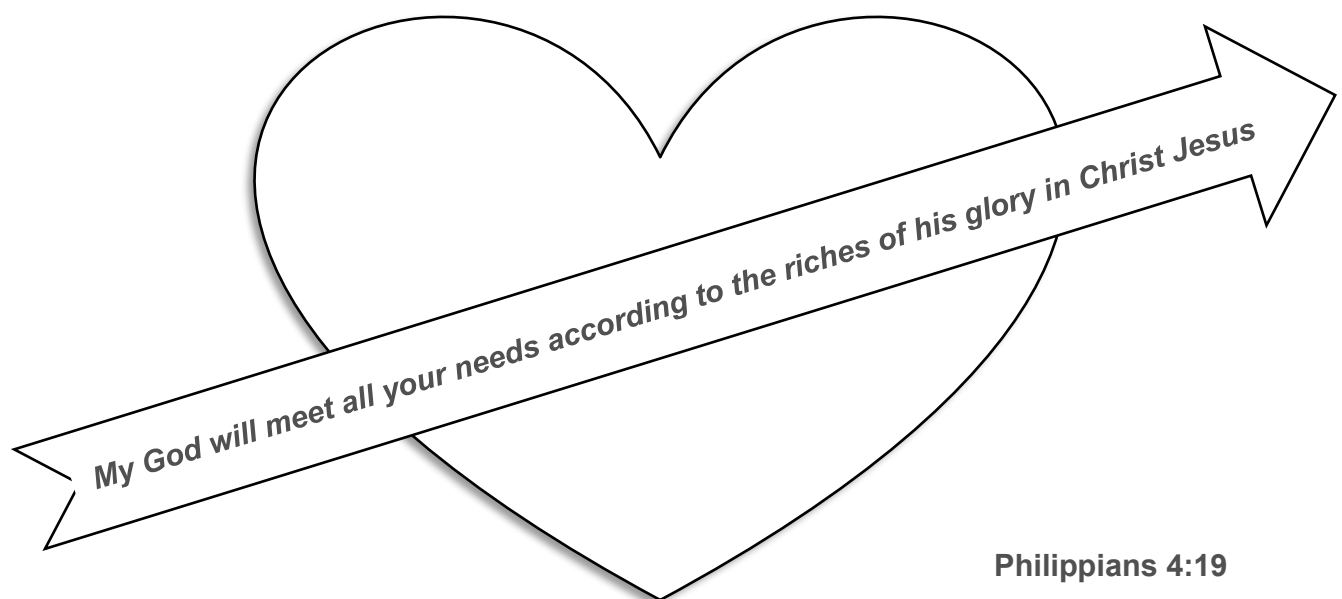
She brought her audience into a deeper understanding of Acts 4:1-20, highlighting the ministry of Peter and John and their refusal to keep quiet about what they had experienced. Having healed a well-known lame beggar through the power of the Holy Spirit as foretold by Jesus, they had provided an amazing witness for the truth of Jesus' resurrection. Our world today needs preachers and witnesses who are not afraid to speak up about the injustices around them. Our communities and neighbors need to experience the love of Jesus through us.

Bishop Dease exclaimed that there is a difference between “speaking” and “preaching.” Every baptized person is to offer a word of hope to those around them. That is the greater work of the church. We are challenged to step out of a place of comfort and start sharing hope with others. Our world is hurting and broken, and people are looking for answers. It is time to start living out the commands of Jesus **boldly**.

Matthew Shineman, believes that stories hold us together. “As Director of Communications, I see communication not merely as the transfer of information, but as an act of connection. The messages we craft, the stories we tell, the images we capture - these are the threads that weave us together across distances and differences. At its best, communication builds community. It helps us see and hear one another and reminds us that we belong to something larger than ourselves. It bridges gaps, nurtures relationships, and grounds us in our shared mission. Because in the end, communication isn’t just about what’s happened - it’s about helping us remember who we are and imagine who we’re Becoming.

I don’t know about you, but I get an awful lot of ads, news (“news”?) articles, social media post tags, newsletters, photos, and updates on my laptop. It’s always tempting to delete, skim past, or refile and forget half of them. But at a deeper level they are part of a living story. They help us remember what we’ve experienced, reflect on where God is moving, and carry the intention of his plans into the days ahead. Every testimony, report, devotional, sermon and study group reflection made along the way contributes to the unfolding narrative of what it means to be the Church. In telling these stories, we bear witness to God’s presence - not only in the grand moments, but in the quiet, everyday ones, too.

i’ve heard Jeff Merkert speculate on whether the human brain is constructed specifically to respond to storytelling. That would explain our tendency to start so many conversations with, “This one time...” and “The other day, my dog...” and even, “You’ve seen the ‘National Treasure movies, Right? Remember when Riley...” And if you think about it, Jesus did a whole lot of storytelling! But fancier, ‘cause, you know—parables. My hope is that the communications you encounter as we move forward are more than updates - they are insights into the motivations and fears and strengths of our neighbors. The touchpoints that lead to connections. Reminders that we are all part of God’s glorious creation.





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

June 29-July 5 & July 6-12

Please Pray for all Churches and Pastors going through this time of transition these two weeks.

July 13-19

Factoryville UMC, Factoryville
Grace UMC, Hummelstown
Breezewood UMC, Breezewood
Madera UMC, Madera
Daggett UMC, Millerton
Wesley Forest Camp & Retreat Center, Weikert

July 20-26

Hopewell UMC, Hopewell
Park UMC, Coudersport
**Campbell Town UMC, Campbell Town – Sierra Leone*
Big Spring UMC, Newville
Trinity UMC, Bellefonte
Pine Mill UMC, Equinunk
Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center, Windsor, NY

July 27-August 2

Summerdale UMC, Summerdale
St Pauls Nordmont UMC, Muncy
Valley Central UMC, Honesdale
Milesburg UMC, Milesburg
St. Luke's UMC, Shade Gap
Camp Penn Camp & Retreat Center, Waynesboro

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY 2025

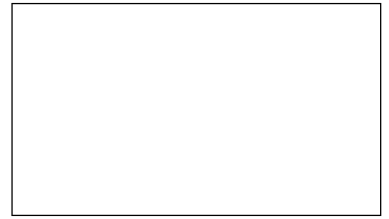
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Praise Team 6pm	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5
6 Meet Pastor Blanca & family 9am Prayer Meeting 6pm	7	8 Men's Breakfast 8am Daycare Board 6pm Men's Alliance 6:30pm	9 Transition Team 7pm SEND Core 7pm	10 Praise Team 6pm Trustees 7pm	11 "Luke in the Land" bible study 9am LAST DAY of NEW CREATION STATION	12
13 Prayer Meeting 6pm	14 Finance 7pm	15 Men's Breakfast 8am Men's Alliance 6:30pm	16	17 Praise Team 6pm	18	19
20 CHURCH COMBINED WORSHIP & PICNIC Service 10am Picnic 11:30am Prayer Meeting 6pm	21	22 Men's Breakfast 8am Men's Alliance 6:30pm	23 SEND Ext 7pm	24 Praise Team 6pm	25 "Luke in the Land" bible study 9am	26
27 Prayer Meeting 6pm	28	29	30	31	Aug 1 August Love Letter deadline Monday	2 NEVER DIE CAR SHOW 11am

JULY Birthdays

7/3 Joan Lauer	7/9 Kimber Shermeyer Hofman
7/3 Danielle 'Dani' Ellicker	7/12 Mary Ann Rohrbaugh
7/6 Dorene Johnson	7/13 Jeff Merkert
7/7 Doug Ferry	7/25 Delaney McGlynn

Did we miss your special day? Let us know so we can include you next year.

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Deadline for August Love Letter is Monday morning, August 4.

Please submit your information to Kathleen Durgin, kdurgin2005@comcast.net.