

The PRESbyterian

"Learning, Loving, Giving--Christ Alive in the Believer"

August 2025

Volume LIV, Issue 8

Prayer Concerns

Mary Ellen Beans, Park Village Southside, 1019 Oldtown Valley Rd SE, Rm 26F, New Phila

Jane McEwan, 2594 E High Ave, Rm #110, New Phila

Carol Phillips, The Inn at Northwood Village, 5799 N Wooster Ave, Dover

Janis Stover, New Dawn Rehab, Rm 213 865 E Iron Ave, Dover

Marlene Singhaus, Park Village Care Center, Rm 409, 1525 N. Crater Ave, Dover

Ginny Stephenson, Schoenbrunn Health Center, Rm 112, 2594 E. High Ave, New Phila

Tables of Eight

Tables of Eight meal will be
Saturday, August 30th at 6pm.

The "Hearty Supper Night" will consist of campfire foil pack delight (hamburger, potatoes, onions, and carrots baked in foil), garden fresh toss up (green salad), and sweet endings desserts. Cost is \$10 per person. All are welcome! Bring a friend! We do ask that you RSVP to Carolyn Berry or the church office.



Construction Parking

As the construction of Jack's House of Hope takes place, we thank you for your patience in terms of parking at the church. Parking is available on the gravel lot along the fence and side alley, and on the street along East High Ave. The inner section closest to the door is reserved for handicap/limited mobility parking and drop off. Thank you for keeping the entrance to this clear (marked by cones)!

Jack's House of Hope Capital Campaign Project

Our church will be accepting donations toward the "Jack's House of Hope Capital Campaign"- the county homeless shelter renovation. We have already raised \$2585.00 toward their effort! Any who wish to contribute may mail their donations to the church office, give them during the Sunday offering, or visit the Friends of the Homeless website to donate online (<https://fohtusc.org/hoh/>).



Pentecost Offering

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent Pentecost special offering! We collected \$300 for Noah's Hope, the county child advocacy center. If you are interested in the work they do, visit their website at <https://www.noahshopecac.org/>.

Dress-a-Child

Thank you to everyone who donated toward Dress-a-Child, providing for back-to-school clothes and supplies for low income families. We have been able to raise \$480! We have also donated \$300 toward Harcatus Head Start, providing school supplies to children starting school.

School will be resuming this month! As always, be extra aware of children crossing streets and entering/exiting school buses! An extra glance could save a life!

Pastor's Corner

As Disciples of Christ, we are called to serve the LORD out of what we have and demonstrate a life which the Gospel makes possible. Our outreach, activities, services, and stances in the world all contribute to that representation. But there is also an area we are to cultivate, which some seem to underestimate its impact and potential: our inner selves. Loving others and making great impacts in the world go a long way to showing what the Church is capable of, but unless we care for ourselves we run out of the ability to love. Jesus says part of the greatest commandments are to "love our neighbor as ourselves." But what happens when we have no love for ourselves, no care for ourselves, and no understanding as to our limits? Many have called this condition "Compassion Fatigue" which contributes to the breakdown and burnout of caregivers and leaders. Caring so much for others has a price when it is not paired with consideration, and that applies to Christians just like those professionals.

When we are taught that life is about selfless giving, meeting the needs of anyone, never turning anyone away, it can produce a guilt within us that we are not doing enough. We can think we are disappointing the LORD when we cannot give people 100% of what they ask for, especially when those people turn around and criticize. I have been in this position one too many times and have had to reflect on what it means to give and serve those who I might not know. What does it mean to be considerate of my limits without guilt, and what the nature of my service means? Those thoughts have led me back to Jesus' words: "Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you" (Matthew 7:6).

While it might seem harsh for Jesus to tell his disciples this, it is set in a very specific way. This is during the Sermon on the Mount, when Jesus is teaching people what it means to live and obey the rule of the LORD before the interpretations of others. It comes right after the injunction about judging others too harshly and too unreasonably. About setting standards too high for others to reach but lowering the bar for yourself. To those who practice such double-standards they are missing on what the rule of the LORD is there to provide for all people: to know the LORD and his bounty through our relationships to others. That is not achieved by just throwing money at someone and expecting them to do right with it. To those who do not understand they must be taught, explained, and challenged with what they truly want and expect. We do not give and help just for people to go back to their lives which set them in such a condition to begin with. That warning of Jesus is there to make us aware our service is also the relationships we form, and are redeemed, when right actions permeate and reveal what is harmful.

The odds that people will walk away from such interactions, and criticize, will be high because no one wants to be told they are wrong. But that also starts the process of planting a seed within them, allowing the teachings of Jesus to remain and work on them, and give them a consideration they never had before. And it all comes from our own consideration, why we serve, and what we are wanting to achieve from each interaction and relationship with have. As Christians, we are called to reintroduce the world back to its Creator- and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the story and message to ease that learning and transition. Loving ourselves amid service means understanding our own actions and intentions will not impact as heavily as the Word can for people's situations. Simply being integral to the message, truthful in teaching, and open in its application will allow for work that is more rewarding because we will see true power at work. Service is about letting go of what we want and expect, and ready to see where the divine Spirit will go and act to build a people needed in this time and age. **-Rev. Joe**

See you in church!

Sunday Study Group

Join us **Sunday Mornings at 9:15am** for our study group! We will be reading through "Practicing the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence. Anyone, and everyone, is welcome to join!



"First Celebration" Sunday

Join us on **August 3** as we celebrate Holy Communion during service and Church Brunch following service. Come and enjoy the fellowship of the saints!

Cookies for Sundays!

What's your favorite cookie? Do you have a recipe you just love to make? Every Sunday (except for the first Sunday of the month) we have cookies and coffee in the fellowship hall following the service. Would you like to bring cookies to share? They can be home baked, purchased from a bakery, store bought—it doesn't matter! Sign up in the church office!



Friends of the Homeless Meal

Our monthly Friends of the Homeless dinner will be held on **August 10** at 6pm. While we are fully funded for the monthly meals, please consider donating toward the FOTH General Operations or the Jack's House of Hope Project.

ONLINE MINISTRY

All online worship content (including pastor's messages, bulletins, and newsletters) are available on the church website (www.newphilapc.org). Mailings of weekly services are available upon request to the church office.

Greeters and Ushers

We need volunteers for liturgists, worship stewards, greeters/ushers, and cookies each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is available in the office to volunteer, or you may call the church office to sign up.

Session Members:

Class of 2025: Renee Miskimmin (clerk), Craig Stewart

Class of 2026: Ethelyn Ann Eichel, Gail Hedges

Class of 2027: Doug McIntire, Sally Walker

Deacon Members:

Class of 2025: Carolyn Berry

Class of 2026: Jackie Stutz

Class of 2027: Bonnie Majewski

Office Hours:

8:00am-3:00pm Monday - Thursday
Closed: Friday

Church Email and Phone:

office@newphilapc.org
330-343-7114

Our Church:

Sunday School: 9:15am

Worship Service: 10:30am

Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:00am in the pastor's office

Do you have something to add to the newsletter? Please call or email the church office by the 20th of the month for placement in the following newsletter.

August 2025

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

EVERY SUNDAY 9:15am- Sunday Study Group 10:30am- Worship Service followed by coffee and cookies in the fellowship hall					1 Office Closed	2
3 Communion All Church Brunch	4	5 6pm- Jack's House of Hope Committee Meeting	6 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting	7	8 Office Closed	9
10 6pm- FoH Meal	11	12	13 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting	14	15 Office Closed	16
17	18	19 7pm- Session Meeting	20 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting	21	22 Office Closed	23 6pm Tables of Eight Dinner (RSVP, \$10pp, all are welcome!)
24	25 6pm FoH Board Meeting	26 7pm Finance Meeting	27 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting	28	29 Office Closed	30
31	August Birthdays: 1 st : Janis Stover, Bill Titley; 4 th : Maxine Decker; 5 th : Ginny Stephenson; 8 th : Elizabeth Stephenson; 12 th : Barbara Campbell; 13 th : Lisa Laughin Munsell; 24 th : Jerry Bichsel; 29 th : Kandy Bichsel No August Anniversaries. If you'd like your birthday or wedding anniversary listed in the monthly newsletter, please let us know! Give us a call or email with the information you'd like included!					