

The PRESbyterian

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

August 2026

Volume LV, 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

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

Prayer Requests

In worship we are changing how we take prayer requests. All requests can be made on a weekly basis in worship or through the church office.



Dress-A-Child Offering

Thank you to everyone who donated to the local Dress-A-Child Program! Together with our mission budget we raised \$640!

Tables of Eight

Join us **Saturday, July 22nd** in the fellowship hall—RSVP required, \$10 per person, all are welcome! The meal will be pot roast, potatoes, signature salad, garden carrots, dinner bread, and homemade pies. **RSVP to Carolyn or in the office by July 13th!**



Muskingum Valley Presbytery Stated Meeting

On **September 19** our church will be hosting our Presbytery for its stated fall meeting. We are looking for volunteers to aid in preparation, food service, and clean up for that day. If you are interested in helping please contact Rev. Joe!



Construction Parking

Our new parking lot and entrance are complete and able to be used again! Thank you to Coblenz Renovations and Friends of the Homeless for this much needed upgrade!

Pastor's Corner

We live in a world of increasing change and uncertainty; in terms of government, economics, technology, and other aspects of life it seems like many are struggling to understand their role within a changing world. It causes feelings of anxiety, fear, mistrust, uncertainty, anger, and a host of other feelings showing people's struggle to adapt and find meaning. However, this all brings to mind a certain saying: "As many things change, some things stay the same." We may be dealing with new technology, new historical conditions, but the same problems humanity has always struggled with since the start of time. And the Church, with the gospel of Jesus Christ, has sought to provide those internal answers to help provide for exterior problems.

One may have heard the term "Catholic Social Teaching", which is a specific set of teachings and instructions first developed by the Roman Catholic Church to guide the faithful in their engagements with the world. Every major denomination now has some kind of social guiding or teachings to current events and social issues when they pop up. Some might look at that and see the Church as trying to be controlling people, the world, and its problems. But the Church is not seeking power for itself, or seeking to directly control people or institutions, but bring consideration of what is best for the faithful in following Jesus Christ.

In the Sunday Study Group, we have read one of the foundational letters of modern Christian social teaching *Rerum Novarum* ("Of New Things"). Written by Pope Leo XIII in 1891 in the height of the Industrial Revolution it speaks about the essentials of the Christian life in light of emerging socialism and capitalism's backlash against it. Saying that people in different social classes have a divine dignity being made in God's image and should be respected, workers have a right to a fair wage and private property to provide for families and communities, that state socialism and unregulated capitalism are threats to that dignity and present a distraction to deeper problems, issues and problems should be talked about and solved on the local level and not imposed by larger forces, and that the Church's role should be to foster cooperation and mediation between different peoples for a common goal. And there is one point in the letter where Pope Leo XIII declares: "Those who rule the commonwealths should avail themselves of the laws and institutions of the country; masters and wealthy owners must be mindful of their duty; the working class, whose interests are at stake, should make every lawful and proper effort; and since religion alone, as We said at the beginning, can avail to destroy the evil at its root, all men should rest persuaded that main thing needful is to re-establish Christian morals, apart from which all the plans and devices of the wisest will prove of little avail." Christians should be careful that their associations do not become distractions and realize that it is the teachings of Jesus Christ which can heal the wounds of the world from the truest evil working behind the scenes.

We face such conditions again as Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents another disruption to the world and our lives, and how we must consider and use it to stay true to our God-gifted image. The newest Pope, Pope Leo XIV, wrote a teaching on the Christian use of AI, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magificent Humanity") and issued it on the anniversary of the publication of *Rerum Novarum*. You are invited to join us Sundays at 9:15am as we discuss and seek understanding of our continued discipleship of the world in light of this emerging change and understand more of who we are and not what someone else desires us to become. **-Rev. Joe**



Sunday Study Group

Join us **Sunday Mornings at 9:15am** for our study group! Anyone, and everyone, is welcome to join! Details are available through Rev. Joe!



Friends of the Homeless Meal

Our monthly Friends of the Homeless Meal will be on **August 16** at 6pm.

Volunteers can sign up through the church office. While meal funds are good, if you wish to contribute please mark your donation as "Homeless Shelter Meals".

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.

"First Celebration" Sunday

Join us on **August 2** as we celebrate Holy Communion during service, and brunch afterward. All are welcome!

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!



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 2026: Ethelyn Ann Eichel, Gail Hedges

Class of 2027: Doug McIntire, Sally Walker

Class of 2028: Pat Laporte, Craig Stewart

Deacon Members:

Class of 2026: Jackie Stutz

Class of 2027: Bonnie Majewski

Class of 2028: Ruth Joyce Zimmerly

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 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg		Office Closed	1
2 Communion All-Church Brunch	3	4	5 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	6	7 Office Closed	8
9 6pm-FoH Meal	10	11	12 NO Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	13	14 Office Closed	15
16	17	18 7pm- Session Mtg	19 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	20	21 Office Closed	22 6:00pm- Tables of Eight Meal- All are welcome! Please RSVP
23	24	25 7pm Finance Mtg	26 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	27	28 Office Closed	29
30	31	August Birthdays! 1st: Bill Titley; 4th: Maxine Decker; 5th: Ginny Stephenson; 8th: Elizabeth Stephenson; 12th: Barbara Campbell; 13th: Lisa Laughlin Munsell; 24th: Jerry Bichsel. No August Anniversaries. We'd like to announce your birthday and wedding anniversary in the newsletter! Please help us to make sure we have your special day by calling the church office to let us know!				