

The PRESbyterian

"Learning, Loving, Giving--Christ Alive in the Believer"
December 2025 Volume LIV, Issue 12

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
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

Poinsettia Orders

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia plant for the Christmas Eve service, please fill out a form either from your church bulletin or call the office. Each plant is \$10 and can be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Eve Service

Join us on **December 24 at 7pm** for our annual Christmas Eve service! Bring your family and friends as we celebrate the birth of divine love together!

New Member

We want to welcome Sarah Miller as a new member of our church! Join us in service on December 7 as we affirm her faith and baptism and welcome her into our community!

Tables of Eight

There will be no Tables of Eight dinner for December. We will resume next year! Have a blessed holiday season!

December Special Offerings

During the month of December, we will be having a special offering to benefit the PCUSA's Christmas Joy Offering- benefiting clergy students and retirees. Also for Share-A-Christmas- a local effort to provide Christmas gifts to low-income families. Please help to support these wonderful causes!

Church Organist

We want to welcome Diane Troendly as our official new church organist! Come and get to know her as she blesses our church with the gift of her music!

My initial piano teacher was Mary Sue Schlegel of Sugarcreek. I couldn't have asked for a more wonderful experience. She had me competing in contests, attending monthly music club meetings at the Dover library and challenging me to become the musician I am today.

I started as church organist for my home church, St Peter's United Church of Christ, Fiat, outside of Baltic, OH at the age of 14. Through the rest of my high school and college career I continued to play at Fiat as well as substituting at the Baptist and Methodist churches in West Lafayette.

I attended Muskingum College, majoring in music education with my main instrument being piano. I studied pipe organ, and French horn as well as voice.

In the fall of 1975, I began my long career as a Lutheran organist, choir director and bell choir director. I served the churches of Emmanuel Lutheran in Coshocton, St. John's Lutheran in Zanesville, Christ Lutheran in Cambridge and am presently playing one Sunday a month at Emmanuel Lutheran in N Phila.

My teaching career began at River View School District in Warsaw in 1976. My career took me on to St. Nicholas Catholic School and Zanesville City Schools in Zanesville and I retired from East Muskingum School District in New Concord in 2014. Through my career I taught music at every level including undergrad and graduate classes at Muskingum University.

For many years I taught private piano lessons but when COVID hit I decided I was finished with that aspect of my life.

My husband and I moved to Dover the last week of 2020 after having sold our house in New Concord. We both grew up in Coshocton County, and spent many hours in the Dover, New Phila area. It felt like we had come home.

We have two daughters and two grandsons who live on opposite ends of the US so we do travel quite a bit. I want to thank you for welcoming me as your guest organist these past few months and being flexible with my Sundays away.



Pastor's Corner

As the end of the Christian year turns into the season of Advent and Christmas, we recognize and celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into our lives. From the moment we recognized our need for divine mercy, to the anticipation of Christ's physical coming, and his rule over us right now. We proclaim Christ as king, but what kind of king is he? Looking at the world and the seemingly never-ending conflicts, crisis, corruptions, scandals, and sufferings experienced by many we must ask what our king is doing? Amid the countless disappointments of leaders in the secular and religious realms, and in our personal lives, what does our king bring? If a king is supposed to bring order amid chaos, then what is our king accomplishing right now?

But perhaps the kind of kingship, the kind of leadership, we expect is much different than what is promised.

Perhaps our expectations are too engrossed in the way the world does things we do not recognize the power actually at work. To be a king does not just rely on having the firmest power, the largest army, the most advanced of weapons, the slickest propaganda, but the ability to set and teach the better example.

Since the beginning kingship has always been about representing the will of the divine in this world, and Israel's monarchy about teaching what the way of the LORD is supposed to produce. Not to empower, enrich, and elevate one certain group of people to the status of gods on earth. But to demonstrate how the

LORD rules and controls this world already through what we choose as our source of devotion and behavior. Jesus Christ, in his life and ministry, chose what was better and demonstrated that devotion even when evil attempted to stomp him out of existence. He proved what it means to be the ideal servant of the

LORD, what it means to trust in the LORD with our whole heart and understanding, and how we are changed by that action and position.

The coming of Christ is not just a far-off event to experience later, or which separates us from the problems of the world. His kingship, his power, is for our time and makes us aware of what we are empowered to do in the face of human problems. No matter what the issue of the day may be; economic struggle, political infighting, loss of compassion, apathy, and more it is Jesus who sets the tone on how we are to respond.

That response, that example, that higher ideal is what is celebrated because it is the one teaching that does not have human origins. It is a reminder from the LORD, it is divine prodding, to make us examine ourselves and realize who we can be in any circumstance. Every day we live is a chance to express what is better, the love that can restore and bring others back from the brink. In this season of thanks and celebration, let us remember that our king already rules and already commands so we might not fear anything we are about to face next. **-Rev. Joe**

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/>).



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)!

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 **December 7** 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 **December 14** 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.

December 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	2	3 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	4	5 Office Closed	6
7 Communion All Church Brunch	8	9 6pm- Jack's House of Hope Committee Mtg	10 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	11	12 Office Closed	13
14 6pm- FoH Meal	15	16 7pm- Session Mtg	17 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	18	19 Office Closed	20
21	22	23 7pm Finance Mtg	24 Office Closed 7pm- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8pm- AA Mtg	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28	29	30	31 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3
4 Communion All-Church Brunch	December Birthdays: 7 th - Kathleen McEwan; 19 th - Alice Jacobs; 29 th - Virginia Cassady, Carolyn Grasselli 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!					