

The PRESbyterian

"Learning, Loving, Giving--Christ Alive in the Believer"
January 2026 Volume LV, Issue 1

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



Tables of Eight

From Our Kitchen to You: A January Gathering

The Tables of Eight meal will be held on Saturday, January 31st at 6pm in the fellowship hall. The meal will include: House signature salad; Soup Trio: Cream Potato Soup, Garden Harvest Vegetable Soup, and Classic Homestyle Chicken Noodle Soup; Fresh baked dinner rolls; assorted desserts.

Dinner is \$10 per person. All are welcome but reservations are needed. Please contact the church office or Carolyn Berry to reserve your spot!



Baptism of the Lord Sunday

During worship service on January 11, we will be remembering Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River and taking a chance to remember and renew our own baptisms too. Come and join us for this special service of renewal and remembrance!

Mission Giving

Thanks to your generous support and pledges to the church, the mission committee has been able to donate significantly to several local organizations this season: Friends of the Homeless, Jack's House of Hope, Noah's Hope, T4C, Beneath the Shade, Share-A-Christmas, and the Dover-New Philadelphia Food Pantry.

Consider the organizations our church helps to support as you consider your pledges and donations for 2026!



Pastor's Corner

As we pass into the season of Christmas, we are by no means leaving it behind us! The entrance of Christ into the world, the bestowing of the LORD's presence into our lives, has only begun and deepens as we proceed into the story of Jesus' ministry and teachings. Starting with his baptism we consider the promises made to this "Son of God" and to us as well; a promise of cleansing, renewal, and purpose apart from the expectations sometimes imposed by others. A reminder of what we are set apart to do, and how we have been made different now. Not because we are somehow 'better' or 'superior' than anyone else, but because of the mission of taking what was divinely given to us and bestowing it to others. To make others aware of why this Jesus is worth listening to, knowing, and following.

The explanation of why Jesus is called the "Son of God" has to do with the earliest promises the LORD has made to his people, fulfilling historical needs which seem to cycle all the way to our modern time. Israel faced political, military, and cultural problems by many of their ancestral enemies and mighty empires seeking to assimilate and use them for their own purposes. The LORD promises that there will be one who will always sit on the throne of King David, to keep the people united and allow the knowledge of God to fill all people who come in expectation and curiosity. That is what brought the wise men from the East to seek after a strange star, what brought the shepherds out of the fields when others kept them at arm's length, and what caused the sitting king Herod to order the murder of all the children in Bethlehem. The king of Israel was one ordained to teach and order the people according to the covenant, the holy instruction, handed down from the Hebrew scriptures. To ensure the divine way was kept alive, taught, and exemplified for all peoples of the world to seek out in their time of need. In Jesus, this promise of divine wisdom and order is found and rightly challenges all other sources of authority and expectation in our lives. It is a challenge to us about what we see as life-giving and worthy of our limited time and efforts, which the Bible says time-after-time belongs to the LORD- our one and only Creator.

Proceeding into the new year, into the life and ministry of Jesus, we will be challenged with the authority of this anointed king over us and discover what he offers which others cannot. How he explains human life and behavior in a way others cannot explain. About what it means to have a truly united people and society without the superficialness others dress it up with. And what our lives and efforts really are about in a way that can liberate and free us instead of making us subscribe to the conditions of the latest trend. Jesus is about recovering the true life that others seek to possess, and enjoying how wonderfully made we are within the divine image! The Christmas story is just the start of discovering a hope and opportunity which lasts year-round, and gets even more special every time we gather to learn from it! **-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 \$3585.00 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)!

Anticipated repaving and expansion of the parking lot is estimated to begin this coming spring.

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!



“First Celebration” Sunday

Join us on **January 4th** 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 **January 11th** 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.

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.

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.

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.

January 2026

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 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Office Closed	3
4 Communion All Church Brunch	5	6	7 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	8	9 Office Closed	10
11 6pm- FoH Meal	12	13 6pm- Jack's House of Hope Committee Mtg	14 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	15	16 Office Closed	17
18	19 Martin Luther King, Jr Day Offices Closed	20 7pm- Session Mtg	21 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	22	23 Office Closed	24
25	26 6pm- Friends of the Homeless Board Mtg	27 7pm Finance Mtg	28 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	29	30 Office Closed	31

January Birthdays: 11th: Angele Chamberlain; 20th: Hannah Miles; 30th: Michele Davis

No January 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!