



NCPC *August 2025* *Newsletter*

Thank You

A BIG "Thank You" to everyone who contributes to our Food Bank collection basket. Totals so far for 2025 are:

January - 63#
February - 48#
March - 21#
April - 48#
May - 61#
June - 32#
July - 49#

Based on an average person's intake of 4# of food per day, we've fed about 80 people so far this year.

Remember - it's easy to add a few extra items to the grocery cart to help those less fortunate.

Blessings to all,
Carl & Jean Sidebottom

Reminder:

Sunday, August 3, is our Food Collection day for the Reno County Food Bank. Please remember to put your donations in the basket by the Church Office.

Your help is very much appreciated—thank you for your generosity!



August Events

Sunday, August 10

11:45 am, Fellowship Potluck—Centennial Cookbook, Fellowship Hall

Monday, August 11

6:00 pm, Missions Meeting, Library

Thursday, August 14

7:00 pm, Session Meeting, Library

Saturday, August 16

6:00 pm, Scripture Singles @ Beth Oliver's

Wednesday, August 27

1:30 pm, Kneedles & Hooks, Promise Room

CHOIR MEMBERS:

Choir rehearsals will
begin again on Wednesday,
September 3rd,
at 7:00 pm,
in the Choir Room.
See you there!



A Word from the Pastor

"Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness." (Psalm 29:3b)

Beloved,

Elsewhere in this month's newsletter is an article from our Worship elder, Cheryl Canfield, expressing her thanks, on behalf of the entire congregation, to certain members of the congregation who are now stepping down after having dedicated many years assisting in the worship service. In addition, with their stepping down we are also asking for others to prayerfully consider stepping up to fill these roles.

And this got me to thinking about worship in general. Why do we gather together each week for worship? What is the purpose of worship? Who or what should be the focus of our worship? Since worship is on our minds (at least, mine), I'd like to take a little time this month focusing on that most important part of the life of the church.

Worship involves acknowledging who God is. That He is, in the words of John Calvin, "the only source of all virtue, justice, holiness, wisdom, truth, power, goodness, mercy, life, and salvation." And, so, the purpose of worship is "to ascribe and render to God the glory of all that is good, to seek all things in Him alone, and in every want to have recourse to Him alone" (from 'The Necessity of Reforming the Church'). Or, as we see in the Scripture listed above, we "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name." Which leads then, to "Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness."

The English word 'worship' derives from the Old English term *weorthscipe*, which means "worthiness" or "acknowledgment of worth." And so, we worship God because we acknowledge that God, alone, is worthy to be praised. We praise Him for His character and for His mighty and merciful works.

Worship is the chief priority of the people of God, and a motivating factor in our Lord's salvation of a people for Himself. Exodus 3:12 explains that God redeemed His people Israel from Egypt so that they would serve Him. And the way they were to serve God was to include feasting and sacrifice, two central elements in the act of worship. So, we can see that one of the primary purposes for God's salvation of humanity is to create a people who will worship Him.

Which leads to that all important question, then, 'Who should be the focus of our worship?' Too often in the church today, that question gets completely missed. Or, rather, misunderstood. For, in so many churches all the attention seems to be focused on the worshiper rather than on the One who is worshiped. And so, the focus goes to worship style – whether traditional or contemporary? Music style – praise songs or hymns? Instruments – guitars and drums or piano/organ? Sermon content – Scripture based or self-help? Why, with some churches it seems their greatest concerns are whether the coffee bar is stocked well enough or whether it would be more 'user friendly' to call the place where people gather the Auditorium rather than the Sanctuary.

What I'm getting at is that in many churches worship has become solely self-focused rather than God focused. Where the most important consideration when it comes to worship is the entertainment value of the proceedings, or 'What am I getting out of this?' Rather than asking the question 'Are we giving proper reverence and honor to God? Are we worshiping the Lord in the splendor of His holiness?'

(continued on next page)

A Word from the Pastor, Continued

Truly, this is the question we need to be asking – ‘What does God want?’ That’s the very first question we should ask, isn’t it? Because we’re not worshipping worship. We’re not worshipping one another. We’re not worshipping ourselves. We’re worshipping God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And so, our worship should be – must be – shaped according to who He is and what He wants.

That’s why you will always hear four particular words proclaimed every Sunday at the start of our time together in the sanctuary. We say them because they describe perfectly and exactly why we are here and what it is we intend to do. You may be wondering, ‘What are these words?’ Or, in light of the theme of this article, you can probably guess them already. As your pastor I am committed to always upholding these words whenever we are gathered together as a body of Christ. And, praise God, I know Cheryl, and the rest of the Worship team, and everybody who takes part each Sunday in our worship service are just as committed to upholding those words, as well. And, beloved, may the same also be said of each and every person who enters into our sanctuary every Sunday. For they are the words that truly describe why we are here and what we are here to do. They are those powerful and mighty and lovely words: “Let us worship God!”

As always, see you in Church. And, once again, let us worship God! Amen.

Pastor Craig

A Note From Janet

Over the summer months, Janet is sharing some information from an article she read recently. August is Part 3.

The Importance of Church Choirs—Part 3

According to the National Congregational Study only 37 % of mainline churches and 35 % of evangelical churches use choirs during worship. But there are still a lot of folks who believe in the critical importance of a church choir during their worship service. Here are some more reasons that a choir can be vital to churches.

7. Choirs can encourage musical diversity.

Choir members are often more musically diverse in their appreciation of different styles of music due to their music experiences. It's possible that they are fans of music from several centuries and not just music of a certain decade. Also, the church-at-large is bigger than one style of music, and most congregation members want to hear and to participate in singing different styles of songs.

8. Choirs teach the art and discipline of music.

Research shows that musical training helps children with their cognitive and social growth. However many schools have cut the funding for the arts and music programs. One place where younger and older people can learn the discipline of music without having to pay for lessons is in a church where there is music by individuals, choirs, and everyone willing to participate.

There is a spiritual richness in diversity of music in worship. Celebrate your choir every time they sing. Enjoy and be enriched by hymns, instrumental music and congregational singing.

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to...

Kerry & Renee Robinson, on the birth of their granddaughter, Harper Elizabeth, daughter of their son and daughter-in-law, Steven & Abby.

Condolences to...

Ray Reade and family, on the passing of his brother, Bill Reade.

If you know of any information that should be included in the newsletter, please notify Julia in the church office.

Thank You..

Dear New Covenant Family,
Thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, visits, food, and tree damage care during our surgery recovery this year.

~ Ellis & Suzanne Meeks

Dear Church Family,
I apologize for getting this thank you out to you late, my church family. Thank you to everyone for your love and prayers over the last 7 years. It was a long journey, but we wouldn't have made it without you all. Your support meant everything to us. I have been asked several times if I was planning on moving. Why would I? My family is here!

Thank you,
Jane Langvardt

Kneedles & Hooks

Wednesday, August 27
At 1:30 pm
In the Promise Room



Do you like to knit or crochet? Well, we have LOTS of yarn to make warm scarves and hats for those in need. Please join us in making items to keep local schoolchildren warm.

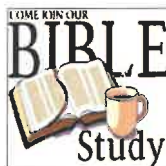
Last year we were able to donate more than 120 hats and scarves. We're trying to surpass that number this year!

Son-Rise Guys

Every Thursday morning, 7:00-8:00 am
In the Church Library

"Son-Rise Guys" are currently studying Proverbs. It is on the "Wisdom of Fathers to Sons & of Mothers to Daughters."

We all start out simple, but mature to wisdom. A Band of Brothers studying God's Word together—it doesn't get much better than that!



Deacons Corner

Deacon Meeting: We are on break for the summer—our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in the Church Library.

Deacon Greeters for August

Gail Estes Annie Gajewski
Jan Lindwall

August Ushers

Jane Langvardt
Ellis & Suzanne Meeks
Carol Stone; Al Sowers



NEW COVENANT WOMEN'S NEWS



Ladies, you have one more month off before we begin our next study. Be sure to watch your bulletin for more information!

August Recipe

Upside Down Brownies

Ingredients:

- 2/3 c flour
- 1 ½ c oatmeal
- 2/3 c brown sugar
- 1 c nuts, chopped
- ½ butter, melted
- 1 pkg brownie mix (for a 9x13 pan) – or your favorite recipe

~ submitted by Beth Oliver

Directions:

- Grease a jelly roll pan
- Preheat oven to 375°
- Mix flour, oatmeal, sugar and nuts
- Pour butter over dry ingredients and blend well
- Pack evenly in bottom of pan
- Mix brownies according to package directions.
- Spread evenly over oatmeal mixture
- Bake 35-40 minutes
- Turn upside down immediately (this works best in another jelly roll pan)
- Cool completely
- Cut into squares or rectangles and serve

Sudoku is easy to play and the rules are simple. Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain one instance of each of the numbers 1 through 9.

Sudoku #1399 (Easy)

	3			9				
		8	6	1	4			
		2				9	1	
			7	4		3		
6	1				3			4
		7			8			
						5	3	9
8		3		7				
					1	6		

Additional Sudoku puzzles as well as the solution can be found at the following web page: <https://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku>

Upcoming Missions Events:

August 16 – Community Fair on Sterling College Campus, New Covenant will have a “booth”. We hope to see many of you there!

October 11 – Open Door Health Services will be holding a Fall Family Festival. The fundraisers that they have had in the past were not as financially helpful as needed for Open Door, so they are looking forward to reaching out to the community with this new event.

November 9 – New Covenant will have a Missions Fair during the Sunday School hour, much like what we did two years ago. We hope to have representatives from many of the organizations that we support here with us that day.

Words of Worship

Today I recall the words to a song, “Praise the Lord, He never changes.” However, sometimes things in our church lives do change, and our response can also be an act of praise.

After several years of faithful service, Ray Reade has decided to step back from operating the sound system for worship services on Sunday mornings. I have special thanks and appreciation for his dedication as I have been temporarily substituting for him and learning how to operate the sound board. I have also begun to fully appreciate what Tom Swain does each week to prepare for worship and operate the visual equipment. We now pray before the service in the corner of the sanctuary where most of our audiovisual equipment sits because I realized how neglectful we have been in not recognizing these gentlemen as an integral part of the worship team.

Doing something new or stepping into a role once filled by someone else generally changes our perspective. Right now, I believe we have opportunities for individuals to fulfill tasks which may lead to a deeper appreciation of practical things that happen when we gather to worship the Lord.

God blessed us with the musical gifts of Andy and Lesa Brown when we needed them. Now that God is directing them elsewhere, their season with us is ending, although they plan to visit us when possible. Shirley, with prayerful consideration, has agreed to return and share the position of worship pianist with Jane Sell. For this, we give thanks, and welcome anyone who is interested in substituting for them or playing music for the Introit to contact a member of the worship team. As always, anyone interested in joining the choir or providing special music may contact Janet Mathews.

We now have four women who will share the task of baking Communion bread, something done for many years by Pam Knoche, for whose dedicated service we are also extremely grateful, and who is being given a well-deserved break from that particular commitment. I am especially grateful for Al Sowers, who recruits the ushers, and those currently serving, for their willingness to try something new in the way we receive the offering, as we have added a fourth person to the number needed. Volunteers are now needed to operate the sound system, and lighting the candles before each service is still an option for anyone who is interested.

As worship elder, my goal is to share responsibility among ourselves for the tasks we currently consider essential to a blessed worship experience, so that each person may have a weekly commitment for brief periods of time, much as we do now with ushers, lay leaders, and greeters. I hope that each member or person attending regularly will examine his or her spiritual gifts, experience, and confidence level, praying for God's guidance in how best to help when we gather to worship and glorify God. May none of us ever take for granted those around us who are serving the Lord, in any capacity, any aspect of life, for we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, looking forward to the ultimate service in His eternal Kingdom.

Respectfully—Cheryl Canfield, Worship Elder



August 2025 Mission Prayer Notes



Murray & Kathy Trim— TEAM—Japan

Pray wisdom and guidance for Murray and Kathy as they go about the work the LORD has led them to do there in Japan, teaching and sharing GOD'S message of salvation with the people HE brings into their lives. **Please pray** for their elderly mothers, Murray's in Nebraska and Kathy's near us in Pretty Prairie, both are in their 90's. They also have four grown and married children and grandchildren, two families are here in the U. S. and two are living and working in Japan. **Pray** health, strength and safety as they go about the work the LORD has called and given them to do.

Shelly Zadina – Medical Ambassadors – Albania & the U.S.

Pray for Shelly as she was getting over jet lag and her busy time in Albania, she is still having some problems with jet lag and getting back into a busy work schedule here in the U.S. **Pray for** her mom and dad. Her dad (John) is still in a nursing home facility in Salina. **Pray** for the older youth in Albania, who will be going to camp in August. Shelly is raising money for this project. AND the lady who was working with the women's group in Vashtemi got her visa and has gone to Germany, so they are in need of a new group leader.

Fredy and Djana JAVIER – Modern Day Missions—Macedonia

Pray for the Javier's - We are not getting recent updates on their work, but know they are working with a project they started there last year. Business as Mission is a plan called (SKYWAY), it provides an opportunity of giving remote (call center) assistance to the freight sector (Like a Freight Broker Agent). Their desire was/is to hire and give training to locals who are very fluent in English to do this job. In this way can they provide jobs and have the opportunity to create a new work culture based on Biblical principles and ultimately share the message of the Gospel with those working with them. **PRAY** for their children, **JAVI** (Shavi) and **SHARON**, and the needs in their lives.

The New Jerusalem / Children of Hope—School in Haiti

They are now on summer break. Some of the families live up in the mountains and are very poor. In summer's past, **VOLVICK** has purchased groceries and delivered to these families. With the impossibility of travel in Haiti now, he is unable to do that this summer. My most current information is that the gangs have moved into the area closer to the school and are VERY active. Haiti is a VERY DANGEROUS place right now. **Pray for** the teachers and school staff to have a SAFE, restful, refreshing summer break, so they are ready to return to their classrooms and other responsibilities if and when school can begin again. **Pray for VOLVICK** (principal of the school), as he continues to live and work in Port au Prince to support himself and help with some of the financial needs of the school and its families. (There are people who do the duties of Principal as both of the schools – elementary out in the countryside and secondary in the town called Verrettes.) **Pray for** his day to day safety in Port, everywhere there is very dangerous. Gangs are still very active and seem to be growing in size. **PRAY for the safety of all of the people living in this country.** I believe New Covenant is the only church helping to support the school, so let's keep VOLVICK, the students and teachers in our prayers during this very difficult and dangerous time.



LOCAL MINISTRIES

SOUP KITCHEN & CIRCLES OF HOPE—While we are not actually serving these organizations who minister to people and families in need in our community, we can pray for these organizations and the work they do.

LOADS OF LOVE—You are encouraged to share any laundry supplies that you do not wish to use for your own laundry or personal needs. If you have a question about something that might be usable, ask **Shirley Power**. **THANK YOU** to all who help fill the basket for **LOADS OF LOVE**. Remember as you travel or have opportunities to get personal care items any place, you might think about picking them up for **LOADS OF LOVE**. There is a basket in the hall, under the coat racks for things collected for them.

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LOCAL MINISTRIES (continued)

OPEN DOOR HEALTH SERVICES – **Pray** for those who work there as they minister to the needs of those who come to them for help and information. They are there to listen, answer questions, and support their clientele in any way they can. **Pray** for those who go to them for help, that they will be blessed and encouraged by the help they receive.

FOOD BANK – **THANK YOU** for your generous giving to the **FOOD BANK**. Your contribution for June was 32 pounds of food supplies and for July was 49 pounds. Thank you for your generosity as we use this opportunity to minister to those in need in our community. **THANKS** again to Carl and Jean Sidebottom and others for faithfully delivering items to the **FOOD BANK** for us.

YOUNG LIFE – From our Mission Budget, we help support our local **YOUNG LIFE** program. They work with young people in our community. They have activities and are involved with young people during the school year and have special activities for them in the summer. One of those is going to a summer camp. **PRAY** for those students going to camp for Summer 2025 and for the adults going with them. **Pray** that as God speaks to the young people that need to hear His message, whether in local activities or at camp, that they will hear and respond. Please, **Pray** also for the adults who help with the activities and minister to the young people in all of their activities. **PRAY** for all of the young people, throughout the U. S. who are attending a **YOUNG LIFE**, or other camp where they hear the Gospel message this summer. Camp is where kids get away from the pressures of everyday life, have fun with friends and Young Life or other leaders and hear the **GOSPEL** message in terms they can understand. **PRAY** for Grant Luttrell, the local **YOUNG LIFE** leader and the other adults in the Hutchinson area who work with young people and provide activities and build relationships and share the Gospel message with them.

STERLING COLLEGE – **PRAISE GOD** for the **GOOD MISSION** trips the **STERLING COLLEGE** students had this summer. There are more Mission trips planned for the upcoming school year. New Covenant will be involved in an activity on **August 16** on the campus at **Sterling**, we want to make our church known to the Staff and Students there. Let's begin to **PRAY** and ask **GOD** to lead some of them, faculty and/or students to come and share in our ministry here. **We are very thankful** for the opportunities we have had in the past several months to be involved with special activities involving students and staff at **Sterling** and ask **GOD** to give us more opportunities in the coming school year. **PRAY** for the faculty, staff and students as they begin a new school year – their first day of classes is August 30th.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR FIRST CALL FOR HELP – There are new guidelines and suggestions for **SCHOOL SUPPLY ITEMS** we can provide through **FIRST CALL FOR HELP** for those students in need of help. There are new options this year. There will be inserts in the August bulletins, as well as lists near the collection boxes by the church entryways.

OTHER MISSION INTERESTS & CONCERNS

Zach and Ellie Robson – **PRAY** for Zach and Ellie as they go about the ministry **GOD** has led them to do. **PRAY** for the contacts and relationships that **GOD** puts into their lives.

PRAY that people will hear and respond to the message they are sharing.

PRAISE GOD for the safe arrival of their second son, **RIVER**, for the boys to be healthy and grow strong, both physically and spiritually. **PRAY** that they will be an asset to their parent's ministry, as they attract people, babies and young children have a way of doing that.

Family of Interest– **PRAY** for their families who are not with them, as they are in **very dangerous** situations. **PRAISE GOD** for the new arrival who is growing each and every day, and is a healthy sweet baby. **PRAY** for the older child who will go to school here this fall. **PRAY** that it will be a good year for her. **PRAY** for strength, wisdom and **GOD'S GUIDANCE** for this family.

THANK YOU EVERYONE who helps with your **generous contributions** to all of the organizations we help support. Let's continue to pray for those that we support with finances. You can see all of these on the Mission Bulletin Board in the hallway going to the Fellowship Hall.

THANKS FOR ALL OF YOUR PRAYERS for all of our **Missionaries** and they work that **GOD** has called them to do. **THEY** need our prayers. Let's keep all of our local ministries in our prayers.



August 2025
Newsletter

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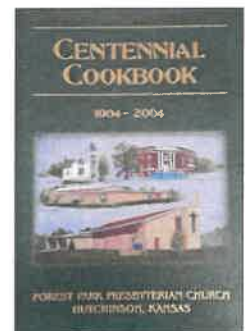
Rev. Craig Waetke, Pastor
Email: pastorcraig@newcovenantpc.net

Julia Berdahl, Administrative Assistant
Email: secretary@newcovenantpc.net

Fellowship Footnotes

August Potluck

The secret is out! Do you have a copy of the Centennial Cookbook from Forest Park in 2004? We have plenty of extras if you would like one. The theme for this potluck is something from this cookbook. We had, and still have, many wonderful cooks who have shared their recipes. As you scan through the book, you will have memories of people floating through your mind as well as the foods they have shared. See you around the table Sunday, August 10, at 11:45 am.



September Potluck

Looking ahead – the Kansas State Fair is fast approaching – and our September 7 potluck theme will be Red, White, and Blue—not for our nation's flag, but for all the colors of ribbons you can win. What ribbon will you earn with your delicious dish?

Fix for Six—Hey Fix for Six-ers, it's time for another round of fun! I know many groups have had a hard time pulling off this small group fellowship due to illnesses, travel, family events, etc. But please don't give up! We want to keep this going! The signup sheet is in Fellowship Hall.