



Welcome July



NCPC
July 2025
Newsletter

July Events

Wednesday, July 2

6:00 pm, Missions Meeting, Library

Friday, July 4—Independence Day

Church Office Closed for holiday

8:00 pm, Fire & Ice—Ice Cream Social

Thursday, July 10

7:00 pm, Session Meeting, Library

Saturday, July 19

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

Sunday, July 22

6:30 pm, Christian Movie Night, Sanctuary

Wednesday, July 23

1:30 pm, Kneedles & Hooks, Promise Room

Tuesday, July 29

10:00 am, Ladies Summer Coffee

Reminder:

Sunday, July 6, 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!





A Word from the Pastor

"It is for freedom that Christ has set you free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1)

Beloved in Christ,

With the 4th of July soon upon us, thoughts of independence and of freedom are certainly on our minds. In the verse above from Galatians, we find the apostle Paul talking about freedom. But the freedom that Paul is addressing here is not political freedom, like what we celebrate on Independence Day, it is freedom from sin, and freedom from the judgment of God.

And, also, freedom from the Law, the 10 Commandments. A concept Paul reinforces by using the metaphor of a 'yoke of slavery;' that the Law acts as a burden to us being saved and, in essence, makes us slaves. And that it is because, in order to be declared righteous and holy before God and, therefore, be saved, one has to have perfect obedience to the Law. And perfect means not just once in a while, not just more often than not, perfect obedience always throughout the span of one's whole life.

That is an impossibility. We know it's impossible. The idea of it knocks us down to our knees and leaves us crying out for help. And so, with perfect obedience to the Law being what is required in order to be saved, it's no wonder that the Law would be looked at as a 'yoke of slavery' that burdens our life.

But, even so, Scripture tells us over and over again that the Law, rather than be something to cry about, and maybe even despise, is a delight and a joy and something that we love. The psalmist of Psalm 119, for example, exclaims, "Oh, how I love Your Law!" (verse 97).

So, how can it be both? How can it be something to which we proclaim our love and something that causes us to cry out in despair? It is because the ones who are able to proclaim those joyful words of love are the ones who know they have been set free from the yoke of the Law. And that has been done by our Law-giving, perfect Law-keeping, and Law-liberating Savior, Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Christ who has set us free; who has set us free from the yoke of slavery that is the Law.

Now, that does not mean that our life of freedom from the yoke of the Law that Jesus has delivered gives us the freedom to ignore the Law completely and, so, to do anything we want. Another freedom Jesus has delivered to us – in addition to freedom from death, and freedom from sin, and freedom from the judgment of God, AND freedom from the yoke of the Law, is the freedom to enjoy the many, many blessings we gain from the Law.

Think about all the ways the Law blesses us: it teaches us about God and about His righteousness, His holiness, and His justice; it restrains us in our desire to sin and opens our eyes and hearts to the heinous nature of our sin; it leads us to our knees in repentance as we cry out to God for help; it guides us in our lives as we strive to die more and more to sin and live all the more unto righteousness; and it calls on us to forever lift our eyes to Jesus Christ – the One who has given us freedom and has set us free in so many ways. All of this provided through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And so, beloved, whether it be on the 4th of July - the day where we celebrate our freedom from political oppression - or indeed every single day, let us proclaim those glorious words of freedom given us from God – *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free!"*

Have wonderful 4th of July (see you at Fire and Ice!). And, if not there, as always, see you in Church.

God bless, Pastor Craig

♪ *A Note From Janet* ♪

Over the summer months, Janet will be sharing some information from an article she read recently. July is Part 2.

The Importance of Church Choirs -- Part 2

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.

4. Choirs can inspire and lead worship.

Some may argue that we need to make worship services as simple and inviting as possible by having only a melody line projected and sung in unison. However, using hymnals with printed harmony parts encourages worshipper participation whether they can read music or not. While the choir is not the object of worship, it can lead a congregation to worship in Spirit and in truth.

5. Choirs can be redemptive communities.

A healthy choir affirms all its members and can be a community where all of the imperfect parts are cherished – especially when someone is going through a tough time. A choir is a place where you belong, where you are missed when you're not there, and where you can contribute your modest talent so that the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts.

6. Choirs make us work together.

To be a successful choir, we must yield ourselves to one another. We must listen to each other. We must follow the leader's direction. Straying from the notes can be disastrous and embarrassing. Choirs teach us mutuality and submission within the context of an endeavor greater than ourselves.

July Recipes

Ice Cream Dessert

Ingredients:

- 1/4 c. melted butter
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 3 c. Rice Krispies
- 1 c. coconut

Directions:

- Mix above ingredients together
- Put half mixture in bottom of a 9 x 13 pan
- Cover with softened vanilla ice cream
- Sprinkle other half of Rice Krispy mixture over the top of ice cream
- Place in freezer until solid
- Enjoy!

~ submitted by Lynette Peterman

Patriotic Fruit Salad

- 1/2 watermelon, sliced & cut into small stars, if desired
- Blueberries
- Honeydew, balled, white grapes or other white-ish fruit of your choice
- Serve in watermelon rind bowl that has had flesh removed



*Recipe found
online at:
Watermelon.org*

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 July

Linda McCowan Shirley Power
Jean Sidebottom

Called to *Serve*

July Ushers

Kevin & Carolyn Evenson
Pam Knoche

Kneedles & Hooks

Wednesday, July 23

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!

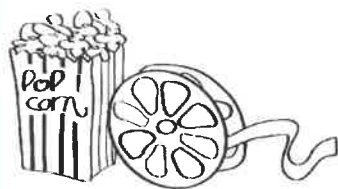
Christian Movie Night

Tuesday, July 22

6:30 pm

Come ready to laugh!

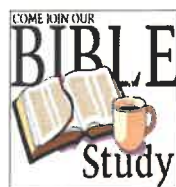
Our July Movie Night will have a slightly different feature. We will be watching a one hour comedy routine by Christian comedian Jeff Allen, followed by his 18-minute testimony of how he went from being an alcoholic, drug-using atheist to a clean, sober Christian. His comedy is funny and relatable, and his testimony is quite powerful. Since we have had some "heavier" movies recently, it seemed appropriate to have something "light" for the summer, and this fits the bill! Come and enjoy!



fits the bill! Come and enjoy!

Son-Rise Guys

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



"Son-Rise Guys" meets every Thursday morning at 7:00 am.

Strong coffee and a snack for your sweet tooth are served, along with a hearty helping of Bible Study.

If you're a guy that likes getting up early in the morning, you are invited to come and join us!

Thank You...

Dear Church Family,
Many thanks to you for the many prayers you have prayed for me while I was in the hospital, and up to today's business. Thank you so much. May God bless you all—you are a wonderful church family.
~ Al Sowers

Dear Church Family,
I just realized that I have never expressed my gratitude for everyone who has helped with Fellowship coffee and treats, for all who participated in the monthly pot-lucks, and everyone who helped set up and clean up. And, of course, those who brought food. We always have plenty and we are well fed. We do have some wonderful cooks in this place. So, THANK YOU. You are loved and appreciated.
~ Beth Oliver



Congratulations to...

*Fridler & Beenwood Louis,
on their recent marriage,
and also on the arrival of their
baby girl, Amayah Zael.*



NEW COVENANT WOMEN'S NEWS

Ladies Summer Coffee

Tuesday, July 29

At 10:00 am



Ladies, you are invited to join us for
our annual Summer Coffee.

This year will be a special time for us to
enjoy fellowship with one another and also
discuss which Bible study we would like to
do this year.

Please look at the table in the Fellowship
Hall to see the many options of studies for
us, and see which one(s) you would be in-
terested in. Also, if you have a suggestion
for a study, you may bring it too.

All ladies are welcome to join us.

Refreshments and drinks will be provided.

4th of July Word Scramble

DRE _____

LRASKRESP _____

WREFSKIRO _____

DOL ROYGL _____

UBEL _____

MURMES _____

MIFYLA _____

SEBYT SORS _____

DIYLAHO _____

BELTECNAROI _____

OLOP PYRAT _____

HEWIT _____

DARPAE _____

INOFBER _____

GLFA _____

RAMEAIC _____

SSRAT DNA PSRESIT _____

NEDPCEDENIN YAD _____

ABECUEBR _____

TIORACITP _____

July 2025 Mission Prayer Notes

Murray & Kathy Trim— TEAM—Japan

PRAY for health, safety and wisdom as they go about their ministry of sharing the GOSPEL MESSAGE and teaching classes and spending time and fellowship with many people. **PRAY** for them to be sensitive to the LORD'S LEADING and GUIDANCE in their daily lives. **PRAY** for safety, health and strength for both Murray and Kathy and for each of their mothers as they are far away from them. Murray's mother is in Nebraska near her son, Kathy's mom is near here in Pretty Prairie. They are both in their 90's.

Shelly Zadina – Medical Ambassadors – Albania

PRAISE the LORD Shelly is working in Albania from June 2nd to July 9th, to help with VBS and other summer activities. A team from Wichita went to Albania in June to help with the vacation BIBLE school activities and returned to Wichita after one week of VBS. **PRAY** for Shelly as she continues work and ministry there in Albania, working with women and meeting with the leaders who will continue the work when she leaves July 9 and for safe flights back to Kansas.

PRAY for Shelly and her mom and dad to continue to have GOOD HEALTH with NO PROBLEMS while she is in Albania. Her mom has had some problems while she has been gone, but a friend of her mother helped her with her needs.

Fredy and Djana JAVIER – Modern Day Missions—Macedonia

I'm sorry that we do not have contact and information on their work in Macedonia. ~ Glenda

We can continue to pray for them and their work there in a general manner. **PRAY** for health, safety and wisdom as they go about their ministry of sharing the GOSPEL MESSAGE with many people. **PRAY** for those who hear the message Fredy and Djana share, and to begin to understand and accept GOD'S GIFT of SALVATION. **PRAY** for their children: **JAV** (Shavi) - better and **SHARON** -that they grow in their spiritual lives and learn to share the Gospel message with their friends.

The NEW JERUSALEM SCHOOL—School in Haiti

Fridler passed this information on to us:

As the security crisis deepens across Haiti and gang activity edges closer to Verrettes, the town where the schools are located, the local population lives in growing uncertainty. Despite the fear and tension that have gripped the region, schools in Verrettes remain open, serving as one of the last pillars of hope and resilience for the community.



Every day the students make the brave choice to walk to school, often through unsafe areas, determined to pursue their education, no matter the circumstances. Their dedication is a powerful reminder that even in the midst of chaos, the desire to learn and build a better future remains alive.

Teachers and school staff also continue to show exceptional courage and commitment, doing their best to provide education and emotional support to their students while working under constant threat. These young people and educators deserve recognition, protection and urgent support as they face one of the most difficult moments in Haiti's recent history. Thank you, Fridler for writing this update for us.

Continue to pray for **VOLVICK**, the principal of the schools. He is working in Port au Prince to support himself, so in the current situation much of his communication with the school staff must be messages and calls.

Let's keep all of our missionaries and their work, health and financial needs in our prayers. Thank you for your prayers.

LOCAL MINISTRIES

Let's keep praying for these organizations who help those in need in our community:

SOUP KITCHEN & CIRCLES OF HOPE—We do not have upcoming dates for serving at these ministries. But even though we may not be serving in the next few months, we can still bless them and the people they serve with our prayers and financial support.

LOADS OF LOVE—**Pray** for their ministry to the needy people who use the laundry on East 4th Street. The laundry will accept donations of laundry supplies—even partially used ones. **LOADS OF LOVE** provides complimentary laundry service for those who have serious financial situations. They also accept personal care items, even partially used containers. You can put any items you wish to contribute in the **LOADS OF LOVE** basket under the coat racks.

They are very appreciative of the donations recently given them from one or several of us.

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 continued generous support to the **FOOD BANK**. Remember you can bring food items any time, although the first Sunday of the month is designated as **FOOD BANK Sunday**. Donations can be placed in the **FOOD BANK** basket under the coat rack. THANKS again to **Carl and Jean Sidebottom** 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 youth in the community, with an emphasis on knowing, loving and building a relationship with JESUS CHRIST. **Please pray** for strength and wisdom for the local leaders to boldly share GOD'S WORD with the young people. **GRANT LUTTRELL** is the local director. There are many other adults who help with the YL Program. **PRAY** as they plan summer activities for the young people who come to them, and for those who are going to camp this summer.

STERLING COLLEGE also receives support from New Covenant. We can be **PRAYING** for the **S.C.** leadership, **Scott Rich**, President, the faculty and others who work there to have a restful and refreshing summer (break?) and be ready for a new school year. We are hoping to have some of the students who went on the summer mission trips to Japan and Mexico to come and share with us about their activities. **Pray** for those who have been ministered to by these teams, that they will remember the things taught and grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **PRAY** for those who will be the “new students” and the returning students on campus this fall.

OTHER MISSION INTERESTS & CONCERNS

Zach and Ellie Robson – **PRAY** for Zach and Ellie as they continue to build relationships and have a desire to share the message they have on their hearts. **PRAY** that they are led to people who are open to hearing the message they want to share. **PRAISE GOD** for **RIVER JOHN, who was born May 31** and joins his “big” brother Roman. **Pray** for both of the boys to be healthy and strong and a blessing to their parents and their ministry. **PRAY** for good health for each one of their family, so their ministry can continue as they seek and meet those GOD leads them to share their important message.

Fridler, Riley and Beenwood – **PRAISE GOD** for the safe arrival of **AMAYAH ZAEL, June 19**. She weighed 8 pounds and is a beautiful, healthy child. **PRAY** for safety for Beenwood's mother and Fridler's father as they are both still living in Haiti. Beenwood's mother is in Port au Prince, Fridler's father is in Verrettes, which was originally also Fridler's home town and in the area where the schools (elementary in the countryside and secondary in town) are located. **PRAY** for Fridler and Beenwood as they deal with these very uncertain times and plans for their future. We would like very much for them to stay here for a long time, however, we know that GOD has a PURPOSE and PLAN for them, and wherever that is, - is the BEST PLACE for them. **PRAY** for **peace of mind and wisdom** for them as they make decisions for their future. Please continue to PRAY and **TRUST GOD'S PLANS** for them. We **KNOW HE IS IN CONTROL** and **HE MAKES NO MISTAKES**.



July 2025
Newsletter

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
700 East 25th Avenue
Hutchinson, KS 67502
Office: 620-662-3399
Website: www.newcovenantpc.net

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

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

Fellowship Footnotes

Fire & Ice—July 4th Celebration

Woo hoo! Independence Day is just around the corner! And what does that mean? Well, here at NCPC, we celebrate the birth of our nation by making a whole evening of it! We start off with ice cream, toppings, cookies, brownies, and fellowship. We follow that up by watching our local fireworks. We are pleased that we are so close to the fairgrounds and can view the fireworks from our church lawn. And once again this year, folks from the Ulster Project will be joining us, so we look forward to visiting with our special guests. Please join us on July 4th, at 8:00 pm, for ice cream indoors, and bring your lawn chairs along to watch the fireworks show afterwards outdoors. Be sure to invite your friends and family to come as well—it will be a time of great celebration!



Can You Keep A Secret???

Looking ahead - our next potluck will be on Sunday, August 10. The theme is a secret for now - Watch for more information to come.