



NCPC
March 2026
Newsletter

March Events

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Food Bank Collection Sunday

Tuesday, March 3

4:00 pm, Worship Team Meeting, Library

Wednesday, March 4

5:30 pm, Deacons Meeting, Library

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Savings Time Begins—Spring Forward

Tuesday, March 10

1:30 pm, Lydia Circle, Library

Thursday, March 12

7:00 pm, Session Meeting, Library

Saturday, March 14

5:00 pm, Scripture Singles, @ Beth Oliver's Home

Sunday, March 15

11:45 am, Fellowship Potluck, Spuds, Spuds, Spuds

Tuesday, March 17—St. Patrick's Day

Be sure to wear your green today!

Saturday, March 21

2:00—4:00 pm, 95th Birthday Party for Ray Reade,
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 25

1:30 pm, Kneedles & Hooks, Promise Room





A Word from the Pastor

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

Beloved of New Covenant,

Elsewhere in this month's newsletter is an article from Elder Cheryl Canfield reporting on the recent presbytery meeting that was held this past January. One particular topic, which Cheryl addresses, occupied much of our attention at that meeting, both while in session and also in our personal conversations. The topic really comes down to one thing – the standards we should rely on in calling the leaders in our church. That brought to mind an article I shared with you about five years ago when New Covenant was seeking to be dismissed from our former denomination, the PCUSA, in order to join the denomination of which we are now a member, the EPC.

In that article I spoke to the foundational beliefs of the church. And, when you boil it all down as to what we believe as the church, as the body of Christ, that foundation must stand – firmly – upon one standard - the Word of God. I shared with you in that message of how it is God's Word that opens our hearts and eyes and lives to know God, to know Christ, to know the Holy Spirit and to know how to live out that knowledge in our daily lives and in the life of our church. As the Apostle Paul stated in the words shared above from 2 Timothy 3:16 – the Bible is the authoritative, infallible, inerrant, *theopneustos* (God-breathed) Word.

Which brought to mind, yet, another article which I included in that newsletter from Dr. Burk Parsons, the Senior Pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Sanford, Florida and the editor of Table Talk magazine. Since the issues never seem to change, in that what we dealt with five years ago in one denomination it appears we may be dealing with again in another denomination (though I do pray that will not have to be the case), I have included that article below to refresh the memories of those who were here then, and to inform so many of you who have become part of our family of faith in these past five years.

The article is entitled "Our Unchanging Ethic." Dr. Parsons writes:

"The word **ethic** is derived from the Greek word *ethos*, meaning moral character or custom. When we use the word *ethic*, we are speaking of a moral standard as to what is right and wrong. When we speak of the Christian ethic, we are referring to the established moral standard—according to creedal, confessional, and orthodox Christianity—founded on sacred Scripture, which is our only infallible guide for faith and life.

The church's standard doesn't change, because God's Word doesn't change. And, because God's Word doesn't change, the Christian ethic doesn't change. It is for that reason we do not speak of a Christian ethic but *the* Christian ethic—one established, authoritative, unchanging ethic that guides Christians in every culture, in every generation, and in everything we think, say, and do every day of our lives. The Christian ethic is the standard that we cannot change but that changes us, informs us, and directs us in all of life. That is why we are unwavering as to what is right and uncompromising as to what is wrong. And that is precisely one of the reasons the world hates us, because the world hates our unwavering and uncompromising Christian ethic.

The world loves compromise, and the degree to which a society prizes compromise and tolerance of evil will determine how much ethical change that society will be forced to endure. Without an unchanging standard of right and wrong, a society cannot retain a consistent ethical standard. And if there is no ethical standard of right and wrong, there cannot exist any ethic except that which is based on constantly changing sentiments and sympathies. That is the reason the world's definitions of right and wrong often entirely contradict one another. For the only standard the world has is itself.

(continued on next page)

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The church's standard doesn't change because God's Word doesn't change, and His Word doesn't change because He doesn't change. Nevertheless, many professing Christians and many churches, both throughout history and today, so want to obtain seeming influence in the world that they push the world's agenda of compromise and tolerance within the church. The evidence of this is that in many churches today it is considered worse to judge evil than to do evil. And those of us who know that we live and breathe before the face of God know that to compromise the Christian ethic is to compromise the unchanging faith once delivered to the saints."

And, with that, I end this article with the same words I used to end that original article in March of 2021 - What it comes down to is that the church needs to follow the words of the Apostle Paul, who said – *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."* (Romans 12:2). Let that be our desire, as well.

Let us, as a church and as a denomination, not conform to the thinking and to the standards established and practiced by the world with its constantly changing sentiments and sympathies, but let us be conformed to the will of God and the heart of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Which has been delivered to us through His unchanging Word.

As always, beloved, see you in church!

Pastor Craig

A Note From Janet

Many hymns were written by pastors and theologians. Some by homemakers and merchants. This one was written by a **clown**. Daniel de Marbelle was born in 1818, sailed on whaling ships, fought in the Mexican and Civil Wars. Then he joined an opera troupe, singing, acting and entertaining.

When he was 69 he became one of the first clowns hired by James Bailey who took over P. T. Barnum's Circus following Barnum's death. Later he assisted Buffalo Bill Cody in his famous Wild West Show. While De Marbelle was a multi-talented performer – a magician, actor, ventriloquist, soloist, writer, instrumental musician and public speaker, he wasn't a businessman.

His last years were spent in poverty, and he lived in an abandoned schoolroom in Elgin, Illinois. He stated, "For years I was so busy I didn't have time for God and so rich I didn't need Him. God had to slow me down and take my success away so that He could talk to me about the home beyond the river." Daniel wrote the words and music to "**When They Ring the Golden Bells**" which has become a staple in gospel and bluegrass music.

UPCOMING MISSION TRIP

In late May, Kevin Evenson, Bill Peterman, Katelynn Robinson and two other team members, will travel to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to help Project Video host their Asia Family Meeting. This will be a gathering of their 40+ ethnic media teams across Asia and Africa.

These teams come together to share stories of how God is moving in places where few have heard of Jesus, to present their best films and to receive additional video training.

We will have opportunities to hear more about their trip in the coming months, or....just ask them!

You're Invited..

Ray Reade is turning 95 on April 11th, and we would like you to help with the celebration.

His early birthday party will be on Saturday, March 21st, from 2:00—4:00, in the Fellowship Hall at New Covenant Presbyterian Church.

We hope you can help make this a special year for Ray. Cards are welcome, no gifts please.

Ron & Karen Reade
and families



Deacons Corner

Deacons—our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4th at 5:30 pm, in the Church Library.

March Deacon Greeters

Linda Gilliland
Kathy Sayers

"Serve the Lord with Gladness"

Psalm 100:2a

Kneedles & Hooks

Kneedles and Hooks will meet on March 25, (We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month) at 1:30 pm.

We hope you will join us in making scarves and other warm items for those in need.



Recipes Welcome

All recipes are always welcome. If you have one or more that you are willing to share, please email them to Julia at:

secretary@newcovenantpc.net

If you don't have access to email, you may put a copy in Julia's box or on her desk.

Thank you so much!



NEW COVENANT WOMEN'S NEWS

Lydia Circle
"The Stories
of Women"

Tuesday, March 10, 2026
at 1:30 pm
in the Church Library

We will be in Lesson 6
&

Our March hostess is:
Annie Gajewski



Son-Rise Guys

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



"Son-Rise Guys" started hope you will join us as we study the Word of God. 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!

March Recipes

Ham and Cheese Casserole

~ from Suzanne Meeks

Ingredients:

- 8 large eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 1/2 c. diced cooked ham (or sausage or bacon, etc)
- 1 1/2 c, shredded cheddar (or other) cheese
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp onion powder—optional
- 1/2 tsp salt & 1/4 tsp pepper—or season to taste
- Add mushrooms, onions, peppers, etc., if desired

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees for a glass pan or 375 for metal pan
- Whisk eggs, milk, garlic and onion powders, salt and pepper together in large bowl
- Stir in diced ham and shredded cheese
- Pour mixture into greased 9 x 13 baking dish
- Bake 35-40 minutes
- It is done when center is set, the top is golden brown, and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean
- If the top is browning too quickly, cover loosely with foil for the last 10 minutes of baking
- Top with additional cheese
- Cool 5-10 minutes before slicing
- Top with your favorite hot sauce/salsa and enjoy!

Hot Spinach Dip

~ from Jane Sell

Ingredients:

- 12 oz fresh Spinach, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 cups parmesan cheese, divided
- 2 cups finely chopped onions
- 16 oz cream cheese, softened
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped

Directions:

- Mix all ingredients except 1/2 cup of parmesan cheese
- Put in casserole dish and top with 1/2 cup of parmesan
- Bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes until lightly browned and bubbly
- Enjoy with your favorite crackers!

**** Calling All Grocery Shoppers ****

We are so grateful that we have such a giving church. We had an amazing 200# of food donated to the Food Bank this past December. Unfortunately our food donations have been down quite a bit so far in 2026, with both January and February averaging between 30# - 40# of food donated.

Please remember to pick up a few extra items for the Food Bank when shopping as you are able. While they are at the forefront of our minds around the holidays, the need for food at the Food Bank is year-round.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

How many words can you make from:

Saint Patrick's Day

(form your list below)



March 2026 Mission Prayer Notes



Pray that through 2026 we can have better communication with Trims and Javiers, Communication with the schools in Haiti is difficult, we can continue to pray for that country and the things going on there. We get information from Zach and Ellie through his grandfather – Tom Robson, as they are in a place where the GOSPEL is not particularly welcome.

Murray & Kathy Trim— Japan—TEAM, (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) - since 1988

PRAY for Murray and Kathy as they each have classes they are teaching and relationships with people to share the message of GOD's LOVE as they labor in Japan, Kathy as she teaches classes and has a ministry with women; and Murray in his meetings with people, preaching and other activities. Continue to **PRAY** for health and strength for each of their mothers, both in their 90's, Murray's mom in Nebraska with family, Murray's mom had a bad fall earlier this year, but at last information was doing well. Kathy's mom is in the nursing home in Pretty Prairie and known personally by some in our congregation.

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

PRAISE THE LORD that **Medical Ambassadors** continues to allow Shelly to spend most of her time in the USA; being with her parents and visiting churches and individuals in the U.S. She is preparing to be in Albania in the summer, doing VBS. The theme for this year is Adventure in Egypt, lessons based on the life of Joseph. She will not have a U.S. team with her this year. **PRAY** for **SHELLY** as she continues care for her parents, her mom and her physical needs, the doctors are doing a procedure for her mom's heart, so that she can get off of blood thinners, which are causing a GI bleed. Her dad - as he continues the recovery process from a stroke in March, 2023. He recently had Covid, but is doing much better. In **Albania**, her co-workers, **Patriot** and **Keli** are working on training a team to enter a new community with the CHE program. CHE is a multifaceted approach to Christian ministry that addresses the needs of the whole person – physical, spiritual, emotional and social. CHE equips individuals to be independent workers and evangelists in their communities.

Fredy and Djana JAVIER – Macedonia – World Outreach (WO)

Pray for the Javier's – as they work with the mission project they set up in Macedonia and for their children **JAVI** (Shavi) and **SHARON**. Communication with someone from **WORLD OUTREACH**, who is familiar with the work they are doing, reported that they have a great work in Macedonia. **Pray** that we can connect with them soon.

The New Jerusalem / Children of Hope—School in Haiti



Haiti continues to have many needs. **PRAY** that there will **soon be an end** to the **gang activity** which is so dangerous, destructive and disruptive. **PRAY** for wisdom and God's guidance and protection for the teachers and others who work at the schools. There is an uncertainty as to what is happening at the schools, with the students, both the elementary school and the junior high and secondary school, since the gang attacks and destruction last June. Since the elementary and secondary schools meet in different places, elementary out in the country-side and the secondary in a relatively new building in Verrettes, they each have an on-site principal. **PRAY** for **VOLVICK**, one of the founders, is Principal (from a distance) of both the elementary and secondary schools. **VOLVICK** continues to live and work in Port au Prince, supporting himself, so that money sent goes to support the schools. All the income sent from New Covenant is used for the schools and their needs. The town where the schools are located is some distance from Port au Prince. In better times, he was able to get back and forth a couple of times a week to visit the schools. **PRAY** for safety for **VOLVICK**, the **teachers** and **students** and their **families**. **PRAY** that we will be able to safely money to the schools soon.

YOU for your generous giving to all of the organizations which we help support. There is information on the bulletin board in the hallway if you have any questions.

(Missions continued on next page)

LOCAL MINISTRIES

FOOD BANK – THANK YOU for your generous giving to the **Food Bank**, putting food items in the basket in the hallway under the coat racks. This is taken to and distributed through the **Food Bank** to those in need in our community.

THANKS again to **CARL** and **JEAN SIDEBOTTOM**, who deliver donations to the **FOOD BANK** for us.

YOUNG LIFE - PRAY for **Grant Luttrell**, the local **YOUNG LIFE leader** and others who work and spend time with the young people, who are involved in **YOUNG LIFE**. This is an organization that works with both Junior and Senior high students, clearly presenting and sharing the message of **GOD'S LOVE** and the need for a personal relationship with **JESUS CHRIST**. They are mostly working in the Buhler school system, but want to also move into the Hutchinson school system.

Note from Grant – WE are continuing to look for some more adults to be **prayer partners** for the local program. **PRAY** for dedication and good stewardship of people's time and talents as the leadership committee is being rebuilt.

PRAY for those GOD calls to help lead in high school and middle school activities, current need is 4 to work with senior high students and 2 more to work with junior high students. **PRAY** for these needs and for those GOD leads to help and minister to students in the local groups.

STERLING COLLEGE - PRAY for the faculty, leadership and others who work at **STERLING** as they work with the students and provide leadership and direction for the college. **PRAY** for ways for New Covenant to help and support **STERLING** and its activities. **PRAY** for **Jose Carrillo**, campus pastor, as he ministers to the spiritual needs of the students and plans and directs **MISSION TEAM** activities this spring. During spring break there will be a team going to **Wilmington, Delaware, – March 16-20**. There will be a commissioning service at **Sterling College** on **March 11, at 10:00 in Spencer Hall** for this team, we are invited to attend this activity. (and eat lunch in the college cafeteria, and perhaps visit with students and college staff. There is a team going to **Cairo, Egypt – May 11–25**; a team to **Craiova, Romania – May 12–28**, and one to **Chiang Mai, Thailand – May 14–31, 2026**. The team to Chiang Mai may be meeting up with a team from **Project Video**, which will include **Kevin Evenson** and some from New Covenant.

OTHER MISSION CONCERNS

Zach and Ellie - PRAY for wisdom for them as they continue to minister to people that come into their lives in the country where GOD has called them to serve. **Zach** has just finished his studies for an advanced degree and will be moving into another area of work. **PRAY** for him and this change. **PRAISE GOD** for the person who recently came to know JESUS CHRIST and is meeting regularly with their team mates for spiritual teaching. They ask for prayer for this person to have the opportunity and boldness to share his new found faith with his family and friends. This person came to know Jesus Christ through the resources that their mission has for producing and using digital resources to proclaim the WORD. **PRAY** for their young sons, **Roman and River** as they grow and develop.

Our special family - PRAY for them as they continue their life here and the adjustments that come with the activities in which they are involved. **Pray** for concerns for their families here and family and friends still living in their native country. **PRAY** for health needs, healing and wisdom for the father. **PRAY** for the mother as she cares for her family, for the daughter as she goes to school and for the baby in their daily lives.

Project Video – PRAY for **Project Video** and those who work with it. This is the mission that Kevin Evanson is involved with, he will be happy to talk to you, if you have more questions, or if you would like more information on this Mission and its activities. There is a team from **Project Video**, including **Kevin Evenson**, and some from New Covenant going to **Chiang Mai** in **May**. They will be in **Chiang Mai** about the same time as the team from **Sterling College** and may be able to meet up with them.

Some Irish Rib-Ticklers for You to Enjoy:

What did the Irish potato say to his sweetheart? *I only have eyes for you.*
How are good friends like four-leaf clovers? *They're hard to find!*
Besides the Irish jig, what is a leprechaun's favorite dance? *The Shamrock Shake.*
What do you call an Irish spider? *Paddy long legs.*

~ from Good Housekeeping online



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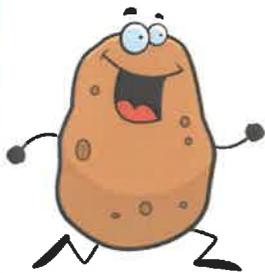
New Covenant Presbyterian Church
700 East 25th Avenue
Hutchinson, KS 67502
Office: 620-662-3399
Website: www.newcovenantpc.net

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

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

Fellowship Footnotes

March Fellowship Potluck



Our March Fellowship Potluck is just a couple days before St. Patrick's Day. So let's do something a little different this year. Instead of a potato bar, we will have foods that highlight these fantastic spuds. Potato salad, potato soup, potato casserole, baked potatoes, potato chips, fried potatoes, tater tots, sweet potato pie. The list goes on and on. But let's make the tuber the center of your dish. No sign-up necessary. See you around the table—Sunday, March 15, at 11:45 am, in the Fellowship Hall.

Looking Ahead

Our April Potluck will be on Sunday, April 12, at 11:45 am. As the weather starts to get a little warmer, we will have a Salad Extravaganza! Begin thinking now about what delicious salad you might bring. Tossed salad, fruit salad, pasta salad, potato salad, or even chicken or ham salad—they are all delicious!

