



Newtown Square Presbyterian Church

www.newtownsquarepres.org

November 29, 2026



NSPC Weekly

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The NSPC congregation extends a warm welcome to those who are visiting with us today. If you are in search of a new church home, we invite you to make that home with us. Please check the appropriate column on the pew pad if you would like to visit with the pastor or would like more information about the church. Include your phone number and/or email address. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Gathering Room following the service.

Worship Leader: Heather Impriano

Ushers: Grant Snyder, Capt; Irene Bernabeo, Jessica Servano

Acolyte: Danny Arraya

Acolyte Guide: Sue Bechtold

Fellowship Host: Andy Tucker

Are you visiting us today?

We would love to get to know you! Please sign the pew pad located near the hymnals or sign in by scanning this QR code:

THE LORD'S DAY
First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 **10:00 AM**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PRELUDE
Prelude on an English Carol..... Arr. by W. Westbrook

*** CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 80)**
Give ear, O shepherd of Israel, You who lead Your flock
Stir up your might and come to save us.
Restore us, O God.
Let Your face shine that we might be saved
Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts.
Let Your face shine that we might be saved.
Let us worship God.

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

***THE LIGHT OF CHRIST WELCOMES US TO WORSHIP**

***HYMN OF PRAISE 88**.....VENI EMMANUEL
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Great and gracious God Incarnate,
we confess that we are often more excited about presents than your presence.
We are much too often concerned with shopping and decorating than in spending time with you.
We become so busy with the season that we forget what it is really about.

Open our eyes
that we might witness the appearance of the Christ child.
Forgive us our misplaced priorities.
Teach us to make your coming to us the focus of this season…
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Please offer in silence your personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: God loves us enough to send the only begotten son for us.

Believe the good news: Jesus comes because he loves us…
Trust the Good news: in Christ who is with us now and always,
we are forgiven and restored to life.

***RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE 581 Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

OT Page 694-695 .....Isaiah 64:1-9

This is the Word of our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE..... Rev. Dr. Nancy Holt Timothy

(Children are dismissed for Sunday school following the Children's Message; youth are dismissed for Youth Group.)

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

The Impriano Family

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised, in days to come
the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O children of God, let us walk in the light of the Lord. ***Amen.***

ANTHEM

A Star ..... By P. Choplin

Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

NT Page 50-51 ..... Mark 13:24-37

This is the Word of our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON .....**Rev. Dr. Nancy Holt Timothy**

"Stop! Look! Listen!"

I. First Sunday in Advent--the SECOND coming of Jesus
   A. "You better watch out!"
   B. Apocalypse: uncovering; revelation, end times
   C. Rich in symbolism; extensive in the Bible
   D. The end of the world

II. Isaiah 64:1-9
   A. Pushy prayer of desperate people
   B. Back from exile...to pain and hopelessness
   C. Many of us feel that way in Advent
   D. For many, it's a time of tension and guilt

III. Some of us might want to cancel Christmas!
   A. Frantic and frenetic preparations
   B. Advent's intent is a time of expectant watching
   C. Instead, it's a commercialized, secular shop-fest!

IV. What is Christmas truly about?
   A. STOP: Ask yourself: What do I really want from Christmas?
   B. LOOK: See the joys and wonders God has sent into our lives
   C. LISTEN: for God's voice saying, "I love YOU!"

V. Christmas has little to do with shopping and baking and decorating
   A. Advent is the time we prepare for Jesus' coming into our lives
   B. Advent is the time we remember how deeply God loves us
   C. Stop the craziness; look at what giving means; listen for God's love

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** ***(Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1)

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own but belong body and soul,
both in life and death, to my faithful savior Jesus Christ.
He preserves me in such a way
that without the will of my heavenly father
not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, all things work together for my salvation.
Therefore, by the Holy Spirit,
He also assures me of eternal life
and makes me heartily willing and ready,
from now on, to live for Him.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE 352** ..... MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING
"My Lord! What a Morning"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise...

During the prayer:
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE BRING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS BEFORE GOD

To give electronically, scan this QR code on your smart phone.
Please feel free to give in-person as well.

OFFERTORY

The First Nowell.....Tune: Traditional English Carol / Arr. by M. Wilberg

Soloists

***DOXOLOGY 606**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN 82** ..... HYFRYDOL

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

***BENEDICTION**

***WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

***POSTLUDE** ..... Traditional English Carol / Arr. by D. Wagner

Toccatina on 'God Rest You Merry Gentlemen'

**Congregation standing in body or spirit, as able*

UPCOMING EVENTS. This Week @ NSPC

Today, Sunday, November 29, 2026

10:00 AM	Worship Service
10:15 AM	Sunday School & Youth Group
11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour

Monday, November 30, 2026

10:00 AM	Knitting
7:00 PM	ACA

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

8:00 AM	Men's Christian Fellowship
6:00 PM	AA

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

10:00 AM	Pastor's Bible Study
7:00 PM	B&G Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2026

6:00 PM	AA

Saturday, December 5, 2026

10:00 AM	ACA

Worship Notes



The chancel flowers this morning are given by the Impriano Family in honor of NSPC and its members.

The advent candle liturgy is reprinted by permission from the *Book of Common Worship*, © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press.

Cover Art: Painting by Cheryl Koch

Prayer Requests



Please share your prayer concerns! Trusting that God hears our prayers, we want to pray with and for you!

This week, please pray for:

- Dennis White (friend of Joe Falcon)
- Joe Falcon
- Penny & the Doran Family (friends with Julia Altenburger)
- Peter Bowen (son of Jean Bowen)
- Paula (Margie Garwood's niece)
- Hank Mumma (friend of Bob Bechtold)
- Gina
- Janene
- Nancy Self (Nick Cuccia's birth mother)
- Mary and the family of Mitzi Mikelson
- Bayard Anderson
- Mike Savage (friend of Jack Ryder)
- Baby Carson Eherts (friend of Denise & Rich Digby)
- Sissy (Michal Digby's sister-in-law)
- Maeve (daughter of Sara Cuccia's friend)
- Kevin Hirt (Dianne's son)
- Jennifer (Daughter of Margot Jones)

Announcements



Mission Survey – Future Missions! ***Do you love Rise Against Hunger? Are you ready for something new?*** There is a Mission Survey included in every Friday's "This Week in Worship" email. Please read it at your convenience and give your thoughts. It can be completed online or printed and turned into the office. If you need it printed for you, stop in the office through the week and ask Heather to print it. All completed surveys are due by Christmas. Please direct any questions to Sue Bechtold. Thank you.



Fellowship Hour Christmas Tea

The Women of the church always host Fellowship Hour for Christmas. This year's hosting will be on December 6th. All women of the church are invited to help by providing Christmas finger food, cookies or fancy sandwiches. Help is needed to set up, serve and clean up. Please volunteer to Ginny Berman or following church see Sue Bechtold in the Fellowship Hour. It is a delicious event for all attending church that day.



Check out our NSPC Mom's Group! We are getting together after a long time. Come see old friends, welcome new members, and talk about what we want our group to look like now. Join us on Friday, December 11th at 7 PM in the Gathering Room. It will be very relaxed! Everyone is welcome to bring a snack to share. If you have questions, reach out to Meghan Kazanjian or Beth McCarry.



Community Concert Help
Jin Hyun is arranging another wonderful Community Concert to be held on Sunday, December 13, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. A reception following the concert will give us the chance to meet the artists and enjoy fellowship with each other. Help is needed to have a successful reception. Please let Ginni Condo know (at vrcondo3424@gmail.com) if you can help set up the hospitality table, bring cookies or other finger foods, or clean up. It's a busy season but, as we know, "Many hands make light work," so please volunteer in any way you can. Thank you!



2026 NSPC GIVING TREE: Share the warmth with children in our community Please help us fill the Giving Tree with cozy winter essentials for underserved children in our area: Mittens, gloves, scarves, & hats. Please donate new, warm items in children and youth sizes. Every item helps a child stay warm this winter. Place them around the Christmas tree located in the Gathering Room. Thank you for your generosity!



Christian Education and Youth and Family Ministry committees are looking for additional members to help plan Sunday School, Youth Group, and Children and Youth Events in 2027! Both committees typically meet during the school year months.

- Youth and Family plans Youth Group, Trunk or Treat, Cocoa, Cookies, and Carols, the Easter Egg Hunt, and additional events. The committee usually meets virtually at night the 3rd week of the month depending on what day works best for the group. If interested, contact Laurie Lynch (dllynch3@gmail.com)
- Christian Education plans Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and the Christmas Pageant and meets virtually the first or second Friday of the month at 11am. If interested, contact Sara DiGirolamo (sjr5030@gmail.com).



It is time for a new directory! Please continue to send in your updates. If you no longer have a landline, please let us know that as well! We would love to have updated pictures for the directory. Stop by the office and I will be happy to take a picture for you! If you are new to the church, please let us know you would like to be included in the Church Directory. Thank you!



NSPC Mission Programs are listed in the Annual Report every January. Sue Bechtold is requesting a reminder of Missions at NSPC for 2026 just to make sure no one is missed. suebechtold1@gmail.com or 484-832-8984



Our next drive is Thursday, January 28th! Your donation helps to save a life. Thank you for making a difference! Registration is open: https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Newtown%20Township





Chester Eastside Information

NSPC is now officially going to continue donation support to Chester Eastside. We thankfully have enough drivers to take a load of donations on a weekly basis. The donation bin is by the door as you enter the Gathering Space. Please continue to drop your donations in a shopping bag. Please consider the driver having to transport to their car and then to the CE location. Loose or stuffed bags with no handle make it more difficult to carry. There is a container of bags next to the Mission Table and if you need one feel free to take one. Thank you!



"Sock It to Me" Sock Drive

Thank you, thank you for making Sock It to Me a … Home Run!! We went over and above the numbers that were ever expected. You are the most generous people. NSPC has been approached by another organization, and we are looking into it. If you are interested, please continue to donate socks. It's hard to imagine that a pair of socks can change a person's daily life. Thank you for your help. The box will stay in place, and we hope your donations of new or gently used socks will continue.



"Per Capita" literally means "for each head," and it's essentially a "per-person" fee paid to the denomination to keep the denomination running. Not only are there staffing and overhead costs required to run a presbytery office, but the presbytery also gives grants to help churches accomplish new programs and endeavors. During 2026, NSPC was awarded a $10,000 capital grant to help offset the cost of some of our repairs around the church, such as the chimney pointing and driveway repaving. Other churches receive support for mission projects. By pooling the per capita income from all churches that are a part of the Philadelphia Presbytery, more churches can be supported when specific needs arise. The per capita charge per member is $37. Anyone who has been officially received into membership is charged $37, regardless of age (confirmed students are members). Your contribution will help to offset the total per capita cost due to the Presbytery by year-end. Thank you!



To celebrate our greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ, and to honor Presbyterian pastors and other church workers who also have devoted their lives to serving Him, it is time to make our annual December contributions to the Christmas Joy Offering. Details are included in the December issue of Connections and today's bulletin insert. You may use the special envelopes in the pew racks or send your donation to the church office. Please make checks payable to NSPC with "Joy Offering" on the memo line.

Youth Announcements

Youth Group Schedule

- 11/29 Topic: A Child Called Immanuel
- 12/6 Topic: Annunciation to Mary
- 12/13 Topic: Joseph's Dream / Breakfast Club
- 12/20 Christmas Pageant / Cocoa, Cookies, & Carols (11 AM)
- 12/27 Topic: Simeon and Anna / Polar Express (6 PM)

Christmas Pageant



Our annual Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 20th during worship. **Our dress rehearsal is on Sunday, December 6th at 11:15. Please finish all snacks and drinks before joining us in the sanctuary!** The pageant is open to all children to participate in. Please check your weekly Sunday school emails or the November newsletter for the rehearsal schedule. Thank you for being a part of this annual tradition!



Cocoa, Cookies, & Carols

After the Christmas Pageant, please join us for an all-congregation holiday get-together. We will meet in the Gathering Room following the Christmas Pageant. There will be Christmas carols/music, drinks including cocoa, and cookies during Fellowship Hour! Please sign up to bring some cookies to share:

Sign Up Here:

Church Officers:

SESSION/BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Moderator: The Rev. Bill Searight

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Ed Arraya	Sue Bechtold	Lynne Corle
Buff Biddle	Sara DiGirolamo	Joe Falcon
Jane Fioravanti	Jennifer Gries	Vacant
Joe Marchesani	Doug Tase	Laurie Lynch

BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator: Margie Garwood

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Ginni Condo	Bob Arnold	Jack Chidester
Kathy Donovan	Nicolle Arraya	Pat Deluca
Margie Garwood	Paul Florence	Rich Digby
Marg MacDonald	Andy Tucker	Karen Shea

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
9:00 – 3:30

Friday - Closed



In Ministry Together at Newtown Square Presbyterian Church:

Pastor ..... The Rev. Bill Searight
Parish Associate ..... The Rev. Dr. Nancy Holt Timothy
Director of Music ..... Jin Hyun Park
Director of Youth & Families ..... Kristi Schaub
Church Office Manager ..... Heather Impriano
PreK-1st Sunday School Teacher ..... Beth McCarry
2nd-4th grade Sunday School Teacher ..... Camryn Villano
Nursery Attendants ..... Sadie Kazanjian & Grace McCarry
Co-Director, NSPC Preschool ..... Jane Fioravanti
Co-Director, NSPC Preschool ..... Meghan Kazanjian
Clerk of Session ..... Sara DiGirolamo
President, Board of Trustees ..... Vacant
Moderator of Deacons ..... Margie Garwood
Co-Treasurer ..... Rich Digby
Co-Treasurer ..... Carole Connolly
Head Usher ..... Grant Snyder
Communion Coordinator ..... Carol Guest
Presbyterian Women ..... Ginny Berman

Plus...all the members of NSPC

Church Contact Information:

Church Phone: 610-356-8063
Rev. Searight e-mail: ..... pastor@newtownsquarepres.org
Jin Hyun Park e-mail: ..... music@newtownsquarepres.org
Kristi Schaub e-mail: ..... youth@newtownsquarepres.org

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