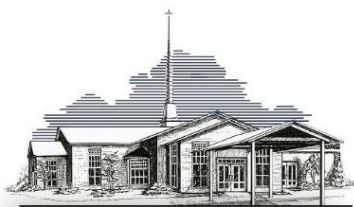




“O Joyful Celebration” Christmas Cantata



Newtown Square
Presbyterian Church
www.newtownsquarepres.org
December 14, 2025



NSPC Weekly

December 14, 2025

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: Doug Tase

Ushers: Collins Vokhiwa, Capt; Chosa Vokhiwa, Sue Denney, Jennifer Gries

Acolyte: Chiwa Vokhiwa

Acolyte Guide: Karen Shea

Fellowship Hosts: Bagels & Bids

Sunday School Attendance – Let your teachers know you are here!

Sunday school is for children Pre-K through grade 4. The teachers are in their rooms preparing for class. By signing in, they know you are here and are expecting you! *(This also saves time with not taking attendance in class.)* Scan the QR code here:



Are you visiting us today?

We would love to get to know you!
Please sign in using this QR code:



THE LORD'S DAY
Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10:00 AM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*arr. Hickens
Piano Solo

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Cheryl Koch & Joe Talento

Reading from Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-4a

After the reading:

O people of God, come!

Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE 105**BESANÇON
“People, Look East”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory,

we thirst for your grace in this season.

You have made a way for us in the wilderness,

and yet, in our foolishness, we choose other roads.

We hide our eyes from your presence.

We do not listen to your Word.

We consider our struggles greater than your blessings

and therefore greet you without joy.

Forgive us, O Lord.

*Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
strengthen our weak hands,
and make firm our feeble knees
as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.*

(Please offer in silence your personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive):

Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

***GLORIA PATRI 581**

*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.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGERev. Bill Searight
*(Children and youth are dismissed for Sunday school and youth group
following the Children's Message.)*

SCRIPTURE READING

NT Page 215.....Titus 2:11-14

This is the Word of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

"O Joyful Celebration"

O Yule Full of Gladness.....Norwegian Carol/arr. Carolyn Jennings
Joann Mitchell & Rebecca DiPersia, Flute Duet
NSPC Singers

*O Yule, full of gladness and cheer and delight,
We welcome you now with our singing.
Our hearts open wide to the brilliance of lights*

*From heaven to earth you are bringing.
 We merrily clap and sing, A happy welcome bring,
 So glad are we, so glad are we,
 For joy and love are born now at Christmas!
 Clap and sing, welcome bring!
 With Shepherds and wisemen your star will behold.
 It's brightness o'er Bethlehem beaming.
 And we too would follow, as prophets foretold,
 Where light everlasting is streaming.
 We merrily clap and sing, a happy welcome bring.
 So glad are we, so glad are we,
 For love is born now at Christmas.
 Happy Yule! Clap and sing! Welcome bring.
 Now join hand in hand, and together we'll welcome the Yule
 And pledge love and faith to each other.
 For we all are bound by the love that we share.
 Rejoice, every sister and brother.
 Come join and merrily clap and sing, a happy welcome bring,
 So glad are we, so glad are we,
 For joy and love are born now at Christmas!*

Ecce Novum.....Ola Gjeilo

NSPC Singers
Sung in Latin; Translation below

<i>Ecce, novum gaudium</i>	<i>Behold, a new joy</i>
<i>Ecce, novum mirum</i>	<i>Behold, a new wonder</i>
<i>Virgo parit filium</i>	<i>A virgin, who knew not a man</i>
<i>Quae non novit virum</i>	<i>Bears a son</i>
 <i>Sed ut pirus prium</i>	 <i>As the pear tree bears the pear</i>
<i>Gleba fert papyrus</i>	<i>The flourishing papyrus</i>
<i>Florens lilium</i>	<i>Brings the lily from the soil</i>
 <i>Ecce, quod natura</i>	 <i>See how nature</i>
<i>Mutat sua iura</i>	<i>Changes her laws</i>
<i>Virgo parit pura</i>	<i>A pure virgin bears</i>
<i>Dei filium</i>	<i>The son of God</i>
<i>Amen</i>	<i>Amen</i>

***Thus Saith the Lord of Hosts*Messiah/Handel**

Raúl Velazco, Bass Solo

Text references: Haggai 2:6-7; Malachi 3:1-2

*Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts;
Yet once a little while and I will shake the heav'ns and the earth,
the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all nations;
and the desire of all nations shall come.
The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple;
ev'n the messenger of the Covenant, whom you delight in:
behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts
But who may abide the day of His coming,
and who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.*

***O Little Town of Bethlehem*.....ST. LOUIS arr. Dan Forrest**

**Michael Talento, Soprano Saxophone
NSPC Singers**

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Go Tell It on the Mountain.....Trad. Spiritual/arr. Shawn Kirchner
Michale Talento, Soprano Saxophone
NSPC Singers

*Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain; Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light [Refrain]*

*The shepherds feared and trembled When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Jesus' birth [Refrain]*

*And lo! When they had heard it they all bowed down and prayed;
Then travelled on together to where the Babe was laid. [Refrain]*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Babe was born
And God sent down the angels that blessed this Christmas morn [Refrain] x2*

O Come All Ye FaithfulADESTE FIDELES; arr. Steven Strite
Ryan Peteraf, Organ; Ting Ting Wong, Piano
NSPC Singers

(Congregation can join on v.1, 2, 4)

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!***

***Refrain: O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!***

***God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created; [Refrain]***

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]*

***Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE including the Lord's Prayer ("debts")

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...

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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



OFFERTORY

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High! Trad. French Carol, arr. Howard Helvey
NSPC Singers

Ding Dong! merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing;

Ding, dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen;

And "i-o, i-o, i-o!" by priest and people be sungen.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;

May ye beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

*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

***HYMN 132**IN DULCI JUBILO

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

***BENEDICTION**

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

***POSTLUDE**.....*Sing We Now of Christmas / God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

NOËL NOUVELET & GOD REST YE MERRY, arr. by Brant Adams

Michael Talento, Alto Saxophone

Ting Ting Wong, Piano

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

***THANK YOU TO OUR TALENTED
CANTATA SINGERS & INSTRUMENTALISTS***

Soprano: Rebecca DiPersia, Cheryl Koch, Daniela Machado*, Juliet Rand+, Violet Rand, Brynn Terry

Mezzo: Katherine Dobbs*, MajaLisa FritzHuspen*, Betsy Miller

Tenor: Ed Arraya, Ryan Peteraf*, Jerry Schauer+, Harun Tekin*

Bass: Robert Arnold, Bob Bechtold, Paul Florence, Patrick Wilhelm*, Raúl Velazco+

+Section Leader

*Guest Singer

Organist: Ryan Peteraf

Saxophone: Michael Talento

Flute: Joann Mitchell

Flute: Rebecca DiPersia

UPCOMING EVENTS. *This Week @ ASPC*

Today, Sunday, December 14, 2025

10:00 AM	Worship Service
10:15 AM	Sunday School
11:00 AM	Fellowship Hour “Bagels & Bids”
11:30 AM	RAH Auction Bidding Ends

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

8:00 AM	Men’s Christian Fellowship
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Wednesday, December 17, 2025

7:00 PM	Session
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Thursday, December 18, 2025

6:00 PM	AA
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Saturday, December 20, 2025

10:00 AM	ACA
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Next Sunday is our annual Christmas Pageant!! Please join us at 10 AM for a beautiful retelling of the Christmas story. Following the pageant, we will enjoy cocoa, cookies, and some carols during fellowship hour in the gathering room! (See page 14)



CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

December 21 at 10 AM – Christmas Pageant

December 24 at 5 PM—Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

Worship Notes



The chancel flowers this morning are given by Nancy Gingras in memory of her dad, Jack Conway.

Thank you to everyone who donated holiday treats for the women's tea and community concert. Everything was delicious! We could not do it without your help!

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:

- Eric Jones & his family
- Lois Peck
- Randy Keaton & family (Lauren Snyder's father)
- CB (Coworker of Sara Cuccia)
- John Spaeder & Family
- Helen Walter (friend of Joe Falcon)
- Dennis White (friend of Joe Falcon)



PLEASE NOTE: The knitters are taking a break then until Monday, January 5th. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year! See you on the 5th!

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 – 3:30
Friday Closed

Announcements



Bagels and Bids

During Fellowship Hour, our hosts Sara DiGirolamo and family will be serving bagels donated by The Original Bagel in Broomall. This will be your last chance to bid at the Silent Auction. It ends at 11:30. Come and bid on the items to help us raise money for the March 8th Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event. We have over 100 donations. Also, tickets for Outback Steakhouse will be available. For more information on Outback tickets, check out page of the bulletin.



Joy Offering

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.



The NSPC Giving Tree

This holiday season let's once again fill "The Giving Tree" in the gathering space with warmth and hope! Help us support local children and teens by donating new hats, mittens and gloves. Every item you give will not only brighten our tree but also bring comfort and joy to kids in need as winter sets in. Your generosity is love in action. When we give, we show children they are seen, valued, and cared for. Last year, over 75 hats, mittens, and gloves—many lovingly hand-knitted—made a real difference for our community's children and teens. **Please join our joyful holiday mission:** simply hang your donation on The Giving Tree or place it in the basket below. Every gift matters. Thank you for making this season brighter, one child at a time!



12 Christmas Dinners

As you are aware, for several years NSPC has provided 12 Christmas Dinners for needy families at Garrett's Way. **The shopping is almost complete, but the cost needs to be covered by our donations.** There is a sign-up poster on the Mission Table and envelopes with directions. Please consider helping with this project. The baskets will be delivered on December 19th. If you would like to package the baskets or help deliver the food, please contact Sue Bechtold 484-832-8984. Thanks.



Help with the Meal Train

Many of you have been asking about Eric and what you can do to help the Bennett Jones Family as they continue to focus on Eric's health. Their school community has added more dates for the fall to keep the Meal Train going. Please sign up if you are able to help, please sign up with the link or QR code: <https://mealtrain.com/gv9o93>
We are grateful for your caring hearts and giving hands.



Help is needed for Hosting Fellowship Hour

It would be a tremendous help if we had hosts from the congregation for Fellowship Hour. We need help on December 28th of this year. Please contact Heather if you can host. Ask friends if they would like to "co-host", if you are unsure that you can provide for by yourself. There are instructions in the kitchen, attached to the metal shelves. I can answer any questions you may have. Thanks for your help. Margie Garwood



**American
Red Cross**

Blood
Services

**Our next ARC Blood Drive is
scheduled for January 29th**

from 2-7 PM. We hope to see you there. We have begun scheduling for our drive. Please scan the QR code to sign up!





We are most fortunate to have an opportunity to partner with OUTBACK STEAK HOUSE in Springfield for a fundraiser in support of Rise Against Hunger. Outback's offer is for NSPC members and friends to pre-purchase a \$25 gift card. **The card can be redeemed at the Springfield Outback Steakhouse from January 1 — January 31, 2026.** For every card redeemed, the Springfield Outback will only charge us food costs for the item ordered, roughly between 40-50%; the remainder stays with NSPC for RAH. This is a very generous offer. The card can be redeemed for one of the following meals (NO SUBSTITUTIONS):

- Victoria's Filet Mignon 6 oz.
- Outback New York Strip 12 oz.
- Perfectly Grilled Salmon
- Alice Springs Chicken

This will include 2 sides (10 to choose from) and an alcohol-free beverage (with free refills). The cards will be sold Sunday, November 30th through mid-January at the church. ***Order forms are in this week's bulletin!*** Feel free to take an extra order form and ask friends and family to purchase them.

Youth Announcements

Youth Group Schedule

- 12/14 Breakfast Club
- 12/21 Christmas Pageant
- 12/28 Coffee with Jesus Series



The Youth Group is having a Polar Express Get Together on Sunday, December 28th from 6-9. Come in your PJs and enjoy watching a movie together! We will have food, play games, and have a white elephant gift exchange! More information is coming soon.

Christmas Pageant

We are so grateful for your support as we work together to help our children share the joy and story of Christmas with our congregation.



- **Mandatory Dress Rehearsal:** Sunday, December 14 *after worship* (immediately following worship).
- Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 21st during worship

Thank you, and we look forward to another meaningful and joyful Christmas Pageant together!

Fellowship Hour after the Pageant is our beloved:



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, drinks, and cookies to enjoy during fellowship hour. Please sign up to bring some cookies to share. **Sign up Here:**





In Ministry Together at Newtown Square Presbyterian Church:

Pastor	The Rev. Bill Searight
Parish Associate	The Rev. Dr. Nancy Holt Timothy
Director of Music	Ting Ting Wong
Director of Youth & Families	Kristi Schaub
Church Office Manager	Heather Impriano
PreK-2nd Sunday School Teacher	Beth McCarry
3 rd -6 th grade Sunday School Teacher	Debbie Villano
Nursery Attendants	Grace McCarry & Sadie Kazanjan
Spiritual Director	Jacki Tase
Co-Director, NSPC Preschool.....	Jane Fioravanti
Co-Director, NSPC Preschool.....	Meghan Kazanjan
Clerk of Session	Buff Biddle
President, Board of Trustees	Jim Shea
Moderator of Deacons.....	Margie Garwood
Co-Treasurer	Rich Digby
Co-Treasurer	Heather Impriano
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
Ting Ting Wong (cell):	412-608-5588
Rev. Searight e-mail:	pastor@newtownsquarepres.org
Ting Ting Wong e-mail:	music@newtownsquarepres.org
Kristi Schaub e-mail:	youth@newtownsquarepres.org

**Newtown Square Presbyterian Church
3600 Goshen Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073
610.356.8063 ~ office@newtownsquarepres.org
www.newtownsquarepres.org**