



NSPC Connections

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WWW.NEWTOWNSQUAREPRES.ORG
REV. DR. JEANNE THOMAS—PASTOR

FEBRUARY 2024

From Your Pastor:

Dear Friends,

If you were in attendance at our Annual Meeting on January 28, I hope that you felt as uplifted as I did. I am both humbled and amazed by what we have accomplished together as a church community. We began 2023 with a projected deficit of \$70,000, in large part due to several deaths during 2022. Not only did we eliminate the deficit during the year, but we also led a successful stewardship campaign that has resulted in a projected surplus at year-end of \$10,000. In addition, we paid down \$500,000 of our building loan! None of this was possible without YOU. Together, we are building a multi-generational community of faith that is reaching inward and outward as it grows in faith and discipleship.

We also listened to our leaders highlight the myriad programs and opportunities that engage us as a church family. Nearly everything we do here is a result of communal effort. Our internal events and programs, such as Sunday school, the annual meeting, the church picnic, as well as our outreach events, such as Trunk or Treat and Vacation Bible School, require many hands behind the scenes to do everything from setting up and decorating a room to running the program. None of these events could happen otherwise.

When we are baptized, we become part of the church, Christ's body. This isn't just another optional activity—it is a calling from God. We become part of his body—and, closer to home, we become a part of *this* body in order to further Christ's mission, proclaim the good news of the gospel, and go out and make disciples in the world around us. We can't do it alone and we shouldn't do it alone. We are to be partners in his gospel.

NEWTOWN SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Sermons for the Month of February

2/4 — 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Mark 1:29-39

"Looking for God"



Communion

Rev. Dr. Jeanne Thomas, preaching

2/11 — Transfiguration of the Lord
II Corinthians 4:4-6; Mark 9:2-9

"A Mountaintop Experience"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Holt Timothy,
preaching

2/18— 1st Sunday in Lent
Mark 1:21-28; I Corinthians 8:1-13

"Limiting Love"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Holt Timothy,
preaching

2/25— 2nd Sunday in Lent
Mark 8:27-35

**"...But, Who Do YOU Say That I
Am?"**

Rev. Dr. Jeanne Thomas, preaching

Worship Service
10:00 AM

Join Us!

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Centuries ago, Teresa of Avila put it this way: “Christ has no body now but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.”

What a blessing it is to serve this faith community at Newtown Square Presbyterian Church! Let us continue to listen prayerfully to what God is calling us to do next, both here and in the world, and *together* live as the body of Christ in this place.

In Christ,
Jeanne

P.S. The 2023 Annual Report is available in the Narthex and Gathering Room, or it will be mailed upon request.



**NSPC's Community Concert
Series proudly presents:**

Bijoux Saxophone Duo
Aiwen Zhang & Valentin Kovalev

February 4th at 3 PM

*A "Meet the Artists" Reception
will follow*



Newtown Square Presbyterian Church
3600 Goshen Road, Newtown Square, PA

The Annual Meeting was a great time to celebrate what NSPC accomplished during 2023 and to hear from our committee and commission chairs, as well as leaders of other groups in the church. We have an exciting year ahead! Thank you to everyone who submitted and/or gave a report, brought food to be shared, or helped out by setting up and/or cleaning up. Thank you to the Marchesanis for cooking the entree!



Music Ministry

Hi NSPC Peeps!

Happy February. I hope you all did okay with the cold weather in January. It was rough. I also hope you are all staying healthy.

We have our 5th concert in February! **The Bijoux Saxophone Duo will be at 3 PM on February 4th**. Valentin is on the roster of the prestigious Astral Artists, Philadelphia. It is a nonprofit intensive mentoring program that specializes in developing the early careers of extraordinary classical musicians. There are only approximately 25 musicians on the roster. It is definitely our treat to have Valentin and his wife, Aiwen, with whom he has collaborated for a long time, to be giving a concert at NSPC. It is also the FIRST time I am not playing for the concert. They are just a dynamic and super talented duo, and it will be the best concert ever. I am curious to know how many saxophones they will bring in! We also have switched the time to 3 PM to ensure that community members who are unable to commute in the dark have an opportunity to join us.

Our small but mighty choir has been working hard each week for the anthems and offertories. Each week you hear different styles of music. I hope you enjoyed some Mendelssohn in January. This month, I will feature more classical music by Mendelssohn, Pergolesi, Tchaikovsky and so forth. I always believe that music has its own language, and I am not afraid to have us be exposed to all different genres of music. Joann Mitchell will be playing with us in February as well.

MUSIC FOR LENT

As we enter the Lenten season, I have carefully chosen some reflective and gorgeous pieces, thus allowing us to prepare and experience the Lenten journey together. I'd like to share one line of lyrics in one piece we will perform: "Sing me to heaven, touch in me all love and passion, pain and pleasure, touch. Touch in me grief and comfort, love and passion, pain and pleasure. Sing me a lullaby, a

love song, a requiem. Love me, comfort me, bring me to God. Sing me a love song, sing me to heaven. "

That's all for now. I will see you on Sundays.

~Ting Ting, Director of Music



Spiritual Direction

- ◇ Would you like to deepen your relationship with God and become more aware of God's presence in your life?
- ◇ In the busyness and stress of your everyday life, do you need a space to quiet your soul?
- ◇ Do you desire to deepen your prayer life?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, prayerfully consider spiritual direction.

What is Spiritual Direction?

A trained spiritual director will help you create more space in your life to become aware and responsive to the presence and activity of God in your life. This occurs within an environment of confidentiality and trust. Awareness of God's presence grows within this monthly practice of an hour in which the Holy Spirit is the true director, leading the conversation and time of prayerful listening.

Spiritual direction conversations include all the components of our daily lives such as vocation, relationships, circumstances, health, the life of worship, prayer, and service. During these conversations, we seek to notice God's presence, work, and invitations. The spiritual director offers prayerful space to help you draw near to God.

A spiritual director may introduce contemplative practices such as silence, solitude, and prayerful reading of Scripture in creating space to experience God. Practices such as these, have been a part of the rich Christian tradition utilized by those seeking a deeper walk with God throughout the ages.

If you are longing for a deeper, more fulfilling experience of God in your life, I encourage you to consider a spiritual director to be a companion on your journey. It would be my great joy to have a conversation with you and answer any questions as you prayerfully consider spiritual direction.

Jacki Tase

* Jacki is a trained spiritual director and member of our congregation. You can reach her at jackitase@gmail.com or 484-332-9348. She offers individual or group spiritual direction in person or on zoom.

**10:30 AM Wednesday,
February 28 in the
sanctuary of NSPC**

Lenten Quiet Morning



**Led by Jacki Tase, Spiritual Director
Call the church office to register, or
email jeannethomas@comcast.net**

News for: Youth and Family Ministries at NSPC



A Note from Meg...

We kicked off 2024 with a Youth Group New Year's party on Saturday, January 6th! Ten members of our youth group and their friends gathered for games, food and music! In Youth Group on Sundays this month, we have been talking about going "Back to Basics" and have done some study of where some beloved stories happen in the Bible. January 28th begins a 3-week hands-on Youth Group study on being "Strong and Courageous."

Our First Friends and Kid's Groups met the first 2 Sundays of the month and we had SO much fun! First Friends talked about Jesus being the light of the world, and then had a dance party with glow sticks! Kid's Group had a cake decorating competition to celebrate everyone's 2024 birthday, and then decorated and signed birthday cards for church members who

livestream our church services. Both groups were, as always, full of silliness, friendship, and Jesus!

On February 18th, the Youth and Family Commission is hosting a Bingo Fundraiser from 3-5 PM! Admission is \$15, which allots you 6 bingo cards (more will be available for an additional fee). We will also have a raffle and bake sale! All the proceeds will support the children and youth activities throughout our programming year! We are looking for prizes to win during Bingo and are asking the congregation for help! Ideas might include gift cards, bags and purses, Philadelphia or sports-themed gifts, games, and themed baskets! Donations don't have to cost a lot—look around the house for something that would be fun to pass on!

God is Good!

Meg Hess

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Youth and Family Ministries Upcoming Dates



Here is our current Sunday Youth Group Schedule:

- **JANUARY 28th**: Strong and Courageous Pt. 1
- **FEBRUARY 4th**: Strong and Courageous Pt. 2
- **FEBRUARY 11th**: Strong and Courageous Pt. 3
- **FEBRUARY 18th**: *Youth in Worship*
- **FEBRUARY 25th**: Lent Pt. 1



BINGO FUNDRAISER

February 18th from 3-5 will be a fundraising event for Youth and Family Ministries at NSPC!

- We are in need of prizes: baskets for our raffle, gift cards, toys & games, hand-bags, gifts. Look for things around your home that would be fun to win!
- Tickets are \$15 for 6 bingo cards and will be available to purchase beginning in February, or at the door the night of!
- Bake sale during the event sponsored by the children and youth of NSPC!



Kids in preschool and kindergarten can come to First Friends!

Our next group time is February 4th!

We are going to make Valentines for important people in our church and play a game!

Parents are welcome, but not required!



Kids in grades 1 though 5 are always welcome at Kid's Group!

Our next meeting time is February 11th!

We will be baking in preparation for Bingo night!



With Jesus' birth in December, the children in Sunday School are now solidly in the New Testament! Here are the plans for February!

- **2/4: The Woman at the Well (John 4:5-42)**
- **2/11: The Storm (Matthew 8:23-27)**
- **2/18: The Centurion's Servant (Matthew 8:5-13)**
- **2/25: Jesus Blesses the Children (Mark 10:13-16)**

Special thanks to Allison Adgate, Debbie Villano, Scott Hess, Nancy Gingras, Sarah Shane, and Sara and Nick Cuccia for subbing Sunday School this past fall and winter! Your support of our church's children is so appreciated!

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Building and Grounds Update

Your Building and Grounds Commission kicked off the new year by welcoming Glenn Bechtold, Jane Fioravanti, Paul Florence, Crystal Gray, and Rob Gray as new members to its commission. We are excited about having “new blood” to this most important group within our church.

After two years, Newtown Square has had two significant snowfalls that have required our parking lots to be plowed and salted. We are extremely fortunate to have had our snow removal company for over 20 years who makes our church a top priority and shows up automatically to service our needs and keep our members and renters safe.

The CE Wing roof over the preschool office has been leaking over the past six months. On three separate occasions, B&G attempted to patch the leak to no avail. After the most recent heavy rain and more leaking, it was decided to tarp that area with a 30' X 30' tarp and anchor it with lumber. This was accomplished in hopes to buy some time before it is necessary for major repairs or replacement.



When B&G members were up on the CE Wing roof working on installing the tarp over the roof leak, we used that opportunity to inspect the chimney on the Sanctuary roof and discovered that it needs significant maintenance. As you can see in the photo, the bricks need to be re-pointed.

Upon John Wellington's death last October, the desire of his wife Marian and the family is that memorial donations in John's name be used for the installation of a memorial sign/plaque in John's honor. This is to be placed in the garden that was John's vision and creation. B&G is looking into this purchase. The remainder of the funds are to be used for general garden improvements.

On the night of January 9th, heavy rain and winds caused a tree to fall down blocking the lower driveway of the church. By noon the next day, the tree was moved out of the way of traffic and was cut up and disposed of the following day.



BUILDING & GROUNDS

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Routine maintenance was performed on the frequently used folding door between the Gathering Room and the Multi-purpose Room. This was particularly necessary as it was not functioning as well as possible and needed a small repair.



Newtown Square Presbyterian Church Preschool donated a Bloodgood Japanese Maple tree and it was planted in the Chidester/Piroeff Memorial Garden.

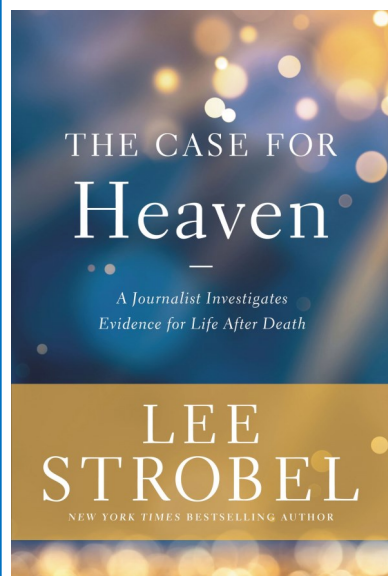
In addition, Bob Bechtold has been busy planting liriopse, a lovely ground cover, in the Chidester/Piroeff Memorial Garden.



Our church has received a very generous donation from the NSPC Preschool (\$12,000) to be used for the purchase and installation of Poly Max Acoustic Ceiling and Wall Panels in our multi-purpose room. B&G is in the process of moving forward with this project.

B&G has been investigating a permanent metal banner holder for our seasonal and activity banners. The sign will be located at the corner of Route 252 and Goshen Road. A member has most generously come forward to donate the funds for this much needed method to attach our banners.

~Jim Shea and Allen Corle
Co-chairs Building and Grounds



Men's Bible Fellowship

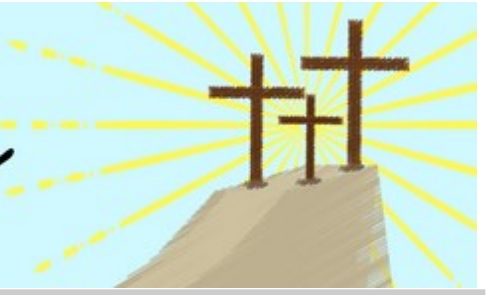
Men's Bible Fellowship will be meeting **every Tuesday morning in February at 8 AM**. The current discussion topic is Heaven and the first book they are reading is The Case for Heaven by Lee Strobel.

As C. S Lewis said, "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. "

For more information, please email Rich Digby at rkdigby@comcast.net.

All are welcome... this will be a lively and enlightening discussion!

Mission News



Thank You!

Our flip tops are overflowing. It is wonderful. I have a volunteer to go with me to drop off the tabs on Chestnut Street. We will do that at some point. Please keep saving. If the area is full, it is only because we did not get a free day to deliver yet. Please leave additional tops next to the jug.



Thank you also to our regular delivery people for the Wawa Saturday pickup. We have had a few Saturday pickups that were slim and then a few that were very plentiful. We can never tell what to expect. If anyone would like to participate as a pickup person when needed, feel free to let Marg MacDonald or Sue Bechtold know.

Gemma Services: A thank you was printed in their Newsletter about the Christmas gifts. Thanks to YOU, Gemma was able to help create a magical holiday season for more than 500 youth and families from our local communities this year! This would not have been possible without your partnership and we are grateful.



VIEWPOINT
WITH DENNIS QUAID

Other Gemma good news: We are thrilled to share that Gemma will be highlighted soon on a segment of Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid on public television! In addition, a commercial for Gemma Services will air nationally in February on primetime television in advance of the show's public television distribution. Watch for that on your TV.

~Sue Bechtold
Mission Chairperson

Women's Ministry Thank You Award

The Women's Ministry would like to thank these children for packaging 60 Valentine Treat bags for the residential students at Gemma Services , Plymouth Meeting , PA.

Ryan Cuccia, Gabby DiGirolamo and Emily Cuccia





Friends,
SM

Thank you for the support of our fund raising for our Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event in March. **We sold close to 100 dinner cards for Outback Steak House.** The restaurant will be giving us a check based on the food costs for cards redeemed January 1 - 28, 2024. Stay tuned for that update.

We placed a GO FUND ME on Facebook. We will not know that outcome either until sometime later in February. If you see the post, please share it and we will then reach many people.

Our RAH event will be on March 10th from 3:00-5:00 PM. Helper sign-ups will begin mid-February. Watch for information in the bulletin.

This year we are hoping to do 20,000 meals again. Each meal packed costs us 40 cents and we need to raise \$8000 to accomplish that goal. Currently have not reached the \$8000 goal and may have to reduce this goal if we don't have enough funds.

Prayers for a successful packaging event.

Lynne and Allen Corle

Bob and Sue Bechtold

AED/CPR Seminar

On Sunday, January 21st, following worship in the Gathering Room, 27 members attended a workshop to acquaint us with our two new AED machines. The workshop was led by EMT and Certified Instructor, Andy Tucker, a long-time church member. Recently the church was able to add 2 new AED machines, thanks to donations from NSPC Preschool and our Women's Ministry. Currently there is an AED in the lower-level social hall, the education wing, across from Jeanne's office and on the ramp exiting the Sanctuary.

Andy gave instructions on using the AED and performing hands only CPR. He also demonstrated the Heimlich maneuver for choking.

It was pointed out that currently we see AED machines in many community locations and also in police and fire vehicles. Andy pointed out that the machine gives great instructions following the call to 911. Working together to save a life is something we all hope never to have to do but we also know that it happens. This workshop helped many see that the machines and 911 are invaluable.

Thanks to Andy, the donating groups, and all attending.





Women's Ministry

Women's Bible Study

Date: Monday, February 5, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Gathering Room

Hostess: Dolores Hart

Study Leader: Marian Wellington

Lesson 5: "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus"

*All women are welcome.
Join us for fellowship,
personal and spiritual growth*



Mark your calendar with the date of our

Women's Ministry
FASTNACHT SUNDAY
February 11, 2023

**We shall be serving Fasnachts (doughnuts)
during our coffee hour!**

"Fastnacht Sunday" shall take place in the Lounge after worship on February 11, 2023 as Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year.



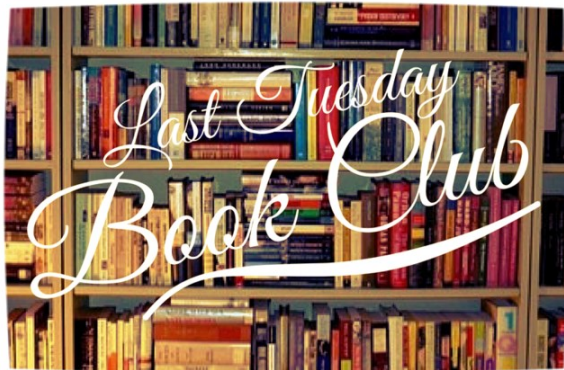
Thank you to all who helped with the Mission Projects organized by the Women's Ministry. The chart for toys was filled and all \$200 paid for. The toys were delivered to Gemma for 2023 Christmas.

The 12 dinners for Garrett's Way were delivered and pleasantly received by the staff.

Donations to Gemma's box were greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all our friends for helping.
~Women's Ministry Board





The Last Tuesday Book Club

Our next *Last Tuesday Book Club* will take place on February 27 at 1:00 PM. Carol Guest will be leading our discussion of Know My Name by Chanel Miller.

Our book club meets in NSPC's Conference Room.

Feel free to join us each month or try us out for just one meeting because the title intrigues you. New members are always welcome and feel free to bring a friend.

For more information, contact Lynne Corle at (610-563-5355) or Lcorle217@gmail.com

February 27, 2024	Carol Guest	<u>Know My Name</u> By Chanel Miller
May 28, 2024	Jan Gauger	<u>Things I Wish I Told My Mother</u> by Susan Patterson

February Birthdays



- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 02/01 — Margie Conway | 02/07 — Jules Prevost | 02/18 — Len Rustam II |
| 02/01 — Dot Gauntlett | 02/07 — Audria Moore | 02/25 — Earl Ekas |
| 02/01 — Kathy Saybolt | 02/10 — Jen Gries | 02/26 — Dylan Condo |
| 02/02 — Susan Thompson | 02/10 — Harold Eder II | 02/26 — Cannon Ebersole |
| 02/03 — Debi Schuler | 02/11 — Natalie Andress | 02/26 — Allegra Sanner |
| 02/03 — Laurie Lynch | 02/11 — Jack Chidester | 02/28 — Lane Ebersole |
| 02/04 — Ron Hill | 02/12 — Chosa (Molly) Vokhiwa | 02/28 — Olivia Ebersole |
| 02/04 — Dennis DiGirolamo | 02/13 — Henry Fleck | 02/29 — Liliana Condo |

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6 pm AA	2	3
4 10 am Worship/SS 11 am Fellowship Hour 11:15 am First Friends	5 10 am Knitting for Peace 1 pm Women's Bible Study	6 8 am Men's Bible Fellowship	7	8 6 pm AA	9	10
11 10 am Worship/SS 11 am Fellowship Hour "Fastnacht Sunday" 11:15 am Kids' Group	12 10 am Knitting for Peace 7pm Deacons	13 8 am Men's Bible Fellowship	14 "Ash Wednesday"	15 6 pm AA	16	17
18 10 am Worship/SS 11 am Fellowship Hour 3 pm BINGO Fund-raiser	19 <i>Office Closed for Presidents' Day</i> 10 am Knitting for Peace	20 8 am Men's Bible Fellowship	21	22 6 pm AA	23	24
25 10 am Worship/SS 11 am Fellowship Hour	26 10 am Knitting for Peace	27 8 am Men's Bible Fellowship 1pm Last Tuesday Book Club	28 10:30 am Lenten Quiet Morning	29 6 pm AA		

In Ministry Together at Newtown Square Presbyterian Church:

Pastor The Rev. Dr. Jeanne Thomas
Parish Associate..... The Rev. Dr. Nancy Holt Timothy
Director of Music..... Ting Ting Wong
Director of Youth & Family Ministry..... Meg Hess
Church Office Manager Heather Impriano
Sunday School TeachersPaige Fiore & Brad Kohlhepp
Nursery Attendant..... Jeannette Giovanetti
Spiritual DirectorJacki Tase
Co-Directors, Newtown Square Presbyterian Church Preschool Jane Fioravanti & Meghan Kazanjian
Clerk of Session Buff Biddle
President, Board of TrusteesJim Shea
Treasurer Dave Sampson
Head Usher..... Grant Snyder
The Sacristy Guild of St. Martha..... Carol Guest
Presbyterian WomenGinny Berman

Plus... all the members of NSPC

SESSION/BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Jeanne Thomas

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Sue Bechtold	Rebecca DiPersia	Ed Arraya
Lynne Corle	Joe Falcon	Buff Biddle
Siobhian Robinson	Laurie Lynch	Jane Fioravanti
Debbie Weiss	Jim Shea	Joe Marchesani

BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator: Barbara Nicolardi

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Nicolle Arraya	Betsy Bender	Kathy Donovan
Sara DiGirolamo	Rich Digby	Margie Garwood
Jennifer Gries	Robbyn Marchesani	Lauren Jacobs
Debbie Villano	Barbara Nicolardi	Marg MacDonald

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