



NEWTOWN SQUARE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NSPC Connections

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OFFICE: 610.356.8063
WWW.NEWTOWNSQUAREPRES.ORG
REV. WILLIAM H. SEARIGHT—PASTOR

JANUARY 2026

From Your Pastor

Dear Friends,

I look out the window of my home office into a small forest of trees, whose branches have gone bare. They appear to be lifeless. Yet, on sunny days, I can remember that leafless branches are not dead. The trees still live and in a couple of months will put out shoots and buds that will restore the trees to their summer fullness.

When Jesus began his ministry, he went first to the Jordan River for his own baptism and then to the Sea of Galilee to call his first disciples. He called them with a promise: the kingdom of God has come near.

Those first disciples—Peter, Andrew, James and John—might have looked around them and thought that all the world was dead. They lived in a fearful world of frequent conflict, ruled by a distant emperor. These four men labored through each night struggling to catch enough fish to make ends meet. It is possible that they thought nothing would ever change.

And then Jesus called out to them over the waters of the lake: “Follow me!”

From that point on, the world around them began to reveal the truth: that the life which comes from God was not gone. They could see signs of life everywhere Jesus took them.

This year, I want to study the Gospel According to Mark with you and note the signs of God’s gift of life coming into fullness. I invite you to open your Bible at home, with friends, and in church meetings, and let us study together how the call of Jesus can help us to see ourselves and the world around us with more hopeful, Spirit-filled eyes.

Grace and peace,
Bill



Sermons for the Month of January

1/4 Second Sunday of Christmas
Matthew 2:1-12
Reading of the Necrology
Communion



1/11 Baptism of the Lord
Mark 1:1-11
Installation & Ordination of
Officers
Deacons Meeting

1/18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Mark 1:14-20

1/25 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Mark 1:21-28
Annual Meeting

Worship Service
10:00 AM

Join Us!

Attention: Elders and Deacons...Past and Present

Our Sacrament of Communion provides us with an inner spiritual reality of what Christ died for. It is the connection with our faith and those around us. We are united as a family of Christians, as we pass the bread and wine. Our homebound members desire to share that fellowship as well.



Pastor Bill would like all that desire, to be nourished. We are asking for all Elders and Deacons to volunteer to provide to those at home, the Sacrament of Communion. Presently, we serve four of our members in the Newtown Square/Broomall area.

Pastor Bill will provide instructions to all who serve. There are individual bags in the Sacristy with the elements and scripture to provide Communion. This is another way we can serve our Lord. It not only enriches our homebound but nourishes your faith in fellowship as well.

Please contact Heather to serve in this enriching and moving sacrament that can be served on Communion Sunday or during the following week.

We remember our members who are now with our Lord and offer prayers for their families:

David Sampson	01/17/2025
Elsie Oreski	04/04/2025
Kathy Piroeff	06/15/2025
Mary Burgess	07/03/2025
Fiona Brown	08/09/2025



The necrology will be read during worship on January 4, 2026.



SAVE THE DATE: January 25, 2026 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Following worship on January 25, 2026, there will be an annual meeting of the congregation in the Sanctuary. More details to follow in the bulletins in early January. Come and hear the highlights of 2025 and the goals and objectives for 2026.

*We are all a part of what makes this congregation
such a wonderful community of faith!*



All blood types are needed.

Schedule your
blood donation
appointment today.



SAVE THE DATE:

**American Red Cross Blood Drive
January 29th 2:00 PM—7:00 PM
Newtown Square Presbyterian Church**

Registration is open: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Newtown%20Township>

Holiday Favorites Concert

The Community Concert at 4:00 on December 7th was a rousing success. Thank you, Ting Ting for organizing and performing such an amazing event. And many thanks to all those who donated food for the Meet the Artist Reception. Thanks also for the volunteers who helped set up, cleaning up and usher: Karen Shea, Lynne Corle, Sue Bechtold, Debbie Weiss, Allen Corle, and Marg MacDonald.



Deacons

Sign-ups for weekly chancel flowers and fellowship hour for 2026 are available. Please consider signing up for one of these wonderful missions.

You can sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949AFA629A5FE3-59442854-2026#/> or contact Heather at office@newtownsquarepres.org to signup for a date. Thank you!

WEEKLY FLOWERS FOR THE CHANCEL:



The flower arrangement will be delivered from the Media Florist and placed on the Chancel prior to Worship. The cost for donating the flowers for one Sunday is \$25. Please make all checks out to NSPC and write "Chancel Flowers" in the memo section. You are welcome to take the flowers home with you or donate them to someone in our congregation who is feeling under the weather. The Delivery Deacon will ask you.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR COFFEE/REFRESHMENTS IN THE GATHERING ROOM:




Following Worship, coffee, cold beverages and light snacks are provided in the Gathering Room. This is a short but very worthwhile activity as NSPC friends gather to greet each other and have friendly conversation. Hosts can share the duty and provide this time of refreshment.

Thank you from the Deacons of NSPC!

Music Ministry

Dear Friends,

2025 goes by so quickly, I can't believe I am writing a newsletter article for 2026 already. I am still

recovering  from the wonderful Advent/ Christmas season @NSPC...all in a good way!

We celebrated the 8th winter cantata on 12/14 (no cantata in 20). The weather was not on our side this year, with an overnight snowstorm coming into our region. Most of the musicians/choir members showed up and had a wonderful time making music with "O Joyful Celebration!" We appreciated those who shoveled their driveways to come to church, and for those who watched online that morning. (When I checked the livestream at the beginning of the service, I think we had over 30 people watching online.) Thank you for your support to the guest musicians and to our NSPC singers. It is wonderful to be able to share the good news with you.

The youth and children of NSPC have done it! They did a marvelous job for the pageant service on the 21st. I received many positive comments, with one which kept repeating in my ears "THIS IS THE BEST PAGEANT EVER!" Thank you to all the parents who facilitated the learning / rehearsal process. Thank you to the youth and adults who played and sang (Grace McCarry, Jen Gries, Trevor Hill, Joann Mitchell, Robert Schaub, Kelsey Schaub)! And a special shout-out to Sara DiGirolamo, Beth McCarry and Jenn Hill as they did months of prep- ping behind the scenes! Congratulations to all of you along with Kristi's leadership for an awesome service. It took a village, and NSPC is a great village :)

We had excellent attendance during Christmas Eve, with the traditional lessons and carols service. I have to say, that's one of my favorite services of the year. We had a small but mighty choir, accompanied by Joann Mitchell and Mike Talento. The choir re-presented the jazz version of "Go Tell It on the Mountain," with Mike, and I felt the energy "behind my back!"

On the fourth day of Christmas, we had Pastor Bill preaching about Titus. I love that passage! Jerry Schauer and Brynn Terry shared their talent and did a wonderful job on Gesú Bambino, a great way to remind us that Christ is Born! And Jerry played a great "O Come All Ye Faithful" on the trombone! It was a great way to end the year 2025!

On January 4th, Pastor Bill will mention the Magi and we will sing "We Three Kings". The choir will present "The Birthday of a King", and "Angels We Have Heard on High". And I am preparing a wonderful arrangement of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing".

I will see you around in January as our days are getting longer and more special music is being planned! I wish you a happy, healthy year ahead in 2026!

~Ting Ting
Director of Music





News for: Youth and Family Ministries at NSPC

Youth Corner at NSPC

December has been a beautiful and busy month in the life of our youth at NSPC, filled with joy, faith, music, and meaningful moments together. As we journeyed through Advent, our Sunday School children learned about hope, peace, joy, and love while preparing their hearts for the coming of Christ. Their excitement and thoughtful participation reminded us of the wonder of the season.

Our youth spent much of the month preparing for the Annual Christmas Pageant, and what a blessing it was! The children and youth worked hard during Sunday School and rehearsals, and their dedication truly shined during worship. From speaking roles to songs and behind-the-scenes help, each child played an important part in sharing the Christmas story. We are so grateful to all the families who supported rehearsals and helped make the pageant such a meaningful experience for our congregation.

Following the pageant, our church family gathered for Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols, a cherished tradition that brought smiles, sweet treats, and joyful music to close out the morning. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and celebration together. A big *Thank You* to Ting Ting and Raul for leading us in music and to all those who brought cookies and treats to share.

Our older youth also enjoyed seasonal activities and time for connection, including our Polar Express Get Together that allowed them to relax, laugh, and strengthen friendships during this busy time of year. We are thankful for the ways they continue to show care for one another and grow together in faith.

As December ends, we look ahead with excitement to the new year, including the continuation of Little Lights in January and many opportunities for learning, service, and fellowship. Thank you to all the children, youth, parents, and volunteers who make our youth ministry such a vibrant and joyful part of NSPC.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

~Kristi Schaub

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Time Change: Youth Group meets Sundays from 7:00– 8:00 PM

Breakfast Club will continue to meet from 10:15-11:15 on the third Sunday of the month.

- 1/4 Youth in Church (AM)
- 1/11 Topic: Coffee with Jesus Series (PM)
- 1/18 Breakfast Club (AM)
Topic: Coffee with Jesus Series (PM)
- 1/24-25 Youth Lock-In (See Flyer)





YOUTH LOCK – IN

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND FAITH.

WHEN: JANUARY 24TH-25TH

WHERE: SOCIAL HALL (DOWN STAIRS)

TIME: 7:00 PM – 8:00 AM

* PLEASE BRING PILLOWS AND SLEEPING BAGS. CHECK THE SIGN-UP
GENIUS TO REGISTER





CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 21, 2025

COCOA, COOKIES, & CAROLS



DECEMBER 21, 2025

POLAR EXPRESS GET TOGETHER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025



Mission News



Recycle these items to benefit NSPC



Food: Friends, Each Monday Nancy Holt delivers donations of food to Food Banks serving Delaware County. Please consider donating Non-Perishable items to help our neighbors in need. You can place them in the basket label "Food Bank" at the top of the ramp.

Print Cartridges: These are recycled to Staples for credit to be used by the office. (container on the Mission Table)



Gemma: School Supplies are always welcome at Gemma Services. (Container on Mission Table)

Flip Tops: Flip Tops used on soda cans, etc. are donated to the Ronald McDonald House. They are then recycled, and the money is used towards utility bills. (Container on the Mission Table)



Other Items being Accepted:

- Shopping Bags
- If you have received gifts that you would like to re-gift, see Sue Bechtold or Ginny Ber- man as a possible donation to Gemma Services.
- Boxes of snacks for Coffee Hour (Leave on the counter)
- Boxes of Keurig cups for the Coffee Hour "
- Baskets (Leave by the office)
- Plastic plates, flatware, napkins (new but unused) (Leave on the café counter.)

NSPC Holiday Giving Tree 2025 🌲

We are thrilled to share that the NSPC family was as generous as ever this year. The Giving Tree was a big success, and the participation grows each year! The NSPC knitting group was truly amazing (and very busy) and thanks to everyone's efforts, we collected a remarkable 121 winter weather items (hats, gloves, scarves) for underserved children in the Philadelphia area. It's heartwarming to see such generosity and community spirit at work in NSPC.

Thanks to everyone that contributed to the NSPC Giving Tree this year. Your generosity inspires us all!

~Siobhian Robinson, Giving Tree Coordinator





Rise Against Hunger Auction

The Rise Against Hunger Auction at the Newtown Square Presbyterian Church was a big success. We appreciate all the donations from friends of RAH and Community Businesses. We had over 100 items /gift cards donated. The purpose was to raise money to cover the costs for packaging RAH packets on March 8, 2026. **We are now close to our goal!**

Thank you for your continued support of this most valuable mission effort.

~Sue and Bob Bechtold and the Rise Against Hunger Committee



Christmas Leftover Treats

In previous years the Coffee Hour has sometimes been treated by people dropping off their left-over Christmas Cookies. If you are tired of them and would like to share them, just put on a plate, cover and leave on the counter for the next Coffee Hour.

Flowers for the Homebound

Thank you to Nancy Kermon for creating these beautiful bouquets which were accompanied by a gift bag with a homemade cranberry orange muffin and a piece of chocolate cake. These were then delivered to our homebound members by the Deacons.



Christmas Joy Offering



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the **Christmas Joy Offering!** We collected \$647. We appreciate your generosity!

~Ginni Condo

Christmas Joy Offering Coordinator

Cards Are Still Available: Outback Steakhouse Fundraiser For Rise Against Hunger



Dear Friends,

Once again, we will be doing our 8th multi-generational packaging event for Rise Against Hunger (RAH) on March 8th, 2026. **RAH is a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives, and responding to emergencies.** To date NSPC has packaged in excess of 140,000 meals. **Our goal for this spring is to package another 20,000 meals.**

As this is not a budgeted mission for our church, fundraising is a major part of this event, and we are most fortunate to have an opportunity to partner with OUTBACK STEAK HOUSE in Springfield.

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%. This is a very generous offer.



The card can be redeemed for one of the following meals.

- 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).
NO SUBSTITUTIONS

The cards will be sold through the middle of January at the church. Feel free to take an order form and ask friends and family to purchase them. They make a great Christmas gift or Thank You gift of family and friends!

*The card does not cover the tip.

*It can be used for dine-in or curbside pickup.

Location: Outback Steak House
Olde Sproul Shopping Village
1118 Baltimore Pike
Springfield, Pa. 19064

(Between the 2 Targets on Baltimore Pike in Springfield, close to the Springfield Mall)

This Outback is rated 4.2 out of 5 on Google. They are #1 in the Tri-State Area. The Bechtolds and the Corles recently had dinner at the Springfield Outback. We can personally vouch for the excellent food, service, and cleanliness of the restaurant.



Garrett's Way 12 Turkey Dinners Delivery

A wonderful group of volunteers delivered the dinners, in the rain, to Garrett's Way. As you can see, we ranged from preschoolers up through a higher age!

We finished packaging at the church and then drove to Garrett's Way and delivered the Christmas dinners. Helpers included Marg MacDonald, Bob and Sue Bechtold, Rob and Crystal Gray, Allen Corle and the Barad-ics. Thanks to Jen Gries for storing turkeys until they were needed.

Thank you for all your financial donations to pay for the supplies needed. Shopping was done by Glenn, Bob and Sue Bechtold. This mission is appreciated by the families at Garrett's Way.



BUILDING & GROUNDS

Please Be Careful... Having already had two bouts of snow and ice in December, we can't help but expect that 2026 will bring us more.

For years, our church is contracted with Delaware Valley Tree and Landscaping, and they have always made the safety of our church and preschool a top priority. Every effort including pretreating, salting and plowing has been made to keep our sidewalks, driveways and parking lots free from ice and snow. With such a large area and often a limited amount of prep time, we cannot expect that these surfaces will always be totally ice or snow free.

On bad weather days, please be extremely cautious when leaving your car and heading into the church. Your safety is of utmost import to us.

Happy New Year,

Allen Corle, Jim Shea and Rob Gray, B&G Chairpersons



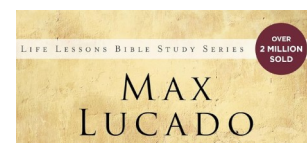


Men's Christian Fellowship

The Men's Christian Fellowship Group has two meeting groups! The Tuesday morning Men's Christian Fellowship group will continue to meet weekly at 8 AM. The Sunday meeting group is currently taking a break.

For January, we will begin Max Lucado's book "Life Lessons from Mark" on Tuesday, January 6th.

All men are welcome. We hope you can join us on Tuesday mornings!



LIFE LESSONS from
MARK



Knitting

The Knitting Group got together on December 1st for a small Christmas celebration of coffee and scones. We also "decorated" The Giving Tree with about 70 items (hats and scarves) which have been made throughout the year. Pictured are the items that were knit and crocheted and some of the women responsible for creating them. Pictured are: (from left to right) Carol Guest, Irene Bernabeo, Marg MacDonald, Bernice Eder, Joey Yocum and Linda Wallace. Those absent are May Foster, Lois Peck, Betsy Miller and Nancy Hopkins. Of note: May Foster who knits from home, donated several baby blankets which were sold at the auction to raise funds for RAH.

The knitting group is "small but mighty" and we will resume getting together on Mondays at 10 a.m. starting January 12, 2026, in the Gathering Room of the church. We are an easy-going group and welcome anyone who would like to join us.

If you have any questions, please call Marg MacDonald at 610 639-2497 or email; gretamarg@gmail.com



Fellowship Committee

We would like to thank all our elves for their dedication in making our gathering events truly wonderful. From setting up to cleaning up, there is always a group of members that just come together to get it done. It truly takes a village!

God bless you in the new year!

~Robbyn and Joe Marchesani, co-chairs





Women's Ministry

January Women's Meetings

All women are welcome.

Join us for fellowship, and personal and spiritual growth.



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

Date — Monday, January 5

Time — 1:00 PM

Location — Gathering Room

Lesson — "Finding Our Joy: The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor"

Study Leader — Margie Garwood

Hostess—Marian Wellington

The Women's Christmas Luncheon

The annual Women's Christmas Luncheon was a fun-filled event held in the Gathering Room with over 35 women in attendance.

It included a delicious catered lunch, an Advent devotion, carols, and a Pollyanna gift exchange.

Lots of laughing and visiting with old and new friends.

Thank you to the Hostesses for the Luncheon:

Jean Bowen

Dolores Hart

Betsy Bender

Julie Davis





Women's Ministry

Women's Tea

Thank you! The donations provided for the Women's Tea were delicious. The Women's Tea was a huge success as you can see in the pictures. Lots of tasting, chatting and wonderful Christmas feelings.

Thank you very much to all the women for gifting NSPC with this very lovely Fellowship Hour. Rumor has it that the Tea has happened for over 40 years!!





January Birthdays

1/5 — Kristy Ebersole

1/6 — Kim Hewes

1/8 — Cole Robinson

1/8 — Courtney Seltzer

1/11 — Jim McCarry

1/12 — Bernice Eder

1/12 — Kristina Schultz

1/12 — Sean Smitheman

1/14 — Lois Ashman

1/14 — Beth McCarry

1/19 — Colin McDermott

1/22 — Pat Deluca

1/24 — Collins Vokhiwa

1/24 — Riley Rustam

1/27 — Francis O'Donnell, Jr.

1/28 — Judy Niggeman

1/29 — Jenna Baradic

1/30 — Ginny Berman

1/30 — Lynne Corle

1/31 — Siobhian Robinson

The Last Tuesday Book Club

NSPC's Last Tuesday Book Club meets the last Tuesday of the month at 1:00 in the 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.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 27th. Sally Bechtold will be leading the discussion of The Last Flight by Julie Clark.



January 27, 2026	Sally Bechtold	<u>The Last Flight</u> Julie Clark
February 24, 2026	Lynne Corle	<u>Theo of Golden</u> Allen Levi
March 31, 2026	Marg MacDonald	<u>The Henna Artist</u> Alka Joshi

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

Happy Reading!

January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 6 pm AA	2	3 10 am ACA
4 10 am Worship/SS 11 am Fellowship	5 1 pm Women's Bible Study	6 8 am Men's Christian Fellowship	7	8 6 pm AA	9	10 10 am ACA
11 10 am Worship/SS 10 am Installation & Ordination of Officers 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Deacons 7 pm Youth Group	12 10 am Knitting for Peace	13 8 am Men's Christian Fellowship	14	15 6 pm AA	16	17 10 am ACA
18 10 am Worship/SS 10:15 am Breakfast Club (Youth Group) 11:15 am Little Lights 11 am Fellowship Hour 7 pm Youth Group	19 MLK Day 10 am Knitting for Peace	20 8 am Men's Christian Fellowship	21 7 pm Session	22 6 pm AA	23	24 10 am ACA 7 pm Youth Group Lock-in
25 8 am Lock-in Pickup 10 am Worship/SS 11 am Annual Meeting	26 10 am Knitting for Peace	27 8 am Men's Christian Fellowship 1 pm Last Tuesday Book Club	28	29 6 pm AA	30	31 10 am ACA

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
 Sunday School Teachers Beth McCarry & Debbie Villano
 Nursery Attendant..... Grace McCarry & Sadie Kazanjian
 Spiritual Director Jacki Tase
 Co-Directors, Newtown Square Presbyterian Church Preschool Jane Fioravanti & Meghan Kazanjian
 Clerk of Session Buff Biddle
 President, Board of Trustees Jim Shea
 Co-Treasurers Rich Digby & Heather Impriano
 Head Usher..... Grant Snyder
 Communion Coordinator Carol Guest
 Presbyterian Women Ginny Berman

Plus... all the members of NSPC**SESSION/BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Moderator: The Rev. Bill Searight

Class of 2026

Ed Arraya
 Buff Biddle
 Jane Fioravanti
 Joe Marchesani

Class of 2027

Sue Bechtold
 Sara DiGirolamo
 Jennifer Gries
 Doug Tase

Class of 2028

Lynne Corle
 Joe Falcon
 Rob Gray
 Laurie Lynch

BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator: Margie Garwood

Class of 2026

Sara Cuccia
 Kathy Donovan
 Margie Garwood
 Marg MacDonald

Class of 2027

Bob Arnold
 Nicolle Arraya
 Paul Florence
 Andy Tucker

Class of 2028

Jack Chidester
 Pat Deluca
 Rich Digby
 Karen Shea

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 Kristi Schaub (email):youth@newtownsquarepres.org
 Church Email:..... office@newtownsquarepres.org