

NEWTOWN SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NSPC Connections

3600 GOSHEN ROAD NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA 19073 OFFICE: 610.356.8063 WWW.NEWTOWNSQUAREPRES.ORG REV. DR. JEANNE THOMAS—PASTOR

OCTOBER 2023

From Your Pastor

Dear Friends,

As we navigate our busy fall schedules, it is a perfect time to ask, "How does God want me to spend my time? How can I make time for God, when the pace of my life goes into overdrive?"



The fall is always a challenging time

as we seek to add balance to our busy days. We know intellectually that our body needs time to rest and re-charge, and our soul needs times to connect with God and hear God's voice. God sometimes speaks in clear, unmistakable ways, but far more often God speaks to us in gentle whispers (1 Kings 19:11-12). If we don't intentionally enter into God's presence, we may never hear God's leading.

And so, this October I encourage you to build time into your daily routine to rest in God's presence. Don't just pray, read the Bible, and come to worship, but *"be still and know that I am God,"* the psalmist pleads. And the prophet Isaiah reminds us, *"in quietness and trust shall be your strength."*

God meets Elijah in the stillness of a cave, Abraham as he sits at the opening of his tent, Jacob as he waits alone at Peniel, and Joseph as he sits in jail. God meets the priest, Zechariah in the solitude of the sanctuary, Mary as she contemplates the angel's words, and Joseph in a dream.

God meets Jesus in the isolation of the wilderness, and in the Garden of Gethsemane when everyone else is fast asleep. In the scriptures God shows up when we take time to dwell in God's presence.

I don't know a lot about wheels, other than the fact that they allow me to drive a car or ride a bicycle, but I do know that it is easier to start a wheel spinning than it is to stop it. Our cycle of activity is like that. It is easy to add one more thing onto our plate...and before we know it, the wheel revolves faster and faster.

I also know that the axle remains static, even when the wheel around it continues to spin. Even at 200 or 300 miles per hour, the axle doesn't move. Like the axel, God is that Firm Foundation for us even when life spins out of control all around us.

(Continued on page 2)

Sermons for the Month of October

Fall Sermon Series: "Lessons from James"

10/1—18th Sunday after Pentecost James 13:1-12 "Taming the Tongue" World Communion Sunday



10/8—19th Sunday after Pentecost James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a "It All Goes Back in the Box"

10/15—20th Sunday after Pentecost James 5:7-12 "The Power of Patience"

10/22—21st Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 33:12-23; Matthew 22:15-22 "Both Sides of the Coin" Nancy Holt, Preaching Trunk or Treat

10/29—22nd Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 21:28-32 "What Do You Think?"

Worship Service—10:00 AM Join Us!

(Continued from page 1)

So, whenever and however you quiet your body and soul—in those moments, God will find you, speak to you, and reassure you that you are not alone. And in that solitude, you will find ways to cut back on what is life-depleting in order to focus on what is life-giving. In quietness, you *will* find strength.

So slow down; be counter-cultural. And draw near to God during this beautiful fall season, so that God may draw near to you.

In Christ,

Jeanne

Rally Day was a huge success and a lot of fun! Thank you to everyone who helped out by setting up tables and chairs, bringing side dishes and desserts, and/or cleaning up afterwards. Thank you to Joe & Robbyn Marchesani, our Fellowship Commission co-chairs, for hosting the event and preparing our grilled chicken tenderloins as our main course. Everything was delicious! The children and youth enjoyed their first day of Sunday school and youth group, and after lunch, they sorted and packaged used crayons for the Crayon Initiative.





Fall Bible Study

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAY at 10:30 AM

Led by Pastor Jeanne in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome!

10/4 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a It All Goes Back in the Box

10/11 James 5:7-12 The Power of Patience



Dear NSPC members,

Happy October! I was so happy to see so many of you for Rally Day and Confirmation Sunday. You are telling me our congregation is getting stronger and bigger. I love seeing familiar and unfamiliar faces in the pews!

The Choir is back in motion! As I always say, "Our door is open!!!" We meet on Sunday at 9AM before worship to rehearse and then sing during worship. We need voices! Any voice parts! Come join us!

October 1st, you will see Joann Mitchell and Ella Impriano accompanying the offertory, "O Praise the Lord" by Handel! Their flute parts are going to add so much to it! In the rest of October, you will see a praise team appearance and great pieces sung by the choir. Also, as you can see, Kevin has been away from the choir. He is now singing in a production in Knoxville. He is singing a role he likes - "Ford" - in Verdi Falstaff. We wish him all the luck!



Bells - we are in the progress of resuming Bell Choir in a certain capacity. If any one of you is interested in trying, please reach out!! The more the merrier!

Concert series - I am so happy and excited to announce that we will continue the second year of our concert series this year. The first concert will be on December 10th - *Holiday Favorites*. The perfect day since there is NO football game! Mark your calendar, invite your friends / families! Let's pack the sanctuary! The rest of the season will happen in 2024, I have

planned some great musicians in the area and they are ready to go!

See you on Sundays! ~Ting Ting Director of Music





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Carmen Arraya, Maren Falcon, Alexa Hill, Leila Schultz, Ally Snyder

May God bless you as you continue to grow as Christ's disciples!

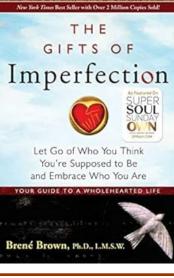






We are hosting an **American Red Cross Blood Drive**: October 25th from 2:00-7:00 PM in the Gathering Room. Sign up here: <u>https://</u> <u>www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-</u> <u>results?zipSponsor=Newtown Township</u>

Mom's Group



Mom's Group had its first meeting on 9/26. A great group of women met up and enjoyed connecting, and laughing while we shared openly with one another. *Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 7th at 6:30 PM.* We will be meeting in the small conference room across from Pastor Jeanne's office. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Feel free to join us!



Indoor Gathering Space & Upper Parking Lot Newtown Square Presbyterian Church

Brought to you by NSPC's Youth and Family Commission





A Note from Meg: There is no doubt as I sit to write this: fall is definitely in the air! After a long summer, it feels nice to be getting back into new and old routines alike!

Youth group has met twice during worship and already, we are building out our year. We have discussed retreats as a group, planned some fall activities, and picked our fall Bible studies! The youth definitely have some great ideas about how they want to spend their time together and their enthusiasm is contagious!

Kids' Group had their first meeting and we are excited for a fall of talking about friendship and learning some "Bible Basics!" Our First Friends meet next week!

In October, we are hosting our annual Trunk or Treat event! Personally, I adore this inter-generational event that celebrates our commu-

nity, as well as invites new friends in to see our church. There will be sign-ups coming this week (already!) and we cannot wait for this event to be another example of our church coming together to play!

God is good!

--Meg

Youth and Family Ministries Upcoming Dates



OCTOBER 22nd from 3 to 5 (Rain Date is October 29th)

We are so thrilled to offer this inter-generational event once again! See the insert to sign up! We hope to see you there!



• OCTOBER 1st, 8th, 15th: 10-11:15 *Friendship Bible Study--* What makes a good friend? What is a toxic friend? What does God say about friendships? Bring your Bibles, and expect to eat, socialize, and play some games!

- OCTOBER 22nd: 10-11 Youth in Worship
- OCTOBER 29th, NOVEMBER 5th, NOVEMBER 12^{th:} 10-11:15 *Perfection and Failure Bible Study--* Why do we put so much pressure on ourselves? How does wanting perfection and fearing failure hold us back?

Youth Parents: Information about youth retreats went out in an email last week. If you have not attended an in-person or Zoom meeting, please get in touch with Meg!



Kids in 1st through 5th grade are welcome to attend Kid's Group!

OCTOBER 15th 11:15 AM-12 PM Halloween Service Project & Bible Game: Help us get ready for Trunk or Treat by creating some new decorations welcoming visitors to the event! We will also play a game aimed at helping us remember the difference between the Old and New Testament!



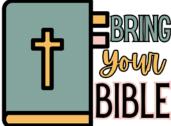
Kids in preschool through kindergarten have an all-new group just for them!

OCTOBER 1st 11:15 AM-12 PM *Did God Make Me?* Come learn about how God created everything, even you! We will learn a song and do a craft about how we are made by God! Parents are welcome, but not required!

NOVEMBER 5th 11:15-12 PM *What does it mean to be thankful? "*Thankful" is a BIG word! Come find out how to be thankful this month!



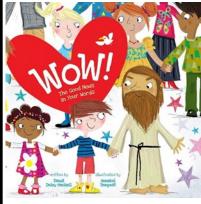
Lighthouse Landing Sunday School has been busy and happy here at NSPC! Our kids fell right back into the routine of going to see Miss Paige and Mr. Brad!



If you have already received a Bible, make sure you are bringing it to Sunday School! Your Bible is meant to be opened and used! Beginning in October, Meg will start a marble jar for the number of Bibles that are brought to church on Sunday. When our 3rd through 5th graders fill the marble jar, Kid's Group will have a party to celebrate.

During the month of October, Lighthouse Landing's Sunday School curriculum teaches some of the stories of Genesis and Exodus! Here is our schedule:

October 1st: Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; 18:1-15; 21:1-7) October 8th: Isaac's Blessings (Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-40) October 15th: The Israelites are Free from Slavery (Exodus 5:1-6:13) October 22nd: The Red Sea (Exodus 14:1-30) October 29th: The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) These stories can lend themselves to some good conversations! If you want to start the conversation at home, consider look at these books in our lending library in the social hall



<u>Wow!</u> (The Good News in Four Words) by Dandy Daley Mackell and Annabel Tempest

The Ten Commandments for Children by Lois Rock

Miriam and Her Brother Moses by Jean Marzollo

<u>My Very First Bible Stories</u> by Erica Tapp (Bible Stories from Sunday School will be bookmarked!)

<u>Children of God Storybook Bible</u> by Archbishop Desmond Tutu (Bible Stories from Sunday School will be bookmarked!)

A Pumpkin Prayer by Amy Parker



Mission News



Thank you to Grant Snyder, Cindy and Kevin Lemaster, Nancy Kermon, Joe Kasuska, Laurie and Doug Lynch, and Rich Digby for doing the Wawa pick up in September.

Food Bank Update:

Within the last year there have been some changes in the Food Bank donations as you know. We just want to make sure that everyone knows that food donations from NSPC families and WAWA are picked up and delivered weekly by Rev. Nancy Holt to Food Banks in Upper Darby area. St Mark's Food Pantry was closed for a period of time and then reopened with new structure. The system we formed at NSPC was successful and fit the hours of our volunteers. Food donated goes to Delaware County residents as St. Marks did. If any of our youth would like to organize a food drive NSPC can definitely be a drop off location and follow the plan we successfully put in place. Feel free to contact Sue Bechtold if any projects are planned: <u>suebechtold1@gmail.com</u>

Mission Friends: NSPC has not been on vacation with mission needs. We thought we might remind you of all the NSPC Mission Projects in the event you would like to donate to any of the current needs:

Food: October might be the month for us to FALL into a habit of bringing nonperishable foods for the local food banks. Please try to donate items and place them in the baskets at the top of the ramp. Thank you in advance from those in need.





Print Cartridges: These are recycled to Staples for credit to be used by the office.

Cradles to Crayons: Items for children: clothes, books, baby supplies all may be donated.



Gemma: School Supplies are always welcome at Gemma Services.

Baskets are needed from time to time for different projects. If you have any, please recycle to NSPC and do not toss.

Office Copy Paper: If you ever see copy paper at a great price, feel free to donate to the office.



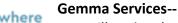
Flip Tops: Flip Tops used on soda cans, etc. are donated to the Ronald McDonald House. They are then recycled, and the money is used towards utility bills. A drop-off is probably needed for the current donations at NSPC. If anyone goes to Chestnut St., Philadelphia near UPenn or Drexel and would volunteer to drop them off, it would be appreciated. Parking is usually not available so a driver and volunteer are needed. Let me know and I will package them.

~Sue Bechtold 484-832-8984

Checks are always accepted for any mission. Mark the designated mission in the memo of your check. Mission Items can be dropped off at the top of the ramp in the Gathering Space in the marked baskets or containers. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NEEDS TO START FOR OUR MISSIONS---

Sorry to be publishing the Christmas rush this early but the Missions for NSPC need to be complete in Nov. This announcement gives you a full 2 months to get started.



You will notice that Gemma Services provides a "suggestion" list" (included in the Newsletter on page 10). If you are shopping and any of these items might be available, feel

free to donate in the box at the top of the ramp. New and unwrapped is requested. Delivery of our NSPC donations will take place the week after Thanksgiving. You are always most generous and hopefully will help with this project. Gemma provides gifts for about 50 young children who live on the grounds in Plymouth Meeting. They also provide gifts to many children in their Foster Care program. Any questions can be asked of Sue Bechtold or Ginny Berman.

GIFT CARDS--

We are asking for gift cards to Walmart, Amazon or Target to provide for the Missions who prefer the cards in place of gifts. If you can provide any please give it to Heather in the office, Sue or Ginny. Thanks.

hope

shines

On March 10, 2024, NSPC will be participating in our 7th Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event. If you recall, we have already packaged and donated a combined total of over 120,000 meals at our previous six RAH events. Our goal is to package an additional 20,000 meals at our next event.

Behind the scenes, a committee works towards this day with publicity, communication with corporate RAH, refreshments for the 10th and FUNDRAISING.

New Rise Against Hunger Committee Forming...Volunteers Needed

As the money required to sponsor a Rise Against Hunger event is not a budgeted item, we need help with the fundraising in order to raise enough money to purchase the supplies from Corporate RAH. Brainstorming some quick and easy ideas is currently taking place and we would like to open this opportunity to others at NSPC. We welcome new ideas and support. (NO LONG MEETINGS We meet via zoom, email or texts.)

Please contact Lynne Corle - lcorle217@gmail.com or Sue Bechtold - suebechtold1@gmail.com. Thank you.







2023 Gift Wish List

Toys

- Large and medium-sized stuffed animals
- Small and medium-sized Squishmallow stuffed animals Playing cards and card games
- Games Checkers, Chess, Jenga, Connect 4, UNO, Monopoly, Scrabble, Trouble, and Sorry are favorites
- LEGO sets
- Pokémon cards and toys
- Minecraft toys
- Superhero action figures
- LOL dolls and Rainbow High dolls
- Barbie dolls
- Remote controlled vehicles

- Beyblades and Beyblades arenas
- Rubik's cubes
- Fidget toys spinners, tangles, cubes, stress balls
- Dream Lites or other soft night lights
- Books for children and teens
- Wireless headphones/earbuds
- Small Bluetooth speakers
- Matchbox or Hot Wheels cars & racetracks
- Puzzles
- Play-Doh

Clothing & Personal Care

- Pajama sets for boys and girls youth sizes M-XL and adult sizes S-L
- Hooded sweatshirts for girls and boys youth sizes 12-18 and adult sizes S-L. Nike, Adidas, Champion, and Fila are favorite brands
- Adidas or Nike slide style sandals youth and adult sizes
- Crocs and Crocs-style sandals youth and adult sizes
- Jibbitz or charms for Crocs-style sandals
- Adjustable baseball hats Nike and Philly sports teams are favorites

- Athletic socks Nike, Adidas, Champion, and Fila are favorites
- Athletic tights youth sizes L-XL and adult sizes S-L
- Hairbrushes and combs
- Nail polish, lip gloss, lip balm, and makeup
- Toiletry gift sets with body wash, shampoo, conditioner, & deodorant. Dove, Axe, and Bath and Body Works are favorites. Plastic bottles only, please!
- Plastic water bottles Contigo and Camelback brands are favorites
- Winter coats youth & adult sizes
- Children's weighted blankets

Arts & Crafts

- Craft kits
- Crayola art kits
- Gel pen sets
- Crayons, markers, and colored pencils
- Velvet posters to color

- Coloring books and large coloring pages
- Sketch books and drawing paper non-spiral bound, please!
- Journals- no locks, non-spiral bound, please!
- Origami kits and origami paper

Sports

- Footballs and basketballs
- Over-the-door basketball hoops
- Football gloves youth and adult sizes
- Basketball shooting sleeves youth and adult sizes
- Fitness watches



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

October Meeting

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study

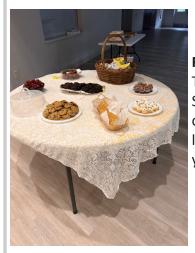
Monday: October 2, 2023 Time: 1:00 PM Location: Gathering Room Hostess: Ginni Condo Study Leader: Ginni Condo Lesson: "The Exorcism in Gerasa"





The Presbyterian Women's Board meeting will take place on Monday, October 30 at 1:00 PM in the Gathering Room.

All NSPC women are invited to have lunch together at Casey's in Newtown Square on Thursday, October 5th at noon. Feel free to join Ladies Luncheon in on the "Lunch and Laughing." We will not have separate checks for this lunch so bring cash to cover your meal and the 20% tip. RSVP to Ginny Berman if possible at teczuco13@gmail.com



Fellowship Hour

The ladies of the church hosted Fellowship Hour on September 24th. A mission project was also offered as an activity during the coffee hour. 60 little Halloween treat bags were assembled for the vouth at Gemma.



Feel free to sign up for Fellowship Hour to host any Sunday. Pair up with others or work with the Volunteer Deacon: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949AFA629A5FE3-flowers2#/





The Last Tuesday Book Club

Our next *Last Tuesday Book Club* will take place on October 31st at 1:00 PM. Sue Bechtold will be leading our discussion of Loyalty by Lisa Scottoline.

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 *Happy Reading!*

October 31, 2023	Sue Bechtold	Loyalty
		by Lisa Scottoline
November 28, 2023	Marge DeYoung	A Piece of the World
		by Christina Baker Kline
December 26, 2023	Merry Christmas	No Book Club
January 30, 2024	Jean Bowen	So Big: A Novel
		By Edna Ferber
February 27, 2024	Carol Guest	Know My Name
		By Chanel Miller

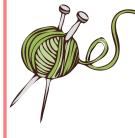
Men's Bible Fellowship

This newly named group will be meeting *every other Tuesday morning at 8 AM* . *We will meet on October 3rd, 17th, and 31st.*

The current study will be the book, <u>Mere Christianity</u> by C. S. Lewis.

All are welcome...no advanced degree in theology needed... just know this will be a lively and enlightening discussion!

Knitting



Nere

C·S· LEWIS

Our knitting group will be resuming on Monday October 16th at 10 AM in the Gathering room. Anyone who would like to join us is most welcome. In the past, we have made scarves, hats and small baby blankets. Please don't hesitate to join us even if you are a bit out of practice, we have our "in house master knitter" Joey Yocum, who will help. We also have yarn for you to work with. Come and check us out! If you have any questions please contact me: Marg MacDonald 610 353-8297

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October Birthdays

Jessica Gries	10/01	Erin Campbell	10/12
Dante Pupo	10/01	Elsie Oreski	10/13
Benjamin Kazanjian	10/01	Barb Hitchens	10/14
Marjorie Garwood	10/02	Christopher Seltzer	10/15
Andra Adams	10/03	Daniel Bennett-Jones	10/15
Oliver Andrewson	10/04	Courtney DiPersia	10/15
Kathy Piroeff	10/04	Jeanne Thomas	10/16
Matthew Campbell	10/04	Terri McCarthy	10/18
Irene Huey	10/05	Aurelie Baradic	10/19
Doug Tase	10/05	Betsy Bender	10/19
Nancy Kermon	10/05	Brian Mitchell	10/22
Caroline Lemaster	10/07	Ruby Andrewson	10/23
Sarah McCarry	10/07	Henry Hess	10/24
Robbyn Marchesani	10/08	Eric Shea	10/24
Aaron Andrewson	10/08	Jim Shea	10/26
Pam Lounsbury	10/08	Lillie Falcon	10/27
Lucas Moore	10/08	Sarah Hewes	10/28
Sue Denney	10/09	Edward Robinson	10/29
Suzanna Talento	10/10	Charlotte Fleck	10/30
Daniel Arraya	10/10	Courtney Barmes	10/30
Murielle Parker	10/11	Alexa Moore	10/30
Doug Lynch	10/12	Abigail Piroeff	10/31
Katie Snyder	10/12	Ava Bross	10/31



October 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 WORLD COMMUNION 10 am Worship/SS 10:15 am Youth Group 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am First Friends	2 1 pm PW Bible Study	3 8 am Men's Bible Fellowship	4 10:30 am Bible Study	5 12 pm Women's Lunch @ Casey's 6 pm AA	6	7
8 10 am Worship/SS 10:15 am Youth Group 11 am Fellowship	9	10	11 10:30 am Bible Study	12 6 pm AA	13	14
15 10 am Worship/SS 10:15 am Youth Group 11 am Fellowship 11:15 am Kids' Group	16 10 am Knitters	17 8 am Men's Bible Fellowship	18 6:30 pm Joint Ses- sion & Deacons Mtg	19 6 pm AA	20	21
22 10 am Worship/SS 11 am Fellowship 3 pm Trunk or Treat	23 10 am Knitters	24	25 2pm Blood Drive	26 6 pm AA	27	28
29 10 am Worship/SS 10:15 am Youth Group 11 am Fellowship	30 10 am Knitters 1 pm Presb. Women's Board Mtg	31 8 am Men's Bible Fellowship 1 pm Last Tuesday Book Club				

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 Teachers	Paige Fiore & Brad Kohlhepp
Nursery Attendant	Jeannette Giovanetti
Co-Directors, Newtown Square Presbyterian Church Preschool	Jane Fioravanti & Meghan Kazanjian
Co-Directors, Newtown Square Presbyterian Church Preschool Clerk of Session	• •
	Buff Biddle
Clerk of Session	Buff Biddle Jim Shea
Clerk of Session President, Board of Trustees	Buff Biddle Jim Shea Dave Sampson
Clerk of Session President, Board of Trustees Treasurer	Buff Biddle Jim Shea Dave Sampson Grant Snyder

Plus... all the members of NSPC

SESSION/BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Jeanne Thomas

<u>Class of 2023</u>
Chris Barmes
Ginny Berman
Joe Marchesani
Jerry Schauer

<u>Class of 2024</u> Sue Bechtold Lynne Corle Siobhian Robinson Debbie Weiss

<u>Class of 2025</u> Rebecca DiPersia Joe Falcon Jim Shea

BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator: Nancy Gingras

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Ed Arraya	Nicolle Arraya	Betsy Bender
Nancy Gingras	Sara DiGirolamo	Rich Digby
Stacey Kucera	Jennifer Gries	Robbyn Marchesani
Karen Shea	Debbie Villano	Barbara Nicolardi

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