

The Quarterly Journal



A Joyful Legacy

An Update from the NPC Chancel Bells
by Lalla McGee

Dear NPC Family,

Thank you so much for your love and words of appreciation during our 2025-2026 handbell season! A couple of milestones have occurred since last August that we'd like to share.

Joy Gugert retired after almost 60 years ringing in - and sometimes conducting - handbell choirs. Joy was introduced to tuned bell ringing as a child in church. Not real handbells, but they were the instruments that generated her lifelong love of bells. She began playing in her Vicksburg, Mississippi church handbell choir in 1966, participating in workshops and festivals there until 1991. After moving to Newnan and joining NPC, she discovered our Whitechapel bells and began leading a small group of ringers who played occasionally for several years. When the handbell choir reorganized in 2016, Joy was the first person to "sign up" and played several positions until her retirement.

Joy's lifelong love of handbells, and her service both as a conductor and ringer at NPC are so notable that we wanted to recognize her in a special way. Well-known handbell composer Sondra Tucker completed a handbell arrangement of Harold Darke's setting for "In the Bleak Midwinter" just barely in time for the 2025 Joy Gift service, so we played only a small excerpt using the chimes. We plan to conquer the entire piece another time.

No one can replace Joy, but you've seen some new faces to help us keep ringing! Raye Ann Holewinski has played with us for several years, but to cover Joy's bells she has played two positions most of this year! Emily Wilbert came to sub through Christmas, and has stayed on through the year. Sue and Tim Tarpley recently moved to Newnan from Rome, GA where they were members of the handbell choir. They attend Montreat every year to participate in the handbell program, and began ringing with us in April.

A smaller but also important bit of news is our bell table covers! Some of you may have noticed the difference when the handbells played in April. The tan corduroy covers were made specifically for NPC and sewn by Jeffers Handbell Supply in Irmo, SC. The covers are a huge improvement over the black "make-do" covers we've had for about 10 years! The fabric stabilizes the bells and is a big help when changing bells or using special techniques.

A Joyful Legacy, continued on page 2

In This Issue

NPC Life Events

Woven Into Worship

Musical Notes

A Letter from the Session

C.A.R.E. Group Recap

NPS News

Presbyterian Corner

A Letter from David



Left-to-right: Joy Gugert, Lalla McGee, the late Roy Barbee, & Erik Swindlehurst

A Joyful Legacy, continued from page 1.



New bell table covers made possible with a grant from the NPC Endowment Fund

We were able to purchase the covers with a grant from the NPC Endowment Fund that covered about one-third of the cost and enabled us to begin discussion with Jeffers. The balance of the cost was covered by the Music Dedicated account which has been a part of the church for many years. All monies in this account are contributions that have been specified as music program support, and are used for special funding needs and activities of our music program that are not covered by the annual budget.

We are grateful for the generous families and individuals who made the contributions that made this handbell upgrade a reality. Contributions are always welcome. Make your check payable to NPC and simply designate it for Worship Music. The funds will go into the Music Designated Account.

*Dedicated to the Newnan Presbyterian Chancel Bells, Newnan, Georgia
with special thanks to Joy Gugert for her lifelong love for and ringing of handbells in the church*

Harold Darke's "In the Bleak Midwinter"

for 3-5 octave Handbells and Handchimes

Handbells used: 34, 43, 53

Handchimes used: 32, 35, 38

3 octave choirs omit notes in ().
4 octave choirs omit notes in [].

Harold Darke, 1909
Arranged by **SONDRA K. TUCKER (ASCAP)**

Andante ♩ = 80

NPC Life Events

Baptisms:

- Oliver Harris Fitts, son of MaryRutland & Ford Fitts, April 26, 2026. Oliver is the grandson of Lissa Rand.
- Ruby Jane Lancaster, daughter of Lacey & Joe Lancaster, May 3, 2026.

Deaths:

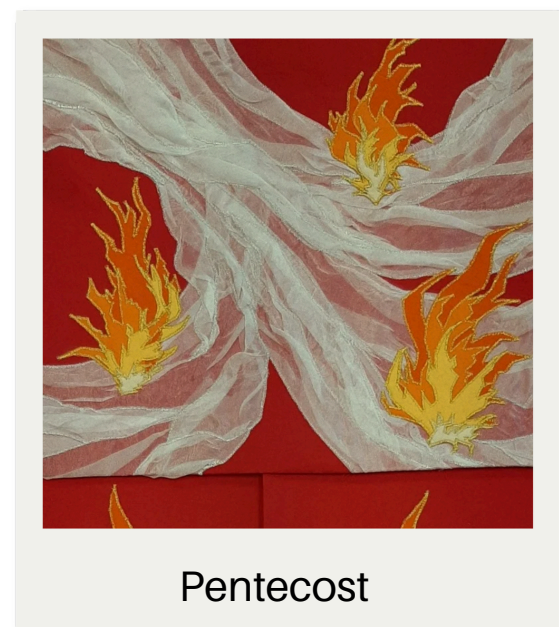
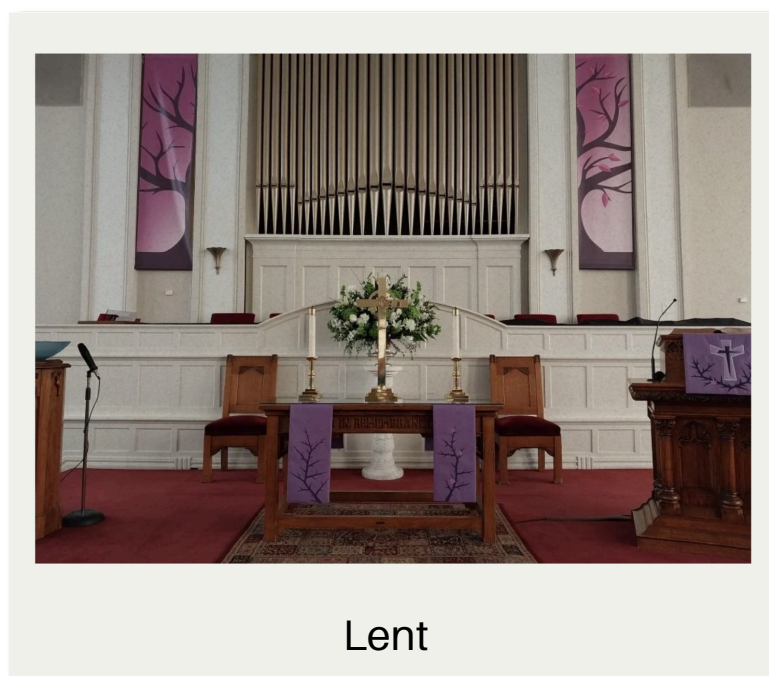
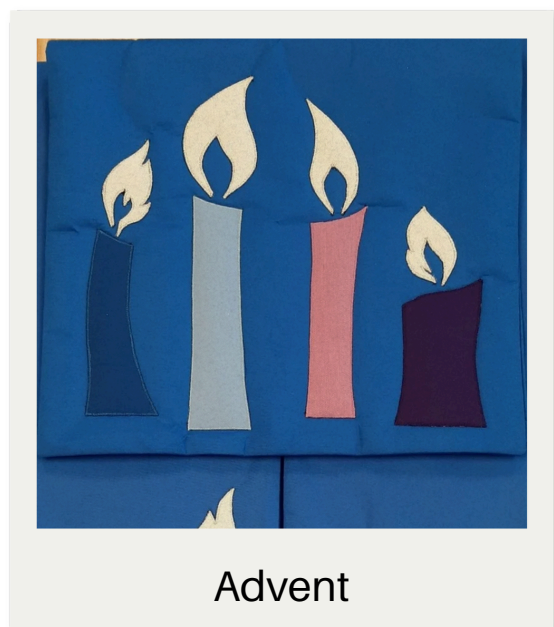
- Frances Wilson Bowie, April 14, 2026
- Vernon Kimbrough, Jr., April 14, 2026

Woven into Worship

The Art of our Liturgical Paraments
by Suzy Royal

The liturgical calendar is the spiritual hub around which worship is conducted each week; the paraments are used as visual representations of the liturgical season and centralize the focus on the Communion table, while still maintaining the Presbyterian Church's historical tradition of appropriate theological and rational austerity. This is a conscious spiritual, as well as a stylistic decision meant to evoke the sense of the "worshipful desert:" the setting aside of unnecessary elements to allow for a more intimate, focused connection with God. Longtime NPC member, ex-metalsmith and seamstress Sandy Essex was gracious enough to design and create the paraments used in the sanctuary in collaboration with Rev. David. She began her creative process by praying for inspiration for each design before making simple sketches, refining them until she was satisfied, then carefully measuring the communion table and altar to determine the appropriate dimensions for each parament to allow for the greatest range of visibility. She then used colored paper, paint, and pins to create guidelines for the final designs before sewing. Simplicity is a keystone concept of good design because it forces the artist to determine and deliberately select only the elements that are most important in a piece.

Advent represents dual beginnings: the beginning of the liturgical calendar and the foretelling and preparation for Christ's birth. This was the first of Sandy's designs and its blue background signifies the shift from the longtime tradition of using a light purple to a royal blue color to further distinguish between Advent and Lent and provide strong contrast to the four candles in the foreground. The differing heights of the candles create visual interest; the candle representing hope is bent slightly to evoke the continual effort of hoping in God.



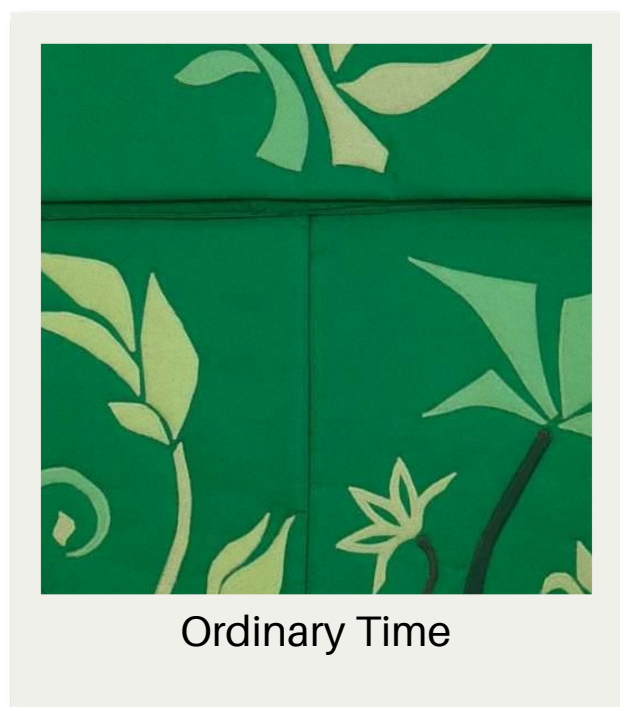
Lent is the second liturgical season of somber reflection and penitence leading to Christ's Crucifixion. One of two black, thorny branches features tiny pink flowers signifying the constant presence of hope, even amongst the jaggedness of the crucifixion. The jagged, cross-shaped thorn reinforces the painful necessity of sitting with the reality of Christ's sacrifice, but its slight upward bend also reinforces hope's omnipresence.

Pentecost reflects on the descent of the Holy Spirit and the Great Commission. Sandy's design for these paraments displays the disciples accepting the Great Commission via twelve distinct fires outlined in gold thread symbolic of God and gauzy white fabric symbolic of the Holy Spirit against a bright red background symbolic of its fire.

Woven into Worship, continued on next page

Woven into Worship, continued from previous page

Ordinary time encompasses the largest portion of the calendar, but it is by no means mundane. This design represents the Christian growth cycle via two dark green plants against a light green background; the left-hand plant in bud symbolizes the newborn Christian, before maturity in the faith. The right-hand plant in flower symbolizes the mature Christian and the Holy Trinity. The Christ the King design is the simplest, but most profound, being the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar. The most powerful words spoken by the Lord - I AM - are in gold fabric against a snow-white background above the Hebrew words for the same, also in gold, and symbolize the Lord's sovereignty as king of all creation.



Ordinary Time



The funeral pall



Ordinary Time

The funeral pall design equalizes its elements and its own history. For centuries, only the rich could afford coffins, forcing the poor to resort to stark wooden boxes. Today, the pall equalizes the urn and represents the liturgical calendar, apart from Good Friday. The butterfly in the center represents new life in the Resurrection. The silver border symbolizes the solemnity of death and recognizes the color's nobility.



Sandy, pictured here with Rev. David and Owen

About the Artist: Sandy Essex was born in South Bend, Indiana, into the Lutheran tradition. She and her late husband, Jack, migrated to the Episcopalian tradition after rearing their four sons, and they became members of NPC in 2017. After Jack's death in 2021, she married Owen Davis in 2024. Sandy holds a Master of Arts degree in Metalsmithing and is a proficient seamstress and calligrapher.

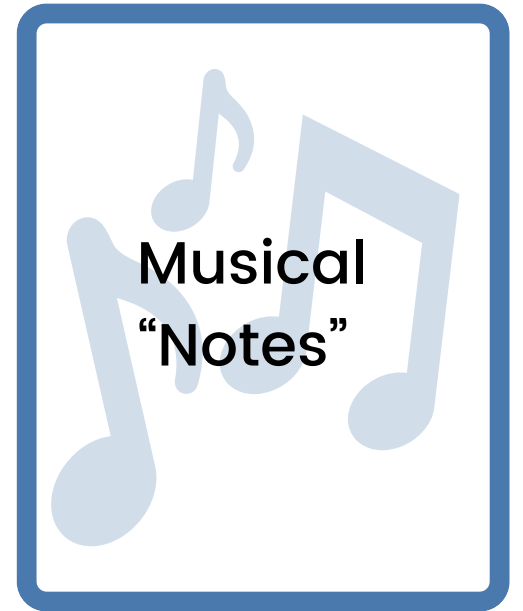
About the Author: Suzy Royal holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and minor in creative writing from the University of West Georgia. She enjoys reading, screenwriting, horseback riding, and classic rock.

Discovering a Love For Trumpet

by Cliff Brock

I haven't always loved the trumpet. I used to think trumpets were always loud and only useful for soaring anthems, such as the heroic themes of John Williams. Now don't get me wrong, I love those powerful melodies, but I never really imagined that a trumpet could express something more introspective and reflective.

What changed was that I discovered the music of Geoffrey Burgon (1941-2010). He was an English composer, best known for his soundtracks. You might have heard his music on *Brideshead Revisited* or as the theme to *Mr. Bean* and *Monty Python's Life of Brian*. But I discovered his beautiful melodies in the 1980s BBC version of *The Chronicles of Narnia*.



Burgon started his musical career as a trumpeter, and much of his music uses the trumpet. And unlike the stereotypical, uplifting sounds we normally associate with trumpets, Burgon almost always uses them in more subdued, melancholic contexts. If you like modern music that sounds really old, I'd suggest you check out his music on YouTube.

During my first few years here at Newnan Presbyterian Church (by the way, I've been here 6 years in June), Lalla McGee contacted me with Martin Rudy, and he became a regular staple at our church! He was always so eager to play, and he introduced me to so many new pieces, particularly Baroque recorder and trumpet music. Martin, despite being in his mid-80s, was full of energy and an amazing musician who also wasn't afraid to improvise, an especially rare quality in musicians these days.

Sadly, Martin passed away unexpectedly last year... he was actually scheduled to play with me the week before he passed away. But he lived a rich life and had so many passions. Few people know he also had a humongous indoor miniature train "world" that he designed and created above his garage.

Through Martin, I was introduced to Dennis Marsengill. Dennis is also an amazing trumpeter and has premiered two of my newest pieces. Both compositions I wrote for Dennis are fairly reflective and subdued, as far as trumpet music goes. I look forward to working with Dennis in the future!



The late Martin Rudy



The BBC's *Chronicles of Narnia*

A Letter from the Session

Dear Church Family,

The Session of Newnan Presbyterian Church recommended, and the congregation approved as part of his Terms of Call, a sabbatical for David. He and Darcie began this season of rest and renewal on May 10 and will return to regular duties on August 12.

A sabbatical is a planned period of rest and renewal that supports the long-term health of both pastor and congregation. This practice is encouraged within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and is typically undertaken after an extended period of service.

This sabbatical has two primary purposes:

Renewal for David

This period will allow for rest, time with family, physical renewal, reconnection with colleagues, and completion of his doctoral studies.

Reclaiming for NPC

This is also an opportunity to strengthen our identity as an officer-led congregation in which ministry is shared, and leadership is distributed across elders, deacons, and staff.

During the sabbatical period:

- Rev. Tyler Brock will be our primary Sunday preacher and moderate all session meetings. Rev. Brock is our former Associate Pastor and, after serving the Loyd Presbyterian Church in LaGrange, now serves as the Curriculum Director for the Calvin Center, a Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in nearby Hampton, GA.
- Rev. Brock will officiate weddings, funerals, baptisms, and other sacramental services as needed. He will also be available to advise the diaconate in the case of emergency pastoral care needs.
- NPC's deacons will serve as the primary providers of pastoral care. Rev. Brock and Pastor Emeritus, Harry Barrow, will advise the diaconate in the case of emergency pastoral care needs.
- NPC's elders on the Session will continue to provide spiritual oversight and leadership and will retain full governing authority.
- Beth Royal will serve as Head of Staff and oversee day-to-day operations along with our able staff.

To ensure the effectiveness of this sabbatical, neither David nor Darcie will be available by phone or email during this period. Only Beth Royal and Jacob Story will have emergency contact access if necessary.

The ongoing ministry of the church, including worship, congregational care, and the Bicentennial Preservation Project, will continue without interruption under the leadership of officers, staff, and ministry teams.

The Session is confident in the strength and stability of the church's leadership and looks forward to welcoming David and Darcie back on August 12, renewed and prepared for the next season of ministry.

Sincerely,

Jacob Story
Clerk of the Session of Newnan Presbyterian Church

C.A.R.E. Group Recap

Connecting with each other, Affirming our faith, Restoring our soul, and Engaging with the world



May 2026 Needlepoint CARE Group



The Mahjong CARE Group kicked off in March 2026.

NPC Men's Retreat 2026



NPC Men gathered at Blalock Lakes for fellowship and friendly competition this quarter.



newnan presbyterian
preschool & kindergarten



NPS teachers from left to right,
Audrey Tomlinson & Maddy Green



The Dessert Theater

Bonjour, Boogie, & Beakers

Written by Audrey Tomlinson, Visual and Performing Arts teacher,
& Maddy Green, Science and Social Studies teacher

The first half of the year in Visual and Performing Arts, we focused on all things French. We learned about French artists and imitated their work, learned about two important iconic statues- the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty, made paper mache cake slices inspired by Marie Antionette’s supposed quote, “Let them eat cake!”, and the 4th and 5th graders rewrote French fairytales. Ms. Maddy and I took these reimagined fairytales and directed the 4th and 5th grade classes in a Dessert Theatre. They acted out their fairytales while the audience enjoyed desserts. We saw confidence soar for many of them on stage! After Christmas, we shifted gears to focus on color. We took inspiration from artists like Kandinsky and Dali to make colorful, fun art projects. As a last project, and to tie in theatre, we are making sock puppets and doing skits with them.

In March, Ms. Maddy and I decided to put on a Decades Dance for 1st- 5th graders. Along with other staff members and parents, we decorated, found donations for snacks, and dressed up as decades! The kids dressed as a decade too and we all had so much fun dancing!



Starting in January, our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders began working on their own science experiments for Newnan Presbyterian School’s first annual science fair. Students have spent this semester of the school year choosing a science fair experiment, researching their project, making their hypothesis, conducting their experiment, and calculating their data and results. They used what they have learned about the scientific process to help them throughout their experiments. They took their procedure and the results from their experiments and created their science fair project displays to present at the school’s very first science fair on Monday, April 27. During the event, students presented their projects for teachers, parents, and our panel of judges. Students did a great job showing off their projects and the science knowledge they have gained from class this school year. The judges awarded a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner based on students’ creativity, effort, and scientific understanding.

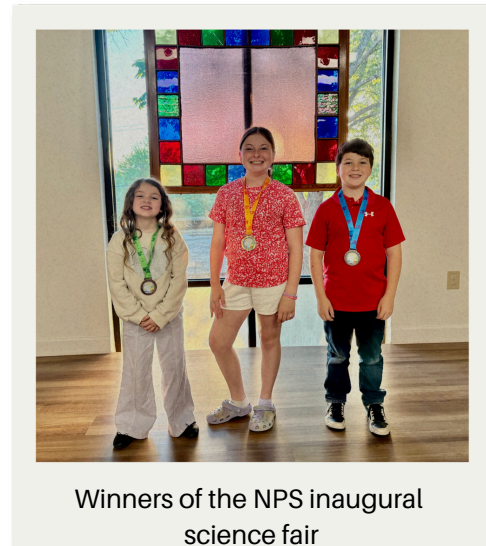
Bonjour, Boogie, & Beakers, continued on next page.

Bonjour, Boogie, & Beakers, continued from previous page

Third grade student, Kathleen Lilley, received 3rd place for her project in which she tested "What footwear helps people run fastest- tennis shoes, socks, or barefoot?". Third grade student, Warren Boyle, received 2nd place for his project in which he tested "Do rusted or non-rusted steel balls create a bigger spark when hit together?". The 1st place prize was won by fifth grade student, Millie Boyle, who presented her project in which she tested "Which brand of popcorn will leave the most kernels behind?". All of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students did a fantastic job on their projects, and we are looking forward to continuing the science fair at NPS in the future!



The Decades Dance



Winners of the NPS inaugural science fair

Question: What does the Holy Spirit Do?

Some years ago, two theologians wrote a book called *The Shy Member of the Trinity*. This was a book about the Holy Spirit. Presbyterians often speak about God and Jesus, but less often, it seems, about the Holy Spirit.

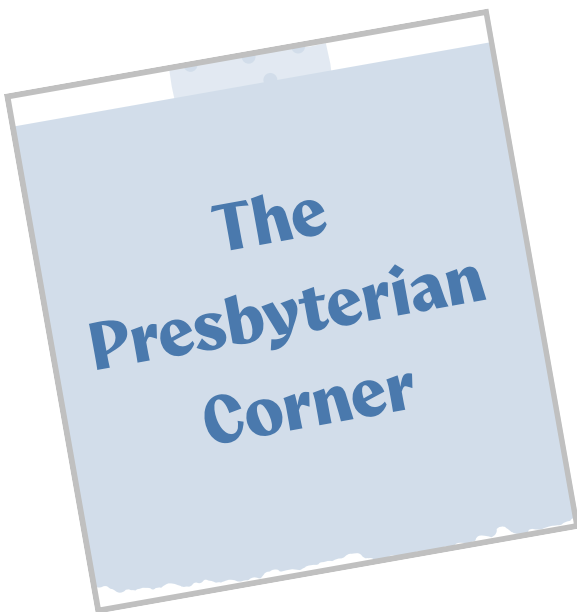
We believe vigorously in the Holy Spirit as a coequal member of the Trinity, sharing the divine essence with God the Father and God the Son. We believe the Holy Spirit is a person, one who can be known and who relates to us and affects us in our everyday lives. The Bible has much to say about the Spirit. But the reason for the book title is that the Spirit is portrayed in Scripture, not as drawing self-attention but supremely as a "witness" to Jesus Christ. The Spirit points to God's self-revelation in the person of Jesus and operates to make the knowledge of Jesus Christ known.

This is seen in two major aspects of the Spirit's activity: the Spirit's work in relation to Scripture and the Spirit's work in relation to salvation.

We confess that the Scriptures are "inspired" by God (2 Timothy 3:16) and that persons who were moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from god" (2 Peter 1:21). The church confesses the Spirit was operative in the writing of Scripture, in the shaping of the biblical texts, their transmission, and in helping us today, as believers, to interpret the Bible. We should always pray before we read Scripture, asking the same Spirit who inspired it to help us interpret God's Word today.

The Holy Spirit also plays a primary role in salvation. Presbyterians have particularly emphasized this aspect of the Spirit's work. We believe that the Holy Spirit illuminates sinners, giving them the gift of faith in Jesus Christ. We come to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by the work of the Holy Spirit. The work of illumination that brings faith is followed in Christian experience by the indwelling of the Spirit in the church and in the lives of Christians, leading, guiding, comforting, challenging, and equipping God's people to serve Jesus Christ. We never know the ways in which the Spirit will move us into new modes of mission and ministry. "The Spirit is the one that testifies [witnesses], for the Spirit is the truth" (1 John 5:6).

From Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers by Donald McKim



A Letter from David

Dear NPC Friends and Family,

I wanted to write a quick personal note as my sabbatical begins.

First, thank you.

Thank you for giving my family and me this time for rest and renewal. I'm really grateful. This kind of space is a gift, and I don't take it for granted.

Over the coming months, I'm planning to slow down in some simple, life-giving ways, like spending good, unhurried time with my family, playing a lot of pickleball, going to the movies, and finishing up the last of my doctoral work. I'm looking forward to a different pace over the summer months.

I've used the phrase recently that I'm feeling a little crispy, like toast when you leave it in the toaster too long. It's been a busy but rewarding eight years for us in Newnan, but the weight of COVID and tornado relief, along with the day-to-day responsibilities of ordained ministry, has me feeling a little frayed around the edges. I understand now why the church recommends pastors take a sabbatical after 7 years of full-time ministry. I'm really looking forward to stepping away long enough to come back with my cup refilled.

I also want to say this clearly: I feel very at peace about stepping away for a season. I trust our officers, our staff, and this congregation. We are in a really healthy place.

If you happen to see me around town, especially at the HOP, the YMCA, or the movie theater, there's no need to run the other way. I'd love to say hello. Just know that part of this time is truly stepping away from church interactions so I can come back rested and ready.

I would appreciate your prayers that this time is genuinely renewing for me (and Darcie) and that I return in August with the energy and clarity for all that lies ahead at NPC.

I'm grateful to be your pastor, and I look forward to being back with you soon.

Grace and peace,

David