FAITH HAPPENINGS

Dear members and friends of New Philadelphia First UMC:

During this season each year, we are keenly aware of the concepts of "labor," "harvest," "blessing," and "thanksgiving." As we drive through the areas surrounding New Philadelphia, we see agricultural fields alive with activity as workers harvest corn, soybeans, and other precious crops. Months ago, the ground was worked and seeds were faithfully sown, all spurred on by the promise of a bountiful harvest. Now, that promise is being fulfilled!

I can say with full confidence that NP First continues to move Forward in Faith. Together, we labor with God's ever-present promise of a bountiful harvest before us. In many ways, that promise is already being fulfilled! Here are just a few ways we've experienced a successful harvest this past year:

- **11 adults committed to NP First through official membership.**
- **3 individuals baptized, including 2 young adults.**
- **The successful sale of the J.I.M.'s Place property and complete payoff of our crippling mortgage, opening the possibility of long-term financial health.**
- **A continued commitment to feeding the hungry and clothing the naked through our Supper Table and Clothes Closet ministries, including the successful transition of the Clothes Closet to our church building.**
- **A new partnership with a local Cuban congregation, sharing our facilities and resources to help make disciples within a culture and language different from our own.**

All of this, both the toiling and the reaping, is a blessing—God's gift to us—and a foretaste of the harvest yet to come. We have much to be grateful for! Because God's promise is being fulfilled now and will continue moving forward, this is the time to dig deep and recommit ourselves to God's harvest.

As we renew our Forward in Faith pledge campaign for 2027, we invite you to prayerfully discern how God is calling you to financially partner with NP First. On Sunday, November 29, please bring the enclosed card indicating your "estimate of giving" toward our church's ministry budget. If you cannot attend worship that day, please mail your card to the church.

We sincerely thank you for your renewed generosity!

Pastor Ryan Cockrill & The Finance Committee

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2026 UNIFIED INCOME

Forward in Faith Tithing	**$19,981**
Transfer of funds	**$16,000**
Other Income	**$1,037**
	$37,018
Expenses	
utilities, insurance, maintenance, staff	**$30,934**
Miscellaneous expense	**$18,892**
	$49,826
NET INCOME/LOSS	**-$12,808**

As you review this month's income and expense report, we want to offer a brief reminder that giving is not always consistent from month to month—some contributions are made annually, quarterly, or at different times—so one month alone may not fully reflect where we stand.

We are grateful for your continued generosity and support of the church's mission and ministry. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out.

United Against Hunger

Our United Against Hunger campaign raised **$3892.21** for the Greater Dover-Phila Food Pantry to help feed our neighbors in need!
NP FUMC raised $1706
Dover FUMC raised $2,186.21, coming out on top for the second year.

We can all be proud of what we accomplished together. Great job, NP First, and thank you to everyone who gave to help fight hunger in our community!

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5th & 19th Women's Group 6:30pm

November 8th Men's Breakfast 7:30am

November 17th Golden Disciples 11:30am

November 22nd Hanging of the Greens 10:45am

November 26th Thanksgiving

November 29th First Sunday of Advent and Commitment Sunday

TRUNK OR TREAT

What a great time we had at Trunk or Treat! We welcomed families from our local community for an afternoon filled with smiles, candy, and fun. Volunteers from outside our church family joined several of our own church members to decorate cars and hand out treats. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to share some Halloween fun and spread a little happiness throughout our community. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success!





















CONGREATION AND COMMUNITY CARE

Ministries Supported by YOU!

Through our Outreach Fund, NP First supports many ministries and organizations that serve our congregation and community. These include Supper Table, Clothes Closet, T4C, United Way/First Call for Help, Greater Dover-Phila Food Pantry, Appalachia Service Project, Share-A-Christmas, NP Schools, UMCOR, Camp Wanake, Rainbow Connection, Blessings in a Backpack, Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County, Laundry Days, TUFF Bags, Fostering Love, Salvation Army, Urban Mission, and many more. We also support church families, children's events, winter clothing needs, and members who need a helping hand.

Let's highlight a few of the ministries happening right here at NP First!

SUPPER TABLE

Every Tuesday from 5:30–6:30 PM, our Supper Table ministry welcomes guests for a meal and fellowship. This vital ministry has served our community for many years, with eight teams rotating every eight weeks. Each team chooses the menu and provides the needed food. Through Outreach Fund donations, volunteers can be reimbursed for purchased items, although many generously donate their food.
You can help, too! If you have an hour on Tuesday, stop in to serve, help with cleanup, or simply smile and greet our guests. Your time and kindness make a difference!

CLOTHES CLOSET

Thanks to the guidance of Leona Downing and Shellyn Leeper, the Clothes Closet continues its important work on our church campus. Many volunteers and staff worked together to make this transition possible, including relocating rooms, painting, deep cleaning, installing new lighting, and completing renovations.
The Clothes Closet provides free clothing, shoes, and other essentials to those in need. Volunteers are needed to sort and prepare clothing before shopping days and to assist guests during open hours. There are opportunities to fit your schedule, and every helping hand is appreciated. We hope you will stop by and see this ministry in its new home!

CARING FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

CCC also helps us stay connected with members who can no longer attend worship regularly. Along with pastoral visits, volunteers visit members in their homes or healthcare facilities. A dedicated volunteer also sends monthly greeting cards to recognize and celebrate special occasions.
Please let us know if you or someone you know would appreciate a visit, prayer, or word of encouragement. A simple note or visit can mean so much.

CONGREATION AND COMMUNITY CARE
Upcoming Events

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS – DUE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

It's time to order your Christmas poinsettias! Choose from beautiful red or white 6" plants for $10 each. Order forms are available at the church or online.

SHARE-A-CHRISTMAS

Sponsored by T4C, Share-A-Christmas will look a little different this year. Instead of purchasing and donating toys, our special Christmas tree will hold envelopes suggesting monetary donation amounts. Please take one or more envelopes and return your donation to the offering plate or church office. These donations, along with our November Noisy Offering, will go to T4C to purchase and provide what local families need most.

REVERSE ADVENT FOOD BOXES

Advent is a time to reflect on our daily blessings and share those blessings with others. We invite families to prepare a Family Meal Box to help local families facing food insecurity before the school winter break. Boxes should be returned to the church by December 13. You can pick up a list of suggested items and fill a box at home. With thrifty shopping, a box can be completed for under $80. We will also have a collection box at church for those who prefer to bring items a little at a time. Many children depend on their schools for two meals a day, making this project especially important during winter break. Please commit to filling a box, as each one will go to a family identified by the school. You can also team up with a friend or fellow church member to fill a box together!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Help us prepare our church for Christmas! Volunteers are needed November 22 after worship to decorate the church. A sign-up sheet will be available, and lunch will be provided. Come share your time and help make our church festive for the season.

TRIVIA AND POTLUCK LUNCH

Join us December 6 after worship for a fun potluck lunch! Bryan and Georgie Haviland will once again challenge us with trivia and reveal whether we really know it all. Gather your team, bring a dish to share, and get ready for some friendly competition!

Thank you for supporting the Congregation and Community Care Committee through your prayers, donations, and volunteer time. Together, we continue to care for our church family and share God's love throughout our community.

THANKSGIVING: MAKING ROOM AT THE TABLE

Thanksgiving is a time to gather, give thanks, and enjoy the people who make life meaningful. But for some, the holiday can also bring feelings of loneliness or remind them of loved ones who are no longer nearby. This year, let's make a little extra room at our tables and in our hearts so no one in our church family has to spend Thanksgiving alone.

Do you have room at your table? Consider inviting someone who may be spending the holiday by themselves—a neighbor, a friend, a church member, or someone who is new to our community. Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is a warm meal, a welcoming conversation, and the simple assurance that someone cares.

If you are planning to welcome a few guests into your home this Thanksgiving, please let the church office know. With your permission, we can share your invitation with the congregation so those who are looking for a place to celebrate can connect with you. We can also create a sign-up sheet for anyone who would appreciate joining another household for the holiday.

And if you find yourself without plans or would enjoy sharing Thanksgiving with others, please reach out to the church office. We would love to help make a connection.

As we count our blessings this season, may we remember that one of the most beautiful ways to give thanks is to share what we have. A place at the table, a little time, and a welcoming heart can make Thanksgiving brighter for someone else—and bring a little more joy to our own celebration, too.

Want to make your Thanksgiving gathering a little more meaningful? Choose a question or two to share around the table. There are no right or wrong answers—just an opportunity to listen, reflect, and give thanks together.

- **What is one small thing that brought you joy this year?**
- **Who has made a difference in your life recently, and how?**
- **What is something you often take for granted that you are thankful for today?**
- **When have you felt God's presence or comfort this year?**
- **What is a favorite memory from the past year that makes you smile?**
- **What is one kindness someone showed you that you will always remember?**
- **What is something you learned this year that helped you grow?**
- **What is one way you could share your blessings with someone else this holiday season?**
- **If you could offer a prayer of thanksgiving for one person at this table, who would it be and why?**
- **What is one hope or blessing you are praying for in the coming year?**

REVERSE ADVENT FOOD BOXES: A SEASON OF GIVING

For the second year, NP FUMC is taking part in a Reverse Advent Food Box project, an idea brought to us by our own Doris Torgler. Rather than receiving something each day, we give—gathering food and pantry staples to help local families through New Philadelphia City Schools.

Inspired by her daughter's efforts to help fight hunger, Doris wanted to find a way to make a difference close to home. "I just cannot stand the thought of someone being hungry, so I asked myself, how can I help?" she shared.

Our project begins November 20, giving us time to gather 24 items for each box by December 13. You can fill a box on your own, work together with a friend, or team up with other church members. Fill as many items as you are able, but please let the church office know how many complete boxes you are committing to provide.

Because these boxes will go to specific families identified by New Philadelphia City Schools, we need a firm commitment and an accurate count of the boxes we can provide. Many children in our community depend on their schools for two meals a day, making these food boxes especially important in helping fight hunger and support families during the holiday season.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR BOXES FILLED AND READY FOR DELIVERY BY DECEMBER 13.

May each item we gather inspire a prayer for our neighbors and a grateful heart for the opportunity to share Christ's love through kindness and care.

A recommended item list is included on the next page



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR IDEAS

DAY ITEM

🎄 1 - Cereal (family size or individual packs) ☐
🎁 2 - Oatmeal packets or instant oatmeal ☐
🎄 3 - Pancake mix ☐
🎁 4 - Syrup (bottled or canned) ☐
🎄 5 - Breakfast granola bars ☐
🎁 6 - Coffee or tea ☐
🎄 7 - Boxed stuffing mix ☐
🎁 8 - Canned turkey, chicken, or ham ☐
🎄 9 - Canned cranberry sauce ☐
🎁 10 - Canned gravy or gravy mix ☐
🎄 11 - Canned vegetables (green beans, corn,) ☐
🎁 12 - Canned sweet potatoes or yams ☐
🎄 13 - Pasta (spaghetti, penne, etc.) ☐
🎁 14 - Pasta sauce (jarred or canned) ☐
🎄 15 - Rice (white or brown) ☐
🎁 16 - Instant mashed potatoes ☐
🎄 17 - Canned beans (black, baked beans) ☐
🎁 18 - Canned soup or chili ☐
🎄 19 - Boxed macaroni and cheese ☐
🎁 20 - Canned fruit (peaches, pears, etc.) ☐
🎄 21 - Hot cocoa mix ☐
🎁 22 - Cookies, crackers, or small snack packs ☐
🎄 23 - Nuts or trail mix ☐
🎁 24 - Cake mix + non-perishable “mix-ins” ☐
(applesauce, small bottle of vegetable oil)

November

Birthdays

Stephen Seabrook - 2
Doreen Lightner - 5
Caden Gribble - 5
Deb Dummermuth -6
Dick Bible - 9
Eric Hovan - 14
Maggie Prucha - 14
Claire Barnett - 16
Becky Mitchell - 17
Susan Bair - 18
Doris Torgler - 18
Kelly Davis - 20
Joe Linder - 20
Laurel Wemple - 20
Linda DiDonato - 21
Sue Call - 22
John Davis - 22
Drusilla Bichsel - 23
Patty Matter - 23
Larry Kirkpatrick - 24
Kristina Prucha - 28
Nancy Roemer - 30

Anniversaries

John and Jo Anna Kelly
Nov. 10- 36 years

Larry and Lynette Kopp
Nov. 13- 33 years

James and Tawnya Alpeter
Nov. 21-14 years

Lennard and Kathleen Mizer
Nov. 21-47 years

Pastor Ryan and Alecia Cockrill
Nov. 24 - 9 years!

Vicki and Jeff Fahner
Nov. 30-58 years

Congratulations!