



Minister
Johnny Shirey
570-360-0085
jshirey@nccwmpt.org

Elders
Jim Smithgall
570-777-0348
jsmithgall@nccwmpt.org

Fred Thomas
570-337-9438
fjthomas.FT@gmail.com

Deacons
Jeff Ward
272-230-3513
jlward60@protonmail.com

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN....
ISAIAH 9:6

NEWBERRY CHURCH OF CHRIST..... NEWS DECEMBER 2023

The morning service on Christmas Eve will be at the
normal time.

Sunday School classes will be replaced by a time of
fellowship and refreshments prior to the service in the
Ed/Fellowship Building.

**Christmas Eve Service will be
At 5 p.m. Sunday**

NEWSLETTER CHANGES

Our Newsletter is now available for viewing on our website.
There will also be limited copies available in the back of the
church. If you do not have access to a computer and would still
like a copy mailed to you, please advise either Michelle or
Cheryl in the office.

CHECK US OUT.....

ON
OUR
YOU

✓ FACEBOOK at Newberry Church of Christ
WEBSITE.....WWW.NCCWMPT.ORG
TUBE....NEWBERRY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Note: Our Website also contains a calendar of events for your
convenience.

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Worship Center
2101 Linn Street,
Williamsport
**Education/Fellowship
Building/Offices**
2100 Linn Street
Williamsport
570-326-0731
Office Secretaries
Cheryl Lose M-T-W
Michelle Paulhamus W-Th-F
Email
nccoffice@nccwmpt.org
mpaulhamus@nccwmpt.org
close@nccwmpt.org

DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULES

Nursery 9:30 am

Week 1—Merlyn Sawyer

Week 2—Anna Monks

Week 3—Diane Schlee

Week 4—Cindy Thomas

Week 5—Michelle Paulhamus

Men at the Table

John Shirey and Dan Lehman

Communion Preparation

Carmen Fischer

Serving Communion

Steve Fischer and Jeff Ward

Greeters

STATS

Date	Morning Worship	Children's Church	Sunday School	Offering
10/29	86	13	18/4	\$2587.00
11/04	101	10	22/4	\$4353.00
11/12	100	10	20/4	\$3,488.55
11/19	102	10	19/5	\$3243.00
11/26	95	8	19/2	\$3546.09

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 70+ YEARS

December

Kathy Dulaney	December 5th
Shirley Grove	December 7th
Cindy Conner	December 22nd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY 40+ YEARS

December

We have no 40+ Anniversaries
this month

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Morning

9:30 am-Bible Study-Ed/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Evening (3 CLASSES)

7 pm-T2 Women's Group (**cancelled for 12/20, 12/27 and 1/3/24**)

Band of Brothers, and Wednesday Night Group -Ed/Fellowship Hall

PRAYER IN THE SANCTUARY

Saturday's

7 am

Monday, December 4th

6 pm-Board Meeting- Ed/Fellowship Hall

Thursday, December 7th

Fresh Express 3 p.m.—5 p.m.

Ed/Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 12th

**SAINTS ALIVE
LUNCH & LEARN
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

**NOTE: WE WILL STILL BE COLLECTING
BABY ITEMS FOR THE EXPECTATIONS
MINISTRY IN WILLIAMSPORT. A LIST OF
ITEMS REQUESTED IS ON THE SIGN UP
TABLE IN THE VESTIBULE. ITEMS SHOULD
BE UNWRAPPED AND PLACED IN THE BOX AT
THE COFFEE AREA.**

Wednesday, December 13th

Quilting Club 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Ed/Fellowship Hall

Good news. I love to get good news. Unfortunately, it seems like times we hear the words *"I have good news for you"* are few and far between.

But what if you walked out your front door some evening, and suddenly the sky lit up with heavenly glory, and an angel appeared and said to you *"I've got good news for you! News that will bring great joy to all the people of the world"*?

That's almost exactly what happened to some shepherds one night over 2000 years ago. They were watching over their flock of sheep one night when suddenly the night sky blazed with the glory of a host of angels. And one said to them.....**"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."** Luke 2:10 What was the good news that the angels brought?

It wasn't that the price per head on sheep was going up that year. It wasn't that God was going to grant them health, wealth, and their every earthly desire. It wasn't that God was going to get rid of the Romans who were occupying their country. The good news was/is NOT that everything in the world or in our lives is going to be perfect.

The good news is the fact that God was sending a savior!
10**"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you**

good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

The good is that with the coming of Christ God brought to culmination His awesome plan to save the world. As we have recently seen in Ephesians chapter 3, this mystery, this amazing salvation plan, was thousands of years old. 700 years before the birth of Jesus God had said through His prophet, Isaiah 6**"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever."** Isaiah 9:6-7

The good news is that we no longer have to be condemned because of our sins. We are told in Romans 3:21-24 21**"But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely**

by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

The good news is that the coming of Jesus is proof of God's love for us... Romans 5:8 **"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**

The good news is that **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."** John 3:16

I love to get good news, don't you?

Well, the news the angels brought to the shepherds that night is still the best news ever spoken! And good news is meant to be shared.

The word "gospel" simply means *"good news"*. So go share the good news of the coming of Jesus with everyone you know!

In Christ,
Johnny



The Christmas holiday is just around the corner. Undoubtedly, we will hear the saying, "Jesus is the reason for the season." This is a very true statement because we celebrate Jesus' birth! This is the most precious gift of love we have been given! And, it is God's gift to us!

In the book of Matthew, we read. "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (Matthew 1:23 KJV) So, yes, Jesus is the reason for not just this season, but He is the reason for every season, every day. He was born so that He could walk with us just as we do. His purpose for coming was in His death. He came to die for all of us!

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 states, "For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." And in Romans 3: 23 we find this truth, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

Therefore, Jesus is our one and only reason for every day and our only hope in life. Our life's striving should be to follow His example. Everything we do and all our words should be controlled by Him. A good place to begin this striving comes from Colossians 3:1-3, "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

As you celebrate this Christmas and try to find those perfect gifts for your family members and friends, remember to live this way showing others Jesus' love by offering them the most perfect gift there is – Jesus!

(All Scripture is quoted from the New American Standard Bible except where noted.)

Fred



A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED AND SERVED AT THE THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY DINNER. YOU ALL MADE AN OTHERWISE SPARSE AND PERHAPS LONELY HOLIDAY FOR MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY A GREATLY APPRECIATED EVENT. WHAT A BLESSING TO SO MANY!
SPECIAL THANKS AGAIN THIS YEAR TO CAROLIN SAVITS FOR ALL HER COORDINATION AND SELFLESS

An Open Letter to My Church Family,

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“I love church!! It’s my favorite place to be!!” I put double exclamation points because 2 doesn’t even due justice to the excitement/shear joy in Madison’s voice when she says this nearly EVERY Sunday. I’ve been struggling to write this letter for years, and in fact have written something similar a few years ago to the “Mustard Seed” Sunday school class. However, now is the time. Now after all “The Newberry Church of Christ” has been through, now is the absolutely perfect time! With Thanksgiving around the corner, there are simply not enough words, or simply any words, to describe how truly THANKFUL I am for ALL of you!

I struggle to put into words what I’m feeling, but I’m going to try.

As many of you know, I’m a single parent. A very over protective single parent. My girls are my ENTIRE world and their safety, happiness and over all well-being are my utmost priority. I don’t let a lot of people help me, my close family is probably the only exception, and at that I try not to lean on them too much. BUT as the saying goes “it takes a village to raise a family”. Until 2015 I kept that “village” rather small, non-existent really, but I knew I needed more for these girls, I needed them to know the lord and have a spiritual relationship with God...and so I came back to church.

To this day, that decision has been the single best decision I’ve made as a parent. Little did I know how my “village” would grow. Little did I know the impact...

So so many of you have greeted my girls, came up and talked to them and genuinely care about them! I’m not sure you realize the wonderful IMPACT that has had on them. While our youth is small right now and I have no doubt we will build a fantastic youth program...it wasn’t a youth group, it wasn’t a youth Sunday school class, it wasn’t a youth activity that has had a profound, truly heartfelt IMPRESSION on my children...it was you! All of you...OUR Church! THIS CHURCH!

I have never been more excited or PROUD to be a part of this incredible family of Christian believers! I cry tears, happy tears many Sundays as I watch my girls interact with all of you and continue to grow in their own journeys with the Lord!

Continued.....

I wish I could express and explain to you the joy in Madison's voice and face when she's telling me of a conversation she's had with Mrs. Heller, or how excited she gets to help Liz Ward with a project. And my Emma...she's an extremely tough nut to crack...and YET...she is up there playing piano in front of ALL OF YOU!!! I know you think that's a small thing, but if you know my Emma, you know this isn't something she was open to. In fact, Steve had asked her several times and was shot down...quick! I thank Steve, thank him for his persistence and not giving up on her. For you see, once Rhoda gave her a little encouragement...that was all she needed! She said "mom, I was so nervous, but Rhoda said I could do it!" And she's been up there every week! It's the single most important thing to her during the week and has since started practicing hymns with her piano teacher. She's determined to not let Rhoda or any of you down. And while I mention just a few names, the list could go on and on...many of you, and I apologize, I have yet to learn your names, and perhaps you don't know ours, but you have made Newberry such an incredible safe space for them. Safe to be who they are in the Lord and be loved, encouraged and cared for.

My children genuinely love to come to church, and that is in huge part to the love and kindness they receive from each and EVERY ONE of you. They love you all, I love you all. You have all become a very significant part of my village and for that I could never say thank you enough! Thank you my dear brothers and sisters in Christ!!

With love, so much love...

Yvonne





SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENT SCHEDULE.....

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

- Join us for some daylight Christmas caroling. We will have a soup and chili luncheon after church and then serenade Newberry to get everyone in the mood for the holidays! Come for one or both events and help spread the reason for the season all over the neighborhood!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, COOKIE and GIFT EXCHANGE

- Directly after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. A light lunch will be provided. December 3rd will be the last day to sign up and an email will be sent to those planning to attend to advise the number of cookies required. The gift exchange is very simple, a small gift such as a holiday hand towel, hand crème, ornament, etc. (Under \$10)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS CARD DROPOFF

- In order to make the deliveries of your greetings to fellow NCC members in time for Christmas, please be sure to have all your cards in the postal box at the Coffee Café area by the above date. Remember to include first and last names of the recipients.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, CHRISTMAS EVE

- Adults and children will be performing a short skit during the Christmas Eve Service entitled Back to Bethlehem. Look forward to seeing you there.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, NEW YEAR'S EVE

- There will be a holiday party for the youth during Junior Church. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to attend this fun event!
-

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, NEW YEAR'S EVE WATCH PARTY

- The Diamond Street Christian Church has extended an invitation to our congregation to attend their New Year's Eve service and watch party. Watch for more details in the bulletin as they become available.

EXPECTATIONS MINISTRY DONATIONS

SAINTS ALIVE WILL BE COLLECTING BABY ITEMS FOR THE EXPECTATIONS MINISTRY IN WILLIAMSPORT. A LIST OF ITEMS REQUESTED IS ON THE SIGN UP TABLE IN THE VESTIBULE. ITEMS SHOULD BE UNWRAPPED

Members of the congregation are encouraged to participate in donating items for the Expectations Ministry. UNWRAPPED ITEMS CAN BE PLACED IN THE BOX AT THE COFFEE STATION BY DECEMBER 12TH.

**ATTENTION LADIES!!!! SAVE THE DATE!
SISTER TO SISTER DAY RETREAT WITH
JULIE NEVEL**

**A SPECIAL DAY OF WORSHIP, TEACHING AND FELLOWSHIP FOR THE
WOMEN OF NCC**

WINTER WEAR PROJECT

The youth of NCC are going to be collecting new scarves, hats and gloves of all sizes to distribute to those in need for the cold weather that lies ahead.

A collection bin will be located in the coffee café area.

We appreciate your support in spreading the warmth of our Christian love this winter season to those in need.

Reminders.....

NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

The Pairs and Spares Sunday School Class will begin a new study of I, II and III John in September. We will meet on the second floor of the educational building at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday morning. Please consider joining us for this interesting discussion study time led by Jeff Ward.

BIBLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST BUFFET

A children's Sunday School program for kids in Grade 1-7 will be offered this fall at 8:30 a.m. Each week the children will learn a Bible story with a healthy snack/craft to follow. The goal is for them to create their own Bible Cook Book by the end of the season. What a delicious way for young disciples to discover God's word.
"I am the Bread of Life, whoever comes to me will never go hungry"

JUNIOR WORSHIP

The Junior Worship program will be reorganizing for the Fall semester. The Elementary class (Grades 1-4) will be studying the Old Testament story of God's chosen people, Moses and the Ten Commandments. A new class (Grades 5-7) will begin a Bible Quest program, learning bible skills, timelines and Old Testament history.

These classes meet downstairs in the church during the worship hour and children are dismissed from their families following communion. Please consider inviting the children, grandchildren and family friends in your life for these interesting and intriguing new programs.

WORSHIP TEAM

If you can sing or play an instrument and would be interested in being part of the

SECURITY / REPAIRS

- Please check all external doors when leaving our buildings to be sure they have locked or been locked when you exit.
- If you have any maintenance requests, please fill out a work order form and drop it at the church office or to Jeff Ward.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION UPDATE

If you haven't yet filled out the form to update your church records, please do so at your earliest convenience. This information is necessary for us to update our Servant Keeper System. Even if you feel you haven't changed anything we'd still like to have a form from you to confirm our current entries. Place your form in the collection basket at the rear of the sanctuary or drop them at the church office. Extra forms are on the table near the collection basket.



Fresh Express/Food Pantry??? There have been questions about the difference?

The **Fresh Express** is just once a month on the first Thursday. The **Food Pantry** is considered emergency food and is available Monday-Friday. Both are no cost to the public. Both are available to anyone in the congregation and the public. There are no income requirements. **Fresh Express** does not cost the Church anything. Food is donated by Pa. Food Bank. The **Food Pantry** is a minimal cost to the Church through the PA Food Bank, we also can use the extra food from the Fresh Express. The **Food Pantry** also gets donations from you, the Congregation. If you have any questions about these programs, please feel free to ask Mary Miles, Pat Bryan, Michelle Paulhamus, Cheryl Lose, or one of the Elders....

We are in need of non-perishable items for our food pantry.

Peanut Butter
Jelly
Hamburger Helper
Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Vegetables
Canned Soups

Please contact the office if you have items you'd like to drop off.