



Rev. Pastor Gary Hilton

New Connections

September 2025 newbrightonmc.org

A Global Methodist Community of Faith Member

Ancient and Real Communion: Part 1

Some of you have noticed that when I lead Communion, it may seem a little more formal than what we have observed in the past. Some have even expressed that it “seems too Catholic.” Because of this feedback, I would like to take the next few newsletter articles to help explain our Methodist understanding of the Communion. I would like to do this in order to assure and teach that, in our service, I am not borrowing from another tradition, but I am actually leading our church into our deeply rooted Methodist heritage.

With this in mind, I think it is appropriate to first begin with the origins of the Communion service. Of course Methodist Communion begins with Jesus, in the Upper Room on the night of the last supper, breaking bread and sharing the cup with His disciples, saying, “Do this in remembrance of me.” From that night on, the Church has gathered around this meal and done this in remembrance of Jesus. However, the Church throughout the ages has observed this meal as more than just a remembrance or just a symbol, but a place where Christ Himself is believed to be truly present with those who partake in the meal. Also, over the centuries, the meal became ordered in the church’s liturgy. In England, after the Reformation, much of the ancient order and liturgy was preserved through what was known as the Book of Common Prayer, first published in 1549.

This book kept the rhythm of confession, thanksgiving, scripture, the words of institution, and the sharing of bread and wine—patterns that had been part of Christian worship since the early centuries and which closely paralleled the order of the Catholic Mass. Therefore, although the Anglican Church had broken from Rome politically, it remained in many ways liturgically and sacramentally connected to its Catholic roots, and this came through in the similarities in its Communion service. John Wesley the founder of Methodism, as a lifelong Anglican priest, adopted these same forms and traditions for the Methodist movement, which gives our Communion service a resemblance to our ancient past.

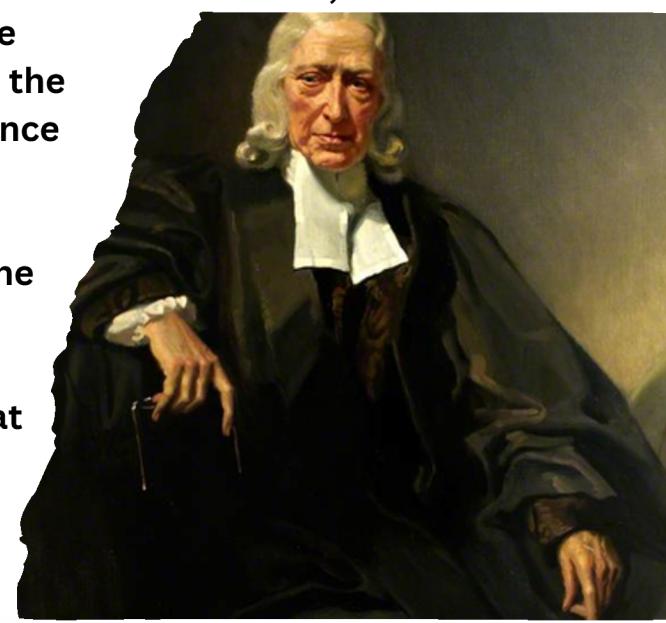
>>Cont on page 2

Even though Methodist Communion may look similar to the Catholic Mass, the theology behind it is different. In Catholic teaching, the substance of bread and wine change mysteriously into the actual Body and Blood of Christ, although the appearance stays the same—a doctrine called transubstantiation.

Wesley, as a reformer, didn't adopt this view. Instead, he taught that the entire Communion meal is a means of grace—a sacred way God gives His people forgiveness, strength, and fellowship with Christ. He did believe that Christ was truly present in the meal, not by changing the elements themselves, but in a real, spiritual, and mysterious way that draws believers into communion with Jesus. And that conviction in the “Real Presence” of Jesus hasn't changed for us Methodists. The 2024 Global Methodist Book of Doctrines and Discipline affirms:

“Those who rightly, worthily and in faith eat the broken bread and drink the blessed cup partake of the body and blood of Christ in a spiritual manner until He comes.” So when we celebrate Communion with traditional liturgy and order, we are stepping into the same pattern of worship that has fed believers for centuries—a table both ancient in its history and alive with the Real Presence of Christ.

Glory be to the Lord our God, Jesus the Christ.



Pastor Gary Hilton



Help Build a Child's Foundation of Faith

What children learn about God now can guide them for the rest of their lives. Our Sunday School needs teachers and helpers to share the love of Christ, lead activities, and encourage kids in their walk with Him. No experience needed—just a willing heart.

⚠️ Say “yes” today and help shape a child’s forever.

If you can't volunteer but still wish to help, we're always in need of healthy snacks & supply donations.

Are you willing to help? Volunteer a day, a month, or the whole season! Contact Rich or Jaime for details.



NB Highlights:

Church Kick-off

Join us on September 7th for our annual church kickoff! Choir, Sunday School & Faith Journey (Adult Sunday School class) will start up this day - Be sure to wear your New Brighton tee shirts! Sunday school kids please bring your bookbags for Pastor Gary to give them a special blessing.

Blended & Blessed

Blended family life is hard - But it doesn't have to be! Join us for our first meeting Sept. 10th at 6pm in our café for our new ministry "Blended & Blessed" a group support class for blended families, or those who support them.

Anchor Bible Study

Join Pastor Gary Hilton as he takes you on a journey to not only connect your mind to the study of the Bible, but your heart with the truth of the Gospel. Anchored will be held every Thursday morning and evening starting Sept. 11th. Join us either at 11am or 7pm in our Sanctuary.



On Monday,
September 22nd we will be
hosting a community blood
drive in our Fellowship Hall
from 12:30 pm - 6:00 pm.

Please call 1-800-RED
CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or
visit RedCrossBlood.org to
schedule an appointment.



JOY Luncheon

Our Just Older Youth luncheon will begin back in October this fall. Our first luncheon will be October 1st and they will continue to be the first Wednesday of each month. JOY begins at noon.



If you have any interest in serving our church through music please consider joining the choir or bell choir. Let's raise a joyful noise through singing and ringing! Please contact David Wolbert with any questions. Chancel Choir - Wednesdays at 7 pm first practice started 8/27/25 Wesley Ringers - Wednesdays at 6 pm starting 9/3/25

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for your many prayers, cards, emails, texts, calls and support during my eight months of several surgeries and recovery times. I have been released by the lastest surgeon, visiting nurse, OT & PT! You are a very loving and caring church and I am so blessed by your love and concern.

Blessings and Love,

Janet Wise

Thank you



Alter Flowers



September

7th - OPEN

14th - In honor of our church family, thank you for all the prayers and concerns over the last year.
From Linda Steffens & Jim Smith

21st - In honor of our 66th anniversary. From Linda & Stan Sheets

28th - In honor of God and in loving memory of my parents Ruth (Miller) and Robert Wherry and husband Wilbert H. Wise III. From Janet Wherry Wise

If you would like to have flowers on the altar in honor or in memory please contact Barb Binder at 724-462-5653. Vases are \$20 each.

New Flags for Sanctuary

The United States and Christian flags located in the altar area of the sanctuary were recently replaced. These new flags replace flags purchased 30 years ago. Although always well maintained and routinely cleaned, the old flags were fading, losing their vibrancy and appearing dull, which is a sign that the material was deteriorating.

We wish to thank the members of the congregation who contributed to the purchase of the new flags. We appreciate their generosity.



FUNdraising Committee:



SPAGHETTI DINNER is scheduled for Saturday, November 1st. More information about this event will be in the October newsletter.



COOKIE BAKE SALE is scheduled for December 11 and 12 with pick up on Saturday, December 13 from 11AM to 1PM. More information on types of cookies and costs will be in the November newsletter.



HAM LOAF SALE will take place on Friday, September 26 with pick-ups on Saturday, September 27 from 11AM to 1 PM. Orders are due to the office or Kim Inman by September 19. Cost for a pan of 5 unbaked loaves is \$11.50.

Help will be needed on Friday, September 26. Please let Kim Inman know if you can help.



COOKIE DONATIONS NEEDED



As you know, New Brighton Methodist Church is actively involved in the 12-Loaves Soup Kitchen, located right here in New Brighton. The soup kitchen provides free lunches Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday every week. We have a group of faithful volunteers who help serve one day a month and NBMC monetarily supports this critical mission.

12 Loaves is always in need of deserts throughout the year, specifically COOKIES. And who doesn't love a good cookie, right? They welcome donations of the single serving size, pre-packaged cookies (2 large cookies to a bag or the bags of bite-size cookies). But they also welcome home-baked cookies which are individually wrapped or bagged, 2 cookies per serving.

So over the coming months, if you find yourself shopping on Amazon or at Costco/Sam's Club or you're heading back to your kitchen to bake now that the weather is turning cool, think about a cookie donation for the soup kitchen. Your donations can be placed in the church kitchen (properly labeled "SOUP KITCHEN"). If they are home baked cookies, please give someone in the church office a heads up when dropping them off so we can make sure they are delivered while they are nice and fresh.

From the Trustees

The Trustees continue their work as good stewards of our gifts and properties. Now that the sanctuary painting project is behind us as a result of your generous support, the Trustees have been focusing on general maintenance.

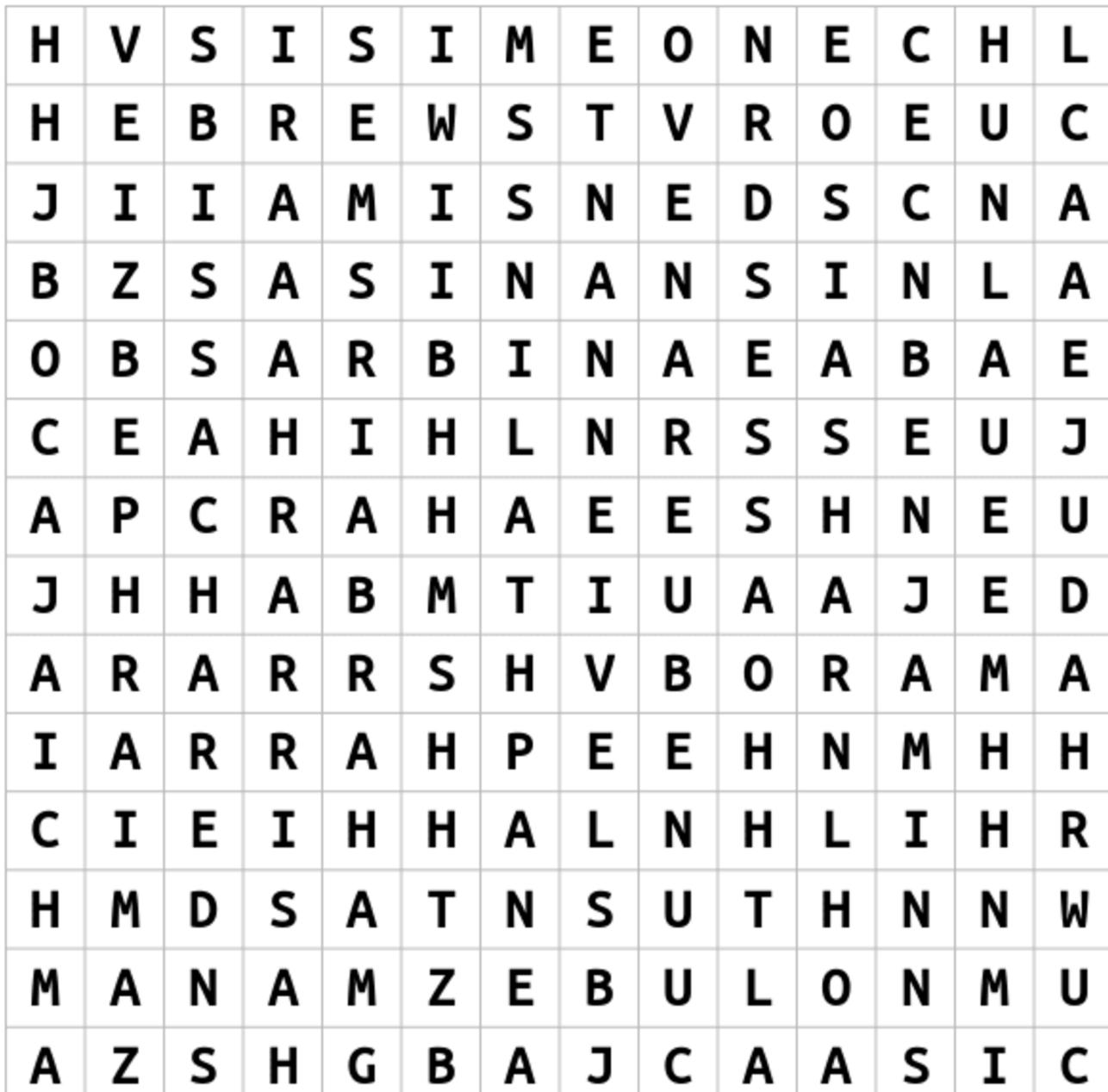
There is always something to be done on older structures. The office suite's 30 year old HVAC system had to be replaced and several of our AC wall units had to be either recharged or repaired. The dirty masonry all around the outside of our building was cleaned and bids are being sought for some repointing and repair work on the same. Lighting continues to be updated to LED bulbs and all carpets were cleaned, including the sanctuary. Ideas are being considered on how to make better use of our parking lot and make it more accessible. Just a quick reminder that the 4 or 5 spots along 6th Ave. side of the Magistrate's office are NOT to be used on any day, including Sunday. Plumbing and roofing issues are being addressed at the parsonage and are in process. Through your ongoing generosity and support we are able to keep our facilities in top notch condition. We truly appreciate and are blessed by your support.

Thank you,
Tom Hallman
Trustee Secretary



Enhance your walk with God, receive encouragement and grow your faith with these amazing resources in our Resource Center!
newbrightonmc.org/resourcecenteraccess

JUST FOR FUN: Hebrews Word Search



BENJAMIN

GAD

LEVI

MANASSEH

EPHRAIM

HEBREWS

JUDAH

ISSACHAR

JACOB

ASHAR

ZEBUGON

REUBEN

ABRAHAM

SIMEON

NAPHTALI

ISAAC

CHRIST



Schedules

If you are unable to serve as scheduled please contact Jaime in the church office at 724-843-3774 or secretary.nbmchurch@gmail.com or if you're interested in serving as a liturgist please reach out to the church office.

September

Counter Schedules

7th - Gina Cornelius and Debbie Rexroad
14th - Jackie Axtell and Evelyn Eckelberger
21st - Nancy VanFossan and Kay Campbell
28th - Kim Inman and Jan Engel

Liturgist Schedules

7th - Tom Hallman
14th - Larry Parks
21st - Carla Kratz
28th - Rob Capo

October

Counter Schedules

5th - Gina Cornelius and Debbie Rexroad
12th - Jackie Axtell and Cathy Stanyard
19th - Kay Campbell and Nancy Van Fossan
26th - Jan Engel and Kim Inman

Liturgist Schedules

5th - Michelle Hilton
12th - Tom Hallman
19th - Larry Parks
26th - Carla Kratz



You never know what you're going to find! Open every Tuesday 9-2pm & 1st Sat. of each month!

Finance Committee:

News from the Finance Committee

The budgeting for 2026 has begun. The next Finance meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 20 at 7PM in the Fellowship Hall. If any committee needs a change in its budget from last year, please let Kim Inman know ASAP.

The interest funds that we receive from the UM Foundation has gone down slightly this year. However, even with the difference this money helps us to pay our expenses. NBMC receives about 4% interest on the monies we have invested at the Foundation.

Envelope giving is up about .085% compared to last year. Thank you for being generous and faithful givers/tithers!

Finance Committee Chair



New This Fall: Blended & Blessed

Family Ministries

Blended families are beautiful, complex, and holy — not despite their challenges, but often because of them. In a world where family structures are evolving, the Church has a powerful opportunity to offer support, healing, and purpose. That's why this fall, we're launching Blended Family Support & Encouragement Classes right here at the church — to equip, encourage, and empower every kind of family walking this path.



Register Online at newbrightonmc.org/blendedfamily

Classes Begin Sept. 10th at 6pm

Join us in person on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6PM, with a follow-up Zoom session two weeks later. Through real talk, biblical truth, and practical tools, we'll walk this journey together — because blending isn't easy, but it is possible with grace.

Sept. 10th - Jan. 14th

(Group approved adjustments for dates interfering with holidays)



Celebrating September Birthdays!

- 1st - Judy Bobak
- 4th - Keri Moore
- 5th - Rob Bierline, Sr.
Sandra Harris
- 8th - Scott Namett
- 9th - Janice Engel
Barbara Main
Phyllis Main
Marilyn Ruby
Nick Steiner
- 13th - Bruce Dixon
Danielle (kitner) McGlaughlin
Alexis Pavlinich
- 14th - Jack Homitz
Leatha Philipp
Rev. Rico Vespa
- 15th - John "Jay" Alexander
- 16th - Linda Young
- 18th - Lisa Mathis
- 21st - Pam Kitner
Greg Nelson
- 22nd - Jack Mulik
- 23rd - James "Jim" Winkle
- 24th - Sherry Rodgers Bair
Michael Cornelius
- 25th - Michelle Hilton
Jane Kennedy
Linda Spagina



- 26th - Mary Garman
Larry Parks
- 30th - Caleb Irving

September Scripture Readings

- 1 Luke 8:1-18
- 2 Luke 11:1-13
- 3 Luke 11:14-28
- 4 Luke 11:29-36
- 5 Luke 11:37-54
- 6 Luke 12:1-12
- 7 Luke 12:13-21
- 8 Luke 12:22-40
- 9 Luke 13:18-30
- 10 Luke 14:7-24
- 11 Luke 15:1-10
- 12 Luke 15:11-32
- 13 Luke 18:1-17
- 14 Proverbs 3:1-35
- 15 Proverbs 4:1-27
- 16 Proverbs 10:1-32
- 17 Proverbs 11:1-31
- 18 Proverbs 12:1-28
- 19 Proverbs 13:1-25
- 20 Proverbs 19:1-29
- 21 Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
- 22 Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
- 23 Ecclesiastes 7:1-25
- 24 Ecclesiastes 12:1-14
- 25 Job 28:1-28
- 26 Job 36:5-26
- 27 Job 36:27-37:13
- 28 Job 37:14-24
- 29 2 Chronicles 1:1-12
- 30 Psalm 19

Celebrating September Anniversaries!

- 1st - Jeff & Julie Burke
- 4th - Thomas & Nancy (Kennedy) Generalovich
- 7th - Rich & Jaime Cassarino
- 14th - Joe & Karen Ruby
- 15th - Stan & Linda Sheets (1959)
Rick & Kathy Snowden (1979)
- 20th - Brad & Donna Custer (1986)
- 24th - Mark & Connie Wagle
- 25th - Adam & Briana Rombold (2019)





Prayer Concerns

- For Hamas hostages – the remaining 58 hostages with only 24 believed to be alive
- Family of Ken McCautry – upon his passing
- Family of Phil Chipata – upon his passing
- Family of Myrtle Mathews (Clara Philipps' mother) – upon her passing
- Family of Judy McQueen's brother Don - upon his passing
- Family of River Wilson - upon her passing
- For the Aliquippa JV Football Team – 21 students and coaches injured after a bus accident
- Those affected by the weather – Those being affected on the East Coast from flooding and damage from Hurricane Erin.
- For the community of Munga Lelau in Taraba State, Nigeria – part of the Northeast Annual Conference of the GMC after a terrorist attack
- For the community with the tragic flooding of the Guadalupe River in Texas Hill Country around Kerrville, TX on July 4th - the death toll has risen above 100 people—with dozens still missing and unaccounted for.
- For Israeli and Palestinian people- for those working for peace in the region; those who have lost loved ones or have been injured, the kidnapped Israelis to be released.
- For those who are grieving
- For health concerns – Nancy, Kathy, Mary Ann Irwin, Jim Smith, Paula, Diane, Carol Metz, Linda Holliday, Robert Kemper, Ron Auhurst, Hope Kester, Helen Bryan, Jamie Spencer, Michele Furgiuele, Donna Wilcox, Lori House, Delpha Tyree, Randy Ord, Doug James, Aurora Spagina, Wendy Crist, Cindy Hurst, Dave Griffith, Joe Fabiani, Carol Chewning, Patty Morgan, Addyson Dawn, Snookie Camp, Fred Knopp, Judy Bobek, Jack Hemer, Marilyn Barnhart, Kaye Vaughn, Molly Taft, Janet Graham, Steve Tuscic, Ryder, Bill Marchello, Brittany Morrow, Baby Bodhi, Ray Miller, Karye McIntire, Linda Sheets, Janet Wise, Darla Place, Gary Main, Aurora, Teresa, Michael Casson, Jerome Waters, John Michel, Tom Woodske, Norm Binder, Racheal Cline, Bob Crist, Susie Summers, Joan Ashton, Mark Kaufold, Jane Beckett, Linda Spagina, Baby Wells Wolbert, Barb Alexander, Sunshine Mahle, Barb Main's grandson's fiance Abigail, Carolyn Hromika, Pete Kinzel, Dan Sprague, Anna Babcanic
- Our homebound/care facility members and friends
Mary Clayton, Tom Czartoryski, Diana Garmen, Bob Gray, Mary Hacker, June Puskaric, Donna Wilcox, Lee Blakenbicker, Gert LeDonne
- Our military and their families – especially those who are stationed overseas
Joshua Main – now back stateside
Robert Main – now back stateside

Help Us Stay Informed!

The church office relies on you to share important updates about illnesses, hospitalizations, recoveries, and more—please don't assume we already know. Hospitals and care facilities may not notify us due to privacy laws.

Prayer Requests & Updates

Prayer is a vital ministry at NBMC. If someone needs prayer, fill out a Prayer Card or contact us. To keep our bulletin prayer list current, please provide updates; after three weeks without one, we'll assume prayers have been answered and remove the name. Contact: Jaime Cassarino – secretary.nbmchurch@gmail.com or 724-843-3774 (leave a message).



Administrative Council:

Visioning a 5 year plan!

Over the next few months the Administrative Council will be meeting to work on a "5-year Plan" for our church. All Adm. Council meetings are open to all. It is a time to meet with your elected leadership and "brainstorm" about the direction you would like our church to go regarding:

- 1) Ministry/Worship,
- 2) Mission/Outreach,
- 3) Education/Study,
- 4) programming/activities,
- 5) staffing/personnel, etc.



It is a time to question, to suggest, to report, to dream! The first meeting was held on Tuesday, August 19th with good attendance and a good start. Please watch your Sunday bulletin for the date and time of each future meeting. The Council will decide when they want to hold the next session at the conclusion of each meeting. It is our hope to conclude this process by Lent of 2026.

Thank you,
Tom Hallman
Administrative Council Chair



Staff Parish Relations Committee:

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is currently working on developing an employee handbook for New Brighton Methodist Church (NBMC). The target date to have a handbook in place is second quarter of 2026. Some of the reasons why it's important to establish an employee handbook are:

- Helps to stay compliant with federal and local laws
- Shapes and maintains workplace culture by explicitly stating the church's values and mission
- Helps ensure key church policies are clearly and consistently communicated

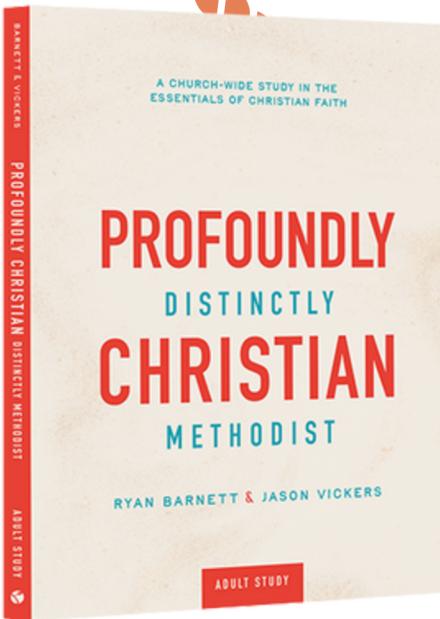
Starting this year, NBMC will be implementing annual staff performance evaluations that will be completed in September/October each year. Evaluations provide a structured framework for assessing and managing employee contributions, development, and overall effectiveness.

Cathy Stanyard, Chairperson, SPRC



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS!

Join us on Sept. 7th at 10am in our Sunday School room as Pastor Gary takes a moment to bless the backpacks for the upcoming year. This is for all school aged children so please take this chance to receive a wonderful blessing for the year ahead.



ANCHORED

What We Believe and Why It Matters

Begins Sept. 11th at 11am & 7pm

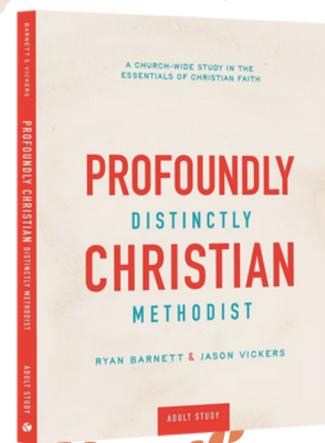
Anchored: What we believe and why it matters – Will be held every Thursday morning and evening.

Join us either at 11am, or 7pm in our Sanctuary and experience the truth of the Gospels in a new and heart-led way.

Register Online at
newbrightonmc.org/anchored

Materials:

Pastor Gary will be going through the book "Profoundly, Distinctly, Christian Methodist: A Church-wide study into the essentials of the Christian faith. Exploring what we believe and why we believe it. – \$15 Dollar Donation (Good will offering only if you feel led)



2025 SEPTEMBER



This publication is published by the
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Rev. Gary Hilton, Pastor

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newbrightonmc.org

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arkbusinesscr Creations@gmail.com

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Music Director: David Wolbert - davwolbert@gmail.com

Treasurer: Luanne Fabiani - treasurer.nbmchurch@comcast.net

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Connect with Us

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