



New Connections

February 2026 newbrightonmc.org

A Global Methodist Community of Faith Member



Pastor Gary Hilton

“Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.” (Psalm 34:14)

Over the past several months, our country has experienced growing turmoil surrounding the issue of immigration. It is an issue that has gone from consensus to divisiveness very quickly. Fear has risen alongside anger, and often both sides are speaking about the other as problems to be solved rather than image bearers of God.

Violence, harsh rhetoric, and suspicion have crept into public life, and the result is a climate where listening has become rare and wisdom even rarer. In moments like this, the church must pause—not to remain silent, but to speak carefully, prayerfully, and faithfully.

Scripture gives us guidance precisely for moments like these. The Bible does not speak about the “foreigner” with careless language or emotional impulse. Instead, it makes thoughtful distinctions. One word (Hebrew ger) is used for the foreigner who comes near—someone who lives among God’s people, submits to the law, and seeks to belong. God commands His people to love these people, protect them, and treat them with dignity. Another word (Hebrew nekar) is used for the outsider who remains outside—someone who does not share covenant allegiance and does not seek integration. In those cases, Scripture instructs God’s people to maintain boundaries for the sake of faithfulness and order. These distinctions remind us that biblical love is never reckless, and biblical order is never heartless.

Jesus does not go against the Old Testament wisdom; He fulfills it. He welcomes those who come to Him in humility and faith, regardless of where they come from, and He calls them into a transformed life. At the same time, He is consistent that belonging is not automatic. Nearness to God involves repentance, obedience, and loyalty. These are people who seeks change, integration, and a shared belief in order to be assimilated into the community of faith. As we seek peace in a divided nation, we must resist the temptation to choose between truth and love. >>> **Cont on page 2**

God calls us to both. Seeking peace does not mean abandoning law or excusing disorder, and it does not mean hardening our hearts toward those in need. Rather, it means asking God to shape us into people who speak truth without cruelty, practice compassion without confusion, and pursue peace without compromising faithfulness. Lord, teach us to seek peace Your way—not through fear or anger, but through wisdom, humility, love, and obedience to your Word. Shape our hearts to reflect Your justice and Your mercy, that we may honor You in how we live, speak, and serve. Glory be to the Lord our God, Jesus the Christ. Amen.



Pastor Gary Hilton

Be sure to check out all of Pastor Gary's archived sermons all for free right now on Youtube!



SUBSCRIBE

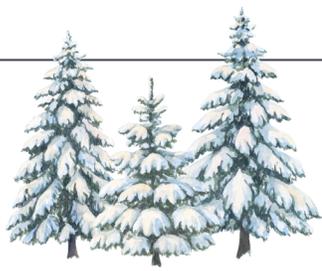
Question OF THE Month

Got questions? Our new “Question of the Month” section allows you to submit Biblical questions and Pastor Gary will answer them in the following issue. Will your question be chosen? Submit questions by emailing:

secretary.nbmchurch@gmail.com

Use subject line: “Question of the Month”

NB Highlights:



JOY Luncheon

Our next JOY (Just Older Youth ministry) Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 4th at noon. Reservations are suggested (so that there will be enough chairs and tables setup), please call the church office to make your reservations, 724-843-3774, sign up at the church entrances OR send an e-mail to: secretary.nbmchurch@gmail.com A donation of \$7.00 is suggested to help defray the cost of the luncheon.

New Brighton Women of Faith

New Brighton Women of Faith are scheduled to have an informal get together on Saturday, February 21st in the Cafe Room at 12:30pm.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday occurs six and a half weeks before Easter, on April 5th this year. Observed by Christians as a holy day of fasting and praying, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. NBMC will host an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 18th.

*Ash
Wednesday*



LENT BEGINS

Join us at NBMC for a season of reflection and renewal to deepen our faith and prepare our hearts for the significance of Easter.



“I urge that prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions...”
— 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Odds & Ends

From Lu Ann Fabiani,
Church Treasurer

I would like to thank the New Brighton Congregation for the very nice Christmas gift this year. It is very nice to feel appreciated, but also by a great group of people. I hope you all had a great Christmas and begin a Happy New Year.



THANK
😊 YOU.

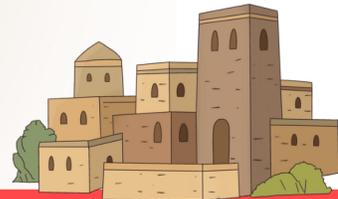


Transfiguration Sunday

Transfiguration Sunday celebrates Jesus' transfiguration on a mountain, showcasing his divine glory to three disciples. Join us to commemorate this special day and experience its spiritual significance through worship and reflection.

Behind the Scripture

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” — Matthew 5:5
In Jesus' day, Roman culture praised power, status, and dominance. Meekness was often seen as weakness. But Jesus redefined it. The Greek word for meek (praus) described strength under control—like a powerful horse that has been trained. Not weakness, but surrendered strength. Jesus was teaching that true power isn't found in force, but in humility shaped by God.



Don't miss our great content on social media - Like, Share & Subscribe to help share God's Word to the world!

New Brighton Methodist Scholarship



NBMC offers a \$1,000 scholarship to high school seniors who are going to further their education or to adults who are going to further their education. One must complete an application which includes an essay, be enrolled in a full-time college program, and be actively involved in the church. To obtain an application and the scholarship requirements, please contact Kim Inman at dinney2@hotmail.com or Jaime in the office. Application and essay are due to Kim Inman by March 31, 2026.



Staff Parish Relations Committee:

On behalf of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the entire church staff, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your remarkable generosity towards our staff Christmas Love Fund. Because of your support, our staff feels so incredibly appreciated. Your faithfulness in giving is a true blessing.

Your gift reflects the joy and love of Christ, inspiring us all to give generously and serve diligently in His name. We cherish your involvement and support of New Brighton Methodist Church and look forward to growing together in faith and service.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

With deepest gratitude,

Cathy Stanyard, Chairperson



Finance Committee:

The budget for 2026 has been completed and approved by the Administrative Council members. If you would like a copy, please contact Kim Inman, Finance Chair, or the church office. As has occurred in the past, interest monies and principal monies from the McPherson Endowment have been designated to balance the budget.

Sometime this month, the carpeting in the sanctuary will be torn up, floor repaired, and then carpeting replaced as it is incredibly old and is wearing badly in places. The money (\$60,000) to pay for this was borrowed from the McPherson Endowment. The Trustees along with the members of the Finance Committee request your help in replacing this money via your donations. This will be a way to pay ourselves back like we did with the painting projects so that we may complete future projects. Thus, being good stewards for the money given by the McPhersons. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "sanctuary carpeting." For more information contact Kim Inman, chair of finance committee or Robert Capo, chair of trustees.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Monday, February 16 at 6:30 PM.

Praying peace, love, and joy are yours today and always.

The Finance Committee



Kim Inman



Beloved,
Let Us
Love
one another,
for love is of
GOD
and everyone
who loves
has been born of God, and
KNOWS
God.
1 JOHN 4:7



Administrative Council:



Two points of interest for our church!

250th birthday of the good ol' USA

Did you know that this coming July our nation will celebrate its 250th Anniversary? How time flies! It just seems like yesterday it was our 200th, way back in 1976. Do you remember the parade and the big pageant at the football field? Do you remember the men's beard growing contest and the ladies in their long dresses and bonnets? Do you remember that the Lord Mayor of Brighton, England (our sister city in England) spoke here at NBMC and was hosted at a dinner in our parsonage? Lots of good memories and now it is time to make new ones! How would you like NBMC to celebrate this important milestone in our nation's history? Share your ideas with Pastor Gary and/or any member of the Ministry & Mission team. Let's do it right and create more memories!

190th anniversary of Methodism in NB

John Wesley's Methodism officially began in NB in 1837. Did you know that was 1 year before NB became incorporated as a town? Yes, Methodism in NB is actually older than the town itself. Small class meetings were held in Fallston and the main level of NB. They grew and grew until in 1837 an official charter and church were created. We, as Methodists, have a lot to be proud of and should acknowledge this anniversary with a bang! How should we let the community and the valley know of this milestone and the proud heritage that continues on? It is never too early to begin planning for such a event. I doubt that there are many other churches in the area with such a long and storied history. Share your thoughts and ideas with Pastor Gary or any member of the Ministry & Mission team. Let's do it right!

Thank you,
Tom Hallman
Administrative Council Chair



Trustees Sanctuary Update

The final phase of the sanctuary updating is approaching. It is the hope of the Trustees to have this last part completed prior to Holy Week. The final step is the sanctuary flooring. This final phase has several components to it: 1) the entire main floor will be resurfaced with luane flooring material, 2) the steps to the chancel area will be fixed to create consistent step heights and more surface for better footing, 3) the old carpeting will be removed and new carpeting will be installed, 4) the pews will be re-spaced, where possible, to create better access and finally 5) new brackets will be used to re-install the pews to the new flooring.

The contractor believes that his team will be able to start on a Monday and finish by Saturday so that Sunday services will not be disrupted. The main scheduling factor is when the carpeting manufacturer makes and ships the carpeting.

The Trustees will be paying for this final phase again by borrowing from our church savings account, just like we did for the painting project. We will all then work very hard to repay ourselves so that we can continue to be the best stewards of our gifts! The Trustees look forward to your participation and support throughout this process. We have tried very hard to update our sanctuary, so that it can handle all styles of worship, and yet maintain its historic beauty and at a sensible cost. We hope that you agree and will support our efforts.

Once the flooring is completed, a full description of the sanctuary journey will be provided with particular attention being given to how, after a lot of work, we were able to save our church family tens of thousands of dollars! We thank you in advance for your support!

Thank you,
Tom Hallman
Administrative Council Chair





Website Update - Last 30 Days

NewBrightonMC.org



6 Month Review: Over the past 6 months our church has seen an amazing surge in traffic, especially with new visitors to the site. Page views are up 24 percent, New Visitors are up 27.9 percent and Overall Visitors are up by 28 percent. Our returning visitors, while they did increase, is an area that we'd like to do better at. And you can help us!



YOUR Online Ministry: Did you know that you have a hand in spreading God's Word globally? Every time you come to our website, share an event, Bible study, workshop or Church update, you're engaging in your own online ministry - which helps us as a church, and helps you to link arms with us in the Great Commission. And if you want to take it a step further, share our social media posts as well and supercharge your reach - all for the Glory of God!



Current Numbers



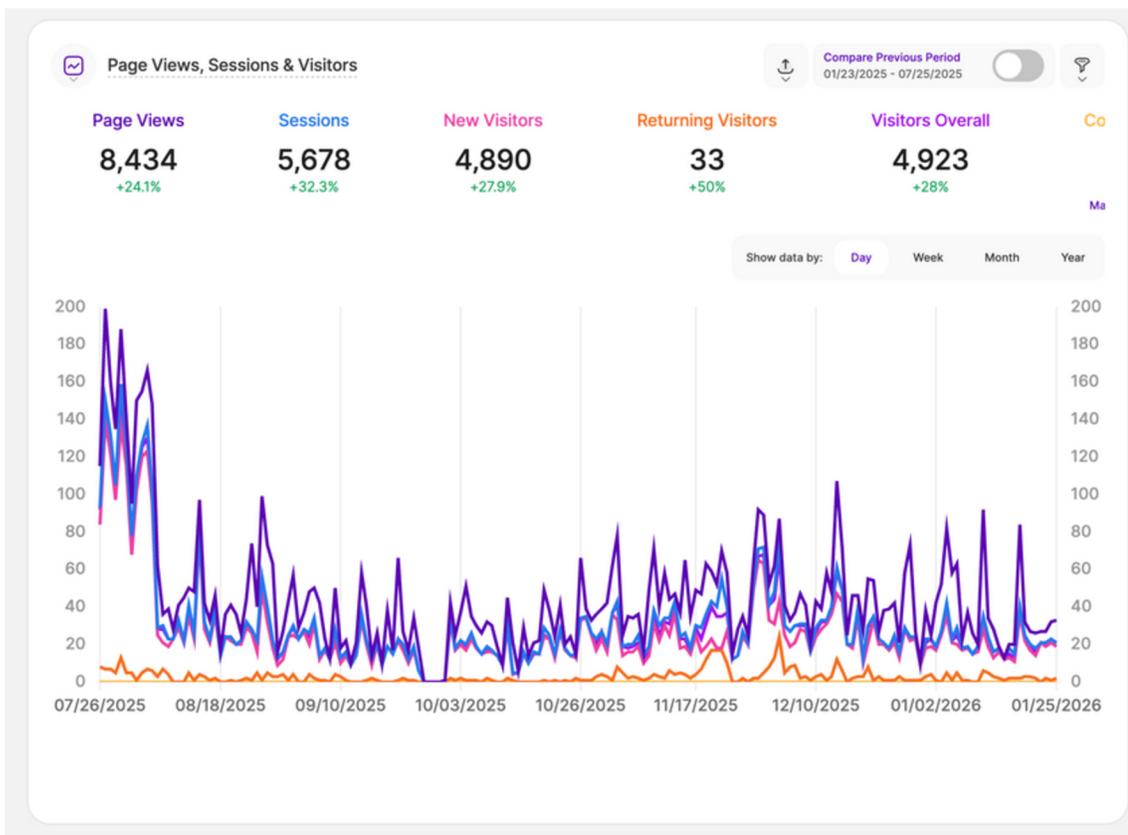
305 Likes
397 Followers



367 Subscribers



371 Followers





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.

FEBRUARY

Counter Schedules

- 1st - Gina Cornelius & Debbie Rexroad
- 8th - Jackie Axtell & Evelyn Eckelberger
- 15th - Kay Campbell & Cathy Stanyard
- 22nd - Kim Inman & Jan Engel

Liturgist Schedules

- 1st - Larry Parks
- 8th - Carla Kratz
- 15th - Rob Capo
- 22nd - Michelle Hilton

MARCH

Counter Schedules

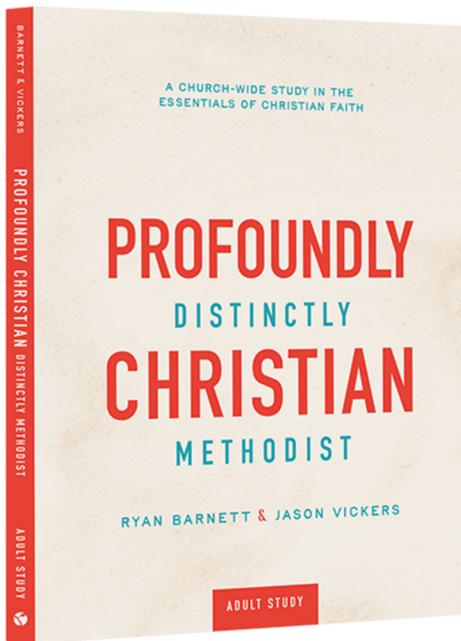
- 1st - Gina Cornelius & Debbie Rexroad
- 8th - Jackie Axtell & Evelyn Eckelberger
- 15th - Kay Campbell & Cathy Stanyard
- 22nd - Kim Inman & Jan Engel
- 29th - Kim Inman & Cathy Stanyard

Liturgist Schedules

- 1st - Tom Hallman
- 8th - Larry Parks
- 15th - Carla Kratz
- 22nd - Rob Capo
- 29th - Michelle Hilton



The sale reopens after Winter Break On Tuesday, March 3rd. Then open every Tuesday 9-2pm & 1st Sat. of each month!



ANCHORED

What We Believe and Why It Matters

Begins Sept. 11th at 11am & 7pm

Join us every Thursday at either 11am or 7pm for our new Anchored Bible Study. Pastor Gary explores what we believe and why we believe it. 2 convenient times for you to choose from!



Watch the Newsletter Come to Life!
 Did you know that the online version of our Newsletter is interactive, features amazing animations, digital apps, forms buttons & more? If you haven't experienced it - What are you waiting for?
Visit our website to check it out now!

Alter Flowers

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.

February

- 1st - In honor of my wife Caren's birthday - With Love Jim Turnbull
- 8th - In honor of my mother Joan Ashton's 89th Birthday - With Love Cindy & Bruce Dixon
- 15th - In honor of my mother Nadine Namett's birthday - With Love Linda Namett
- 22nd - OPEN



Celebrating February Birthdays!



2nd - Jennifer Pavlinich
 3rd - John Fogg
 3rd - Evan Sockaci
 4th - Katrina Woodske
 4th - Deborah Benner-Davis
 8th- Joan Ashton
 9th - Dylan Ruby
 11th - Bonnie McCutcheon
 14th - Rick Snowden
 14th - James White
 15th - Charles Van Fossan
 15th - Bill Wagoner
 15th - Addison Bock
 17th - Cindy Hoey
 17th - Jean Kyler
 18th - James Campbell
 18th - Tina Campbell
 18th - Karen Ruby
 18th - Douglas Wilcox
 18th - Isaac Kurkiewicz
 19th - Terry Ruby
 21st - Stephen Puskaric
 23rd - Jessica Nagy
 25th - Shirley Campbell
 26th - Pastor Gary Hilton
 27th - Caleb Hilton



2026		FEBRUARY					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	



February Scripture Readings

- 1 Philippians 1:1-11
- 2 Philippians 1:12-30
- 3 Philippians 2:1-11
- 4 Philippians 2:12-30
- 5 Philippians 3:1-11
- 6 Philippians 3:12-21
- 7 Philippians 4:1-9

- 8 Philippians 4:10-23
- 9 Philemon 1-25
- 10 Exodus 1:1-22
- 11 Exodus 2:1-10
- 12 Exodus 2:11-25
- 13 Exodus 3:1-22
- 14 Exodus 4:1-17

- 15 Exodus 4:18-31
- 16 Exodus 6:1-13
- 17 Psalm 136

Ash Wednesday

- 18 Psalm 51
- 19 Exodus 13:17-22
- 20 Exodus 14:1-18
- 21 Exodus 14:19-31

First Sunday in Lent

- 22 Exodus 15:1-18
- ### Great Lent (Orthodox)
- 23 Exodus 15:19-27
 - 24 Exodus 18:1-12
 - 25 Romans 8:18-39
 - 26 Romans 12:1-21
 - 27 Romans 14:1-23
 - 28 Romans 15:1-13

Celebrating February Anniversaries!



11th - Frank & Linda Spagina '77
 12th - Luther & Leatha Philipp
 13th - Jack & Ruth Atchison '53
 14th - Rev. Ray & Kathy Lyon





Prayer Concerns

- For Hamas hostages – Hamas released all 20 of the last living hostages on Monday
- The Family of Tom George Jr - after his passing
- The Family of Cindy Hurst – after her passing
- The Family of Nancy Drogus – after her passing
- The Family of Wilmer George – after his passing
- Prayer Praise – Jean Kyler is able to attend services again!
- Prayer Praise – Cindee Pavelek is now cancer free!
- For the communities in Africa where Christians are being persecuted
- For the tragedy at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints–At least four victims have died and eight others were injured after a shooter opened fire at and set fire to a Mormon church in Grand Blanc Township, Michigan Sunday morning.
- For the tragedy at Annunciation School in Minnesota –The 19 children and adults affected or lost their lives and their families and community by the mass shooting.
- For the tragedy at Evergreen High School in Jefferson County, Colorado - the shooting, which left two students critically injured and one deceased.
- For Israeli and Palestinian people– for those working for peace in the region; those who have lost loved ones or have been injured.
- For those who are grieving
- For health concerns – Judy McQueen, Rick Phillips, Elaine, Wendy, John & Sue Basile, Darwin Main, Nadine Namett, Gary Main, Mike Hurst, Dale Lynch, Zack, McKenzie, Karen Hilton, Kay, Ross & Abbey Vaughan, Suzie Diorio, Jean Kyler, Rob Gumpf, Jane Kennedy, Ernest Piscioti, Bob Ceranic, Marty Lipp, Jerry Mahle, Kristen Ceranic, Linda Sheets, Jessica Fontaine, Sandy Balay, Barb Alexander, Diane Cornelius, Nelda, Eric Haught, Ashley Brooks, Jerry Hall, Ron Bair, Jim Smith, Jack Atchinson, Matt, Fabio, Frank, Bobby Wolfe, Brielle, Sunshine Mahle, Elena Wolfe, Addison & Scott, Bob Crist, Norm Binder, Hazel Liberty, John & Dave McCutcheon, Sue Mignanelli, Tony & Nancy Mignanelli, Matthew Wolbert, Barbara Porter, Kristine Miloser, Carol Chewning, Hadley, Judy Bobak, Steve Tuscic, Brittany Morrow, Darla Place, Joan Ashton, Linda Spagina, 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, Gert LeDonne
- Our military and their families – especially those who are stationed overseas
Joshua Main – now back stateside Robert Main – now back stateside

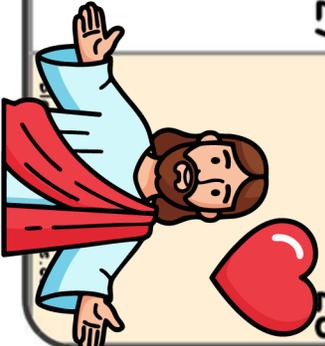
Help Us Stay Informed!

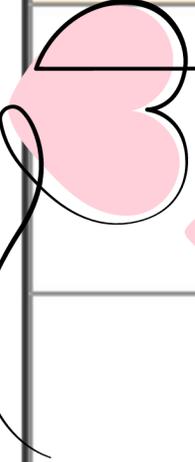
The church office relies on you to share important updates about illnesses, hospitalizations, recoveries, and more—please don't assume we already know. Hospitals and care facilities may not notify us due to privacy laws.

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).

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Communion 11am	2  Trustee's mtg 7pm	3 Prayer Team 5:30pm Ministry & Missions 7pm	4 JOY Luncheon Noon	5 Bible Study 11am & 7pm	6	7
8	9	10	11 Care Wear 9:30am	12 Soup Kitchen Bible Study 11am & 7pm	13	14 
15 Transfiguration Sunday Communion 9am	16  Finance Mtg 7pm	17	18  Service 7pm	19 Bible Study 11am & 7pm	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 NB Women of Faith 12:30-2p
22 1 st Sunday in Lent	23	24	25 Care Wear 9:30am *Bell choir 6pm Chancel Choir 7pm Every Wednesday	26 Bible Study 11am & 7pm	27	28 



This publication is published by the
New Brighton Methodist Church

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**February 2026 Issue
Sent with a prayer to:**



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724-843-3774

newbrightonmc.org

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arkbusinesscreations@gmail.com

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Church Staff E-mail Contact Info:

Connect With Us

