



New Connections

April 2026

newbrightonmc.org

A Global Methodist Community of Faith Member



Pastor Gary Hilton

There is a word that comes up in the study of the bible that you may have heard from time to time. The word is Eschatology. The word itself simply means “the study of last things,” or one could say “how the biblical story ends.” However, everyone possesses a personal eschatology whether they realize it or not. Meaning that one’s understanding of the end or what they believe is coming, shapes what one does in the present. If one believes success is the end goal, they will live working for achievements.

If one believes comfort is the goal, they will try and live a life of pleasure and ease. What we think the future holds, drives our present decisions, our priorities, and even our hopes. Basically, our daily motivations are a reflection of our eschatology. In the Bible, the Jewish people had an eschatology also. We know this because it is written throughout all of their writings in the Old and New Testament. The Jewish people, including the disciples, and the apostle Paul, believed God would one day act decisively, in the end, to restore His people, through the second coming of Jesus, who would raise and judge the living and the dead, and establish His Messianic kingdom for ever. This hope—this eschatology shaped how they lived, how they longed for the Messiah, and how they endured suffering.

If we hold to the same Eschatology of the future, then it should shape the way we live right now. If we truly believe that one day Jesus will return, that the living and the dead will be raised, that God’s justice will set all things right, that His love will bring salvation to those who trust in Christ’s atoning work, and that we will live forever in His glorious kingdom—then our present lives begin to change. We begin to live with peace and hope instead of fear and control. We are no longer driven by anxiety or despair, but by faith, obedience, and a willingness to sacrifice, because we know this life is not the end of the story. And we learn to wait differently, not with worry or frustration, but with trust that God will restore all things and that we will share in His glory for eternity.

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



NB Highlights:

Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday

Join us Maundy Thursday & Good Friday for one service on each day at 7pm, and then Easter Sunday for 1 service at 11am. (No Faith Journey or Sunday School). We hope to see you there! All services will be livestreamed.

NO JOY Luncheon For April

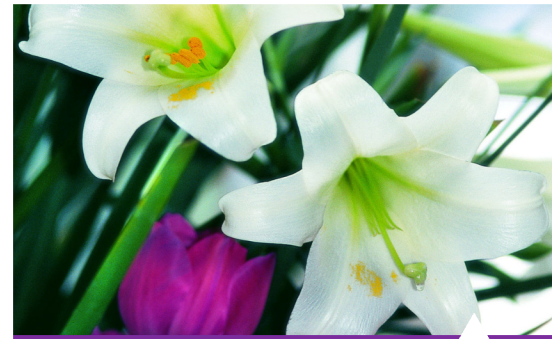
Due to the first Wednesday of the month falling during Holy Week this year, we are cancelling for April. Our next JOY Luncheon will be a covered dish luncheon on Wednesday, May 6th at noon.

Mission 2 Mission Saturday Sale

Our usual first Saturday of the month sale is being moved back a week to the following Saturday, April 11th due to Holy Week falling the first week of the month.

New Brighton Women of Faith

NBWF's April meeting will be on Saturday, April 18th at 12:30 p.m. in the Café Room. Please see page 4 for further information.



Easter Flowers

If you ordered Easter lilies or tulips please don't forget to take them with you after Easter Sunday service.



Did you know that you can view this Newsletter online?
Visit us at newbrightonmc.org for more info.

From the Finance Committee

Our apportionment to Allegheny West Conference was paid by March 15th thus saving the church \$480. The other apportionment will be paid to General Connectional Conference on a quarterly basis. A donation from the Mission-2-Mission helps to cover some of our apportionments. The Finance Committee is very appreciative of this monetary help. Just a reminder that our apportionments are a third of what we paid to the United Methodist Conference.

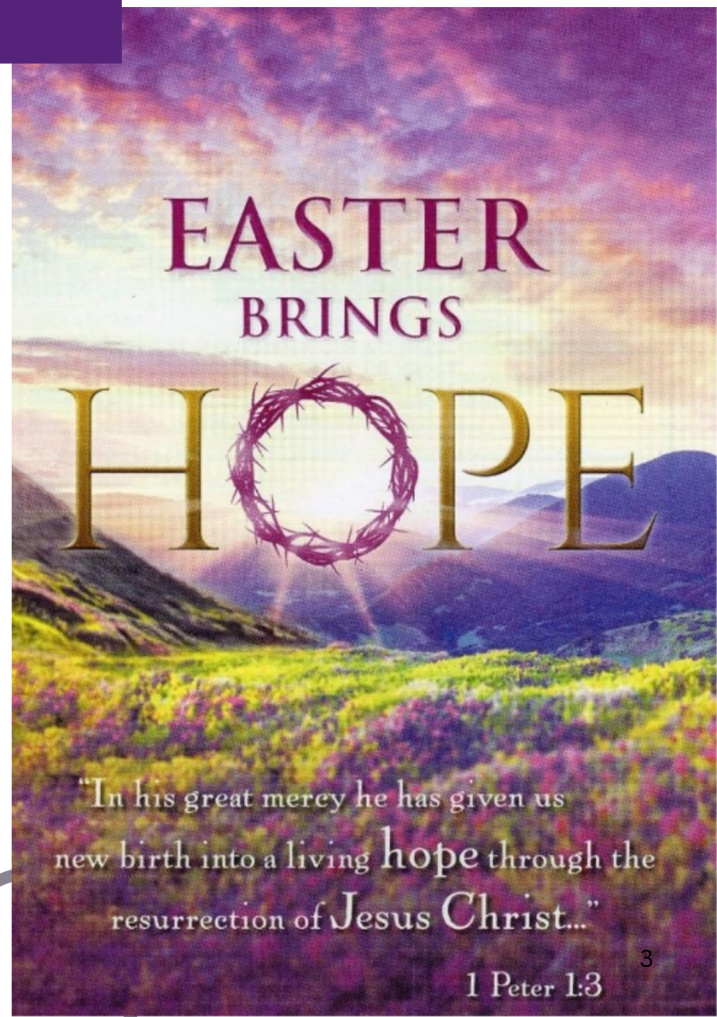
Good news.... Good news! For the second year and second time in the history of having funds at the United Methodist Foundation NBMC received an interest check of \$3,232. This interest check is in addition to the quarterly interest checks received from our investments. Why did we get this check? All the funds in the UM Foundation were invested and received a better return than expected. The extra funds had to be distributed among the account holders, and this was NBMC's share. Woohoo!

The Fundraising Committee will be holding a frozen, unbaked meatball sale. The pick-up will be on Saturday, May 2nd from 11AM to 1 PM. Orders are due by April 17th. Cost for twelve (12) meatballs is \$12. Order sheets are in the entryways in the church or contact Jaime in the office or Kim Inman or Jackie Axtell. The date for making the meatballs is TBD.

The Finance Committee wishes each of you a Blessed Easter!

Praying that peace, love, and hope are yours today and always.

The Finance Committee



Strengthen Your Marriage

FREE
DOWNLOAD



Discover the transformative power of a God-centered relationship with our new EBook "Covenant Marriage." This Christian devotional is designed to strengthen your marriage through scripture readings, engaging activities, and reflection notes.

Whether you're newlyweds or have been married for years, this free download offers valuable insights deepen your bond and nurture your faith together. Embrace the journey of building a lasting covenant with your spouse today!

New Brighton Women of Faith

Our next meeting is on Saturday, April 18 th at 12:30 p.m. in the Café Room. The lunch provided will be pizza and dessert. Debbie Rexroad is doing the program which also includes making a craft. We hope to see all of you there for a time of fellowship with each other.

Thank You

A big thank you goes out to all of you that volunteered to help make the ham loaves for our fundraiser. Also, a thank you to those who purchased them. We appreciate your support.



HOLY WEEK *at New Brighton*



Maundy Thursday

Join us on April 2
for 1 Service at 7pm

Maundy Thursday remembers the night Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples before His arrest. During this Passover meal, Jesus gave the bread and cup new meaning, pointing to His body and blood and establishing what we now call Communion or the Lord's Supper. He also took the time to wash their feet in a show of love.



Good Friday

Join us on April 3
for 1 Service at 7pm

Good Friday is the day we remember the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. After being betrayed, arrested, falsely accused, and condemned, Jesus was beaten, mocked, and led to the cross. Though He was innocent, He willingly suffered and died in our place, bearing the penalty for sin. What looked like defeat was actually the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan.



Easter Sunday

Join us on April 5
for 1 Service at 11am

Resurrection Sunday celebrates the victorious resurrection of Jesus from the dead. On the third day after His crucifixion, the tomb was found empty, and Jesus appeared alive to His followers. It confirms that Jesus is who He claimed to be, that His sacrifice was accepted, and that sin and death were defeated.

Sanctuary Carpet Update



The long wait will soon be over and then out with the old, worn blue flooring and in with the new. I have been told by the carpeting installer that the carpet production has been recently completed and the lay-out of the pieces is in process (for matching of the pattern). Once that part is completed the shipping of the carpet rolls will be scheduled. It is anticipated that installation will begin the week after Easter Sunday. Barring any unforeseen problems, we have been told that we will leave after services on Easter with the old carpeting in place and return the next Sunday with the installation of the new completed.

This is not a small project, so we will hope and pray that the installer is able to keep to that schedule. As in the past, your support will be greatly appreciated. You can help us replenish our "Savings Account" by placing your donation in an envelope marked "Sanctuary Carpet Project." I am pleased to announce that \$4100 in donations have already come in and we haven't even started fundraising yet!

We have such a generous and thankful congregation!

Thank you,
Tom Hallman
Trustees Secretary

SO VERY
thankful
INCREDIBLY
grateful
UNBELIEVABLY
blessed



TECH UPDATE – SPRING 2026

We're excited to share some insights from our website, www.newbrightonmc.org, about how it's connecting with both our local community and those afar. It's wonderful to see how our digital presence plays a vital role in reaching out to others, and we want to keep you informed about our progress.

Who's Visiting Our Website?

In the past month, we've welcomed a diverse group of visitors. Here's a snapshot:

- **Growth in New Visitors:** We had a significant influx of new visitors, showing that more people are discovering our church community online. This is a positive sign as it indicates welcoming interest from new members.
- **Returning Visitors:** While the majority were newcomers, we also saw returning visitors. This suggests that people are finding value in our content and are coming back for more information.

How Are People Finding Us?

Most of our visitors are discovering us through search engines. This means that people are actively seeking out information related to our church, which is encouraging. Some visitors are arriving directly, indicating they have saved our link or are visiting by typing our URL directly.

Understanding Visitor Engagement

While our bounce rate—the percentage of visitors who leave after viewing only one page—showed some fluctuations, we're working to provide engaging content that keeps everyone interested and informed.

Our Digital Presence: A Beacon of Light

Though our website isn't currently generating revenue, our primary goal is community engagement and participation. Our online presence helps share our mission, events, and resources with the community, aligning with our values and In summary, these analytics tell us that our website is successfully reaching and engaging both new and returning visitors. It's a beacon of connectivity, amplifying our community's spirit and outreach.

Thank you for playing a crucial role in our online journey. As we continue to enrich our content, your feedback and participation remain instrumental.

Page Views

1,501
+1.15%

Sessions

1,024
+5.46%

New Visitors

907
+5.1%

Returning Visitors

9
-50%

Visitors Overall

916
+3.97%

OH WHAT A (MOVIE) NIGHT...



The sight of a little girl cheering in the back row when David defeated Goliath - That alone made all of the work and prep and set up for our latest movie night all worth it. Our movie nights have taken on a life of their own lately. From the atmosphere to the food, candy and snacks, NB movie nights have grown into something wonderful - And we couldn't be more thankful to all of you who attended and all of you who continue to selflessly help us put on events like this. A special shout out to **Cathy Stanyard, Bill & Judy Campbell, Carla & Mark Kratz, Barb Chewing, Trent Madison, Olivia Madison and Addie Bock.**

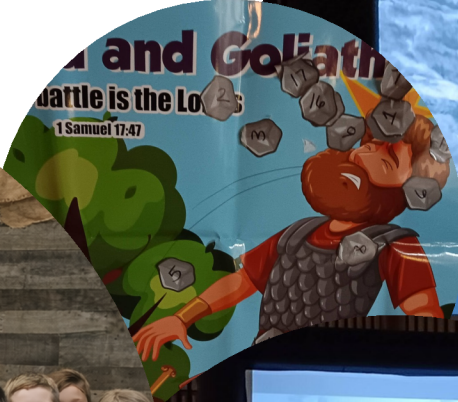
(Please forgive me if I left anyone out)

Because of your efforts, families and friends were able to come together for a night of fun (food of course) and fellowship. - And always, always always, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. - So thank you. From all of us at New Brighton Methodist Church. ❤️



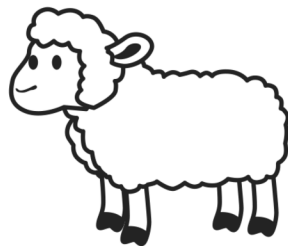
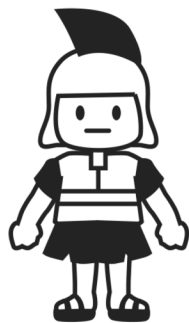
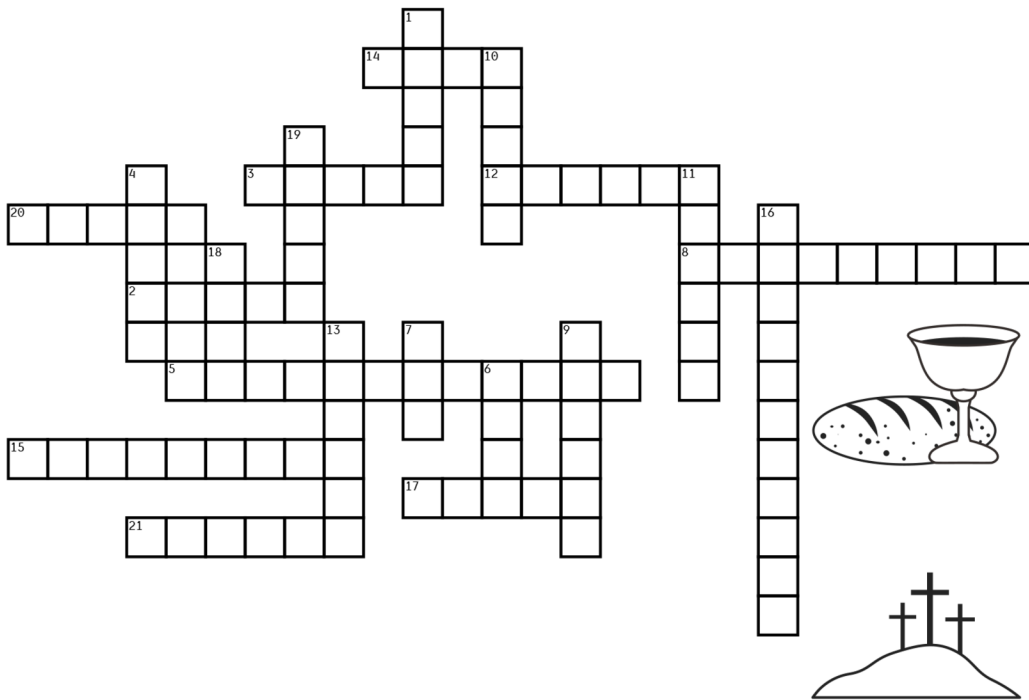
DAVID

Children's photos were altered to protect family privacy.



Holy Week Crossword Puzzle

Answers on pg. 11



DOWN

1. Belief in the truth of something unseen
4. Absence of war or violence
6. A final resting place for a deceased person
7. Coming into being
9. An animal that brays and is related to a horse
10. Act of leniency or forbearance
11. A place in the sky where souls go after death
13. A solemn request for help or expression of thanks to a higher power
16. Letting go of anger and resentment
18. A desire for something to be true
19. The central figure of the Christian religion

ACROSS

2. A structure made of two pieces of wood or metal placed at right angles
3. Final stage of life
5. Rise from the dead
8. Making amends for a wrong
12. A place to learn about God and His teachings
14. A type of tree with a single trunk and feathery leaves
15. Eats nectar from flowers
17. Book of scripture used in Christian worship
20. Spiritual being of light
21. A colorful plant that often has a sweet smell

Did you know?

Our digital version features an interactive puzzle, game or word search each month. Visit our website for more.

Admin Council



Administrative Council Update

The Administrative Council met recently for our quarterly meeting to receive reports and updates from our various committees. It was a good meeting and I am happy to report that all of our committees are up and running in the new year to nurture our congregation, make disciples and reach out beyond our walls. SPRC has completed 90% of staff evaluations and are in the process of updating personnel files. The Trustees are maintaining our properties as needed and updating when necessary. The Finance Committee has completed auditing all books and everything is in order. They also report that the new budget has been passed and all accounts are in good standing.

NB Women of Faith are busy with their projects in supporting our congregation and shut-ins. The Ministry & Mission Committee is busy supporting our overall ministry/worship and reaching out via the Mission to Mission Sale and Family Activities. Unfortunately, the Men's Group decided to cease operation as a separate group and will support our ministry through other means. The Administrative Council meetings are always open to visitors and we urge you to attend and offer your input, questions and/or ideas. It is a ministry open to all! Our next meeting will be June 2nd at 1:00 p.m. in the Wesley Conference Room next to the Office Suite.

Thank you,
Tom Hallman
Adm. Council Chair

Odds & Ends

Love in Every Spoonful



NBMC PRESCHOOL SUB & SOUP FUNDRAISER

We are selling subs from Bowser's and soups from PJ'S Deli. The price of the subs (16 inches) is \$10. The soup (quart) is \$10. All orders are due on **Wednesday, April 8th**. Pickups are **Wednesday, April 22nd**, time TBA. When paying for your orders we will only accept CASH.

Payment can be received by the church office or Kathy Walsh. Order forms are available in the church entrances, fellowship hall and the office.

Our fundraising helps buy supplies, graduation gifts, and helps with the end of the year picnic.



-Kathy Walsh, Teacher

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Down

1. Faith
2. Peace
3. Tomb
4. New
5. Donkey
6. Mercy
7. Heaven
8. Prayer
9. Forgiveness
10. Hope
11. Jesus

Across

2. Cross
3. Death
5. Resurrection
8. Atonement
12. Church
14. Palm
15. Butterfly
17. Bible
20. Angel
21. Flower

thank you

My husband Stan wants to thank all who have been praying for him. He is doing well with therapy but is weak and has to get stronger. He may be coming home in the near future with therapy to continue at home. He still needs your prayers. He also thanks those who sent cards. Please continue to pray for strength and healing. God bless you all.

Linda Sheets

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.



Counter Schedules

- 5th - Gina Cornelius & Debbie Rexroad
- 12th - Jackie Axtell & Evelyn Eckelberger
- 19th - Kay Campbell & Cathy Stanyard
- 26th - Kim Inman & Jan Engel

- 3rd - Gina Cornelius and Debbie Rexroad
- 10th - Jackie Axtell and Evelyn Eckelberger
- 17th - Kay Campbell and Nancy Van Fossan
- 24th - Kim Inman and Jan Engel
- 31st - Kim Inman and Cathy Stanyard

Liturgist Schedules

- 5th - Tom Hallman
- 12th - Larry Parks
- 19th - Carla Kratz
- 26th - Rob Capo

- 3rd - Michelle Hilton
- 10th - Tom Hallman
- 17th - Carla Kratz
- 24th - Larry Parks
- 31st - Rob Capo

April Altar Flowers

- 5th - OPEN
- 12th - OPEN
- 19th - In loving memory of husband Wilbert H. Wise III and to the glory of God. With love - Janet Wise
- 26th - OPEN



Celebrating April Birthdays!



- 1st- Jackie Axtell
- 4th- Barb Alexander
- 7th - Bill Campbell
Beth Williams
- 8th - Meredith (White) Winkle
- 9th - Heather Frazzini
- 12th - Kylie Nicole Kennedy
- 14th - John Axtell
- 17th - Ray Hoey
Nicole Walsh
- 19th - Norm Binder
Stephanie Kurkiewicz
- 20th - Jessica Inman
- 22nd - Kay Campbell
Charlotte Kurkiewicz
- 28th - Sue Homitz
John McCutheon
- 30th - Luther Philipp



2026		APRIL					
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	29	30			



April Scripture Readings

- 1 Matthew 26:47-75
- Holy Thursday**
- 2 Matthew 27:1-26
- Good Friday**
- 3 Matthew 27:27-56
- 4 Matthew 27:57-66

Easter Sunday/Pascha

- 5 Matthew 28:1-20
- 6 Luke 24:13-25
- 7 Luke 24:36-53
- 8 Romans 1:1-17
- 9 Romans 3:21-31
- 10 Romans 4:1-12
- 11 Romans 4:13-25

Pascha (Orthodox Easter)

- 12 Romans 5:1-11
- 13 Romans 5:12-21
- 14 Romans 6:1-14
- 15 Romans 6:15-23
- 16 1 Peter 1:1-12
- 17 1 Peter 1:13-25
- 18 1 Peter 2:1-10
- 19 1 Peter 2:11-25
- 20 1 Peter 3:1-22
- 21 1 Peter 4:1-19
- 22 1 Peter 5:1-13
- 23 2 Peter 1:1-21
- 24 2 Peter 2:1-22
- 25 2 Peter 3:1-18
- 26 John 10:1-21
- 27 John 10:22-41
- 28 John 5:1-18
- 29 John 5:19-29
- 30 Isaiah 35:1-10

Celebrating April Anniversaries!



- 12th - Paul & Sue Steiner (1985)
- 19th - Kirk & Mary Bonzo (1986)
- 27th - Jay & Barb Alexander (2002)
- 30th - Bill & Linda Young (1983)



Prayer Concerns



- The Family of Don Mittner – after his passing
- The Family of Margaret Farcus – after her passing
- The Family of Richard Wall – after his passing
- The Family of Deborah Maloney – after her passing
- The Family of Janet Graham – after her passing
- The Family of Carl Taylor – after his passing
- Prayer Praise – Stan Sheets is coming home after a month in the hospital.
- Prayer Praise – Wells Wolbert is healthy and doing great. He celebrated his first birthday on March 22nd!
- Prayer Praise – Bob Gray is doing great and continuing to improve
- For the communities in Africa where Christians are being persecuted
- For everyone involved in world conflict
- 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 – Ron Alberti, Kathy Zumbroich, Paul Radatovich, Tony & Nancy Mignanelli, Fern Orlowski, Al, Jack Woodruff, Bob Wright, James Scobie, Eric Wade, Brenda Kaszer, Brad Horter, Jack Atchinson, Jim Smith, Michelle (Judy McQueen’s niece), Sue Basile, Stan Sheets, Tori Gibson, Bob Main, Lee Blankenbicker, Cindee Pavelek, Pam Brooks, Pat Crist, Bob Wright, Linda Spagina, Gracyn Gabauer, Nancy Graham, Bobby (relative of The Davis’s), Lois Koller, Connie Eaton, Alexis Phillips, Ray Poppenger Sr., George Ceranic, Judy McQueen, Rick Phillips, Wendy, Darwin Main, Nadine Namett, Gary Main, Mike Hurst, Dale Lynch, Karen Hilton, Kay, Ross & Abbey Vaughan, Suzie Diorio, Rob Gumpf, Jane Kennedy, Ernest Piscioti, Bob Ceranic, Jerry Mahle, Kristen Ceranic, Linda Sheets, Barb Alexander, Matthew Wolbert, Carol Chewning, Steve Tuscic, Darla Place, 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 NBM. 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.



April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NO JOY Luncheon	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7pm service NO Bible Study	3 Good Friday 7pm service	4 No Mission 2 Mission Sale TODAY
5 <i>Easter</i> 11am service <i>He is Risen</i>	6 Trustee's mtg 7pm	7 Prayer Team 5:30pm Ministry & Missions 7pm	8 Care Wear 9:30am Preschool Fundraiser orders DUE	9 Soup Kitchen 9am Bible Study 11am & 7pm	10	11 BV Piecemakers 9am-4pm Mission 2 Mission Sale 9am-2pm
12	13	14	15	16 Bible Study 11am & 7pm	17	18 NB Women of Faith 12:30-2p
19 Communion 9am	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 Finance mtg 6pm	22 Care Wear 9:30am Preschool Fundraiser Pick-up TBA	23 Bible Study 11am & 7pm	24	25 BV Piecemakers 9am-4pm
26	27	28	29 *Bell choir 6pm Chancel Choir 7pm Every Wednesday	30 Bible Study 11am & 7pm		



This publication is published by the
New Brighton Methodist Church

Rev. Gary Hilton, Pastor

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Church Phone: 724-843-3774

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



Please forward
Return Service Requested
Dated Material - Please deliver
promptly.
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Church Staff E-mail Contact Info:

Connect With Us



Pastor: Rev. Gary Hilton - ghilton9195@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 9:00am - Noon

Administrative Assistant: Jaime Cassarino - secretary.nbmchurch@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 9:00am - 1pm

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Music Director: David Wolbert - davwolbert@gmail.com

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**Creative Dir. / Family Ministries - Rich & Jaime Cassarino -
arkbusinesscreations@gmail.com**

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