

# the Messenger



January 2023  
Epiphany

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Find all the signups at the SignUp Hub in the Commons or online at [godslovenewtown.org/signups](https://www.godslovenewtown.org/signups).



Dear Members and Friends of God's Love, I am pleased to announce that our congregation council has earmarked 2023 as **A Year of Hospitality**. Later this month, you will see in the annual report booklet a document that will lay out key ministry priorities for 2023 centered around this theme of biblical hospitality.



Small children sometimes play at stretching their arms as wide as possible to compete in a game of "I love you *this* much!" Wide open arms can communicate hospitality and belonging, even when verbal language is a barrier. Adults who kneel down and open their arms to a crying child intend to offer themselves as a place of refuge.

The story of Jesus is a story of open arms. Beyond describing the physical, open-arms posture of Jesus' body as he died, the scriptural witness of his life includes the reputation that he welcomed sinners and ate with them. In this time of post-COVID uncertainty and growing need for authentic relationships, we ask for the Holy Spirit's inspiration and guidance to live into what it means to be a congregation of infectious hospitality.

Yours in Christ Jesus, *Pastor Dan Whitener*



## ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 29, 2023**

**NOTE: ONE Worship at 9:30am**

*Meeting Begins at 10:45am*

Business items will include election of council members and approval of the 2023 budget. All chairpersons, coordinators of ministries, and staff are asked to submit a short article describing their activities in 2022. Reports are due to the church office **by Noon on January 9**.

Once compiled into a booklet, these reports will be ready for the congregation to review **by Sunday, January 22**.



### Celebration of Confirmation

We give thanks and ask God's blessings on **Addison Deppi**, who will be confirmed this Sunday, January 8 at the 8:45am service.

Please greet **Addison** and the **Deppi family** after the service and enjoy a piece of celebratory cake in the café in her honor.

### Scripture Readings for January 15

**Isaiah 49:1-7**

*Light to the nations*

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

*Paul's greeting to Corinth*

**John 1:29-42**

*Christ as the Lamb of God*



**Sundays  
at 10:00am  
Fellowship Hall**

**"Our Neighbor's Faith"** a three-week series on interfaith understanding

- January 8: "The Golden Rule"** an interfaith panel discussion on various interpretations of the golden rule with guest speakers from five faith traditions: Baha'i, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Quaker. See the display in the Commons for more information.
- January 15 in the Lounge: "The Holy Land"** a video presentation on the significance of Jerusalem to three faith traditions—Christians, Jews and Muslims.
- January 22: "A Lutheran Perspective"** Pastor Dan will discuss the ELCA's Inter-Religious Policy Statement.



## Sunday School Service Event

honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, Jan 15 • 10:00am • Fellowship Hall

All are invited to attend a special intergenerational Sunday School event to honor the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. After a brief introduction into the history of Dr. King, participants can go to three stations.

1. Assemble breakfast bags for CFF.
2. Decorate a fabric square which will later be used to make a wall hanging for our nursery.
3. Write cards for the homebound in our community.



## Community Worship

honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 16

6:00pm Panel Discussion • 7:00pm Worship

In person at Macedonia Baptist Church  
218 N. State St, Newtown

OR [click here to join on ZOOM](#)

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Teresa Smallwood, United Lutheran Seminary • Sponsored by MBC & Newtown Yardley Ministerium

## God's Caring Stitchers • January 6 and January 20 at 1:00pm in Room A1/A2

After taking a Christmas break, our meetings will resume with two in January. We are currently making hats and scarves for the congregation's January collection. Along with that, we are always working on baby blankets, lap robes, prayer shawls and more. All are welcome to join us.

**Questions?** Contact **Cindy Sundstrom**.



## Compass: Navigating Life's Transitions

Wednesdays, January 11 – February 8, 2023 • Noon • Café

As people of faith, we claim God is always making all things new and yet there are times in our life when we get stuck navigating significant change in our lives especially if that change was precipitated by a loss.

This winter, all are welcome to gather weekly to explore spiritual concepts and healthy adaptive strategies for navigating life's transitions. Whether you are newly retired, a recent empty nester, grieving the loss of a loved one or merely in a period of discernment about next steps in your human journey, all are encouraged to attend. **For more information**, contact **Pastor Brandi** at the church office.



## Young Adults: Save this date!

Sunday, January 22, 2023 • 10am • Lounge

**Pastor Dan** and **Pastor Brandi** warmly invite all young adults, including singles, couples, and those with young children, to gather in the lounge for conversation about new ministries designed specifically for this generation.

Conversation will include the upcoming renovation of the Nursery, and ideas for how to connect with one another on our spiritual journey here at God's Love. Refreshments will be provided.



- **Emergency Relief Association of Lower Bucks** sent a letter thanking the congregation for their donations. Our volunteers delivered 650 pounds of food during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022. ERA distributes this food during the hours of operation for their food pantry.



- **Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pennel** also has a food pantry and sent their thanks. We delivered many bags of food that the congregation bought for the Reverse Advent Calendar program. *"We are very grateful for everything your church has done for us!"*
- **Bethanna** Thank you for all the gifts you dropped off yesterday. The children will be so happy and gifts are already being delivered to the families. Thank you for all the work you've done collecting the gifts and thank your congregation for their support. We are grateful.

## You are invited:

*Pediatric First Aid and CPR Training*  
**God's Love Christian Preschool**  
Wednesday, January 11, 2023 • 3:45pm

Interested participants can register by calling the preschool office at 215-497-0506.

The cost is \$80 per person.



## January's Collection: for Head and Hands

Can you imagine spending hours outside in the cold without the benefit of warm clothing? We can't either, so in January we are collecting men's or ladies' new/gently used hats and gloves for the homeless.



Donations will be given to [AHTN](#) for Code Blue nights and to the [Reach Out Foundation's](#) drop-in center in Pennel. Return your donations to the **Lobby of Love** by January 29. **Questions?** Contact **Lary Whelan**.



## THIS SUNDAY, January 8!

Won't you stay after the 11:00am service and help take down decorations as we wrap up another wonderful Christmas season? Many hands make light work. Thank you. – *the Worship Committee*

## Property Update

Work continues on the beautiful **new entry ramp** on the *Modular Unit*. Thanks to some mild weather, **Lemes Construction** is on schedule to complete the work in early January.



## HOPE • Lunches for January/February 2023

The Reach Out Foundation of Bucks County in Pennel provides a place where the homeless can get warm, get assistance with social services, and get meals. God's Love is helping provide meals, including bagged lunches on Tuesdays.



[SIGN UP HERE](#) or visit the **SignUp Hub** to help. **Questions? Sandy Anthony.**



In December, **6 hams** and **1 turkey** were collected and donated to ERA.

Thank you for your donations.

## Got Extra Food? Donate to Caring for Friends [CFF]

CFF is an organization that feeds folks who are homebound in the five-county area. God's Love has been a proud partner with CFF for many decades.

**To donate food**, pick up the prepackaged trays and/or soup containers from the table in the **Lobby of Love**♥. The packages contain instructions for filling and labeling the trays/containers, freezing them, and returning them to the church. Our volunteers will deliver them to CFF. Feel free to take as many trays/containers as you like.

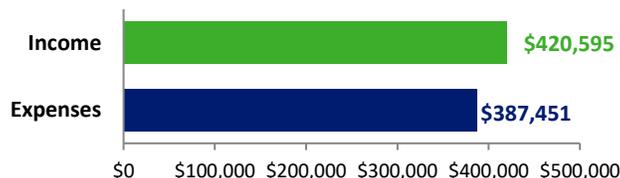
Some people make a large meal and fill all the trays/containers at once. Some fill the trays/containers with leftovers and some people set an extra place at their table each night. No matter how you choose to participate, you'll be helping someone in need.



The resource table in the Commons is there to provide meaningful and practical ministry tools that impact our daily lives. Pastor Dan's "on-loan" resources for the month of January correspond to the Adult Faith and Life emphasis on interfaith dialogue and understanding. This is truly an important subject for our current life together. **Welcome!**



## Financials through November 2022



## New Year's Eve Shared Meal

God's Love kicked off the new year right by making **35 Shared Meals** for AHTN. Even though it was New Year's Eve, hunger does not take a holiday.

We are planning **our next shared meal to be in person!** AHTN will provide free transportation to bring homeless guests to our building where we will serve a hot taco casserole meal.

Mark your calendar now for **April 29, 2023** and watch for a signup link. Many hands are needed.



## Happy New Year from the Preschool!

In January the classes will focus on winter, bears, arctic animals, and animals that hibernate. They will learn about Martin Luther King Jr and his Christian message of love for all people.

In the year ahead we anticipate many exciting activities—service projects, class trips, Mother's Day Tea, Field Day, and so much more.

**All of us at the preschool wish you good health and happiness in 2023!**

preschool registration

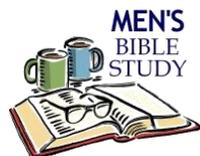


## Preschool registration for 2023 – 2024 has begun!

We offer classes for 3s, 4s, as well as a 2-by-2s class for 2-year-olds with an adult.

Information and [registration forms](#) are available at [godslovenewtown.org/preschool](http://godslovenewtown.org/preschool).

**Questions? Contact Nikki Hendricks** or call the preschool office at 215-497-0506.



**Monday, January 9  
7:00pm • Lounge**

continuing the study of the book of **Revelation**

## Bible Book-of-the Month Study

### The Book of Proverbs

Monday, January 30 • 7:00pm • **ZOOM**

Read through at your own pace, with [THIS READER'S GUIDE](#) then join the **ZOOM** discussion led by Pastor Dan.

The **ZOOM** link will be emailed.



**A good name is more desirable than great riches.**

PROVERBS 22:1, NIV



**Thursday, January 26  
7:00pm • Lounge**

"Peach Blossom Spring"  
by Melissa Fu



## 2023 Altar Flower Dedications

The flowers displayed at the altar can be dedicated on any Sunday of the year in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a special occasion. The *requested donation* for each dedication is **\$40**, payable to Lutheran Church of God's Love.

[CLICK HERE](#) or visit the **SignUp Hub** to select a week and enter the dedication text.



If inclement weather forces a change in worship schedule or church events, we will do our best to get the word out as early and efficiently as possible.

Please watch your email and the church website [godslovenewtown.org](http://godslovenewtown.org) for announcements about possible cancellations or schedule changes. If we are forced to cancel a worship service, an automated phone call will also go out to the phone numbers we have on file.

## January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship 10a	<b>2</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>3</b> Counters 9:30a Exec Committee 7:30p	<b>4</b> COMPASS Noon Christian Ed Mtg 6:30p Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Knit & Crochet 1p	<b>7</b> Fellowship Dinner 6:30p
<b>8</b> Worship 8:45a & 11a Education 10a Unhanging Greens Noon	<b>9</b> Counters 9:30a Men's Bible Study 7p	<b>10</b> Rejoice! 7:30p	<b>11</b> COMPASS Noon 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid/CPR 3:45p Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	<b>12</b> Property Team 11a	<b>13</b> Church Council 7p	<b>14</b> Quilting Circle 10a – 3p
<b>15</b> Worship 8:45am & 11a Education 10a Worship Comm Mtg Noon <b>Bruce Foster Service 3p</b>	<b>16</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>MLK Service at Macedonia 6p</b>	<b>17</b> Counters 9:30a Rejoice! 7:30p	<b>18</b> COMPASS Noon Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Knit & Crochet 1p	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Worship 8:45am & 11a Education 10a Young Adults Mtg 10a	<b>23</b> Counters 9:30a	<b>24</b> Rejoice! 7:30p Mutual Min 7:30p	<b>25</b> COMPASS Noon Bell Choir 6:30p Vocal Choir 7:30p	<b>26</b> Gals' Book Club 7p	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Quilting Circle 10a – 3p
<b>29</b> <b>ONE</b> Worship at 9:30a <b>NO</b> Education <b>ANNUAL MTG</b> 10:45a  ANNUAL MEETING	<b>30</b> Counters 9:30a TLC 11a Bible Book-of-Month on ZOOM 7p	<b>31</b> Rejoice! 7:30p	I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love. —Martin Luther King Jr. 			



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