Dear NBEPC Family:

This is an article that I didn't think I'd be writing for years, but as God would have it, I'm writing this to you before Easter 2025.

As I shared with you at the end of the service some weeks back, I had told the Search Committee that was considering me for the role of Senior Pastor that I would serve for ten years as long as my health held out. In that time period, God led Joanna into my life — in so many respects the greatest gift God has ever given me, second only to the gift of salvation. We are so, so compatible, in so many ways, and so very much in love, that it continues to be uncanny to us both. And in leading us together, God has had the two of us live in the knowledge that, as the Bible says, the two shall become one flesh.

With that said, as you know, Joanna's health has not held out. She was diagnosed in November with rectal cancer, which we kept quiet because we did not want to disturb the Advent celebrations leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

Attempting chemo and radiation in January, Joanna did not tolerate it well. It was then that we pursued a holistic approach, which did shrink the cancer, but did not eliminate it completely. We are grateful to God though that it was caught early enough that there was no lymph node involvement. After a test two weeks ago and prayer seeking God's will, we both felt led to the the surgical option, which will mean that Joanna has to wear an ostomy bag for the rest of her life, but the cancer will be cured.

I share all that to also give you a sense of the other prayer decision to which we were both led. I have taught and believed that our priorities in life should be God first, then family, then work. God will always have first place in both our lives, whether I am behind a pulpit or not. But Joanna has to come second for me, even beyond my calling to this church, the best and most loving congregation I have ever served.

I love all of you, and I love this church. I will always have a calling to ministry until God calls me home. But this calling is also my work, and I simply must place my Joanna ahead of it. I know that she needs to be near her family, which she has always lived close to until moving over 70 miles north to be with me. I know it because of this health scare; because with this health scare, she needs to live closer to her son, especially having lost a son to death three years ago; and I know it because of the closeness and support she has from her sisters.

And so taking all that into account, as I shared with Session and then with the congregation, as the Session suggested I do quickly, I will work here full force until the end of Easter Sunday, but then, on Tuesday, April 22, we will move our belongings to a home we found in Finleyville, PA, close to her son and her sisters. I will then work remotely, coming up here to preach on Sundays and to attend the monthly Session meeting, until such time as the Session, working with our presbytery, finds a transitional pastor. I will do this until the end of August, if needed.

When my time here does come to an end, I know I will still serve in ministry in some capacity, because that is my calling until the Lord calls me home. It could be an interim ministry close to home, a last step before retiring from full-time ministry; or it could involve retiring from full-time and serving in a church as a small group leader, or pulpit supply, or wherever God chooses to have me live out this calling for the rest of my time on earth.

Whatever it is, I will always be grateful for you. You are the most incredible group of people it has ever been my pleasure to serve. We have both been through a whole lot together, and I know it was for such a season as this, for both the church and for me personally, that God brought us together.

I will also be grateful for the mission, vision and purpose of this church, "to love, know and serve the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." I will be grateful, too, for the pathway to spiritual growth that the Vision Team and then the Session approved, "To love God through worship, know God through Growth Groups, and to serve God here, there and everywhere." This is the solid foundation for the vitality of this wonderful church in the years ahead, one that a new pastor will help carry on.

God bless you all. You are amazing, special and lovely. I will miss seeing you daily, but know that the Lord has you, as indeed He does all of us, in the palm of His hands.

Blessings,

Pastor Dan and Joanna

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Lenten devotions & supper – Sunday, April 13, devotions will begin at 5:00p.m. with supper following at 5:30p.m.

Palm Sunday Worship Services – Sunday, April 13th at 8:30am and 10:30am.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service – April 17th at 7:00pm.

Good Friday Worship Service – April 18th at 7:00pm.

Community Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 19th 10:00am – Noon.

Resurrection Morning Worship Services – April 20th at 8:30am and 10:30am.
A light breakfast will be served in between worship services at 9:30am.

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Sunday March 23rd we were honored to perform the Sacrament of Baptism for Aldon Alexander Lockhart. Aldon's parents are Jacob and Alexis Lockhart. His grandparents are Geniene Jones (with Sam overjoyed from heaven), and Brian and Olivia Lockhart. Great grandparents are Sandy Courson, William and Nancy Lockhart, Frank and Carol Sheen, and George Finley.

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The Evangelism Committee is asking for volunteers to help out with the Easter Egg Hunt and asking for donations of individually wrapped bags of candy for April 19th. There will be a tote in the narthex until 4/13 for donations. Thank You!!

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Pastor Dan will provide weekly emails attached with the bulletin during this Lenten season. They will contain scripture, commentary, reflections and prayer. Paper copies will also be available near the offering plate at the back of the Sanctuary. A Lenten supper will be held on Palm Sunday April 13th starting with devotions at 5:00 P.M. and ending with supper.

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Save the Date for our next Very Special Ministry focusing on Easter on Sunday, April 6th from 2:00 to 3:30. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please email Carla at carkrisuk@gmail.com or contact by phone at 980-225-3645. There will be a brief training and preparation meeting on Sunday, March 23rd from 1:00 to 2:00. Thank you to all that helped out on February 16th!

Birthdays in April

04/01 – Lillian Emery
04/01 – Clay Fulkman
04/04 – Barbara Pence
04/06 – Bill Harshbarger
04/07 – Andy Hostetler
04/08 – Liz Fraley
04/08 – Jaime McCarthy
04/09 – David Magee
04/09 – Erin Dawson
04/11 – Julian Krisuk
04/13 – Leo Krisuk
04/19 – Dave Carr
04/19 – Ty Phillips
04/22 – Donna Fox
04/23 – Bonnie Glogowski
04/26 – Patty Wade
04/27 – Edward Rudzik
04/28 – Madeline Whiting

Birthdays in May

05/02 – Debi Fynes
05/05 – Grant Dieter
05/05 – Zoey Janoski
05/08 – Ed Miller
05/08 – Maelee Whiting
05/08 -- Ann Morris
05/09—Kim Runyan
05/12 – Doris Spence
05/14 – Duane Boyles
05/15 – Ryan Withers
05/16 – Julie O'Brien
05/19 – Ashley Shaffer
05/22 – Brandi Buxton
05/25 – Shirley Tremba
05/26 – Linda Porter
05/27 – Roy Komar
05/29 – Ron Tremba

Please remember in prayer the following persons who are hospitalized, receiving treatments, recuperating at home and those who have requested prayer.

Lavon Rogers----------John XXIII Nursing Home
Jim Weise----------Home
Doris Spence----------Home
Pete Carlisle----------Home

Thank you to all who have prayed for my fractured kneecap to heal. It has been 4 weeks and my knee is healing beyond expectations so far! Much appreciation also goes to those who have sent cards, provided food, and reached out to help or checked in. Thank you, Cheryl Powers

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Thank you to all the soup makers and bakers, and all who supported the Women's Ministry Soup and Bake Sale. We sold out!! The profits will be used to purchase a piece of equipment for the new playground and also support women's programs at the church.

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Wednesday night Bible study will meet each week at 7pm in the double Sunday school room. All adults are welcome to join.

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No Cost Shoe Drive: Wilmington School District is looking for Gently worn, used and/or new shoe donations. All styles and sizes accepted. There is a donation box in the Narthex.

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On Saturday, April 12th there will be a Church Clean-up Day! This will begin at 8A.M. This will include church grounds and anything that may need fixed or replaced inside the church. Please come and help prepare the church for our upcoming Easter activities.

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*** <u>WEEKLY BULLETIN</u> – Please have all bulletin information and/or announcements submitted no later than 1:00P.M. on Thursday afternoon to be printed in that Sundays bulletin.**

*** <u>MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS</u> – Please have all newsletter articles and/or information/announcements submitted no later than noon on the 25TH of every month unless otherwise indicated in the bulletin to be included in the upcoming months newsletter.**

****All bulletin and newsletter submissions can be sent to newbedfordepchurch@gmail.com or left on Jaime's desk.**

IMPORTANT: Our mailing address is – New Bedford EPC, 151 Woodland Dr., PULASKI, PA 16143 Even though our church is located in New Bedford, all mail must be sent to the above mailing address or it will be returned to you by the Post Office. Thank You!

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Church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am-2:00pm, unless otherwise indicated in the bulletin.

Vacation Bible School

SAVE THE DATES.....
VBS WILL BE JUNE 9-13

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youth MINISTRIES

Youth group will continue to meet on Wednesdays from 5-7pm through the month of April. On April 16th we will be heading to Seneca Hills to climb their indoor rock wall. The cost is $10 and the deadline to register is Sunday April 13th.

If you or your child/children are graduating from High School, Trade School, or College please contact the Church Office so that all graduates can be recognized. We will be having Graduate Recognition/Youth Sunday on Sunday, June 1, at 10:30 AM Service.

EPIC

Our next and only EPIC meeting for the month will be April 3rd. Join us as we jump back into chapters 7 & 8 of Ezra as part of study of the post-exile books. Bible study starts at 11am with lunch to follow.

NEW BEDFORD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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New Castle, PA 16101

Redeeming Times Newsletter
APRIL 2025

Church website: www.newbedfordepchurch.org
Church e-mail: newbedfordepchurch@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

Sunday Schedule:

8:30a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service

9:30a.m. – Sunday School

10:30a.m. – Traditional Worship Service

****Look inside for the 2025 Lenten schedule****