



KEMPTON NEW CHURCH NEWSLETTER – December 2024

583 Hawk Mountain Road; P.O. Box 140; Kempton, PA 19529 ■ 610-756-6140 ■ Notices can be submitted to: society@knks.org

KEMPTON NEW CHURCH: www.kemptonnewchurch.org ■ KEMPTON NEW CHURCH SCHOOL: www.knks.org

FIRST FRUITS

Deuteronomy 26:1-3, 10-11

1 And it shall be, when thou art come in to the land which Jehovah thy God gives thee for an inheritance, and possesseth her, and dwellest in her;

2 then thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which thou shalt bring of thy land that Jehovah thy God gives thee, and shalt set it in a bushel, and shalt go to the place where Jehovah thy God shall choose for His name to be.

3 And thou shalt come to the priest who shall be in those days, and say to him, Today I tell to Jehovah thy God, that I have come to the land which Jehovah promised to our fathers to give us...

10 And now, behold, I have brought the first of the fruits of the ground, which Thou, O Jehovah, hast given to me. And thou shalt place it before Jehovah thy God, and bow down before Jehovah thy God;

11 and thou shalt be glad in every good thing which Jehovah thy God has given to thee, and to thy house, thou, and the Levite, and the sojourner that is among you.

Arcana Coelestia 9223:3.

That the firstfruits were to be given to Jehovah, signified that it is the first of the church to ascribe all the goods and truths of faith to the Lord, and not to self. To ascribe to the Lord is to know, to acknowledge, and to believe that these things are from the Lord, and nothing of them from self; for as above shown, everything of faith is from the Lord. The "firstfruits" have this signification because they were offerings and gifts, which were thanksgivings for the produce of the earth, and an acknowledgment of blessings from Jehovah, that is, from the Lord; and consequently were an acknowledgment that all things are from Him; and in the internal sense, an acknowledgment of the goods and truths of faith, which are signified by "harvest," by "grain," "oil," "must," "wine," "wool," and "fruits," of which the firstfruits were given.

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Lord instructed the Israelites to offer their first fruits of the harvest to Him once they entered the land of Canaan. On Thanksgiving morning, we will have an opportunity to do something very similar by bringing an offering of food with us to church. If we can think of this offering as "first fruits" it can help invite a sense of gratitude to the Lord.

As it says in the *Arcana*, "that the firstfruits were to be given to Jehovah, signified that it is the first of the church to ascribe all the goods and truths of faith to the Lord, and not to self" (AC 9223:3). If we can do this while bringing our offerings forward, like the Israelites, we too will be glad in every good thing which the Lord has given us.

HOLY SUPPER will be offered this month on Friday, December 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the church. This service will be similar to the one we do before Easter. There will be extended readings about the birth of the Lord from the Gospels and from the Heavenly Doctrine.

This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.

This cup is the new covenant in My Blood, which is shed for you. Luke 20:19, 20

The Winter Study Topic will be on the inheritances of the 12 tribes of Israel in the Land of Canaan. We will specifically focus on the inheritances of the tribes as they are described in the Book of Joshua.

You might like to think about arranging to be part of a group before the holidays get busy, since the winter study starts soon after the New Year begins. ***If you would like to host a group and have seats to offer, or if you want to join a class,*** please let me or Jen McQueen know so we can help people get connected if needed.

Pastor's Council met on Tuesday, November 12. We discussed Sunday worship service formats and reviewed a possible process for looking into the

question of how to provide a worship space suitable for current church attendance.

Regarding worship service formats, I am considering adding back in a second Sunday School Service per month and changing the Sermon Service back to a Family Service. If you have any thoughts about that please let me know and we will discuss it more in the next pastor's council meeting.

Regarding a process for looking at our worship space, so far I am hoping to present a draft process to the society for input (and then further refinement) at the spring society meeting. I have already received very helpful input on what a good process would include from pastor's council, and if you have thoughts on that I would love to hear them as well.

The Board of Trustees met Tuesday, November 19. We heard a report on building maintenance, reviewed the status of the current budget, reviewed the draft process for looking into the question of how to provide a worship space suitable for current church attendance referred to in the pastor's council update above, and discussed the implementation of payroll and benefit management.



Thanksgiving: You are welcome to bring offerings of fresh or canned produce to church as an expression of gratitude to the Lord. We will later take them to a food pantry, as an expression of love toward the neighbor as well. There will be a procession when you can bring your gift to the chancel.

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WORSHIP

- 10:00 AM services live streamed: kemptonnewchurch.org.
- Services can be heard in the library. Parents with babies or little ones are always welcome to be in there, where a basket of board books (not library books, please) is available. Please leave the room in orderly shape. Thanks!

Thursday, November 28, 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Family Service. Usher: Dandridge Cole

Sunday, December 1, 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Service. Usher/Setup: Chandler Brown

Sunday, December 8, 10:00 a.m. Family Service. Usher/Setup: Cairn King

Sunday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Young Children's Marionette Service. Setup: Matt and Sheila Heiter
10:00 a.m. Sermon Service. Usher/Setup: Mike Heiter

Friday, December 20, 7:30 p.m. Holy Supper Service. Usher: Roy Odhner

Sunday, December 22, 10:00 a.m. Adult Service. Usher/Setup: Doug Robertson
5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tableaux Services. Ushers: Cedric Lumsden, Malachi Cole

Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service. Ushers/Setup: Kenan Smith, Luke Glenn

Sunday, December 29, 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Service. Usher/Setup: John Cole

CLASSES

Please contact the minister leading the class if you would like to attend virtually. He will share a Zoom link with you (if the location has internet connection), which will let you join by phone or video.

Thursday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. Heaven and Hell class at OSV; The Christmas Story in Heaven and Hell, part 1.

Tuesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m. Arcana Class at Kate Pitcairn's. The reading is AC 10353-10385 about the Sabbath and the third earth in the starry heaven.

Wednesday, December 11, 7:30 p.m. Men's Divine Providence Class at OSV.

Thursday, December 12, 10:00 a.m. Heaven and Hell class at OSV; The Christmas Story in Heaven and Hell, part 2.

Friday, December 13, 7:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Youth Group Conjugal Love class at John and Alexandra Cole's

Wednesday, December 18, 7:30 p.m. Men's Divine Providence Class at OSV.

Saturday, December 28, 7:30 p.m. Young Adult's class at Bekah King's

Contributions Committee

We recently mailed you our Annual Appeal for supporting the Kempton New Church. But we didn't mention... How you can give?

You can give monthly or annually through our online giving provider on our website. You can mail checks or hand over cash or Bitcoin or gold. You can donate QCD's from IRA's to get tax advantaged giving. You can make a bequest to support the church through a simple codicil in your will. You can give appreciated stocks, land, life, developed property, insurance. And of course, volunteering makes all the difference too! Thanks folks.

Mark H. Wyncoll

EVENTS

Come to a Society Christmas Sing on December 6th! We want this to be a fun-filled community event for all ages and abilities. Come for the cookie break and kid's craft even if you are a nervous singer! We will follow the tradition of years past by singing our favorite Christmas carols beginning at 6:30. At 7:30 we will take a break for snacks and time to celebrate the season together while giving families time to take small children home if needed. We will begin singing again at 8:00. Drinks will be provided but please bring a favorite Christmas snack or dessert to share. New green Festival books will be available for purchase for \$12 at this event. Any questions please contact Becky or Heather.

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser

To Support Our Church and School

Come make your own Christmas wreath for a donation to the church OR help make wreaths to sell at the Kempton Craft Sale!

Who's invited? Ladies of all ages

**When? Friday, December 6, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
And Saturday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Where? Jungé's barn (1054 Mountain Road) Just pull up outside the barn.

How much? A large wreath w/ pine cones + bow - \$15; A small w/ pine cones + bow - \$10

Supplies available? I'll have a wonderful variety of greens and holly, large and small wreath frames, red and gold bows, and pine cones available. There will also be hot drinks and snacks.

What should I bring? If you can bring your own clippers, that would be great. (I'll have a few spares if you need to borrow some.)

Do I need to know how to make a wreath? No, I'll be available to show you how to make your wreath if you are new to it or need a review. The process is pretty formulaic. You are also welcome to come and cut greens for others if that is more your speed.

What if I want to buy a wreath at the craft sale? Wreaths will be for sale outside at the Kempton Community Center entrance at the craft sale on December 8th, 2-4pm. Prices will be \$15 for a small and \$20 for a large. First come, first served!

Please reach out with any questions. Making a wreath is a fun way to make your home beautiful in preparation for Christmas. Hope to see you there!

Katrin (484) 256-7527

P.S. If you would like to help with picking greens ahead of time, I'll be doing that Wednesday, December 4th, starting at 1pm. Feel free to give me a shout if you would like to help with that.

The One Room Bookstore Christmas Open

House at the Manse is on Friday, December 6th, from 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 7th from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. There will be a Christmas book read aloud for young children at 10:00 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday. Coloring pages and toys will be available for small children. - Genta

Kempton Craft Sale - Reminder: New Date, Time and Location!

Just a little over a week until the Craft Sale! We have some great crafters (young and older) signed up to offer their wonderful wares this year. As a reminder, we have changed the date, time and location of the sale to **Sunday, December 8th from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m at the Kempton Community Center.** This change was to support the safety of our vendors and shoppers and help give extra breathing room for everyone as they enjoy the event. A few other reminders:

- There is still time to sign up to sell crafts! Please reach out to Kit and let her know how much space you need (no need to limit to 3 feet this year!) and any special requests (i.e. electricity). Please note, we cannot hang anything from the walls at KCC, so please plan accordingly for items that need to be hung.

- No one will need to bring a table, KCC has plenty. We will also be using their chairs which are metal. You may want to bring a pillow if you find metal uncomfortable. If you originally requested 3 feet of space, but need more, please let Kit know. There is plenty of room for everyone!

- We will be able to have set up begin at 12 pm on Sunday and clean up can go until 6 pm.

- With the change in day and time, I realize this means some crafters may no longer be able to attend the craft sale. If this is the case, I encourage you to reach out to me for support with the sale and/or reaching out to Vivienne or Roxanne to use our wonderful Christmas Shop to support you.

- There is a cost associated with this move, but we will NOT be requiring fees from the vendors. We will have a donation box at the craft sale for anyone interested in supporting the change in venue.

There will be a raffle and a Cake Walk to support the church, so if you are willing to donate to either event, please let Kit know so she can track what will be available and the space needed. While we will be in a different location, we hope to maintain the atmosphere we love and kick off the Christmas season with our friends and family and some amazing crafts. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kit (215-531-0534 or klrose85@gmail.com). Start the countdown and I hope to see you all there!

Christmas Storybook Time

Old School Village Lounge

Dec. 11th and 18th 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Instead of the regular Ladies' Handwork, Ayisha will be reading Christmas storybooks on the two Wednesdays before Christmas. Boys & girls, old & young invited. Bring crafts or handwork if you wish; there will be toys to play with and paper crafts to cut & color. Hot chocolate and some snacks provided, but extra snacks welcome.

Dec. 4th will be regular Ladies' Handwork.

The Spiral Garden

On Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m. you are warmly invited to participate in a Spiral Garden at the Kempton New Church. This beautiful tradition is a way to participate in a symbolic experience of moving from darkness to light with candles and beautiful music as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's coming into the world on Christmas. Please come quietly through the school entrance and leave your coats there, in time to be seated in the Society Room by 6:00. We will signal an early leaving time for families with young children. Teens and adults are welcome to stay on.

Just a quick note for parents: We leave it up to you to decide if your child is old enough to carry a candle or whether they would enjoy that part of the event. The experience can be just as lovely whether or not the child places a candle of their own.

Please contact Genta (267-981-8833) or Sheila (484-661-8999) with any questions and/or if you would like to help.

Christmas Store in the Manse! Didn't make it to the craft sale? Or didn't quite get all you wanted? For the weeks following the craft sale, come continue shopping for Christmas in our peaceful little store where you will find many of our crafter's beautifully handmade crafts displayed! The hours will be:

Thursday, Dec. 12 th	7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 13 th	7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14 th	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 19 th	7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 20 th	7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 21 st	8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Cookie Exchange:

Women, college age and older, are invited to a Christmas Cookie Exchange on Monday, Dec. 16 in the society room from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cookie Swapping begins at 7:00 p.m. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or a bottle of wine to share.

COOKIE EXCHANGE RULES

1. All cookies should be homemade and of the same variety.
2. Make 3 dozen cookies.
3. Make little packages of 3 cookies each. (You should have a total of 12 packages that have 3 cookies in each)

Any questions, please call or text Suzanne King (484-793-1451) or Leona Fritch (570-449-8221).

NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS**Moms and Tots morning at OSV!**

There will be a moms and tots gathering every Friday morning in the Old School Village gym from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The first meeting will happen on Friday, December 6th. Feel free to bring some balls or riding toys for your children to play with. The OSV gym will be a great spot for the tots to run around and play during these cold winter months. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Lydia or myself. We look forward to seeing you there! -Sarah Heinrichs

Caleb's Cafe will be closed this week for the holidays, November 28th, 29th and 30th. We will return to normal hours Thursday December 5th!

New Church Books now offers improved ways to search for books that help you and your family feel closer to the Lord. The new site adds educational materials and spiritual growth programs to our inventory of the Heavenly Doctrine and related New Church books. Find gifts for all ages, your next devotional companion, or an advent calendar! Follow this link: newchurchbooks.com

Shop Night: Friday, December 27, 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m., for a little comradery. Bring a drink or snack to share. Call with any questions. – Roger Schrock

Free: 44-inch TV and stand, a few years old.

Contact Lawson or Shanon (610-756-0093, LawsonMSmith@gmail.com).

Society Christmas Mail Boxes are installed at the KNC every December to facilitate the “mailing” of any Christmas cards we might want to send to others in the congregation. The boxes (with individual name labels) will be set up at some point in the near future, in the hallway between the Society Room and school. They're not the property of KNC; they're a lovely gift we're given every year by thoughtful friends, and we are grateful.

Do You Enjoy Seeing the Church Decorated at Christmas? Would you be willing to coordinate a decorating effort this year? Or be willing to help with one? You needn't think you aren't “creative” enough; organization will win the day, and though you wouldn't have to repeat what's been done in the past, you also wouldn't have to reinvent the wheel. Simple is good. Please call Jen McQueen if interested.

Lost and Found: If you are missing a coat, be sure to check the foyer at the church. There are several there right now, including a tan trench coat with a black lining.

SCHOOL NEWS

Thursday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m. Kempton New Church School Christmas Program. All are welcome to attend!

Christmas Break begins after the program.

Busing: There will be no buses after the Christmas program, since the dismissal is usually earlier than the regular bus pick-up time. There will be busing that morning, on Thursday Dec. 19th.

School Photos were sent home today (Wednesday) with students. Please check your child's backpack! If you think you are missing something, please reach out to Renee at 484-772-7486

Monday, January 6, 2025. KNCS Resumes.

ANNIVERSARIES

Love truly conjugal is the union of two minds,
which is a spiritual union; and all spiritual
union descends from heaven.

Arcana Coelestia 10168

Congratulations and Best Wishes to:

Richard and Louise Gardam

on the 22nd – 51 years

Kevin and Susan Henriques

on the 22nd – 39 years

Cedric and Janice Lumsden

on the 27th – 44 years

Christopher and Heather Smith

on the 30th – 30 years

Brett and Karla Buick

on the 31st – 28 years

