



KEMPTON NEW CHURCH NEWSLETTER – October 2026

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

RECOGNIZING THE LORD AS KING ON THE SABBATH

II Kings 11:9-12

And the commanders of the hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded; and they took each man his man, those coming in on the Sabbath and those going out on the Sabbath, and they came to Jehoiada the priest.

And the priest gave to the commanders of the hundreds the spears and the shields that belonged to King David, which were in the house of Jehovah.

And the footmen stood, each man and his weapons in his hand, from the right wing of the house even to the left wing of the house, for the altar and for the house, by the king all around.

And he brought out the son of the king [Joash], and put upon him the crown and gave him the Testimony; and they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, “May the king live!”

True Christian Religion 303

In the celestial sense, this commandment [to honor the Sabbath day] means conjunction with the Lord, followed by peace, because of protection from hell.

Pastor's Notes

First a little background to this story in II Kings 11.

It was a tumultuous time for the Kingdom of Judah. Leading up to Joash there had been a long reign of evil leaders in Judah. At the time Joash was revealed as king, a woman named Athalia had been in control of the kingdom for the last six years (II Kings 11:3). She had taken control of the kingdom of Judah after her son, the previous king, was killed and she eliminated any potential challenges to her power, going so far as to even eliminate her own grandsons as potential heirs (II Kings 11:1).

But the Lord made sure that one heir to the throne, Joash, was hidden away and protected. Then, seven years later on the Sabbath day, Jehoiada, a courageous and faithful priest to Jehovah, showed

all of the kingdom of Judah, that the true king was alive.

Just as Joash was revealed and anointed on a Sabbath, and good kings in the Word represent the Lord, every Sabbath we have the opportunity remember that the Lord is with us and is our king too. No matter what may have happened during the week that took our attention away from Him, or that caused us to doubt Him, honoring the Sabbath day to keep it holy can help us rediscover that He is King and we too can rejoice in a sense of peace and protection from hell! (see TCR 303)

HOLY SUPPER will be offered on Friday,
October 16th at 6:30 p.m.

*Happy are they who hunger and thirst after justice,
for they shall be satisfied.
Matthew 5:6*

This year's Winter Study will be on *Earths in the Universe*. Over the course of six weeks beginning Sunday, January 10, we will look at (1) introductory truths that the Lord gives us about life on other planets, (2) worship of the Lord on other planets, (3) what spirits from other planets look like and how their dwellings are described, (4) the general disposition of spirits from other planets and their place in the grand man, (5) marriage and family on other planets, and (6) why the Lord was born on this planet.

As the Lord teaches in *Earths in the Universe*, “He who believes, as everyone ought to believe, that the Divine created the universe for no other end than that the human race may exist, and thence heaven, for the human race is the seminary of heaven, must needs believe also, that wherever there is an earth, there are men” (EU 3).

I look forward to studying this subject together. It may lead us to think about the universe in a whole new way!

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 22. The meeting included a discussion of an article on different approaches to tuition. The discussion concluded with an affirmation of affordability and predictability as a primary goal of our approach to tuition. We also reviewed the final numbers for the last fiscal year (which will result in a surplus).

Pastor's Council met on Tuesday, September 29. We discussed three main topics: questions about the school, the possibility of more 9:00 am services, and a possible process for looking at our worship space.

Regarding the school, it came up that there have been lots of rumors going around and there were requests for some clarity. I offered that there have been some intense and complex situations that came to a head in the late spring and over the summer involving the school. I also offered that the general topics that have come up include differing viewpoints on students repeating grades, some specific classroom practices that did not work for some students, and a range of differing philosophical approaches to New Church education. I also informed Pastor's Council that a group of parents met twice in June with Dale and me to discuss these and related concerns.

Regarding students repeating grades, I further informed pastor's council that since those meetings, changes have been made to the approach taken. For grades 3-6, when there is a particularly wide range of developmental states, grades in the 60's will not preclude advancement. In regard to some classroom practices, teachers have made some adjustments or discontinued some classroom practices that did not work for all students. As far as differing philosophical approaches, this is a topic that comes up in areas such as grading practices and general teaching methodologies and is an ongoing discussion as various approaches are offered for consideration. Dale has engaged School Council in receiving feedback on how to approach all of these questions, and he will continue to do so throughout the year.

I also acknowledged to pastor's council that while Dale and I have worked hard to do our best to respond to these concerns and are continuing to do so, we certainly have not been able to meet all the

requests often coming from opposing viewpoints and this has understandably resulted in disappointment and frustration. In some cases, it has also resulted in parents' decisions not to enroll their students at KNCS this year. The current enrollment at KNCS is 59 students, down from 74 at the end of last year. Much of the decline in enrollment is due to the above issues.

A hopeful response that I heard at pastor's council and have heard in other contexts is that the classroom meetings held at the beginning of the school year were well received by parents and demonstrated many positive things that will happen this year at KNCS.

We are committed to working through all of this to continually improve the New Church education that we offer at KNCS. We are grateful to the faculty, to the parents and to the society for its commitment to this tremendously important use of New Church education.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out to me or Dale.

Regarding requests for more 9:00 am services, in June the pastor's council reached out to the congregation to receive feedback on this question. Here are the results of that feedback: Out of 74 total responses 52% were in favor, 34% were opposed and 14% were indifferent. My reaction to this feedback is that 52% is not a strong enough majority for me to feel confident that adding more 9:00 am services will better serve the society given what it will take to put on more 9:00 am services. The volunteer effort that goes into supporting our church services is significant and a higher majority would be necessary for me to feel comfortable asking for more out of our volunteers to make these services happen. There was also a concern among some voicing the hesitation that additional 9:00 am services would segment the society. I share that concern as well.

Regarding a possible process for looking at our worship space, I shared a draft document with pastor's council that provides information such as the scriptural and doctrinal basis for church buildings, church attendance statistics and trends, and previous ideas about improving the Kempton

New Church worship space in preparation for deciding as a society whether or not to begin a process of looking at our worship space. Upon the recommendation of pastor's council, I will include the document with the agenda that goes out to the membership for the society meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 22.

Thank you for your attention to this longer than usual report!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The election of trustees and school council members will take place at the society meeting on October 22, 2026.

For the two open seats on the Board of Trustees, the Nominating Committee nominates Cedric Lumsden (2nd Term) and Ray Norfo.

For the open seat on the School Council, the Nominating Committee nominates Sara Smith.

The members of the Nominating Committee are Mark Hendricks (chair), Hayden King, and Curtis McQueen

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WORSHIP

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

Sunday, October 4, 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Service. Usher/Setup: Wade Buick

Sunday, October 11, 10:00 a.m. Family Service. Usher/Setup: Alex Walbert

Friday, October 16, 6:30 p.m. Holy Supper Service. Usher: Cedric Lumsden

Sunday, October 18

9:00 a.m. Young Children's Service.

Setup: Matt and Daelen Saltzer

10:00 a.m. Sermon Service. Usher/Setup: Ted LaMastra

Sunday, October 25, 10:00 a.m. Family Service.

Usher/Setup: Mark Hendricks

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 an internet connection), which will let you join by phone or video.

Thursday, October 1, 9:30 a.m. Mom's Morning Class at OSV.

Thursday, October 8, 10:00 a.m. Earths in the Universe class at OSV. Read EU 17-35 Mercury part 2

Friday, October 9, 7:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Youth Group Conjugal Love class at Ben and Shilah Schrock's

Thursday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. Earths in the Universe class at OSV. Read EU 36-45 Mercury part 3.

MEETINGS:

Thursday, October 22, 7:30 p.m. Society Meeting

CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Annual meeting in October will include reports on how your donations were used to support the work of the church, and the exciting news about our balanced budget, as well as a report on the endowment returns.

Hope to see you there. We will also get to thank all our volunteers.

RECURRING EVENTS

Ladies Handwork: Wednesdays from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., at Old School Village.

Sunday Soccer: Continues through the end of October. Contact Jordan Cooper (301 821 6938, jordan.cooper@knccs.org) with questions, or if you'd like weekly reminder texts.

NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resurrection Service: *Penn Cooper* passed away on August 8th, 2026. A resurrection service will be held at the Kempton New Church on October 17th, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Interment will be private. The resurrection service will live-streamed online as well for those who can't attend. A reception will take place immediately following the service in the Society Room.

Resurrection Service: A memorial service will be held for *Gael P. Coffin* at the Bryn Athyn Cathedral on Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 3:00 pm (preludes beginning at 2:30 pm). Rev. Lawson Smith will officiate.

The service will also be livestreamed at www.brynathynchurch.org/memorial.

All are invited to a gathering at Cairnwood Village following the service, which will include a buffet dinner.

Baptism Invitation:

Dear Society,

You are invited to join us on Saturday, October 3rd, at 2:00 p.m. for the baptism of Oliver *Hugo* Powell. Hope to see you! Anni & Toby

Sunday School Schedule: Please see the attachment to the email for the current Sunday School schedule

Feast of Charity: Friday, October 30th

6:30 p.m. **Potluck Supper.**

7:30 p.m. presentation by a few church members on *Finding the New Church*.

Autumn weekends:

Autumn Weekends set up party will be taking place on Saturday, October 3rd. We will be starting at 9:30 a.m. There will be some light refreshments provided. During the setup party, we will also be available to answer any questions that captains or any other volunteers may have. We will also provide an iPad training session for those wanting a refresher. If you have a question, feel free to contact Schuyler or myself! Thank you.

Autumn Weekends is here! The dates for Autumn Weekends are October 10th, 11th, 17th,

and 18th. We will be open from 10:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. We will be serving up all the Autumn weekends classics! This year we will also be selling B.A.D farms ice cream! So, if you are like me, and like a little vanilla ice cream on your warm apple hand pie, you're in luck!

We are still in need of volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer, you can sign up on the Kempton New Church website. Just go onto the website, click on "news" then click on "autumn weekends" and scroll down to the sign-up page. Thank you so much! We are looking forward to celebrating this wonderful event with you all.

Looking to Rent: Todd Heinrichs is looking for a place to rent in the Kempton area—hopefully within a 5–20 minute drive to OSV. Does anyone have a finished basement/attic apartment space (or perhaps a barn apartment)? In-unit washer-dryer (and/or some furniture) is a plus. I will sign a lease. I will be in the Kempton area for the week of Thanksgiving to view/rent. If you have such a space available, please call or text me [\(505\) 662-3637](tel:5056623637).

High School Hangouts

Ben and Shilah Schrock are hosting a monthly hangout for high schoolers at their place! The first one is coming up on Friday, October 16, from 7:30-10:00pm at 39 Kempton Road.

There is no set agenda—just a casual space for teens to enjoy each other's company. If the weather is nice, we could hang out by the fire pit; or we will gather in the red barn.

We will have seltzers and a snack ready. You are welcome to bring your favorite drinks, snacks, or games, but there is no obligation. Just show up and hang out with friends!

Ben and/or Shilah will be present as hosts. All high schoolers are welcome. No RSVP necessary. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Shilah at [267-251-3544](tel:2672513544) or Ben at [910-970-6616](tel:9109706616)

Play Club:

12:45 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. on Thursdays at the Kempton New Church. KNCS and homeschool students are welcome to attend this outdoor playtime supervised by Shilah Schrock. Please

reach out to Shilah ([267-251-3544](tel:267-251-3544)) if you did not receive her more detailed text invitation.

Moms and tots will be on Friday, October 23rd. It is a great place for babies and young children to come play and get some wiggles out! 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

BEEF! You've been hearing a lot about it in the news. Here's your chance to win locally raised beef for your grill, skillet, crockpot and freezer. Perfect for stew, chili and all of your favorite beefy fall comfort foods! Please see details below, and if interested, call/text Michele Brown at 484-548-3750, or see Mesa or Maddie at school.

- BERKS SOUTHEAST CATTLEMEN'S ASSOC. – BEEF RAFFLE
- DRAWING WILL BE ON 11/5/2026

Eight tickets will be drawn.

- 1) 1/4 beef with processing (value \$900).
- 2) 1/4 beef with processing (value \$900).
- 3) 1/8 beef (value \$450).
- 4) 1/8 beef (value \$450).
- 5) box of beef cuts (value \$225).
- 6) box of beef cuts (value \$225).
- 7) box of beef cuts (value \$225).
- 8) box of beef cuts (value \$225).

Only 500 tickets printed. Processing done by Bur-Pak Family Foods, Inc.

Winner need not be present to win. Pickup will be the winner's responsibility.
(Must pick up within 15 days).

DONATION - \$10 PER TICKET

Proceeds will benefit Berks Southeast Cattlemen's junior activities.

Whittling in Roger's Shop: Saturday, Oct. 17th from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. High school age and up are invited for an evening of whittling. Bring your knife, if you have one, but no worries if you don't. I have knives to lend. I have patterns, wood and bandaids. Contact Roger Schrock.

Teen Shop Night: Saturday, October 3rd, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at McQueen's. Please bring a snack or drink to share, if you can!

Men's Shop Night: Saturday, October 24th, 7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. at McQueen's. Please bring a snack or drink to share, if you can!

From the Secretary:

Attached in the email along with this Newsletter, are the current address and phone lists for the Kempton New Church Society. Please take a moment to look at your information on those documents, and let me know if any changes need to be made. I will publish updated lists in November. Thanks for your help! My email is society@kncs.org. ~Jen

YOUTH GROUP:

Youth Group Conjugal Love class: *Friday, October 9th*, 7:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Ben and Shilah Schrock's

Weekend Trip to Pittsburgh: Oct. 23rd – 25th

ANNIVERSARIES

That conjugal love is heaven is evident from the metamorphosis of caterpillars into pupae or chrysalises and then into creatures that fly. For when the time arrives for them to be wedded - which is when they shed their earthly form, or their caterpillar state - they are adorned with wings and become creatures that fly, at which point they are raised up into the air, which is their heaven. In the air they play together, make marriages, lay eggs, and are nourished by the juices from flowers. At that time also they exist in their beauty, for their wings are tinged with gold, silver, and other lovely shades. Such things as these are what the marriage principle produces among such insignificant and tiny creatures. AC 2758

Congratulations and Best Wishes to:

Tom and Carla Kerr
on the 2nd – 43 years
Kerry and Sabrina Wenrich
on the 11th – 18 years
Kenan and Kathleen Smith
on the 13th – 9 years
Toby and Anni Powell
on the 19th – 13 years
Thos and Laurel Powell
on the 23rd – 44 years
Luke and Sarah Heiter
on the 25th – 23 years
Dandridge and Tamar Cole
on the 27th – 24 years

