

NEW HANOVER HIGHLIGHTS

A Publication of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church



Dinner



Daughters



Music Sunday

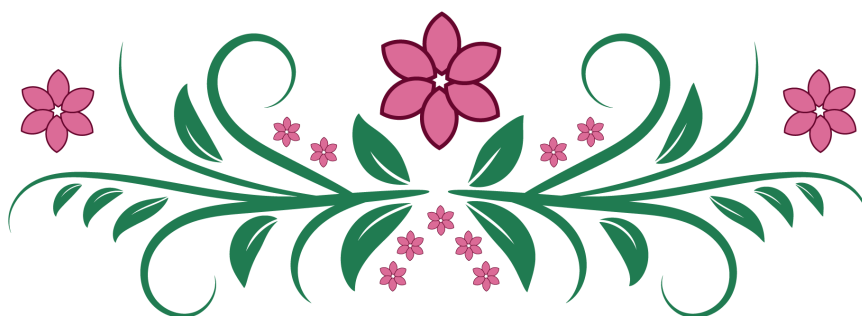


Road Trip

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NHELC welcomes director



Hi there! My name is Jena Marinelli, and I'm ecstatic about the upcoming school year as your new Educational Director. Coming from Broomall, PA, I'm gearing up for a fresh start in this wonderful area! Growing up as the second oldest among five siblings in a large Irish and Italian family has instilled in me the values of teamwork and support—qualities I cherish deeply. I hold a Bachelor of Education in Educational Studies with a Minor in Leadership from Cabrini University. Over the past six years, I've dedicated myself to shaping young minds as a Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten teacher. My commitment lies in creating an enriching and positive learning environment where children can thrive. I look forward to welcoming you and your little ones to our center!



Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner!

Saturday, May 17th, 4 – 7 PM

Come out to the picnic grove for a delicious chicken dinner. The meal includes grilled church chicken, homemade potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, beverage and dessert. \$13 per meal. You can enjoy your meal at the grove or get it to go.

Live music will be provided by Sons of Phelan.

Feel free to bring a lawn chair and enjoy the day. Children are welcome to play on our playground and enjoy the outdoors.

In the event of rain, enjoy your chicken dinner at church in fellowship hall.



All Benefits go to
Troop 367 & NHCLC Youth!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Car Wash & Flower Sale!



New Hanover Lutheran Church 2491 Lutheran Road, Gilbertsville, PA

Saturday May 10, 2025 from 7:30am to 11:00am

Pancakes & Sausage

| \$10 - 11+ |
| \$8 - 5-10 |
| Free - 4 and under |



Toppings - \$3

| Fresh Fruit |
| Whipped Cream |
| Chocolate Chips |



(Cash Only)

Gathering of Daughters

Sunday, May 4th, Noon

Ladies of all ages are invited to the Gathering of Daughters for a tea party themed luncheon of assorted tea sandwiches, pastries and hot and cold teas. Entertainment following the luncheon will be a vintage fashion show. Come and see what was in fashion of bygone years.

Those attending are asked to participate in the service project by bringing diapers and/or baby wipes to be distributed to local families in need through Boyertown Area Multi-Service.



Celebrate Mother's Day with a special musical presentation

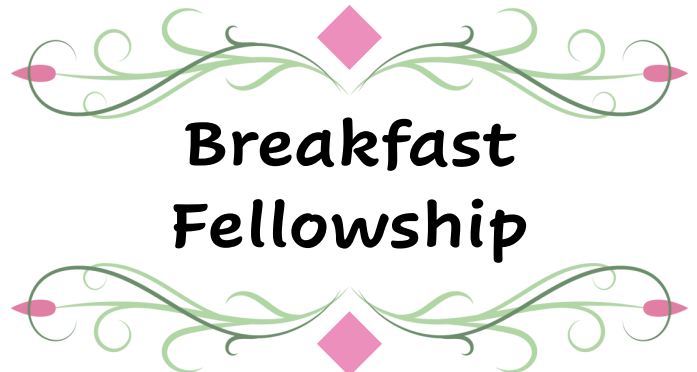
Sunday, May 11th, 9 AM

The combined music ensembles of New Hanover Church will present Chris Tomlin's well known worship song, 'Forever' which is paired with Martin Luther's classic, 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'. The Chancel Choir will join the Grace Band in singing this exciting arrangement by Jack Schrader. Accompaniment will include handbells, piano, organ, brass quartet, guitar, and percussion. You won't want to miss this!

"I play the notes as they are
written, but it is God who makes
the music."
—J.S. Bach

Decorate with geraniums for Pentecost

Red Geraniums will decorate the sanctuary for Pentecost on Sunday, June 8th. If you would like to order geraniums, there is an order form included in this newsletter or pick one up in the Welcome Center. The cost for one single geranium is \$6.50. The cost for a pot of three geraniums is \$21.00. To order, fill out a form and place it along with your payment in an envelope. The envelope may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office by Sunday, May 18th. Geraniums may be picked up after the 9:00 AM service on Pentecost.



Breakfast Fellowship

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 10th, 8:00 AM

Scout Pancake Breakfast
2941 Lutheran Road

Men note, **this month's gathering will be at the church for the Scout's Pancake Breakfast.** No reservations required. For more information, contact Ron Fegley at 484-300-3025.

Women's Breakfast

Wednesday, May 14th, 8:30 AM

Shorty's Sunflower Café
1494 North Charlotte Street

Women meet on the second Wednesday of the month. Reservations are required. To reserve your seat, contact Sandy Wesner at 215-679-9021 by Tuesday noon before the breakfast.

Take a local historic road trip

Tuesday, July 22nd, 9:00 AM

As part of our 325th Anniversary celebration, NHELC is planning a tour of Historic Trappe. There are three historic properties open for tours. We are planning to tour all three of these buildings. The cost is \$15 per person. Participants will meet at NHELC parking lot to carpool to Trappe.

The Center for Pennsylvania German Studies

Located in the Dewees Tavern, the Center has five exhibition galleries featuring a wide variety of furniture, fraktur, textiles, and other objects as well as a research library and archives.

The Henry Muhlenberg House

Muhlenberg's home is a fully furnished museum interpreting the families of Lutheran pastor Henry Muhlenberg and his son General Peter Muhlenberg.

The Speaker's House

This was the home of Frederick Muhlenberg and is an ongoing restoration project including a Pennsylvania German kitchen garden.

Participants will enjoy lunch at the Trappe Tavern. Following lunch, campers from Camp Falckner will join the group at 1:30 PM to tour the Trappe Churches.

"Old Trappe Church" and "The Brick Church"

The Reverend Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was pastor of the "Old Trappe Church", which was built in 1743. In 1852, the construction of the current building, "The Brick Church", was begun to accommodate the growth of the congregation.

You won't want to miss this tour! Be sure to sign up at the desk in the Welcome Center.

Kids Camp

June 16th – 20th
9 AM - Noon



Registration is NOW OPEN! We are heading North for Kids Camp this year! Potty trained pre-schoolers – rising 5th graders are welcome to attend. Youth headed to 6th grade and up are welcome to be junior counselors. Register and/or sign up to volunteer NOW! Go to <https://vbspro.events/p/35b361>.



God on Tap

Thursday, May 1st, 6 PM

Come to the next God on Tap at Main St. Pub in Bally for dinner and drinks and discussion. Participants are encouraged to share their favorite memories and activities at NHELC. Any questions on this event, contact Randy Dotterer at 610-306-0621 or rdptw6489@gmail.com. RSVP to Randy by Wednesday, April 30th.



Book Club meets in June

Tuesday, June 3rd, 6:30 PM

The next book club will meet for dinner and to discuss the novel *James* by Percival Everett. Readers will gather at the WQ Diner located at 99 West King Street in Pottstown. Any questions, contact Sharon Tracey at LBD36@aol.com.

Meet the Singley Family

We welcome the Singley family, Kyle, Dee, Alivia and Kaydence, who have joined NHELC on March 20, 2025.

Kyle is an implementation manager for a health and wellness company. In his spare time, Kyle enjoys skydiving and working on antique cars. Dee works in communications as a learning and development professional. Her talents include advocacy, allyship, empathetic communication, active listener, conflict resolution and inclusive leadership. Alivia is in the fifth grade and Kaydence is in the second grade.



Frederick Living offers support for caregivers

Frederick Living offers a three-week course on Care Partner Support. Geared for people caring for a loved one with dementia, The course is offered the first Wednesday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Frederick Living Community, 2849 Big Road in Zieglerville.

Schedule of Topics

Care Partner Support

May 7th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

There's no need to go the care journey alone. Learn about the importance of support.

Challenges to Solutions: Dementia Experience

June 4th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

This is an interactive session designed to replicate what it is like to have dementia utilizing tools that mimic daily experiences.

Benefits of Memory Care & When Is It Time?

July 2nd, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Discern when it might be time for your loved-one to begin daily living in Memory Care and the benefits for them and you.

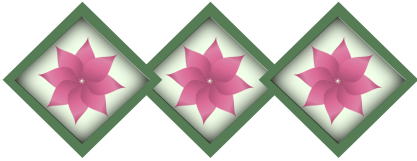
To reserve your seat, contact Lisa McCartin at 610-754-7878 ext. 1001 or email her at lmccartin@frederickliving.org.

May Gathering

Thursday, May 22nd, 12:30 PM

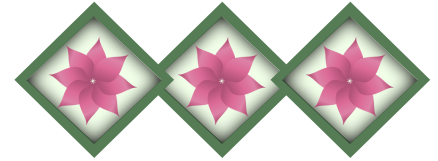
The Aging Grace-Fully series continues with a live-stream presentation by *New York Times* columnist and bestselling author Frank Bruni. In his book, *The Beauty of Dusk*, this author provides wise and moving memoir about aging, affliction and optimism after partially losing his eyesight.

Lunch will be available prior to the presentation. Participants are encouraged to bring a desert to share. Look for a sign-up sheet on the desk in the welcome center.



New Growth

A message from the Pastor



I am often asked how we can grow our membership, our mission, our faith, our choirs, you name it, people are seeking new growth. New growth is happening right now in our flower beds, trees and newly expanded Garden of Hope. However, I have noticed one thing about new growth in plants.

New plant growth will often stand out from the rest of a plant. When leaves are emerging, they are softer, more sensitive to light and damage, and sometimes even differ in color compared to old growth. Thus, new growth is often more vulnerable, fragile, it needs to be carefully integrated and yet it provides the very life the old growth needs to survive. And there are always things accompanying new growth that seem not to fit in with the vision of the planter and yet need not to be pruned or removed.

Jesus addresses new growth in his parable about communities. Jesus tells a story of a person planting seeds, and both the plants and weeds grow together. Those tending the garden want to pull out the weeds; however, Jesus instructs them to leave both together for he wants neither to be damaged. To experience new growth, one needs to expect there will be things we disagree and agree upon; however, all shall remain.

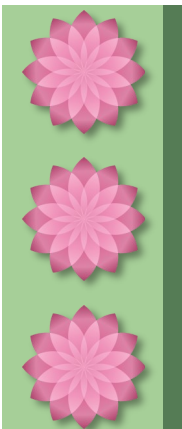
In God's Kingdom, Jesus instructs us to stay together and not to judge one another, that's his job. Our community here has witnessed new growth in new members, ministries and mission. We didn't always agree 100% on every new ministerial addi-

tion (i.e., Food Ministry, Garden of Hope, Peer Support, Sunshine Learning Center, Blended Worship); however, we stayed together and found a way to make it work because those ministries provided much needed new growth while sustaining our established traditions.

New growth can't happen just because you plant seeds. A community needs to stay strong and help sustain and provide care for the new growth through its wisdom and experience. I shared on Easter Sunday how the early Christian Church chose to follow a Savior who instructed his new communities to love and care for one another. The new communities risked their lives for 300 years as they shared the Good News for one and for all. They survived persecution by standing by each other in faith and love for God and one another, and today we can freely worship God because of their bravery.

I also shared how the Reformation happened, and early reformers survived by sharing the Good News that salvation was meant for all. The early reformers risked their lives also to provide new growth of which today, modern Lutherans like us represent. New growth is certainly good and critical for the overall health of a community. The proper care and nourishment are simple. Love one another.

Peace, Pastor Scott



NHELC gathers donations for Pottstown Cluster

Here's a list of the Cluster's most needed items.

Pancake syrup
Chili
Spaghetti sauce
Toothpaste

Shelf stable milk
Pork 'n' beans
Canned ham
Soap

Ramen noodles
Baking goods
Spam

Canned pasta
Chicken 'n' dumplings
Shampoo



Council Corner



Here are highlights from the April 24th Council meeting.

- Finance continues to monitor the 2025 Annual Budget against actuals. Currently we are running a total deficit YTD as of March 31 was \$31,665.24. The income at the end of March (25% of the year) was at 23.6% and expenses were at 27.9%.
- The approved 2025 General Fund budget is a **deficit** budget of ~\$60,000. In order to eliminate the deficit, provide for timely benevolence payments, continue programs, and maintain our staff, the Council is strongly encouraging each giving unit to increase giving to the extent possible by 20%. On average across all giving units this equates to \$7/week, \$30/month, or \$361/year. Please consider your giving in 2025.
- The 2025 Council has eight Councilmembers out of twelve expected positions. Council members may be appointed by the standing Council at any time of the year to one-, two-, or three-year terms. If you have an interest in serving as a Councilmember, please talk to any current Councilmember.
- Susan Gutshall, NHELC Office Manager, manages the master calendar for all activity and facility use to support minimizing conflicts. Committees and boards - please be sure to notify Susan of all activities planned at the church. This is especially important during the Sunshine Learning Center renovation process.
- If you unlock a door for church access, lock the door behind you. Doors have been left open causing a security risk.
- Giving/offering envelopes - if you do not need offering envelopes please see Scott Geiser or Susan Gutshall (Simply Giving, other electronic giving).

Next Council meeting (open to all members) is scheduled for May 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM.



May is Mental Health Month



May is a good time to take inventory of our emotional health and well-being. Emotional health and well-being encompass how we think, feel and cope with life's challenges, encompassing our ability to manage emotions and build resilience. Self-care practices to improve emotional well-being include prioritizing sleep, eating a balanced diet, staying active, practicing mindfulness, relaxation techniques and spending time outdoors.

A local behavioral health resource is the Community Health and Dental Center (CHDC). The CHDC offers Integrated Behavioral Health Services and is conveniently located in Boyertown and Pottstown. Contact them by phone at 610-326-9460 or visit their website at

<http://www.ch-dc.org> to check out available services. Also, a link is posted on the church website under peer support.

New Hanover continues to support the Peer Ministry program through various outreach efforts. The NA group meets at the church twice a week. Our church website and bulletin have information on national and local resources and the hotline numbers for people in need. The hotline numbers are staffed by people trained in handling a mental health crisis. In addition, our website provides a link to mental health resources. The Ferns Peer Run Respite is a local non-profit resource for individuals needing time to heal mentally. For more information on The Ferns, see the weekly bulletin or contact them by email at info@theferns.org.

Help the Ronald McDonald House

The Mission Service/Social Ministry Committee is thrilled to reintroduce a small act of kindness that can make a big difference! The Ronald McDonald House supports families in need, offering them rest and nourishment during challenging times. One simple way we can contribute to their incredible mission is by saving aluminum can tabs.

These tiny can tabs may seem insignificant, but they add up quickly. By collecting them, we can help the Ronald McDonald House raise funds to continue their vital work.

We invite you to join in on this effort. Save your tabs and simply drop them into the aquarium in the Fellowship Hall (under the coat rack). Together we can make an impact—one tab at a time.

Thank you for your support and kindness.

Help NHELC mission projects when you shop

You can help support our church with Redner's Save-a-Tape program. Here's how it works.

1. Visit the Customer Service Desk at any Redner's Warehouse Market to obtain a Save-A-Tape card.
2. Use this card every time you shop at Redner's. Your receipts will be marked as Save-A-Tape receipts.
3. Bring your collected receipts to the church. We'll total them up and submit them to Redner's for a 1% rebate on the total amount (excluding sales tax, milk and tobacco products).

Thank you to all who have saved and turned in their Redner's receipts! The Redner's Save-A-Tape program is an easy way to help us raise funds for the Mission Services/Social Ministry team.

NHELC observes Blessing of the Fields, ending the worship service on April 27th.

If you will only obey the LORD your God, by diligently observing all his commandments that I am commanding you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth; all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the LORD your God. ... The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns, and in all that you undertake; he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 8



MAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Walter Hinrichs.

Walter celebrates his 92nd
birthday on May 9th.

To send Walter a birthday
greeting, here is his address.

2195 Martin Drive
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Also celebrating a birthday in May

- 1 Kathleen Bowers,
Gabriella Cavalari
- 2 Rodney Eidle, Jonathan
Hauck, Kaitlin Robinson,
Kayla Ruth, Scot Smale
- 3 Bonnie Lynn
- 4 John Dugan, Cara
Houseal
- 5 Candis Peto, Kathy Smith
- 6 Ed Becker, Dan Johnson
- 7 Mikela Lane, Zachary Van
Dyke
- 8 Brett Boyer, LuAnne
Fowler, Sara O'Dell, Jordan
Shirk, Brittany Smith
- 9 Laura Camp
- 10 Diane Van Dyke
- 11 Teri Bechtel, Robert
Cavalari III, Jacob LeVan
- 13 Alexander Medlar
- 14 Lauren Flack, Todd
Gamler, Meagan Sproul
- 15 Heather Gahler, Patricia
Hoffman
- 16 Garrett Halteman, Sherry
Miller, Steven Peters,
Nicholas Trowbridge
- 17 Anna Camp, Erika Culp,
Kevin Dugan, Jean Moser,
Ryan Waltermeyer



- 18 Julia Clark, Gary Erb,
Tim Hoffman, Morgan
Sauers
- 20 Erik Eichenlaub, Emma
Hauser, Adam Reber, Jeff
Renninger
- 21 Ben Sauers, Sally Sugita,
Andrew Wojnarek
- 22 Kate Bealer, Joan Brandt,
Connor Foskey, Kevin
Galloway, Tara Murray,
Will Wilson IV
- 23 Pat Lucas, Kym Walther-
Moyer
- 24 Steven Bealer
- 26 Ashley Fowler, Greg
Psota, Donald Smale
- 28 Patricia Hart, Don Wirt
- 29 Joan Comtois, Audrey
Richardson
- 30 Emily Gates
- 31 Natalie Eshbach, Susan
Reber

Anniversaries

- 4 Andrew and Kendra
Rothermel
- 5 Bruce and Charlene
Forsyth
- Doug and Kathy Taylor
- 9 Robert and Marilyn
Malason
- 10 Brian and Ariel Hansley
- 11 Ben and Amy Sauers
- 13 Jim and Joan Brandt
- 14 Thomas and Natalie
Harrington
- 20 Tobin and Amy Sharp
- 25 Brent and Carol Feick
- 28 Rick and Debbie Solazzo
- 29 Mark and Cheryl
Goodwin
- 31 Phil and Jen Boyer
Nelson and Judy Swartley

Geraniums for Pentecost, June 8, 2025

Red geraniums will adorn the sanctuary on Pentecost, June 8th, when two youth of the congregation will be confirmed in their faith. Please indicate below how you desire your sponsorship to appear in the bulletin. This form along with your payment is due in the church office by **Sunday, May 18, 2025**.

Name _____

Suggested donation: \$6.50 for a single geranium Qty. _____ @ \$ 6.50 = _____

\$21.00 for 10" pot with 3 geranium plants Qty. _____ @ \$21.00 = _____

PLEASE PRINT

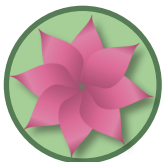
Amount Enclosed _____

In Memory/Honor of _____ by _____
(circle one)

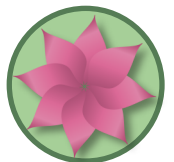
In Memory/Honor of _____ by _____
(circle one)

Place this form along with your donation in an envelope (available on the desk in the Welcome Center) and return to the church office or place in the offering plate. Make checks payable to NHELC. **Order deadline is May 18, 2025.**

Pick up your geraniums immediately after the 9:00 AM service on June 8, 2025.



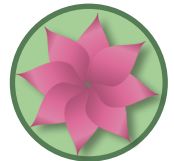
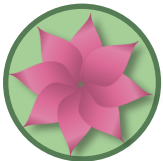
2025 Council Members



Edward Becker, treasurer
Scott Geiser, financial secretary
Yvonne Peto
Andy Van Dyke

Monique Becker, secretary
Marty Hauser, vice-president
Todd Rothermel, president
The Rev. Scott Staub, pastor

**Want to learn more about how to become a member of the Church Council?
Contact any member above.**



Let's keep in touch
New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church
2941 Lutheran Road
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

610-326-1335

newhanoverlutheran.org

facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Call for an appointment.

Celebrating 325 Years
1700-2025

NHELC
neighbors

Still Making History

Reconciling in Christ Question and Answer Sheet

The Reconciling in Christ program is meant to equip us with the tools needed to deepen our understanding of inclusion, and welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, as well as individuals across racial and ethnic identities. The Reconciling in Christ process gives us an opportunity to live out the values that Jesus portrayed when he walked this earth.

1. **Why do we need to be a part of the RIC to be inclusive?**

Earning the RIC designation entitles NHELCC to be put on the Reconciling Works database. People use this database to find an inclusively welcoming church. Displaying the RIC logo helps remove the guesswork for those seeking a safe and inclusively welcoming congregation. When an LGBTQIA+ or person of color enters an RIC church, they are welcome to be themselves and to fully participate in the life of the church. As Pastor Ric Elliot reminded us, welcoming all to our church is a matter of hospitality.

2. **Since we are running a deficit, why do we need to join something that will cost more money?**

One of the requirements of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation is to make a meaningful annual contribution to support the National RIC program. Reconciling Works(RW), the National organization was contacted for clarification. According to RW, this does not need to be a line item in the budget. The RIC core team is planning to place a container in the Welcome Center one month during the year for a free will offering.

3. **Why do we need to wear name tags for RIC, and what's the purpose of gender identification?**

During an RIC team meeting, it was discussed that wearing name tags would help make all visitors and new members feel welcome. The hope is that most, if not all, members wear name tags during worship and fellowship.

The purpose of using pronouns on our name tags is to create a safer environment for those whose pronouns may not align with how others perceive them. Using pronouns, especially when your pronouns may seem “obvious”, sends a powerful message to others who are afraid to show their true identities: This is a place where you are seen, respected and safe to be yourself. This small act of inclusion can give someone the courage to show up fully as themselves in a world that may not always welcome them. When we create a space where everyone feels respected, we live out that love that Jesus modeled for us and calls us to model for others.

4. **How many RIC churches are in our area and which are they?**

There are 20 Lutheran Churches within 30 miles of our church that have obtained the RIC designation. Some examples are: Advent Lutheran Church of Goschenhoppen in Harleysville, Trinity Lutheran in Lansdale, The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Emmaus- this is the church Pastor Ric retired from, Robeson Lutheran in Mohnton, Trinity Lutheran in Kutztown, and Trinity Lutheran in Reading.

5. Will a flag in the sanctuary be replaced with a progress flag (the LGBTQIA flag)?

There is no plan to hang a progress flag in the sanctuary.

6. Welcome statement:

The core team will soon begin writing a “Welcome Statement” that explicitly includes LGBTQIA+ people and people of color. After this is written, it will be submitted to Church Council for their review. It will then be put before the congregation for a vote of approval.

Below is an example of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale’s welcome statement:

“At Trinity Lutheran Church, we are called to embrace diversity and to connect all generations to God’s family. Being rooted in who we are as Jesus followers, we believe all people are created in the image of God, and we commit to welcoming all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, age, disability, socioeconomic status, and place in their faith journey. We invite all people to be a part of this faith community and commit to learn and grow in the work of antiracism and racial equity. We commit ourselves to social and economic justice and care for creation so that through the power of the Holy Spirit and the accompaniment of Jesus, we can be the diverse community God calls us to be.”

7. Be open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and/or Person of Color rostered leader.

It has always been possible for our congregation to call an LGBTQIA+ or person of color pastor. Now this will be explicitly stated so that any future candidates can be certain that they will be hired without prejudice. NOTE: There will not be a new position needed if we obtain the RIC designation.

8. Allow LGBTQIA+ weddings be performed in our sanctuary.

A team of members of the congregation was established to research and discuss this in 2009-2010. Their recommendation to allow LGBTQIA+ weddings in our sanctuary was presented to Church Council and Council approved their recommendation.

Most of the information the RIC core team has provided to the congregation can be found on the church website under the “get involved” tab. If you would like to know more about Reconciling Works, their website is Reconcilingworks.org.