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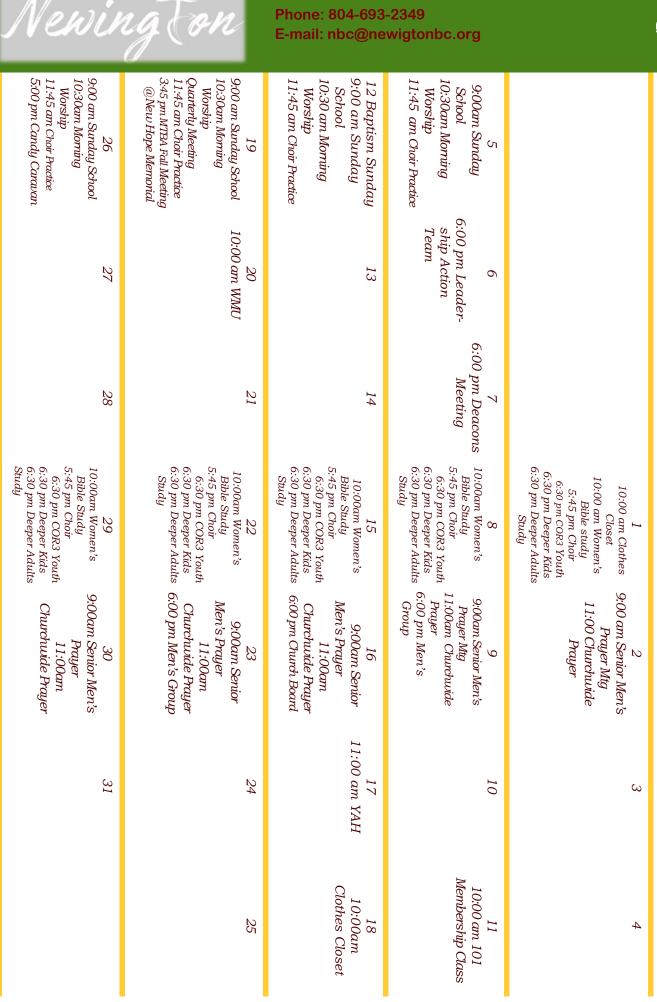
## NEWington News

We are a welcoming community of fully devoted Christfollowers that demonstrates Jesus's love to all.

**Newington Baptist** Church

Volume 10, Issue 10 October 2025

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## From the Pastors View: God NEVER Fails!

As we continue through the Gospel of John in our message series on Sunday mornings, we also faithfully continue through 'Gospels together devotionals' until the end of November. (You may find each week's devotionals on the pew in front of the Sanctuary by the organ).

This coming week (Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>) we come to a story in Luke which will give us a reminder of God's power and Sovereignty— His unshakeable commitment to us as His children. Luke 22:31-38 brings the story of Jesus preparing not only His disciples, but us for upcoming trials in life. In these verses, Jesus will warn Peter of Satan's hope to sift him like wheat.

However, Jesus doesn't just leave Peter in that. He quickly reassures Peter, as verse thirty-two states, that Jesus prayed that Peter's faith would not FAIL. And this is His reassurance for us too...that **God NEVER fails!** It is something that I think we may agree with in our minds, but is sometimes harder to feel. This is why though, it is important to consider <u>HOW</u> God never fails—remembering His faithfulness and power!

We see in this passage that Jesus pulls the veil back in the spiritual area to communicate Satan's desire for Peter to turn away from Jesus. This sifting like wheat suggests a forcible shaking which may test, destabilize or destroy what faith Peter (or we too) may have had.

But I think for us, what is important in this process is that we trust Jesus. And we trust best when we first recognize that spiritual warfare is real and present all around us every day. This is why Jesus also challenges us in this passage to strengthen one another.

We know the story. Peter will deny Jesus three times. But during that, Jesus would never disown Peter. Instead, Jesus is hopeful. So, He first prays for Peter and then challenges him to remain steadfast AND help his brothers. I believe that this is a clear indication that failure is never final. Because all along Jesus saw the future in Peter, and He sees the future in us!

Now I feel a bit like a coach here in writing this. Maybe this is because I have coached several sports teams in the past. But it is still a solid reminder that God doesn't just want to forgive us. He also chooses each of us too! He wants us in His family! And **God never fails** in His plans for us, even when we may fail Him with our sin.

Yes, the times are changing. With the assassination of Charlie Kirk, we may feel that evil may be on the rise. However, Jesus never leaves us! And so, we never need to resort to violence against those who seek harm to us (remember when Peter was rebuked for striking an officer with a sword?). No, I think we just need to be ready and remember our victory in Christ. Though the world may not welcome us, Jesus will! And He will never abandon us.

Finally, remember that it was this same Peter who had denied Jesus, that will eventually preach at Pentecost and see thousands put their faith in Jesus. So, in essence, this same Jesus who spoke to Peter's weakness, also saw his strength. This is HOW we can remember that God never fails. Because His faithfulness is greater than any of our failures! Again, **God never fails!** 

In Christ, Pastor Chris Grella



**OCC News**: We are still collecting donations of all items to fill the shoeboxes, including wow items (larger stuffed animals, doll, or toy), personal care items (remember, soap is no longer accepted), school supplies, clothing and accessories, and toys. We often run out of toys first, so we especially need good quality, small toys for all different ages, such as:

- Balls
- Blocks
- Finger puppets
- Stuffed animals
- Slinky
- Yo-yo
- Kaleidoscope
- Toy animals and figures
- Soccer balls with pump



- Jump rope
- Play dough
- Craft kits
- Puzzles
- Fishing kit
- Dry watercolor set
- Compass
- Binoculars



Donations can be placed outside the OCC room in the basement hall by the bathrooms. We are also accepting donations for shipping costs of \$10 per box. Please mark your donation for OCC and place in the offering plate. Thank you all for the donations we have received so far! If anyone would like to help with this ministry, please let Rachel know. We look forward to seeing everyone at the packing party!

**Young at Heart** senior ministry invites you for a covered dish lunch and fellowship, Friday, Oct 17th.

Is your NEXT STEP at Newington to find out about becoming a member? Join us for our next Membership Class, Oct 11 at 10 am.



Is your NEXT STEP at Newington to be baptized? Baptism Sunday will be Oct 12.

To find our more about these NEXT STEPS, contact Pastor Chris or sign up for class on FYI Bulletin Board.

## OCT MESSAGES - GOSPEL OF JOHN SERIES

| Oct 5  | Isn't it Strange? | John 11:1-16   |
|--------|-------------------|----------------|
| Oct 12 | Weeping           | John 11: 28-44 |
| Oct 19 | Fully Devoted     | John 12:1-6    |
| Oct 26 | What Do You Say?  | John 12: 12-19 |



# ○ COR3 Youth ②



It's hard to believe we are in September. We have several things that are coming up. Cor3Youth will help with Candy Caravan, we are looking forward to a fun evening! Saturday Nov. 8 will be our Chili/Soup Cookoff as our first 2026 Fundraiser for our Youth trip. This is always a FUN night! We are planning a Youth Lock-in on Friday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are willing to help with this, please see me. We have been studying Matthew 5 using D6 material on Sunday Mornings.

Matthew 5:1–48 is a powerhouse chapter that kicks off Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount.

#### Introduction: The Beatitudes (Verses 1–12)

Jesus begins by blessing those who embody humility, mercy, and righteousness:

• Blessed are the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those persecuted for righteousness.

These blessings reveal the values of God's Kingdom—radically different from worldly power and success.

#### **♀** Salt and Light (Verses 13–16)

Jesus calls His followers to be:

• Salt of the earth: preserving goodness and adding flavor to the world. Light of the world: shining through good deeds so others glorify God.

#### Fulfillment of the Law (Verses 17–20)

Jesus clarifies:

mation.

• He didn't come to abolish the Law, but to **fulfill it**. True righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees, meaning it's not just about rule-following but heart transfor-

#### Q Deepening the Law (Verses 21–48)

Jesus reinterprets several commandments, emphasizing internal attitudes:

- **Anger = murder** in the heart.
- **Lust = adultery** in the heart.
- **Divorce** should not be taken lightly.
- Oaths should be unnecessary—let your "yes" be yes.
- **Retaliation** is replaced with turning the other cheek. Love your enemies—the ultimate call to radical grace On Wednesday evenings, we continue to show our Mission trip video series with a Q & A time after. Big shoutout to our three newest members who just moved up—glad you're here!

Thanks for supporting our Youth.

Blessings,

Brenda H. Armistead, Youth Director



Chili &

Cookoff



A big Thank you to all our volunteers in the many ways you serve at Newington! A special shout out to our Facilities team for their work on the new ramp to the Clothes Closet among other projects around our facility. Also thank you to all those who signed up on the Meal Train to bless those in need. Whether you are a Sunday school teacher, greeter, on the worship team, or a committee, your time and effort are so appreciated!!

# NEWS AND UPDATES FOR FAMILIES



Candy Caravan: Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 5-6:30



### Rain or shine!

Please join us for a night of family fun! We'll have costumes, candy, decorated trunks, hot dogs, hot chocolate, and some pumpkin excitement as we share the Good News of following Jesus with families in our community!

Thanks to everyone who has donated candy and signed up to volunteer! We are looking for at least 6 more people to decorate trunks and hand out candy. We'll continue collecting individually candy right up to the day of the event. The collection bin is next to the church office.

Please pray for good weather and pray for lots of families to come and for opportunities to connect with them and share about Jesus!



#### ''Jubilee Churches of Gloucester' September update:



In September, Jubilee Churches (of which Newington is a member of) provided support to a few households in our community. Those financial requests included rent, Dominion power and water bills help. But in the last few weeks though, there has been a significant surge in requests from our neighbors, including three alone, within an hour here at Newington.

Here is just one example of how Newington's Jubilee support was used in September. Jubilee helped a local pregnant mother with a 3-year-old to avoid disconnection of electricity. Some challenges for her included garnished wages and overdue bills. So,

Jubilee was able to aid prevent her utilities from being disconnected again. This mother is the sole provider for her household and is working hard while her husband searches for employment.

So, with this financial help from Jubilee churches and other resources, she is finding stability and hope...and has also received some community resources that will help her during this pregnancy and the birth of her child. Thank you for your generosity to give to the Newington Deacon fund which we give out of, to help the Jubilee ministry in Gloucester!

Reminder that NBC will host the GUEST homeless ministry Dec. 29-Jan. 4

Intercessors Needed! Come join us on Thursdays at 11:00 am in the media room.

For more info contact Vickie Pruden.

God is calling for intercessors—men and women who will lay their lives on the altar to fight the devil, as readily as they would have to fight the enemy on the western front. 1 Thess 5:16-18

Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God. Rees Howells



Happy October! Fall is here and we have been learning about the changing seasons. Everyone is looking forward to pumpkin patches, fall treats and Candy Caravan!

Our kindergarten class is finishing up a unit on apples. They are also working on counting to 100, working with their 10's frames and writing sentences.

The four year old class has been working on sorting shapes and colors, counting 10 objects and practicing writing their names and recognizing their letters. In the three's class, they have started to get the hang of classroom routines, sharing with friends and following directions. They are also practicing using scissors and working on shapes and colors.

We have many fun things this month, picture day, pumpkin patch and Candy Caravan to name a few. Our kindergarten teacher has asked for donations of large sized marshmallows and candy corn. These will be used in activities such as making patterns and counting, they will also be used for a building activity. Thank you!

Stephanie Smith





## OCTOBER 2025



| Sun   | Mon                                    | Tue                          | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                | Sat                                 |
|---|--|------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
|   |  |                              | 1 10:00 am Clothes Closet 10:00 am Women's Bible study 5:45 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm COR3 Youth 6:30 pm Deeper Kids 6:30 pm Deeper Adults Study | 2<br>9:00 am Senior Men's Prayer Mtg<br>11:00 Churchwide Prayer                                 | 3                  | 4                                   |
| 5<br>9:00am Sunday School<br>10:30am Morning Worship<br>11:45 am Choir Practice   | 6<br>6:00 pm Leadership Action<br>Team | 7<br>6:00 pm Deacons Meeting | 8 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:45 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm COR3 Youth 6:30 pm Deeper Kids 6:30 pm Deeper Adults Study                          | 9<br>9:00am Senior Men's<br>Prayer Mtg<br>11:00am Churchwide Prayer<br>6:00 pm Men's Group      | 10                 | 11<br>10:00 am 101 Membership Class |
| 12 Baptism Sunday<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Morning Worship<br>11:45 am Choir Practice   | 13                                     | 14                           | 15 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:45 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm COR3 Youth 6:30 pm Deeper Kids 6:30 pm Deeper Adults Study                         | 16<br>9:00am Senior Men's Prayer<br>11:00am Churchwide Prayer<br>6:00 pm Church Board           | 17<br>11:00 am YAH | 18<br>10:00am Clothes Closet        |
| 19 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30am Morning Worship Quarterly Meeting 11:45 am Choir Practice 3:45 pm MTBA Fall Meeting @ New Hope Memorial BC | 20<br>10:00 am WMU                     | 21                           | 22 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:45 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm COR3 Youth 6:30 pm Deeper Kids 6:30 pm Deeper Adults Study                         | 23<br>9:00am Senior Men's Prayer<br>11:00am Churchwide Prayer<br>6:00 pm Men's Fellowship Study | 24                 | 25                                  |
| 26<br>9:00 am Sunday School<br>10:30am Morning Worship<br>11:45 am Choir Practice<br>5:00 pm Candy Caravan                                  | 27                                     | 28                           | 29 10:00am Women's Bible Study 5:45 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm COR3 Youth 6:30 pm Deeper Kids 6:30 pm Deeper Adults Study                         | 30<br>9:00am Senior Men's Prayer<br>11:00am Churchwide Prayer                                   | 31                 |                                     |