

Calendar Of Events

Sun, Dec 1st- after service

Choir Practice- Add'l- 8th

Sun, Dec 1st @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Middle School Youth Group

Tue, Dec 3rd @ 10:00 am

Coffee & Camaraderie for Veterans

Tue, Dec 3rd @ 10:00 am

Board Meeting- open to everyone

Tue, Dec 3rd @ 6:45 pm - 8:00 pm

Hand Bell Choir Practice- Add'l- 10th

Wed, Dec 4th @ 10:00 am

Women's Bible Study- Add'l- 11th, 18th

Sun, Dec 8th- during service

Hand Bell Choir Plays- Add'l- 15th

Sun, Dec 8th @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

High School Youth Group

Mon, Dec 9th @ 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm

Cub Scouts Meeting- Add'l 23rd

Tue, Dec 10th @ 10:00 am

Coffee, Cookies, and Conversations

Wed, Dec 11th @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Program Practice

Sat, Dec 14th @ 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Program Practice

Sun, Dec 15th @ 8:30 am

Christmas Program and Cookie Walk

Sun, Dec 15th @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Middle School Youth Gr. Christmas Party

Mon, Dec 16th @ 5:30 pm

Scouts Meeting

Tue, Dec 17th @ 6:30 pm

Blue Christmas Service

Wed, Dec 18th @ 10:30 am & 5:30 pm

Serendipity Winter Program

Thur, Dec 19th @ 10:30 am & 5:30 pm

Serendipity Winter Program

Sun, Dec 22nd during service

Choir Sings

Sun, Dec 22nd @ 9:30 am

Christmas Caroling at Regency

Sun, Dec 22nd @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

High School Youth Group Christmas Party

Tue, Dec 24th @ 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services

Sun, Dec 29th- during Service

"Noisy Can" Offering

Norwalk United Methodist Church

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

norwalkumc.com

DECEMBER 2024

Join us for Worship

Sunday:

8:30 am In-person & Live Stream via Facebook

Faith Formation classes for PK thru 5th grade during service

Adult classes available after the service

Pastor Mike's Minute

Luke 2:8-15

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, '

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

There is so much "Holy" all around us during this season! The scripture above describes something that can only be "Holy." If you have been worshipping with us during the last few weeks you would have heard my favorite definition of "Holy," *Of the Divine*. That definition clues us into an event so incredible, awesome, spectacular, (pick your own adjective!), that our language has no single word to describe something like this.

Once again on Christmas Eve, at the end of worship we will light candles and sing Silent Night. This year, as you sing that song...Silent Night, Holy Night...think about just how Holy our lives can be, all because of God's grace and love. During the season of Advent, Christmas Eve, Easter, and every day, it is my prayer that you will once again, find *The Holy* in life.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

-Mike

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Christmas Eve Volunteers

We are still in need of volunteers for our two Christmas Eve Services, primarily our 5:00 service. If you have availability to help at one of the services, please let Beth or Pastor Mike know. It will be an amazing night and a great way to bring in Christmas Day!

Staff Gifts

The board will be collecting donations for staff gifts on December 1st, 8th, and 15th. There will be a labeled gift bag on the fellowship sign-up table or can bring/mail to the office. Donations will be included in your giving if labeled with your name. In addition, if you'd like to write an appreciation note for individual staff members, there will be a separate bag for these. The gifts will be given to the staff during the December 22nd service.

Save the Date

Sunday, January 13th

Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 13th. This will be a special Sunday where we talk about our plans and goals for 2025. More details are forthcoming, but good things are in the works!

Thank You from Lion's Club

We appreciate the United Methodist Church allowing us to use your facility for our pancake breakfast. Money we raised will go towards scholarships and other local causes. Thank you!

-Norwalk Lions Club

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Joni & Donnie Rench- 18th

Pat & Bob Burch- 22nd

Monica & Robert Friedman- 23rd

Sean Stephany- 2nd

Greg Staples- 3rd

Aaron Lee- 5th

Grant Wright- 6th

Jo Quade- 7th

Ethan Colorado- 8th

Rylie Fouts- 9th

Neil Colorado- 14th

Jimmy Stroh- 19th

Carol Sisney- 25th

Steve Jacobson- 26th

Nate Spurr- 28th

Nathan Henke- 29th

Jason Rench- 29th

Youth Group

Youth Group will be having their Christmas Parties before break starts. 6th-8th graders will be on Sunday, December 15th and 9th-12th graders will be on Sunday, December 22nd. Both are from 6:00-7:30. We'll play games, decorate cookies and gingerbread houses, and snack on goodies. Please RSVP to Beth if you plan to attend so she can ensure there is enough supplies (319-573-9688).

Christmas Events

- **Sunday, December 15th- Children's Christmas Program-** Join us as the kids perform "Bethlehem Family Feud." After the program, there will be a continental breakfast, cookies to decorate, a craft to make, and a backdrop for pictures.
- **Sunday, December 15th- Cookie Walk-** The United Women of Faith are hosting their Cookie Walk before and after the Children's Program. If you signed up to bring cookies, please bring them on Saturday the 14th from 9am-11am or by 8:00 on Sunday morning. The Cookie Walk will open from 8:00-8:30 and then after the program.
- **Tuesday, December 17th- Blue Christmas Service-** All are welcomed as we host a Blue Christmas Service, a special gathering designed for those who may find the holiday season challenging. This service provides a peaceful space to acknowledge feelings of grief, loss, or hardship amidst the festive season. Together, we'll reflect on the struggles that can accompany this time of year, offering comfort, support, and the hope found in Christ.
- **Sunday, December 22nd- Caroling-** Stay after worship to spread Christmas cheer by walking to Regency for caroling. We will sing on the independent living side and the nursing home side. It is something that the residents of Regency really look forward to!
- **Sunday, December 24th @ 3:00 and 5:00pm- Traditional Candlelit Christmas Eve Service.** Join us for a wonderful evening of worship filled with beautiful music, as we eagerly await the arrival of our Savior.

Christmas with NAMA

The Adopt-a-Family wish lists have been filled! Thank you all so much! Gifts are due on Sunday, December 1st. Please bring your gift unwrapped and with the tag attached.

There are numerous volunteer opportunities with NAMA. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Beth and she can connect you!