



Norwalk United Methodist Church

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

norwalkumc.com

JANUARY 2025

Sun, Jan 5th- after Service Choir Practice
Sun, Jan 5th- after Service Christmas Decoration Tear Down
Mon, Jan 6th Serendipity Resumes
Mon, Jan 6th @ 6:00 pm Board Meeting- Open to Everyone
Tue, Jan 7th @ 10:00 am Veterans Coffee and Camaraderie
Sun, Jan 12th- after Service Congregational meeting
Sun, Jan 12th @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm High School Youth Group Add'l 26th
Mon, Jan 13th @ 7:15 pm - 8:15 pm Cub Scouts: Add'l- 27th
Tue, Jan 14th @ 10:00 am Coffee, Cookies, and Conversations
Wed, Jan 15th @ 10:00 am Women's Bible Study: Add'l- 22nd, 29th
Sun, Jan 19th- after Service Choir Practice
Sun, Jan 19th @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Middle School Youth Group
Sun, Jan 26th- during Service Choir Sings
Sun, Jan 26th- during Service "Noisy Can" Offering

p. 515.981.4251
e. norwalkumc@norwalkumc.org
a. 1100 Gordon Ave

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

The Mission Statement of The United Methodist Church is:

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

Think about that for a minute. Making disciples for Jesus Christ and transforming the world! It sounds great, but deep in our hearts do we really believe that "I/WE" can actually, tangibly, measurably, change the WORLD? That's a pretty tall order.

But think about it...a little over 2000 years ago a poor carpenter and twelve unlikely disciples walked about a three-hundred-mile radius over three years and changed the world forever!

As we plan for the year and years ahead at Norwalk United Methodist Church, please keep this in mind:

- In 2024 we acknowledged that we have been blessed...SO THAT...we might be a blessing to others.
- We recognized that with great blessing comes great responsibility.
- We watched as Jesus read the scripture in the synagogue in his home in Nazareth on the Sabbath AND sent his disciples into the world. We concluded that ministry can be, and should be, done in our home church AND out in the world.
- We affirmed our Methodist heritage as we were reminded that John Wesley rode over 250,000 miles to take the Gospel to people. We joined Wesley in declaring that the world is our parish.

And it turns out that in both cases, we are part of a movement, AND, a small group of people can transform the world when they have Jesus with them. Let's transform the world in 2025!

Peace and Blessings in 2025,
Mike

We want this newsletter to enhance communication within our faith community; if you have information/events/ideas to include, please send them to norwalkumc@norwalkumc.org, and put "newsletter" in the subject line

United Women of Faith

Thanks to all of you, \$824 was raised at the cookie walk, which combined with the Sugar Buzz and Pancake Breakfast fundraisers totaled \$1,425 that was given to UWF missions and locally to help with NAMA's unmet needs for adopt-a-family and Families Forward.

Save the Date January 12th

We invite you to attend an important congregational meeting at the church on Sunday, January 12th, following the worship service. During this meeting, we will discuss our church's plans and goals for 2025. After the meeting, all are welcomed to stay for a potluck and fellowship.

Small Groups Restart

Small groups will start in January. Stay tuned for more details. If you are interested in being a small group leader, please contact Beth Greiner or Pastor Mike.

Christmas With NAMA Thank You

On behalf of the Norwalk Area Ministerial Association, thank you for your generous donation of gifts to 8 singles and 3 families for the Warrior Giving Project and more.

Please know that your generosity allowed us to provide needed assistance to individuals and families and gifts for children at Christmastime that are struggling within our community.

All contributions to Norwalk Area Ministerial Association are tax deductible to the full extent of the IRS regulations. NAMA is an IRS qualified 501(c)3 organization, and our tax identification number is 52-2342931.

Christmas Tear Down

On Sunday, January 5th, after worship, we will be taking down and putting away the Christmas decorations. We could use numerous volunteers as many hands make light work! Yummy cookies will be provided to help give us energy to clean up!

Thank You

On behalf of Pastor Mike, Beth, Jessica, Natalie, Tom, and JoAnn, we sincerely thank you for your generosity this Christmas season. We feel truly blessed to serve a church with such generous members, and we genuinely love what we do. Thank you once more.

Christmas Eve Offering for Families Forward

We collected a special offering on Christmas Eve that will be given to a great organization called Families Forward. They help Metro area singles and families by providing essential supplies, housing, and other needs. Our special offering collected \$1,583, along with diapers. Thank you all so much for your generosity!

New Office Hire

We are thrilled to announce Karie Goheen as our new office manager, taking over JoAnn Chapman's role, along with additional duties. You can look forward to learning more about Karie in the February Newsletter once she has settled into her new position. Meanwhile, we are delighted to celebrate JoAnn as she embarks on her retirement, and we will be hosting a retirement party for her in January. Stay tuned for more details!

January

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Kate Baldwin- 1st	Nicole Bomstadt- 16th
Benton Bruner- 2nd	Brenda Stephany-18th
Christin Grant- 2nd	Angi Johnson- 22nd
Allie Fuller- 8th	Terry Endres- 23rd
Cindy Spurr- 8th	David Selene- 23rd
Elise Rouse- 10th	Abel Mendoza- 26th
Laura Larson- 11th	James Bahr- 27th
Cassie Mitchell- 11th	Marlys Hansen- 27th
Tamsyn Riggs- 11th	Dave Warren- 27th
Caitlyn Rouse-12th	Wyatt Mitchell- 30th