

# Newburgh United Methodist Church

## November 2019 Newsletter

### Food, Friends and a Fundraiser!

FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OF NEWBURGH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,  
JOIN US FOR GREAT FOOD WHILE RAISING FUNDS  
TO ENHANCE THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 FROM 11:00AM – 6:00PM Prime Time Pub and Grill in Newburgh is inviting us to have your noon or evening meal with them and they will donate back to the church 100% of the bill; except taxes and tip. **YES, 100%** of your meal ticket. This is the owner's way of giving back to his community.



Each person/family is to simply bring a copy of the worship bulletin from that day and your meal amount will be donated back to the church. Our hope is to raise funds to add signage through the entire building and outside of the church making it easier on all who enter to find his/her way. This will help to convey our desire for people to find us and our event or worship service without feeling the embarrassment of asking.

The owner is in hopes of other churches being able to participate in the future; so we may have another opportunity later this year. What a great opportunity to say YES to such a generous offer of a business owner in our community.

FUNDRAISING  
NIGHT

NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> IS THE DAY FROM  
11:00AM - 6:00PM.

Invite friends and let's fill the tables to  
make a difference.

## **"OUT OF THE ASHES; PUMPKIN PIE!"**

I have to admit that I have never been very good at growing things out of the ground. As a kid, we had a large garden at one time in the far back part of our yard. Instead of enjoying the miracle of growing food, all I recall is hauling water from the house all the way out back because there was no close water source. My dad had not thought that one through. Over the years, we have had some flowers that grew tall and even a few tomatoes but by and large, my plant nurturing abilities are lacking.

So, you might be able to imagine my great excitement when a couple of our staff members noticed something unusual under all of the debris and limbs that were piled high in our outdoor firepit near the church shelter house. They found a healthy growing vine that had budding pumpkins attached to it! They had not been intentionally planted and were most likely left over from remnants of pumpkins from last year's fall event. Regardless, out of the literal ashes and debris those vines produced a total of 5 pumpkins. These were used for decoration at World Wide Communion. What a glorious surprise.

Now granted, these were not the type of pumpkins that make for good pies, but since I love everything flavored pumpkin, I say "out of the ashes pumpkin pie." God can make anything grow!

As we move into Thanksgiving, Advent and then Epiphany, I am so thankful to continually witness what God "brings forth from the ashes." Newburgh UMC is fortunate to be growing and to be attracting new persons. Many are searching for a faith home as well as searching for faith. Many share stories of brokenness or lack of belonging and this describes the "ashes" of one's life. And, come to find out, a welcome hand, a kind word, an offer of guidance, an invitation to a class or event and suddenly the vine of faith begins to grow. As you read this, we will just have completed our celebration of stewardship which has been a challenge to grow in our giving. In the weeks to come, we will fill boxes of food for families at Thanksgiving and will purchase gifts for persons, especially children, in need at Christmas. We will strengthen our generosity as informed by our faith and hearts will grow in love as the ashes of our challenge and brokenness become rich fertilizer for the grace that is offered to us in Christ.

So, cut a big piece of pumpkin pie as a symbol of the God's continuing work in and through us; even when it appears to be buried under a pile of rubble. May you rise from the ashes of your challenges today and discover God's love for you.



\*Actual pictures from our pumpkins journey  
from ashes to pumpkin pie!



# NOVEMBER SERMONS PREVIEW

**November 3: All Saints Sunday**, Holy Communion, “When We Have No Words” Romans 8:22-27. As we remember those who have gone on to the church eternal, often we find ourselves in a situation of not knowing what to say to others. In addition, we often do not have the words to express our own feelings. This passage reminds us that Holy Spirit powerfully fills those gaps. The bowl of remembrance will be available at the end of the worship service for all those who desire to place a rose petal into the water as a memorial.

## SHORT SERIES BASED ON MICAH 6:8 “WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?”

**November 10:** “To Do Justice” Amos 5:14-15, 24. Justice is a major topic of debate in our country today. As followers of Christ, we are mandated to “do justice.” How can we live out this mandate in the midst of opposing views and legalities?

**November 17:** “To Embrace Faithful Love” Psalm 136 (his faithful love endures forever). Athletes are often told to, “leave it all on the field, court, stage or track.” As followers of Jesus, we are told to offer love to all people everywhere. How can we “leave our love on the field” in the midst of challenging people who can appear unloveable?

**November 24:** Baptism, **Christ the King Sunday**, “Walk Humbly with God” Luke 23:38 and 1 Colossians 1:10-20. Matthew 5:5 CEB “Happy are the humble people, for they shall inherit the earth.” On this day when we celebrate Christ as King, we also celebrate Christ’s humility; “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of servant.” Philippians 2:6-7

**November 28: THANKSGIVING DAY**

## ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES AND ALL CHURCH STUDY “THE GIFT OF THE NUTCRACKER”

The treasured story of the Nutcracker has long been a staple for the Christmas season. This Advent, we will explore the characters of the Nutcracker and discover the real gift that often alludes us upon first hearing it. This worship series will include a Bible study led by Pastor Craig on Wednesday evenings during the season and is geared for an intergenerational exploration of faith.

**NUMC’s annual Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive begins Sunday, October 27.** Each year, we gather food items to provide a Thanksgiving meal and additional staples to families that are served by our Wesley Clothes Closet and Food Pantry. Our goal this year is 100 baskets! The adult and children’s Sunday School classes help with this mission, but we would like to offer the opportunity to those not attending a Sunday School Class to help us reach our goal. Food items listed below may be brought to church and placed in the collection baskets in the hallway across from the church office or in the basket outside the Food Pantry in the Family Life Center. Money donations (cash or checks) are also appreciated and help us purchase the additional items we include in the baskets that are not listed below like turkeys, eggs, butter, whipped topping and bread. Checks should be made out to NUMC with a note on the check or the offering envelope that the donation is for Thanksgiving Baskets. If you would like to provide a complete basket, please contact Brenda Sexton at 812-459-6209 or blsexton45@gmail.com for a shopping list; the average cost of a basket is \$45.

**October 27** – canned corn, canned green beans, canned fruit, cranberry sauce

**November 3** – flour, sugar, brown sugar, salt, pepper

**November 10** – cooking oil, cake mix, cake frosting, pie filling, graham cracker pie shells

**November 17** – stuffing mix, rice, potatoes, canned sweet potatoes

The Adventurers Sunday School class will coordinate the assembly of the baskets after the Café Service at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, November 24 in the Family Life Center. You are invited to join us and participate in this hands-on mission project! Thank you for your generous hearts and your continued support of this outreach to our community.



Newburgh UMC would like to honor all those who have served or are currently serving our country in the military. We invite you to send a picture of your time during service and we will acknowledge all that have served during worship on Sunday, November 10th. Please send pictures to Tim Ash, [tim@newburghumc.org](mailto:tim@newburghumc.org), or bring into the church office.



Show your patriotism! Vote and join us in fellowship for a **Chill Out Chili Supper on Election Day**, Tuesday, November 12th, from 5 - 7pm. Treat your taste buds to three varieties of chili, buttery cornbread, and desserts galore! Single tickets are \$5.00 and family tickets for 4 or more \$20.00. Tickets are available for purchase in the church office during the week, before and after church services and at the door. Proceeds to support NUMW operating budget.

### Advent Workshop: November 24th

Join us on Sunday, November 24th for our Advent Workshop as we prepare our church home for the Advent season! All are invited at 12:15pm for lunch (soups) and decorating will begin at 1pm! People of all ages are welcome to join. Children will have a special opportunity to serve both by preparing decorations and serving desserts for a break during our workshop. Those planning to eat should join us at 12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. All those who plan to decorate should meet in the sanctuary at 1pm for prayer and making a plan before dispersing to ready the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons.



## MISSION TEAM

Happy fall ya'll! I think the cooler temperatures are finally arriving and what a wonderful time. Every one has been so generous with your help in stocking the pantry. Many of you might not be aware, but our NUMPS families are contributing too, making this project even bigger and better. Below you will see the items needed, in addition to your Thanksgiving basket donations. Please know that whatever program you support during the holiday months, will go to families that will truly appreciate a holiday meal. The mission team members do not want any of our church families to feel we are constantly asking for support, just a gentle reminder to donate when able. Any and all food donations are welcome.

Another reminder, while we are discussing mission donations, keep your Faith Promise pledges coming. We have so many wonderful programs we support, locally, national and globally. The next meeting for Missions is December 5, 2019 at 6pm. If you are interested, and want to be a part of a giving team, we welcome you. Thank you for all you do to our church and community.

#### November

- 3-9 Peanut butter, jelly
- 10-16 Canned carrots, Canned mixed vegetables
- 17-23 Dish soap, liquid bath soap, body lotion
- 24-30 Oil, flour, sugar

#### December

- 1-7 Cereal
- 8-14 Pancake mix, syrup
- 15-21 Peanut butter, jelly
- 22-28 Canned carrots, canned mixed vegetables
- 29-4 Dish soap, liquid bath soap, body lotion

I trying to settle down from my attendance at the American Association of Christian Counselors Conference last week. I can't begin to tell you all that I learned, but pray the church will reap the benefits from it. After every learning session everyone (about 7000 people) would come together in one huge room for special speakers, praise and worship. It was an amazing and spiritual experience. I learned updated information on the crisis with opioids, bullying, anxieties, pain on the brain and more on neuro elasticity of the brain. An awesome week with God and people who follow him.



With the upcoming holiday celebrations, I am reminded of how hard holidays can be on those who have lost loved ones, no matter how long ago it has been. I will be starting up a new Grief Recovery Group Class on the Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and will continue to have them on the second Tuesday of each month, All are welcome! Room ML 34.

***\*If anyone is interested in attending an evening group please let me know.***

Blessings,  
Joyce Cundiff  
Parish Counselor

No appointment necessary during office hours but are available  
Call or text for appointment  
(cell phone) 812-305-0445 or (office) 812-853-2946 ext. 124  
Office Hours

---

### Indiana Annual Conference Report (June 2019)

First, let me extend my apologies for taking so long to provide this report on Annual Conference 2019. I was in the middle of teaching Summer School in Henderson when Annual Conference was held in Indianapolis and have again immersed myself in my classes since mid-July.

This was my second time attending Annual Conference (henceforth AC) and I was again, so impressed with our Bishop's ability to capture the collective attention of those in attendance. Having heard Bishop Julius Trimble speak at the past two ACs, I would strongly encourage everyone to attend one of his meetings the next time he is near Evansville - you will not be disappointed, I promise. He is very inspirational and passionately up-lifting in his spoken word.

If you have never attended AC, a good portion of the time is occupied by presentation of Annual Reports, some of which were interesting while others, painfully boring. Actuaries - ugh! Of special interest to me was the fact that there was a committee that investigated the opportunity to lower the cost of the AC by moving it somewhere other than downtown Indianapolis. Next year, AC will be held on the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University near Terre Haute.

So, if it was all boring reports, what did we do? Well, the main topic was the election of a slate of candidates for the 2020 General Conference. I must confess that I was disappointed in the results of the 2019 Special General Conference in St. Louis last February. The week after that conference, I was confronted by one of my students (who all know that my church is important to me) with the accusation that we Methodist "hated" gays. I quickly informed them, that I believe, we had made a mistake in St. Louis and that the decision was driven mostly by the UMC of Africa, which holds a very strict interpretation of the Bible. At AC, I voted to send a slate of representatives who were more inclined to be inclusive rather than exclusive to the 2020 General Conference. This may disappoint some of you, but please hear me out.

Brenda and I have had several long discussions on this topic and we have spent time searching our Bibles for God's guidance over the past several years. We once were of the opinion that it was clear that the LGBTQ+ community was living in sin. We have friends who are LGBTQ+ and have seen them be good people and faithful to one another, just as our hetero friends. I have struggled with the concept of the Church treating these folks as "second class" citizens by withholding the rights and privileges that non-LGBTQ+ members enjoy. I believe that Jesus not only wants us to bring all people to the table, but that He commands we not lose any of His "sheep" in the process. I believe that my Savior loves ALL people, not just those who look, act, walk and talk as I do. I have spent time with several pastors of the Church, both pro and con, seeking guidance and knowledge on this subject as I feared that this might be the "time of false prophets" as mentioned in the Bible and that I would be judged harshly by my Lord for being led astray. But most importantly, I have prayerfully asked God for His guidance. I pray that you will understand my position as we look to the future with hope and faith. Yours in Jesus.

- Bob Sexton (NUMC Lay Delegate)





Often, before sharing big news with some of my closest friends, I will say, "Prepare your heart." It's my way of saying, "Are you sitting down?" or "This isn't going to be what you expect." It's also my way of giving my friends a moment to breathe before they take in the big news. This is what Advent is all about, taking a deep breath, preparing our hearts for the big news of Jesus' arrival. Typically our preparations, our Advent, for Christmas is filled with rushing around, purchasing gifts, baking, special school programs, dance recitals, friend parties, family gatherings and the list continues. My Advent challenge to you and your family is to find time every week of Advent to breathe. Set aside time to prepare your heart for Jesus coming. Begin to make room in your heart for Jesus to be born in a new way to you. Make room in your home for Jesus through special stories, prayer, or just simply being together as family. Take Jesus with you into the community as you connect by serving and leading in your workplaces.

Prepare your heart.

Remember... you are loved! - Pastor Suzanne

### What's Happening in Small Groups?

#### Preschool (3-4 yr olds)

**Theme:** Bubble Factory

**Memory Verse:** "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart." Psalm 111:1, ESV

**Bottom Line:** I can thank God for everything.

**Basic Truth:** God made me.

#### Elementary (K-5th)

**Theme:** Hall of Fame: Everyone is a VIP

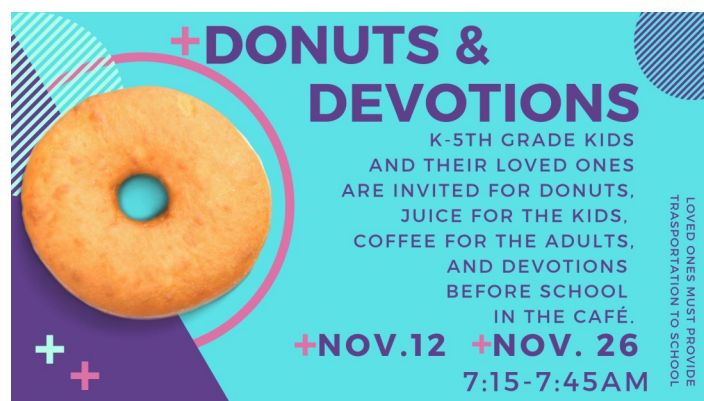
**Memory Verse:** Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves. -Romans 12:10 (NirV)

**Life App:** Honor - Letting someone know how valuable they really are.

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

#### **Bible Bash: November 10th 12:30-3:00pm**

All 3rd graders are invited to our Bible Bash on Sunday November 11th from 12:15-3:00pm. Bring your new Bible, we'll have fun while learning how awesome the Bible is! Join us in the NUMC Kids wing. We will eat lunch together, play games, and talk about why the Bible is such an important book!



**Save the Date!**  
**Christmas Eve for All Ages : December 24th @10:30am**



## **Middle School Youth Group:**

### **November 3rd:**

Middle School Group 4 - 5:30pm (includes meal with confirmation session)

### **November 8th - 9th:**

Super Start Conference in Louisville for 6th graders

### **November 24th:**

All youth are invited to help with the Thanksgiving Basket Service Project @ 10:45 and/or take part in the Advent Workshop @ 1pm

### **Confirmation Class:**

**November 3rd: session 5 - 7pm**

**November 10th - 16th: e-learning experience**

**November 24th: Thanksgiving Basket Service Project 10:45am**

### **Breakfast Club for Youth (6th - 12th grade):**

November series: Us for Them

We will explore how the big story of Scripture reveals that **God is for us, we're called to be for others, God is for our enemies, and Jesus proves that God is for us.**

Each week we do this through games, teaching and small group time.

Our High School small group leader is Adam Maday. Adam always has a challenge and a good story to tell as he helps the high school students navigate the day's topic.

Our Middle School small group leaders are John and Emily Whyman. They have worked with many of these students before and help to lead them through questions and activities at an age appropriate level.

If you have a student who has never tried Breakfast Club we would love to have them join at 9:45 in the large youth room. (And of course there is always food for snacking!!).



### **High School Youth:**

All High School Youth are invited to attend the Student Leadership Academy at the University of Indianapolis on November 15th - 17th.

The Student Leadership Academy Fall Retreat is a weekend at the University of Indianapolis in partnership with the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. Student leaders are invited for an empowering weekend that emphasizes God's calling in his or her life both now and in any future vocation.

It is a great weekend with youth being guided by college mentors through activities and discussion that help guide them through their gifts and talents and what God's calling on their life might be all about. There is time for fun, worship in a college campus retreat setting.

Cost is \$30. Deadline to register is November 3. Please let Pastor Linda know as soon as possible.

### **Save the Date: Sunday January 5, 2020 @ 11am - Summer Mission Trip information meeting**

A Summer Mission Trip is being planned for High School students, College Students and Adults. If you are interested we will meet to discuss this opportunity. More details and another reminder will be published in the December newsletter.

# NEWBURGH UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL

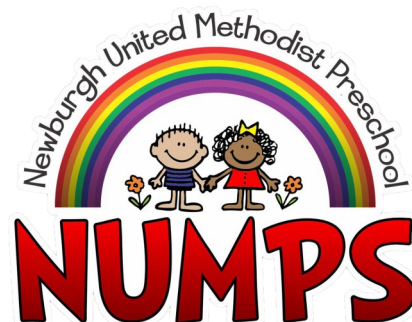
Happy November! The preschool hallways are already stirring with the excitement of knowing the holidays are coming! But, before all that we take this time to reflect on Thankfulness and being Grateful this month. We are so very thankful to have the support and encouragement of the NUMC staff and congregation! The love you show in so very many ways towards our children, their families and our staff is priceless.

Many thanks to everyone that helped with our Fall programs! The children had a wonderful time performing for their families and friends, and trick or treating with the church staff! Always so much fun for everyone!

Our Annual Basket Auction is upon us! You are invited to browse and bid on all the wonderful donations we have set up in the hallways. The auction bidding will be open from October 27<sup>th</sup> – November 17<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from this year's auction will go towards expanding our programs and providing the classrooms with new exciting activities.

As always, our children are being taught about helping our neighbors and we are encouraging our students to help stock the food pantry with items for the Community Food Baskets. We will be delivering all our donations to the Food Pantry on November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We are collecting pull tabs from our favorite canned beverages again this year for the Ronald McDonald House in Evansville! Just send them into the Preschool in a baggie and we will take it from there! You can always drop them in the mailbox in the preschool office door. Thanks so much!



We are so grateful for our church family and the support, understanding and encouragement we receive from all of you!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sandy Minasian, Laura Tutt and the NUMPS Staff



# —• CONTACT US —• + .. —

Office is opened:

Monday: 8am - 12noon  
Tuesday - Thursday: 8am - 4pm  
Friday: 8am - 12noon

You can reach any staff by email and we will get back at our earliest availability.

**Pastor Craig Duke**

Lead Pastor

[craig@newburghumc.org](mailto:craig@newburghumc.org)

(812) 677-0285

**Pastor Suzanne Juncker**

Family Life and Children Pastor

[suzanne@newburghumc.org](mailto:suzanne@newburghumc.org)

(812) 572-7516

**Pastor Linda Duke**

Youth Pastor

[linda@newburghume.org](mailto:linda@newburghume.org)

(812) 677-0286

**Allison Novak**

Finance Administrator

[allison@newburghumc.org](mailto:allison@newburghumc.org)

**Tim Ash**

Contemporary Worship Leader

[tim@newburghumc.org](mailto:tim@newburghumc.org)

**Ashley Thomas**

Communications Director

[ashley@newburghumc.org](mailto:ashley@newburghumc.org)

**Griffin DeVoy**

Traditional Worship Leader

[griffin@newburghumc.org](mailto:griffin@newburghumc.org)

**Erin Sexton**

Administrative Assistant

[erin@newburghumc.org](mailto:erin@newburghumc.org)

**Joyce Cundiff**

Parish Counselor

[joyce@newburghumc.org](mailto:joyce@newburghumc.org)

(812) 305-0445

**Angie Barr**

Recreation Ministry Director

[angie@newburghumc.org](mailto:angie@newburghumc.org)

(812) 202-1728

**Duane Jaeger**

Maintenance Facilitator

[duane@newburghumc.org](mailto:duane@newburghumc.org)

**Annette Greenberg**

Church Custodian

[annette@newburghumc.org](mailto:annette@newburghumc.org)

**Sandy Minasian**

NUMPS Director

[numps@numps.org](mailto:numps@numps.org)



**NEWBURGH**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November Newsletter

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Newburgh United Methodist Church  
4178 S.R. 261  
Newburgh, IN 47630  
(812) 853-2946  
[www.newburghumc.org](http://www.newburghumc.org)



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**

NEWBURGH, IN 47630  
PERMIT NO. 24