



January 2018, Vol. 1

From the Pastor

Rick got me a birdfeeder for my birthday in November, but we'd both been a little disappointed in its underperformance. Birds rarely stopped by to munch the seed and suet as we waited and watched, watched and waited.

And then it snowed! Suddenly, with other avian food sources hidden under the white stuff, the winged multitudes found the feast we'd set out. We've seen woodpeckers and chickadees, juncos and sparrows, a cardinal pair, and even a Carolina wren.

Now I'm not saying that we're bird-brained, but isn't that how we react throughout life, too? All too often it isn't until all of our other sources of happiness and satisfaction are covered up or beyond of our reach that we turn to the One Source of life and sustenance Who has been there all along, waiting and watching for us to come to him. How much more pleasing it would be to our Father if we were to look to Him for our help and feed on his word not only in the hard times, but in every circumstance and situation!

As 2018 begins, I'd like us all to do just that. Let's embark on a year of gratitude to God for his abundant provision and commit to feasting on his word on a daily basis. God is watching and waiting, waiting and watching for us to come to Him!

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Kim

p.s. Be sure to pick up your gratitude notebook to keep track of God's goodness in 2018!

Thank you!

Rick and I would like to thank everyone here at Northwest for the extremely generous Christmas gift. We are so very grateful for your love and care, and we thank God for each of you.

Pastor Kim & Rick Dancey

Educational and Spiritual Growth

Wednesday Bible Studies

We will continue our study on the book of Revelation, *Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today* on Wednesdays. All are invited to join in the journey at either 9:30 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. Please see Pastor Kim for a study book.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday school meets on Sundays at 8:30 in the downstairs conference room. Please join us as we begin a new study, Jon Orthberg's video series "Oh, the Places You'll Go." If you would like access to RightNow Media to listen to any of the series we study, please let us know. All you need is an email address to get access to these helpful study resources. (If you need help with getting an email address, see Angie☺)

Announcements

Dinners for 6

Be sure to sign up for the January/February/March round of Dinners for 6 (or 5, 7, 8, 9,...). These casual monthly dinners are a great way to get to know people in our congregation. Dinners can be as simple or formal as each lead couple or pair choose: a potluck here at the church, Dutch treat lunch after church at Culvers, a picnic in the park (I'd wait for spring for that one!!!), hotdogs on the grill, a sit-down meal at your home,...the possibilities are limitless! Sign up in the fellowship hall or call the church office to let us know you're in! Please sign up before January 10th for ease of scheduling. The schedules should be available by Sunday, January 14 or before.

Let the De-Decorating Begin!

Many thanks to all who made our Christmas season here at Northwest special through the beautiful decorations, wonderful music, and generous giving to help those in need. Special thanks to Lorna Gabbert, worship chairperson, Mary Greenhood, worship director, and Lisa Rogers, Christmas Eve music leader for their special efforts. On Epiphany Sunday, January 7, all are invited to stay after our worship service to "de-decorate" the church. After all of the Christmas decorations have been put away, the Congregational Care Committee will feed us! What a wonderful way to bring the celebration of our Savior's birth to a close! Hope to see you then!

New Church Committees and Officers for 2018

Be sure to pick up a copy of the 2018 Committee and Officer Roster available on the Welcome Table in the fellowship hall. This listing indicates who will be serving on which committee in the coming year. A few openings remain; if you are interested in serving, but have not been asked, please see our Lay Leader Scott Reynolds or Pastor Kim.

Human Relations Day, Sunday – January 14, 2018

We will be receiving an offering for Human Relations Day on Sunday, January 14th. This offering is helps all God's children to realize their potential; designated for those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive.

Community Outreach and Missions

January Missions



This Month we will collect Loose Change which will go to Faith Promise.

Your Change will bring Godly Change Here at Home & Around the World

Good Samaritan Fund Offering

Thanks to all who generously gave to our Good Samaritan Fund on Christmas Eve. The \$700 offering will replenish our fund for helping those in our community with serious financial needs. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please designate for "Good Samaritan Fund".

Trewyn Peace Pals Update

Ten persons from our congregation are currently meeting twice monthly with students at Trewyn Elementary School here in Peoria to read, play games, encourage, and be encouraged. It is never too late to be part of the fun! If you are interested in becoming a Peace Pal to a student, please contact Nylene Bradburn or Karol Castens for more information.

From the Mission Committee

Thank you to everyone who purchased gifts for the Homeless Veterans and pajamas for the kids of Fair Hope Ministries! Many hearts will be warmed by your kindness and generosity.

Leadership Opportunity

"Offer Them Christ" Illinois District Leadership Conference

An Illinois District Leadership Event "Offer Them Christ" will be held January 28, 2018 at Crossroads UMC in Washington, IL. Keynote speaker is Chris Coleman, Director of Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The event is from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. with numerous breakout sessions to choose from. Pre-registration is not required but helps with planning. Fliers are available in the fellowship hall. You may register at <http://www.illinoisriverdistrict.org/contact.html>.

Local Community Events

Central Illinois Right to Life

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is January 21, 2018 and a Right to Life Sanctity of Human Life Rally will be held Monday, January 22, 2018. Half an hour before the Rally, participants will meet at the Riverside Community Church located at 207 NE Monroe Street, Peoria and proceed on a Vigil Walk around the block containing the Federal Courthouse. Refreshments and social time will follow the Rally at 7:00 p.m. Guest speaker for this event will be Jason Jones, Executive Producer of films such as "Bella" and "Sing a Little Louder". If you have any questions, you can call (309) 645-8000 or email askCIRTL@gmail.com for more information.

NUMC Events

Heart of Christ Health Clinic ~ Do you know someone who can benefit from a wellness checkup from our Heart of Christ Free Health Clinic? The clinic will be open on Saturday, January 13. We provide basic medical care from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Bring a friend and spread the word! Sponsored by Dr. Ted and Lisa Rogers.

No Senior Group Lunch in January

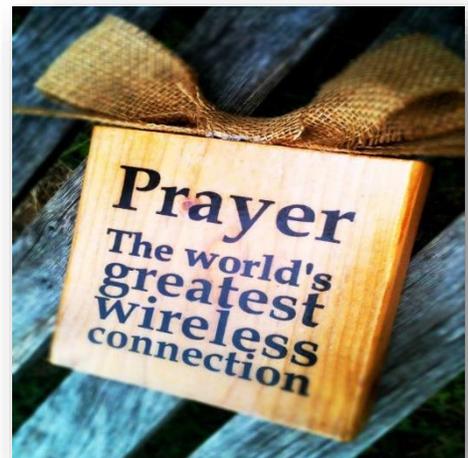
Stay home this month and keep warm!!

NUMC Prayer Partners

The Prayer Group meets here at NUMC Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. If you would like more information, contact Dixie Rogers at 309 472-4336.

Do you have a Prayer Request?

Contact Dennis Messersmith at dmau@comcast.net **Don't use email!**
Please call the church at (309) 692-0421



NUMC Reads

***Sons and Soldiers: The Untold Story of the Jews Who Escaped the Nazis and Returned with the U.S. Army to Fight Hitler* by Bruce Henderson**

'Bruce Henderson draws on personal interviews with many surviving veterans and extensive archival research to bring this never-before-told chapter of the Second World War to light. *Sons and Soldiers* traces their stories from childhood and their escapes from Nazi Germany, through their feats and sacrifices during the war, to their desperate attempts to find their missing loved ones in war-torn Europe. *Sons and Soldiers* is an epic story of heroism, courage, and patriotism that will not soon be forgotten.' (Excerpt from amazon.com) **Join us for discussion January 25th at 6:30 p.m.**

Memo from the Board of Trustees

The Trustees of NUMC are preparing to do some floor covering work in two areas. In the weeks to come, we hope to replace some of the carpet area in the sanctuary and the vinyl flooring just inside the front doors. Wear and tear has taken a toll on the entrance area near the double doors to the sanctuary.

The floor coverings in the building are approaching 20 years old. They have served us well.

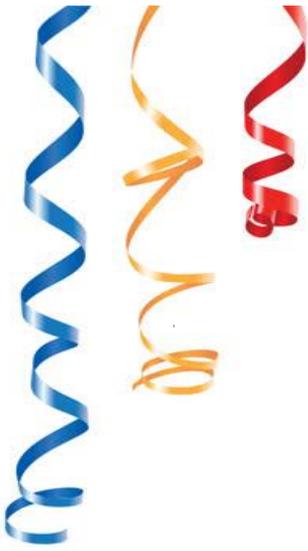
We will be using carpet squares in the sanctuary. We will be doing just the area inside the doors to the two posts. This concept is popular now in commercial buildings. This will allow us to remove a square if it becomes stained or damaged. If this works well, we will look at replacing all of the carpet in the sanctuary in the future.

We are also replacing the vinyl in the entryway to the building, which was a roll product, mostly white, with seams that are now showing and coming loose. Again we will use squares in an attractive color that will hopefully wear good and not show every foot step.

This project is well within our annual normal budget and goes along with trying to keep the building in good condition.

Mike Krost

Chair, Trustees



Celebrating Birthday and Anniversaries

January Anniversaries

Chuck & Lorna Gabbert 01/08

January Birthdays

Bob Johnson 01/01

Andrea Dean 01/03

Claudia Gomez 01/08

Terry Haas 01/09

Samuel Lauseng 01/13

Dan Becker 01/18

Robert Bryant 01/18

Ellen Reynolds 01/21

Jimmy Johnson 01/29

Ted Osman 01/31

Ana Scott 01/31

February Anniversaries

Gayle & Chery Lamie 02/14

Mark & Angie Fleming 02/17

Dan & Kathy Becker 02/27

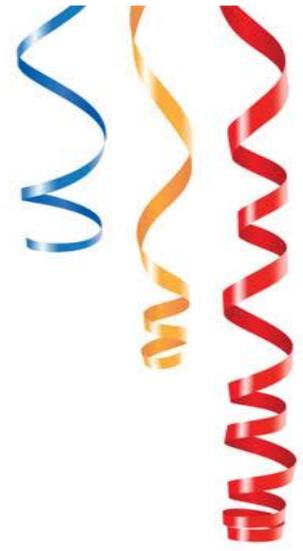
February Birthdays

Doris Callais 02/03

William Anderson 02/04

Alicia Booth 02/05

Ariana Buck 02/06



Regular Worship Services

Adult Sunday School	8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship	9:45 a.m.
Children's Church	10:00 a.m.

Bible Study and Prayer Times

Wednesday Morning Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evenings Bible Study	6:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday Evenings 7:00 p.m.

January Regular Meetings

Jan 09	Finance Committee Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Jan 09	AdMinistry Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Jan 14	Discipleship Committee Meeting	11.15 a.m.
Jan 14	Outreach Committee Meeting	11:15 a.m.
Jan 16	Pastor Parish Relations Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Jan 28	District Leadership Event	2:00 p.m.



Pastor: Rev. Kim Dancey ~ 217-620-5719 ~ kedancey@gmail.com

Worship Director: Mary Greenhood ~ 309-696-9114 ~ marygreenhood@gmail.com

Admin. Assistant: Angela Fleming ~ northwestunited@sbcglobal.net

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Thursday 10:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Visit us on the web: www.nwunitedmethodist.org