



The KEY

... TO OPEN WIDER
THE DOOR OF THE
CHURCH

A Newsletter of Newport United Methodist Church

December, 2018

Pastor's Page

Dear Saints,

Blessings to you this Advent.

I hope this finds you doing well and thriving in life and in your calling to be Jesus' friends and disciples today. Can you believe it's been 6 months since I came to Newport?! It's not possible to sum it all up in a few words, *but that's never stopped a pastor from trying!* Serving at Newport United Methodist Church has been a powerful answer to prayer... something for which my heart and mind and spirit have been longing for a long time. God is doing a new thing in our midst. I'm grateful for your prayers and your support for me and my family too. Thank you. I'm grateful for the holy conversations, where you've shared your history, your hopes and dreams and wonderings on the future of the church. Let this prayerful and careful work continue with intention in 2019!

At the same time, I'm also deeply grateful for solid support from the Conference level. Consistently with everyone I interact with, I've felt equipped and empowered and encouraged to be a pastor today. I'm also being prepared to be a pastor for the church of tomorrow. This is just so powerful and beautiful. *Equipping churches to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people and heal a broken world is our mission and our ministry!* Yes, yes, and yes!

I want to be a part of that, and I hope you do too in 2019.

Pastors and churches and Conference doing *Vital Ministry* together, Alleluia and Amen!

Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year, Saints.

Thank you for all you do, in Jesus' name...

Pastor Steve

αποστολος

FLOCK WATCHER asks that you keep these people in your prayers:

The family and friends of CG Middle School student **Joe** who took his own life at 14; **Judy's daughter Jill** who is diagnosed with cancer; **Doug's brother Gary** whose cancer is terminal; **Ethel's brother Harvey** who remains in transitional care; **Karen** who is recovering at home following a stroke; **Sue** for healing from pain; **Gale and Marilyn's son-in-law Mike** who is on the list for a kidney transplant; **Bobbie's son Gary** who is having chemo; the **family of Bob and Sue's friend Janet** who passed away, and their friend **Keith** who is having knee replacement surgery; the **Bush family** in the loss of **George H.W. Bush**; **people and families dealing with mental illness**; **people displaced by hurricanes and wildfires**; **everyone who has been affected by mass shootings**; **everyone** who faces **financial crisis** for various reasons.

We share our joys too: The 49th Ecumenical Service drew 119 participants and guests! Ethel's husband Dave is home from transitional care! If you have lifted someone up for prayer, please update us in the church office as their conditions change, as a concern or joy!

Floor Talk...

The latest investment in our building is new floor tile in the Fellowship Hall and classroom areas. As we print, the Fellowship Hall is complete, along with the classroom currently in use by Head Start. The remaining classroom and the education hallway will be completed between Christmas and New Years'. The existing tile was original from 1962 and was badly worn. We decided that an asbestos abatement was prohibitively expensive and that encapsulating it by overlaying with the new tile was a safe option for well into the future. Comment from the congregation has been generally positive; we will save many hours of custodial time and expense by selecting a material that does not have to be waxed.

We paid approximately \$22,300 to Carpet Den of Cottage Grove for labor and materials. Several in the congregation have stepped forward with special gifts toward this project. Others pitched in with short-notice help, as on Day 1 when we realized that the bi-fold room dividers in the classrooms would have to be removed, since they had already been scraping the existing floor! Our hearty thanks go out to everyone who found ways to help!

Mike Nelson

Christmas Cake from the Bible

Scripture Cake

1 cup Judges 5:25 (last clause: Butter or Margarine)

1 3/4 cup Jeremiah 6:20 (sugar)

1/4 cup Proverbs 24:13 (honey)

6 Job 39:14 (eggs)

1st Kings 10:2 (spices: 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon; 1/2 tsp. ground cloves; 1 tsp. allspice; 1 tsp. nutmeg)

3 tsp. Amos 4:5 (baking powder, plus 1 tsp. baking soda)

1tsp. Leviticus (salt)

3 3/4 cups 1st Kings4:22 (un-sifted all-purpose flour)

1 cup Genesis 24:11 (water; or you can substitute 1 cup cold buttermilk)

2 cups 1st Samuel 30:12 (second clause, raisins)

2 cups Revelation 6:13 (cut-up dried figs)

1 cup Numbers 17:8 (chopped almonds)

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Heavily grease and flour 10 inch tube or bundt pan or two 9x5x3 inch loaf pans. In large bowl, with electric mixer at medium speed, beat butter until smooth. At low speed, add sugar gradually, beat in well. Blend in honey at low speed. Add eggs, one at a time, beating at medium-high speed.

Combine cinnamon, cloves, allspice , nutmeg, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and 3 1/4 cups flour. Add blended dry ingredients to batter alternately with buttermilk. Toss in resrved 1/2 cup flour with raisins, figs, and almonds, gently folding in.

Pour batter into pan(s); cut thru batter with a knife to distribute evenly.

Bake for about 1 1/2 hours; using a toothpick, test for doneness. If pick comes out clean, you have succeeded!

Cool in pan for about 30 minutes, then turn out on a rack to cool completely.

XX

This recipe was glued to the front inside cover of my mother's Betty Crocker cook book. Her name was Esther Hanson. She LOVED to cook and bake. (Her daughter, not so much.) She probably cut this recipe out of the Milwaukee Journal which was the newspaper she subscribed to her whole adult life.

Let me know if you try it.

Judy Lieftring

Call the church office if you would like her phone number-Ed.

apostalos-those who are sent

The LEADERSHIP TEAM meets on **Monday, December 3** at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Martha Circle will meet on Monday, December 3 at 9:30 a.m. **at Norris Square.**

The Red Rockers will hold their luncheon on Thursday, December 20 at NOON at the North Pole Restaurant in Newport Center. If you are attending please contact Ruth Pommerening at 459-1970. There may be a special guest...

...Angel Closet will be open on February 7, 2019! You can call the church office with individual needs at other times. We will do our best to take care of families needing school supplies. Consult the list of supplies furnished by the school and grade your child will be attending. Church office phone: 459 2747.

%%%

October, 2018 Financial Report

The income and expense report as of October 31, 2018 is as follows.

The October 31, 2018 checkbook balance was **\$4613.30.**

MONTHLY BUDGET ENVELOPE GIVING

October envelope and loose plate giving was **\$4630.00.**

TOTAL INCOME FOR REPORT PERIOD

October income from all sources was **\$ 7441.00.**

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR REPORT PERIOD

October expenses were **\$11763.21.**

SUMMARY

Income in relation to expenses for October, 2018 was - \$4322.21.

Please mention any projects you feel need doing or any concerns you have about repairs to Mike in written form. He will pass them on to the appropriate person.

Everyone is encouraged to maintain good stewardship.

Any suggestions for improving this financial report will be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, *John Brenneman*



DECEMBER 2018



Birthdays

5—Mike D. Elwell

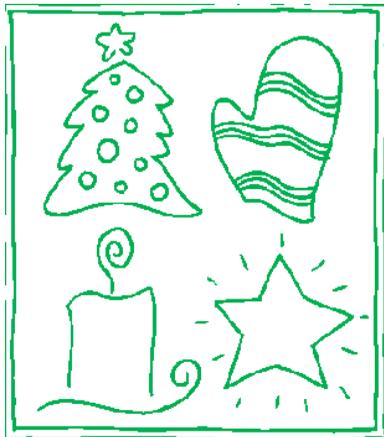
8—Wayne Frank

9—Teri Reynolds

24—Judy Bailey

26—Bob Stewart

31—Ethel Christensen



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>1st Sun in Advent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	3 9:30 am Martha Circle	4	5 Voice Choir 6:30pm S Handbells 7:30pm FH	6 5:30 pm HS Parent Nite Angel Closet 5-7 pm <i>7pm 49th Ecumenical Advent Service</i>	7	1 1:30 pm United Church of God 8 1:30 pm United Church of God
9 <i>2nd Sun in Advent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	10	11 6:00pm Leadership Team-FR	12 Voice Choir 6:30 pm S Handbells 7:30pm FH	13	14 4pm deadline for SHARE THE JOY CHRISTMAS GIFTS	15 1:30 pm United Church of God
16 <i>3rd Sun in Advent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	17 2:00 pm <i>Key</i> articles due 6:00-8:00 pm KNITTING GROUP	18	19 Voice Choir 6:30 pm S Handbells 7:30pm FH	20 Noon RED ROCKERS EVENT North Pole Restaurant in Newport	21	22 1:30 pm United Church of God
23 <i>4th Sun in Advent</i> 9:30 am Worship Service Anticipation Service 4PM	24 Candlelight Service 7PM	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29 1:30 pm United Church of God
30 <i>Christmas Sunday</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	31	Room Use Designations C – Classroom FH – Fellowship Hall FR – Fireside Room N – Nursery S – Sanctuary	Have a 2019 filled with blessings.	NEWPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1596 ELEVENTH AVENUE (AT GLEN ROAD) NEWPORT, MINNESOTA 55055-1649 JESUS CHRIST, HEAD; THE CONGREGATION, MINISTERS; REV. STEVE PANUKUK, PASTOR		



7

-a Retreat in the City-

Founded 1861 — Celebrating 157 Years of Ministry
 Newport United Methodist Church
 1596 Eleventh Avenue (at Glen Road)
 Newport, MN 55055-1649



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

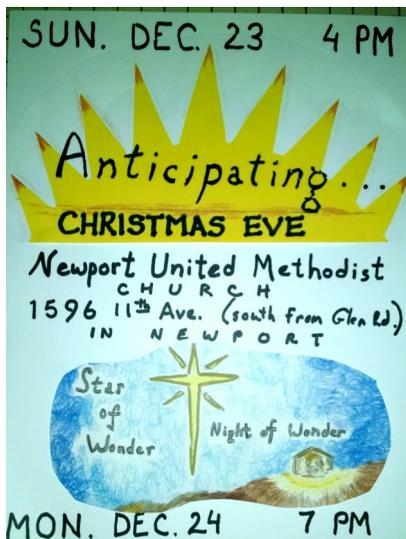


Tracy MCd the Ecumenical Service...then... stay for the food? Of course! How wonderful to see the church so full of people.



Let's see our church full again this month, another time or two... Invite family, friends, someone you know who used to attend or visit but for whom it's been a while. We have blessings to share.

Ruth P and Mike N, design



A warm welcome awaits you . . .



Voice and Handbell Choirs
 Adult Bible Study
 United Methodist Women
 Martha Circle
 Fellowship Dinner Groups
 Pastoral Care
 Pastor: Rev. Steve Pannkuk
 Cell Phone: (952) 999-6252
Church Telephone: (651) 459-2747
Fax: (651) 769-1216
 Church e-mail: newportumc@gmail.com
 Web address: www.newportumc.org

EACH SUNDAY:
 Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is available during worship. Adult Study follows at 10:45.
 WEDNESDAYS:
 Voice Choir at 6:30 p.m. - Handbell Choir At 7:30 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

Newport United Methodist Church is people of God dedicated to following the teaching of Jesus because we want to set an example so that we and others can grow in our faith.