

The KEY ... TO OPEN WIDER THE DOOR OF THE CHURCH

A Newsletter of Newport United Methodist Church

February, 2020

A few Sundays ago, I asked the simple question:

What were you grateful for in 2019?

I encouraged everyone to write down some thoughts on multi-colored sticky notes and then we shared our thoughts. Here they are in no particular order:

Updated look – new windows, floor, and doors	Driveway
Families helped at Christmas, Cards on bulletin board	Retirement
Nancy’s Stair Rails--service project to help her	Sharing Hymn favorites
Money contributed to projects	We had Garel for another year.
Formal sponsoring of Sea Scouts	Starting a new church
My health, my family, friends and my pastor	We are still here!
I’m thankful just to be alive and doing pretty good.	Good health
That our pastor is working toward growing	Celebrating Garel’s life and visits
We are a working church – able to keep our head above water and spread the Gospel. <i>See the next page!</i>	

2 *More gratefulness from Page 1*

Mission Newport Blanket tie and Neighborhood BBQ

Celebrating the Lives of: Rob Wengenroth, Norris Griffith, Lynn Schoch and Garel Link

Farewell celebration and Godspeed for Sharon and Lori

Necessary repairs have been done – windows, doors, roof

We have had some new people come in the doors.

Christmas Eve worship

Visited my best from high school who I hadn’t seen in 37 years. Also reconnected with my foster parents from long ago! I am feeling very blessed.

I was able to help my son and his family in 2019. They lived with me for several months. Now he is the manager of Hobby Lobby in Austin, MN and they are doing great.

Several new people visited the service.

Awesome Ecumenical Service

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Pastor Steve writes: ***I agree!!!*** Amen! It was just beautiful sharing in many of these holy events you listed above. Lots of my sticky notes were the same as yours! What a joy it is to be your pastor.

In 2019 I also really enjoyed volunteering in the lunchroom at Newport Elementary School. Building relationships, affirming the students and staff, the teachers and principal of this amazing school were real highlights for me.

I don’t know the full impact of my work, but it’s powerful to walk in the school and have many students say, “**Steve!**” Or “**Steven!**” because that’s what my name tag says.

Now skip ahead to Page 4

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

for **the family of Don C's brother Elliott** who passed away recently; for **Judy's husband Joe** as he recovers from surgery and awaits possibly more; for **the family of Sherry B** who passed away recently; for **Barb L** for comfort and healing after a fall; the **victims of mass shootings and stabbings**; the **families of the victims of the Ukrainian airliner crash in Iran**; all those who have been forced to leave their homelands in search of the abundance we take for granted; wisdom for our elected officials; for churches in need of reformation and transformation; the children and teachers in our Head Start Program.

Karen S is now in memory care at **Elk Ridge Special Care Center** in Maplewood.

Joys: **Leanne and Doug's niece Mackenzie** delivered her daughter Loretta Ann a bit early but the baby is doing well! **Donna E's** surgery and follow-up were successful! **Sherry E** has only a few treatments left! **Pastor Steve's brother Brian** is back to work! **Christi's friend Tracy's** cancer is responding to treatment; **Gale and Marilyn's son-in-law Mike** is out of the hospital and doing fairly well though still on the transplant list. Thank God for good outcomes!

If you have lifted someone up for prayer, please update us in the church office as their conditions change, as a concern or joy!

Martha Circle meets on Monday, January 6th at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room.

Leadership Team meets on Tuesday, January 14h at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room.

DID YOU KNOW that *the Key* is available as an email? It's the most likely way for you to get your newsletter on time. You get color graphics of higher quality, and when it's time to dispose of it, there's no paper involved (unless you've printed it yourself). Send an email to newportumc@gmail.com from the address at which you want to receive it, with the subject: e-subscribe, and your name. Oh, and it saves the church money too...

What's the impact of opening a milk, smiling at a child, checking in with them, asking about their day? I don't know, but somehow I feel like that's "**our mission field**" and those are "**our children.**"

A few nights ago, I went to the Newport Elementary Choir and Band Concert. The gym was full and the music was beautiful.

Looking around the gym, I feel a twinge in my heart. The majority of the families have no church to call home, like we do. They've never heard the good news that they are the Beloved of God, that their sins are forgiven by God, and they are part of God's plan through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

My heart just aches a bit, but then I get inspired.

A whisper: With God all things are possible..."

I pray and I dream, I talk and I listen, and I get inspired by God and God's word once again.

One of the quotes I love is from Wendell Berry:

Invest in the Millenium. Plant Sequoias. Say that your main crop is the forest you did not plant, that you will not live to harvest.

In so many ways, this Jesus work feels just like that. I am helping to plant one small grape vine, and then another and another. And you are planting too! Pretty soon, we'll be able to say, together we planted a vineyard in Newport. And with God's blessing, it will bear fruit. The harvest seems far away some days...

But God says, "Plant Anyway."

With love and prayer, your pastor and fellow planter, Steve

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>4th Sunday in Epiphany</i> 9:30 am Worship Service-	3 MARTHA CIRCLE 9:30 am, FR	4	5	6	7	1 8 United Church of God 1:30 pm
9 <i>5th Sunday in Epiphany</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	10 6:00-8:00 pm KNITTING GROUP Cottage Grove Library	11 LEADERSHIP TEAM meeting, 9:30 am,FR	12	13	14 <i>St. valentine's Day</i> 	15 United Church of God 1:30 pm
16 <i>6th Sunday in Epiphany</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	17	18	19	20 Red Rockers NOON at North Pole, Newport Center	21	22 United Church of God 1:30 pm
23 <i>7th Sunday in Epiphany</i> 9:30 am Worship Service	24 6:00-8:00 pm KNITTING GROUP Cottage Grove Library	25	26 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>Lent begins</i> 7pm service	27	28	29 United Church of God 1:30 pm

BIRTHDAYS

- 18-Bobbie Woodward
- 20-Sharon Hanson
- 25-Nancy Martinsen
- 26-Bette Dilla

December, 2019 Financial Report

The income and expense report as of December 31, 2019 is as follows:

FUND BALANCES REPORT

The December 31, 2019 checkbook balance was **\$10,490.41**.

MONTHLY BUDGET ENVELOPE GIVING

December envelope and loose plate giving was **\$5,674.00**.

TOTAL INCOME FOR REPORT PERIOD

December income from all sources was **\$13,978.00**.

TOTAL EXPENSES FOR REPORT PERIOD

December expenses were **\$18,574.00**.

SUMMARY

Income in relation to expenses for December 2019 was -\$4,596.00. Many members have stepped up their giving this year which has helped our situation. Designated giving totaled \$4,472.00.

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

*****WANTED: your articles to run in next month's edition of The Key! We ask that articles be submitted by the 3rd Monday of the month (February 17 for March's Key).*****

Founded 1861 — *Celebrating 159 Years of Ministry*

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Newport, MN 55055-1649

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Key is a monthly publication of Newport United Methodist Church, 1596 Eleventh Avenue, Newport, Minnesota. News items to run the following month are due in the Church Office by the 3rd Monday of the current month.

A warm welcome awaits you . . .

Voice and Handbell Choirs
United Methodist Women
Fellowship Dinner Groups

Adult Bible Study
Martha Circle
Pastoral Care

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EACH SUNDAY:

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is available during worship. Adult Study follows at 10:45.

WEDNESDAYS:

Handbell Choir at 5:00 p.m. - Voice Choir At 6:30 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT *Newport United Methodist Church is a 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.*

