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Blazing Trails

Heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Rev. Gladys Davis and Rev. Faith Solon, both who have recently been called to full-time service in Ohio congregations. Pastor Gladys has been called to Highwater United Church of Christ in Newark, where she had previously served as Interim Pastor. Pastor Faith has been called to United Christian of Clayton, a Disciples congregation west of Dayton. Please be steadfast in your prayers for them, their families, and for their new congregations, that their joined ministries may thrive!

FROM THE PASTOR

“We Make the Road by Walking”

I don't know the origin of this phrase. I guess I assumed that it arose during COVID as that's when I became most aware of it—it was prevalent. It's what we were doing, as churches—adapting quickly to changes thrust upon us without reasonable time to plan. My experience is that we just walked—maybe creating more of a path than a road. There were missteps. There were unexpected moments of grace and beauty. That's what happens when you venture into new territory. Brian McLaren, a popular progressive (my opinion) author and theologian, wrote a book called “We Make the Road by Walking” in 2015. It has nothing to do with COVID and everything to do with working on ourselves spiritually. The book is oriented around the Christian calendar, beginning in the fall, winding through Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Readings are short and opportunities for rich conversation and personal spiritual growth are plenty. Beginning on Sunday, September 17, I'm going to be leading a Sunday School class that delves deeply into this material. Books are available. At most, you'll be asked to read a few passages of scripture and a five- or ten-page chapter prior to class. Together, we will grow in our faith, which is particularly important as the church progresses toward its next chapter. I don't know how long I'll lead the class, but I'm happy to walk with you as you prepare for a new season of ministry.

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone who just ended their terms in leadership positions in the church! I am reminded of times when I've recruited volunteers for top lay leaders positions. When I was asked what was involved, I'd often say, particularly to moderator candidates, “It's really not that bad, as long as I don't resign, and you go into a search.” Obviously, eventually, that comes to pass. The 2022-23 program year saw lots of changes in the congregation, and I appreciate Laura Rings and Jane Russell for leading the A/C and Elders. I also really want to thank Keith Rose for serving as treasurer of the congregation for the past five years! Being a church treasurer is often a thankless job, as few see the hours that go in on a regular basis.

Peace,

Scott

schieber@columbus.rr.com - (614) 226-1314



*We are Woven Together in
God's Love
Monday, September 25th*

Connecting...to God, to each other, to community

We are looking forward to gathering on Monday, September 25th for our fall kickoff event. Our special guest will be Rev. Cynthia Klingemier and she will guide us through our theme, “Woven Together in God’s Love”. How wonderful it will be to share together after our long summer break and be uplifted and inspired through Cynthia’s program!

We will start the evening with a potluck dinner at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sandwiches will be provided and you are asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Cynthia’s presentation will begin at 7:00 P.M. and we encourage you to invite a friend and spread radical hospitality to others. If childcare or transportation is needed, please contact Debbie Stephan or the church office.

EPIC

The EPIC group ~~will meet on Tuesday, September 19 in Fellowship Hall~~ for a potluck and brief program (to be determined). EPIC is an acronym for “Experienced Persons in Community,” our newest gathering for members age 50 and older.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, as well as a sign up link on our website. Please plan to come and bring a guest. All members of the church, regardless of age, are welcome to attend.



Church Connection Corner



If you see a new visitor coming in for service, as part of welcoming them, consider asking them if they would like to sit with you. They don't know the lay of the land - who sits where and where they will feel comfortable. Also, the convenient restrooms are aesthetically hiding behind the wall, you might point them out!

Extravagant **GENEROSITY**

John 3:1-12 Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it's not possible to see what I'm pointing to—to God's kingdom." "How can anyone," said Nicodemus, "be born who has already been born and grown up? You can't re-enter your mother's womb and be born again. What are you saying with this 'born-from-above' talk?" Jesus said, "You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the 'wind-hovering-over-the-water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. When you look at a baby, it's just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can't see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit.

“So don't be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be 'born from above'—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it's headed next. That's the way it is with everyone 'born from above' by the wind of God, the Spirit of God.” Nicodemus asked, “What do you mean by this? How does this happen?” Jesus said, “You're a respected teacher of Israel and you don't know these basics? Listen carefully. I'm speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions. If I tell you things that are plain as the hand before your face and you don't believe me, what use is there in telling you of things you can't see, the things of God?”

Here is some data about Jesus in the Bible:

- It turns out that He answered only 3 of 183 questions posed to Him.
- He asked 307 questions of others.

When we realize that Jesus' approach is NOT one of answering all of our questions, how does that affect our perception of our relationship with Him?

It means we shouldn't be surprised that many of our questions about how the Kingdom of God works and details of our relationship with Him may very well go unanswered, at least in this life.

Jesus was very good at asking questions, the answers to which invariably caused the listener to have to think very hard. In the passage above Nicodemus was confused about the concept of being “born again”. He was thinking a physical rebirth, and it clouded his ability to understand Jesus' meaning. Rebirth is a spiritual event, but just as miraculous and revolutionary as a physical birth.

As stewards of our relationship with God, we need to accept that our questions may not be answered, but that is the very reason we need to stay in touch with Him. His guidance isn't necessarily with answers. He has many more resources and methods than we are aware of.

Sound the Trumpets:

Unmuted Ministry:

Uncommon Love;

United Service

Numbers 10:4-7

RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

SPECIAL OFFERING

SEPTEMBER 24th - OCTOBER 1st

www.reconciliationministry.org



The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.

Reconciliation Offering celebrates our journey toward wholeness and imagining a world where racism is dismantled and all of God's children can flourish. The offering is received on Sundays September 24th and October 1st.



Ohio Women's Ministries Fall Retreat



September 8 & 9, 2023
At Camp Christian
10335 Maple Dell Rd., Marysville, Ohio 43040

THEME: "Glorify God in your Mind, Body and Spirit."



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Shauna Linn McGhee, MDiv. Pastor, Freedom and Truth Christian Church

September 8, 2023 (Registration for Friday night is \$35.00)

- Worship around the Campfire, followed by snacks, movies, and games in the dining hall.

September 9, 2023 (Registration for Saturday, only is \$45.00)

- Program – "Glorify God in your Mind, Body and Spirit" – Rev. Shauna McGhee
- Workshops
- Basket Raffle (proceeds will benefit OWM (providing scholarships, help with meal cost, etc.)
- Handmade Jewelry and wall hangings made by LaVerne Thorpe.
- Crafters, if you have items to sell, please let us know so that a space can be provided.
- Chair Massages by Maria Girardi
- Arts and crafts including Prayer Box and Prayer Shaker

***DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO WORSHIP & SPEND TIME WITH YOUR SISTERS !!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!***



NNEMAP News

For the month of September, we will continue to collect all types of canned and/or dried beans – refried beans, baked beans, black beans, pinto beans, navy beans - any and all types of beans! Let's overflow the cart in the Narthex with our donations!

NNEMAP reports that a little more than \$20,000 was raised by parking cars during the Ohio State Fair. Thanks again to all who volunteered to help with this fundraiser!

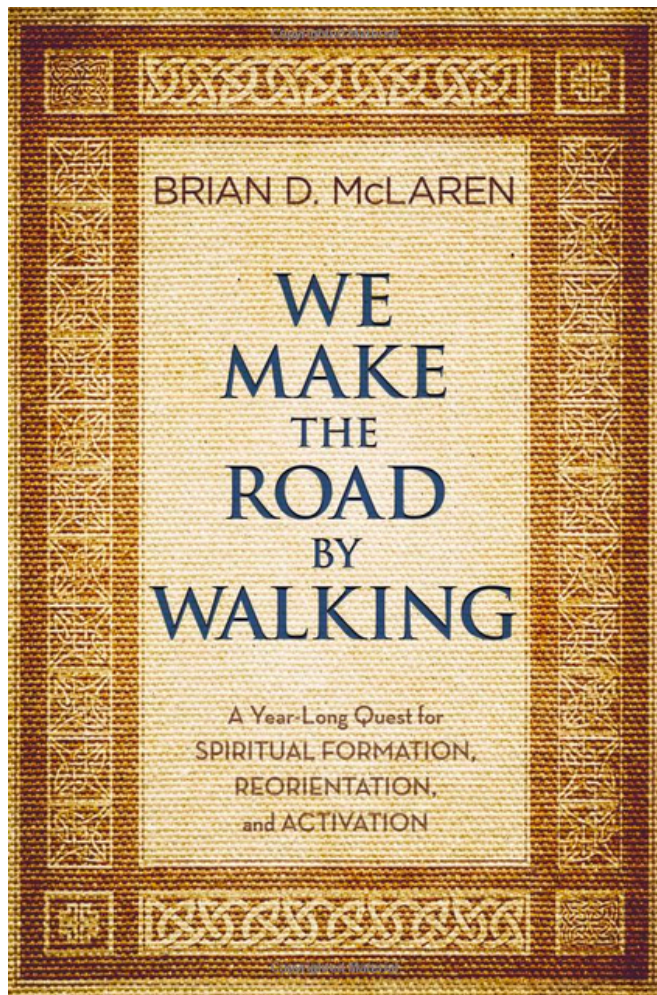
\$300 was raised for NNEMAP during the NWCC Rummage Sale through customer donations at the checkout table. It was wonderful to highlight the pantry and let our customers know about this important service in the Columbus community.

Looking ahead: Mark your calendars for Friday, November 17th and plan to attend the Harmony for Hunger concert being held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church (2151 Dorset Rd, Upper Arlington). It is a wonderful evening filled with fantastic entertainment and a silent auction.

Dear Church Members,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$192, supporting the Northwest Adopt-A-House. Katrina, mother of three, "I have always dreamed of owning my own house and paying my own mortgage and not paying rent for the rest of my life. I'm happy to call this 'MY HOME' Habitat is changing me and my family's life for the better. Thank you!"





Beginning on Sunday,
September 17, 2023

at


9:30 am

Sunday School class
in Room 16


Books are available on
the table in the Narthex

From critically acclaimed author Brian McLaren comes a brilliant retelling of the biblical story and a thrilling reintroduction to Christian faith.

This book offers everything you need to explore what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today. It also puts tools in your hands to create a life-changing learning community in any home, restaurant, or other welcoming space.

 Cultivate an honest, intelligent understanding of the Bible and of Christian faith in 21st century

 Engage with discussion questions designed to challenge, stimulate, and encourage

 Reimagine what it means to live joyfully and responsibly in today's world as agents of God's justice, creativity, and peace



Dinner Dinners of Eight, Go Bucks Edition for Eight

Meet New Friends over Shared Meals

Hello friends at NWCC!



You are invited to Dinners of (about) Eight to get to know some new people on **Friday, Sept 22, and Saturday Sept. 23.**

Saturday does coincide with the Ohio State vs. Notre Dame game, so Saturday dinners will be Watch Parties! Please sign up with *SignUp Genius*, by Monday, Sept. 11, indicating your choice of date and whether you are available to host by following the instructions below.

You can also contact Lori Beals directly at 614-439-4342 or lnbeals@yahoo.com.

To sign up, click on the link,

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COF4AABAD23A1FB6-dinners4#/>

Choose either Sept. 22, or Sept 23, and click on the submit button

A new window will appear where you can add comments, indicate if you are willing to host, and identify the number of people participating from your family (in the quantity field), and note any dietary restrictions

Click on the final submit button to finalize your sign up.

What is a "Dinner of (about) Eight"? It is a small group gathering in someone's home where a meal is shared together. Usually, the host prepares the entree and attendees bring side dishes, salads, desserts, etc. to complete the meal (this will all be coordinated by the host). It is a wonderful way to get to know others in the church and share a delicious meal together. Please consider joining in and strengthening your relationships with others at NWCC! You are welcome to invite somebody new!

KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Fall Kickoff Pancake Breakfast

We will have a Fall Kickoff pancake breakfast, serving from 9:00am to 10:00am, in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, Sept. 10.** Come one and all, old friends, new friends, and visitors!





Save the Date!
Christmas Market
& Celebration

Camp Christian
Saturday, December 2nd, 2023

— ❦ —
HELP US CONTINUE TO
BUILD THIS EVENT!

- **We need vendors.** They can be Arts & Crafts, Small Businesses, or even Yard Sale. There are certainly people in your Congregations and Communities who you know that would be great additions to this event (maybe it's you!) Please be sure to share the attached flyer and vendor application with them.
- **We are also looking for Musicians or Vocalists who may be interested in performing Christmas/Holiday Music during the event.** This would be while people are shopping and having fellowship. We would love to have volunteers, but for anyone who music is a source of income, we are more than happy to discuss their fees directly. We have a few donors who could cover these fees.
- And lastly, **we could use some more volunteers to assist at the event.** We will have free crafts for kids, a gift wrapping station, a photo booth, and general areas that would be helpful to have a few extra hands. All volunteers (and musicians) will receive 3 vouchers for the Concessions in the Dining Hall.



**Sunday
October 1, 2023
2 pm**

Join us for the 2023 Central Ohio CROP Hunger Walk and take steps to end hunger and poverty in Central Ohio and around the world! The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a founding member of Church World Service and many area congregations have participated since our local walk's start in 1978.

Our Regional Minister, Rev. Allen Harris will be the guest speaker at the send-off for this year's Walk so join us for the Impact Fair/Registration at 1pm at Scioto Audubon Metro Park (400 W Whittier St, Columbus, OH 43215) and our send-off at 2pm.

**Sign-up to walk by joining our team at
<https://tinyurl.com/NWCC-CROP>**



**If you have any questions,
feel free to contact
Bruce or Linda Anschutz**

9/2 Carla Nuenke
9/2 Betty Poling
9/7 Ann Femia
9/7 Linda Rath
9/7 Bill Taylor



9/12 Weldon & Carolyn Abels
9/12 Jerry & Betty Beal
9/14 Roger & Connie Long
9/16 Dennis & Amy Kline
9/19 Kelsey & Alfredo Velazquez
9/28 Kim and Herb Badgeley

9/8 Michele Eastlake
9/11 Kaleb Sherrod
9/19 Grace Smith
9/21 Ben Taylor
9/23 Carolyn Abels
9/23 David Stephan
9/25 Thomas Penhorwood
9/27 Maya Hammond
9/29 Margi Evans
9/29 Bev Rhodes
9/29 Fred Stephens

Thank you
Clint and Amy Taylor for cleaning up the
landscaping in front of the church in time
for the rummage sale
Connie for organizing the rummage sale
all the helpers who made this event so
successful.



Dear Northwest Christian Church,

Just a quick note to express my thanks for all of the cards and expressions of concern for my quick recovery. I believe my recovery has been remarkable, in no small measure due to your continued prayers.

I continue to get a little better everyday and I am confident that I will make a complete recovery. Your support has meant a lot to Jan as well.

Again, thanks to everyone of you.

Sincerely, Rob & Jan McConathy

Should you have any pastoral needs or concerns, please let our Pastor know.

Pastor Scott Schieber, Interim Minister: schieber@columbus.rr.com

Dr. Tim Sarsany, Minister of Music: tsarsany@gmail.com

Tracy Qian, Accompanist / Organist

Rebecca Bean, Secretary: office@northwestchristian.org

Madison Buty, Child Caregiver

Karly Dearth, Child Caregiver

**Disciples
LGBTQ+
Alliance**

