

MARCH
2024



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Pastor's Article

March, 2024

On Sunday, September 24, 2023, Northwest Christian Church extended a call, and I accepted that call. On that day we entered into a covenant to be in relationship with one another. One way we symbolized this new relationship was for many of us to plant bulbs in several places around the church, relying on God's good creative grace to allow those bulbs to sprout and grow in their own time. On Sunday, February 18, 2024, we celebrated the official "Pastor installation" in a ceremonial and public acknowledgement of our commitment to one another and the future of our church. It truly was a wonderful celebration.

When I walked into the church building early on February 18, I was met with a beautiful surprise. The bulbs we planted in September were sprouting and their hopeful green shoots were pushing through the frosty winter ground, hinting at the promises of spring. God's good creative grace was visible and tangible and on display!

Lent often feels like a time when we're still encased in the cold and dark ground of winter, knowing there is a promise of spring, but not yet seeing tangible evidence. And while Lent is traditionally a time to reflect, to repent, to turn our lives back to God, it can also be a time to look forward, to dream, to push our "spirit" sprouts through the crust of the earth and toward the light. By doing so, we are the visible and tangible display of God's grace in our world.

The installation service on February 18 closed with a song entitled "Lean In Toward the Light." Whether it's winter or spring, whether we're feeling settled or still transitional, whether our budget is balanced or still has a gap, our God calls us to lean in toward the light, trusting that there will be a spring, and the shoot will come from the buried bulb. Thanks be to God for the gifts of light, shoots, covenant, and love. Thanks be to God for each of you who make up Northwest Christian Church. I am delighted to be your Pastor!

Pastor Joyce Wealand

Holy Week

Saturday, March 23

Easter Eggstravaganza 10am - 11:30am

Sunday, March 24

Palm Sunday 10:30am Worship

Thursday, March 28

Maundy Thursday Service 7pm

Prayer Vigil begins 8:30pm

Friday, March 29

Good Friday Service 7pm

Prayer Vigil ends 7pm

Easter Sunday, March 31

Sunrise Service 7am

Easter Breakfast 8am

Sunday School 9:15am

Easter Worship Service 10:30am

EXTRAVAGANT *Generosity*

I Peter 4: 8-11 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

For the sixth year in a row, Finland has been named the happiest country in the world. Although Finnish citizens roll their eyes, knowing that they have problems too, they do point to one thing about their culture they are grateful for. That is a strong sense of community and the knowledge that if a person is in difficulty, they will be helped.

In essence, they describe what Peter is talking about above. We are to love each other with hospitality, service, and other gifts as good stewards of God's grace. This not only honors God and helps others, it is also likely to contribute to our own personal happiness.

Let us all look for new ways to be of service to others. It may be in doing practical tasks for people. It may be expressing encouragement. It may entail bringing food, prayers, communion, or sympathy. Whatever is needed, with God's strength, we can meet those needs.

Carla Nuenke
Extravagant Generosity

Verdaderamente, Cristo ha resucitado. ¡Aleluya!

예수님은 진실로 부활하셨습니다. 할렐루야!

Le Christ est vraiment ressuscité ! Alléluia !

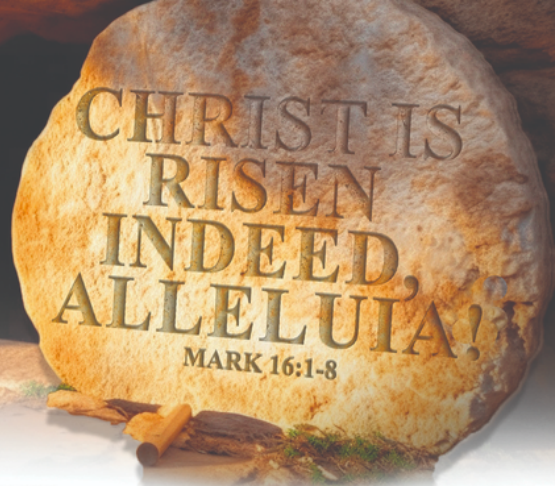
Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Received in most congregations

SUNDAY

MARCH 24 & 31, 2024

Supporting general ministries of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



On Easter, we celebrate the power of the resurrection together with the whole body of Christ as one united church in multiple places with many gifts and languages.

Gifts to the Easter Special Offering support ministries that help Disciples share the limitless love of God that overcomes death. General Ministries of the Christian Church share the good news from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth through:



- Health and social service ministries that meet basic needs for neighbors.
- Mental health resources for pastors and congregations.
- New congregations worshiping in a variety of languages and worship styles.
- Leadership development programs that nurture new leaders in the church and the world.
- Support for hospital and military chaplains serving around the world.
- Stewardship education for congregations to grow in their practice of generosity.
- Relationships with global mission partners serving in communities impacted by conflict and climate change.
- Opportunities like the General Assembly, where the church can gather for worshipful work.
- And so much more...

The Easter Offering supports these general ministries of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):

Center for Faith and Giving, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (Obra Hispana), Communication Ministries, Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Division of Overseas Ministries (Global Ministries), Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, National Benevolent Association, National Convocation, New Church Ministry, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, Office of the General Minister and President, and Treasury Services.

Please give generously to the Easter Offering on March 24 and 31 in your congregation or make a gift at disciplesmissionfund.org/give.

Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Five words. Our united and active response to Easter.

“Jesus is risen indeed. Alleluia!” is an affirmation of faith. It is our faithful response to the power of resurrection at work in our congregations, communities, and ministries across the world. Because Jesus is risen, we are set free, indeed, to share the limitless love of God, set free from the grip of sin and death, set free to rise together in shared ministry, language, and service.





HeartSisters

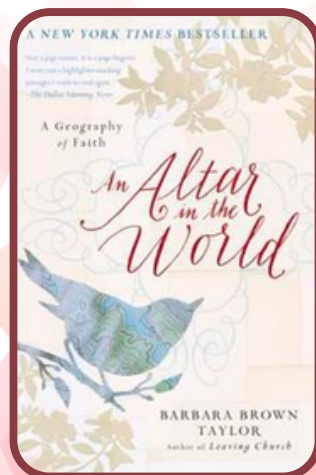
Connecting...to God, to each other, to community

Plan to join us in the **Narthex** for our next Heart Sisters program on **Monday, March 18th** at 7pm (please note the location and date change) as we discuss topics from chapters 9-12 of **An Altar in the World**, by Barbara Brown Taylor.

This book has been guiding us on our Lenten journey as we have learned how to be more present to God and see God in our everyday interactions outside of the church walls. Feel free to read this book on your own, or just come and enjoy the discussion. From 6-7pm please bring your own dinner and share in a time of fellowship.

We will also be helping the Easter Bunny by filling plastic eggs for the Easter Eggstravaganza!

If you would like more information about Heart Sisters or have ideas for programs, please contact Debbie Stephan, Carolyn Abels, or Jane Russell.





Cap City Brass

MARCH 10, 2024
2:30PM

*Northwest Christian Church
1340 Fishinger Rd, Upper Arlington, OH 43221*



*This concert is part of NWCC's Chalice Arts Series
Concert is free, but a freewill offering will be taken*




Bring a friend to the Easter Eggstravaganza! Saturday, March 23rd 10:00 - 11:30am

Mark your calendars for NWCC's annual Easter Eggstravaganza scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd from 10:00 - 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This event is for all children through 5th grade and their parents or special adult. Crafts, games, refreshments, and a candy hunt will be available. It is also rumored that the Easter Bunny might make an appearance!

Plan to attend and bring along a friend or two!

How can YOU help?

 Place donations of wrapped candy, mini individual snack bags (goldfish, teddy grahams, etc) and/or small toys/trinkets that can fit in plastic eggs in the basket provided at the Welcome Table in the Narthex. Donations are needed by Sunday, March 17th.

Volunteers are needed:

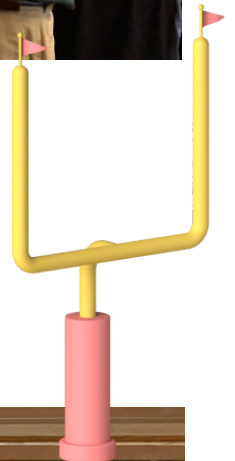
-  Prior to the event to fill plastic eggs and prepare crafts
-  On the day of the event to help with crafts, games, refreshments, and the candy hunt
-  To help set up/clean up

Stop by the Welcome table to sign up or contact Debbie Stephan with your interest. Pass the invitation along and share our wonderful church with others!



Installation of Rev. Joyce Wealand







Something is brewing!
Keep donating the Java,
java, java!

How many of you like to have a nice **'cup of joe'** first thing in the morning? That burst of caffeine definitely helps to get the day started. The clients at NNEMAP appreciate having some coffee as well, but that is not a common item they receive in their grocery cart. Let's help remedy that situation by donating **ground coffee (regular or decaf)** during the months of February and March. We will repackage the donations into one-cup portions before it is delivered to the pantry so that more people can receive at least enough for a pot or two. With almost 1,000 households receiving food from NNEMAP each week the need is great! Donations can be placed in the grocery cart in the Narthex.

Questions? Contact Debbie Stephan.



NNEMAP
food pantry



Camp Christian

10335 Maple Dell Rd

Marysville, OH 43040

Cost for 2 nights and 5 meals
\$150. Work 2 hours on
Sunday, cost is only \$115.
Saturday-only \$60. Additional
contributions welcome.

Register by March 5 and pay
online at:

[https://northwestchristian.org/
donate/](https://northwestchristian.org/donate/)



or pay by cash or check at the
retreat.

OR, contact Northwest
Christian Church (614-457-
6290) or Sam Moore (614-634-
2065)



**March 15-17 (Friday dinner –
Sunday worship)**

**Retreat Leader
Paul Koch, Regional Minister
DOC Mid America Region**



**Order
Disorder
Reorder**

**A Toolbox for Men
in seasons of change**

**(Men, bring a tool with you
representing an important time in
your life!)**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/3 Kathryn Bierley
3/5 Don Alexander
3/7 Warren Fife
3/8 Victor Jochem
3/15 Lanny Rhodes
3/18 Melissa Allen
3/19 Laura Stafford
3/19 Barbara Thomas
3/21 Paul Hill
3/21 Cheryl Jennings
3/21 Emily Rings
3/23 Evelyn Behm
3/26 Koral Alexander
3/26 Kim Badgeley
3/26 Jackson Buty
3/29 Bruce Anschutz
3/31 Alexandra Smith



3/13 Rob McConathy and Jan Heppner McConathy
3/24 Bruce and Linda Anschutz

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

Rev. Joyce Wealand, Minister: pastor@northwestchristian.org

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

Dear Friends,



We are forever grateful and will always remember how our church family surrounded us with love and support during Don's often difficult journey these past three years. We received so many beautiful cards, calls, visits with gifts and words of encouragement. The five months Don was in hospitals, many of you drove me to visit him and/or stopped in to visit. Two prayer shawls from this ministry covered him with warmth and love. We appreciated the visits of elders with communion that fed our souls. Lori Beals with her dulcimer brought calming music to our home. While they were still with us the visits of Rev. Cindy and Al Adcock, Rev. Faith and Pastor Scott usually with communion, fed our spirits.

Pastor Joyce, who has only recently come to us at N.W.C.C. has been wonderful! She visited our home with Amy Taylor as elder, bringing communion, and also to listen, support and lift us as Don was in his final days, and afterwards.

Don's Celebration of Life Service was so meaningful to us, as our desired hymns and scriptures were thoughtfully included.

A big thank you to Dr. Tim and the choir, Lori Beals at the piano, the technical crew, and the hospitality team.

We also thank everyone who were able to be with us for Don's Visitation and Celebration of Life Service. Your presence and support meant more than you could know. We love you all.

God bless!

Carolyn, Kathy, Karen and all our Family

