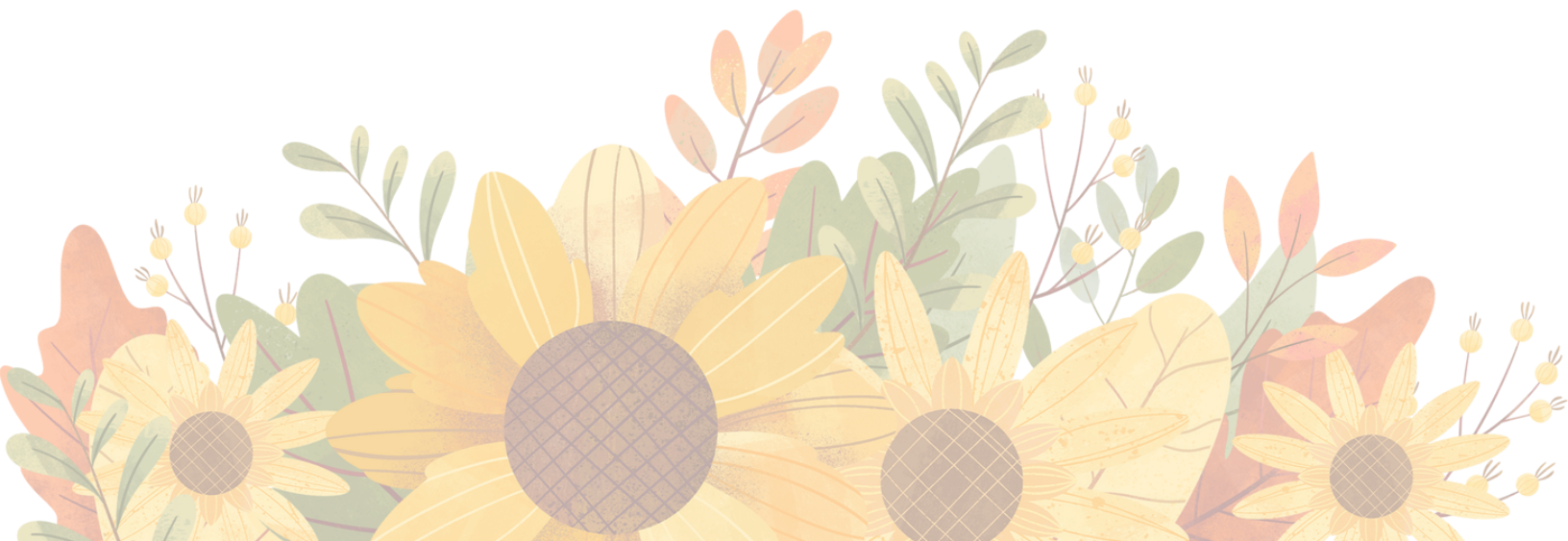


October 2024



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A Note from Your Pastor

This is the season of ghosts and goblins and ghouls...and pumpkin spice everything! From the perspective of nature, I enjoy the season of Fall. But in terms of popular culture and the Halloween celebration – not so much! First of all, (and totally unrelated to the point of this message,) I'm not a pumpkin anything person. I don't like Pumpkin Spice lattes or Pumpkin Smoothies. I might eat a small slice of pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving, only if I think I'll hurt someone's feelings if I don't. But my real reason for not being a lover of all things of the season is that I don't like to be scared. I won't watch scary movies, and you won't ever hear me suggesting a visit to a haunted house. I just don't enjoy the unpleasant anticipation of waiting for something horrible or loud or frightening to happen.

Actually, that's the way I approach my life in general. I know there's plenty in the world that can be frightening or unpleasant, and if I need to confront it or deal with it, I will. But I don't let myself get caught up in the unpleasant anticipation of possibly having a horrible experience.

There are many places in our sacred Scriptures that tell us not to be afraid. Now I'm not going to tell you that going to a haunted house is not scriptural or is against our religion! If you enjoy it, go for it! But I am going to tell you that we can waste a lot of our time by imagining all the worst things that could happen in any given situation. What does life look like if we move forward into the future unafraid? What new ministries might we begin? What creative ways might we envision to support our financial obligations? How might we connect with our neighbors in new ways? Who would we tell our story to? How could our story change?

In a few weeks, we will begin our annual conversations about giving, stewardship, pledges, and budgets. That could either be a scary moment, or it could be a moment to tell the story in a new way. God has gifted us with new relationships, new ideas, new enthusiasm! I hope we can take this moment and tell the story in a new way.

There's plenty of fun to be had in this season. Enjoy it to the fullest. And experience the thrill of the scary stuff if that's your thing. But as we move into the days ahead – days of uncertainty and days of possibility – don't be afraid. Be excited. Be creative. Be audacious! And tell your story!

²Pastor Joyce Wealand



The Central Ohio CROP Hunger Walk on October 13 supports some incredible local agencies (Mid-Ohio Food Collective; Neighborhood Services Inc, Food Pantry; Westerville Area Resource Ministry; Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry; and Worthington Resource Pantry)! A little bit can make a **TREMENDOUS** difference!.

Please either join us in walking or by donating. Follow the link or scan the qr code to join our team or donate today!

<http://tiny.cc/NWCCCROP>

Bruce and Linda Anschutz



Extravagant Generosity

Romans 12:3-13 I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.

If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.(The Message)

Paul points out in Romans that our generosity should come with an appropriate attitude, no matter what sort of generosity we are involved in. We should think positive thoughts in knowing that our generosity serves God. Also, we should strive to do a good job of whatever task we have taken on, knowing that a positive, caring attitude increases the quality of our giving.

We know that God is the one who provides our talents and ideas for service. We can know that we will be taking care of others on His behalf, just as others care for and support us.

Giving isn't simply putting money in an offering plate. It is much more dynamic and meaningful than that. Our gift of time, talents, and money help others and ourselves as we serve God.

Carla Nuenke, Extravagant Generosity



Coffee Time with the Monterrosas!



Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Heart Sisters gathering on Monday, October 28th for an evening with Rolando and Lisa Monterroso. They, along with their three sons (Lucas, Jacob and Mateo), have been attending Northwest for a couple years and we are excited to get to learn more about their story. They will be sharing about their time in Guatemala as well as Rolando's coffee roasting business. We might all get a chance to sample some delicious coffees and learn about the art of brewing a perfect cup!

We will start the evening at 6:00pm and you are invited to bring your own dinner and share in a time of fellowship. The program will begin at 7:00pm. If childcare or transportation is needed, please contact Debbie Stephan or the church office. We look forward to seeing everyone for this special program!



Fall Fun Day **Sunday, October 20th** **A fun afternoon for everyone!**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Fall Fun Day on Sunday, October 20th. From 4-5pm we will have many fall crafts and activities available for children of all ages (and those young at heart!). A pumpkin carving station will be available – bring your own pumpkin and we will help you carve it! An all-church potluck will start at 5pm and you are encouraged to bring a dish to share. Let's extend radical hospitality to others and invite your neighbors and friends!



For the month of October, we will continue to focus on collecting canned soups. Soups that include beans and/or meat are especially appreciated since they provide extra protein. Let's overfill the cart in the Narthex with our donations!



Looking ahead: Mark your calendars for Friday, November 22nd (7:30PM) and plan to attend the Harmony for Hunger concert being held at Linworth United Methodist Church (7070 Bent Tree Blvd, Columbus 43235).



This concert includes talent from the Central Ohio area and the Westerville Jazz Orchestra will be the featured performers. A silent auction will be available that includes a wide selection of items. Tickets will be available for purchase soon or you can purchase them at the event. Plan to attend and invite your friends!



EPIC

Sam Moore will be speaking about insurance at the next EPIC meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

10/1 April Bryant	10/13 Mary Smithson
10/2 Amy Taylor	10/14 Linda Johnson
10/4 Amy Kline	10/18 Bonnie Furr
10/4 Dave Loynachan	10/19 Rebecca Allen
10/4 Em J Oyster	10/22 Connie Loynachan
10/5 Glenda Argo	10/22 Ted Pfenning
10/6 Brian Alexander	10/24 Julie Kibler
10/8 Karly Dearth	10/27 Scott Hendershot
10/13 Allsin Smith	10/30 Sheri Lisak

ANNIVERSARY

10/12 John and Kathryn Bierley
10/15 Dave and Debbie Stephan
10/19 Brian and Koral Alexander
10/25 Jim and Judy Embree

Disciples

Alliance

**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

Rebecca Bean, Secretary: office@northwestchristian.org

Madison Buty, Child Caregiver

Karly Dearth, Child Caregiver

