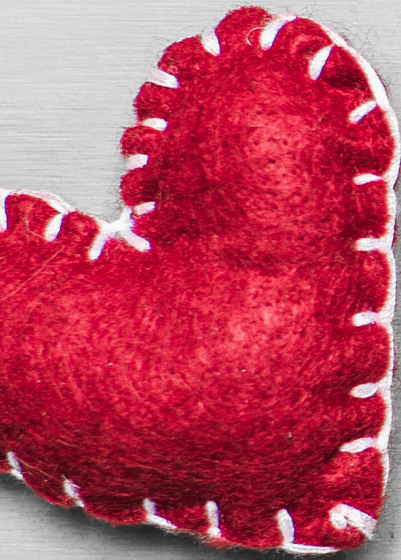


# February 2025



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**Northwest  
Christian Church**

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

# *A Note from Your Pastor*

*February, 2025*

*On January 26, 2025 we held a Congregational Meeting to review and approve the 2025 budget for Northwest Christian Church. While finances and numbers are just one measure of the work of the church, at this time, we can feel very good about this measure. We have a good story to tell.*

*In 2024 we passed a deficit budget. We passed it, stepping out in faith that we would make the numbers work and would find a way to cover the shortfall. At that time, the balance in our General Fund was extremely low. Through our Close the Gap campaign, combined with a generous matching gift, we raised the funds to more than offset the deficit in the budget. And by the end of 2024, our General Fund balance was over \$50,000.*

*We considered several options for lowering our monthly mortgage payments. Our Finance Team negotiated an Interest Only payment for a year, giving us time to investigate other possibilities. Everything was on the table for discussion – from refinancing to selling all or parts of our building or land. A core of dedicated people researched and met with outside consultants to determine if any of these solutions would meet our goal while still allowing us to meet our needs and continue our mission and ministry.*

*In the meantime, giving increased. Over the course of this year, we've seen an increase in the number of giving units, in the amount pledged, and in the actual amount given. Other efforts have increased building usage.*

*As the year progressed, it became clear to the Finance Team that we would not need to sell any of our building or property to pay the mortgage. By the end of the year, it was determined that we do not need to refinance at time. And a generous donation has decreased our outstanding mortgage amount by \$70,000. That balance now stands at just over \$500,000.*

*Our 2025 budget does again have a deficit. However, built into that budget is a full monthly mortgage payment, staff salary increases, and a return to budget line items supporting the missions of our church. And our current General Fund balance more than covers that deficit if needed.*

*Thank You, Northwest Christian Church members for faithfully investing in and contributing to the ministry and mission of our church. We are on a path to greater financial stability. And as we continue down that path, imagine how we might serve God in our neighborhood and our world if our financial resources don't consume as much of our attention.*

*I've always thought that a church should have one big audacious goal every year – a goal that takes your breath away and could change lives if it was accomplished. What if our 2025 goal was to eliminate our mortgage? Imagine looking at our income and being able to allocate those funds toward greater giving to our existing partners, beginning new mission initiatives, and sharing our gifts more freely to God's glory! What a story that would be. May it be so.*

*Pastor Joyce*

# Extravagant Generosity

***2 Corinthians 9:6-8 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.***

**When we look at our own finances, particularly in difficult economic times, cheerfulness is not usually our first reaction. Often our reaction is exceedingly neutral. If our financial situation is not good, the typical reaction is anxiety. Good cheer never enters into our experience.**

**Good cheer happens when we give to help others. When we consider our financial giving, it's the knowledge that others are benefitting that can make cheerfulness possible. With a foundation of generosity, givers need only to find out about needs. Arm-twisting or begging isn't necessary. We already have an attitude of willingness because we know, with God's help things will be OK.**

**Carla Nuenke, Extravagant Generosity**

# HEARD AND SEEN

# SPECIAL OFFERING 2025



Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

+ PHILIPPIANS 4:9

Week of  
**Compassion**   
weekofcompassion.org

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9



CHALICE ARTS SERIES  
PRESENTS

WANT AN AFTERNOON  
AT THE BEACH?  
LOOK NO FURTHER!

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE



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February 23rd at 3:00pm



Free Will Offering



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# EPIC

EPIC (NWCC group for those 50 and up) will meet on Tuesday, February 18th for pot-luck and a program, "Bringing Back the Pollinators," that will be of interest to all.



The potluck will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the program will start at 6:45. February's presenter will be Craig Toothman, Central Ohio Xerces Ambassador, Board member of the City of Columbus GreenSpot Program, and founder and current president of the Franklin County Pollinator Pathway. He is a retired dentist.

Dr. Toothman will speak about flower pollution, flower pollinators, their native plant habitat needs, and what we can do in our local communities to help with this serious situation. Members and guests of all ages are welcome!

## Open Mic, Heart and Mind Coffee House "Home"

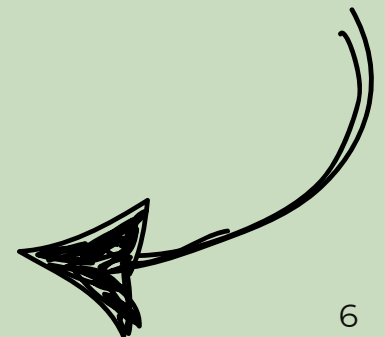
Come and share in the Gathering room on Sunday, March 9, 3-4pm. We will share stories, poems, and songs on the theme of "Home". Personal stories and original poems are invited, as well as the sharing of something meaningful to you, but written by someone else. You can sign up to share in one of these ways, or come and listen, or decide last minute to take the "stage". Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be served. All ages are invited, as are friends and neighbors. Look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex, sign up through this link or call Lori Beals 614-439-4342.

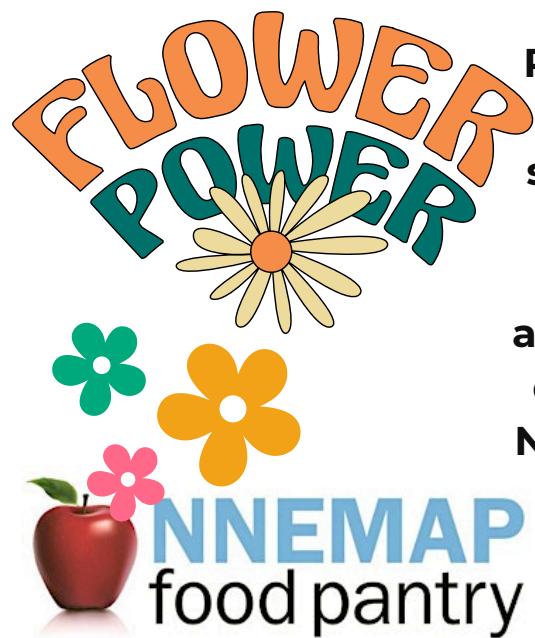


**Open Mic, Heart and Mind Coffee House - "Home"**

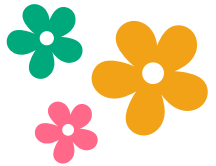
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[Sign in to Google to save your progress. Learn more](#)









Remember the days of the 60's when Flower Power was all the rage? We are taking it to a new level with our own "Flour Power" project to support the NNEMAP food pantry. Along with our breakfast foods collection, we will also be collecting bags of flour through March 16th. Our ambitious and energetic children will then break it down into individual packets to be distributed at NNEMAP. Bring your donations to the Narthex and support our Flour Power project!  
Peace Out, Debbie Stephan



## ***NNEMAP Statistics for 2024***

Check out these amazing statistics from the NNEMAP food pantry for 2024:

-  56,447 families/188,870 family members were served (approx. 25% increase over 2023)
-  14,984 unique families were served in which means that the average family came less than four times during the year
-  8,331 home deliveries were made (21% increase over 2023)
-  3,167 families were served through the refrigerated locker program. (started in Feb 2023)



## **HeartSisters**

Join us on Monday, February 24th as we continue to explore the storytelling of Jesus by looking at the Good Samaritan parable found in Luke 10. You are encouraged to read the parable before you come and you can optionally purchase the study guide, *The Parables: Understanding What Jesus Meant* by Gary Inrig, if you want to explore the parable more fully. Bring your own dinner from 6-7pm and then join in the discussion starting at 7pm. Invite a friend and share the hospitality of NWCC!



- 2/2 Renee Taylor
- 2/4 Lauren Jennings
- 2/7 Jane Russell
- 2/8 Barbara Young
- 2/9 Jerry Beal
- 2/12 Philip Sarsany
- 2/14 Gene Frye
- 2/15 Yuka Hendershot
- 2/16 Logan Kline
- 2/17 Pat Lantis
- 2/17 Clint Taylor
- 2/19 Becky Rogers
- 2/25 John Mueller
- 2/27 Rob McConathy
- 2/28 Karen king

2/14 Debra and Lawrence Miculka



Judy sold 189 jars and earned \$1,459 for the Cleveland Christian Home.

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

**Rev. Joyce Wealand, Minister: [pastor@northwestchristian.org](mailto:pastor@northwestchristian.org)**

**Dr. Tim Sarsany, Minister of Music: [tsarsany@gmail.com](mailto:tsarsany@gmail.com)**

**Rebecca Bean, Secretary: [office@northwestchristian.org](mailto:office@northwestchristian.org)**

**Madison Buty, Child Caregiver**

**Karly Dearth, Child Caregiver**

**Disciples  
LGBTQ+  
Alliance**

