

# JANUARY



Northwest  
Christian Church

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

# 2025

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# *A Note from Your Pastor*

*A new year begins...*

*But before we jump straight into 2025, I want to take a moment and reflect on the blessing of the last several weeks of Advent.*

*This may sound a bit clichéd, but my favorite words of Advent are: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. When we choose to think of these words, not as emotions that come over us, but as intentional choices we can make, they take on different meaning. Rev. Allen Harris, our Regional Minister and President for the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ), shared a wonderful message here earlier this year where he challenged us to cultivate Hope as a core value. We don't have to wait for circumstances to present themselves so that we can experience Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. In a time when there is disconnect and discord between friends and family, when there is unrest in our communities and in our souls, the Good News is that we can still choose to view our world through a lens of Hope. We can determine our words and actions based on a core value of Peace. We can recognize and find Joy in the presence of God in everything we do. And we can choose to live our lives in Love, knowing we are God's Beloveds, as is everyone else we meet.*

*The words of Advent can continue on with us into the future.*

*And now, we look forward to 2025. What story will we tell in 2025? And how will we tell it? As we take steps to share the love of God out into our world, where will our intention lead us? Can we be bold in our commitment to spread God's love to all?*

*My prayer is that as 2025 unfolds we will hold on to the "Yes" and "Let it Be with Me" that Mary found in her heart when the angel delivered the news of Jesus' upcoming birth. I pray we can, like Joseph, hear the words "Do not be afraid" as we discern our next steps and determine how we will answer God's call on our lives. The shepherds ran, and the angels sang. May we, in our time and place, find our legs and voices and tell the story so it is heard and felt and experienced in our world today. May it be so.*

*Blessings to you as the new year begins.*

*Pastor Joyce*

# Extravagant Generosity

*John 16:31-33 Jesus answered them, “Do you finally believe? In fact, you’re about to make a run for it—saving your own skins and abandoning me. But I’m not abandoned. The Father is with me. I’ve told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I’ve conquered the world. {The Message}*

When the new year arrives, we tend to increase our hope that things will get better. We make resolutions to improve. We party and celebrate. However, reality catches up with us fairly quickly and that hope on the new year disappears.

We have the same financial difficulties, the same relationship difficulties, and the same self-discipline difficulties we had only a few weeks ago. We still live in a sinful world with the same problems.

Jesus, in this passage, was trying to offer assurances to his disciples about the coming problems looming in their own lives as a result of his arrest and crucifixion. Notice that Jesus’ reaction is deep peace because the Father is with Him. If we had that strong of a sense of God’s presence in our lives, we would have deep peace also.

Money and relationships and our own failings would be of no importance. God’s participation in life with us would be our top awareness, not the world’s problems.

Let us pray that we come closer to that reality.

Carla Nuenke, Extravagant Generosity



You are invited to the

## “Welcome to 2025” Pancake Breakfast”

**When?** Sunday, January 12, 2025 from 9-10am

**Where?** Northwest Christian Church Fellowship Hall

**Why?** Because we love fellowship events at NWCC!

Invite your friends, families and neighbors and share the hospitality of NWCC with others.



## HeartSisters

We are looking forward to another year of Heart Sisters’ programs in 2025! Our next gathering will be **Monday, January 27th** and we will continue with the theme “I Love to Tell the Story”. We will look to Jesus as our storyteller and study selected Parables during January, February and March. Through these stories we can learn more about how Jesus used storytelling to share the good news of God’s love and forgiveness. If you would like more information about Heart Sisters or have ideas for programs, please contact Debbie Stephan, Carolyn Abels, or Jane Russell.

## EPIC



Spotlight on Chrissy Oyer: Insights on Banking Fraud

At the January 21st Epic event, we are thrilled to feature Chrissy Oyer from Huntington, who will be sharing her expertise on banking fraud.

Chrissy has extensive experience in the banking industry and has encountered numerous cases of fraud. She will provide valuable insights and practical tips to help you protect yourself from becoming a victim. Chrissy will recount some real-life stories of banking fraud that she has come across in her career. These stories highlight the various tactics fraudsters use to deceive individuals and businesses. By understanding these experiences, you can be better prepared to recognize and avoid similar situations.

Chrissy will also share essential tips on how to safeguard your finances.

To make learning about fraud prevention more engaging, we have included a game of Fraud Bingo! This interactive game will help you familiarize yourself with common fraud tactics and how to avoid them. We hope you find Chrissy's insights both informative and enjoyable. Stay vigilant and protect your finances!

 **New Fun & Excitement – It's a GAME GATHERING SESSION!** 

Tired of the winter blahs or feeling "blue?" You can join the excitement of being with other adults and families of your church in a game gathering session that will provide surprise and fun. Bring your favorite game(s), snacks, and beverage to share. Cups, ice, and fancy paper towel napkins provided. Dress is casual.

**Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 3 - 5 pm.!** Thus, don't be concerned with night driving (Google says for that date sunset will be 5:45 pm).



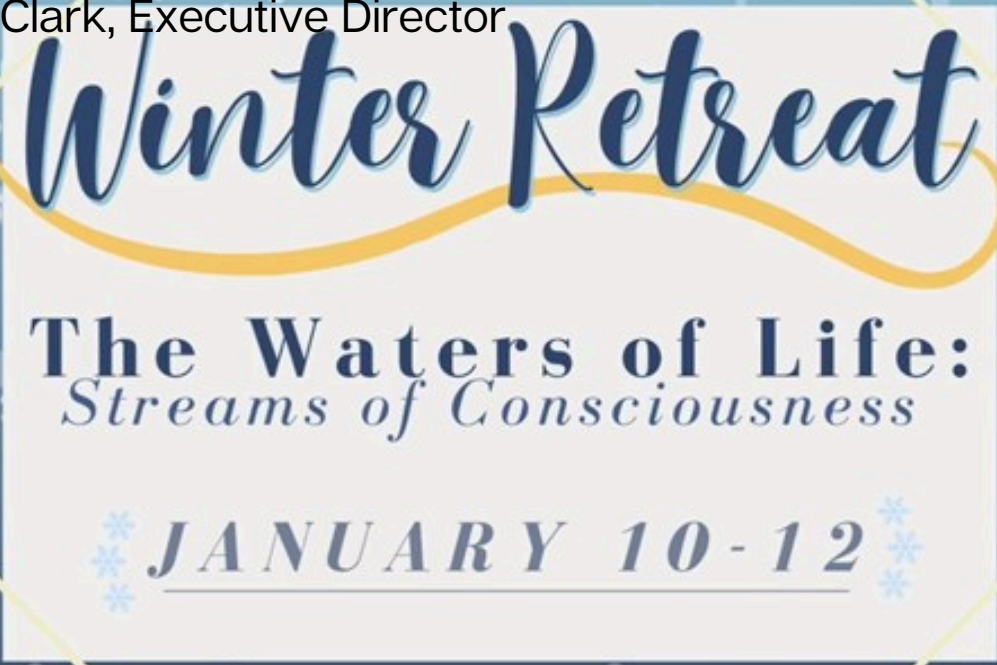
Thank you, Northwest Christian Church, for your generous donations to the Holiday Shoppe. Over 1500 children received gifts through this important outreach!



For the month of January and February, let's fill the cart with shelf-stable breakfast items such as cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, and granola bars.

Dear NWCC,  
The NNEMAP Food Pantry would like to thank you so much for your continued support of our mission and your recent gift of \$1,345. Your gift is gratefully acknowledged, and we truly appreciate your recognizing the importance of helping the hungry and less fortunate members of our community.

With Gratitude,  
Roy Clark, Executive Director



**Winter Retreat**  
**The Waters of Life:**  
*Streams of Consciousness*  
**JANUARY 10-12**

2025  
Advance  
Conference  
Winter  
Retreat - For  
adults ages  
19 - 30 (at  
least one  
year out of  
high school)  
Register at  
www.  
ccinoh.com

# HAPPY Birthday

1/1 Betty Hill

1/1 Tim Jameson

1/2 Jacob Badgeley

1/2 Tina Jameson

1/5 Debbie Stephan

1/9 Rebecca O'Dell

1/12 Michiel Brongers

1/12 Mateo Monterroso

1/19 Lisa Beaverson

1/21 Noah Allen

1/23 Rob Steffy

**Disciples**  
**LGBTQ+**  
**Alliance**

# HAPPY Anniversary

1/1 Jesse and Becky Rogers

1/17 Clint and Amy Taylor

1/31 Lanny and Bev Rhodes

## thank you

Thank you for your gracious and generous Christmas gift. Serving as your pastor this past year has been an honor and a privilege and I appreciate this expression of your support and love. I am eager to see what 2025 brings for us all.

Blessings and Happy New Year!

Pastor Joyce

**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**

