



# Norwalk United Methodist Church

Connecting Norwalk with God's purpose and Christ's love

thewalknorwalk.com

JULY 2023

## Upcoming Events

### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 - 12:00

### Sun, July 2nd

No Sunday School for Kids

### Tues, July 4th - Independence Day

Office closed

### Thur, July 6th @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Al-Alon meeting

Add'l 13th, 20th, 27th

### Sun, July 9th @ 10:00

Board Meeting- open to everyone

### Tue, July 11th @ 10:00 am

Coffee, Cookies, and Conversations

### Wed, July 12th @ 8:00 am-12:00 pm

Heartland AEA using Serendipity area

Add'l 26th

### Sun, July 30th- during service

"Noisy Can" Offering



### Sunday:

9:00am In-person & Live Stream via Facebook

Faith Formation classes for PK thru 5th grade during service

Adult classes available after the service

## Pastor Karen's Corner

Beth has included in this newsletter a thank you to all of our Vacation Bible School volunteers; I also want to express my deep thanks to Beth and to everyone who participated in this "a-meer-zing" event! (To get the play on words, you "had to be there"!)

What a blessing it is to be part of an event where everyone is excited to teach and learn about Jesus. As anyone who has done this knows, the teaching and learning is mutual - we learn as much or more from the kids we are leading as (we hope and trust) they are learning from us.

We now move straight into preparations for Lunch in the Park. We are preparing to serve up to 300 people! Someone recently asked me if there was so much more hunger in Norwalk, since the numbers served this summer (so far) are much higher than last year's. We know usage of the food pantry is going up - a long-standing trend, unfortunately. When we do Lunch in the Park, we don't ask about "need". We know people come because it helps them meet their nutritional needs, but I suspect everyone comes because it is a source of life-giving social connection. It is a time where people can enjoy being together and sharing a meal. The gift we give at Lunch in the Park is the gift of hospitality to all who would come.

We have received an invitation from West Des Moines United Methodist Church to earn money for our congregation by working with them at their Iowa State Fair food stand. They are the last church to have a food stand at the fair; we can support the ministries of their congregation and our own by signing up to help fill the 304 shifts that are required to staff the stand. They will donate directly to our church \$50 for each 4-hour shift, \$75 for each 6-hour shift, or \$100 for each 8-hour shift that a member of our church works. For more information and to sign up, you can call West Des Moines UMC at 515-279-0826, or visit their website at [wdmumc.org/group-pages/state-fair-stand/](http://wdmumc.org/group-pages/state-fair-stand/).

I hope this Fourth of July weekend affords you opportunities to celebrate freedom and community.

God Bless and Keep You,  
Pastor Karen

We want this newsletter to enhance communication within our faith community; if you have information/events/ideas to include, please send them to [norwalkumc@norwalkumc.org](mailto:norwalkumc@norwalkumc.org), and put "newsletter" in the subject line

## Warrior Giving

July 1- July 12

### Personal Care

Shampoo/conditioner, kids shampoo/conditioner, body wash, deodorant.

July 13 - Aug 9

### Shoe Love

Socks, underwear

## Church Construction

Starting in July, the education wing will be under some construction.

Serendipity preschool is expanding their program and therefore will be funding the construction of making the two east side classrooms into one larger classroom by tearing down the conjoining wall. This change is conducive to the Sunday School programming Beth provides, so the church board approved the change. We are excited for a larger classroom that will better serve Serendipity and Sunday School programming!

## United Women of Faith

The school supply drive is one of NAMA's Fall projects and our church is supporting Norwalk kindergarteners. United Women of Faith used \$150 of the \$330 raised from the spring dessert sale to purchase these supplies. Thanks to everyone for making this possible!

The next United Women of Faith gathering will be Wednesday, Sept 20th. Details to be announced in August!

## Upcoming Scripture Readings

### JULY 02 |

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

### JULY 09 |

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17;

Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### JULY 16 |

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11;

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### JULY 23 |

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25;

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### JULY 30 |

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39;

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was amazing! There were 52 kids that participated and they were able to learn more about Jesus through games, science experiments, music, crafts, and more! A HUGE thank you to the 25 volunteers who made the 3 days possible, along with those who donated supplies and money! During the science experiments, one kid said, "This is better than Fortnite!" (which is a current popular video game). Thank you all so much for your support!

## Community Outreach Shoe Love

Our church has blessed our Norwalk Community in numerous ways! Another opportunity is to help with the big NAMA "Shoe Love" project. Right now, socks that are "child sized large-crew cut" for boys and girls are what is needed from our church. Our contributions from the Noisy Can Offering are also supporting this project.

## Lunch in the Park

Our first time for serving Lunch in the Park is Friday, July 7th. We will be serving chicken nuggets. A meal-train for food donations has been sent out. Please make sure food is at the church by Thursday, July 6th. Right now, we need more cookies and will also need more volunteers to help serve. If able, volunteers are asked to be at the church at 10:00 am on Friday, July 7th. We will start loading at 10:15 am and need to be all set up at the park by 10:45 am. Lunch is served from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm.

## July

### Birthdays and Anniversaries

Stacy & Terry Rosonke- 6th

Rebecca & David Selene- 8th

Carol & Steve Sisney- 9th

Nancy & Steve Jacobson- 10th

Wanda & Dewey Goodrich Jr- 14th

Haylie Spurr- 1st

Tom Riggs- 13th

Kaitlyn Warren- 1st

Bradley Dougherty- 15th

Ashley Mowery- 3rd

Deb Stanley- 18th

Meribeth Wright- 3rd

Dewey Goodrich Jr- 19th

Sarah Tew- 4th

Cathy Riggs- 19th

Joni Rench- 6th

Andrew Grant- 21st

Cyndie Strawn- 7th

Marc Collis- 23rd

Alexander Rench- 11th

Beth Greiner- 24th

Donnie Rench- 11th

Tyler Landstrum- 28th

Stacy Rosonke- 28th