



Norwalk United Methodist Church

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

thewalknorwalk.com

JANUARY 2024

Mon, Jan 1st- New Years Day Office closed
Wed, Jan 3rd @ 10:00 am Women's Bible Study Add'l 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st
Wed, Jan 3rd @ 5:30 SPRC Meeting
Thur, Jan 4th- Serendipity Resumes
Sun, Jan 7th- after worship Christmas Decoration Tear Down
Tue, Jan 9th @ 10:00 am Coffee, Cookies, and Conversations
Wed, Jan 10th @ 5:45-6:45 Confirmation Add'l 17th, 24th, 31st
Wed, Jan 10th @ 5:30 at Pyra UWF Social
Sun, Jan 14th @ 10:15 am Board Meeting- open to everyone
Sun, Jan 21st @ 10:00 am Congregational Meeting
Sun, Jan 28th during worship Guest Speaker Rev. Paul Witmer
Sun, Jan 28th during worship Noisy Can Offering

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, and put "newsletter" in the subject line

p. 515.981.4251
e. norwalkumc@norwalkumc.org
a. 1100 Gordon Ave



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

Happy New Year! I hope these Twelve Days of Christmas have brought moments of joy, laughter, and love, and a renewed sense of God's abiding presence. I also want to thank you for the generous gift and the Christmas cards. Doug and I deeply appreciate all the ways you show us your support and care. It is a joy to serve you!

Friends, we will not have time for winter doldrums to set in this month. I want to lift up several events/programs that are happening in our church, for your prayer support and participation.

On the 3rd, our Staff-Parish board members will be meeting with our District Superintendent to work on a profile of our congregation that will be used in the discernment process for assigning your next pastor. As part of this discernment, members of the congregation also will be asked to participate in a congregational survey, so you can indicate what is most important to you about your life together and our congregation's call to ministry. More information on this will be coming soon.

On the 10th, we will have four young people starting confirmation class! Please pray for Grace, Kaitlyn, Max and Sydney, that this will be a great experience for them of growing and finding joy in their faith.

On the 21st, we will have a congregational meeting following worship. We'll be sharing a working budget for 2024, begin the follow-up on our World Café work, and have some other information and updates to share. As you think about our top three World Café topics (building relationships and community, both in and outside the church, children and youth and outreach for church growth and mission), consider where and how you want to be involved in this ongoing discernment and planning.

On the 28th, we will have a special guest in our Sunday worship. The Rev. Paul Witmer will participate in leadership with me, and I've invited him to share about the ministry he is currently leading. Paul is a Disciples of Christ pastor who is currently appointed as pastor of Women at the Well United Methodist Church, a UMC congregation located inside the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville, Iowa. He also was one of my teachers in the PrairieFire program, which led me into training as a Spiritual Director.

Just think, this is only the beginning of 2024! We have so much to be thankful for, and so much good to do together, for the sake of the kingdom.

-Pastor Karen

"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:3-6

Warrior Giving

The new monthly Warrior Giving information will be released later this month

Christmas with NAMA Thank You

On behalf of the Norwalk Area Ministerial Association, thank you for your generous donation of gifts to 4 singles and 2 families for the Warrior Giving Project and more.

Please know that your generosity allowed us to provide needed assistance to individuals and families and gifts for children at Christmastime that are struggling within our community.

All contributions to Norwalk Area Ministerial Association are tax deductible to the full extent of the IRS regulations. NAMA is an IRS qualified 501(c)3 organization, and our tax identification number is 52-2342931.

January 7th

Christmas Tear Down

On Sunday, January 7th, after worship, we will be taking down and putting away the Christmas decorations. We could use numerous volunteers as many hands make light work! Yummy cookies will be provided to help give us energy to clean up!

Thank You

Thank you all very much for the Christmas gift. Working here is one of the biggest blessings in my life and I am so incredibly thankful for the opportunity I have to serve the church each year. I am looking forward to 2024 with you all!
-Beth Greiner

I want to say thank you for the Christmas gift. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Happy New Year.
-JoAnn Chapman
Office Admin.

United Women of Faith

Part of UWF's mission is to develop a supportive fellowship and expand concepts of missions by participating in global ministries of the church. Thanks to each of you, we did that in 2023!

UWF raised over \$1,000 from the Spring Dessert Sale and Christmas Cookie Walk and used the funds to provide \$150 worth of school supplies in Norwalk, \$750 for UWF Global Missions and \$250 to Families Forward (was Bidwell Riverside/Hawthorne Hill). We also created 28 Dignity Kits that will be used by UMC for mission needs throughout the world.

Our next social is Wednesday Jan. 10th at 5:30 at Pyra Pizzeria. Let Jodi Henke (515-490-4066) or Brenda Stephany (515-480-8245) know if you plan to attend or need a ride.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

- JANUARY 07 |**
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
- JANUARY 14 |**
1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51
- JANUARY 21 |**
Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20
- JANUARY 28 |**
Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Kate Baldwin- 1st | Nicole Bomstadt- 16th |
| Sawyer Sadler- 1st | Brenda Stephany-18th |
| Benton Bruner- 2nd | Angi Johnson- 22nd |
| Christin Grant- 2nd | Terry Endres- 23rd |
| Allie Fuller- 8th | David Selene- 23rd |
| Cindy Spurr- 8th | Abel Mendoza- 26th |
| Elise Rouse- 10th | James Bahr- 27th |
| Laura Larson- 11th | Marlys Hansen- 27th |
| Cassie Mitchell- 11th | Dave Warren- 27th |
| Tamsyn Riggs- 11th | Wyatt Mitchell- 30th |
| Caitlyn Rouse-12th | |