

Northwest Reminder

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JANUARY 2018



**A Newsletter serving the congregation and friends of
Northwest United Protestant Church**



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Dear Friends,

I was reading through the sermon Fred Craddock preached at his brother Bill's funeral. It's a beautiful sermon (most of his sermons are), but there was one passage in particular that grabbed my attention. Fred must have been a seminary professor when he wrote it, because he was talking about his students, and how every once in a while, one would give up. Not all at once, like the aspiring pastor who suddenly decides he's really meant to be a pastry chef. Or even like the one who, upon taking a few classes in biblical criticism, decides it's all a sham and transfers into the business program. No, this kind of giving up is much more gradual:



Zeal cools, faith weakens, appetite for Christian enterprises disappears, the springs dry up, the soul is parched, and you can see it in eyes grown dull and flat. What happened? Did evil storm his citadel and take over? No. Did much study drive him into doubt? No. Did attractive alternatives to ministry turn his head? No. Nothing quite so dramatic. He simply made the fatal error of assuming that spending so much time talking about God was adequate substitute for talking with God.

Though few of us spend our days as seminarians do, reading and writing about faith with such regularity that we might fool ourselves into thinking we're living it, we are still — in our own way — vulnerable to that same error. Even outside the walls of a seminary, we can fill our lives with enough church, enough righteous speech, enough volunteer hours, enough religious literature to make it *feel* as if we are faithful when in fact, we have forgotten the most critical component: a relationship with God.

Now, don't get me wrong: Reading, writing, serving, and sharing the Good News in word and deed are all part of this endeavor of ours. But they aren't *all* of it. Finding time to give God thanks and praise, to say what's on your mind and to listen to what God is saying, to spend time in God's creation and to admire all that God has made — to enjoy the companionship of Life and Light and Love within you, around you, and beyond you — that cannot go undone. Not if we want the tender bud of faith to bloom and grow.

As we enter into 2018, my prayer for all of us — those whose faith is woven into every fiber of their being to those who find it fugitive and hard to hold onto — is that we claim the resolve, the desire, and the space for a conversation with God this year. For one who calls us is faithful (1 Thess. 5:24). Let's answer.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Liv

Happy New Year ♡ *Happy New Year* ♡ *Happy New Year*

BITS & PIECES

A SPECIAL THANKS TO . . .

the wonderful people who helped decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent season and Christmas Eve service—**Joe Popp, John & Carolyn Lawson, Donna Whiteside, Joanna Flaten, Gracelyn O'Hara, Jim & Anna Kion, Pastor Liv Gibbons, Cassandra Humphrys, Rick & Deb Donahoe, Onnie Adams** and **Larry & Jonna Hansmeier . . .** all the folks who put together our great *Advent Celebration/Holiday Potluck*—**Connie & Donna Eckard, Jim & Sue Jewett, Donna Whiteside, Jim & Anna Kion, Pastor Liv Gibbons, Deb & Rick Donahoe, Onnie Adams** and **Nick Fichter** (*I hope I haven't forgotten anyone—there were so many!*) . . . and especially to our 3 wise persons—**Rick Donahoe, Connie Eckard** and **Sue Jewett**—and accompanist extraordinaire **Nick Fichter . . .** to **Donna Whiteside, Shirley Wolf, Sue Jewett, Anna Kion** and everyone else who assisted with the *Doris Barott Funeral . . .* all the many people who helped out with the *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service . . .* and to the night owls who showed up for our first ever *Watchnight Service* on New Year's Eve—**Mike Dodson, Kay Divine, Connie & Donna Eckard, Joyce Willis, Pastor Liv Gibbons, Nick Fichter** and **Rick Donahoe.**



Meet Our New Intern!

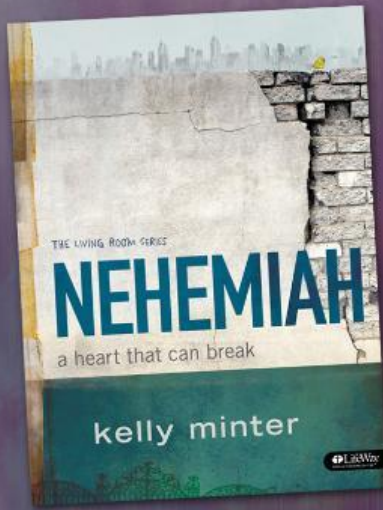
In September the church board and the Elders approved a proposal for Rick Donahoe to serve as an intern for the church for the calendar year 2018. This internship is a part of Rick's education along with studying at Whitworth University for a Master's degree in Theology. Beginning in January, Rick will work for ~10 hours a week focusing on church leadership, pastoral care, outreach and mission, and worship.

As an intern Rick will not be employed by the church. He will be supervised by Pastor Liv during his internship. The Elders will "walk alongside" him during this time. Rick will continue to serve as an Elder and as the church treasurer.

Rick, who retired from the Reading Foundation in December, is currently in a period of discernment, listening and praying about how God wants to use him in the future.

SPECIAL JANUARY DATES & TIMES - 2018

- * New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *Dec 31—Jan 1st @ 10:30pm*
- * New Year's Day—OFFICE CLOSED, *January 1st*
- * Elder's Meeting, *January 4th @ 9:30am in the Parlor*
- * Epiphany, *January 6th*
- * Baptism of the Lord, *January 7th*
- * Breakfast Bunch, *January 11th @ 7:45am*
- * Disciple Women's Ministries, *January 13th @ 10am*
- * Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday (Observed), *January 15th*
- * Board Meeting, *January 16th @ 5:30pm*
- * Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18th-25th*
- * Food 4 Friends, *January 22nd @ 1pm*
- * Breakfast Bunch, *January 25th @ 7:45am*



JOIN US!

Join the ladies of
Disciples Women's Ministries
beginning
Saturday, January 13th
@ 10am in the Parlor
for 7 study sessions
on Nehemiah.

lifeway.com/kellyminter

Lifeway | Women

Nehemiah: A Heart That Can Break - Bible Study

Nehemiah's heart was so broken for those in need that he left the comfort of his Persian palace to help them. Like Kelly's other studies in the Living Room Series, you'll find authentic Bible teaching, recipes, and a relational approach. Nehemiah also includes 7 video sessions and real-life ways to put feet to your faith. Are you ready to let God break your heart for a hurting, lost world and move you in compassion to be the hands and feet of Jesus?

DWM is a women's group but if there are any men who are interested in joining the study we welcome them happily. We're doing Nehemiah which we will start at our January 13th meeting.



Many thanks to all those who so generously donated items over Christmas to deserving folks in need: Jefferson School, Diaper and Food

Banks, and World Relief. Your gifts are appreciated, as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. *Carolyn Lawson*

1/22/18—FOOD 4 FRIENDS

Food 4 Friends will be meeting this coming **Monday, January 22nd at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**. As always, everyone is welcome! No talent necessary, just a pair of helping hands and maybe some fresh fruit or veggies to share. We'd even love a few latecomers to help deliver the goodies!

WITNESS OF THE SAINTS

Sunday, December 3:

Worship: 66
 Christian Education: 0
 Nursery: 5

In Finance:

General Fund	\$	3,245.84
Capital Campaign		220.00
NA Rent (Steps & Trad.)		50.00
NA Rent (Rush Hour)		50.00
Building Fund		35.00
Total	\$	3,600.84

Sunday, December 17:

Worship: 61
 Christian Education: 6
 Nursery: 6

In Finance:

General Fund	\$	2,225.00
Hospitality		275.00
Capital Campaign		190.00
Credit Card Payment		100.00
Funeral Pianist		75.00
Restitution		5.80
DWM		5.00
Total	\$	2,875.80

Sunday, December 10:

Worship: 75
 Christian Education: 10
 Nursery: 3

In Finance:

General Fund	\$	1,939.51
Capital Campaign		120.00
NA Rent (Free Spirit)		50.00
TOPS Rent		50.00
Organ Repair		20.00
Food Bank		20.00
Total	\$	2,199.51

Sunday, December 24:

Worship: 61/48
 Nursery: 4/4

In Finance:

General Fund	\$	2,419.00
Jefferson Elementary		238.00
Capital Campaign		70.00
Organ Repair		20.00
Christmas Family		10.00
Total	\$	2,757.00

Sunday, December 31:

Worship: 29/14
 Christian Education: 0
 Nursery: 4

In Finance:

General Fund	\$	1,086.00
Capital Campaign		70.00
Christmas Gift		50.00
Food Bank		5.00
Total	\$	1,211.00



January Serving Sundays

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Elder	O. Adams	B. Butherus	P. Cahow	M. Dodson
Worship Leader	C. Eckard	J. Flaten	S. Hall-Mullen	L. Hansmeier
Deacons Bold names are Team Leaders	Team 1- D. Whiteside R. Gifford C. Rawlings J. Jakes J. Lawson	Team 2- K. Giardinelli B. Nundahl O. Adams A. Kincaid E. Laughery	Team 3- L. Hansmeier B. Neslin T. Neslin J. Flaten B. Miller	Team 4- S. Hall-Mullen M., S., G. & A. O'Hara
Sound	R. Donahoe	J. Brinson-Wagner	R. Pohto	J. Brinson-Wagner
Counters	D. Whiteside J. Willis	J. Jakes A. Willis	S. Jewett S. Hall-Mullen	D. Whiteside S. Jewett
Greeter	J. Jakes	B. Pohto	C. Lawson	O'Haras
Sunday School	J. Willis TBA	S. Hall-Mullen TBA	J. Lawson TBA	P. Cahow TBA
Coffee Hour	Humphrys Lawsons TBA	D. Eckard A. Kion TBA	TBA TBA TBA	TBA TBA TBA



12-Jesse Brinson-Wagner
14-Scott Becker
24-Deb Donahoe

JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS



Northwest United Protestant Church

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Staff:

Liv Gibbons	Pastor
Joyce Willis	Secretary
Nick Fichter	Choir Director/Musician
April Willis & Rachel Call	Nursery

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