



# Northwest Reminder

VOLUME L, ISSUE XI



A Monthly Publication  
**DECEMBER 2020**

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**A Newsletter serving the congregation  
and friends of  
Northwest United Protestant Church**  
*LOVING AND SERVING CHRIST  
IN OUR COMMUNITY AND WORLD*



## A “Gentle” Reminder



Dear NWUP members and friends;



The final “Gentle Reminder” of 2020 is here. What a year it’s been! When I started writing this (almost) weekly pastoral letter last March, my goal was to offer comfort as we all struggled with the changing Covid-19 landscape. I wish I could say that much has changed, but we are still in that blurry landscape, between the present and an all-clear future. We are still waiting and hoping.

That’s what Advent is all about. Waiting and hoping. Waiting for the celebration of a birth that would change the world. Waiting for the return of Jesus. Waiting for peace, and joy to spring forth and disrupt our “bleak midwinter”. As we wait, we are hoping also. Hoping for a cure...a cure for the virus, and a cure that would end wars, and greed, hostility, and fear. That’s a lot to wait and hope for.

As Christians, our waiting and hoping is active. We wait and watch, and work for peace. We wait and watch and work to spread God’s love. How are you waiting and watching during this season? Where are you finding hope and joy?

Let us wait with joy and hope that all will be made well through Christ.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Miriam



### **Thank You!**

To all those who have donated to NWUP Church and to those who have continued to support the church even through this pandemic that we are facing. We value you as a congregation and we love seeing you every Sunday. Without your continued support and dedication to service in our community we would not be Northwest United Protestant Church! Stay warm and stay safe in our world that we face together. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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Here is the poem, *Advent Credo*, by Fr. Daniel Berrigan (1921-2016). Fr. Berrigan was a Jesuit priest, life-long peace activist, poet, and teacher. This poem is from his book, *Testimony: The Word Made Flesh* (Orbis Books, 2004)

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

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## Church News

- ◇ Help decorate the sanctuary with fresh poinsettias! On Sunday, December 20th, 2020. Bring your flowers to decorate for Christmas Eve. Flowers can be given in honor or memory of a loved one. Please give the church office the name of the person you are honoring or remembering for the bulletin. Flowers may be taken home after December 27th.
- ◇ Advent Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7:00p.m. On Zoom. Join Pastor Miriam for an hour of study and centering prayer during the Advent season. December 2, 9, 16, 23.
- ◇ The season of Advent is the four week time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. This year Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, and continues until Christmas Eve. To help you celebrate the Advent season, NWUP elders are providing Advent bags with a candle, a daily devotional, children's activities, for families with small children, and a treat. You can pick up your Advent bag after worship on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29, or in the church office during office hours. The elders will also deliver bags.



## Social Concerns

- ◇ Hat and Mitten Tree will be in the Narthex starting November 29th, 2020.
- ◇ “The Tri-Cities Food Bank thanks you for your recent donation of \$200 received 10-1-2020. It is heartwarming to experience the kindness and spirit of sharing in our community, and I assure you that the donation will be put ot good use helping to feed the people in need in our area. We are very grateful.” Sincerely, VJ Meadows, Executive Director, Tri-Cities Food Bank.
- ◇ Operation Christmas Child yielded 27 gift boxes. If you missed out on the boxes, but still want to give, you may “Build a Gift Box Online” for \$25 virtually at: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>. Thanks to all who provided gifts to bring smiles to young faces.

## News From the Pews

- ◇ Thank you for the meals and the prayers for the Galpin Family. We are hoping to get over the COVID-19 virus.  
- The Galpins
  
- ◇ If I were there in person, I'd share: Stories about Operation Christmas Child: While leaving Dollar Tree, we saw a Mom and her little girl carrying the red & green Christmas Child box. The little girl was so excited, because they were going to fill the box. She was asked to decide "boy or girl" box, and the little girl was jumping up and down with joy, deciding what items to fill the box with.  
Earlier that day we'd delivered your 27 gift boxes to the collection center. The volunteer who unloaded our boxes shared her experience of her 2019 trip to the Philippines to deliver the gift boxes in person. She told us about how happy the children and teens were to receive the gifts. Thanks to all who donated and prayed for the donors and recipients.  
- Carolyn L.
  
- ◇ Hello from Petroskey, Michigan! We are settling in to our new house, next door to our son and his family. We are preparing for winter-snow tires, new special windshield wipers, getting snow blowers prepared, buy new "tall" snow boots, and getting a gas fireplace insert installed. We have been visited "remotely" by our deacon at our church where our son is the pastor. I have joined a Zoom men's bible study and Deb is knitting a prayer shawl for the church.  
Our household goods still have not arrived. We should have our stuff just before Thanksgiving. Our neighbor is the manager of the local ski resort and he has asked me to come work for him part-time. (He really likes to hire retired folks cause they are so responsible!) So I will be a "Top Lift Operator" running one of the ski lifts.  
We get to watch our son preach every Sunday, which is almost a great as watching Miriam. We miss you all and hope you all stay healthy and safe.  
- The Donahoes



# WITNESS OF THE SAINTS

## Sunday, November 01:

Online Worship: 136

### **In Finance:**

Loose Offering	\$5.00
Rent	\$62.50
General Fund	\$1285.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1352.50</b>



## Sunday, November 08:

Online Worship: 145

### **In Finance:**

Rent	\$62.50
General Fund	\$1430.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1492.50</b>

12/1	Jolene Giardinelli
12/1	Ross Burton
12/2	Lexi Coles
12/3	Anna Kion
12/3	Bud & Tammy Neslin Anniversary
12/5	Donna Whiteside
12/6	Bud Neslin
12/14	Joyce Willis
12/18	Mike Dodson
12/24	Rick Donahoe
12/25	Connie Eckard
12/29	Melvin & Onnie Adams Anniversary

## Sunday, November 15:

Online Worship: 76

### **In Finance:**

Oper. X-mas child	\$9.00
General Fund	\$546.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$555.00</b>

## Sunday, November 22:

Online Worship: 299

### **In Finance:**

General Fund	\$1762.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1762.50</b>

## Sunday, November 29:

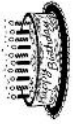
Online Worship: 0

### **In Finance:**

General Fund	\$1525.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1525.00</b>

(Printed Before the 29th)

# DECEMBER 2020

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
		01	02	03	04	05
	Jolene Giardinelli Ross Burton	Lexi Coles FH Reserved 10am Handbells Bible Study 7 pm	Anna Kion Bud & Tammy Anniversary	Pastor Day Off	Donna Whiteside FH Reserved	
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
<b>Bud Neslin</b> Second Sunday in Advent	FH Reserved	FH Reserved 10am Handbells Stew & Fin 330p Bible Study 7 pm	Hanukkah	Pastor Day Off	FH Reserved	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Third Sunday in Advent Elder's Meet 7pm	Joyce Willis FH Reserved	Board Meet 430pm	FH Reserved 10am Handbells Bible Study 7 pm		Mike Dodson Pastor Day Off	FH Reserved
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Fourth Sunday in Advent	FH Reserved 1st Day of Winter		FH Reserved 10am Handbells Bible Study 7 pm	Rick Donahoe Christmas Eve Service	Connie Eckard Christmas Day Pastor Day Off	FH Reserved
27	28	29	30	31		
	FH Reserved	Melvin & ONnie Anniversary	FH Reserved 10am Handbells	New Years Eve	2021 Office Closed New Years Day	



After the Three Wise Men left,  
the Three Wisest Women arrived.

## Northwest United Protestant Church

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Miriam Gentle ..... Pastor  
 Anna Kion .....Moderator  
 Erica Nunez.....Secretary  
 Sue Lincoln..... Choir Director/Pianist

**NORTHWEST REMINDER** is a non-profit monthly newsletter  
 published by Northwest United Protestant Church,  
 1312 Sacramento Blvd., Richland, WA, 99354

**Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**