



Northwest United
Protestant Church
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

February 14, 2021
Rev. Miriam Gentle



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Richland, WA 99354



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NWUP Church
Disciples of Christ

2020 Annual Report

Northwest United Protestant Church

***“LOVING AND SERVING CHRIST IN OUR
COMMUNITY AND WORLD”***

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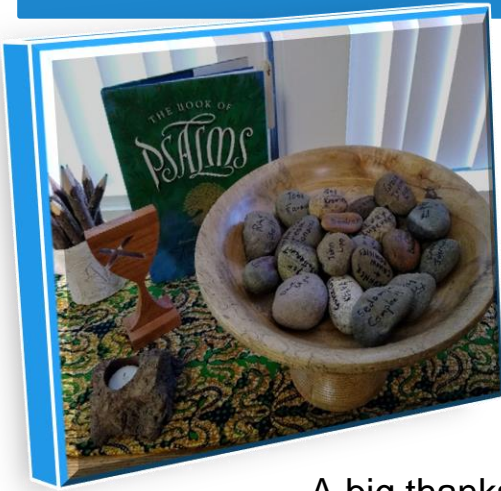
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Acknowledgment



We would like to thank the Members of the Board, the Commission Chairs, and the Steward Chairs for their input that helped make this Annual Report possible. The hard work you do every month to provide a report to the Board Meeting was reflected by the contributions you all have made to this Annual Report. Thank you very much for taking the time to help provide an accurate picture of our church family.

A big thanks to Erica Nunez, our Secretary, who faithfully took the separate reports and combined them into one document in preparation for making this final report. Her diligence in editing and formatting this document helped make this a professional report worth spending our time to read it. Your advice to the coordinators of this report was invaluable as well.

Respectfully
Rev. Miriam Gentle, Pastor
Anna Kion, Moderator

Ministry Report



In January 2020, I accepted the call to be the new pastor at Northwest United Protestant Church. As I prepared for a new ministry, I gathered books and articles on how to begin a new call successfully. I underlined pertinent passages and outlined my first three months. My family's move across the country went well and we settled in Richland with great anticipation. I was eager to get to know this church and this community. Of course, none of us could envision how 2020 would unfold. All my books and seminary education could not have prepared me for the pandemic. My first Sunday, March 22, 2020, was online, streaming from my home on Facebook. No seminary class ever prepared me for such a scenario.

I could not have served as pastor during 2020 without the support of the wonderful congregation at NWUP. The resilient spirit and the willingness to try new ways of being church was (and continues to be) refreshing. Even in the middle of lockdown, NWUP was able to continue to worship. Some highlights of 2020 help underscore how caring and devoted this congregation is and how it continues to live out its vision statement: "Loving and serving Christ in our community and world." In 2020 I provided pastoral leadership in several ways:

- ❖ Began online worship through Facebook and YouTube.
- ❖ Created drive-in worship during the summer months and provided a new way to safely gather.
- ❖ Celebrated my installation during a drive-in service in August.
- ❖ Helped select and purchase new sound equipment for the drive-in service.
- ❖ Held weekly meetings with the moderator, Anna Kion.
- ❖ Taught several Bible studies on Zoom.
- ❖ Helped move commission meetings and board meetings to an online platform (Zoom).
- ❖ Participated in weekly regional clergy meetings for support and to learn how other congregations were dealing with the pandemic, with Rev. Sandy Messick, regional minister for the Northern Lights region.
- ❖ Updated the church's Facebook page and website, and currently, maintain it by posting inspirational messages and information that is helpful to our members.

- ❖ Supported the music ministry of the church and helped restart the handbell choir.
- ❖ Increased the communication with the congregation through a weekly pastoral letter and sending out a copy of the sermon and weekly bulletin.
- ❖ Encouraged the congregation through pastoral calls.

Through all this, I have continued my Doctor of Ministry studies at Phillips Theological Seminary. These classes have been challenging, but I love to learn, so I am energized with each class. Fortunately, all classes have been online, and my time away from the congregation during these intensive classes has been minimized. I am currently a third of the way through the doctoral program.

It has been a difficult, but exciting year, one that I could never have prepared sufficiently for. The church has been challenged, especially financially. I still struggle with finding ways to reach the people that cannot log on through Zoom or find us on Facebook. I worry that some people will not come back. But through it all, I have learned to depend on God for guidance and wisdom, and courage. I have leaned heavily on the scripture from the book of Esther, “And who knows but that you have come to your... position for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)

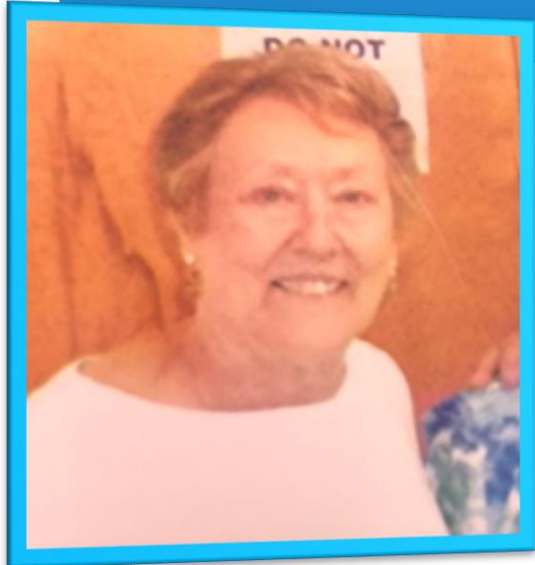
I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as pastor at NWUP. It has been a blessing to be in ministry with this caring and loving congregation and I look forward to doing great things for God in 2021.

Rev. Miriam Gentle
Pastor



Rev. Miriam Gentle and her family at Christmas Eve Service.

Moderator Report



As we look back on the past year of 2020, we realize all the changes that have occurred in the life of Northwest United Protestant Church as a result of the Corona-19 Virus Pandemic. We said good-bye to our Supply pastor and welcomed our new pastor just as we had to close the doors to the church due to the Pandemic. We went from planning for services in Lent with All Saints Church to stopping all in-door church services. We began streaming services ahead of time to be shown on-line on Sundays. In the summer we instituted

Drive-in services with some of the congregation in cars and others throughout the United States able to watch it on-line at home. In October we were finally able to have limited indoor seating for worship services while live-streaming the service to those in our community who were required to stay at home because of the pandemic.

Our rental groups including the Early Learning Co-op were required to shut down their meetings in the early Spring as well. The Board had previously increased the monthly fees for the rental groups other than Early Learning Co-op. When the rental groups were allowed to return to the church in late Fall, new use agreements were prepared for each group reflecting the increase in the rental fee and providing for updated language to cover the new Covid-19 Requirements from the Center for Disease Control, the State of Washington Health Department and the Benton Franklin County Health Department.

Our new Pastor, Miriam Gentle, was installed as our Settled Pastor on August 23, 2020. Pastor Gentle arrived at the beginning of the pandemic and one of her first tasks was to close the church. She immediately started our live streaming services which have reached many homes across the nation and have been well received by all. Pastor Gentle conducted Zoom Bible Studies throughout the year which were very well attended and received by our congregation and others.

Our Board, the Elders, and a number of the commissions have continued to meet during the year using Zoom. The business was carried out efficiently and effectively. Our commission members transferred to Zoom meetings with little or no effort and

continued with the business of the church. A Covid-19 Committee was named in late Spring. Their first task was to prepare a Covid-19 Exposure Control, Mitigation, and Recovery Plan. The plan has been updated several times over the year to include the changes that were made by the CDC, State of Washington, and Benton Franklin County Health Departments. This committee also prepared the church sanctuary for occupancy once we were allowed to start up live services again.

Deb Donahoe, our Co-Moderator, moved to Michigan in late October. We have truly missed her. In her absence, the undersigned agreed to continue one more year as the Moderator. This will be my third and final year per The Blue Book.

2020 has been a challenge for all of us but we have been Blessed with our ability to be creative and to have weekly worship services throughout the year. In 2021 may we continue to work together to bring God's love into the world.

Deb Donahoe
Anna Kion
Co-Moderators



Winter at NWUP Church. You can see the snow on the ground.

Elder's Report



Beginning in January of 2020 the following members served as Elders:

Onnie Adams, Mike Dodson, Anna Kion, Pat Cahow, Brad Butherus, and Deb Donahoe. In August, Deb Donahoe offered her resignation because they were moving. When asked, Tammy Neslin graciously agreed to step in and finish her term. Interim Pastor Peter Kalunian attended meetings from January through March. Pastor

Miriam Gentle attended March through December.

Needless to say, this has been quite a year that got turned upside down with the arrival of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Our new Pastor Miriam Gentle and husband Stephen arrived in Richland the week everything changed. She visited the Elder's March meeting merely to observe and meet us. Little did we know that our Interim Pastor, Peter Kalunian would be unable to be there for his last Sunday on March 15th. When Miriam was informed on a Friday, she volunteered to preach her first sermon.

Miriam was completely proactive in realizing NWUP needed to continue with church services online. With encouragement and support from leaders of our congregation, plus using Steve's iPhone, the church managed to successfully post live the first Sunday, March 22nd. It was posted and services continue on Facebook and the Northwest United Protestant Church website as well as YouTube. The Elders continued recording prayers for the services. As the weather warmed we began to hold services in the church parking lot. The chill of Fall arrived and once again we returned with safe distancing into the sanctuary thus continuing to give prayers in celebration of The Lords Supper.

In April the Elders began holding their meeting via Zoom. What follows is a brief list of the Elder's meeting agendas and activities:

- ❖ We met the second week of each month. We began each meeting in a prayerful or inspirational and supportive way. Shared concerns and joys of contact with friends in our congregation were shared and held in prayer.

- ❖ In preparation for Miriam and Stephen's arrival, we spearheaded "The Pounding," which was a donation of mainly food items to stock their home when they arrived.
- ❖ We created a Calling Tree divided among the Elders and Sue Jewett to keep in touch with families in our congregation.
- ❖ We put together Advent bags for every family in our congregation and delivered them to their homes before Christmas.
- ❖ In November Miriam presented a program on the Role of the Elders in the Disciples of Christ Church. Essentially we are teachers, shepherds, and visionaries with a calling to pray in all circumstances.

Onnie Adams
Chair



Sign at the entrance of the Sanctuary.

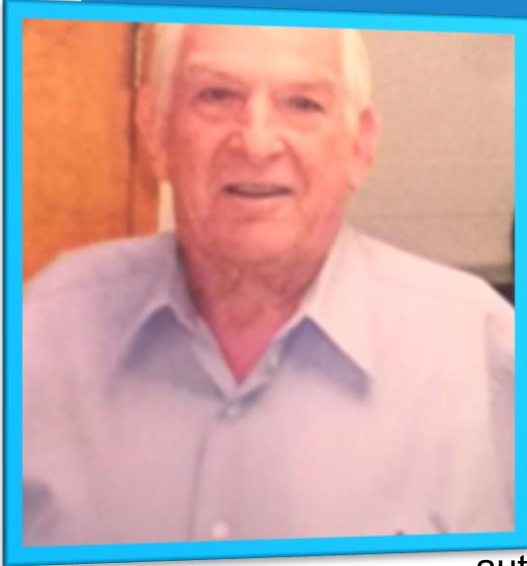


Masks and gloves are always available at NWUP Church.



Where the Deacons sit and greet all members of NWUP Church.

Diaconate



Northwest United Protestant Church operated in its normal fashion for Deacons for the first two to three months of 2020. Then, with the impact of the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic, the church was shut down for normal services. For several months, there were only virtual services and the deacons did not participate. In June, the church was able to hold outdoor services (in the parking lot) and the deacons provided support by providing bulletins and communion supplies to people arriving in their

automobiles and collecting offerings and supplies for the Food Bank and Hospital/Emergency personnel who were working to support the community minimize the spread of the Pandemic. As a result of the Pandemic, many deacons chose not to serve.

In July, a Covid-19 Exposure Control, Mitigation and Recovery Plan for Northwest United Protestant Church, consistent with the State of Washington and Benton/Franklin County Health District requirements, was developed. Under these requirements, deacons were not required. Instead, a Greeter and two Ushers were assigned to each service.

In early October, indoor services were authorized. The sanctuary was set up and marked to ensure proper social distancing following the requirements. The Greeter is required to wear a mask and gloves and hand out communion elements, bulletins, masks (if necessary) and verify the member does not have symptoms of the virus. The Ushers wearing gloves and masks, then escort the member into the sanctuary, seating them in a manner to ensure proper social distancing.

Jim Kion
Chair

Trustees Report



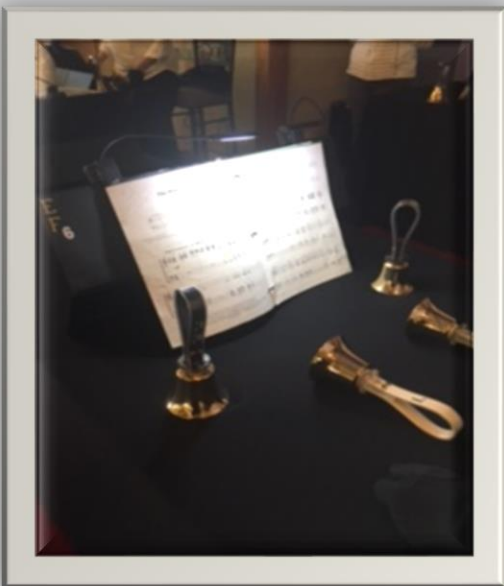
Changes to our user agreements required by the Covid-19 Pandemic and an increase in rates required revision to 5 of our user agreements with outside organizations. They were reviewed and signed by the trustee(s) including one for Tops Weight Loss Program and one for Flourish Mid-Columbia, a faith-based non-profit. Also, a new copier was purchased by the church and a contract closeout for the old copier and a contract for the new copier were reviewed and signed by the trustee(s).

As a result of a theft of items in the shed, the church insurance policy was changed. The deductible for all church property was reduced from \$5,000 to \$1,000 and the amount of property coverage in the shed was raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000.00

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, our timeshare in Hawaii was not used in 2020. Instead, we were allowed to internally bank the week's stay and will have a second week that can be used within the next two years (2021, 2022).

Trustees serving for 2018 were: Harold Galpin, Donna Whiteside, and Mel Adams.

Donna Whiteside
Chair



Small Handbells at NWUP Church.

Treasurer Report



The fiscal year for the church is January 1st thru December 31st. 2020. It was an interesting year for NWUP Church due to COVID-19. We began the first two months with an interim pastor. Then were blessed with our full-time pastor, Miriam Gentle.

NWUP changed our outsourced professional bookkeeping services from Veronica Salazar, BillaBillz, to Teri Galloway, Balanced Books. This was a mutually agreed-upon change between the Stewardship and Finance Committee and our pastor.

Income- Total actual operating income was \$ 150,322 compared to a planned income budget of \$ 160,360. Income was \$10,038 less than budgeted.

Expenses- Actual expenses were \$ 141,426.

Net income- Annual total income exceeded expenses by \$ 8,895.

Current Assets- The table below shows our Savings/Checking and Total Assets. The amount in Savings/Checking has diminished due to increased expenses from Interim Pastor to Full-time Pastor.

DATE	CHECKING/SAVING	TOTAL EQUITY
12/31/2020	\$ 76,932	\$ 1,494,851
12/31/2019	\$ 103,481	\$ 1,562,322
12/31/2018	\$ 104,798	\$ 1,599,649
12/31/2017	\$ 144,023	\$ 1,642,734
12/31/2016	\$ 146,440	*\$ 160,002

- ❖ In 2017 the decision was made to add the value of the church buildings and land as assets.

Reporting- The church treasurer prepares a monthly status report with the balance sheet, profit & loss statement, and budget report to the Stewardship and Finance Committee monthly. The same report is also presented to the monthly Church Board meetings. The reports are prepared with the assistance of our professional bookkeeper.

Regulatory Reporting- All necessary payments and reporting for employment taxes are taken care of via QuickBooks, by the bookkeeper. Copies of such reports are kept with each month's reports.

The annual report to the WA Secretary of State for 2020 was submitted in January 2021 for NWUP Nonprofit Annual Report and with the Department of Revenue for NWUP Nonprofit Property Tax Exemption for 2020.

Debbie Galpin
Treasurer

Children and Youth Commission



- ❖ We started the year out with volunteers who were members from the congregation into the nursery and Sunday school. They filled in as a second nursery attendant. Mike Dodson put out some flyers at local establishments advertising this position but there was no success before COVID-19 happened.
- ❖ We no longer needed a nursery attendant after COVID-19. We did not have any indoor services for most of the year so Court Rieke, our nursery attendant, was laid off until we resume full services.
- ❖ We started putting a children's bulletin page in the regular bulletin's for the children to have participation in each service, as we did not start up the nursery or the Sunday school the rest of the year.
- ❖ During Advent, we made some children's Advent bags. They had a bag for coloring, ornaments, special coloring ornaments, devotional, and more.
- ❖ We sent out Advent bible study bulletins in a letter to all the children age 10 and under.

Erica Nunez
Secretary

Hospitality Commission



Given that 2020 was the year of the Pandemic, Hospitality was restricted from hosting the usual events during the church year. However, before the start of the Pandemic in January, we helped celebrate Epiphany with cupcakes (a dime in each one) for Coffee Hour. This was a custom of our previous Interim Pastor. A Special Coffee Hour was held for Rick Donahoe at the finish of his Internship with NWUP Church.

During the Pandemic, a "Baby Shower" was held for Cassandra Humphrys. Church members sent in money and a gift was ordered and sent to her. Some members chose to send her cards and gift cards as well.

Shortly after the Pandemic shutdown, the fridges in the church kitchen and the Education building were cleaned out and all food items were removed.

Those serving on the Hospitality Committee this past year were Sue Jewett, Shirley Wolf, Donna Whiteside, Onnie Adams, and Candace Rawlings.

Donna Whiteside
Chair

Personnel Commission



This past year under the restraints of the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Personnel Commission found the need to be innovative and flexible. When the Governor closed all meeting areas our church set about conducting online services for the congregation. The downside of these actions was that there was no need for a Nursery Attendant. At the time, it was unknown how long all of this might last. It was decided to

continue the weekly payment to our hired attendant for the short term in hopes that the meeting ban would be short-lived. When an opportunity to apply for an assistance loan from the government to help with salaries became available it was applied for and the funds helped keep the attendant salary going. In August after months of closure, it was decided to suspend the payment of the weekly salary until things improved.

When the weather improved enough in the Spring, services moved from strictly online to the church parking lot as well as online. To facilitate this a mobile sound system was purchased to allow those in their cars to easily hear the service. It soon evolved to a point where a dedicated sound operator seemed appropriate due to the complexity of the sound system. Aydia O'Hara was contacted and asked if she would be interested in becoming a paid operator for the system. She expressed interest and was ultimately hired to do the job. In mid-October, services moved indoors to the sanctuary and the new sound system was set up there. Aydia was interested in remaining as the sound operator and has been doing the job every Sunday since.

With the addition of Aydia O'Hara, the church currently has three employees, Erica Nunez, Church Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Sue Lincoln, Church Musician, and Aydia O'Hara, Sound Technician.

I have been acting Personnel Commission Chair for over a year and have been interested in passing this duty on to a fellow congregant for several months. I asked Dalene Zabel if she would be interested in the position and she said yes. Thus, she has taken over officially as of the first of this calendar year and I have full confidence that she will provide excellent leadership and guidance for the commission.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Dodson, former Personnel Commission Chair.



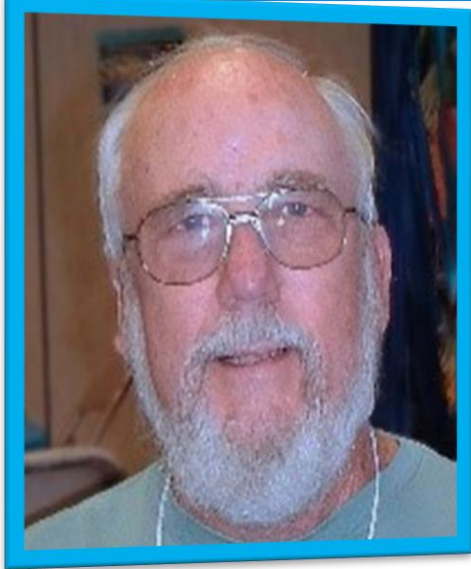
Property Commission

Maintenance tasks are similar to herding cats. This years' wranglers, to name a few, were Harold Galpin, Ron Galpin, Nancy Dodson, Dalene Zable, and Jim Jewett, with a roundup of stray faithful followers. We helped or adjusted to on-line, out-door, and inside worship services. Chairs, carts, cords cars, or a blanket on the ground became the chore leading to Sunday morning worship service. We had two attempted robberies to deal with. All

in all, 2020 will be a year to remember. We just kept our ears tuned in to the special sermons we heard.

Jim Jewett
Chair

Stewardship and Finance Commission



Committee Membership:

- ❖ Resignations – Rick Donahoe & Nancy Dodson
 - ❖ Added – Miriam Gentle & Mike Dodson
 - ❖ Continuing – Debbie Galpin, Sue Jewett, Jim Kion, John Lawson, & Donna Whiteside
- Recommendations made to the board:
- ❖ Pricing of facility rentals
 - ❖ Recommend copier replacement
 - ❖ Annual Stewardship campaign and 2021 budget considerations (expenses will exceed income)

Accomplishments:

- ❖ Campaign for money for new pastor's move costs
- ❖ Adjusted the list of authorized counters, made provision for secretary plus one counter to prepare deposits during the week.
- ❖ Confirmed bonding for the secretary position
- ❖ Conducted monthly reviews of financial reports
- ❖ Federal PPP loan funded in May. Forgiven by end of year
- ❖ Recommendation to see if copier costs can be reduced.
- ❖ Moved funds from 2 Certificates of Deposits (CDs) to checking (approx. \$20,000) reestablished Money Market (MM) fund as a buffer to checking
- ❖ Authorized treasurer to make bill pay transactions and to pay some recurring bills by direct withdrawal and/or credit card
- ❖ New pastor authorized as a user of a church credit card.
- ❖ Closed Disciples Church Extension fund account
- ❖ Updated GESA authorized signers and on-line access
- ❖ Zoom presentation by Christian Church Foundation representative on our investment fund and gifts and endowments
- ❖ Continue to make some changes to simplify financial reports
- ❖ Brought on a new accountant
- ❖ 2021 Stewardship campaign and budget planning
- ❖ Working on revised gifts policy (section 6.3 of bluebook)

John Lawson, Chair

Social Concerns Commission



Committee Chairs: Carolyn Lawson and Candace

Rawlings. Members: Rick Donahoe, Paul Valdez, and Pastor Gentle.

The following projects were completed in 2020. Early in the year, the Week of Compassion was observed with special offerings. During the Spring/Summer, the Food Bank (Richland Facility) was provided 450+ pounds of food to be used in our local community. Again in the Fall, our congregation provided Jefferson School gift card donations for Back to School to help the families purchase the supplies and equipment that they would need at home for homeschooling.

For Christmas Social Concerns sponsored Samaritan's Purse, to provide Operation Christmas Child gift boxes for kids at Christmas. The Mitten Tree at Christmas came out again for Christmas. Social Concerns coordinated with the Prayer Shawls Group to knit hats and mittens for the World Relief of the Tri-Cities. Twenty-six hats and twenty-five pairs of mittens were delivered to World Relief.

As usual, congregational members initiated several short projects throughout the year which benefitted our community. Examples include Snacks for Kadlec staff during the long hours they worked to support members of our community during the Pandemic, used eyeglasses for AmigoVision, calendars for World Relief, and books for inmates.

In the summer, Candace Rawlings was added as co-chair and will become Chair of this Commission in 2021.

Carolyn Lawson
Chair



*Hat and Mitten tree to the Left and
Donations to Kadlec to the right.*





Worship Commission

The work of the worship commission changed during 2020 as we met the challenges of online services and drive-in services. Some of the highlights of the year were:

- ❖ Working with Pastor Miriam to streamline the service for an online platform.
- ❖ Sue Lincoln, Anna Kion, Jim Kion, Sue Jewett provided pre-recorded music for online worship.
- ❖ Placing the Easter cross with flowers near the Wright Ave. sign.
- ❖ Decorating for a Pentecost drive-in service.
- ❖ Planning and decorating for the installation service for Pastor Miriam.
- ❖ Decorating the church for Advent and Christmas and participating in the “Hanging of the Greens” service on the first Sunday in Advent.
- ❖ Changing banners and other altar cloths throughout the year.
- ❖ Handbell choir performed during Advent and Christmas.

The worship commission did not have a chairperson during 2020 as Deb Donahoe, co-moderator, moved away, but continued to operate with volunteers. Due to the pandemic, the choir has not been able to rehearse and sing. Sue Lincoln, music director, led us through 2020 with wonderful music. We are grateful for the lovely music Sue has provided every week.

Respectfully,

Rev. Miriam Gentle
Pastor



Donating to Kadlec Healthcare workers



Large Handbells at NWUP Church.

Pianist/ Choir Director



2020 started with 6-10 singers in the Chancel Choir. March came in like a lion and hit us with the Pandemic resulting in the cancellation of the choir and indoor worship. We began to search and try new ways of presenting the Worship Service. We taped singers and the music at the church for inclusion in the worship service that Pastor Miriam presented on Facebook and YouTube. Summer arrived and permitted us to meet in

cars in the parking lot. We moved sound equipment, the keyboard, and the leaders to the parking lot and presented a live service which was also streamed live. We were able to have live congregational singing from the cars as well as song leaders.

In the Fall we returned to the sanctuary with marked seating and masks. We were not allowed to sing by the congregation or a choir. We were allowed to have one individual sing the hymns during the service. Special thanks to Kay Humphrys, Sue Jewett, Jim Kion, and Anna Kion who stepped forward and led the singing each Sunday during the year.

In October, a Handbell Choir was formed with 6-8 ringers. The Handbell Choir was able to share in worship on Sundays and Christmas Eve. The congregation responded enthusiastically to this new Handbell Choir music.

Piano

Sue Lincoln
Church Musician

Handbells Choir



Audio Visual Steward



There was a new sound system that was purchased in 2020 for the drive-in services. Services were moved from the Sanctuary to the Drive-in services because of COVID-19. Once the Tri-Cities moved from phase 1 to a higher modified phase we were able to return to inside services. At that time we hired Aydia O'Hara to be the sound system operator. We continued to use the new sound system inside the Sanctuary. It is now being used for all Sunday services and any other special services we

have at NWUP Church. The

Sanctuary projector system was used when services returned inside. The laptop was used for the PowerPoint presentations that began again once services moved inside. Aydia now operates the soundboard at all Sunday services. Three other people can operate the soundboard and the laptop. They were used as a second person along with Aydia. Those people are Mike Dodson, Stephen Gentle, and Shirley Wolf. All meetings and bible studies are now on Zoom.

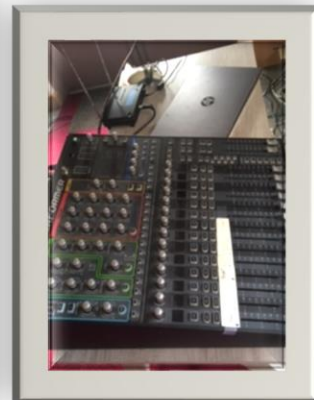
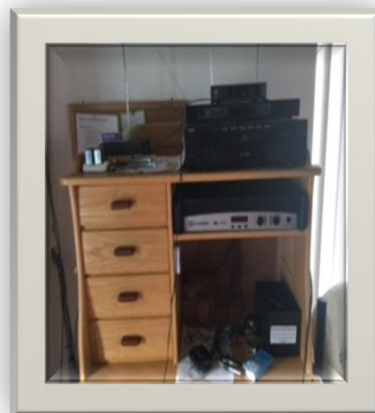
Erica Nunez, Secretary



New Speakers used in the outdoor services at NWUP Church 2020.



Video Screen and phone camera used during LIVE service.



Sanctuary Sound Booth.

History Steward



- ❖ January 12, Gerry Griffin was our Guest Preacher.
- ❖ January 26, a Special Coffee Hour was held to say "Thanks" to Rick Donahoe, as our Intern. He had served Northwest United Protestant Church in many valuable ministries.
- ❖ February 9, the Masonic Lodge joined our worship service.
- ❖ February 20, NWUP Church was invited to join All Saints Episcopal Church for Shrove Tuesday

Pancakes Supper and Lenten Service.

- ❖ Feb 26 Imposition of Ashes - Ash Wednesday Service at Noon for Traditional Service 4 pm Family Service, 7 pm Service with Music.
- ❖ March 15 was Pastor Peter Kalunian's last Sunday at Northwest United Protestant Church as our Interim Pastor.
- ❖ June 15 IT'S A GIRL! Welcome, Cambria Humphrys! Congratulations to mom, Cassandra, and grandmother, Kay Humphrys.
- ❖ August 23, Installation service for Pastor Miriam Gentle was held during the drive-in worship service. Rev. Sandy Messick, Regional Minister of the Northern Lights Region, was our guest speaker.
- ❖ On September 6, Jennifer Jacobson was Guest Preacher in the Pulpit for Pastor Miriam Gentle.
- ❖ October 11, was the last day that Rick and Deb Donahoe celebrated services with Northwest Church as they are moving back to Northern Michigan to be closer to family.

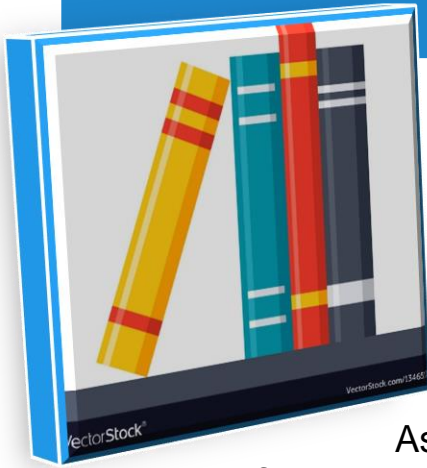
God Bless!

Pat Cahow
Historian

*Rev. Peter Kalunian and his wife
Kathy Kalunian at NWUP Church*



Library Steward



One new book entitled “A Cloud A Day” was added to the library in 2020. Mel Adams reviewed the book for the congregation and described the book featuring beautiful photographs and artwork and a brief description of a cloud or atmospheric phenomenon each day for 365 days. This book was featured in the August 2020 newsletter.

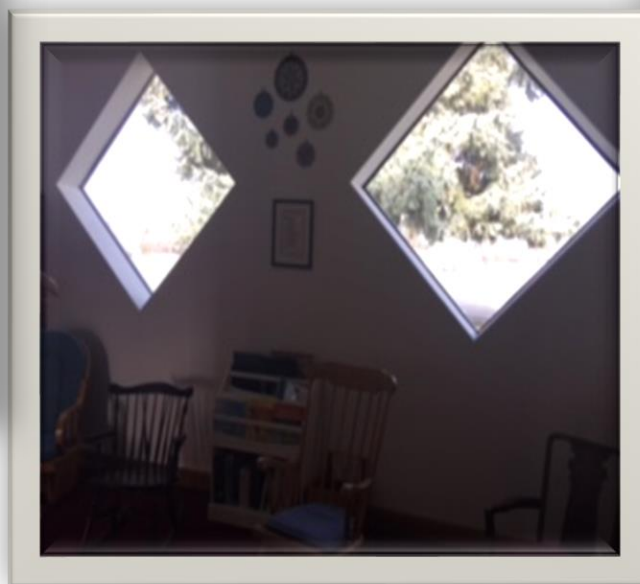
As our resident poet, Mel Adams wrote a couple of poems for the church this year. The poems were titled “The Man at the River” and “Metamorphosis”. These poems express Mel’s encounters with Jesus and his ideas to reach Jesus. The poems were featured in the May 2020 and September 2020 newsletters.

Donations of books are still welcome, and the library is still on the honor system for 2020 and beyond.

Mel Adams
Librarian
by Erica Nunez
Secretary



NWUP Library.



Book Shelves.

Food 4 Friends



Like many other programs at NWUP Food 4 Friends, looked very different in 2020. We were able to meet for a couple of months to cook and deliver meals to our friends before we had to begin safety protocols. Being safe, keeping others safe, became the mantra. And for a few months, we didn't know if our food and brown bags were safe so we waited and watched with the world. In July when Sunday worship services moved

from online to the parking lot we all cooked remotely and met outside to load our bags of love. Social distancing was proving to be a key in slowing the virus so that meant we couldn't gather to cook. We stayed in touch with one another and with our friends, but no community cooking. By November we had families in our church fighting the virus so we ran some meal trains to support them in November and December, still food and love in a bag but from our kitchens. So yes, we looked different but we're still trying to serve our Lord and our friends safely for now. Shalom Friends from Team F4F.

Sue Jewett
Chair



Pastoral Search Committee



The Pastoral Search and Call Committee had just a few administrative loose ends to tie up in 2020.

By the end of 2019, the committee had, with God's Grace, found Pastor Miriam Gentle. The church board then agreed with the committee's findings to offer Pastor Gentle the position of church pastor at NWUP. Pastor Gentle and the committee had come to an understanding on the details for her to faithfully lead our congregation by the end of 2019.

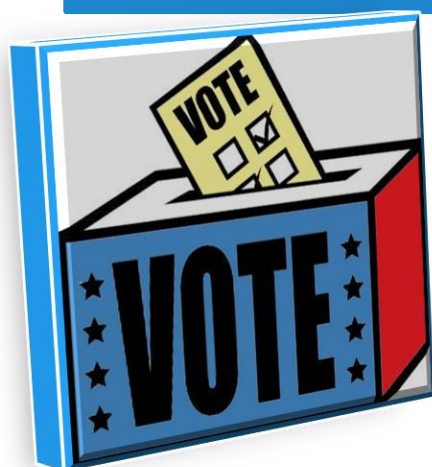
In January of 2020, the committee formally made a recommendation to hire Pastor Miriam Gentle as the Pastor at NWUP Church. The Board and the Congregation formally ratified the hiring of Pastor Miriam Gentle in January 2020. The committee finalized the Letter of Call and contract details with Pastor Gentle. At this point, the committee members, Shirley Wolf, Sue Jewett, Mike Dodson, Tammy Neslin, and Rick Donahoe changed their hats and along with others became part of the worship team.

Pastor Gentle had a rough landing in the Tri-Cities just as the Covid-19 Pandemic was declared. However, she hit the ground running so that the congregation at NWUP would only miss one Sunday of services. It was truly by the Grace of God that NWUP Church found this wonderful Pastor to lead us in faith... And, a little hard work from the pastoral search committee.

As chairperson of this committee, I would like to say thank you to all those that served on the committee over the nearly three years of work that we put in. In addition to myself, Sue Jewett, Tammy Neslin, Mike Dodson, and Rick Donahoe, I would also like to mention that Regina Gifford, Joanna Flaten, Brenton Nundahl, Alex Nelson, and Mel Adams also served on the Committee at some point. Bless you, all!

Shirley Wolf
Chairperson

Board Voting Members for 2020



Quorum = 6 voting members + moderator (or designee)

Adult Education Commission Chair.....	<i>Unfilled</i>
Board Clerk.....	Kristine Popielarczyk
Children and Youth Commission Chair.....	<i>Unfilled</i>
Deacons Chair.....	Jim Kion
Elders Chair.....	Onnie Adams
Moderator (<i>effective 1/1/2020</i>).....	Anna Kion (co-moderator – Deb Donahoe)
Interim Minister (<i>effective 1/1/2020-3/2020</i>).....	Peter Kalunian
New Settled Pastor.....	Miriam Gentle
Personnel Commission Chair.....	Mike Dodson
Property Commission Chair.....	Harold Galpin (co-chair - Jim Jewett)
Stewardship and Finance Commission Chair	John Lawson
Treasurer.....	Debbie Galpin
Trustee Chair.....	Donna Whiteside
Worship Chair.....	Deb Donahoe Replaced by Miriam Gentle



NWUP Church Sign on Wright Street.

Church Officers for 2020

(Update 11/26/19)

Elders:

Class of 2022

1. Brad Butherus*
2. Deb Donahoe

Class of 2021

1. Onnie Adams
2. Anna Kion

Class of 2020

1. Pat Cahow
2. Mike Dodson

Deacons:

Class of 2022

1. Joe Popp *
2. Ron Galpin *
3. Dalene Zabel *
4. Paul Valdez *
5. Kristen Valdez *
6. Kay Humphrys*
7. Donna Baumgarten*

* New volunteers this year

Class of 2021

1. Brad Butherus
2. Nancy Dodson
3. Joyce Jakes
4. Stephanie Hall-Mullen
5. (Jim Kion- Chair)
6. John Lawson

Class of 2020

1. Bill Miller
2. Bud Neslin
3. Tammy Neslin
4. Jennifer Jacobson
5. Candace Rawlings
6. Donna Whiteside

Jr. Deacon: Teagan Mortensen*

Trustees: (Includes Co-Chair of Property Trustee)

Class of 2022

1. Harold Galpin

Class of 2021

1. Donna Whiteside

Class of 2020:

1. Mel Adams

Moderator: 2020

1. Anna Kion w/ Deb Donahoe*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: ONNIE ADAMS, DONNA WHITESIDE, DEB DONAHOE

2020 Member Participant Master List

Mel Adams	Janet Gibson	Kristine Popielarczyk
Onnie Adams	Regina Gifford-Cirolini	Joe Popp
Bernard Ayers (homebound)	Joyce Gilman (out-of-town)	Candace Rawlings
Faith Ayers (homebound)	Stephanie Hall-Mullen	Courtney Rieke
Doris Ayres	Kay Humphrys	Nancy Rieke
Jeff Ayers	Cassandra Humphrys	Philip Rieke
Donna Baumgarten	Joyce Jakes	AJ Smith
Elizabeth Baumgarten	Barbara Jenson (does not attend)	Nancy Smith
Eva Bloomster	Jim Jewett	Vanna Souriyavongsa
Tim Bloomster	Sue Jewett	Earl Schwenk
Sarah Bray	Bill Kendrick	Kristen Valdez
Jan Brinson-Wagner	Alaina Kincaid	Paul Valdez
Bronwin (Buffy) Burton	Annie Kincaid	
Coradove Burton	Claira Kincaid	Cheryl White
Duncan Burton	Henry Kincaid	
Hilani (Hani) Burton	Matthew Kincaid	Donna Whiteside
Musashi (Moose) Burton	Jim Kion	John Williams (does not attend)
Rebecca Burton	Anna Kion	Ann Williams (does not attend)
Ross Burton	Elvera Laughery	April Willis
William Burton	Carolyn Lawson	Joyce Willis
Brad Butherus	John Lawson	Shirley Wolf
Pat Cahow	Kristy Leitze	
Norma Conrad (homebound)	Bill Miller	
Pam Coon (does not attend)	Teagen Mortensen	
Kay Divine	Bill Miller	
Mike Dodson	Margaret Munro	
Nancy Dodson	Alex Nelson	
Deb Donahoe	Finn Nelson	
Richard Donahoe	Lynleigh Nelson	
Ryan Dudley	Bud Neslin	
Connie Eckard	Tammy Neslin	
Donna Eckard	Brenton Nundahl	
Joanna Flaten	Randy Nundahl	
Cynthia Fowler	Aidya O'Hara	
Harold Galpin	Gracelynn O'Hara	
Lois Galpin	Matt O'Hara	
Kate Giardinelli	Sacha O'Hara	
Mike Giardinelli	Zaryn O'Hara	
Ben Giardinelli	Bea Pohto	
Joleen Giardinelli	Ralph Pohto	

Notes:

[illegible]