



Northwest United
Protestant Church
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

February 15, 2022
Rev. Miriam Gentle



1312 Sacramento Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354



Website: nwup.church
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509-946-3222



Northwest United
Protestant Church
Disciples of Christ

2021 Annual Report

Northwest United Protestant Church

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

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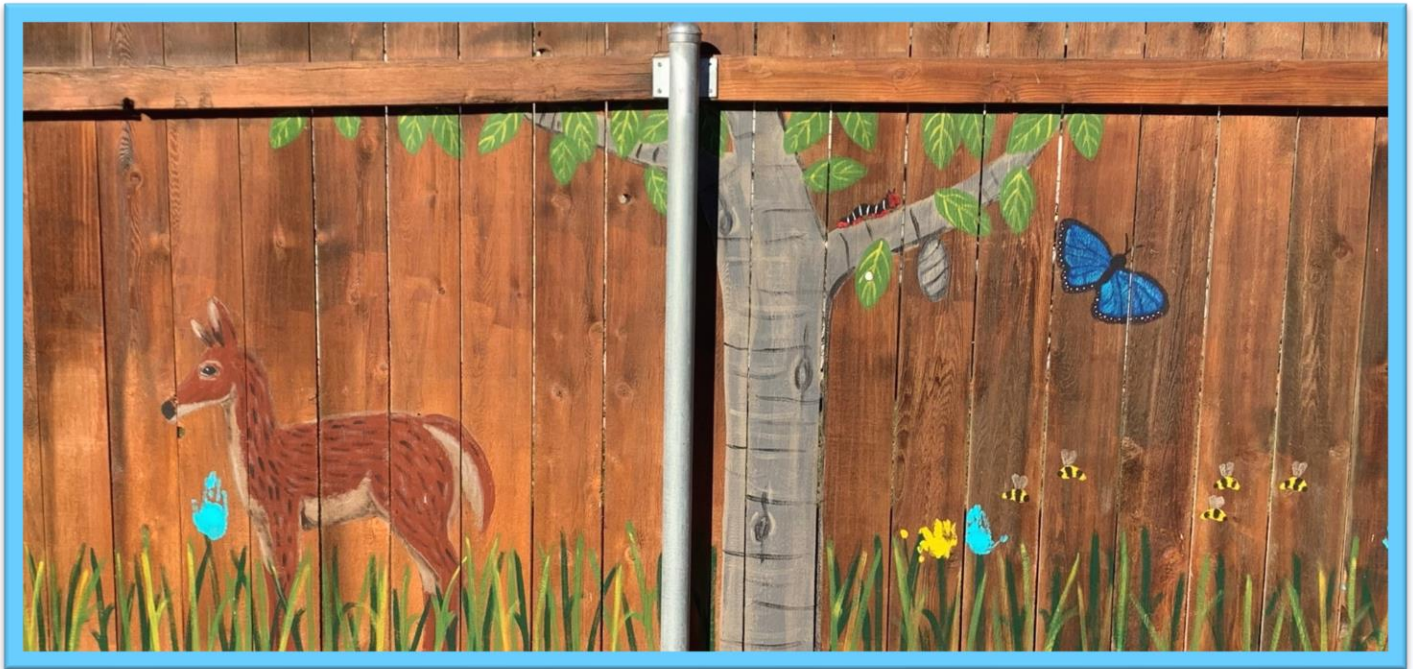
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Acknowledgment



This is an acknowledgement of the time and effort submitted by the volunteers on the committees within the church. Their free and gracious support enables the church to continue as a functioning entity. A heartfelt thanks to all that makes this continuation possible.

Respectfully,
Dalene Zabel, Moderator



New mural for the childrens play area donated by the Early Learning Co-op in spring of 2021.

Ministry Report



In many ways, it seems that 2021 was just a repeat of the previous year. Covid weariness briefly lifted as vaccines became available, but pandemic fatigue continued and seemed to become worse as the virus variants and vaccine hesitancy created division and discord in the greater community. Fortunately, Northwest has followed all Covid protocols and has offered both safe in person worship and online worship throughout the year. In 2021, I offered pastoral leadership in many ways, including the following initiatives:

- Offered monthly Bible study through Zoom on various topics
- Offered weekly worship on Sunday mornings in person and online
- Continued to encourage the congregation to follow Covid protocols, including wearing masks when gathering in person, and to be vaccinated
- Introduced a narrative budget to compliment the regular budget offered during the annual meeting
- Participated in the music ministry of the church (handbell choir and harp)
- Officiated a baby dedication for Cambria Humphrys in March 2021
- Officiated two memorial services (Connie Eckard, Joyce Jakes)
- With the moderator, reviewed tenant leases and ensured Covid protocols were being followed
- Offered a joint Maundy Thursday service on Zoom with Shalom UCC
- Organized a church clean up and paint day in April
- Participated in the quarterly Columbia Area Disciples Clergy gathering
- Participated in the Northern Lights Regional Transformation Team (monthly)
- Offered pastoral care through in person meetings, phone calls, and emails
- Trained a new secretary
- Participated (virtually) in the ordination of Rev. Jennifer Jacobson
- Organized and planned (with Worship Commission and others) the Fall Fling outdoor service
- Oversaw the process for NWUP becoming a Green Chalice Congregation

- Encouraged the creation of an endowment fund through Christian Church Foundation
- Encouraged new voices to participate in pulpit supply and Bible study

Northwest continues to face financial challenges that will need to be addressed for the continuing health of the congregation. Each challenge is an opportunity for growth. During the November congregational meeting, I challenged the congregation to take seriously the need to invite others to worship. Northwest is a faithful congregation that seeks to serve God through their gift of hospitality. It is a congregation where people can come with questions, and doubts, and know that they will be welcomed and embraced with care. Northwest has so much to offer but we need to do a better job of telling others!! The challenges presented during 2021 have been many, but the goal of the church remains, to serve others and to bring others into the joy of God's generous and abundant love.

Looking ahead briefly, during 2022, a visioning team will be formed to help the

congregation review and renew its vision statement and create a mission statement. This transformational and visioning work will help the congregation match mission to ministry initiatives and will help the congregation make faithful decisions as it continues to serve others. I encourage everyone to participate in this process.

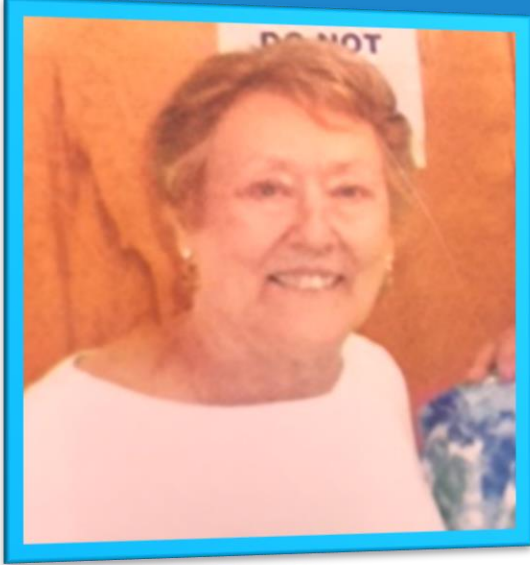
As I near the second anniversary of serving as your pastor, I remain hopeful that Northwest will continue to faithfully navigate the changed post-Covid landscape in creative ways and will continue "loving and serving Christ in the community and the world". I remain humbly honored to serve as your pastor.



*Rev. Miriam Gentle shares
a Christmas Benediction*

Blessings,
Rev. Miriam Gentle

Moderator Report



As we look back on the past year, we realize all the changes experienced this past year have not been as dramatic as occurred in 2020 in the life of Northwest United Protestant Church as a result of the Corona-19 Virus Pandemic. We were able to have Sunday morning worship in the sanctuary as well as continue to live stream our services. We were able to hold Easter and Christmas services with our members in the sanctuary.

Our rental groups including the Early Learning Co-op started reopening in late fall 2020 and most of our rental groups are up and running. The rental groups are still required to follow the updated language covering the new Covid-19 Requirements from the Center for Disease Control, the State of Washington Health Department and the Benton Franklin County Health Department.

We have instituted a bell choir under the direction of Sue Lincoln, and it has been very active. The bell choir has assisted a great deal over the year in our worship services and special occasions.

Our Board, the Elders and a number of the commissions have returned to in person meetings mostly. Zoom meetings were still used when it was more expeditious to do so. Church business was carried out efficiently and effectively.

This is my final year of being your moderator and I appreciate all the support that was offered over the past three years as I served our congregation. At the time I took the position I felt like it was a calling that I needed to answer. I have enjoyed every minute that I have been in service to our congregation. I will continue to serve NWUP Church in whatever position that I am needed.

2021 has been a successful year for all of us. We have been Blessed with our ability to be creative and to have weekly worship services throughout the year. In 2022 may we continue to work together to bring God's love into the world.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anna Kion

Elder's Report



The following the Elders served beginning January 2021 NWUP Church: Mike Dodson, Brad Butherus, Jennifer Jacobson, Tammy Neslin, Anna Kion and Onnie Adams. Pat Cahow, Emeritis. Pastor Miriam Gentle was in attendance for all of our meetings.

We began the year continuing with Zoom meetings on the second Tuesdays at 7:00PM. We ended December by meeting the second Sunday immediately following the service in the

Fellowship Hall: this place and time will continue forward while staying within the Covid guidelines of wearing masks and spacing.

Being an Elder in this time of Covid has continued much as we served before. We began our meetings with an inspirational thought before sharing joys and concerns from our contact with families. Elders continued to offer Offertory and Communion prayers at each Sunday church service. Reaching out by phone was appreciated and a safe way to stay connected. Sue Jewett continued to remember everyone's celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries with cards.

We are fortunate for the spiritual guidance, thoughtfulness and purpose Miriam is bringing to the Elders as we live God's calling for each of us in NWUP.

She has helped us with guidance in many ways. Here are a few of the topics:

- * Role of Elders from the letters of Alexander Campbell; Teacher, Shepherd and Visionary
 - * From Micah 6:8, Understanding Humility, Mercy and Justice
 - * Addressing Paradigms for Mission Renewal
 - * Becoming aware of how our facility is constructively being currently used *
- "Thinking outside the box" with the focus on God's Mission for our church
- * Information on the Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries
 - * NWUP Strategic Planning 2022 Timeline

This year we celebrated the inspiring lives of Connie Eckard in August and Joyce Jakes in October. In August we celebrated the Ordination of Jennifer Jacobson. We assisted Miriam in beginning an advisory Board for the Green Chalice Task group. Pastor Miriam's Evaluation was completed and signed. We helped with a highly successful "Fall Fling" in early September. Advent and Christmas was filled with beautiful bells, harp, flute, guitar and song.

At our December meeting we thanked Anna Kion for her time of service as Elder for three years ending in the 2001. We welcomed Joanna Flaten as Elder into the class of 2024. Mike Dodson will become the Chair of Elders in 2022.

Thank you for all the amazing gifts of love and service by each of you who served and gave of your time to the Glory of God. Amen.

Respectfully Submitted,
Onnie Adams

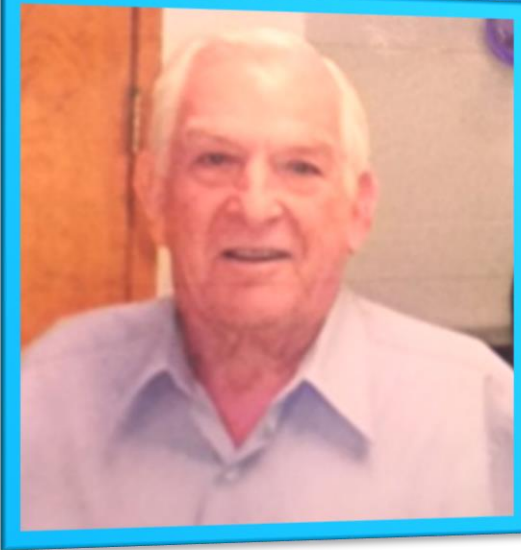
Trustees Report



Signed several contracts for the use of the church facilities and new secretary, sound operator.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Whiteside,
Chair

Diaconate



In 2021 the full Diaconate was not used. In its place, Northwest United Protestant Church continued to follow COVID Protocol. The Protocol required us to establish seating requirements that maintained a six foot distance between non-family church attendees. At the beginning of 2021, we were allowed to remove our masks after we were seated but with the Delta Variant of COVID, the Benton-Franklin Health District advised us to maintain masking throughout the service (exception being to take communion).

Northwest United Protestant Church had established a “Greeter” and one or two “Ushers,” from the Diaconate. These individuals ensured church attendees were masked and properly seated. Also, church attendees names were recorded (and maintained for three weeks) to allow contact in case of a COVID exposure. The Greeter was gloved and masked to hand out individual communion cups with bread wafers included (traditional communion with shared bread and juice were not used to minimize any spread of the COVID virus).

Northwest United Protestant Church expects to continue following the COVID Protocol and continue to use a Greeter and Ushers through 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Kion,
Chair

Treasurer Report



This 2021 report encompasses the fiscal year for NWUP Church. NWUP changed our outsourced professional bookkeeper from Teri Galloway, Balanced Books, to Dianna Lopez, Bookkeeper4Me, LLC. This transition was mutually agreeable to all governing groups of the church.

Income - Total contributions were \$115,951. compared to budgeted contributions of \$113,262. Total overall income includes building use rents of \$6,505, for a total income of \$141,312. Income was \$28,049. over our actual budget.

Expenses - Actual expenses were \$ 142,732. Net income- Annual total expenses exceeded income by -\$ 1,419.

Current Assets - The Checking account, Money Market account, Savings account, three Certificates of Deposit and an Investment at Christian Church Foundation give us our total assets at \$129,515.

Our Building (given it's value by our insurance) and land value for the two lots, the educational building, the sanctuary and roof & HVAC gives us our fixed assets of \$1,624,366.

Reporting - Status reports with balance sheet, profit & loss statement and budget report to the Stewardship and Finance Committee and church board are submitted monthly. These reports are prepared with the assistance of our professional bookkeepers.

Regulatory Reporting - All necessary payments and reports for employment taxes are taken care of via QuickBooks software, by the bookkeeper. Copies of such reports are retained with each month's records. The annual reports to the WA Secretary of State and Department of Revenue for 2021 have been submitted in January 2022 meeting our due dates. This meets our requirements to maintain our non-profit status. Copies of these documents are retained in our archives.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debborah Galpin
Treasurer

Hospitality Commission



- Updated the Blue Book Hospitality Section.
- Coffee Hour treats at various times throughout the year.
- Helped host the Fall Fest with over 85 participants in September 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Whiteside
Chair

Personnel Commission



The Personnel Commission assisted the Pastor in writing a job description for the audiovisual (AV) operator position. A new AV candidate was hired and her first day was the weekend after Labor Day. Due to extraordinary circumstances, she resigned her position in good standing in December of 2022. A young man in high school and a known entity was offered the position. He accepted and is now fulfilling the position of AV operator.

The secretary that began the year moved away and a new secretary was hired in June. The position had been posted on Indeed.com and this individual was an applicant and the only applicant that actually was present for an interview. The other two individuals were no shows for their interviews. This individual continues to serve the church as Secretary.

All unknown entities were screened through WATCH for criminal histories. Employment agreements were signed and are on file in the Church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Dalene Zabel



Property Commission

Thank you to all volunteers who helped with the church cleanup in April. This spring, the Early Learning Co-op hired a local artist to paint a fun kid's mural on our fence near the play area. Regular maintenance on the church systems and property went as scheduled throughout the year. The grounds and landscaping are in good condition with weekly care.

Jim Jewett
Chair



Worship Commission

A worship chair was appointed in August

An outdoor service was organized with Desert Praise Quarter singing in September.

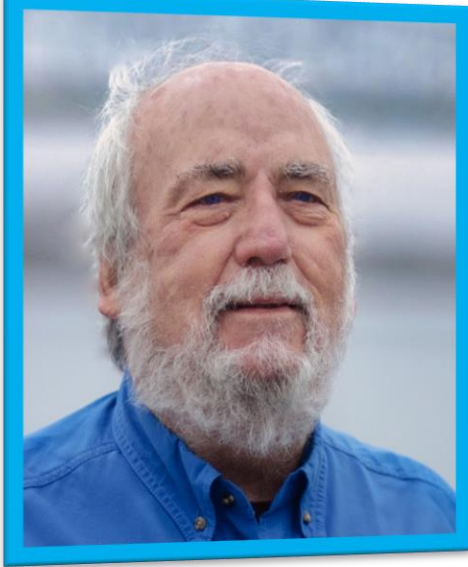
Special music including vocal solos and duets, harp solos and duets, handbell choir, guitar chanter, and choral ensembles practiced and performed during

the Christmas season

And special thanks to the steadfastness of our music director, song leaders and worship leaders who support Pastor Miriam with our services each week.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kay Humphrys
Chair

Stewardship and Finance Commission



Mike Dodson was welcomed as a member of our committee in January. During early 2021, we completed revision and approval of the gifts policy (Bluebook section 6.3). We added second account with the Christian Church Foundation as a self-managed endowment fund subject to State regulations. We expect to begin drawing 4% on a permanent basis from the two CCF accounts beginning in 2022.

The current bookkeeper planned to retire and a new one was identified to begin in 2022. Our concerns with a possible 2021 budget planning shortfall did not prove to be a significant issue after reevaluation midyear.

We considered changes to financial software, but decided it was best to continue use of Simple Church for tracking membership donations. However, we expect to go back to the standalone version of Quickbooks instead of the cloud implementation to save some expenses beginning in 2022.

One more of our \$10K CDs was rolled into checking during this year to deal with continuing cashflow issues. We also decided to change the mid-year reporting of individual member donations to our congregation to be optional rather than required. Older, unspent memorial funds were identified to be rolled into the general fund. We also recommended Flourish Mid- Columbia begin paying a modest rate for their office space. There was discussion throughout the year on changes to improve our cashflow.

We began placing more information on planned giving in the information for churchgoers. We are also planning a retirement/legacy planning class in Spring 2022. The annual stewardship and budget planning concluded with 2022 budget passage in November. This year also incorporated a descriptive narrative budget component.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lawson
Chair

Social Concerns Commission



The congregation donated snack + juice boxes for Jefferson Elementary School

In April and May, we collected sports equipment (baseballs, soccer balls and volleyballs) and donated it to the teen shelter.

During the summer we donated a total of 88 pounds of food to the Richland Food Bank.

We gave \$500 for regional expenses and donated \$500 in gift cards to the World Relief Foundation for refugee relief.

We collected \$550 during the Week of Compassion.

We collected shoes and water bottles for Jefferson Elementary School. During this time, a woman called and asked for help with getting shoes for her children. We donated a pair of shoes for the youngest and a \$50 gift card for the other children.

We bought 100 water bottles and the congregation also donated water bottles for Jefferson Elementary School.

Respectfully Submitted,
Candace Rawlings
Chair

Technology Report



Northwest received a \$1,200 technology grant from Disciples Church Extension Fund.

This generous grant allowed us to purchase a new desktop computer for the office and a new WiFi router and mesh system for the church.

The new equipment was purchased and installed in July 2021 and was in place as we welcomed our new church secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Miriam Gentle

Adult Education Report



In 2021, Bible study remained online through Zoom. These sessions, led by Pastor Miriam, were well attended. The studies offered biblical content as well as thoughtful questions connecting the Bible and faithful living. The following topics were offered this year:

January - Break

February - Study on Mark and Sermon

Lectionary Topics

March - Lent Bible Study

April - Study using the book, "Reading the New Testament for the First Time" by Ronald Allen

May - Break

June/July- Study on Spiritual Gifts

August - Break

September - "A Place at the Table" God's Hospitality

November - Gratitude

December - Advent Study led by Rev. Jennifer Jacobson

Pianist/ Choir Director



In spite of the continuing pandemic, the NWUP Ladies Trio became a lovely singing group of eight ladies. They were able to share their music for Easter and Christmas. The NWUP Handbell Choir rang three octave music this year with nine ringers. The Choir also shared music at Easter and Christmas.

I look forward to starting the bell choir again in February after a short interlude in January. We have eleven singers set up to start as a FULL three octave Choir! I am so excited to work with a full choir of ringers all all stages, from beginner to experienced members.

What a joy to work with these people. I took a little break this year when my back pain became more than I could handle. I am praying that I will be able to get the necessary treatment to correct the discs in my spine. I am so thankful to Onnie Adams for stepping in to keep everything going for me.

I thank God for the opportunity to share my gifts in worship, to honor Him and to work with family at NWUP Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Lincoln



*The NWUP
Handbell Choir
treats the
congregation to a
festive prelude
during the 2021
holiday season*

History Steward



DEC 31, 2020 - Pastor Miriam Gentle received a new Christmas stole made by Pat Cahow. Pastor Miriam wore the stole on January 3 & 10, 2021

JAN 17, 2021 - Jennifer Jacobson was Guest Preacher in the Pulpit for Pastor Miriam Gentle.

FEB 01, 2021 - Rev Dr Stephen Gentle accepted a call to be the Intentional Interim Minister at Shalom United Church of Christ in Richland, Washington.

FEB 13, 2021 - Holly Cahow (Pat Cahow's daughter) will marry Richard Kirkendall in Las Vegas, NV. With her sister Heather (Cahow) & Rick Phillips attendants and some other friends.

APR 08, 2021 - Sue Lincoln's daughter Becky Knovlock passed away in Boise ID, the church supports Sue with our Love and Prayers.

APR 11, 2021 - Child Dedication of Cambria Kellie Yvonne Humphrys during church service. Mother Cassandra, Grandmother, Kay, Grandfather Dean Humphrys, and Uncle Daniel Humphrys and friend attending.

JUN 27, 2021 - Jennifer Jacobson's Ordination at The Southwest Region & Galileo Christian Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

JUN 23, 2021 - Connie Eckard, 87, passed away with his family by his side wife Donna and daughter's Shirley and Debra Sue. And Connie's three adult children Andrea, Kevin and Steven were there in spirit. Connie and Donna had and have been long time member of Northwest Church since the late 1980's.

JUN 27, 2021 - Rev. Monica Myers Greeberg was Guest Preacher. She is vice president of the Christian Church Foundation Mountain West zone, which includes the area from Colorado to Northern California and North to Alaska. She is a graduate of Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia and Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas. Originally from Ohio, served congregations in the Northern Lights Region for 21 years before joining the Foundation Staff in 2021, Monica and her husband reside in Seattle with their son and dog.

JUN 30, 2021 - Erica Nunez's last day as church secretary. Erica and her son Adam are going to Spokane to get better care for Adam. We will miss You Erica. God Bless.

JUL 20, 2021 - The new secretary, Toma Arabadzhi, was hired in July 2021.

AUG 23, 2021 - Joyce Jakes 93 passed away with her family by her side

AUG 27, 2021 - Memorial Service for Connie Eckard was held at Einan's in Richland.

AUG 28, 2021 - Congratulations to proud parents Dustin and Carrie Ayres, and siblings Camden, Parker and Nora as they celebrate the birth of a new baby boy, Lincoln August, who was born August 28, 2021. Also, congratulations to grandparents, Jeff and Doris Ayres. Welcome to the NWUP Family.

SEP 12, 2021 - The new audio-visual operator, Samantha Ciccheti, was hired.

OCT 02, 2021 - Memorial Service for Joyce Jakes at Northwest Church.

OCT 20, 2021 - Doris Ayres will begin a new phase of her life. She will be retiring after 50 years of working at various jobs.

OCT 31, 2021 - Rev. Faye Serene was Guest Preacher joined us when Rev. Miriam Gentle was of town.

NOV 07, 2021 - Pat Cahow and Lindsay Elliott were united in a Holy Commitment Ceremony officiated by Pastor Miriam at Solstice Senior Living Chapel and a reception to follow. The couple then spent 11 days in Cancun, Mexico for the honeymoon.

NOV 14, 2021 - Tracy Rieke became a member of NWUP Church

DEC 12, 2021 - Miriam Gentle and Kristine Popeielarczk as Harp a duet. Playing the song "What Child is This?"

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Elliott (Cahow)
Historian

Food 4 Friends



Food 4 Friends resumed in June of 2021 after our team was vaccinated for COVID. After a late start we were ready to see our friends to prepare brown bags of love. By all reports our friends at home were happy to receive them!

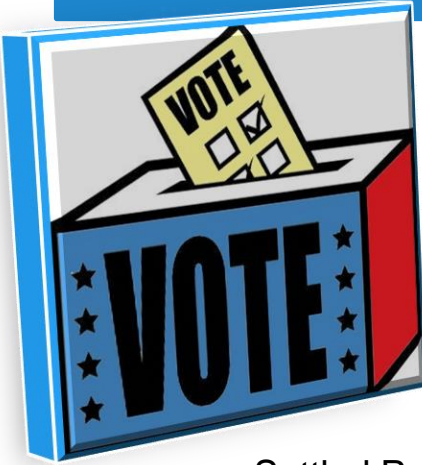
In six months we served 39 household and 80 friends and averaged seven helpers each month.

Thank you NWUP Church for your prayers and verbal support of this little program, we believe it continues to provide love and support of God's people, not to mention all the joy it brings us!

Many thanks to our chefs: Donna, Candace, Deb, Sue L, Karen, Anna, and Sue J and to our delivery team Jim and Dalene.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Jewett
Chair

Board Voting Members for 2021



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	Anna Kion
Settled Pastor.....	Miriam Gentle
Personnel Commission Chair.....	Dalene Zabel
Property Commission Chair.....	Jim Jewett
Stewardship and Finance Commission Chair	John Lawson
Treasurer.....	Debbie Galpin
Trustee Chair.....	Donna Whiteside
Worship Chair.....	Kay Humphrys



*Our congregation may be smaller than others,
but the generosity we see every month is consistent and much appreciated*

Church Officers for 2021

Elders:

Class of 2023

1. Mike Dodson
2. Jennifer Jacobson

Emeritus: Pat Cahow

Deacons:

Class of 2022

1. Brad Butherus
2. Tammy Neslin

Class of 2021

1. Onnie Adams
2. Anna Kion

Class of 2023

1. Candace Rawlings
2. Donna Whiteside
3. Ralph Pohto
4. Bea Pohto
5. Debbie Galpin
6. Jim Jewett

Class of 2022

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

Class of 2021

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

Sub: Sue Jewett

On: Teagen Mortensen

Trustees: *(Includes Co-Chair of Property Trustee)*

Class of 2023

Shirley wolf (1 yr)

Class of 2022

Harold Galpin

Class of 2021

Donna Whiteside

Moderator: 2021

Anna Kion (1 yr)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: ONNIE ADAMS, DONNA WHITESIDE,
JIM KION W/ PASTOR MIRIAM GENTLE

2021 Participant Master List

Mel Adams	Sue Jewett
Onnie Adams	Bill Kendrick
Bernard Ayers	Jim Kion
Faith Ayers	Anna Kion
Jeff Ayers	Elvera Laughery
Doris Ayres	Carolyn Lawson
Donna Baumgarten	John Lawson
Elizabeth Baumgarten	Kristy Leitze
Eva Bloomster	Sue Lincoln
Tim Bloomster	Mirtha Martinez (Virtual Participant)
Sarah Bray	Bill Miller
Jan Brinson-Wagner	Teagen Mortensen
Brad Butherus	Margaret Munro
Pat Cahow	Alex Nelson
Norma Conrad	Finn Nelson
Pam Coon	Lynleigh Nelson
Kay Divine	Bud Neslin
Mike Dodson	Tammy Neslin
Nancy Dodson	Karen Pierson (Virtual Participant)
Deb Donahoe (Virtual Participant)	Bea Pohto
Ryan Dudley	Ralph Pohto
Connie Eckard (deceased 06/21)	Kristine Popielarczyk
Donna Eckard	Joe Popp
Joanna Flaten	Candace Rawlings
Cynthia Fowler	Nancy Rieke
Harold Galpin	Philip Rieke
Lois Galpin	Tracy Rieke
Connie Gentle (Virtual Participant)	Earl Schwenk
Jim Gentle (Virtual Participant)	AJ Smith
Janet Gibson	Nancy Smith
Joyce Gilman (Virtual Participant)	Vanna Souriyavongsa
Stephanie Hall-Mullen	Kristen Valdez
Kay Humphrys	Paul Valdez
Cassandra Humphrys	Cheryl White
Jennifer Jacobson	Donna Whiteside
Joyce Jakes (deceased 09/21)	April Willis
Barbara Jenson	Joyce Willis
Jim Jewett	Shirley Wolf

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