

# Newsletter

THE NORTHWEST REMINDER

VOLUME XLIX : ISSUE I



## February 2025



Serving the congregation and friends of  
**Northwest Church**  
Disciples of Christ



## A “GENTLE” REMINDER



During the first week of February, I attended the Northwest Association of Theological Discussion annual meeting. This annual meeting aims to bring together pastors from the Northern Lights and Oregon/SW Idaho regions for theological and biblical discussion, conversation, and support.

During the first session, we discussed a book chosen the previous year. This year's book was *My Grandmother's*

*Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies* by Resmaa Menakem. The author shared ways to center ourselves through body practices that help us lessen the anxiety brought up by anxious times.

The second session focused on finding hope during difficult times and centered on using curiosity to spark hope. Rev. Annie Grogan, pastor of Queen Anne Christian Church, and Rev. Adam Janes, pastor of Othello Christian Church, explained in their presentation that when we are slogging through despair, stopping to check in with our feelings and asking ourselves where we find joy is one way to counter the darkness.

Another session focused on current topics in church ministry. This year's topic was the future of ministry, including bi-vocational and part-time ministry. During some very deep sharing by the group, I learned that many churches with aging congregations, limited monetary resources, and aging buildings are unwilling to engage in difficult but necessary conversations.

Many of my clergy peers actually looked to me for some advice as I shared some of our journey. I am grateful that Northwest Church and its leaders have done some of the hard work of engaging the congregation in reimagining our future and did not shy away from this task.

Thank you for your willingness to sit with discomfort during this process.

Please take time to check in with each other as we wade through uncharted territory and contemplate the sale of our building. There is joy and hope to be found, even in the midst of change.

Thank you for being faithful followers of Jesus who know that a building is not the church.

Thank you for being in ministry together and for your continued prayers.

Blessings,

*Pastor Miriam Gentle*

## **PROPERTY SALE UPDATE**

The church property has been listed on the market with Shirley Wolf, our real estate agent.

The Property Sale Committee visited with Shalom Church and All Saints Episcopal about renting space to gather.

Rev. Monica with Christian Church Foundation met with the board to discuss how to address the proceeds from the sale.

## **“NOW AND THEN” POEM**

Rev. Larry Morris, a retired Lutheran pastor and a poet, recently worshipped with Northwest Church. He wrote a poem reflecting on the difficult decisions the congregation faces so courageously. His poem ends with this beautiful prayer:

*Lord comfort us all  
who sit with transition,  
who walk in grief,  
who are uncertain about our future,  
comfort all of us,  
who breathe in your love.*

# WEEK OF COMPASSION

“How does the current state of our world distract the church in our mission to create new stories of hope and healing?”

We can answer the call to support our fellow humanity in any way by caring to take notice of the world around us. As part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), this effort is how we can support the needs of people beyond our local reach.

The collected funds for this offering will be sent to the Week of Compassion mission on behalf of our entire congregation.



## LOCAL SOCIAL CONCERNS

Richland School district lost funding to provide hygiene kits for students at Jefferson Elementary School this year. Receiving the bag of small amenities has long been a staple of attending “the health talk” among students in our community.

The Social Concerns Committee responded to this need by allocating funds to provide boys and girls full-size deodorants this year on behalf of our congregation. This need is fully met. However, we can still extend this effort just by showing a little extra care and kindness to the pre-teens in our own families as they start a new stage in life.

## THANK YOU FROM WORLD RELIEF

The Lawson’s delivered the final tally of 41 winter accessories from the Hat & Mitten tree to World Relief. Great work, NWUP!

# WITNESS OF THE SAINTS

**Sunday, JAN 05**

**In Finance:**

Loose Offering	\$5.00
Rent (Free Sp.)	\$70.00
Rent (Rush Hr.)	\$70.00
Rent (Iglesia E.)	\$320.00
General Fund	\$777.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,242.00</b>

**Sunday, JAN 12**

**In Finance:**

Loose Offering	\$30.00
Rent (Free Sp.)	\$70.00
50in25	\$100.00
Building Fund	\$50.00
General Fund	\$1,170.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,242.00</b>

*The average gathering is  
27 friends in the pews,  
and 4 in fellowship online.*

**\$33,733.73**



**Sunday, JAN 19**

**In Finance:**

Loose Offering	\$45.00
Rent (Flourish)	\$200.00
50in25	\$125.00
General Fund	\$34,057.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,427.00</b>

**Sunday, JAN 26**

**In Finance:**

Loose Offering	\$45.00
Hospitality Fund	\$150.00
General Fund	\$780.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$975.00</b>

**Thank you to our friends  
and members for your  
continued support.  
God Bless You**



25%

**67.47%**

75%

Dec. 2025

# PROPOSED SERVICE LINE-UP

Date	Feb 16	Feb 23	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30
<b>Elder</b>	Brad		Onnie	Joanna	Brad		Brad
<b>Worship</b>	Onnie	Joyce	Dalene	Joe	Toma	Joyce	Onnie
<b>Counters</b>	Aleks Nancy	Donna W Sue J	Dalene John	John Pat	Aleks Nancy	Donna W Sue J	Dalene Jim K
<b>Deacons</b>	Candace Donna W John	John Nancy	Donna W Joe Joyce	Dalene Sue J Jim J	Candace Donna W John	Caroline John Nancy	Donna W Joe Joyce
<b>Pianist</b>	Sue L	Sue L	Sue L	Sue L	Sue L	Sue L	Sue L
<b>Audio</b>	Ian	Ian	Ian	Ian	Ian	Ian	Ian
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Special Session		Candace Donna W				

# February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						01
				<i>Pastor Days Off</i>		
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Worship 10 AM				Special Board Meeting		
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10 AM	CCF Fund ZOOM Meeting			Breakfast Bunch 7:45		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship Coffee Hour		Board 2 PM				
23	24	25	26	27	28	
Worship 10 AM	Food 4 Friends 1 PM			Breakfast Bunch 7:45		

# **NORTHWEST UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH**

**1312 SACRAMENTO BLVD, RICHLAND WA**

**SUNDAYS AT 10 AM**

Rev. Dr. Miriam Gentle:

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Phone:

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[www.nwup.church](http://www.nwup.church)

## **NEW MEMBER**

We welcomed Carol Fitzsimmons to our congregation during worship on Sunday, Feb 9, 2025.

## **COVER PHOTO**

Baby dedication for Ila with her family and our congregation.

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Wishing a happy birthday this month to our friends:

Elvera L, Jeff A, Donna B, Lois G, Savian W and Jan B-W.



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

*"A little more work, true, but it pays to be sure"*