



New World *newsletter*

January 2021

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I generally get excited about the possibilities of a new year. January first is filled with new Day Planner pages, phone scheduling apps updated, brainstorming, SMART goals, etc. This year I am just super excited to leave 2020 behind. Yet, we do not know what the first few weeks of 2021 hold in store.

Regardless, before we can move forward, we should reflect on what we will take away from 2020. Far too often, as the church, we do not assess – we just finish one thing and march forward to the next thing without reflecting on what just happened. So here are my reflections on ONE thing in each question as it relates to the church (I have plenty more than just the ONE, but will limit it to just one for now):

- 1) **What are you most proud of in 2020?** The growth and cohesiveness of the staff team. We are a faith family who supports, encourages and helps one another where needed.
- 2) **What was your toughest challenge in 2020?** The solitude and working alone a good portion of the year. I score a “0” in the personality style of Solitary. I love being around people, so it was hard not being able to meet with people. It was especially hard to self-quarantine because of exposure 4 times. I had to learn how to be alone and be okay with being alone.
- 3) **What is the one gift you would like to thank God for in 2020?** For resilience and inner peace. That does not mean there were not hard days, but I am so thankful for the voice of God saying, “One day at a time, one step at a time – keep moving in my direction and don’t give up.” It kept me mentally, spiritually, and physically balanced.

What would your response be to these 3 questions? As the church enters 2021, I will continue to listen to God’s guidance, learn how to balance the things I wish could happen with the reality that sometimes that thing is “just not possible”, and the importance of continuing to build relationships one person at a time.

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- The new year holds paradigm shifts that invite us to reach out in unimaginable ways to people who might otherwise not know of the love of Jesus. May we embrace what the Lord has shown us – faith is the most important thing, all people are of great value, life is precious, and we must work together.

Proud to be your Pastor,
Rev. Leslie Byrd

Staying Connected—With Our In-house Directory

The last New World church pictorial directory was created in 2017 and a lot has changed since then. Our discovery in 2020 was that people desired to stay connected and the directory everyone uses was missing several pictures and names of those who have joined since 2017.



Therefore, we would like to create something “in-house” to help everyone stay in contact with the people of this family of faith. Because of the pandemic and social-distancing, masks, etc., we are asking you to **email the following** to gail@nwumc.org so that we can update our Shelby computer files:

- **NAME(S)** spelled out
- **Address**
- **Phone number** you wish to list for contact.
- A **HORIZONTAL** picture



AISD Food Pantry and Food Deliveries

Since May, New World volunteers have been working in partnership with Arlington ISD Families in Transition and Rush Creek Church to bring weekend food to North Arlington families in need. What began as a stopgap ministry of delivering food to a few dozen families in need has been extended throughout the school year as AISD students continue to be learning from home this spring semester

You can help support this vital ministry in three main ways:

- 1) **Volunteer to deliver food on 1 or 2 Fridays a month.** Each week 7-8 volunteers are needed to take food from the church to 2-4 families in the area. We would love to have enough volunteers on a rotation so each would only need to deliver food once or twice a month. Volunteers wear masks and deliver to front porches so there is minimal contact. You are welcome to try it out once to see if you like it!
- 2) **Volunteer to organize groceries.** Three weeks a month New World provides a bag of groceries for each family. We need 1 or 2 volunteers who can come in to the church on Wednesday afternoons to sort through donations.
- 3) **Donate items.** Since we feed 25-27 families a week, the food need is great. Most-needed items include: Jelly, Peanut Butter, Pasta, Sauce, Canned Meats (chicken breast, tuna), Rice, Beans, Soups and Canned Goods.

Praying For The New Year!

We all miss time in sacred spaces. Those spaces represent a peaceful place in the presence of the Almighty – away from the noise and distraction of the world. Our beautiful sanctuary offers this quiet presence. During the month of January, we are inviting you to pray for our world, for our community, and for the church in the sanctuary. We will offer prescheduled 30-minute time slots made available BY RESERVATION during the church's office hours Monday through Thursday. Upon arrival, you will pick up a small prayer package with instructions and have the opportunity to spend time listening to soft music, enjoy visual images of peace, and silently offer your prayers. To sign-up – go to [Sign-Up Genius](#).



Dates to Remember for 2021

Praying For The New Year

Begins January 6, New World Sanctuary

Online Weekday Morning Prayer

Resumes January 11th, 8:30 am

Online Bible Study

Resumes January 11th, 9:00 am

Online Message of Hope

Resumes January 11th, 9:30 am

AISSD Food Deliveries

Resumes January 15

Board of Trustees Meeting - Zoom

January 12, 2021 6:00 pm

Finance Meeting - Zoom

January 12, 2021 7:00 pm

PPR Meeting - Zoom

January 19, 2021 7:00 pm

Administrative Board Meeting - Zoom

January 26, 2021 7:00 pm



Arlington Life Shelter

January Special Mission Focus: Feeding Hungry Kids at the Arlington Life Shelter

At the Arlington Life Shelter, there is an ongoing need for snacks and drinks for the youngest residents. With the addition of seven family bedrooms and current remote students learning in place, the need for snacks during the day has increased significantly.

Throughout January, New World United Methodist Church is asking for donations of the following items for the Arlington Life Shelter:

- Chips/Pretzels
- Cookies/Rice Krispy Treats
- Goldfish Crackers
- Granola/Cereal Bars
- Fruit Snacks
- Pudding Snacks
- Fruit Cups (Pears, Oranges, etc.)
- Applesauce
- Juice Boxes
- Fresh Fruit
- Cases of Water
- Plastic Forks and Spoons
- Disposable Cereal Bowls
- 12oz. Plastic Cups
- Small Paper Plates
- Paper Towels

Items marked "Arlington Life Shelter" can be dropped off at the church building 10AM-12PM Monday-Thursday. Donations are due, Thursday, January 28.

Contact Rev. Erin (erin@nwumc.org) for more information.

Student Ministries

Weather permitting we will start back up our Sunday youth group meetings from 4-5 outside the church after MLK weekend. Don't forget a mask, water, and a chair or blanket to sit on. Dress warmly! We will evaluate weekly to make sure it is not too cold to meet outside. Our time will be spent in community with each other, playing socially distanced games, and devotionals. For those who are unable to make it for in-person meetups or may prefer non-in-person meetups, the Zoom will also be on from 4-5 so you can see the group and be part of discussions. For security reasons please email or call for the Zoom ID and password. New students looking to get involved in community are always welcome, and you can always bring a friend!



We will continue to monitor for safety and will notify parents and students by 1 pm on Sunday afternoons if the weather prevents us from being able to meet outside. These updates will be sent through email and text throughout the month. If you would like to be on the student ministry parent/student contact list please email sarah@nwumc.org.

The dates we will gather in January will be:

1/10 (Virtual only)

1/24

1/31

We will not meet the weekend of New Year's (January 3rd) or MLK weekend (January 17th). On January 10th we will meet via Zoom from 4-5 to check in, talk about our Holiday break, and the upcoming semester. Zoom link will be sent via text and email. On January 24th and 31st we will meet outside the church from 4-5 pm. Please bring a chair or a blanket, a water bottle, and a mask!

The beginning of the semester is the perfect time to get involved for the first time or re-involved. If you know a student who may look to get involved, contact Sarah Henson, Director of Student Ministries: sarah@nwumc.org

Note to all church members: If you would like to donate sweets or snacks for our Sunday meet-ups, or if you would like to get involved by volunteering, both would be so valuable and appreciated by our youth. Please contact Sarah Henson if you are interested.



Children's Sunday School

Beginning January 10, the children will meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. We are meeting in a new location. We will meet outside the sanctuary doors off of Rocky Canyon. This is an outdoor location that has more protection from the breeze and if it rains, there is a roof. Children need to wear masks, and they can bring a drink and snack if they would like one. They do not need to bring a chair. Tables and chairs will be set up.

End of Year Giving

Ways to donate:

- Drop off your offering in our new secure mailbox outside the main entrance.
- The most cost effective and no service fee way of giving is through an ACH (Automated Clearing House) payment which can come from your checking or savings account. One hundred percent of your donation comes back to New World. All that is needed is a voided check.
- Online giving at www.nwumc.org. Click on the "Give" button at the top of the screen.
- Text GIVE to 817-789-4129. Questions?

Email me at heather@nwumc.org or call the church office.