



New World *newsletter*

New World United Methodist Church
2201 N. Davis, Arlington, TX 76012
817-460-4212 | nwumc.org
May, 2021

May has always been a month that I look forward to. My birthday, anniversary and Mother's Day fall in the month of May. When I attended school, and on through college and Grad school, May was the end of the school year and it felt so good to close out another year successfully.

May is the time I begin to plan summer family moments and can work more outdoors to get things spruced up. Flowers are in full bloom by May and the days begin to get warmer – and all in all, I just love this time of year!

While May is not about me – the last 20 years, I have discovered a new joy for celebrating certain accomplishments. It makes my heart sing to watch people grow in wisdom, learn deeper truths and care for others.

In the life of the church after Easter, we celebrate many things to the glory of the risen Lord. We celebrate the gift of teachers and a school year of hard work, the gift of students and their accomplishments academically, the gift of parents who have supported and encouraged their young people and are ready for the summer break, and for all who have been a mother figure to God's children.

In a year that has struggled through a global pandemic, some of these things have been much harder than usual. Yet, through each of these moments, we continue to celebrate the way in which God has used each person to continue His kingdom work in this world. God uses teachers, students, parents, mothers and fathers and grandparents to share the faith and spread the Good News.

continued on page 2

article continued

I invite you to join me this month as we celebrate our Graduates on May 23rd, both on-line and during in-person worship. If you have a graduate in your household, please send us their name, a recent picture, and your email address so we can get some information for the celebration. We would also like to recognize all the teachers in this faith community and we invite you to send us your name and what grade you teach at which school.

As we continue to return to in-person worship and grow our on-line presence as well, we are reminded that learning and growing in our faith as well as caring for others does not stop at the end of May. This kingdom work is every day, every month and every year. We are a church body called to make a difference in our community and to invite others to meet Jesus. Let's see every day as a beautiful opportunity to go where He MAY lead us!

Proud to be your Pastor,
Rev. Leslie Byrd

New World Safe Social Distancing Book Club

If you love to read books but do not have time for a lot of meetings on your calendar, this is the perfect book club for you!

How it works:

Each month we select a book to read on a variety of subjects. If one interests you, join in! You borrow or buy the book to read on your own in whatever format you prefer, then we get together for an hour over Zoom to discuss the book and how it applies to our faith.

Book Club Meetings are 7-8PM via Zoom.

To join in, contact Rev. Erin (Erin@nwumc.org) for Zoom Meeting details.

Here's our schedule:

Sunday, April 25

"Caste: The Origins of our Discontents"

by Isabel Wilkerson

Sunday, May 23

"River of Fire: On Becoming an Activist"

by Sister Helen Prejean
(the perfect book for Pentecost Sunday!)



Sunday, June 27

"The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World"

by Dalai Lama,
Desmond Tutu, et al.

Sunday, July 25

"Who Stole My Bible? Reclaiming Scripture as a Handbook for Resisting Tyranny"

by Rev. Jennifer Butler



**AISD Food
Partnership –
Food Pantry
Needs**

In partnership with AISD and Rush Creek Church, every week New World delivers much needed weekend food to about two dozen North Arlington families. You can help by volunteering to deliver or donating any of the following items:

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Meats, Cereals, Easy-Prep and Shelf-Stable Meals, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Toilet Paper, Basic Toiletries

Donations can be brought to the church Monday-Thursday, 10AM-12PM. Contact Rev. Erin with any questions or to volunteer.



World Vision Global 6K for Water

Join Team New World for our second year of participation in the World Vision Global 6K for Water on Saturday, May 22.



On Saturday, May 22, a team from New World will be joining 60,000 others walking or running to bring life-changing clean water to children in need. Globally, about 1000 children die daily from not having access to clean drinking water, and the average distance they may have to walk to access water is 6 kilometers, or 3.7 miles. We can join our resources together to make a difference!

This year you have two options for participating! Participate virtually and on your own you can individually raise funds and walk, run, crawl, dance, stroller-push our way for the distance of 6 kilometers or 3.7 miles on the same day. You can also participate in person. We'll meet at the church at 9AM and walk the distance together in the neighborhood around the church!

How it works: Register for a \$50 donation on the New World United Methodist Church World Vision Team Page. Follow this link, **[New World United Methodist Church](#)**.

With your registration, you will receive a t-shirt, racing bib and even a race medal! Between now and May 22, collect donations and tell people about your participation. On the day of the event, post pictures of your progress! Together we can make a difference!

NEW: “GROWTH GROUPS”

We have been talking a great deal about small “House Church” groups as a new discipleship ministry at New World UMC. It is one more way to stay connected and grow in our faith. Matthew 18:20 states, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I’m there with them. Now that the weather is warming up and people are getting vaccinations, we want to begin more small groups. **Starting May 7th**, we want to offer this ministry of small home groups and we are calling them **GROWTH GROUPS**. Follow this link [GROWTH GROUPS](#), for more information.



Mother's Day Prayer

Almighty Lord, who has created all life, we give thanks for your presence in all life. We recognize your presence in the lives of all who become a mother in the life of another whether by birth, adoption, or through connection. For every child needs the support and encouragement of many around them to discover their fullest God-given potential.

The life of a mother is one filled with both joy and worry. There is both sacrifice and a willingness to give all possible for each boy and girl to come to know you. Grant mothers everywhere the ability to worship you with reverence and to teach your ways to those you have entrusted to their care.

For those who struggle to have children, please grant them peace of heart and a trust in you. You know their heart's desire and you hear their prayers and hold their tears. For those who choose to be a nurturer of other children and provide the mothering love and care for their tender hearts, we give you thanks. For those who carry the load of parenting alone, give them rest and strength to get through each day knowing you are beside them.

And for those who have not always been the mother that you have called them to be, grant them your mercy and bring about peace in their lives and the lives of the children who carry pain and brokenness. Bring into their lives a comforting presence through a grandparent, extended family, a neighbor, a teacher, a pastor, or a mentor.

While this day was originally set aside for all women who worked for peace in the world on behalf of their children, this day is very hard for some. Help us to be mindful of those who struggle. Let us not just choose this one day to honor those who have “mothered” and cared for our needs in life, but to be grateful to you for those you have placed in our life to guide us toward you.

As the scriptures reminds us that you “long to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings,” may we experience the nurturing depth of your love through those you place in our lives as mothers. And, on this day may we honor those who gave birth to us, who nurtured us, or who guided us in right paths for your name's sake.

Amen.

Rev. Leslie Byrd



BSA Opportunities

BSA Troop 520 has two troops at New World UMC for both boys and girls aged 11-17. We have great dedicated leaders and youth who strive to encourage growth in character with a love of the outdoors, adventure and science. You can find out more about us at BSA-Troop520.net or on Facebook by searching BSA Troop 520 North Arlington. If you are searching for fun and excitement please check us out at upcoming recruiting events. Feel free to contact us at BSA-Troop520tx@gmail.com with any questions.



Serve with Project Transformation Central Texas!

Mark your summer calendar now for July 12-15 and set aside some time to help with Project Transformation!

Project Transformation Central Texas is a summer literacy day camp hosted by local United Methodist churches. As a partner church to First UMC Bedford, New World is sponsoring the **week of July 12-15** and volunteers can make a difference in several ways:

1. **Serve as a Reading Buddy!** Adults can volunteer a few morning hours to read with elementary school kids at our partner church's location. Children who read aloud grow in their confidence and ability, and you can make a positive impact by listening. In 2021 we will have in person volunteering available with COVID-19 safety protocols in place.
2. **Provide Food for our host site.** Each week, Project Transformation sends home food with children in need. COVID-19 has increased dramatically food insecurity in our community. Project Transformation works with families to create lists of needed items so what we donate is needed, desired and helpful.
3. **Provide specific PPE, learning supplies and books.** This year, each project site will be using a set of curriculum and books. You can help by purchasing specific books or items.

To get involved with Project Transformation 2021, or for more information, contact Rev. Erin (erin@nwumc.org)

The **NEW WORLD NEW PLAN** Team will be meeting together during the end of April and first half of May to begin work on Phase 2 – small and large groups using the building. Please continue to be in prayer as the team does this important work. We will seek approval of the Phase 2 plan by our called Administrative Board on May 25.



Student Ministries

For May we will continue our Sunday youth group meetings from 4-5 outside the church. Be sure to bring a mask, water bottle, and a chair or blanket to sit on. In the case of rain, we will meet inside our fellowship hall. Our time during youth group will be spent in community with each other, playing socially distanced games, and do devotionals and bible studies together. If you are unable to make it or 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!

The dates we will gather in May will be:

5/2

5/16

5/23

We will not meet on Mother's Day, May 9th, or Memorial Day weekend, May 30th.

Once school is out, we will not meet on Sunday afternoons but will begin meeting for Sunday school on Sunday mornings after worship, as well as Wednesday afternoons at the church. We will also have outings throughout the summer, and our local mission trip in June. Student ministry 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.

If you have a student, know a student who might like to get involved, or have any questions, contact our Director of Student Ministries, Sarah Henson, sarah@nwumc.org.

Vacation Bible School – Discovery on Adventure Island! July 20-22

Our Bible verse will be:

*“Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord’s glory
has shone upon you!”*

Isaiah 60:1



Mark your calendars! We are having in person Vacation Bible School this summer for children 4 years old -5th grade.

Discovery on Adventure Island invites children to arise and shine because the light of God’s love has come and is shining on them! We will be looking at some familiar New Testament stories. We will Shine with FAITH, Shine with JOY, Shine with HOPE!

We will need adult volunteers to help in the areas of Bible story, music, crafts, science, recreation, and serving snacks and shepherding children to the different areas.

Please contact Kathy Alexander at kathyalex@nwumc.org or 817-460-4212

Watch this video to see an example of the fun we have planned for you!

[Discovery on Adventure Island!](#)