

New World Newsletter

February 2021

My social media account loves to start each day with a picture entitled, “memory from the past”. These always make me smile because most are great moments with friends and family. The moments are precious. Entering the second month of 2021 with more vaccines becoming available, we have a new hope for more moments with family and friends that will also become precious.

We are hopeful that the numbers will begin to move in a downward trend (once we are past the predicted spike due to holiday gatherings), and with the increase of vaccinations, we have set a date to return to limited “in person” worship for February 21, 2021. This is provided that the state and the county do not issue new recommendations.

There will continue to be an on-line worship option on the church’s Facebook page and YouTube. This option will continue indefinitely. The “in-person” option is limited in number – asking you to make a reservation - and will follow the New World New Plan guidelines that were approved in 2020. We will release a video outlining what to expect and specific requirements in the next week to ten days.

This decision did not come lightly, and we are aware that not everyone may feel comfortable to return just yet. And that is okay. We honor your decision and encourage you to continue to worship with us on-line until you feel ready.

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Ash Wednesday February 17, 2021

New World UMC will observe Ash Wednesday in two ways for 2021. We will have a drive-thru imposition of ashes as we have done for the last two years and we will have a service that will be online through our **Facebook** page, nwumc.org and **YouTube**.

The details for the day:

7:30am – 9:00am

Drive-Thru for Imposition of Ashes

11:30am – 1:00pm

Drive-Thru for Imposition of Ashes

5:00pm – 6:30pm

Drive-Thru for Imposition of Ashes

7:00pm

Service of Ashes Online

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We will begin “in-person” worship with only ONE service at 10:00 a.m. However, it cannot happen without volunteers to usher, greet, check persons in and take temperatures. If you are willing to volunteer, please send an email to leslie@nwumc.org There will be ONE on-line worship service and will premier at 10:00 a.m. We will alternate between Contemporary and Traditional opportunities in these services.

Watch for the video explaining what to expect which will be sent out as a link in a special news supplement. In regard to small group meetings, we continue the discussion on next steps. When we have a decision, at a later date, we will provide you with information.

We ask that you remember that New World has been and will continue to offer ways to worship and serve that fulfill the Great Commission in Matthew’s gospel, “Go into all the world and make disciples of Jesus Christ.” The church is the people, and the people offer their hands and feet in the name Jesus Christ.

Proud to be our Pastor,
Rev. Leslie Byrd



We Need Your Picture For Our In-house Directory

The last New World church pictorial directory was created in 2017. We discovered in 2020 that people desired to stay connected and the current directory was missing several pictures and names of those who have joined since 2017.

Therefore, we would like to create something “in-house” to help you stay in contact with the people of this family of faith. We are asking you to **email the following** to gail@nwumc.org so that we begin work on this project:

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

Ways To Stay Connected Online

(click on the Facebook logo to watch our latest Worship Services or catch up with one of the following resources)



Morning Prayer with Rev. Erin Jackson
Monday—Friday, 8:30 am

Seeds and Soil Bible Study with Rev. Leslie Byrd
Monday & Thursday, 9:00 am

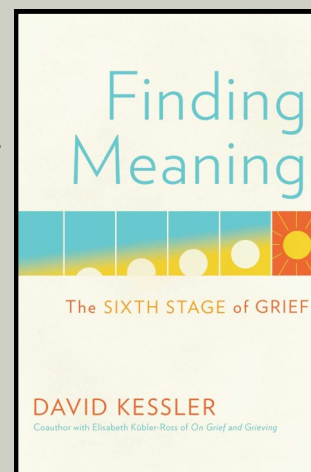
Message of Hope with Rev. Leslie Byrd
Monday & Thursday, 9:30 am

February Book Club: "Finding Meaning: The Sixth Stage of Grief" by David Kessler – Feb. 28

The New World Safe Social Distancing Book Club is ready to resume for 2021! 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 to discuss the book and how it applies to our faith.



February's book is the highly recommended "Finding Meaning: The Sixth Stage of Grief" by David Kessler. On a personal level and a cultural level, we all endure grief in various ways. In the season of Lent, we look at death and dying in a new light.

A summary from Amazon: "In 1969, Elisabeth Kübler-Ross first identified the stages of dying in her transformative book *On Death and Dying*. Decades later, she and David Kessler wrote the classic *On Grief and Grieving*, introducing the stages of grief with the same transformative pragmatism and compassion. Now, based on hard-earned personal experiences, as well as knowledge and wisdom gained through decades of work with the grieving, Kessler introduces a critical sixth stage: meaning.

Kessler's insight is both professional and intensely personal. His journey with grief began when, as a child, he witnessed a mass shooting at the same time his mother was dying. For most of his life, Kessler taught physicians, nurses, counselors, police, and first responders about end of life, trauma, and grief, as well as leading talks and retreats for those experiencing grief. Despite his knowledge, his life was upended by the sudden death of his twenty-one-year-old son. How does the grief expert handle such a tragic loss? He knew he had to find a way through this unexpected, devastating loss, a way that would honor his son. That, ultimately, was the sixth stage of grief—meaning. In *Finding Meaning*, Kessler shares the insights, collective wisdom, and powerful tools that will help those experiencing loss."

New World Safe Social Distancing Book Club

When: Sunday, February 28th 7PM-8PM

Where: Zoom (contact Rev. Erin erin@nwumc.org to get Zoom meeting details)



2021 Missions Update

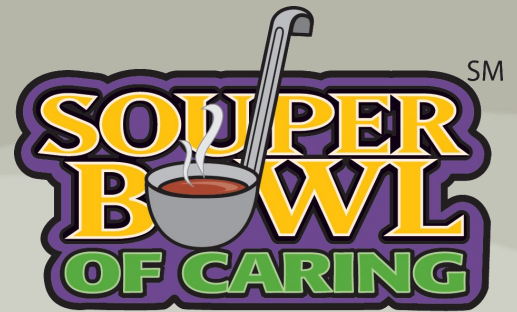
The Mission of New World United Methodist Church is to "Love God, Love Neighbor and Make Disciples." As the missions pastor, I love how

generously and enthusiastically we love our neighbors through countless mission projects throughout the year.

To keep things focused in 2021 and to do ministry with excellence, we will *primarily* focus on the following mission partnerships:

1. **Arlington ISD Families in Transition.** From weekly groceries, school uniform and supply drives, and the Giving Tree Christmas gift program, we already have an incredible partnership with AISD. We will continue in 2021 to focus on helping kids and families in North Arlington through the school district program.
2. **Arlington Urban Ministries.** To serve the needs of more neighbors in Arlington, we will support the mission and ministries of AUM.
3. **Habitat for Humanity.** Our hope for 2021 is to participate in building a home with Habitat for Humanity. Stay tuned for details!
4. **Manna Bags.** This ongoing mission of providing simple bags of nonperishable snacks for people we encounter in need of encouragement and food helps us to respond with love and compassion in the neighborhood. In 2020 the Stephen Ministry has taken on the mission of filling the bags and we would love for other small groups to rotate in filling bags in 2021.

For more information on these missions, or to volunteer, contact Rev. Erin (erin@nwumc.org)



tacklehunger.org

Souper Bowl of Caring

The children will have Souper Bowl of Caring on Ash Wednesday, February 17, from 5:00 -6:30 pm at the Drive Thru for Ashes. They will be collecting money, cans of soup, and peanut butter that will be donated to Arlington Urban Ministries. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to sponsor a mission project that they are able to do themselves. Everyone knows how much they enjoy hearing the coins and paper money go into their pots. If you are unable to come by for the Drive Thru Ashes, you can bring your donations to the church during business hours any time between now and February 17. There will be a soup pot available for your money and a table to put your soup and peanut butter on. Thank you for supporting the children in this annual mission's project!

Kathy Alexander
Director of Children's Ministries



Student Ministries:

We will continue our Sunday youth group meetings from 4-5 pm. Further details will be sent via email if these meetings will take place on our church lawn or in the sanctuary. If you would like to be on the weekly emailing list please contact our Director of Student Ministries , Sarah Henson at sarah@nwumc.org.

Our meetings in person will always emphasize safety and social distancing, so do not forget a mask and bring a folding chair when we are meeting outside.

Our time together will be spent in community with each other, playing socially distanced games, and doing devotionals. 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 here in New World 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.

The dates we will gather in February will be:

2/7

2/21

2/28

We will not meet on 2/14 for President's Day weekend.

During our meeting times in February, we will be completing a service project, as well as participating in our conference's virtual mid-winter together as a youth group at the church. Be on the lookout for more information on both our service project as well as virtual mid-winter!

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.



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