

# New World *newsletter*

DECEMBER 2021

In the story of the nativity, the Frankincense and Myrrh. These the time of Jesus' birth and would have held specific meaning and value. As we approach the Advent season, I have been thinking about the gifts that Jesus has given to use in my life that are both significant and hold holy meaning and value.

wise men brought gifts of Gold, were gifts of significance during

The gift of eternal life is the most precious gift we all have been given through the birth, life, teachings, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. The price, being paid the cross, is an awareness that brings me to my knees. The gifts of faith, fellowship, service, family, friends, and the ability to share love are ones Jesus has offered each of us that I treasure profoundly.

This year turned out to be as challenging as 2020 in many ways, but the gift of a "Jesus-loving team" to walk through these challenges has been profound. Every day we learn new things together. We are not perfect, but we are perfected in our heart and work through our love for Jesus. We show up, talk through, try, tweak, re-try and learn from our mistakes and celebrate the victories of bringing Jesus to the world while we invite people to take responsibility for growing in the faith.

I cannot imagine a better team to serve alongside, and I am grateful for the wisdom of Jesus who brought together this team and placed us in this faith community to share the love displayed upon the cross. The staff and I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and look forward to all we will accomplish in Jesus' name in 2022!

Proud to be your Pastor,  
Rev. Leslie Byrd



NWUMC Staff 2021  
not pictured but included - Josh Bender





*"Glory to God in the highest and, on earth, peace to people of good will."*  
Luke 1:14

These words were spoken by the angel Gabriel to the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks. Liturgically, it is known as the "angelic hymn" or "*hymnus angelicus*". These words appear in shortened form in the favorite carol, "Angels We Have Heard on High". In the traditional mass, these words are spoken or sung following the reading of the gospel for that day.

December 12th, our chancel choir will present a setting of these words by British composer, John Rutter. We have presented this glorious work before in 2013. It is so exciting and inspiring that we decided to repeat it this year. It is scored for choir, soloists, brass ensemble, percussion and organ. The piece is divided into three parts sung back to back and uses the traditional text. That morning we will also present some traditional carols to be sung by the congregation with the choir and brass as well as few new carols that are designed just for choral presentation. Rev. Leslie Byrd will offer a devotional as part of the morning experience.

We will celebrate one LIVE service that morning at 10:00am. We hope to see you all there. Bring a guest!!!! This is a great Sunday to invite someone new to experience New World in worship.

Joy to you all,

Steven Couch  
Director of Worship and Music

## Blue Christmas Service

Christmas is hard for those who have lost a loved one. That empty chair, special traditions, and memories make traditional worship difficult during a season that typically was filled with joy and laughter. People wish to honor the birth of Christ, but want to in a more private setting than a sanctuary filled with lots of people. We understand.

On Sunday, December 12th at 5:00 p.m. in Room 26 & 27 of the education wing, you are invited to a quiet candlelight service of remembering, prayers, meditation and words of healing and hope for any who have experienced a loss or find this season difficult to be in places of hustle and bustle. All are welcome and are invited to come as you are. Trained Stephen Ministers will assist with parts of this service and Rev. Leslie Byrd will bring a message.





## Kids Against Hunger

Join us for the Kids Against Hunger meal packing event on **Sunday, December 12** in the New World UMC Fellowship Hall! We are so excited to announce that we will have an in-person volunteer service project inside the church building!

Here's when we need volunteers the most:

- **8:00-9:00AM** Set Up Crew –We need about 10 amazing volunteers to help get all of the items in place in the Fellowship Hall
- **9:00AM-12:00PM** – **Come to the church fellowship hall either before or after the 10AM worship service, put on a hairnet and jump in for some volunteer time!** We will take a break to worship together at 10AM.
- **12:00-until we're done** – Clean Up Crew – We need plenty of help with loading the meals into the Kids Against Hunger truck, putting the Fellowship Hall back in order and washing a few dishes.

Get ready to celebrate when we pass our goal of packing over 15,000 meals to feed hungry people!

To sign up for a particular shift or volunteer role, contact Rev. Erin [erin@nwumc.org](mailto:erin@nwumc.org)



## Observe Advent at Home (& in person) this Year

The season leading up to Christmas called Advent begins on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. During this season, we prepare our hearts for celebrating the arrival of Jesus Christ and center ourselves on the holy wonders of the time.



Advent is something meant to be celebrated each day of the season. Last year, we created Advent at Home kits to connect while we could not worship together in person. While this year we are offering in-person worship, we invite you to use this kit to experience the holy wonder and grow in your faith throughout the season!

Each household is able to receive an "Advent at Home" kit with a daily devotional and supplies to practice Advent anticipation at home. Elements of the kit will also be used for interacting with online worship and morning prayer. Our prayer is that these kits will be a blessing to your household all season long.

Advent boxes will be available for pick up at the church building beginning on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to make it to the building for any reason, we are happy to deliver the boxes to you! Please contact the church office to let us know. Extras for a suggested donation of \$20 will be available if you have friends, family members or neighbors who would be blessed by having one.

Contact Rev. Erin if you have any questions ([erin@nwumc.org](mailto:erin@nwumc.org))



## Prime Timers Lunch

Country singer Craig Murphy will provide the program for our December lunch. Craig has performed on great stages like the Arlington Music Hall, Billy Bob's Texas, the Doug Gabriel Show in Branson, MO, and New World.



The meal will be catered (details coming soon). Mark your calendars to join us in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, December 14**. We'll gather at 11:30 and eat around noon. Guests welcome!



## New World Preschool Fundraiser

New World Preschool is having a T-shirt fundraiser. Please click the link below to view the 2 T-shirt options and for the order form. Shirts will be on sell until December 1<sup>st</sup>. All money (Checks/Cash) must be turned in to Ms. Amber to complete your order.

Thank you for your support.

Amber Walter  
New World Preschool Director

<https://forms.gle/MJf7e2iWifi3XsESA>

*Jesus took naps.  
BE LIKE JESUS.  
Mark 4:38  
New World Preschool*



## Progressive Dinner 2021

On Sunday, December 5th we will be having our annual Progressive Dinner!



Progressive dinner is when we travel to 4 different houses for different courses. We will meet at the first house for appetizers at 5 pm and will finish up with desserts at the final house by 9 pm. Attire is Sunday best or your favorite Christmas gear! Be sure to bring a white elephant present for a gift exchange (worth approx. \$10). For details such as addresses and to RSVP for your student email Sarah Henson, [sarah@nwumc.org](mailto:sarah@nwumc.org). RSVPs will be needed by Monday, November 29th to have an accurate headcount for food as well as enough adult drivers. This will be our last evening youth event until the spring semester.

## Bands

We will meet for Sunday morning youth Bands on December 5th and 19th. We will not meet on December 12th or 26th since New World will only have one combined worship service. Have a safe and fun Christmas holiday and New Year!

## Wintercamp 2022

Be sure to register for Winter Camp 2022!

The dates are February 25-27, 2022. Wintercamp will take place from

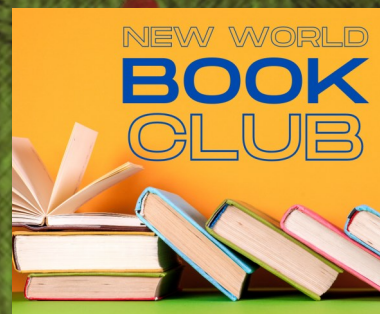


February 25-27 at Glen Lake Camp. We will meet at the church on Friday afternoon to ride to Glen Lake together and return on Sunday afternoon. All youth grades 6-12th are invited to join for a retreat away from life and school in order to connect with one another as well as other churches. Registration opens on October 6th and can be done here: <https://www.glenlake.org/wintercamp>



## New World Book Club

Love to read and want to talk about books from a faith perspective? The New World Book Club meets 7:00-8:00PM CST once a month on a Sunday evening via Zoom meeting (Meeting ID 256 774 719). The book club is simple and open to everyone! How it works: if a book looks interesting to you, read it on your own & then meet us on Zoom to discuss it together!



Next Meeting: Sunday, November 21 - 7:00PM

"The Five Invitations" by Frank Ostaseski

*In this book, author and teacher Frank Ostaseski offers five invitations to consider what death can teach us about living fully: "1. Don't wait. 2. Welcome everything, push away nothing. 3. Bring your whole self to the experience. 4. Find a place of rest in the middle of things. 5. Cultivate don't know mind." You are invited to read this book and then join us for a discussion through the lens of Christian faith.*

Upcoming Books:

Sunday, January 31 – 7:00PM

"Wholehearted Faith" by Rachel Held Evans

Sunday, February 28 – 7:00PM

"The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle

If you have any questions, contact Rev. Erin ([erin@nwumc.org](mailto:erin@nwumc.org))



In Children's Band Time on Sunday mornings, we will be looking at the Christmas story recorded in the gospel of Luke. I would like to invite all the children to join us to learn more about Jesus birthday!

## Christmas Caroling

The children are going Christmas caroling in the neighborhood around the church on Sunday, December 12 following the one Worship service of music. We will have pizza for lunch and then walk around the neighborhood sharing Christmas joy with our neighbors.



## Children's Nativity on Christmas Eve

The children will be sharing the Nativity story on Christmas Eve for the 6:00 pm worship service. As families come for the service the children will be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall to choose a costume. During the service the story will be told and the children will come forward in their costumes to form a very special Nativity.



## AISD Families in Transition Mission Projects

In November and December, we are reaching out to Arlington ISD families in our area in three big ways:



**First, we need donations and volunteers for the AISD Food Pantry ministry.** Currently, we are delivering weekend snack bags to approximately 55 elementary students every week for our adopted schools Jones Academy and Hill Elementary. *In a recent conversation with an Elementary counselor, I learned what a blessing these bags have become. Due to a recent job loss, one of their families has 10 (TEN!) children living under one roof. The snack bags are helping keep that family fed over the weekend and they are so grateful for our church.*

You can help this ministry by volunteering to deliver or donating items. Our most needed items are: 8-12 oz. water bottles, 100% juice boxes, macaroni and cheese, Chef Boyardee and cereal individual bowls, and goldfish crackers. With Thanksgiving this month, it's a great time to pick up a few extra items when you are getting groceries. All donated items can be brought to the church Monday through Thursday.

**Second, it's time to get ready for The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Giving Tree!** This is our holiday gift-giving ministry in partnership with Arlington ISD where we each have an opportunity to buy Christmas presents, school uniforms and needed items for a local child. We will have wish lists available from the school district starting November 14<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, be on the lookout for special gifts that will bring a smile to kids in our neighborhood. Gifts will be collected at the church November 15-December 8.

**Third, we are having a COAT DRIVE!** As the weather turns colder, students need coats to keep warm. We are collecting new and gently used coats for all sizes of kids from toddlers to high school students. Gloves, mittens and scarves are also helpful! Donations can be brought to the church November 14-December 5. A donation rack is available in the concourse.

Contact Rev. Erin ([erin@nwumc.org](mailto:erin@nwumc.org)) if you need more information.



The Church office will be closed Monday, December 26 through Friday, December 31. Because the church will be closed, all donations in the form of checks or cash to be included in the calendar year of 2021, must be turned into the office by December 17th, or can be left in the mailbox outside the main entrance until noon December 31st. You may give a donation online, or text "GIVE" to (817) 789-4129, the entire month of December.

If you have a Pastoral Care Emergency, you may text Heather James, Director of Operations, at 817-992-4715 and she will contact a pastor for you. Or you may email Pastor Leslie at [leslie@nwumc.org](mailto:leslie@nwumc.org) or Pastor Erin at [erin@nwumc.org](mailto:erin@nwumc.org).