

NewburgUMC

Monthly

OCTOBER 2021

NOTES FROM REV. STEVE



A “New” New Normal

Greetings friends in the name of Jesus Christ! A year ago, I wrote about entering a New Normal. Specifically, I wrote this:

Many of you know that I am a sports fan, and so naturally I was watching a little football on Sunday as the NFL season has gotten underway. Something dawned on me while I was watching. “This feels normal!” The season started on time, we have our games on Sunday, Monday and Thursday, and the Lions can be counted on to blow another lead. All is well. But... There are hardly any spectators in the stands in some places, and only cardboard cutouts in many other venues. It may seem normal, but really it is not.

This year, all our sports are on “normal” schedules. Fans are back in the stands, but there is a new normal required to be in some of those stadiums. From new vaccination and mask policies, along with the realization that we are really not out of this pandemic and we may never fully be rid of this virus. Now, masks and regular booster shots are also becoming our new normal.

In the church however, we too are experiencing a new normal. One even newer than what I shared last year. While we are back to worshipping in person and resuming our activities, it is not the same. The way we “attend” worship, the way we serve, the way we give has changed. This is in line with a recent Gallup Poll that said most urban and suburban churches attendance is about 50% of what their attendance was pre-Covid. The majority of people believe that Covid is getting worse. 1 in 4 adults are choosing to completely self-isolate. 1 in 3 adults are avoiding public spaces, and one half of the respondents said

they are avoiding large gathering places all together, including church. Our attendance numbers show that many of you are among those choosing not to gather. We are happy and thankful to be able to share and connect with one another in different ways through our online ministries and social media.

In acknowledging a new normal, we also must admit one thing: it will never be the same as it was before. Therefore in measuring how we are engaging in ministry and worship, we cannot use February of 2020 as our normal baseline. We must establish new ones. The problem is we are still figuring out what those baselines are.

To help us do that, we are going to start with the basics. That is the title of our new sermon series for this month to go along with our Finance Campaign. We are calling it **Back to Basics**. Last year we learned that we had some work to do financially in our church. What became clear was that we needed to define *why* we have a finance campaign and what our offerings support. We have even more work to do this year than last year in fully funding our ministries for 2021 and 2022. Accordingly, that is what we will be emphasizing this month; getting our church back to the basics, helping us to establish a new normal as we emerge from the pandemic. That means we will have to be curious, we will have to be creative, and we will have to be innovative in our approach. We need to be willing to try new things and if they do not work, move on and try something else. But if we can keep our focus on the basics, which is becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ, then this new normal will lead us to an even better place than we were before. That all comes from following Jesus where he will take us and the *New Normal* will feel to us like normal.

Peace and Prayers,
Rev. Steve

Back to Basics

SUNDAYS

October 3 World Communion Sunday In-Person & Livestream Worship at 10am

"The Church: A Gift That Keeps on Giving"

Rev. Steve McCoy

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Holy Communion

Children's Sunday School | 10am

Deeper Faith | 11:45am | Zoom

Youth Group | 6pm

October 10

In-Person & Livestream Worship at 10am

"What is the Point?" | Rev. Steve McCoy

Mark 10:17-31

Stewardship Campaign Begins

Children's Sunday School | 10am

Deeper Faith | 11:45am | Zoom

Youth Group | Three Cedars Farm

October 17 Children's Ministry Sunday

In-Person & Livestream Worship at 10am

"Teachings of Jesus" | Karen Golden

Children's Sunday School | 10am

Deeper Faith | 11:45am | Zoom

Youth Group | 6pm

October 24

In-Person & Livestream Worship at 10am

"Walking Blind" | Dr. Frank Dunbar

Mark 10:46-52

Children's Sunday School | 10am

Deeper Faith | 11:45am | Zoom

Education Team Meeting | 11:30am

Youth Group | 6pm

October 31 All Saints Sunday

In-Person & Livestream Worship at 10am

"It Boils Down to This" | Rev. Steve McCoy

Isaiah 25:6-9

Children's Sunday School | 10am

Deeper Faith | 11:45am | Zoom

Trunk or Treat | 5pm to 7pm

Youth Group | 6pm

MONDAYS

Monday Morning Minute With Rev. Steve McCoy

<https://www.youtube.com/newburgumc>

Pastor's Bible Study | 9:30 am

Asbury Lounge with Rev. Steve McCoy

TUESDAYS

Lecto Divina

Every Tuesday | 1pm | Asbury Lounge

Bookmarks

October 19 | 7pm | Asbury Lounge

We will discuss "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah.

We will observe Covid precautions that the church has in place at that time. Led by [Mimi Silverman](#).

WEDNESDAYS

Newburg Student Ministry | The Hangout

Gutherie Hall | 4pm-7pm

Music Ministries:

Cantabile Bells | 6pm | Wesley Music Rm.

Chancel Choir | 7pm | Wesley Music Rm.

Sunday Rehearsal | 8pm

Men's Online Bible Study

Wednesdays, October 6 & 20 | 7:30pm | Skype

Contact [James Frederick](#) for information/Skype link.

THURSDAYS

Women Connecting With Christ

Thursdays at 5pm & 7pm (at capacity), "Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out, and Lonely" by Lysa Terkeurst. Led by Janice Gasaway.

SATURDAYS

Rummage Sale | September 30-October 2

If you would like to help with the set up & sale, which begins on Sunday, September 26, please sign up on our [Volunteer Sign Up List](#).

Additional Resources

"The Upper Room" daily Devotional guide for September/October are available in the main office for pick up Monday—Friday 9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm.

ADULT MINISTRY & STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Deeper Faith

Sunday's at 11:45am | [Zoom](#)

Deeper Faith is an adult Sunday school class that provides a place to learn, grow and deepen your faith, build relationships, fellowship and connect. Class meets on Sundays at 11:45am on Zoom. The current course is a series of lectures entitled "**The Greatest Controversies of Early Christian History**" by Bart Ehrman. Each lecture delves into a key issue in Christianity's early development and investigates 24 pivotal controversies throughout its history. Please contact the Main Office or [James Frederick](#) for the Zoom passcode.

Lectio Divina Scripture Study

Lectio Divina, is a Latin phrase meaning Divine Listening, every Tuesday at 1pm (for approximately 45 minutes) and led by Dr. Frank Dunbar. The practice is a simple spiritual discipline that allows one to have a deep encounter with scripture. The class meets in hybrid format with live participants, safely spread out, and an online Zoom group as well. In that way, both groups, online and on-site, can participate together. The only requirement of the class is to have your Bible with you, or accessible. If you are interested in participating, please let Main Office know and if you wish to participate live or online. A Zoom link will be sent to everyone who signs just in case those who want to participate live can't at the last moment and wish to use Zoom. If you have questions about *Lectio Divina*, please speak to Dr. Frank Dunbar at church, or by email frank@newburgumc.org

Women Connecting Through Christ

Through laughter, love, and the foundation of Christ, this group encourages and supports each other through the ups and downs of life. If you are a woman who is seeking a closer relationship with God and connecting with other women, please join us. **Thursdays in the Asbury Lounge:**

'Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out, and Lonely' by Lysa TerKeurst

5:00 and 7:00* pm classes (*Note: the 7pm class is currently at capacity. New women can join the 5pm class.) Please contact Janice Gasaway jgasaway361@yahoo.com for additional information or questions.

NUMC Visitation Team

As a part of our Caring Connection Ministry, we are expanding the connectional ministry of the church by establishing a NUMC Visitation Team starting in the fall of this year. It is extremely important that we have a strong visitation ministry at NUMC as the people we need to connect with (shut-ins, and those needing short term care) ARE the church! And, if the proverbial shoe was on the other foot, we would want to be cared for and visited, right? I bet the answer is yes. If you are interested in joining this growing team, please contact the Church Office at (734) 422-0149, or email Dr. Frank Dunbar or call (734) 355-3793.

2022 NUMC Winter Retreat – Save the Date!

The Winter Retreat has been a tradition for many years at Newburg United Methodist Church. Held in early January each year at the Lake Huron Retreat Center, the Winter Retreat seeks to start us off well in the new year by gathering folks together for a day and a half of scripture study and fellowship. While we did not have a retreat in in January 2021 (due to pandemic restrictions) we are comfortable having one in January of 2022, as the Retreat Center has been hosting safe events for a number of months now and vaccines are readily available. The retreat starts on Friday afternoon and ends on Saturday afternoon. **The dates for 2022 are: January 14-15, 2022.** Please save the dates of your calendar! For 2022 the retreat theme is:

Times of Trial

Learning from the Apostle Paul in a Pandemic

Our time promises to be interesting and, this year, very comforting. Join us along the shore of Lake Huron for a time of fellowship while learning - a time of study, conversation and laughter. In a few weeks we a sign-up form will be available. Please look for it! If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Frank Dunbar (frank@newburgumc.org) or the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS!

Newburg UMC Volunteer Vaccination Policy for Children and Youth

The Church Council has adopted the following policy on September 27, 2021 regarding vaccination and testing for our children and youth. Any further questions can be directed to Rev. Steve McCoy, Ali Belsky Director of Student Ministries, or Karen Golden, Director of Children's Ministries.

Newburg UMC has a duty to protect the health and safety of its members, visitors, and guests, while they attend Worship and other church programming.

For this reason, effective upon adoption by the Church Council, all volunteers working with Children and youth under the age of 18 of Newburg United Methodist Church are required to be vaccinated against Covid-19. For those that choose not to be vaccinated or are unable to be vaccinated, proof of a negative Covid test must be produced at least 24 hours prior to their scheduled volunteer time. If the volunteer is unwilling to comply with this policy, they will be asked not to participate with children and youth activities, until such time as they are able to comply, or the pandemic is no longer a concern.

All volunteers will have two weeks from adoption to be in compliance with the vaccination requirement. Those taking a PCR test shall become effective upon adoption. Proof of compliance with this policy shall be provided to the appropriate staff member responsible for their age group. All records are kept confidential along with other background screening materials.



TRUNK OR TREAT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 | 5PM-7PM JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN AND GOODIES!

Join in the fun by decorating your vehicle and passing out treats to the children or bring your children to for a fun-filled Trunk or Treat experience! [Sign-up](#) to let us know you will be joining us with a decorated trunk and ready to handout candy this Halloween. You can begin setting up your trunk anytime after 4pm on Halloween, see Rev. Gasaway the day for where to park.



HOW MUSIC IMPACTS CULTURE Concert & Dance Sunday, November 7 | 4pm | Free! NUMC Sanctuary

Come Sunday, November 7 for a multicultural concert and gathering, featuring big band music & dance, Jazz, the British Invasion, Broadway and Hip Hop Dance! Refreshments following the concert in Gutherie Hall. For more information, please contact [Rev. Rodney Gasaway](#).

Pray without ceasing... 1 Thessalonians 5:17
Please pray for the prayer concerns for our Newburg Family & Friends:



October

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 10 John & Denise Klein | 15 John & Carol Blanchard |
| 11 Tracy & Frank Dunbar | Ken & Rose Smith |
| 12 Stuart & Elise Ramsey | 20 Bruce & Susan Adams |
| 14 George & Susan Ontko | 21 Billy & Shelby Bowles |

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Sherry Marschall | 15 David Jensen |
| 5 Jacob Fraser | Diane Wojcik |
| Toney Saylor, Jr. | 16 Carolyn Hallgath |
| 6 Philip Klein | 17 Bill Reeder |
| Megan Wolters | Karen Schiffman |
| James Gorzen | 18 John Curtright |
| 7 Bruce Adams | 20 Thandy Sithole |
| 9 David Lobb | 21 Jennifer Dumouchelle |
| Allison McConnell | 23 Nicole Ruthig |
| 12 Noah Christie | 25 Bob O'Daniel |
| Elizabeth Lewis | 26 Mabel Berry |
| Caitlin Maguire | Russ Crum |
| 13 Ty Nadeau | 28 Charles Reault |
| 14 Vicki Reault | 30 Donna McKinney |
| Ethan Stevenson | 31 Rhonda Fadoir |
| 15 John Curtright | |

With Deepest Sympathies, thoughts, & prayers . . .

To Julie & Kevin Albaugh and family, on the recent passing of their sister-in-law, Lorraine.

To Steve & Debbie Visotsky, Paul, Stephanie & Noah Christie, James & Jordan Valentino and family, on the passing of Pat Olsen, their Mother, Grandmother and Great grandmother on Friday, September 24.

To John & Jean Norman, on the passing of John's sister, Mary Norman on Monday, September 27.

Congratulations . . .

To Linda & Vicente Potestio, who let us know that her grandson, **Josua** and his wife **Kathryn** have a new healthy baby girl in their lives on Monday, September 6. Let us celebrate this new life among us.

Prayer Requests

Newburg Members...

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Pam Alexander | Mary Griffin | Hilda Reault |
| Priscilla Behnke | Beatrice Hart | Jackie Reault |
| Bill Broome | Susan Hitchcock | Marcia Reeder |
| Marta Clare | Dona Kovach | Shirley Roszler |
| Linda Collins | James Meloche | Carol Sundell |
| Alice Crosby | Janice Merry | Hazel Thomas |
| Barb Erickson | Dawn Minehart | Shirley Wade |
| Barb Fisher | GayLynne Nadeau | Carroll Wheeler |
| Eleanor Frost | Lois Nelson | Betty Wilson |
| Justin Gasaway | Sally Parsell | |

Newburg Family & Friends...

Tobin Cruxton, Karen Maguire's nephew
The family of Joann Bolling, Margaret Garrett's sister in law
Kim Young, Wayne Garrett's niece
Tobin Cruxton, Karen Maguire's nephew
Claire, Mary Edgerton's granddaughter
James, Pam Popejoy's friend's 2 week old son
Jim & Mary Jane Austin, Julie Albaugh's father & mother
Peter, Karen & Wayne Golden's son-in-law
Jeff Noel, Jerry Noel's son
Jim Marson, Linda Ford's father
Casey & Stephanie Beauchamp, friends of Sarah Mutch
Anna Fletcher, Mary Fletcher's granddaughter
Ashley Farkas, Nancy Farcas' daughter
Carolyn Brown & Marion Hayes, Alice Crosby's sisters
Mary Gay Glaser, Gail Weem's mother
Brian Landrum, Gayle Landrum's brother
Jennifer Copeland, friend of John & Kay Williams
John Camileri, friend of Len & Sandi Fillion
Robin Schrom, friend of Gayle Landrum
Pat Barlett, friend of Mary Edgerton
Gretta Jones, Brenda Wesenberg's sister
Judith Pyrkosc, friend of Marsha Kozlowski
Sharon Weis, former NUMC member
Ed Bredow, Charissa Shawcross' father
George Farris, Jill Farris' husband
Chuck Cacicedo, Linda Potestio's son-in-law
Ray Walker, Terry Spaw's neighbor
John Mincher's father, friend of Linnea Garvey
Terry Brenner, friend of Richard Lenz
Michael Christian, Sandee Christian's husband
Caryle Schober, former Newburg UMC organist
April Bertolino, daughter of Gerald & Sharon Flis
Vincenzo Potestio, Linda Potestio's husband
Ernest Lantto, Richard & Janice Merry's son
Abbi Ledford, Rick & Bev Ratcliffe's granddaughter
Lesly Wisch, Cheryl Johnson's sister
Patricia Frederick, James Frederick's mother
Cathryn Patterson, Merry's Granddaughter
David Stanforth, Phil & Angela Reed's brother-in-law
Scott Moore, Joyce Harvey's grandson



The NewburgUMC Monthly is published by the Newburg United Methodist Church of Livonia, MI 48150-3461

Meet the friendly Staff at Newburg UMC!

Pastor	Rev. Steve McCoy
Ministers	All Members
Director of Student Ministries & Communications	Ali Belsky
Director of Music & Worship Arts	Kyle Berry
Administrative Assistant	Judy Cash
Director of Congregational Care	Dr. Frank Dunbar
Custodian & Kitchen Coordinator	Sandra Fillion
Deacon, Adult Education, Program & Outreach Ministries	Rev. Rodney Gasaway
Children & Family Ministries	Karen Golden
Chancel & Sweet Spirit Choirs	Richard Lenz
Organist	Beverly Ratcliffe

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” - John Wesley