

January 2020 North Webster United Methodist Newsletter

UPWARD Hacienda Day

Monday, January 27th all day at the Warsaw location

Invite your friends and relatives to dinner, go eat at Hacienda and a portion of the proceeds will be given to UPWARD!!!!

Stop in at the church to pick up your coupon you will need to use.

Byron's Blurb

The best hope that I have for a new year is that the sun is on the rise. Having three children in Seattle, I like to compare our winter weather with their winter weather. The mythology of the Northwest is that it is cloudy and rainy every day in Seattle. People talk about traveling there many times and never seeing Mount Rainier, which looms over the city. Theoretically, if you are on high ground and look south, you will see this 14,411-foot giant. Some people will claim that they have never seen the mountain because it is so cloudy in Seattle.

A few years back, I tracked the gray days of Indiana with the gray days of Seattle during January. (I attempted to verify on the internet but could not. So, this is a "Byron" story.) Indiana won and had over 40 gray days with no sun. Ugh. How refreshing when the bright blue-sky returns, even if the temperature falls.

If we change the "u" to an "o" in the scenario, I experience the effects to be the same. When I have no exposure to the Son, clouds move into my life, and the anxiety begins to rise. With Sonless skies, the ground and air both take on the same gray hue. I am unable to determine which way is up and which way is down. When, most often, through a friend, or music, or a friend playing music, the Son breaks through creating a "severe clear" environment, my heart rises. I experience the Mountain of God. The best hope that I have for a new year is that the Son is on the rise.

Keep Looking Up, Byron

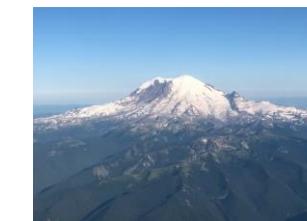


FIGURE 1 MT RAINER AS TAKEN FROM THE PLANE LEAVING SEATAC

Keep In Touch

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Can't attend on Sunday, watch online
northwebster.org/#!stream/cvy0

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The NWUMC Vision Statement: To Know,
Love, and Serve God.

Coming February 26th, "The Daniel Plan."

UPWARD GAMES start Saturday, January 4th and will be every Sat thru February. Come volunteer to help or to enjoy the games. **PRACTICES** Sundays 1:30-4:30 and Mondays 5:30-8:30pm in the Family Center

Weekly Meetings:

Tuesdays

6:00-8:00pm Boy Scouts

Wednesdays

5:45-7:00pm Praise Team Practice

6:00-6:45pm Dinner Church

6:45-7:45 Study

Thursdays

7:00-8:00am Men's Breakfast

Sundays

5:00-7:00 Women's Bible Study

5:00-7:00 the Youth (not 1/5)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday, Jan 5-Breakfast 8-11am in Family Center
Monday, Jan 13-Trustee's Meeting 7-8pm in Trustee's Room
Tuesday, Jan 14-Naomi Circle 6:30-8pm in the Parlor
Saturday, Jan 18-UPWARD Pictures
Tuesday, Jan 21-UMW Board Meting 4:30-5:30pm in Room 11
Monday, Jan 27-UPWARD Hacienda Day (all day @ Warsaw)
Monday, Jan 27-Leadership Council 6:30-7:30pm in Room 11

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

THOUGHTS ON FAITH AND GIVING

Gift Returns

According to an article at CNBC, a recent survey showed that 77% of consumers plan to return gifts this holiday season. That is 77 out of every 100 people. One in every five people plan to return more than half of their gifts. It appears people will buy a lot of things, keep what they want, or what fits, and send the rest back. Accepting a lot of returns is the price of admission in retail these days. The company that doesn't have a strong return policy won't garner as many sales.

None of this would sit well in my growing-up family. When you got a gift, no matter how ugly or ill-fitting, you uttered a prompt and profuse thank-you to the giver. The gift was given in love and the gift was never as important as the relationship with the giver.

I don't know if Christmas has become more about the gifts than the giver, or whether online technology has helped us realize we don't have to settle. A little of both, I suppose. Here is what I do know. God has given us God's very self at Christmas. That is what "incarnation" means. God is in Jesus, in our world, in our life. In your life.

There is a lot about that we could unpack, but one important message is that Jesus is the reminder that God isn't planning to "return" us. God has accepted our world as acceptable to be in. What is more, God is reminding us that we "fit" in God's life, no matter how unfit or ugly we seem to ourselves or others. Christmas isn't about a decision whether we will accept the gift of God. It is a proclamation that God claims us as a good gift, and a good fit, in the world God both inhabits and imagines.

From all of us at your United Methodist Foundation, Merry Christmas. We hope you feel the joy of knowing God's "no return" policy, and that there will never be plans for you to be anywhere but in God.



CAMP

If you are going into the 9th grade, you can attend, "That Thing" church camp.

When: June 21-26, 2020 Where: Epworth Forest Conference and Retreat Center, North Webster

Lodging: Will be staying in Jubilee and Parkview cabins.

Cost: \$335 registration; \$50 food = total \$385 per camper

Payments Due: First Payment, January 15th, 2020 = \$128, Second Payment, March 15th, 2020 = \$128, Third Payment, May 15th, 2020 = \$129 Make all payments to "North Webster United Methodist Church" Memo "That Thing with Camper's Name."

Camp is also available for younger youth: Check out <https://impact2818.org> for all of your options!

January 2020 Worship Series, "The Age of Anxiety"

January 5th – "The Age of Anxiety: Overcoming the Creeps."

Ever feel anxious in the dark? Do you feel a lot of darkness in the world? God has come and moved into our lives, overcoming the darkness around us and in us that we might dwell richly in the Light.

January 12th – "The Age of Anxiety: Uprooted by the Voice."

What if God is the source of our anxiety? God's word comes into our world, disrupting our settled, ordered arrangements, and creating new possibilities. God's word is practical, powerful, and unstoppable. Our relationship with God is built upon God.

January 19th – "Age of Anxiety: When there is No Way."

Our hope and help is God. God is the loving One who stoops to us to help and to save. Though God's rescue of us is not at our demand, still in our times of loss, we may have confidence that God is with those who have no hope but God. When God saves, rescues, and makes a way to us, it is then that we praise and give thanks to God.

January 26th – "The Song of the Age of Anxiety."

We live in a fearful age. What is to be done to keep our anxieties from paralyzing us and robbing us of abundant lives? Christians believe that our faith in God can be a means of relieving our fears. When we are going through dark and difficult times, it can be a grand opportunity to sing.

OFFICE HOURS will be back on our regular 8:30-2:30 (lunch 11-12) starting January 6th.

Wednesday Night Devotions

This is the study that takes place on Wednesday Evening at 7:00 pm following Dinner Church. The devotions will not meet December 25th or January 1st. It will resume regular meeting on January 8th.

January Topic: "Myth Busting the Holy Ghost" (No, the Holy Ghost is not Casper.)

Sunday Night Youth

December 29th and January 5th – NO MEETING

We will begin Sunday Night Youth on January 12th with regular activities. Remember to bring your New Testament! Special prayers to Geoff, one of our adult leaders, as he will be recovering from surgery.

Sunday Night Youth – Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement July 19-25, 2020

Are you going into 7th Grade or just graduated from 12th, you are eligible to attend a volunteer in mission work team to Frakes, Ky. You need to pay a \$250 deposit before April 1st. After that date, our group is "fixed." This covers room and meals on-site. We will have traveling costs there and back and the cost of materials for our work project. All to be determined. We will be assisting with the cost through Sunday Night Youth.



Lisa Cavert	1/ 1	Alana Malstaff	1/18
Richard Turley	1/ 2	Dennis Wagoner	1/19
Sally Keith	1/ 2	Jodi Sautter	1/20
Kevin Johnson	1/ 3	Melody Ewald	1/22
Weston McClintic	1/ 5	Bill Roper	1/22
Magda Smith	1/ 9	Gene DeRolf	1/23
Kris Carney	1/10	Bryce Johnson	1/23
Deb Bissell	1/10	Paul Kem	1/27
Paul Houseman	1/12	Sue Dumford	1/27
Arden Rider	1/13	Hunter Fiedeke	1/28
Stewart Lambert	1/13	Kathy Senger	1/29
Jay Johnson	1/13	Judith Coldren	1/31
Larry Hinshaw	1/18	Landen Alexander	1/31