



# NEWBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Serving Christ | Building Community | Loving All

## DECEMBER 2024 MONTHLY



Greetings in the Name of the Prince of Peace:

It seems I have written so many letters to you all this time of year and all of them asking something **OF** you. Today I am writing to wish something **FOR** you. In Isaiah 9:6, the prophet speaks names for the Messiah:

*For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (NRSVUE)*

In these four names for the Messiah Isaiah gives, we get a picture of God's provision. When the Messiah comes, Isaiah is saying, he is coming to bring all the things we will ever need to find fullness as God's children. In fact, one might say that Jesus comes to remind us of all the things God already is and perhaps the things we have forgotten. Jesus, fully God and fully human, is born to show us who God is and to remind us of who we are as God's children. Each name in Isaiah's list offers to meet our many different needs. A colleague of mine wrote about their understanding of God, "God is infinite and intimate, at the same time." God can be exactly who God needs to be for each of us and for all of us at the same time.

Jesus is Wonderful Counselor. He is our guide in decision making. When we are wrestling with the difficulties and challenges life presents, Jesus is both a great listener and a perfect example for the way forward. I often, but probably not often enough, speak

prayers aloud as a way of processing and untangling thoughts.

Jesus is Mighty God. The word mighty suggests power and strength and refers to sheer size or immensity. There is no greater God than the One True God. No God more powerful. But the way Jesus demonstrates power in the world is not with brute strength but with meekness and humility that allow him access to the power of God. When we rely on our own power, it is limited. When we submit to the will of God, we have access to the mighty, unlimited power of God.

Jesus is Everlasting Father. God loves us, his children, unconditionally, and without end. When I think of my own children, I know there is nothing they could ever do to make me love them less or anything they need to do to make me love them more. This is exactly how God loves each of us.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. In John 14:27, Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." The peace Jesus offers is inexhaustible, and it requires nothing of us but to receive what is given. There is no greater need in our families, in our communities, in our country, or indeed in our world than God's peace. The good news is that in Jesus, it is available in every way necessary.

This Advent, may we make room for the gift of Jesus in our lives and in our world, once more. And may any trouble in our hearts or fear in our souls be replaced by the very Peace of Christ!

Peace be with you!  
Pastor Chad



# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE

## December 1 | 1st Sunday of Advent

10am | In-person & Livestream Family Worship  
“*Light in the Darkness*” | Pastor Chad Parmalee  
Communion  
Newburg Blood Drive

## December 8 | 2nd Sunday of Advent

10am | In-person & Livestream Sunday Worship  
“*All Things are Possible*” | Pastor Chad Parmalee  
Christmas Cookie Exchange

## December 15 | 3th Sunday of Advent

10am | In-person & Livestream Sunday Worship  
“*Good News*” | Pastor Chad Parmalee  
4:30pm | Choir & Bells Cantata: “*Christos, The Coming of the Anointed One*”

## December 18 | Blue Christmas

6pm | In-person  
Scripture, Carols & Prayers of Comfort

## December 22 | 4th Sunday of Advent

10am | In-person & Livestream Worship  
“*God IS With Us*” | Pastor Chad Parmalee

## December 24 | Christmas Eve

4:30pm | Christmas Eve Family Worship  
Celebrate Christmas Eve with a Family Friendly, storytelling and joyful service for all ages.  
Communion

7pm | Christmas Eve Celebration  
“*By Another Road*” | Pastor Chad Parmalee  
Candlelight & Communion

## December 29th | 1st Sunday after Christmas

10am | In-person & Livestream Family Worship  
Guest Speaker: Lauren Canary

If you are mailing in a contribution, please have it in to the Main Office on December 31 by 12pm,  
so we do not miss it.

# LIGHT *of* the WORLD

## SUNDAYS

**In-Person & Livestream Worship at 10am**  
**Coffee Hour | After Worship in Gutherie Hall**

### **December 1 | 1st Sunday of Advent**

Family Worship  
"Light in the Darkness" | Pastor Chad Parmalee  
*Luke 1:67-79*  
Holy Communion  
Newburg Blood Drive | 8:30am | Gutherie Hall  
Sweet Spirit | 11:30am | Wesley Music Rm.  
UNPACKED | 11:30am | Asbury Lounge  
Deeper Faith | 12pm | Skype  
Youth Group | 6pm | The Gathering

### **December 8 | 2nd Sunday of Advent**

"All Things Are Possible" | Pastor Chad Parmalee  
*Luke 1:26-38*  
Children's Sunday School | 10am  
Cookie Exchange | 11am | Gutherie Hall  
Sweet Spirit | 11:30am | Wesley Music Rm.  
UNPACKED | 11:30am | Asbury Lounge  
Deeper Faith | 12pm | Skype  
Youth Group | 6pm | Lower Education Wing  
Elf Project (Children's Christmas) presents due

### **December 15 | 3rd Sunday of Advent**

"Good News" | Pastor Chad Parmalee  
*Luke 2:8-20*  
Children's Sunday School | 10am  
Sweet Spirit | 11:30am | Wesley Music Rm.  
UNPACKED | 11:30am | Asbury Lounge  
Deeper Faith | 12pm | Skype  
Students Christmas Party | 12pm  
Christmas Cantata | 4:30 pm  
Hat & Glove Drive begins

### **December 22 | 4th Sunday of Advent**

"God IS With Us" | Pastor Chad Parmalee  
*Matthew 1:18-25*  
Children's Sunday School | 10am  
Sweet Spirit | 11:30am | Wesley Music Rm.  
UNPACKED | 11:30am | Asbury Lounge  
Deeper Faith | 12pm | Skype

### **December 29 | 1st Sunday after Christmas**

Family Worship  
Special Guest Speaker: Lauren Canary  
Deeper Faith | 12pm | Skype

## TUESDAYS

### **Forgotten Harvest | December 10**

8:30am-11:30am | St. Mary Cause of Our Joy

### **Lectio Divina | Tuesdays at 1pm | Asbury Lounge**

Led by [Dr. Frank Dunbar](#)

### **NOAH at Central | December 17 | 9:30am**

Newburg Young Adults

### **Bookmarks | Asbury Lounge | 7pm**

On December 17, we will be discussing "The Girl in His Shadow" by Audrey Blake. Led by [Mimi Silverman](#).

### **Christmas Eve Services | December 24**

4:30pm | Family Celebration  
7pm | Christmas Eve Celebration

## WEDNESDAYS

### **Blue Christmas | December 18 | 6pm**

### **The Hangout | Wednesdays at 4pm**

### **Music Ministry Rehearsals:**

Led by [Richard Lenz](#)

**Cantabile Bells** | 6pm | Wesley Music Room

**Chancel Choir** | 7:10pm | Wesley Music Room

**Sunday Preparation** | 8:15pm | Sanctuary

### **Men's Online Bible Study**

December 4 & 18 | 7:30pm | Skype

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

## THURSDAYS

### **UNPACKED Online | Google Meet**

12pm | Led by [Dr. Frank Dunbar](#)

### **Redford Brightmoor Meal Assembly**

December 19 | 5:30pm | West Gutherie Hall

### **Women Connecting Through Christ | 7pm**

6:30pm for a time to connect | Asbury Lounge.  
Led by [Janice Gasaway](#).

## FRIDAYS

### **J.A.M. (Jesus and Me!) | December 13**

6pm-8:30pm | Upper Education Wing

## SATURDAYS

### **Rummage Drop Off | December 14 | 10am-12pm**

### **St. Francis Christmas Party | December 14**

11:30am | Gutherie Hall

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

## Children & Family Ministries

[newburgumc.org/kids](http://newburgumc.org/kids)

**Children's Advent Bags:** Stop by the check-in desk in the Children's Ministry Wing to pick up an Advent bag for your child! Each bag contains a calendar and a Comfort & Joy pack. If you need help with any of the activities, reach out to [jamie@newburgumc.org](mailto:jamie@newburgumc.org).

**J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) | Friday, December 13 | 6pm-8:30pm**

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me!) is an event that is all about fun, faith, and fellowship! Kids will enjoy rotations filled with engaging lessons and a delicious dinner. We can't wait to see your kids at JAM! RSVP by December 11 at the [J.A.M. sign-up link](#).

**Hat & Glove Drive:** This winter, let's help keep kid's warm! From December 15 to January 5, we are collecting new hats and gloves for students at Rosedale Elementary. Please place your donations on the Giving Tree that will be located next to the East entrance doors.

## Discussion Groups

[newburgumc.org/congregationallife](http://newburgumc.org/congregationallife)

**UNPACKED: Sundays at 11:30pm | Asbury Lounge**

Led by [Dr. Frank Dunbar](#)

**Deeper Faith | Sundays at 12pm on Skype**

Led by [James Frederick](#)

**Men's Bible Study | Wednesday, December 4 & 18**

7:30pm | Skype | Led by [James Frederick](#)

**Lectio Divina: Tuesdays at 1pm | Asbury Lounge**

Led by [Dr. Frank Dunbar](#)

**UNPACKED\\ What Gospels Didn't Make It into Bible, & Why:**

Sundays at 11:30 am | Asbury Lounge

Thursdays at 12pm: Online only study

Google Meet Link: <https://meet.google.com/ifz-vzyo-vhg>

Led by [Dr. Frank Dunbar](#)

**Women Connecting Through Christ | Thursdays at 7pm**

Time to connect is at 6:30pm. Led by [Janice Gasaway](#)

**Winter Retreat | January 10-11, 2024**

Join us at the Lake Huron Retreat Center for a time of fellowship & scripture study to begin the new year! If you are interested in attending, contact [frank@newburgumc.org](mailto:frank@newburgumc.org). We only have a few rooms left, so please do not hesitate to sign up!

## Missions & Outreach

[newburgumc.org/missionandoutreach](http://newburgumc.org/missionandoutreach)

### Elf Project (Children's Christmas)

Children's Christmas is our ministry with St. Francis Family Social Services, which provides Christmas gifts to children of all ages. Once you have shopped for your child(ren), please drop off your gift by December 8. The times during the week to drop off your gifts in Gutherie Hall are: Monday-Friday | 9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm. You can also donate to **Children's Christmas online!** Or you can mail in a donation cash/check written to Newburg UMC with Children's Christmas in the memo. For additional information, contact [Rev. Rodney Gasaway](#).

**St. Francis** will be having their Christmas Party here at Newburg UMC on Saturday, December 14 at 11:30 am in Gutherie Hall to celebrate with the children. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, games and clean up. Contact [Rev. Rodney](#) to help out! (Canceled)

**Forgotten Harvest | Tuesday, December 10 | 8:30am**

Join us to assist one of our local long-time ministry partners, St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, 8200 N. Wayne Road in Westland on the *second Tuesday of each month from 8:30am to 11am*.

**Emergency Response Training (ERT) | January 4, 2025**

Newburg UMC will be taking part in a disaster relief mission trip to Georgia in March 2025 in response to hurricane Helene. If you are interested in attending this trip or any mission trip over the next three years, the Michigan ERT is being offered on January 4 from 9am to 5pm through the Michigan Conference of the UMC. To register, contact [rodney@newburgumc.org](mailto:rodney@newburgumc.org).

## Student Ministries & Young Adults

[newburgumc.org/students](http://newburgumc.org/students)

**The Hangout | Wednesday's at 4pm**

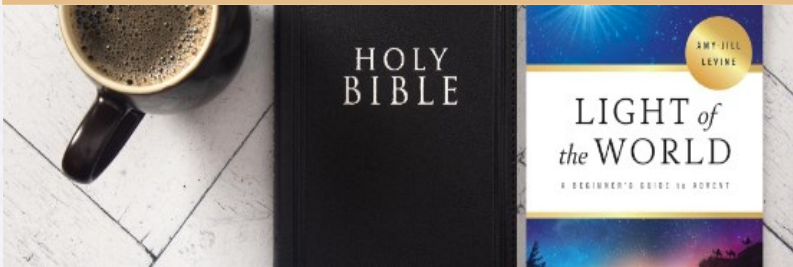
**Youth Group | Sunday's at 6pm**

Do you have a student in 6th –12th Grade? Connect with our Director of Student Ministries, [Ali Belsky](#).

**Young Adults: Noah at Central Day! | December 17**

*Mark your calendars for December 17th!* We're heading back to *Noah at Central* to serve another meal, and we'd love to have you join us! If you're interested in being part of this meaningful opportunity, reach out to Ali Belsky, Director of Young Adults, and [click the link](#) to sign up today!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS!



## Light of the World by Amy-Jill Levine

For our Advent 2024, we invite you to journey with us through “*Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent*” by Amy-Jill Levine, a renowned biblical scholar. Together, we’ll delve into the rich, wonder-filled stories surrounding the births of John and Jesus, finding new life and meaning in familiar narratives. Let’s gather in anticipation, opening our hearts and minds to the message of Advent. Copies of our Advent study book are available at the Main Office or Welcome Center. We don’t want cost to be a barrier, so all are welcome to participate. The books are \$11 and if you’d like to help offset the cost for others, additional donations are appreciated and welcomed, or order your copy online today, on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

## BLOOD DRIVE

GIVE THE GIFT OF BLOOD THIS FALL

# Fall Into Giving

Newburg Blood Drive | Sunday, December 1  
9am-1:30pm | Gutherie Hall

Make a difference in your community. Schedule your appointment to give blood today at [versiti.org](https://www.versiti.org).

\*Walk ins welcome, as schedule allows.

## 2025 Offering Envelopes

For those of you who use Offering Envelopes for your contributions to Newburg UMC, the 2025 Boxed Offering Envelopes are available and can be picked up on Sundays or during office hours.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

# Christos

THE COMING OF THE ANOINTED ONE  
NEWBURG UMC

SUNDAY | 15 | DECEMBER

STARTING AT 4:30 PM

Join us for Christos: The Coming of the Anointed One, a Christmas Cantata celebrating the hope and joy of Christ’s birth through music and narration. Free admission—bring family and friends!

BRING 4 DOZEN OF YOUR FAVORITE COOKIES AND JOIN US FOR A

# Christmas Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 8th  
11:00am—1:00pm

Gutherie Hall

Coffee, hot chocolate, and cookie trays will be provided! [Sign up today!](#)

Bring your best cookies!

# BLUE CHRISTMAS

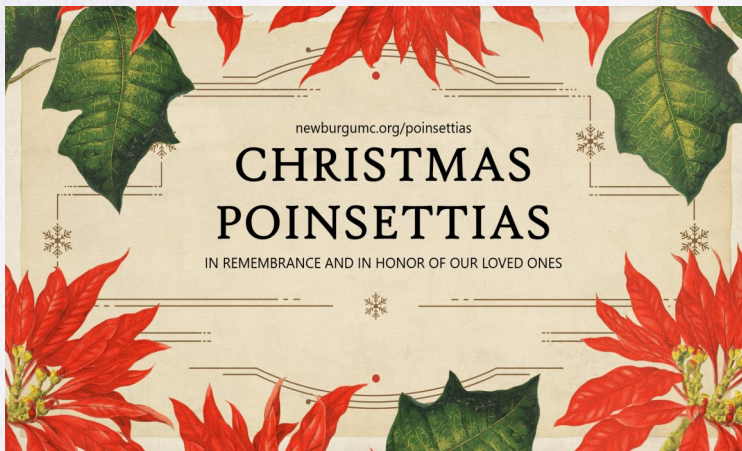
DECEMBER 18TH AT 6PM

*“Comfort, comfort my people, says God”*

There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for consolation. The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope-filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses the belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us.

Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of that reassurance and comfort. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or have experienced the loss of a job. Perhaps events in the past few months have put a different spin on the Christmas season. We wonder how we will make it through the holidays. A Service of Wholeness and Healing with the theme of **“Blue Christmas” will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** The time was selected so that those attending at 7:00 pm for Chancel Choir rehearsal may attend.

Those looking for comfort, hope, wholeness and renewal are invited to join Pastor Chad, Dr. Dunbar and Jen Noricks for a time of prayerful reflection and healing in the midst of the Christmas season. Please join us.



## *POINSETTIAS for Worship*

The Poinsettia display for our sanctuary will be an arrangement of Poinsettias that will enhance our worship area during Advent & Christmas Eve!

If you would like to contribute toward the cost of our Poinsettia display, your donation of \$15 "In Loving Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" a loved one, due by December 18th by 4pm, will be included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DONATION AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include payment with coupon, thank you! To register online, [click here.](#))

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

DECEMBER

## ANNIVERSARIES

Lou & Dawn Minehart

Kevin & Brenda Wesenberg

Ron & Colleen Blaisdell

Paul & Stephanie Christie

Tyler & Jamie Baxter

Erv & Pam Piontek

## BIRTHDAYS

Janice Merry

Janice Schultz

Connie Lyn Klein

Nicholas Peterson

Mike Sewell

Kay Williams

Isabella Ruthig

Mark Scofield II

Sue Spaw

Carol Blanchard

Joseph Bowles

Roger Crosby

Andy Schiffman

Marilyn Gaut

James Frederick

Denise Klein

Andre Thomas

Charles Wilkinson

Paula Genta

Jean Norman

Jesse Saylor

Kristen Reault

Mary Beth Fry

Lynne Garvey

Lou Minehart

Danielle Reed

Renee Cavaretta

Sandy O'Daniel

Cheryl Johnson

Michelle Chick

Frank Ford

Susan Cavaretta

John Rooda

Sophia Mansour

Jerry Noel

Helen Alexander

Skyler Scofield

Gail Weems

Garrett Layman

## Prayer Requests

### Newburg Members...

Nancy Boyd

Lois Breen

Alice Crosby

Amanda Curtright

Ed & Judy Dobson

Wayne Garrett

Janice Gasaway

Mary Griffin

Mark Hallgath

Sandy Hill

Cheryl Johnson

Don Lobb

Doris McGregor

GayLynne Nadeau

Karen Patterson

Pat Patton

Linda Potestio

Rick Ratcliffe

Carol Sundell

Carroll Wheeker

### Newburg Family & Friends...

Mackenzie Behnke, Priscilla Behnke's granddaughter  
Alissia Riling, friend of Priscilla Behnke  
Denise Lucas, friend of April Wolters  
Beth Erickson, Barb Erickson's daughter  
Helen York, Donna McKinney's sister  
Ali Culpepper, friend of Rick & Bev Ratcliffe  
Jimmie Kelly, friend of Pastor Chad  
Gigi Wheaton, friend of April Wolters  
Paul & Pat O'Mara, Julie Albaugh's uncle & wife  
Kayla and her dad, Ken, friends of Lauren Canary  
Mike & Amy Davidson, friends of Katie Stevenson  
Andre Fraczek & Joan Lamborn, friends of Gayle Landrum  
Alvin & Nadine White, friends of Betsy Everett  
Gary Sundell, brother of Carol Sundell  
Jim Kelly, friend of Roschenne Parmalee  
Sherry Crump, NFP participant  
Riot Miller, Len Fillion's supervisors grandson  
Tom Parkinson, friend of Tom & Pat Eland  
Ron & Cindy Locke, friends of Mary Edgerton  
Richard Dille, Michelle Hartmann's father-in-law  
Cheryl Murdock, Julie Albaugh's cousin  
Carolyn Brown & Marian Haynes, Alice Crosby's sisters  
Kathy Jobbutt, Lou & Dawn Minehart's neighbor  
John McFadden, friend of Paula Genta  
Richard & Sue Lenz  
Ed Stendien, friend of Hank & Sandy Conway  
Abbi Ledford, Rick & Bev Ratcliffe's granddaughter  
Shawna Drake, friend of Gayle Landrum  
Rev. Ron Barton, Bill Reeder's cousin

### With Deepest Sympathies, Thoughts, & Prayers . . .

We offer our deepest condolences to the family of **Audrey Greenleaf** who passed away in Washington on Wednesday, November 13. Audrey was a long-time member of Newburg UMC.

We offer our deepest condolences to the family of **William Stewart**, a long time member of Newburg, passed away Thursday, November 7.

### Celebrations...

Congratulations to **Jacob & Bailey Adams** who were married November 1, 2024!

If you have a Prayer Request, need help or can help others, please contact Dr. Frank Dunbar at (734) 355-3793 or the main office at (734) 422-0149 or [Frank's email](#), or [Judy's email](#).



# NEWBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

36500 Ann Arbor Trail  
Livonia, Michigan, 48150



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## Meet the friendly Staff at Newburg UMC!

Pastor .....	Rev. Chad Parmalee
Ministers .....	All Members
Children & Family Ministries Coordinator .....	Jamie Baxter
Director of Student Ministries, Young Adults & Communications .....	Ali Belsky
Kitchen Coordinator .....	Ayesha Browning
Administrative Assistant .....	Judy Cash
Nursery .....	Ragan Chick
Minister of Congregational Life .....	Dr. Frank Dunbar
Custodian .....	Sandra Fillion
Deacon, Adult Education, Program & Outreach Ministries .....	Rev. Rodney Gasaway
Chancel, Sweet Spirit & Cantabile Choirs .....	Richard Lenz
Worship Leader .....	Jen Noricks
Tech Intern .....	Zach Noricks
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*