



NEWBURG

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICE
10 AM IN-PERSON & ONLINE



The Newburg Weekly

Friends, we're grateful for all God is doing in our community. Here's what's happening this week and how you can jump in.

Think of it as a Monday morning touchpoint—a way to begin the week with encouragement, a devotional thought, and the details you need to stay plugged in. We pray this little rhythm of connection will help us walk together more intentionally as a faith community.

Programs This Week

- **Monday, Dec 1st**
 - **6: 30 PM:** Staff Parish Relations Meeting - Asbury Lounge
- **Tuesday, Dec 2nd**
 - **1 PM:** Lectio Divina - Asbury Lounge
- **Wednesday, Dec 3rd**
 - **1 PM:** Pinochle Group - Asbury Lounge
 - **4 PM:** The Hangout - Lower Ed. Wing
 - **6 PM:** Cantabile Bells - Wesley Music Room
 - **7:10 PM:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Wesley Music Room
 - **8:15 PM:** Sunday Worship Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- **Thursday, Dec 4th**
 - **12 PM:** Unpacked Online ([class link](#))
 - **6:30 PM:** Women Connecting Through Christ - Asbury Lounge
- **Saturday, Dec 6th**
 - **11 AM:** St. Francis Christmas Party - Gutherie Hall
⇒ Volunteer ([email](#))
- **Sunday, Dec 7th 2nd Sunday of Advent**
 - **10 AM:** Worship (Family Worship, No Sunday School)
⇒ Scripture: *Matthew 3:1-12*
 - **11 AM:** Cookie Exchange - Gutherie Hall
 - **11:15 AM:** Sweet Spirit - Music Room
 - **11:30 AM:** Unpacked - Asbury Lounge

***Save the Date for December 14th Worship Featuring the 2025 Christmas Cantata:
"Let There Be Christmas" by Joseph Martin, Combined Choirs, Directed by Richard Lenz.***



Thanksgiving Dinner Reflection

Katy Fillion

Member at NewburgUMC

A full church on Thanksgiving afternoon showed a deep need for connection. Neighbors lined up for a warm meal and a welcoming seat. More than three hundred people gathered at 2 p.m. for dinner. Another hundred families received plates through the local shelter. Conversation, gratitude, and gentle care filled the room. The day reflected our mission of Serving Christ, Building Community, and Loving All.



The work behind this day started long before the doors opened. Imagine your family joining us in the kitchen, helping to prepare lunches for volunteers, and serving food to hundreds of guests. Picture yourself in the warm bustle, helping create a space that feels like home. This year, 125 volunteers came from many places, including students from Chelsea High School's Program for Independent Living, who prepared several side dishes.



Community members of all ages set up tables, cooked the turkeys, delivered food to the shelter, decorated the dining room, prepared the building for the day, and cleaned up after the meal. Each person offered their steady hands.

A holiday meal in a church hall looks simple on the surface. A line of dishes. Tables arranged for neighbors. People greet guests or pour drinks. A deeper story sits behind these moments. Every task helped shape a shared table where each guest felt seen and valued. Service made the space warm. Generosity made the meal possible.

Scripture describes shared tables as places where God meets people. Jesus sat with crowds or small groups, always sharing the same message: no person stands alone. God works through open doors and steady love. Our gathering followed this pattern. Each person received a seat and a plate. Grace met needs clearly. Fourteen years form a strong rhythm. Some guests return each year. Some volunteers bring children who now serve beside them. Families in our wider community receive meals through the shelter and feel remembered during a season that often feels heavy. These moments shape our church. They shape our shared life.

My prayer is simple. May God guide NewburgUMC toward many more years of service. May each gathering strengthen bonds among neighbors. May every shared table point to Christ's love. May our community grow through steady practice year after year. Looking ahead, please mark your calendar for November 2026 as we prepare for more Thanksgiving Dinner volunteer opportunities. Together, we can plan for another year of service and ensure that our tradition of generosity continues to flourish.

THE NEWBURG WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL SUBMISSION
REVIEWED EVERY THURSDAY



Do you like to write?

Each week, The Newburg Weekly features a devotional from someone in our church community. Share your own reflection and encourage others as we begin the week.

[Learn more and submit yours here.](#)

Upcoming Events



Sunday, December 7th • 11 AM - 12:30 PM

Christmas Cookie Exchange

Join us for a Cookie Exchange hosted by our Young Adults on December 7 after worship in Gutherie Hall. Bring 4 dozen (or more) of your favorite Christmas cookies to share, then fill a box with a mix of delicious treats to take home. If you'd like to bake, please sign up online by December 3 so we can prepare: [\[Sign-Up Form\]](#) Are you a Young Adult interested in helping with the event? Contact our Director of Young Adults, Ali Belsky, at [\[email\]](#) to learn more. We look forward to sharing cookies and fellowship with you!

Upcoming Events



Newburg Combined Choirs present:

LET THERE BE CHRISTMAS

A CANTATA BY JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Sunday, December 14 | 10am

Sunday, December 14th • 10 AM During Worship

Christmas Cantata "Let There Be Christmas"

Invite your family & friends to our Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 14. Celebrate the hope and peace of the season with a joyful service of music presented by the *combined choirs of Newburg UMC* and directed by *Richard Lenz*. All are welcome to share in this festive celebration!



WINTER RETREAT

REVISITING THE CENTRAL TEACHINGS OF JESUS

- 📍 Location: Lake Huron Retreat Center
- 🎯 Age: 18+
- 📅 Dates: January 9–10
- 💰 Cost: Varies by room size (scholarships available)

➡ Register online: newburgumc.org/retreat

✉ Or contact Dr. Dunbar at frank@newburgumc.org

January 9-10, Lake Huron Retreat Center

Winter Retreat 2026

Led by Dr. Frank Dunbar and Rev. Chad Parmalee.

Join the retreat on January 9 and 10 at the Lake Huron Retreat Center. You spend a day and a half in scripture study and fellowship. Sessions begin Friday afternoon and finish Saturday afternoon.

Theme: Revisiting the Central Teachings of Jesus. The Sermon on the Mount and the Sermon on the Plain. You still have space to register. Your meals and snacks are included. Each room has a private bath. Speak with Dr. Dunbar in person or through the church office if you have questions or need a scholarship. Come enjoy time along the Lake Huron shoreline with others who want to learn and grow together. Register here:

<https://newburgumc.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/0cd03810-0602-424c-9689-4108cd1f7c4c>

Understanding the UMC: Structure & Function

*Each week we'll take a closer look at **how leadership works across the United Methodist Church**. We'll focus on three key parts of the church's structure—how decisions are made, who provides spiritual guidance, and how accountability is maintained. Our goal is to help you see how these connections shape our shared life at Newburg and beyond.*

What is Advent: *Why do we observe it?*

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas. It marks the start of the church year for Western Christians. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." Advent invites us to wait and prepare. We remember the first coming of Christ in Bethlehem. We also look ahead with hope to Christ's promised return — a time when all creation will be renewed.

How we observe Advent

Many churches mark Advent with these practices

- Lighting an Advent wreath: a circle of evergreens with four candles. Each Sunday we light another candle. Each candle represents one of four themes — hope, peace, joy, love. A central "Christ candle" is lit at Christmas to celebrate Christ's arrival.
- Scripture readings, prayers, hymns that reflect on God's promises and our longing for justice, mercy and a restored world.
- A time of spiritual preparation — not only for celebrating Christmas, but for re-orienting our lives around God's coming in our hearts and in the world to come.

What Advent asks of us today

Advent calls us to slow down, reflect, hope. It asks us to live with expectation — not only for a holiday but for a future shaped by grace, mercy, justice and peace. It calls us to pray. To remember. To work. To seek God's presence in our lives, in our community, and in the world. Advent invites us to open our hearts in hope — for ourselves, for our neighbors, for creation.

Upcoming committee meeting dates:

Dec 8th, 7 PM - Finance

Dec 15th, 7 PM - Endowment

How about having these meetings uploaded to your Google Calendar? [Click here.](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

- Rummage Sale ([Sign up here](#))
- Youth Leader ([Contact Ali B.](#))
- Tech Team ([Contact Marshall M.](#))
- Welcome Team ([Contact Donna M.](#))
- Non-Food Pantry ([Contact Donna M.](#))
- Funeral Lunches ([Contact Ayesha B.](#))

Fundraisers & Mission Collections

Donation drop-offs are located outside the main office.

- **Non-Food Pantry:** Help restock essential supplies such as toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, and tissues. Your donations make a direct impact.
- **Lighting & Sound:** We continue to make progress toward our goal of \$120K. Every contribution makes a difference ([link](#)).