

# Fall Ministry Guide 2025

*Loved by God, we find belonging in community and purpose in loving the world.*

While the ministries listed here do not include everything happening at Northwest, this list is a great place to get started if you are looking for new ways to connect. Some groups list the contact information for leaders, but if the group you are looking into does not have contact information listed, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at 614-451-2825 or via email at [info@nwumc.com](mailto:info@nwumc.com) and we can connect you with the leaders.

Northwest is a community, and the heart of that community is the relationships that are formed through small groups and other ministries of the church. So check out this information and see how God might be calling you to connect in new ways!

## Adult Small Groups

Living our faith in our daily lives isn't always easy. Having a community on the journey with us can be helpful. That is what these small groups are all about. Our small groups include people from all walks of life and in all different places in their spiritual journey. We focus on living the truth of Jesus Christ with safe and open dialogue about our faith journey, studying scripture through Bible study or book study, prayer, and just sharing meals and conversation. We invite you to journey with us as we grow in faith together! Current groups are listed below and are arranged by day of the week.

### Tuesday

#### **1 Samuel Bible Study, Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. in room 212 and on Zoom**

Building on our July sermon series on Samuel, Pastor Chris will be leading this fall Bible study diving further in depth on the book that bears his name. Learn more about Samuel, Saul, and David's rise to Kingship in this fascinating study. This is a hybrid Bible study at the church and on Zoom. The study will run from August 26 – December 16. For more information or to receive the Zoom link, please contact Pastor Chris at the church office or [cbrinker19.23@gmail.com](mailto:cbrinker19.23@gmail.com).

#### **Heart Sisters, Tuesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. in room 111**

This is a Bible Study group for young moms who are looking to connect, learn, and grow together. The group will be studying the Book of Esther starting on Tuesday, September 16. If you have questions or would like to join this group, please contact Doris Ing at the church office or [dorisi@nwumc.com](mailto:dorisi@nwumc.com).

### Wednesday

#### **Coffee Talk Daytime, Wednesdays from 9:45-11:30 a.m. in room 212, beginning September 10**

Coffee Talk is a women's Bible Study/Discussion group for women of all ages in our church and community. Facilitated by Denise Gorden, this class is for those who never attended a Bible study and for those who have attended many. We learn from each other's experience. Each lesson stands alone, so missing a week is not a problem. The first study will be *The Gospel On The Ground: The Grit and Glory of the Early Church in Acts*. The first class will meet at 9:30 a.m. for brunch on Wednesday, September 10. A limited number of the books are available in the office for \$22. The first meeting will include brunch, and you are invited to bring a dish to share. If you have any questions or plan to attend, please contact Denise Gorden at the church office or [denisegorden3@gmail.com](mailto:denisegorden3@gmail.com).

### **Books to Bridges, Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. on Zoom**

Books to Bridges is an online book study that reads books that broaden our understanding of the world, often from perspectives different from our own. Past books include *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*, *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Guide for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, and *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*. This group is facilitated by Katy Wright. The group is still deciding on their fall book which they will start in mid-September. If you would like more information as plans come together, contact Katy at [katyw@nwumc.com](mailto:katyw@nwumc.com).

## **Thursday**

### **Men's Bible Study, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 9-10 a.m. in room 212**

This Men's Group enjoys deepening their relationship with God and with other men in the church by meeting regularly for discussions and study.

### **The Biblical Story, Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. at Pastor Chris's house**

Do you want to attend a Bible Study but aren't sure where to start? Pastor Chris will be leading this casual Bible Study following key stories from the Biblical narrative – starting with Creation and continuing through the history of the people of Israel, the life of Jesus, the beginnings of the Church, and beyond. This group begins on Thursday, August 28. For more information, including Pastor Chris's address, please contact Pastor Chris at the church office or [cbrinker19.23@gmail.com](mailto:cbrinker19.23@gmail.com).

### **Men Under Construction, Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Staff Lounge, beginning September 11**

This is a men's discussion group that will cover a wide array of topics that men encounter on a regular basis. The purpose of this group is to provide connection between men of the church and community and to give space for interesting presentations and conversation. This group is led by retired pastor Roger Gorden.

### **Coffee Talk Nighttime, Thursdays from 5:45-7:30 p.m. in room 212, beginning September 11**

Coffee Talk is a women's Bible Study/Discussion group for women of all ages in our church and community. Facilitated by Denise Gorden, this class is for those who never attended a Bible study and for those who have attended many. We learn from each other's experience. Each lesson stands alone, so missing a week is not a problem. The first study will be *The Gospel On The Ground: The Grit and Glory of the Early Church in Acts*. A limited number of the books are available in the office for \$22. The first class will meet at 5:30 p.m. for appetizers on Thursday, September 11. If you have any questions or plan to attend, please contact Denise Gorden at the church office or [denisegorden3@gmail.com](mailto:denisegorden3@gmail.com).

### **Euchre, Third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Tremont Club**

This is a fun gathering for fellowship and card playing. The group meets at various nearby locations and is coordinated by Pastor Mebane. Contact the church office if you would like more information or to be added to the participant list.

## **Friday**

### **Raising the B.A.R. (Building Authentic Relationships), 1st and 3rd Fridays at 6 p.m. at a local restaurant**

Our young adult group meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 6 p.m. for dinner/drinks at a local Columbus restaurant. We change the location every quarter, so contact Pastor Chris (704-517-2415) if you would like to be included in updates on this group!

## Open Door

The Open Door group is open to adults of all ages--singles and couples alike. We are primarily a fellowship group that meets monthly for dinner at a local restaurant year-round. If you are looking for fellowship with others who like to serve the community and share a meal with friends each month, Open Door friends are ready to welcome you. Please contact Brad Gauder at 614-557-2380 or [bgauder@columbus.rr.com](mailto:bgauder@columbus.rr.com) to learn more.

## Saturday

### **Interfaith Alliance for Racial Reconciliation, 4th Saturday of each month at 4 p.m., rotating location**

We have a collaborative ministry which started with Woodland Christian Church, an historically Black congregation in downtown Columbus. Other churches have joined in this important work, and the alliance meets once a month on the 4th Saturday to discuss the issue of racism in our community and how we can faithfully respond to it. Pastor Chris co-leads this ministry with Pastor Eric Brown of Woodland Christian Church. If you would like to receive email updates about where the meeting will be held each month, contact Pastor Chris at [cbrinker19.23@gmail.com](mailto:cbrinker19.23@gmail.com).

## Children and Youth

### Nursery

Nursery care is available during the 9:30 and 11:00 services on Sunday mornings. Nursery care is for babies – preschoolers who are not yet potty-trained and is led by our Nursery Coordinator, Zoe Zuccaro.

### Northwest Kids Small Groups

Children in preschool-grade 5 are invited to participate in our weekly Northwest Kids Small Groups on Sunday mornings. Preschool and Kindergarten meet in room 214, and Grades 1-5 are in room 111. Contact Doris Ing at [dorisi@nwumc.com](mailto:dorisi@nwumc.com) for more information.

### Northwest Children's Garden

#### **Garden Party, Sunday, September 14 from 12:30-2:30 p.m.**

The Northwest Children's Garden, located on the north end of our main parking lot, is a ministry of our children's program. The children and their families work in the garden to plant, care for, and harvest the produce from the garden. Produce is given away in our community. For more information about the children's garden, contact Doris Ing at [dorisi@nwumc.com](mailto:dorisi@nwumc.com). Join us for our annual garden party as we celebrate God's bounty and provision. We will have a short presentation from our children and garden team. Lunch will be provided. Feel free to bring a dessert to share. All are welcome so invite friends and family to join you! RSVPs are appreciated using the QR code to go to <https://forms.gle/DfyVrnWpZhGibdH77>.



### **Kids' Morning Out, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:30-noon starting September 3**

Kids' Morning Out is an enrichment program for children 3-5 years old (potty-trained or potty-training) to practice being away from their parents/guardians in a fun and safe environment. The program will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon. Kids can participate one or both days. The program runs through May with breaks for holidays and a 2-week break at Christmas. This program is led by our Nursery Coordinator, Zoe Zuccaro, who can be reached at [nursery@nwumc.com](mailto:nursery@nwumc.com). Find more information, including registration, at [nwumc.com/kmo](http://nwumc.com/kmo).

### **Children's Choir**

Northwest Church also has a children's choir, co-directed by Brian Luke and Barbara Luke. This group is for all children from kindergarten through 5th grade. Our children's choir season runs from late September through early May, with a break in January. Practices for children's choir are in the Music Room from 10:30 to 11:00 on Sunday mornings. We sing in church about once a month, and usually prepare a longer work for the Christmas season.

### **Youth Small Group, grades 6-12, Sunday mornings at 9:30 and 11:00, resumes September 7**

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to meet in the youth room (room 112, downstairs at the end of the hall) at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. for a time of study and fellowship together. These groups are led by Zach Peterson.

### **Youth Group, grades 6-12, Sundays from 6-8 p.m., resumes September 7**

Youth Group meets Sunday nights 6-8pm during the school year in the Haven. We enjoy food, games, worship, and learning more about God! Youth group is led by Zach Peterson and Pastor Chris. Contact them through the church office for more information on Youth Group.

## **Music**

Music can be a powerful way to connect with God, and being part of a group can definitely enhance that experience for many. Here is information about our music groups at Northwest and how to get involved.

### **Adult Choir, rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 3**

Our adult choir, directed by Brian Luke and accompanied by Mary Gardner, meets from September through May and is open to all regardless of singing level or previous experience. We practice in the Sanctuary from 7:20 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday night during the choir season. The adult choir sings at the 9:30 Sanctuary service 3 or 4 times a month. We also typically present larger works during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Our practices are not just times to learn songs; we also pray together, make friends, share fellowship, and have a lot of fun!

### **Children's Choir**

See above in the Children's and Youth section

### **JuBellation Bell Choir, rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 3**

JuBellation is our handbell choir. The group plays during the 9:30 service about once a month and rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:15p.m. in room 213, September-May.

### **The Gathering Band**

The praise band leads worship at the 11:00 Gathering service each Sunday. The band rehearses on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. before the service at 11. Our praise band leader is Phil Nagy. The band has also recorded two albums. The first is *All are Welcome* and the second is *grace and glory*. Both are available wherever you stream music.

# Outreach and Missions

Serving is another great way to get involved. Here are just a few of the ways you can get involved serving through Northwest. For more information about opportunities to serve, visit [nwumc.com/outreach-missions](http://nwumc.com/outreach-missions) or contact Denise Gorden, Director of Outreach, at the church office.

## **Church for All People Breakfast and more**

The United Methodist Church for All People is part of a much larger organization, Church and Community Development for All People on the south side of Columbus. We at Northwest UMC support the Church for all People by providing a hot breakfast on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Volunteers prepare hot breakfast casseroles with and without meat as well as provide needed items such as cereal, milk, orange juice, salsa, sausage and fruit. These items are brought to our church before the designated Sunday while the hot casseroles are brought the morning of delivery. All these items are taken to the Church for all People on Sunday morning to provide a hot, full breakfast. We always need people to cook and donate breakfast items. Someone needs to transport all off to Church for All People by 8:00 a.m. Servers are also needed there. Watch for the sign-up genius or you can sign up in the hall at church each month.

We also support the Church for All People through donations of gently used items, school supply collections, the annual Christmas Shop, and more.

## **Manna Café**

Manna Café is a ministry for the downtown community coordinated by Broad Street United Methodist Church. Northwest United Methodist Church prepares, delivers and will serve a meal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evenings of even months (February, April, June, August, October, December). Volunteers donate food items, cook together in our kitchen, transport the food, and serve (carryout style right now). How can you help? Donate food, help cook, transport, or serve. Watch for the sign-up genius and also the signup in the church hall.

## **SOUP-er Thursday for Linden Market**

The Linden Market partners with Mid-Ohio Food Collective to distribute free food in Ohio. This market focuses on health and provides members with free, fresh, healthy produce. What do we do? We make soup and sandwiches once a month for them to distribute. These are delivered on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Some people make soup at home while others join in planned cooking days in the church kitchen that are open to anyone. Contact the church office to get involved.

## **NNEMAP Food Pantry**

Each month we collect a specific item for the NNEMAP Food Pantry. Watch the Northwest Happenings email and other announcements to find out the item each month. We also support both NNEMAP and the Southside Community Ministry Food Pantry through our annual Harvest Home Sunday in November.

## **Coffee and Conversation**

This ministry provides an opportunity for adults to learn English through simple conversation. Coffee and Conversation meets on Thursdays at 10 a.m. in the Ministry Center and is always looking for more people to help those attending practice English, as well as those who are learning English. Clydene Freeman coordinates this group and childcare is available through the Kids' Morning Out program (listed above).

## **Sparrow House**

For the past twelve years, our church has provided gently used toys, games, books, puzzles, and stuffed animals to the Christmas Shop at Sparrow House. The Sparrow House is affiliated with the South Perry UMC in Laurelville, Ohio. Again this year, we will be collecting items during the month of October. This year, Sparrow House is also collecting the following for their Christmas Shop: Gently used clothing for infants, children, and teens; NEW winter hats, mittens, and gloves; NEW underwear for children and teens. Please contact Beth Basil if you have questions or would like to make a monetary donation to Sparrow House.

## **Community Ministries**

We serve the community close to our church property in a variety of ways. We deliver Brown Bag Lunches and Blessing Boxes throughout the year on days when there is no school. Our Winter Blessings ministry gives away free coats to kids in the community. We prepare and deliver special Thanksgiving boxes before the holiday

## **Other Ministries**

If you don't see what you are looking for in this list, please contact the church office. We may have a ministry that interests you that is not in this list, or we may know of other people who are interested in the same type of ministry. As stated at the beginning, this is not a complete list. Another great resource to check is the connect page of website at [nwumc.com/connect](http://nwumc.com/connect) which we try to keep updated with current opportunities.

## **Stay Connected**

Finally, make sure you are staying connected through email, social media, and more using the following links:

- Find current announcements, online bulletins and more at [nwumc.com/connect](http://nwumc.com/connect). You can also sign up for emails on that page and find our social media links.
- We send a weekly phone message via One Call Now with worship information and some quick updates. Contact the church office if you would like to receive this message.
- Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/nwumc](https://facebook.com/nwumc) and Instagram at [@nwumccolumbus](https://www.instagram.com/nwumccolumbus)
- Download the Church Center App from your phone's app store and then search for Northwest United Methodist Church in the zip code 43220 then follow the directions to log in.
- Join our Facebook community group "Northwest UMC Family" at [facebook.com/groups/nwumc](https://facebook.com/groups/nwumc).
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel at [youtube.com/northwestumc](https://youtube.com/northwestumc)