

Fall Ministry Guide 2026

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 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.

Monday

Daniel Bible Study, Mondays at 7 p.m., starting September 14

Pastor Chris will be leading a six-week Bible study on the book of Daniel from 7-8 p.m. on Mondays starting September 14. The study will meet at Pastor Chris's home. Contact the church office for more information.

Tuesday

2 Samuel Bible Study, Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. in room 212 and on Zoom, beginning August 25 Pastor Chris will lead a study on the book of 2nd Samuel this fall on Tuesdays from 7-8:30. This is a hybrid study that meets in room 212 and on Zoom with recordings uploaded to YouTube after the fact. It will begin on Tuesday, August 25. For more details including a tentative reading schedule and the Zoom link, please contact Pastor Chris at the church office.

Wednesday

Coffee Talk Daytime, Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. in room 212, beginning September 2 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 based on Jennifer Rothschild's book *Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight*. If you have any questions or plan to attend, please contact Denise Gorden at the church office or denisegorden3@gmail.com.

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

Books to Bridges is an online book study group that reads books to broaden our understanding of the world, often from perspectives different from our own. This fall the group will be reading *Social Justice for the Sensitive Soul: How to Change the World in Quiet Ways* by Dorcas Cheng-Tozun. For more information or to get added to the email list, contact Katy Wright at 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.

Men Under Construction, Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Staff Lounge, beginning September 3 This men's group meets on Thursday evenings from September to April. Its purpose is to build each other up so that we can build others up. The various weekly topics allow those attending to discuss pertinent subjects that touch their lives. The group always discovers what experts on the subject and the Bible say about the topics. The first topic will be "How to Let More Happiness Come to You" on Thursday, September 3, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Staff Lounge. Plan to attend this evening of inspiring discussion, good fellowship, and laughter. This group is led by retired pastor Roger Gorden.

Coffee Talk Nighttime, Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. in room 212, beginning September 3 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 based on Jennifer Rothschild's book *Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight*. If you have any questions or plan to attend, please contact Denise Gorden at the church office or 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 is coordinated by Pastor Mebane and Amy Grant. 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 The Forge Our young adult group meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 6 p.m. for dinner/drinks at The Forge Tavern, with occasional special events including a Christmas party mixed in. 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 to learn more.

Saturday

Interfaith Coalition 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, a historically Black congregation in downtown Columbus. Other churches have joined in this important work, and the group 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.

As part of our collaboration with the Coalition for Racial Reconciliation, we will be hosting a **racial reconciliation training on Saturday, September 12th, from 9:30-4pm in the Ministry Center**. The training will be provided by the Reconciliation Ministry Commission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Cost is \$20 and includes lunch. Register today by contacting the church office (614-451-2825, info@nwumc.com) or find the online registration form at nwumc.com/connect.

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 Katy Wright, Interim Director of Family Ministries, at kids@nwumc.com for more information.

Youth Small Group, grades 6-12, Sunday mornings at 9:30 and 11:00, resumes September 13 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 13

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

Music

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

Adult Choir, rehearsals resuming Wednesday, September 2

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. They also typically present larger works during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Practices are not just times to learn songs; members also pray together, make friends, share fellowship, and have a lot of fun!

JuBellation Bell Choir, rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 2

JuBellation is our handbell choir. The group plays during the 9:30 service about once a month and rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.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 three albums: *All are Welcome, grace and glory*, and *Old Rhyme, New Skins*. These can be found 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 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 4th 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 SignUpGenius 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, a summer school supply collection, 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 3rd 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. You can help by donating food, helping to cook, transporting food to the location, or serving. Watch for the SignUpGenius and also the signup in the 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. We contribute by making soup and sandwiches once a month for them to distribute. These are delivered on the 3rd 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.

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, which 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 also 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 our website at 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. 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 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.
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel at youtube.com/northwestumc