

North Shore Church News

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OUR PURPOSE IS TO GROW AND DEEPEN
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
IN A FAITH COMMUNITY GUIDED BY THE
HOLY SPIRIT.

February 2017

“A Few Thoughts On.....”

A 4x4 Faith

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Sunday Morning

8:00 Worship—Chapel
10:00 Worship—Sanctuary
10:15 Sunday School
11:00 Coffee & Fellowship

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Fox Point, WI

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Dear Friends,

While January has been a surprisingly quiet month in regard to weather, it seems that every year we come across icy and snowy conditions that end up reminding me of the same phenomenon—namely, the 4x4 driver who clearly believes he/she is impervious to the perils of winter roads. You all know the person I am talking about. It's the woman who is doing 70mph on the snow-covered lane of the interstate while everyone else is doing 45 on the lane that has been cleared. It's the man zipping back and forth from one slick lane to the next as he weaves his way through the slower traffic. And yes, it's the person we see spun out and down the ditch on the side of the exit ramp because he simply didn't slow down enough to make the turn.

It can be a scary thing to watch, at times—and we've all seen it. Every time snow falls on the roads of Wisconsin, we see one driver after the next who has come to the clear determination that their 4x4 vehicle means that the pitfalls of snow and ice (and physics!) simply don't apply to them. Suddenly, it would seem, the fact that they have engaged all four of their wheels means they no longer need to worry about keeping safe distances, driving reasonable speeds, taking corners and curves cautiously, leaving room to stop, or any of a hundred other things we do in order to be safe on winter roads. Then, not surprisingly, we see these same 4x4 vehicles littered in the snow banks as one after the next learns, the hard way, that having one important tool for the road doesn't mean we can ignore the need for all of the others!

That, I would suggest, is a reminder we all could afford to hear now and then.

Ask yourself a few questions. First, try to come up with an estimate of how many people you know who attend worship on a regular basis (consider, perhaps, how many of your own family and friends attend worship consistently). Then, ask yourself how many of those people take time for prayer outside of worship? How many of them read the Bible

A 4x4 Faith cont...

regularly? How many attend Bible studies, engage in meditation, or otherwise seek to discern with Word and Spirit of God in their lives? How many of them actively serve the needs of others or engage in the missions of the church? Consider how many people attend worship on a regular basis, but then consider what a small portion of that pool actually engages in the other ‘tools’ and practices of Christian living and spirituality.

The truth is that when it comes to faith we all tend, at least at times, to be a little like that over-confident 4x4 driver plowing across those snow-covered roads. Many of us embrace that one tool of faith (we attend worship), and then we march forth confidently into the challenges and pitfalls of life as though the fact that we utilize that one tool means we don’t need any of the others. Then, suddenly, we hit one of life’s slick spots and realize find ourselves wishing we’d made a little wider use of the tools at our disposal.

There are, however, other drivers out there on those same snowy roads. They are the drivers who have the four-wheel-drive vehicle and can, therefore, take on those snowy roads with confidence. They also know, however, that their 4x4 system only works if it is accompanied by their caution, their attention, their discipline, and all of the other practices that allow them to get safely home in the midst of the storms. They are the drivers that see the importance of not just the one tool, but all of the tools it takes to make it through the storm! All I am suggesting is that, as Christians, perhaps we could take a lesson from those drivers, embrace every tool at our disposal, and thus be able to forge ever more confidently through the storms that life will bring upon us.

Your Pastor and Friend, **Marty**

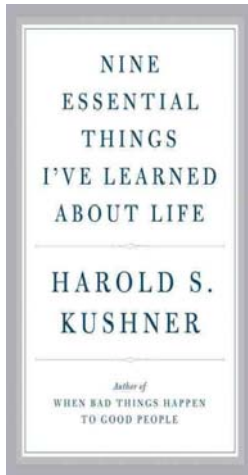
Mark your calendar for our annual **Ash Wednesday service.**

March 1, at 7:00pm, we will gather to set the stage for the Lenten season and begin to prepare our hearts and minds for the remembrance and celebration of Easter. This is a meaningful service that helps to set our focus on the spirit of Lent – please join us.



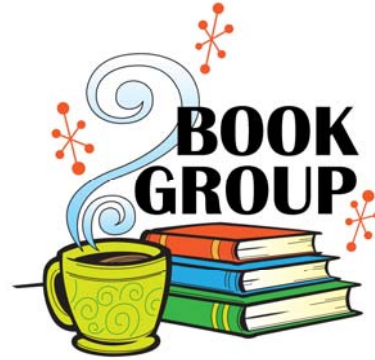
Please note that a special **Congregational Meeting** is scheduled to take place immediately following the 10am worship service on **Sunday, February 12**. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the proposed adjustment in our ‘volunteer year’ as presented at the December meeting. Summaries of this proposal are available in the narthex and in the church office. With any questions, please see Rev. Marty, our Moderator Laurie Swartwout, or any member of the Church Council.

EDUCATION AND FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES



Tuesday Morning Book Group

meets in Friendship Lounge from 10 – 11 am. We continue reading and talking about “Nine Essential Things I’ve Learned About Life”, by Rabbi Harold Kushner. The discussions are rich and welcoming. Join us, you are always welcome! Want to check in when a new book starts in early March? Just contact Rev. Julie and you will receive a reminder/invitation!



If you have any questions or thoughts about Bible studies and book groups, please contact Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith at 414-588-8693 or juliesmith@northshorecongl.org.

Knit together by God!

We meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 1:00 pm. Come February 17 and warm up together in a tangle of yarn and conversation.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

meets in Friendship Lounge from 9:30-11:00.

We are exploring the book of Acts, the learning and conversation is wonderful. If you are interested in coming please feel free to join us anytime!



FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Plan on joining with **Lydia Circle** members Monday, **February 27, at 10am** in Friendship Lounge as we share stories and/or pictures to provide a clearer picture of where we've all been/where we're coming from.



Short writing prompts will be provided such as: If I were to choose a family recipe to share it would be...because. Or, give it some thought prior to our meeting and jot down your own thoughts.

Dig through those boxes of old black and white snapshots and bring a few to share (color acceptable too, but they'll surely be faded!)

Bring a friend or new member!

Repairers of the Breach Lunch Making

This month our bag lunches are being made for Repairers of the Breach during the youth event, "30 Hour Famine," on February 4. Mark your calendar to come to the church kitchen to help on March 5! Thank you for sharing your time!



UWM Lunch Bunch for March 8! Two times each year we serve lunch to UWM students as an outreach. There are several different ways you can help: shop for supplies, get the lunch prepped in our church kitchen the morning of, or drive and serve on site. It is a great and simple way to simply "be there" for students, and let them know we care. To get involved, contact Tom Smith 414-774-8688 or jtsmith5@sbcglobal.net.

Lent Begins on March 1 with our Ash Wednesday service at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. Looking ahead - please note on your calendar the Wednesday Night "Soup and Table Talk" hours during Lent (6pm-7pm March 8-April 5). More details to come in the March Newsletter!



MINISTRY OF THE MONTH CENTERING PRAYER

The first time I stumbled into the Centering Prayer Group, I knew my idea of prayer was going to be challenged. I really didn't want to go to a prayer group, because I was afraid I would be embarrassed or exposed somehow....I was looking for another sort of group, but couldn't find something that seemed to be what I was looking for.... When I arrived and saw there was only one other person there, my fears quickly started grabbing me by the throat, as though to pull me out of the room. The person who was there was Todd Davison. He welcomed me graciously, patiently explained to me what the group did, and then invited me to stay if I wished.



I did stay and I kept returning week after week. Outside of the meetings, I was reading books about the contemplative practices of early Christians and about the movement in the 20th century to revive an understanding of these practices. Centering Prayer is an outcome of this renewed interest. There are Centering Prayer groups in churches of all denominations of Christianity. It is wonderful to have the opportunity in our church to explore this way of deepening our relationship with God.

Having spent the first 50 years of my life adhering to the way of prayer I learned in Sunday School and that my mother taught me, all of which is good, I have been surprised by how my relationship to God has changed simply through taking time to be quiet and be open to God.

All are invited to join us every week between the Sunday services for a time of reflection on the scripture readings for the worship service that day. After a time of quiet, we talk and listen to each other. We welcome everyone! This is an open group where we seek to support each other's journey as followers of Christ.

How would you describe prayer?

"For me, prayer is an aspiration of the heart, it is a simple glance directed to heaven, it is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy; finally it is something great, supernatural, which expands my soul and unites me to Jesus." -Thérèse de Lisieux (1873-1897)

"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts." -Mother Teresa (1910-1997)



"Prayer is a form of communication between God and man and man and God....I am always impressed by the fact that it is recorded that the only thing that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to do was to pray." -Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

COFFEE, CHORDS AND KIDS


North Shore Congregational Church

COFFEE, CHORDS & KIDS!

BRENDAN DEMET, AT NORTH SHORE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ON FEBRUARY 3RD!



7330 N. Santa Monica Blvd.
Fox Point, WI 53217
(414) 352-6123
www.NorthShoreCongl.org
www.facebook.com/north.church.3



Friday February 3 - Coffee, Chords and Kids! Come for an evening of live music, coffee, tea and desserts for the adults, and a movie for the kids. 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Hosted at North Shore Congregational Church: 7330 N Santa Monica Blvd.
Fox Point.

This is a neighborhood event, invite your friends! (There is no charge, a free will offering for the musicians appreciated.) Invite Neighbors, come and relax!

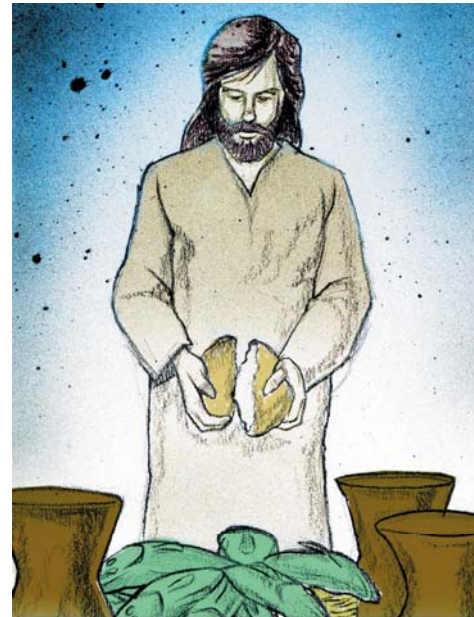
LOAVES AND FISHES

February 21, 2017

CASSEROLES

DESSERTS

Cook	Bauzenberger
Lennie	Lemorande
Ritke	Ford
Papineau	Hadcock
Swenson	Block
Gaenslen	Holmes
Lange	Reimer
Smith, J	Petersen
Miller	Wauck
-----	Weber
-----	Zganjar
-----	Navarro



MAN DOES NOT LIVE ON
BREAD ALONE BUT ON
EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM
THE MOUTH OF THE LORD.
DEUTERONOMY 8:3

DRIVERS

Osborne	Croysdale	Smith, J
---------	-----------	----------

SERVERS

Schuyler	Tornetta
Schuyler	Tornetta
Schuyler	Wininsky
Schuyler	Neumann

SAVE THE DATE!



Warm up from the cold!

Come play card and board games with your church family **Friday, February 17, at 6:30 pm.** Bring your favorite games and snacks to share.

Sign up if able to attend starting January 29, in Friendship Lounge or sign up on Facebook. Contact Sharon Hall at disneyfamily01@gmail.com or 262-236-9847 for more information.

Mark your calendars TODAY for the BIG event!!!! That's right, **KidsConnect**, Grades 3-6, are going to have a **LOCK-IN** at church!

February 24 - drop off will be at 7:00pm
February 25 - pick up will be at 9:30am

**Please note that if your child would like to participate in the Friday evening games and snacks, but does not want to sleep over, they may be picked up by 10:00pm.*

Bring the essentials---sleeping bag, pillows, pjs, etc...

Light snacks such as popcorn, pretzels, and fruit snacks served Friday evening. **Breakfast will be made by our very own Rev. Marty on Saturday morning.**

NO ELECTRONICS ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO THIS EVENT! All phones, iPads, tablets, etc... are to be left at home. If you want your child to have their phone for communication purposes with you, they can leave it with Rev. Julie or Leslie. To better plan this event, please let Leslie Krueger know if your child plans to attend! Feel free to bring a friend!



STEWARDSHIP - THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED



Thank you! The incoming EOG's have really helped us feel secure about planning the balance of the year. You have been generous in both your pledges and other offerings...let the seeds grow!

Next, your Stewardship Board will help you apply your time and talents to further nurture the growth of North Shore Congregational Church.

Thanks again,

Your Stewardship Committee

BENEVOLENCE



As friends of the SOJOURNER FAMILY PEACE CENTER, your Benevolence board members invite you to join us in our SQUEAKY CLEAN toiletries drive to benefit this wonderful organization.

SOJOURNER FAMILY PEACE CENTER has existed in Milwaukee since 1975 with a mission to transform lives impacted by domestic violence. It serves over 9,500 clients each year and helps families achieve safety and justice after being affected by domestic violence. They provide assistance to both victims and abusers by providing opportunities to make positive changes for themselves and their children.

Below is a list of items needed in providing refuge for victims of domestic abuse. When they arrive at SOJOURNER FAMILY PEACE CENTER, families often have nothing but what they are wearing, so please prayerfully consider what you may be able to donate to help these families in need.

All items MUST BE NEW.

ITEMS OF GREATEST NEED: Women's pajamas, First Aid Kit items (Band-Aids, gauze pads, Tylenol and cold medicine for children and adults), Twin XL comforters and blankets. Also needed are white socks for women, and non-skid slippers for children and young adults (size 6-16) and women (size M-XL) as well as sleepwear for children and youth of all sizes.



As you go about your errands between now and the end of March, please keep these needs in mind. Watch for collection receptacles to be conveniently located throughout the church during the first three weeks of March!! Thank you for sharing your blessings and helping our neighbors in need!!

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Are Your Affairs in Order?

Looking ahead! Wellness! Yes, a state we all strive to achieve—physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Guidelines for better physical health are well known: balanced diet, adequate healthy liquid intake and rest to name a few. But, we are more than systems of hearts, lungs and kidneys as many advertisements seem to suggest. Our brains, emotions and spiritual being also need attention in order to have a happy, fulfilling, life. This part may not be as easy as using printed guidelines for physical well-being. It may require time, prayer, serious thinking and acting to alter individual circumstances.



But, how does this occur? We are all individual persons who have grown up in a complex maze of social and environmental factors that influence how we think and act. This is true for 10 year olds, 20 through 60 years and beyond. Some of us have already achieved a state of comfortable mental and spiritual being. Others may be struggling with outside issues that cloud physical well-being. Still others may be seeking different ways of thinking and acting to move forward. There are ways to make happiness, hope, joy and peace a part of daily practice.

This article is to let you know of several forthcoming opportunities here at North Shore Congregational Church that may be of interest to you. Under the leadership of Rev. Julie, the Health Committee is working to bring these opportunities here this spring.

Are Your Affairs in Order is a 3 week series on Sunday's after the 10am worship service. February 26, March 5 and March 12. A light lunch will be hosted by Stephen Ministry for participants, the class will run from 11:30 – 12:45. This course offers resources covering practical matters, writing legacy wills and funeral planning plus several attachments helpful for End of Life planning.

About Guest Speaker Rev. Barbara Jordan: After 30 years in the corporate world, Rev. Jordan finally responded to God's call and entered the ministry. Following seminary, she relocated from the warm beaches of northeast Florida to Mequon and served as pastor of congregational care at Crossroads Presbyterian Church. Five years ago, God lead Barb to hospice chaplaincy at Zilber Family Hospice in Wauwatosa.

We are limited to 20 participants, so please RSVP to Rev. Julie as soon as you can. Please let us know if transport or child care is a need you have in order to participate!

Chronic Joy Support Group: “Radical hope. Compassionate change. Equipping those affected by chronic physical and mental illness through community and education rooted in Jesus Christ.” Utilizing Cindee Re’s *Discovering Hope: Beginning the Journey Toward Hope in Chronic Illness* to help guide conversation and support. Contact Rev. Julie to learn more about joining a twice monthly meeting.

See our March Newsletter for another 2-3 session offering later in Spring, Taking Time; Introduction to the Alexander Technique.

THIS AND THAT



Perhaps you are celebrating a baptism or birthday, remembering a loved one, or thanking God for His love. Please consider donating flowers for the Communion Table during Sunday Worship. The cost is \$50.00. Dates can be selected in advance, and flowers are yours to take after the 10am service on Sunday.

Please contact Sue Wood at 414-964-1722 or suewood@wi.rr.com.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Sunday School News!

February Lessons at a Glance:

- ❖ February 5: The Shepherd and His Flock (John 10: 1-15)
- ❖ February 12: John tells about Love (1 John 4: 7-16)
- ❖ February 19: Prophets Predict the Messiah (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1: 26-38)
- ❖ February 26: All About the Call

Coffee, Kids, and Chords

February 3 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. While the adults enjoy coffee, music, and fellowship, the children can enjoy a movie!!!! In pj's if they choose...BRING A FRIEND!

Sunday, February 12

- ❖ Children's **Choir sings** during **10:00am** worship.
- ❖ **4:00-5:30pm - KidsConnect!** Play games, make Valentine cookies, eat yummy snacks and for some of our older friends, connect with your Sunday school friends!!!! Please feel free to bring a friend or two!!!! For kids in grades 3-6!



Chapel Sunday: February 19 at 10:00am with Rev. Marty! All Sunday School children grades k3- 6 please meet upstairs in the Chapel.

We continue to sponsor two children at **Happy Life Children's Home** in Kenya Africa, through the offering collected in Sunday school each week. Remember each cent collected adds up and is used to help in big ways!

We are in need of **volunteers to acolyte** and carry God's light into the sanctuary each week. Please contact Leslie Krueger if your child is interested in helping with this special responsibility!



Save the Date! Summer Bible Camp for Preschool through 5th grade will be held June 13-15 from 9 am to noon each day. Mark your calendars and watch for enrollment forms.

Consider developing a deeper relationship with your children and their church school education. Please sign up to be a teacher or 2nd adult in one of the classrooms this month. Responsibilities as a second adult include sitting back and enjoying the awe and wonder that only children have as they learn about the birth of Jesus. It's an experience you won't want to miss. Check the sign-up sheets, next to the door of the classroom, when you drop off/pick up your child. Please feel free to sign up in any classroom! Or, contact Leslie Krueger to sign up or find out more.



Crib n Crawler will be staffed during worship on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 11:15.

Questions?
Contact Rev. Julie Sheridan- Smith today!
414-352-6123 or 414-588-8693
juliesmith@northshorecongl.org
Or
Or **Leslie Krueger**
lrcook@uwm.edu

HAPPENINGS WITH YOUTH!

Youth Events (6th-12th grade)

Youth events calendar: put it on yours!

February 3-4 is the Annual “**30 Hour Famine**” event. This is an overnight event with youth from Wisconsin Congregational Churches, held at First Congregational Church in Wauwatosa, 7 pm Friday to 3 pm Saturday

This event is for 4th through 12th grade. All age levels are strongly encouraged to fast from technology for 30 hours. Our Jr. and Sr. High youth can also choose to participate in a 30-hour fast from food.

Learn about World Hunger and the consequences of malnutrition...and how you can respond! Our time will be spent in program time, games, and working on several service projects.

Watch for an upcoming opportunity during coffee hour to hear about their experience and sample a bit of the subsistence food items they learned about: “plumpy nut” or rice and beans.

February 5 and 19—YouthConnect Breakfast for High School age people! Waffles, toppings and checking in with each other. 9 am in the church kitchen downstairs.

February 12—Youth Praise Choir combining North Shore Congregational Church and Ozaukee Congregational Church youth! Youth (4th grade through 12th grade) shared music with us on January 29. On Feb 12 those participating will be at Ozaukee Congregational Church. Rev. Julie will be there with them and they will gather together at 9:30 to rehearse



and then sing at the 10 service. Contact Rev Julie if you need a ride to the Ozaukee Church that day.

February 17—All Church Pizza and Game night at 6:30. This time you can not only invite your friends - you can invite your parents too!

February 26—ESCAPE ROOM! This event is for 6th – 12th grade youth. We will go offsite for an Escape Room escapade, 4-5:15pm. We must have RSVP's February 17 to reserve 1-2 rooms. Cost is \$15 per person. RSVP to Rev. Julie.

Parents: We would like to keep a bulletin board and newsletter notes of special events, plays/musicals that the school age people of the church are part of so we join in as able! Please contact Julie Smith with dates and events!

CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE

Update on Confirmation Class “doings” for February!

At the end of January our Confirmation students visited other houses of worship. During February we look at the “how’s and why’s” of worship: The Sacraments, The “Word” in scripture, preaching and Hymnody



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and the Wisconsin Congregational Association.*

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All members of North Shore Congregational Church

ASSISTED BY

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Leslie Krueger, Acting Children's Director	Rick Kieffer, Music Director
Dr. Rodney Loren, Organist	Becky Whelpley, Organist
Leslie Krueger, Children's Choir Director	Kerrin White, Office Manager
Mike Fugarino, Custodian	
Adam Penno, Sam Marx, Abby and Jack Schill, and Nicole Lennie, Sunday Custodians	