

North Shore Church News



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

June 2020

“A Few Thoughts On.....”

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

A Note of Thanks



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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

Vol. 38 Issue 6



As I author my first newsletter message in four months, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of this congregation for your patience, understanding and flexibility over these past few months (not to mention those still to come). As we began our journey into new forms and manners of worship and ministry in March, we quickly stopped sending out newsletters, as we knew that any information composed and mailed would be painfully out of date by the time it was received a week or two later. In the weeks and months that have followed, we have all endured an unparalleled circumstance of adjustment and change. It has been a trying period, at times. Throughout it all, however, each member of this church has been responsive, engaged, supportive and forgiving as we have muddled our way through the uncharted waters of Covid-19.

The good news is that the publication of this newsletter means that things have settled into a state at which we feel a little more comfortable trying to plan 4-6 weeks out (instead of the 4-6 days that was a stretch two months ago). The bad news is that our need for your ongoing flexibility and forgiveness will still be very much a part of our shared ministry in the months ahead!

In the pages that follow, you will find a slew of information that reflects a number of changes in the life of our church. Much of this is information that has been communicated in other forums, while some is new to this publication. We wanted to put it all together, however, to ensure that you have full access to all of the pertinent information about our worship and ministries as they stand, and will stand, in the coming weeks and months.

A Note of Thanks continued...

I encourage you to look through these pages in detail. From the FAQs about our gathering for in-person worship, to the letter about a change in the leadership of our ministries for children and families, this newsletter has much to say about what will be happening here at North Shore Congregation Church in the weeks to come. We know that it will change again (hopefully for the better!), and we will adjust to those needs and opportunities as they arise. For now, however, we pray that this newsletter will help to bring you up to date on that which we have in store in the life of our church.

Again, I thank you all for your tremendous support and understanding in the past months, as well as for that we know we will call upon, again, as we continue this wilderness journey through Covid-19.

Your Pastor and Friend, **Marty**

DRIVE IN SERVICE

Join us for a celebratory worship in our parking lot on **Sunday, June 14, at 6:30pm.** Drive in, bring your lawn chairs to sit beside your cars, and join in as we celebrate the many ways in which has been, is, and forever will be with us! This is a wonderful opportunity to come together in worship and celebration, and we pray that you will all be with us for this unique worship experience!



REOPENING FAQs

*Beginning Sunday, June 21, North Shore Congregational Church will begin gathering for in-person worship on a limited, **pre-registered** basis. As we begin this process, we want to inform all members and friends of our plans to promote the safety of our church family, as well as to allow all potential attendees to make informed decisions regarding their desire and comfort in attending. It is our hope that the following FAQs will answer most of the questions that will emerge in the coming weeks.*

NSCC Reopening Task Team Members

Bo Dowsett (2019-2020 Moderator)

Kathy Schill (2020-2021 Moderator)

Linda Emery

Catherine Shepard

Rick Kieffer

Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith

Rev. Dr. Martin Hall

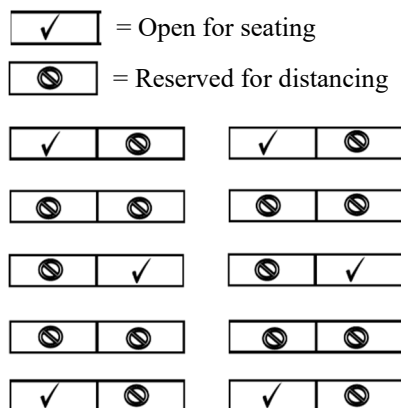
Worship Schedule and Registration

- ♦ What will the worship schedule be?
There will be two services each Sunday, at 9am and 11am. This schedule may be adjusted, if necessary, to properly accommodate the demand.
- ♦ How many people may attend each service?
In order to allow sufficient social distancing, we are limited to 20 households per service.
- ♦ Why is registration required?
Pre-registration allows us to be certain that there will be room for all who attend.
- ♦ Why is registration being done by 'household'?
Since members of a household can share a seating area, this registration approach allows us to ensure available seating based on the number of groups instead of the number of individuals.
- ♦ How do I register?
You can register directly online (the link for the services will be sent with the Monday email each week), or you can call the church office to register by phone.

- ♦ What if there is not enough space?
Unfortunately, we are limited to the number of spaced seating locations available in our facility. If we regularly find that we end up with more demand than available seats, we may adjust the worship schedule in order to provide additional opportunities.
- ♦ Will streaming worship still be available?
Yes. In fact, we are having new equipment installed for an even better at-home worship experience. Under the schedule beginning on June 21, the 9am worship service will be streamed.

Arrival

- ♦ When should I arrive?
The doors to the church building will open 20 minutes prior to the service. We encourage all members to arrive sometime throughout that 20 minute window in order to avoid crowds arriving at the last minute.
- ♦ Where should I enter?
All three main doors will be open on Sunday morning.
- ♦ Where should I sit?
Hosts will be available as you enter to help guide you to available seats. In order to provide extensive room for distancing, seating will be reduced to 1/4 of our normal seating areas (see diagram to the right).
Note – some of the available seats are in the balcony. If you are unable to utilize the balcony, we recommend arriving early in the 20 minute arrival window.



Masks

- ♦ Do I need to wear a mask?
Masks are expected for all while entering and exiting the building. Once seated, those who prefer may remove their masks for the duration of the worship service. The Ministers, and others leading worship, may not wear masks while leading from the chancel, but will be in masks at all other times on Sunday mornings.
- ♦ What if I don't have a mask, or forget to bring one?
Masks will be available at all entrances to the church building.

REOPENING FAQs cont..

Infants and Children

- ◆ Will the Crib 'n Crawler be open?
While infants are always welcome to remain with us in worship, the Crib 'n Crawler will be open for the 9am service each week.
- ◆ Will there be programming for children?
Yes, activity buckets will be provided for children who wish to stay in worship, and Sunday school programming will be offered during the 9am service each week.
- ◆ What is being done to minimize risks for children?
We are researching guidelines set for schools and day care centers to design a program that is as safe as possible for our youngest members. All staff working with children will wear masks, the weekly program will start downstairs (not in the sanctuary as usual), and we will seek to use outdoor and large spaces as much as possible in order to allow children to spread out. Furthermore, while we are unable to ensure that our young children will 'socially distance' while together, we will have handwashing and bathroom protocols to help prevent the spread of germs.

Worship Details

- ◆ What about orders of worship, hymnals and Bibles?
All of the hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the pews. Orders of worship will be set out at the end of each usable row before each service, and will include the text for the Scripture readings of the day. Those who wish to have a Bible from which to read are encouraged to bring their own.
- ◆ Will there be congregational singing?
One of our greatest blessings and joys, as a church family, is our music. This includes the pleasure of singing together. Unfortunately, following the best guidance available, it is advisable that we refrain from singing together at this time. Our gifted musicians will continue to offer inspiring music for our services (both vocal and instrumental) and we will continue to stay attuned to the growing understanding of the spread of Covid-19 and the manner in which that impacts our ability to join together, again, in song.

Worship Details (cont.)

- ◆ How will we handle the offering?
There will be an offering plate in the narthex to receive the contributions of those who would like to do so. Our mail-in and online options also remain as active avenues for congregational giving.
- ◆ What about Communion?
Communion will be supplied through pre-packaged wafers and juice, and those streaming at home will be encouraged to provide their own elements.

Coffee Hour/Fellowship Time

- ◆ Will there be a coffee hour?
We will not be offering coffee hour at this time.
- ◆ What spaces will be available for gathering and fellowship?
In an attempt to ensure sufficient distancing among our members and guests, our primary focus in gathering is for worship. That said, those who wish to stay and converse are asked to wear masks and do so outside the church building. The gathering spaces inside the church will not be open at this time.

Sanitation

- ◆ Will hand sanitizer be available?
Yes, permanent sanitizer dispensers are available at the north and south doors, and a number of small pump bottles are placed around the building. Additional dispensers will be placed throughout the building when our supplier receives its next shipment.
- ◆ What are the plans for sanitation?
The building is kept clean and sanitized by our full-time custodian throughout the week. Between Sunday services, our Sunday custodians and volunteers will sanitize all high-contact areas, replace all papers, rotate seating to unused areas, and more. All children's items will be collected in special bins and sanitized before setting them out for additional use.

Congregational Announcement

June 1, 2020

Dear North Shore Church family,

We are living in a time of change. Some of the changes we see now will bring about a stronger future, in spite of the pain and sadness we may be feeling right now. During our discussion groups last Fall in correlation with the Toward 75 & Beyond discernment process, one message continually came through loud and clear: deepening our focus and investment on the ministries we offer to, and share with, our youngest members is absolutely essential, and a top priority. It's important that we move forward with our vision for North Shore's future.

In an effort to pursue such a goal, it's the opinion of the HR Committee that establishing direct clergy leadership for the program will help greatly to foster an exciting new chapter for these ministries. Which is why, as we head into the 2020-21 program year, Rev. Julie will be taking responsibility for setting the course of the program, communicating with families, and working with teachers.

Some of you are probably wondering how Julie will take on this additional role in the face of all she already does for our church. Without getting into extensive details, we will share that the time created by a couple of gap years between Confirmation classes, as well as a few other shuffled responsibilities between Marty and the Board of Christian Enrichment, create the room needed for this transition.

With these anticipated adjustments, we are confident that Julie can absorb this new element of her ministry without having to step away from her other roles in worship and small groups that have been such a blessing to the church.

Looking towards the future of these ministries approached in this new way, we are truly excited to consider what this new model will mean for our children, families, and church as a whole. The regrettable part of this re-framing of the children's programming is that the position of Director of Children's Ministries, which has been filled by Leslie Krueger for the past four years, is no longer necessary.

The HR Committee members have been prayerfully contemplating this change well before the COVID-19 outbreak and, although we wish the timing could have been different, are certain that this change will see the children and families of this church prioritized as necessary while allowing Leslie to fulfill her goals elsewhere.

The Children's Choir will also be re-evaluated and re-formed under different leadership down the road.

As we set our sights on what comes next, we look with great hope to what God will do in this new chapter of our ministries, and we offer our deepest thanks and love to Leslie for her service and commitment to our church in years past!

In Faith and Service,

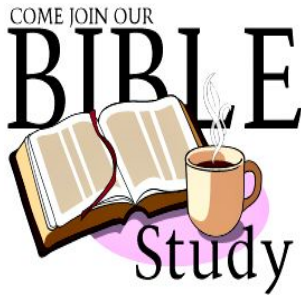
Bo Dowsett
2020-2021 HR Committee Chair

NACCC CONFERENCE

In light of the restrictions in place due to Covid-19, the 2020 Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches was cancelled. As a result of that cancellation, however, we all now have a unique opportunity to participate in our national gatherings in a way that is typically limited to our church's delegate(s) and Minister(s).

On Saturday, June 27, the business meeting of the NACCC will be held online at 2pm. Then, on Sunday, June 28, a nationwide worship service will be held online at 2pm. Links and details will be emailed to church members when they become available, but we encourage you to mark your calendars to be a part of this special chance to be a part of our national fellowship of churches.

ADULT FORMATION UPDATES PERTINENT TO REOPENING



Book group and Bible studies have now opened to a “hybrid” attendance. The large upper classroom is equipped with spaced apart tables and chairs for those who wish to attend in person. For those who continue “zooming in,” a screen, video camera and two-way phone system make it possible to hear, speak and see each other.

Book group (Tuesday at 10 am) has been engaging with a weekly topical podcast that relates to faith and current events. We all listen or read the transcript ahead of time and engage in conversation. I will be looking into what may be our next book – watch for an update in July.

Thursday Bible study (9:30 – 11:00) has begun the Gospel of Luke, and the Sunday afternoon study will soon begin Genesis! (We are finishing John’s gospel.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND FAMILY GUIDELINES SUMMER 2020

With the desire to offer the safest/healthiest environment for children to attend Sunday school and children’s events we will follow these guidelines:

Sunday School:

1. Weather permitting this will be held outside on the front lawn/portico area. Fellowship Hall’s large space will be used when weather indicates. Lessons, activities and implementation guidelines will be sent and discussed with teachers ahead of time.
2. Staff will wear masks during the working period and for entry and exit of the building. This offers safe engagement to others while also practicing physical distancing with adults bringing children.

3. Parents/Grandparents will provide a phone number so staff may text them should the child need to be picked up before Sunday school is over.
4. When a child is dropped off, adults are asked to not linger in the area/room. Please have one person drop off and pick up. Please mask and distance with others until you are settled in the sanctuary.
5. Hand sanitizers and wipes are in room/area for use.
6. Please bring a water bottle with child's name on it. If snacks are offered these will be prepackaged items. These are not to be shared.
7. Door handles and surfaces touched/used (e.g. tables, chairs) will be wiped down.
8. A "space" for each child will be made with hula hoops or carpet squares. Each space will have a sand bucket/plastic container with whatever supplies the children may use during our time together. These items will be collected and sanitized between Sundays.
9. Interactive games and activities will be planned along with the Bible lesson for fun - without engaging in contact (e.g. drum circle and sign language "songs," pool noodle tag).

Note: When KidsConnect is offered these same guidelines will be followed.

Crib 'n Crawler:

Items 1-4 same as above.

1. Please bring a bottle, sippy cup, or snack items in container with child's name on it.
2. Door handles and surfaces (e.g. changing table, slide, Little Tykes slide and table, etc.) will be wiped down before, during and after.
3. The door to the Crib 'n Crawler room is open - the teacher may close it once children have arrived.
4. There is a bag/bin in the room in which all toys touched/used will be placed when children are picked up. These will be sanitized before used again. Toys will be rotated each week. Large surface play areas will be sanitized between use.

Children who attend worship:

Activity "buckets" will be available for children by the sanctuary door and will be left in the pew after church. These buckets and items will be sanitized and/or replaced each week.



We celebrated the completion for the Confirmation Class's work with a drive-by balloon, gifts, cookies and many waves and hurray's by mentors Abby and Nick Hodgdon, Laura Lennie, and Jeff Leypoldt, along with Rev's Julie and Marty, and we look forward with hope to celebrating their decision to confirm their faith and join the church in the fall.

Abby and Nick are organizing opportunities to get together with the "Hangout" this summer.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We offer our congratulations to high school seniors on their graduation. Congratulations to Joe Enea, Thomas Hadcock, Joe Jacobus, Katie Lennie, Teddy Kies, Adam Penno, and Timm Snider!

Some parents were able to send us some information and even a few photos:

Thomas Hadcock graduated from Homestead High School and will be attending UW-Madison in the fall, with plans to major in history and economics.



Katie Lennie will be attending Colorado State University enrolled in the Warner School of Natural Resources - undeclared major. She is considering joining swim club at CSU. Her family is so proud of her high level of accomplishments in high school and her preparation for college, and is excited to see what her future brings.



Adam Penno will be attending St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN in fall

Timm Snider graduated from Port Washington High School
Next up: Marquette University studying communications/public relations.
God has blessed us with this fun-loving, humorous, hard-working son. We are SO proud of him and can't wait to see what great things he will accomplish in his future endeavors. □



Joey Enea (not pictured) graduated from Homestead High School. He plans to go to University of Iowa.

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North Shore Congregational Church

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*A member church of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
and the Wisconsin Congregational Association.*

MINISTERS

All members of North Shore Congregational Church

ASSISTED BY

Rev. Dr. Martin Hall, Senior Minister
Rick Kieffer, Music Director
Meike Pampalone, Organist
Mike Fugarino, Custodian

Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith, Associate Minister
Ellen Hacker Organist
Kerrin White, Office Manager

Eric Detienne, Katie Lennie and Adam Penno, Sunday Custodians