

North Shore Church



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

Mid-Summer 2020

“A Few Thoughts On.....”

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



Moderator Messages.....	4
NACCC Conference.....	6
Benevolence	10
Health	11
Adult Formation	12
Children & Youth.....	13

Sunday Morning

9:00 Worship—Sanctuary

11:00 Worship—Sanctuary

9:00 Sunday School

©North Shore Congregational Church,
Fox Point, WI

Vol. 38 Issue 7-8



See(k)ing God...The How?

Those who either attended or viewed our worship service from Sunday, July 12, may recall that the sermon focused on the concept of seeking God in the midst of our lives. Based on the story of Joseph, we were reminded of the importance of that on which we set our focus each day. Joseph, no matter what path his life travelled, set his sights on the presence and work of God in his every day. We were reminded, in his story, of the need for us to do the same.

The call to do so, however, begs the question...How? As I sit to author this brief note, it's been 24 hours since that service, and I've found myself thinking a lot about that question. What has truly stood out to me in those reflections, however, is the irony of how important that particular question has become for those of us trying to walk with faith through these tumultuous days in faith.

For more than 20 years of ministry, my experience with church members has been that of witnessing a constant tug and pull between the demands of life and the commands of faith. Service, study, worship...the 'practice' of faith has stood increasingly at odds with the overcrowded calendars that have become the norm of our existence. As the blinders of the secular world have more and more turned religious experience into an afterthought, our lives have been increasingly pulled by that which is expected of us in faith and that which is demanded of us in 'regular life.' This is not news to any reading this message, and it is something that has grown, year after year, for decades.

What is intriguing for our current circumstance, however, is the response I've often offered to such conversations. Faith is a habit! We may not like to think of it that way – but it is. Worship, study, service...these are things we do in pursuit of our deepening relationship with God in Christ, but they are also things that become a habitual part

See(k)ing God...The How?

of our daily and weekly routines. Please understand that I don't mean to equate habit with thoughtlessness, as the opposite is very much the case. We can't argue, however, that the habitual practice of our faith reinforces the ongoing engagement of our faith. When attending worship is what we do on Sunday morning – or joining Bible study is what we do on Wednesday evening – it is more than an item on a calendar. When our practice of faith becomes a part of our habit – our routine – it becomes a life-source for our daily living. And, when doing these things is part of our habit, our calendar begins to wrap around our faith, and not the other way around. Practicing faith as a habit feeds everything else that we do. For years of combatting the overly crowded calendars of church members – I have repeatedly suggested that this perspective would go a long way for the 21st century Christian.

Here, however, lies the challenge – we broke our habit! Gathering in person for worship was suspended for three months...our continued worship looks nothing like it did...Bible studies have changed...groups have restructured...I could go on and on. The irony in all of this is that, for the first time in a generation, we are dealing with less muddled calendars than the year before. All of a sudden – we have the time. In ways many of us have not known in years, we have room in our calendar that simply hasn't existed before. At the same time that we finally have the time, however, the habits and practices we've always known don't exist, and the result is that we slowly fade further and further away from the practices of faith that keep us connected to God. For decades our calendars kept us from embracing the habits. Today, we have the time, but the practices of faith we've known aren't around to fill it!

So, back to where we began – how do we seek God in our every day? Among many other things, we need to find some new habits. It's going to look different for a while – but the longer our lives are impacted so dramatically by the Covid-19 outbreak, the more we are at risk of fading further and further from God. So, I implore you... find some new habits! Set a time aside each day to read and pray...become a part of a Bible study or book group you haven't before...sit with your kids to participate in our Sunday school at home...these are just a few of the many things we might do with the time we have. That of which I am convinced, however, is that the importance of habit hasn't changed at all. Whether strikingly busy or remarkably available, practicing faith as a habit allows everything else to rally around God at the center. So, I truly encourage you to use this newfound time to find some faith habits of your own!

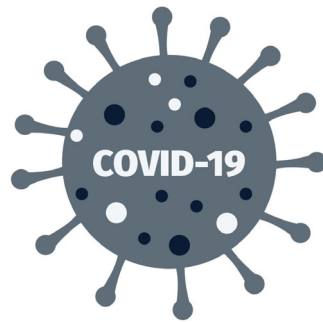
Your Pastor and Friend, ***Marty***

Congregational Announcements

Dear friends,

On April 1, 2020, a special meeting of the Church Council was called to examine the possibility of applying for the federal Payroll Protection Program. During the meeting, there was extensive, reasoned and honest discussion of the options, possibilities and scenarios, most of which resulted in little certainty. The Church Council confronted the lack of clarity regarding the duration of the limitations on church gatherings and ministries, the long term economic effect of the Covid 19 pandemic, and the impact these factors would have on the church's income throughout the 2020 budget year.

In light of this uncertainty, and in an attempt to ensure our ability to maintain the payroll commitments we have made to our staff, the Church Council voted to pursue support through the PPP program. NSCC was approved for the loan and, consistent with the terms of the PPP, have used the proceeds of that loan for payroll expenses and utilities. As a result, we anticipate that the full loan amount will be forgiven. As the year progresses, we will keep a close eye on the budget and will report to you should budget options arise as a result of having participated in the PPP.



As your elected church leadership, we will continue to deliberate and determine, to the best of our ability, the wisest course of actions as we navigate the unknowns of worshiping together during a global pandemic. We appreciate your support during these difficult days.

Faithfully yours,
Bo Dowsett
Past-Moderator



Dear members and friends,

As many of you know, the composition of our church boards and Council changed effective June 1. I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of those board members whose terms ended, for the continuing effort of those who are in the midst of their term, and for the new board members who stepped forward and volunteered their time and talents. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.” 1 Cor. 12: 4-7 (New Living Translation version). Your boards and other volunteers will be using their God-given spiritual gifts to serve God in different ways, all with the goal of strengthening God’s church. Please join me in thanking them for their service!

As Moderator, I will have the privilege of working with all of the boards and the entire congregation as we continue to move forward with the ideas and possibilities you voiced during the 75 & Beyond sessions. So much has changed in our world since you told us about your hopes and dreams for North Shore Church – but our leadership’s commitment to pursuing them remains the same. We will continue, with God’s grace, to fulfill the promises of our covenant “to promote [the Church’s] service, its maintenance, its purity, and its peace.” Please feel free to contact me as the year progresses if you have questions or comments. I look forward to working with all of you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Schill

Moderator, 2020-2021

DELEGATE'S REPORT OF THE 66TH ANNUAL MEETING OF OUR NACCC

As your elected voting Delegate to this 66th Annual Meeting of our National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, I was looking forward to being in Portland Maine with Marcia as an Alternate Delegate, along with Rev. Dr. Marty Hall and Debra Fulton, Director of Development. We were looking forward to hearing from our Leaders in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and around the world, understanding and voting on finances, and maybe enjoy some clams and lobster with prayer and conversation with others of the "Congregational Way."

Someone once said, "if you want to see God laugh, tell him your Plans!" The Meeting was not held in Portland, Maine, as you might expect. A total attendance of 215, of which 101 were official Delegates, representing 33 % of the 323 Active Churches in the NACCC met THERE instead. Where was THERE for about two (2) hours on Saturday, June 27 with a church Service on June 28, 2020? Of course, THERE was a ZOOM program, as are many things we do these days.

In spite of the necessary change in plans, once again I was impressed with the quality of the leadership of our NACCC. The Zoom meeting was well organized, allowing the presentation and passage by vote on the following scheduled items:

- Business Meeting Agenda
- Standing Rules
- 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes (distributed in advance)
- Acceptance of two (2) New Member Churches
- Election of New (replacement) NACCC Leaders
- Nomination & Election of 2 nominating committee members
- Finance Committee Report & 2020/2021 Budget (once again, this was well done!)
- Ratification of Board of Directors 2019/2020 Actions
- Ratification of Leadership Council 2019/2020 Actions

- There was one additional, last minute agenda item, which called for an Article to be published promoting a better understanding of Racism in the next 12 issues (3 years) of the Congregationalist Magazine. It passed on a 60/40 vote with some indicating that it was a feel good resolution on a subject, of which every church needs to be more aware and hear more of what God would have us do!

In closing, I was pleased to see us listed as a "Fair Share Church" with our gift last year to the NACCC. With a number of our smaller churches facing financial struggles, it will be more important for us to maintain that gift this year or maybe join Ozaukee Congregational Church in the category of Fair Share Plus! With God's help, we can do it and we should.

Respectfully submitted;
Norm Christensen



BENEVOLENCE

FAMILY SHARING OF OZAUKEE

The Benevolence Board is continuing to encourage donations of non-perishable food items for Family Sharing of Ozaukee. Their special requests include powdered milk, rice, instant potatoes, jelly, canned soup, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned beans, canned tuna, and canned chicken.

A container is available under the front portico for your convenience when dropping off items.



The mission of Family Sharing of Ozaukee is to “alleviate hunger in Ozaukee County with dignity and compassion.”

- ◆ 44% of the individuals they serve are under the age of 18.
- ◆ 30% of individuals who participate in their program are 65 years of age and older.
- ◆ Food is distributed to about 600 households each month

Your donations help many in need.

SOLES FOR JESUS

Soles for Jesus is a local non-profit organization that shares the love of Christ by distributing new and gently-used shoes to the underserved in sub-Saharan Africa. We may take shoes for granted, but those served by Soles for Jesus do not have shoes to protect their feet from injury or infections. Often the children cannot even attend school if they are not wearing shoes.

Perhaps you have some shoes you would like to share with others in need. A collection box will be available at the Farmer’s Market in the NSCC parking lot on Saturday mornings throughout the summer.

For those attending the in-person Sunday morning services, the collection boxes will also be available in the coat room near the south entrance.



HEALTH COMMITTEE

Hot Weather Hydration Helps



Staying hydrated is essential to health in hot humid weather. Water is the best and most economical beverage. But there are many ways to change up the flavor and add nutrients to your water which will encourage additional water intake.

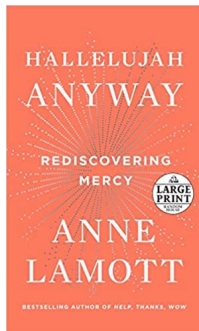
- Try adding different fruits, veggies or herbs to your water. (Scrub or rinse well or purchase organic for infusions). Some favorites are slices of lemon or lime, cucumber, strawberries, or watermelon. Add a few mint or basil leaves.
- Infusion bottles have become popular which contain a perforated insert which holds the fruit inside the bottle, or use a pitcher. Chill for an hour or so for flavor to develop. Discard add-ins after 24 hours.
- Fruit juices with no sugar added can be diluted by 50% or more with sparkling water for a delicious drink. Iced teas remain tried and true for many. Coconut water is lower in sugar than 'sport drinks' and also contains needed electrolytes.

Many foods consist of up to 90% water or more and also contain a variety of valuable nutrients and are low in calories. Be sure to select these for snacks or add to meals: watermelon, peaches, strawberries, pineapple, oranges, cucumbers, radishes, celery, leafy greens, bell peppers, cabbage, tomatoes, cauliflower, broth-based soups, cottage cheese, plain yogurt (add your own fruit) and lowfat milk.

⇒ **On another note**, The Health Committee is looking forward to hosting a very needed **blood drive at the end of September**. Look out for coming information.

ADULT FORMATION

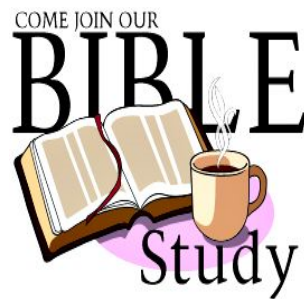
We continue hosting book group and Bible studies with the opportunity to come either in person or on Zoom. Currently we meet in the large upper classroom which gives us room to space seating, as well as use a large screen for “zoomers.”



Book group (Tuesday at 10 am) has begun to read and discuss Anne Lamott’s “Hallelujah Anyway.” This is a book that will make you laugh as well as think deeply about relationships with God and others. We have a couple extra copies if you are interested in joining in.

Thursday Bible study (9:30 – 11:00) has begun the Gospel of Luke. Sunday afternoons we have just begun to spend time with the book of Genesis!

The **Sunday morning** 2 Corinthians discussion continues on Zoom each Sunday at 10am.



See the Monday morning email for links to all these opportunities

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and Youth

- ♦ We continue to send out simple packets of activities to our younger children that match up with the 10 minute **Thursday Kidmessage** that is live at 2 pm, but can be accessed anytime on the church Facebook page.
- ♦ Families, watch your mailbox and email box with some **fun additional resources** (stories, activities, Spotify music and links) around Walking like Jesus Walked. Remember Flat Stanley anyone...how about a Flat Jesus who travels along.
- ♦ **Sunday school** is available for younger children during the **9 am service**. The stories, games, and activities are designed to express and teach of God's love, and we have organized these in healthy ways for distancing while being together. Who doesn't want their own Hula Hoop circle and pool noodles and their own sand bucket of supplies! We meet outside or if weather is iffy downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Please register (link sent through the Monday email) by noon on Saturday, thank you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rev. Julie
- ♦ Exciting work is coming to fruition in the **Youth Room** upstairs! Watch for updates.



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.



414-352-6123


North Shore Congregational Church

7330 N. Santa Monica Boulevard

Fox Point, Wisconsin 53217



Staff Member:	Email Address:	Church Extension:	Outside Phone:
Rev. Dr. Martin Hall	martinhall@NSCChurchWI.org	x15	248-245-0415
Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith	juliesmith@NSCChurchWI.org	x14	414-588-8693
Kerrin White	kerrinwhite@NSCChurchWI.org	x12	
Rick Kieffer	RLKieffer1@gmail.com		414-698-6252



**North Shore
Congregational
Church**
FOX POINT, WI

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

*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	Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith, Associate Minister
Rick Kieffer, Music Director	Meike Pampalone, Organist
Kerrin White, Office Manager	Mike Fugarino, Custodian

Eric Detienne, Megan Hall, Becca Hall, Katie Lennie, and Adam Penno, Sunday Custodians