

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.

December 2020

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

“A Few Thoughts On.....”

The Christmas Spirit



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Sunday Morning

9:00 Worship—Sanctuary/Facebook
10:00 Sunday School—Facebook
11:00 Worship—Outdoors
11:00 Godly Fun—Outdoors
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Fox Point, WI

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One of the things I have found myself contemplating, recently, is how difficult it may be, this year, to find the ‘Christmas Spirit’ that, for many of us, defines the somewhat indefinable nature of the Christmas season. I’ve been thinking about the many places from which that sensibility tends to come and am painfully aware of how much of that will be missing in the weeks ahead.

I’ve been thinking about our annual Christmas party for the church choirs. I picture us all gathered around the living room of Steve and Barb Anderson’s home, singing Christmas carols, and I know that won’t be happening this year.

I’ve been thinking about Music Sunday, the Children’s Pageant, and our Advent Fest, and I know that what will happen will not look anything like years past.

I’ve been thinking about my mother, whom we have not seen in nearly a year, and the countless others who will remained separated from those they love throughout this holiday season.

I’ve been thinking about Christmas Worship – that moment in which we are all singing Silent Night as we raise our candles on that final verse – and I’ve been trying to imagine what that’s going to be like in a sparsely populated room with a solo voice singing as we all stand and listen.

I’ve been thinking about visits to Santa through plexiglass dividers, our older members who won’t receive their annual cookie delivery, shoppers who will miss their annual treks through the stores with carols playing all around, and on...and on...and on...

The Christmas Spirit continued...

Despite our annual trite platitudes about the secularization of season, and the need to put 'Christ' back in Christmas, the reality is that all of those experiences, both sacred and secular, work to draw us together into that true spirit of peace, love, joy and hope of the season. And, sadly, that's simply going to be harder to come by this year. In a year in which we feel that need for the spirit of the season as much as ever, those things that usually draw us in just won't be the same this time around.

I wish I could say I had an easy resolution to all of that, but I don't. What I will say, however, is that as much as the 'normal' things of the season may be different this time around, the heart will in every way still be there.

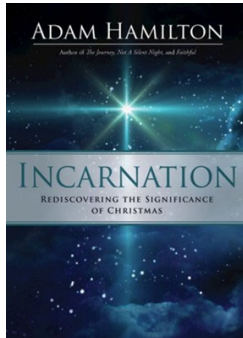
- * Our musicians are hard at work putting together a Music Sunday presentation that will share the blessings of the season in meaningful ways.
- * Our Zoom Advent Fest and Pageant will provide opportunities for the families of the church to gather in the joy of the season.
- * Our Christmas Eve worship bags will bring a bit of our church home into our worship at home for many of our families and members.
- * And, our staff is focused on seeking to make our Christmas Eve worship experience as filled with the joy of the season as ever – despite the new ways in which much of it will be done.

No matter how different this season might be, the spirit beneath it is still there. God is coming to us, in the Christ-Child, to bring joy, peace, hope and love beyond compare. We will rejoice. We will celebrate. We will worship. We will do many things differently than we have in years past, but we will embrace the glory of this season and, if you join us, I have no doubt that we will discover, in new ways, the Christmas spirit that springs forth from it all!

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



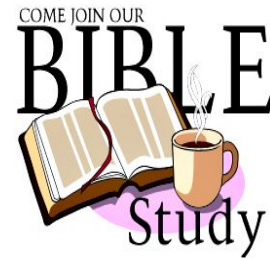
ADULT FORMATION



The **Tuesday Morning Book Group** and **Thursday Morning Bible Study** are both reading and discussing the Advent book ***Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*** by ***Adam Hamilton***. During our meetings we will also watch a brief video (via Zoom) with the author.

Please note that **Tuesday Book Group** meets from **10-11 am** and **Thursday Bible Study** meets from **9:30-11**. It is easy to join in if you haven't already. Simply watch for the Monday email or contact Rev. Julie to get connected.

On the first and third Sundays in December, the Sunday **Afternoon Bible Study** meets from 4-5:30 (**December 6 and 20**). We continue to enjoy broad discussion as we move through Genesis and other thoughts on where this carries meaning today. Please join us! Contact Rev. Julie with questions, or if you would like to receive reminder emails.



The Bible Discussions and Book Group are currently meeting via zoom. When we move back to the "hybrid" in person and on zoom groups will be notified! Links are in the Monday email and sent out the morning of each group meeting as well.

Advent Devotional

Thank you to the writers and readers of our annual Advent through Epiphany devotional! You may find this online, and each day's piece will be posted on the church Facebook page. If you prefer a printed copy, you will find them in the blue bin under the portico drive, in the church office, or you may pick them up in the narthex on Sunday mornings.

Advent to Epiphany 2020-2021



NORTH SHORE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
7330 North Santa Monica Boulevard
Port Point, Wisconsin 53227
www.NSCChurchWI.org

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Eve from home!

For those who will worship via Facebook Live on Christmas Eve (see page 7 for details), **We are delighted to provide elements of Christmas Eve worship for you at home.** Bags will include the order of worship, and candles for each member of the household (for when we sing Silent Night) as well as a few additional surprises.



Here is what we need from those who would like to receive a bag: Which time to you plan to attend, 4 or 9? And how many people will be in the household? Please reach out to Rev. Julie with answer to these two question!

Ornament Exchange

We are making the most of the traditional festivities in a non-traditional way! **Beginning December 13**, there will be a special bin under the portico door to drop off your (wrapped) ornament and pick one up...no peeking! **On December 17, we can reveal the ornaments via a zoom meeting as we catch up on how everyone is doing!** Have some noshings and beverage prepped at home to enhance our get together. Let Rev. Julie know you are taking part and a link for the evening will be sent! Questions? Contact Jane Ford, Sharon Hall, or Rev. Julie.



As we continue to find different ways to connect with each other, small groups can enrich your life, especially as days grow colder and we spend more time inside. Ideas are bubbling up for some additional small group gatherings, get in touch with Rev. Julie or Rev. Marty to share your ideas and hopes.


MEETINGS REGARDING THE PROPOSED 2021 BUDGET

As you know, we normally meet as a congregation following a Sunday worship service to consider and vote on the proposed budget for the upcoming year.

Our process this year is a bit different. We circulated the proposed budget via email on October 29, 2020 and also made it available for pickup or by mail. Next month we will host **two Q&A sessions via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8 and Thursday, December 10**. Both meetings will begin at **7 p.m.** Members are invited to attend on-line to consider the proposed budget and ask questions. We will not have an in-person meeting.

You may vote on the budget in one of two ways. First, the ballot below can be completed and mailed to Kerrin White in the office. Alternatively, you will be able to vote digitally through a Doodle poll circulated after the Q&A sessions. The votes (whether digital or on paper) will need to be received in the office by Monday, December 21.

If you have questions about this process, please contact Kathy Schill at 414-758-7496 or kschill@wi.rr.com. We thank you for your continued flexibility as we strive to conduct the business of the church under challenging circumstances.

	North Shore Congregational Church <small>FOX POINT, WI</small>	<small>7330 N. Santa Monica Blvd. Fox Point, WI 53217 (414) 352-6123 www.NSCChurchWI.org</small>
2021 Budget Approval Ballot		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, I approve the proposed 2021 budget as circulated	
or		
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, I do not approve the proposed 2021 budget as circulated	
Name <input type="text"/>		

CHRISTMAS SERVICES UPDATE

We thank all who responded to our survey regarding our plans for Christmas Eve worship. Based on the response of the congregation, the following is our plan for Christmas Eve.

- * A **4pm** worship service, **indoors**, will begin with 15 minutes of pre-service music from 4:00 to 4:15, with worship to follow. In-person attendees will be expected to pre-register for this service, and all music will be presentational, with no congregational singing.
- * A **5:30pm** worship service will be held **outdoors**, weather permitting. Seating will be open to all (bring your own chairs), and we will sing congregational carols with our masks on. Heavy snow, rain, or 'feels like' temps below 25 degrees would force us to move this service inside. In the case of questionable weather, a decision regarding the outdoor service will be announced by email by 9am that morning. In the case of a cancellation, people will be encouraged to register for remaining spots available in the other two services, or attend the 5:30pm worship service on a first-come, first-served, basis, with overflow seating in Fellowship Hall.
- * A **9pm** worship service, **including communion, will be held indoors**. In-person attendees will be expected to pre-register for this service, and all music will be presentational, with no congregational singing.

Both the 4pm and the 9pm services will be streamed on Facebook Live. The 5:30pm will be streamed, as well, if the service is moved indoors.



BENEVOLENCE

2020 Giving Tree - Benefiting Neighborhood House

*

The 2020 Giving Tree will look a bit different, as all has gone virtual for this year's program. Please use this link to select a child you would like to send a gift to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48ABAE23ABFAC07-2020>

Once you have made your selection, decide how you wish to make your purchase:

♦ **Shopping in person?**

Wrap gift and return it to the Church Office. Please ensure that YOUR NAME is on the gift so it can be matched to the recipient of your gift.

♦ **Shopping online?**

Consider shipping time - order immediately. Please select gift wrap if possible. Ship the gift to ATT: YOUR NAME, 7330 Santa Monica Blvd, Fox Point WI 53217. Amazon delivers to the church regularly and is preferable to USPS.

Contact Betty Moore, David Schimpf or the office if you have any questions or concerns!

Thank you for making this a special Christmas in troubled times!



FOOD DRIVE

**The North Shore Congregational Church Food Drive is now focusing
on the needs of**

Just One More Ministry!

Just One More seeks to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ by caring for Milwaukee's poor in spirit, providing regular nutritious meals for the hungry, and offering those who suffer with addictions a faith based recovery program for creating a fulfilling and God-centered life.

J.O.M.M. currently distributes to roughly 42 partners. Besides partners that receive food (they range from sober houses, kids and mothers programs, elderly folks, at risk youth, and so many others), J.O.M.M. goes out on their own outreach, currently 4 days a week, into the poorest areas of the city, and distributes food out of the back of a truck to those who are hungry. They keep the same scheduled days and times so those in need know when there are opportunities to receive food.

One in six children in the U.S. are hungry and in Milwaukee the number is even higher, with 43% of children struggling with hunger. One in three Milwaukee residents lives in poverty and one in seven seniors is food insecure. Covid-19 has these numbers growing.

Please, will you share your blessing of food with our ministry so we can bless the hungry of Milwaukee? Your donation is the key to this ministry!

Thank you so much,
Your Benevolence Board



JUSTONEMORE

Rescuing Food, Helping Souls

“A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN . . .”



Our Friendship Lounge has a “timely” new addition. Ginny and Mark Kannenberg graciously donated this lovely grandfather clock to the church. We will enjoy their gift for many years to come. Thank you, Ginny and Mark!

HEALTH COMMITTEE

MAKING YOUR HOLIDAYS MEANINGFUL THIS SEASON

As we strive to protect our health and of those we love, we are looking at the holidays in new ways this year. Many of our traditions, especially shared gatherings both large and small, are challenging us to do things very differently. Information seems to change almost daily which can lead to confusion and further distress, however, it's important to realize taking extra precautions is vital. What ideas have you considered? How are you coping?

A good first step is to acknowledge the disappointment you may feel in giving up certain traditions and missing the physical closeness of family and friends. Then get a note pad, a comfortable seat, and take a few deep breaths!

As in journaling, it's helpful to jot down your feelings and clarify your thoughts. Think of some likely alternative activities you may have done previously or already may have started. Today many folks are using FaceTime and Zoom. (If you need help with this, Marty, Julie and Kerrin offer their assistance - give them a call!) Pick a thing or two that is especially meaningful, then imagine how to recreate another version of it. For instance, in place of being together under the same roof, you can still celebrate that special dinner with family and parties with friends - only remotely. You can still prepare your favorite foods and set a lovely table.

Some new ideas: create a virtual "round robin" - remotely share appetizers with one group, main course with another, and so on. If you live nearby, how about a socially distant food exchange? Each member makes a special food item and drops it off at the others' door. Encourage family members, especially young ones, to share a virtual greeting - a holiday song, dance, or maybe a joke to add laughter and cheer. Favorite games can be played and carols sung remotely throughout the season. You might have a cookie or tree decorating (even that ugly sweater!) contest, all on your smartphone or tablet.

Don't forget worship, our true reason for the season. With thanks to our worship leaders and Diaconate Board, a special Christmas Eve service is being planned.

*Merry Christmas, with your best health in mind,
from your Health Committee*





Christmas Decorations and Dedications

Your Decorating Committee is once again making plans to adorn our beautiful building for the upcoming Christmas season. We always look forward to seeing our sanctuary in all its glory as we worship at this very special time of year. Being mindful of the financial strains on both the church budget and our own personal budgets, we do our best to help you experience the true joy and blessings of Christmas at North Shore Church. Donations to our flower/decorating fund, which is made available to fund plantings and decorations placed around the church building and campus throughout the year, will be gratefully accepted. We are also always looking for more helping hands and creative ideas, so please consider joining us in this special endeavor. Thank you, Jeannine George.

This is an opportunity to remember or honor someone, or something, by making a contribution and having your message printed in the order of worship on Christmas Eve. Please return the section below to the church office, with your check made payable to North Shore Congregational Church, by Monday, December 7.

Name _____

I/We would like the wording in the Christmas Eve bulletin to appear (select one):

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In celebration of _____



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Dear Friends,

I'm happy to report that we have seen strong support of our Congregation in returning their EOG notices. We are on schedule to meet our budget, but we need those who have yet to return their EOG to do so ASAP. It is only then that we can realize our budgeting plans. So if you still haven't sent or spoken to Kerrin, please do so today.

Thank you,
Stewardship Board



MUSIC SUNDAY



Music Sunday, Covid Style! On Sunday, **December 13**, we will share a streamed **Music Sunday presentation at 4pm**. Featuring a great number of musicians and readers, this 'Lessons and Carols' style of service will be streamed to all who wish to watch from home.

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, November 8, it was our privilege to welcome new members into our church family. Please learn more about them below, and take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome them when the opportunity arises.

Sandy Behler

Anticipating the birth of their first grandchild, Sandy moved to Wisconsin, along with her husband Joe, four years ago. They had previously lived in Ohio and had been travelling in their RV, full-time, since retirement in 2013.

Sandy and Joe have two grown sons and two wonderful daughters in law – both of which have two daughters, each 2 and 4. One son and family lives in Ohio and the other here in Whitefish Bay.

Sandy is retired teacher and Joe worked for AT&T. They now enjoy the opportunity to watch their two granddaughters three days a week.

Sandy and Joe both enjoy travel, reading and gardening/yard work, including their small flock of 4 hens.



Sandy came to NSCC through a PEO group that meets in our building, and shares that she has enjoyed joining the Bible study groups and book club, as well getting to know the 'lovely' NSCC members and staff. Sandy shares that she is looking forward to getting know church members and activities better in the coming months, and finding out how they can get involved in both social activities and service.

Traci and Will Niss

Traci and Will join us along with their great niece and nephew, Natalia and Jasiah Steen.

Will has lived in their home in Glendale his entire life. Having grown up in the home, he stayed there into his adult life, and Traci moved in when they were married in 2009. They started searching for a new church home last year – and have shared that they immediately felt at home here at NSCC.



With work and school at home, the family is a 4-pack that is always together right now, with Will working as a stay-at-home ‘uncle dad’ and Traci, a registered nurse, working from home for Children’s Hospital.



They enjoy taking walks, doing home renovations (although Traci admits that’s more her!), and travel. They are sociable, and look forward to more ways of reaching out in the church through visits, cards, making lunches, etc.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

During **Advent through Christmas**, the **weekly packets** that are sent to families will include a brief and relatable family reading with a few discussion starters, an activity/coloring page to do together (that can become an ornament), centering each week on the themes of an advent candle: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. A battery tea light is included to “light” during some family table time!



These are fun for any age, so if anyone would like these sent to your home to enhance Advent for you - just contact Rev. Julie and then watch your mail!



Weather permitting, we plan to continue to worship together outside in front of the church for the 11 am service. “**Godly fun**” activities with the children will be the northeast lawn area. If inclement weather brings us inside, Godly fun will be held downstairs in the large open room at the south end of the building. Masks when inside/teachers wear masks either outside or inside. Note: if we cannot worship outside, a morning email will go out to all at 7:30.

We do have time set aside on **Saturday, December 12**, starting at 2pm for some Zoom together time to craft and share **the Christmas story**, with children’s readings or a simple **pop up pageant**. Please let Rev. Julie know if you plan to be involved and supplies will be made ready for you and your family (of any age).



Repairers of the Breach Lunch Making

We bring 75 bag lunches to homeless and at risk adults connected with Repairers of the Breach. Our continuing method for this is to send a “sign up genius” link out the **first week of December in our Monday email**.

Those who wish to be involved simply click on the sign up link, then input how many bagged lunches you will make (5, 10, 12?). Lunches usually include a peanut butter sandwich, piece of fruit, bottle of water or juice, salty snack, and a sweet treat. Lunches are dropped off at church Sunday, December 6, between 8-12 inside the north parking lot door. We will deliver lunches to the Repairers of the Breach site on Monday, **December 7**. We are blessed to share our blessings with others!

FamilyConnect “Give Thanks, Make and Send”

Thank you to ALL the families and individuals who made beautiful cards and clever children’s art to send to some of our members! Your enthusiasm and creativity clearly shows wonderful ways the people of NSCC show their care for each other!



AgapeShere for Young Adults

Many young adults are home (wherever that is) for December. We would love to have you join in on the “Agapesphere” Zoom with others from Wisconsin Congregational churches. Rev. Rob Fredrickson from Ozaukee Congregational, Tonia Wallner from First Church Wauwatosa, and Rev. Julie (NSCC) will be so glad to see you on **Wednesday December 9 at 7 pm**. We will share devotion, conversation, a bit of trivia and prayer. If you or someone you know would like to be part of this, please contact Rev. Julie, we simply need an email to send the Zoom link to.



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

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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, and Becca Hall, Sunday Custodians