

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.

March 2021

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CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
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“A Few Thoughts On.....”

Looking Ahead



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Sunday Morning

9:00 Worship—Sanctuary/Facebook
11:00 Sanctuary/Facebook
11:00 Godly Fun—Downstairs

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I want to take this opportunity to share, with you, a joy and blessing that I noted near the conclusion of our most recent Church Council meeting...

There is no question that these past 12 months have been laden with challenges in our personal and professional lives, and we’ve certainly encountered our share of those hurdles here in the life of the church. One of the things that I’ve noted in our wider societal engagement with Covid realities, however, is the impact it has on where we are setting our sights and spending our energies. One of the realities of dealing with a circumstance that is constantly throwing curveballs in our direction is that we end up with something of a triage mentality. As one challenge runs into the next, our focus becomes more and more centered on the management of that challenge, in that instant, and most of our energy is expended in triaging the obstacle of the moment with little opportunity to look beyond the adversity of ‘now.’

What is remarkable to note, however, is that this is not at all what we saw as we held our Church Council meeting in February. Consider what we heard from the boards and leadership of our church:

- The Benevolence Board reported on the ongoing efforts of their task team to not only make the most of the growing generosity of our congregation in supporting local missions, but to discover new and exciting ways in which we will actually be able to be an active part of serving those in the greatest need in our community.
- The Board of Christian Enrichment shared the tremendous progress that’s been made in the dedicated youth space upstairs, as well as their plans for some spring fundraising that would allow them to accomplish the final steps of that task.

Looking Ahead continued...

- The Diaconate Board shared a little bit about the Worship Vision Team and their efforts to build on early input from Towards 75 and Beyond, incorporate lessons learned from our pandemic worship experience, and develop a preliminary construct of how our worship life might grow as we emerge from the Covid practices of today.
- The Stewardship Board reported on their progress in developing a heightened focus on sharing the opportunities to support our church through legacy giving and The Rev. Karl D. Schimpf Memorial Fund.
- The Trustees spoke of the many projects that are being completed in and around our campus, as well as news of a task team that will be gathering to explore the current and future usage of our Friendship Lounge, and the manner in which the space can be updated to best serve all of that use.
- Even the Church Council has created a team that is looking into the materials we have on hand to share the blessings of our church family with those who visit our worship, building or campus.

On their own, all of these are wonderful projects that can make a meaningful difference in the future of the church. More exciting than any specific project, however, is the fact that all of these people are looking towards the FUTURE of the church! In a time in which our sights seem to be drawn to triaging the crisis of the moment, the hearts of our church leadership have remained steadfast in looking ahead at that which God will do next in and through the ministries of our church.

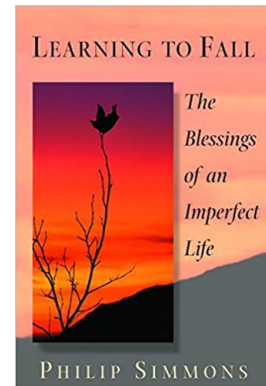
There is no doubt that these past 12 months have taken us down a path none of us predicted a year ago, and there is no question that there is still a slow and arduous journey to be traveled in the months ahead. As much as we have had to worry about the moment in the midst of it all, however, our church leadership has held on to the promise of an even brighter future for our community of faith. I rejoice in that faith. I celebrate that focus. I relish in that leadership. And, I truly look forward to what that faith, with God's help, will enable in our church in the months and years to come!

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

ADULT FORMATION

Tuesday Morning Book Group

In March we begin to read and discuss together, “Learning to Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life.” This book has won the “Books for a Better Life Award for Best Spiritual Book.” The author wrote as a young husband and father who was diagnosed with ALS and his “search for peace and his deepening relationship with the mystery of everyday life.” An inspiring, surprisingly joyful, as well as heartbreaking series of essays. We are meeting “hybrid” style, some on Zoom and some in the room (6-person limit for “in-person,” please let Rev. Julie know if that is your choice). If you have not yet, but would like to join or “stop in,” please do. The book group meets every Tuesday from 10-11. Zoom link included in Monday email as well as a reminder the morning of.



Thursday Bible Study

This Bible study meets from 9:30-11am each Thursday. We have begun a discussion on Isaiah. You will find the Zoom link is in the Monday email to the church. A small group can also meet in person alongside the Zoom gathering, but please register with Rev. Julie, as we are limited to 6 in person attendees. We have appreciated the connectivity we enjoy and the ability to have friends from other places join the discussions.



Sunday Afternoon Bible Study

On the first and third Sundays in March, the **Sunday Afternoon Bible Study** will meet from 3-4:30pm. This group currently meets in Friendship Lounge around an expansive table. We continue to enjoy broad discussion as we move through Genesis and other thoughts on where this carries meaning today. Please join us if you would like to connect. Contact Rev. Julie with questions, or if you would like to receive reminder emails.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Repairers of the Breach Lunch Making

We are grateful to serve the community through Repairers of the Breach daytime homeless shelter. Please note we have increased our request to 85 bag lunches made/delivered to church (north parking lot door) by noon, March 7. Watch for our “sign up genius” link sent through the Monday email on March 1. 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. Contact us if you need help with the link!



Little Library: Books and Faith

The Board Christian Enrichment is offering a “Little Library: Books and Faith.” This is a little cupboard under the front door portico. We have begun with books the Tuesday Book group has read over the past few years, and look forward to additions from you. So take a book, bring a book, and enjoy! We will monitor, freshen and exchange books out as is necessary for the space provided.



LENTEN DRIVE FOR REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH



During the 40 days of Lent (broken into four separate increments), the Benevolence Board would like members of North Shore Congregational Church to donate supplies to help Repairers of the Breach meet their biggest needs.

Please place items in the bins at the main entrance in the portico. Thank you in advance for your participation!

FEBRUARY 17-28

Cleaning Supplies:

Disinfectant sprays, bleach, Clorox wipes, paper towels, disposable gloves, garbage bags, liquid and or powdered laundry soap.

Lenten Verse: 1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

MARCH 1-10

Toiletries:

Deodorant, individual packages and boxes of Kleenex, hand sanitizer, Gold Bond powder, N95 masks, paper cups, tooth brushes, face and bath towels, travel size lotions, alcohol-free mouthwash, soaps and shampoo.

Lenten Verse: Psalm 51:7

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

MARCH 11-20

Clothing (New/Clean/Gently Used):

Gloves, hats, socks, underwear, bras, jeans (all sizes), t-shirts (all sizes), belts (all sizes), jogging pants (all sizes), and professional clothing (all sizes).

Lenten Verse: Luke 3:10-11

And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”

MARCH 21-APRIL 4

First Aid Items:

Bandages, diabetic test strips w/meters, Anbesol, cough drops, hydrocortisone cream, insect repellant, and travel size first aid items.

Lenten Verse: Jeremiah 17:14

Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.

Holy Week Worship

We are truly looking forward to the worship opportunities that will come with Holy Week. We hope you will join us, in person or online, as we journey through the Passion story and on to the glory of the cross.

Palm Sunday, March 28, will follow our normal Sunday worship pattern. Services at 9am and 11am will take place indoors and online.

Our ***Maundy Thursday*** worship, April 1, will be a communion service that will take place at 7pm, indoors and online.

We will gather to remember the event of the cross in our ***Good Friday*** worship service on Friday, April 2, at 2pm. Our traditional format of readings and reflections will carry us from the arrest to the cross, and from the cross to the tomb.

Note:

*In line with our current practice, those seeking to attend any of these services in person will be asked to pre-register for seating. **Links for registration will be published on the church website, and included in the weekly email, beginning Monday, March 1.***





Easter Morning – 2021

Join us for our resurrection worship celebrations at 8am, 9:30am and 11am on Easter morning (April 4).

The **8am and 9:30am services will both take place indoors and online.** Those planning to attend these services in person are asked to pre-register for seating. Registration links can be found on our church website (NSCChurchWI.org), or in the weekly email, beginning March 1.

Weather permitting, **the 11am service will take place outdoors.** No registration is needed, and the outdoor service will include congregational singing. *In the case of inclement weather*, an email announcement about a change in this service will be made by 7am that morning. If the service is moved indoors, worship will be streamed online and in-person seating will be available on a first-come, first-served, basis, with overflow seating available elsewhere in the building.

We look forward to seeing you then!

Easter Decorations and Dedications

Your Decorating Committee is once again making plans to adorn our beautiful building for the upcoming Easter season. We always look forward to seeing our sanctuary in all its glory as we worship at this very special time of year. 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 Easter morning. Please return the section below to the church office, with your check made payable to North Shore Congregational Church, by Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Name _____

I would like the wording in the Easter bulletin to appear (select one):

In honor of _____

In memory of

In celebration of _____



Outdoor Worship Resumes

We are excited to announce that, *beginning with our 11am Easter morning worship service* on April 4, and continuing through the spring, *we will resume our outdoor worship schedule*. In the same format as last fall, a weekly indoor worship service (with pre-registered seating) will take place at 9am, and an outdoor service with congregational singing and Godly Fun (no registration required) will take place at 11am.

In the case of inclement weather, an email announcement about a change in the late service will be made by 7:30am. If the service is moved indoors, worship will be streamed online and in-person seating will be available on a first-come, first-served, basis, with overflow seating available elsewhere in the building.



SOLES FOR JESUS NEWS

This past summer and fall our church, along with the help of the Fox Point Farmer's Market, collected 500 pairs of shoes! We have also served this mission by sending members of our congregation to the Soles for Jesus warehouse to rubber band, pack and box these shoes so they could efficiently be sent to Africa.



In December, the Benevolence Board received a grant request from Soles for Jesus. We are happy to announce that the grant was reviewed and agreed upon at the January Board Meeting. The Mission Reserve Fund will be used to award a \$5,000.00 grant to help pay for the next shipment of shoes to sub-Saharan Africa. Please pray for the people of this part of the world and that our small effort will improve the lives of God's People!

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

As we begin to see light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, there are so many who are still in need. The need is great and ongoing. One organization that has always responded to the needs of the community is Repairers of the Breach. The Benevolence Board has selected Repairers of the Breach to receive our Easter special offering. North Shore Congregational Church has a long history of supporting Repairers of the Breach, most notably through the monthly sandwich making. Please watch for the special offering letter and contribute as you are able.



Although Repairers in the Breach are in great need for financial support at this time, we can also help by providing items that may be ordinary to us but are so valued by the homeless. This winter has been hard, but we can help provide some comfort to those who are suffering.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Nominating Committee is recruiting people who can serve on our boards in the upcoming year. The requirements are few. Just be a member of North Shore Congregational Church and be willing to spend some time directing and coordinating the various programs of our church! Serving on a board is a great way to get to know your fellow church members and a good opportunity to have an impact on our church activities.

If you think you might be interested in a Board position, please contact the church office at 414-352-6123, or a member of the Nominating Committee (names and numbers are listed below), and we can answer any questions you might have.

Thank you to the many people who have already agreed to serve on our Boards and Committees!

Debra Warejcka

- ♦ Joe Hilyard (414) 540-1284
- ♦ Debra Warejcka (414) 708-2787
- ♦ Bruce Loder (414) 975-5561
- ♦ Norm Christensen (414) 791-5730
- ♦ Kurt Dew (414) 520-5397



HEALTH COMMITTEE

Make Self-Care A Choice

With the approach of Spring most of us begin thinking of renewal, a fresh outlook on our lives. This year is like none other, having endured the phenomenal effects of a pandemic with its many cautions and challenges - most importantly being physically apart from friends, family, and our community.

The journey to a return to these relationships will continue to take time, but until then, let Spring bring some positive choices for our self-care. You may already have discovered new talents and activities or revived some old ones.

Here are a few more to consider (do not include binge-watching TV or movies!). All of these suggestions have been shown to improve health and mood:

- Get some form of physical activity daily: you can do simple stretches even before getting out of bed - take several slow deep breaths upon rising each morning (and anytime you feel stressed) - take a walk, outside is preferable, even 10 minutes has benefits.
- Add more fruits/veggies (at least 3 servings of each) to your daily diet: 'comfort food' should be a treat - following the Mediterranean Diet has recently been shown to improve mood.
- Stay hydrated: winter air, indoors and out, is very dry.
- Include nature: be out in it - inhale it - view it from a window - nurture a plant.
- Create: try a craft - a painting - a poem - a new recipe - a hand-written letter.
- Nap: "the new coffee break" - recent buzz shows many health benefits.
- Be 'forward-focused': take stock of what is going well, what is right in your life.
- Get vaccinated - plan a trip - what do you desire when you are free to do so?



A Note of Appreciation

We wish to recognize and send our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our loved, long-time Health Committee member, Elizabeth Krueger. For the past several years she has taken our card ministry and made it her own, expressing her words of care and concern to many of our North Shore members.



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Our younger families received a carton of a dozen plastic eggs with a small surprise item in each, and a brief story or lesson to go with each egg for each Sunday of Lent and for Holy week through Easter. Something simple and fun to help us think and pray about how God is at work in us!



Our older youth received a series of Bible topics that apply to everyday life. Spaces for doodling, coloring and writing on these pages for their personal reflections and engagement.

We are looking forward to a Confirmation Class reunion via Zoom March 10, at 7pm.

On Sunday mornings, **“Godly fun” activities with the children** are held downstairs at 11 am in the large room. Games and stories make the time fly! Teachers and children mask when inside. Please register on the attendance link for Sunday morning, or contact Rev. Julie by Thursday each week – this enables us to staff correctly plan for space and supplies.





AgapeSphere for Young Adults

AgapeSphere for young adults continues! For the next few months we will meet on the 4th Wednesday evening (7pm) of the month. Mark your calendar for March 24. For those attending, we want to treat you to a “Noodles” dinner.

We will send a link for you to order for delivery, so let us know if you will be on the Zoom. Join Rev. Rob Fredrickson from Ozaukee Congregational, Tonia Wallner from First Church Wauwatosa, and Rev. Julie (NSCC) for icebreaker/trivia fun, a devotional and closing prayer together. 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.



The Board of Christian Enrichment is excited to announce their Spring Plant Sale!

Although recent weather may have us wondering if we will ever see spring, it always comes, and this year you can be prepared for spring planting with plants from Noble Valley Farms, the same farm that provides our beautiful Christmas wreaths and decorations.

An order form will be available in March, with orders due by April 9. Our delivery date will be in May on a date to be confirmed once we submit the order. Proceeds from the sale will support the ongoing work of BCE, especially the renovation of our youth room. More details to follow so continue checking the weekly broadcasts!

Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. Luke 12:27



414-352-6123


North Shore Congregational Church

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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
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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	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