

North Shore Church



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

April 2021

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CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
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Sunday Morning

9:00 Worship—Sanctuary/
Facebook
11:00 Sanctuary/Facebook

Vol. 39 Issue 3



“A Few Thoughts On.....”

The Power of Hope

Sharon will be the first to tell you that I am not the world’s biggest fan of winter weather. Despite having spent the vast majority of my life in the upper Midwest, I typically dread the slow passage of those post-holiday winter weeks from mid-January through mid-March. As much as I love to call Wisconsin home, the cold and snow mixed with the early darkness each afternoon is something I could readily do without. Each year, as we get further and further into February, I seem to count the days until that mid-March stretch in which Daylight Savings Time returns, our average daily highs reach into the 40’s, and sunset passes beyond the 7pm mark. It’s a series of dates that arrive all within a couple of days of one another in the second week of the month, that remind me of the promise that spring, indeed, is on the way. As silly as it may seem, this is a psycho-emotional journey I travel each year. And, with little exception, I always feel better at the end of March than I did when the month began.

This is the power of hope. Anyone who has lived more than a couple of years in the Great Lakes Region knows, full well, that spring doesn’t arrive at the end of March with sunshine and budding flowers galore. We know that cold snaps will return, we know that April will have its ups and downs, and we are fully aware that, as often as not, we will see a snowflake here or there into May. I have clear recollections of high school baseball games being played with snow on the field! The sense of optimism that begins to grab hold for me in late March doesn’t come from any confidence that everything going forward will be sunflowers and roses. The sense of optimism that overtakes me is from the increasing confidence that we are on the way up – that things will get better from here.

The Power of Hope continued...

In many ways, I think that is the way a lot of us are feeling right now. This particular March experience was a unique one, for me, as those mid-March dates towards which I look each year coincided directly with the moment in which I would reach that '14 days after the second dose' point of being considered fully vaccinated (as clergy, WI included us in one of the earlier groups eligible for the process). It was at the same time (in fact the very same day) that I knew my mother would reach her full immunity as well. And, it was in the same window that we began seeing more and more of our members, whom we've missed for more than a year, as they too completed their vaccine regimens. All in all, my normal experience of optimism that comes each March was amplified, in so many ways, by the same sense that I know is emerging for so many of our loved ones in and beyond the church.

I am confident that we are all more than aware that we are not yet out of the woods – and that some of those frustrations that we've known in the past year (masks, distancing, etc.) are still going to be around for a while. There is also, however, a clear and distinct sense that perhaps, finally, we are on the way up, and that despite the bumps in the road along the way, things will continue to get better from here.

That is the power of hope! One of the things you hear from me, often, surrounds the promise of our faith that tomorrow can be better than today. In so many ways, both worldly and divine, our faith promises us that the reality of our today never defines the truth of our tomorrow. In God – in Jesus – in the Spirit – tomorrow can be better than today - that's hope! Not that today will be easy or that tomorrow will be perfect, but that in faith - in God - it can be better than what we know in whatever moment we are in. This spring, it is becoming increasingly clear that that very sense of hope is emboldening so many spirits as we slowly continue our climb out of the depths of this pandemic. What I pray for us all is that we will allow the same hope to imbue whatever strife we know today, or in the days to come. We don't need things to be perfect to find joy and peace! What we need is the power of hope – that tomorrow can be better than today. That is the salve that God offers to every moment of our trials, and I pray that, the next time we feel the weight of the world on our shoulders, we will remember what it is to experience the power of hope that is forever ours in God!

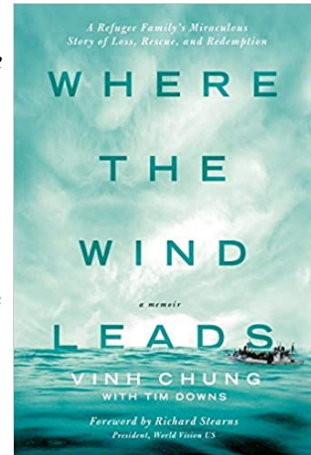
Your Pastor and Friend, *Marty*

ADULT FORMATION

Tuesday Morning Book Group

Beginning April 13, the group will read and discuss “*Where the Wind Leads: A Refugee Family's Miraculous Story of Loss, Rescue, and Redemption*” by Dr. Vinh Chung. If you wish to have the book ordered for you please contact Rev. Julie ASAP. The cost is \$20.

We continue to meet “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 continue our 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, third, and fifth Sundays, from 3-4:30**, the Sunday Afternoon Bible Study meets in person in Friendship Lounge (masks and spaced apart seating). As we conclude our reading of Genesis we look forward to Exodus! Would you like to join in on the conversation?

Contact Rev. Julie with questions, or if you would like to receive reminder emails for any of our studies.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Repairers of the Breach Lunch Making

We continue to make bag lunches for Repairers of the Breach shelter from our homes, signing up to make anywhere from 5-20, completing the need for 85 bag lunches. For those who choose to serve our community this way, find the link in the Monday email on March 29, choose how many bag lunches you will make, deliver to church (north parking lot door) by noon on April 4 (EASTER!). We always need someone to sign up to deliver on Monday morning from church to the Repairers of the Breach site on Vliet street as well.



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

We are seeing books being exchanged in the cabinet under the portico by the front garden. Books for adults and children available.

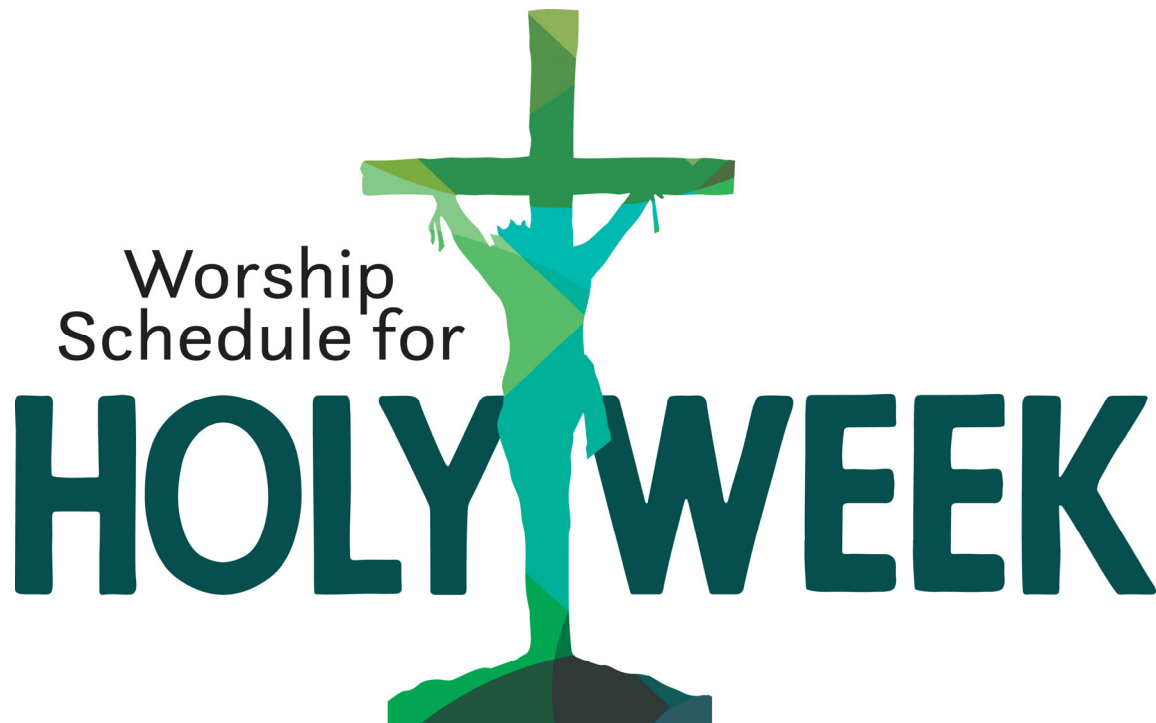


Holy Week Worship

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.

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.





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.

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!

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.



SEEKING WORSHIP MEDIA TEAM VOLUNTEERS

Are you comfortable with an iPad or tablet? Do you want to be a part of helping those at home engage in our worship life while still being able to enjoy worship with your friends or family sitting in the pews? If so, this opportunity is for you!

As we look ahead to worship life in the coming months and years, we are hoping to expand the pool of individuals operating the camera for the live-stream of our worship each Sunday. A Wi-Fi enabled iPad is used to control the camera through pre-sets, allowing volunteers to sit in the pews with their families as they manage the controls throughout the service. It is our hope to create a sufficient pool that no one is being asked to manage this responsibility more than once a month.

If you would be interested in being a part of this team, or would like more information, please contact Rev. Marty. We hope to have a training session sometime in May, allowing us to begin utilizing team members during our summer services.



PPP LOAN

Dear Members and Friends,

Spring is in the air, and the hope of Easter approaches!

Earlier this year, Council learned that the PPP loan had been forgiven, transforming that loan into a grant. You may recall from Bo Dowsett's message last year that Council voted to apply for the loan to ensure our ability to maintain the payroll commitments we made to our staff in the face of economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19. We wanted to protect our staff from any impact that uncertainty could have had on the church's income throughout the 2020 budget year. The original loan amount, \$64,842, represents 2.5 times the average monthly payroll as of April 2020 and was used for payroll expenses over a period of time, consistent with the applicable regulations under the program.

We are delighted and grateful to report that EOG and non-EOG giving ("giving income") totaled approximately \$503,769 in 2020, which represents about 98% of the amounts budgeted for those line items. Thank you for your steadfast generosity. We are cautiously optimistic that 2021 will yield a similar result.

At its February meeting, Council approved the formation of a sub-committee – comprised of the Past Moderator (Bo Dowsett), the current Moderator (Kathy Schill), the Moderator-elect (Susan Wauck), as well as Marty and Julie – to consider how to utilize the giving income we saved due to the use of the PPP funds. Council never intended for the PPP loan to be used for the general operation of the church and did not expect the money would be held indefinitely as a cushion for our bottom line. Rather, Council aimed only to prevent the possibility of needing to reduce staff due to a negative economic impact on our income caused by COVID-19. The sub-committee is now tasked with determining (1) when we feel confident that the potential COVID-related threat to congregational giving has ended; and (2) at that time, where to direct the unused giving income.

We want your input! If you have suggestions for organizations or types of organizations that could benefit from the money, please send them to Kathy Schill (kwschill90@gmail.com) by April 30. We believe the funds could have a powerful impact and your ideas will be crucial as we formulate a proposal. As always, we thank you for your support in terms of time, talents, and financial giving.

On behalf of the sub-committee,
Kathy Schill
Moderator



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Our younger families received a packet with weekly items to go along with the “ings” of faith (God working through us) series following Easter through Sunday, May 23. During these weeks, on Sunday morning, during the 9 am worship we will have a children’s message that corresponds with the packets.

During the 11 am outdoor worship, Gaia and Haley will be here for “Godly Fun” activities with children. If weather indicates a move inside, “Godly Fun” will be held in the large classroom downstairs.

Some of our youth met for a cold and windy firepit in March, toured the new “Youth Room in the making,” and noted their excitement to soon make use of the gathering space. We are looking into additional outdoor gatherings in these next months and enjoyed being together!



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

A fundraiser to support the renovation of the Youth Room, a place to nurture and grow the future. While wonderful changes have been made there is more work to be done! Order forms may be found in the Monday emails and in the narthex at church.

Use the online link: <https://go.noblevalleywreathsale.com/northshore>

Contact us in the office if you have any questions. Please have orders in by April 9 and we will notify you with the delivery date to the church in mid May

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



WISCONSIN CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SUMMIT MEETING

The Wisconsin Congregational Association Annual Summit and Meeting will be held via zoom **Friday evening April 23 and Saturday morning April 24.**

- ♦ Friday evening:
 - 7pm: Facilitated fellowship, followed by speaker Matt Cook: *What Happens After a Crisis, a History. Breakout group sharing: Going Forward.*
- ♦ Saturday:
 - 9am – 11am: Speaker Jayne Davis: *Re-engaging Faith Formation in the Church*, and speaker Jim Kitchens: *Re-engaging with our Communities.*
 - 11am-Noon: Wisconsin Congregational Association business meeting and closing worship.

More information and registration at www.wiscongregationalist.net \$10 fee goes to a scholarship fund for youth to attend the Wisconsin Congregational Summer Camp.


Join us for some "**morning mulching**" at church, **9am, April 10!** We need a team of people to help spread mulch around the gardens and woods. If possible bring a wheelbarrow and shovel. We are looking forward to gathering a group soon for a Spring Clean up. Great way to get outdoors, spend time with friendly people, and serve the church.



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Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith	juliesmith@NSCChurchWI.org	x14	414-588-8693
Kerrin White	kerrinwhite@NSCChurchWI.org	x12	
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North Shore
Congregational
Church

FOX POINT, WI

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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
Kerrin White, Office Manager

Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith, Associate Minister
Meike Pampalone, Organist
Mike Fugarino, Custodian

Eric Detienne, Megan Hall, and Becca Hall, Sunday Custodians