

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.

August 2022

OUR PURPOSE IS TO GROW AND DEEPEN
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
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“A Few Thoughts On.....”

What happens now? ...



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Sunday Morning

10:00am
Worship (Sanctuary/Facebook)
10:15am
Music & Movement and
Godly Fun

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Fox Point, WI

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Given the fact that this newsletter reaches an audience well beyond that of just our members, what is well known to most of you, by now, may still be news to a few. Just a few days prior to the publication of this newsletter, our congregation was made aware of the fact that the Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith has been invited to be presented to the members of The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa, WI, as the candidate to become their next Sr. Minister. While we are most certainly saddened by the notion of seeing Julie move on from her role here at North Shore Church, I know that you all join me in rejoicing in this new chapter that is unfolding for Julie. After eighteen years of growing into ministry here at NSCC (from her start as the Children's Ministry Director all the way to these past 7.5 years as the Associate Minister), this move is perfectly suited for Julie's continued journey of following God's call in her life, and I have no doubt as to the blessing that she will be to the people of our sister church in Wauwatosa.

Amidst that joy that we share for Julie, however, I know that our minds quickly turn to the questions and emotions that spring from the prospect of what comes next in the life of our church. The closure of pastoral relationships is always something that is very difficult for all involved, and after nearly two decades of fostering connection in this church, there is no question that we will all know that sadness in these coming weeks. There will be opportunities to express our gratitude and chances to say our goodbyes, and much more will come about those plans in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, however, I encourage you to lift up Julie, FCC Wauwatosa, and NSCC in your daily prayers. This will be a time of excitement, challenge, joy, and grief, for all of us. Pray that we may all know the wonder and consolation of God's Spirit at work in all that will unfold.

What happens now? continued....

Beyond the pastoral connection, of course, is the deep and meaningful faith and spirit that Julie has brought to her many roles as our Associate Minister. When we begin asking the questions of ‘What’s next?’ the reality is that the answer to most of our questions is, ‘We don’t know yet!’ If you were not in attendance (either in person or online) for our July 31 worship, I encourage you to go to our Facebook Page or YouTube channel to take in the dialog that Julie and I shared during Sunday’s service. Some of the most basic questions were addressed in that conversation. As for filling Julie’s enormous shoes in the coming months and years, however, that’s a journey of discernment that is only just beginning. Work is already underway in making sure that we have plans in place to cover much of what Julie does in the coming weeks and months. Some of her roles will fall to me, while others may be assigned to lay leaders, short term staff additions, etc. While some programs may end up on ‘pause’ while we figure some things out, the hope is to maintain as much of our current energy and trajectory as possible as we head into the fall.

The more long-term question, then, is if/how/when we would launch a search for a new Associate Minister. To this, there is no answer yet to give. Our church leaders will need to take the time, in the coming weeks and months, to discern what is the best staffing structure for NSCC in 2023 and beyond. I can assure you that deep and faithful consideration will be brought to the question, but as to the answer that will emerge? No one knows!

If you are anything like me, you are enveloped in a cornucopia of emotions in the face of this news. You are thrilled for a beloved friend and pastor who is taking the right next step in their journey of ministry, you are happy for the people of FCC Wauwatosa and the blessing that Julie will be to them, you are deeply saddened to consider saying goodbye to someone who has meant so much to your life, and you are mildly overwhelmed by the consideration of continuing the many ministries of this church in her absence (admittedly – this last one may be a bit more on my mind than on yours!). In all of this, however, I see God at work! I see God at work in continuing to nurture Julie in her evolving ministry. I see God at work in planting a new seed in the life of our sister church in Wauwatosa. I see God at work in bringing solace to the sorrowed goodbyes. And, I see God at work in unveiling a new chapter here at NSCC!

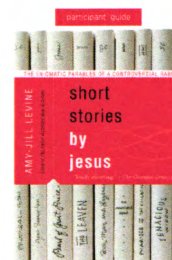
What does all of this look like in the end? I have no idea! As we seek that answer, however, I ask that you join me in the prayer that we all, together, will see all that God has done, is doing, and will do in and through the people, programs, and faith of North Shore Congregational Church!

Your Pastor and Friend, *Marty*

ADULT FORMATION

Thursday Morning Bible Study, from 9:30-11:00am.

During August and September we continue to explore some of Jesus' Parables with Amy-Jill Levine's *"Short Stories by Jesus"* as one of our references. Those of us who come in person meet in Rev. Julie's office where we are joined by others online (through Zoom). The link for Zoom will be in the Monday emails each week.



Tuesday Morning Book Group

August 16 we will begin to discuss *"Braving the Thin Places: Celtic Wisdom to Create a Space for Grace"* by Julianne Stanz

"Your thin place might be an important threshold, a soul friendship, a fresh chapter in your own life story, a painful secret or fear, or a time of hardship. Whatever the circumstance, a thin place is where God and humanity meet in a mysterious way. These moments open us to places of rawness and beauty."



The "Zoom" group meets at 9 am (link provided in Monday E-News), the 10 am meet in Friendship Lounge.

If you have any questions, or would like to receive more communication about our study groups, contact anyone in the church office.

FROM THE TREASURER

Member expertise requested for Board of Trustee Insurance review

The Board of Trustees is embarking on a review of our NSCC insurance policies. If you have experience in business insurance the board would welcome your input. Please contact Gwen Benner at gwen.benner@gmail.com or by phone at 414-916-0889 for further details.

Thank you!

LOOKING TOWARD SEPTEMBER AND BEYOND

Friends,

By now you will have received the news that I am candidating for the role of Sr Minister at First Congregational Church, and that my time with you will come to a close at the end of September. You will also have heard how grateful I am for the ministry we have partnered in these past years! And I am sure you have questions. During August and September Tuesday book groups and Thursday Bible studies will continue to meet while also discussing ways these groups may choose to continue, and the who, how, and in what format this might take.

Working with the Board of Christian Enrichment, curriculum and supplies for Godly Fun will be ready and in place to continue well. AND how much fun it will be for the children to enjoy their newly redone classrooms! Please come down and see!!! Information, communication, and supplies are being set up for many of the things we enjoy in the fall such as Bible Sunday, Confirmation class, music with the youth as well as on hand materials to engage with families and children who come to Midweek Manna on Wednesday evenings at 6:30

Rev. Julie

Celebration Sunday Picnic



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 11**, when we will gather after worship for our **Commissioning Sunday picnic**. With much happening in the life of our church, it is important as ever to come together to share in the blessing of worship and fellowship. We hope you will take the time to be with us for this joyous opportunity on September 11.



The crazy, lazy days of summer are upon us! We wish you all a chance to have some crazy and be a little lazy, knowing you have done amazingly wonderful work throughout this year supporting and helping those in need. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

JUST ONE MORE MINISTRY

A hearty thank you to all who were able to contribute to the special food request from JOMM on June 19. We generously helped to fill the gap for fresh meats and dairy in a time of need. As always, pantry items of all kinds are welcomed and can be placed in the bin under the portico. Those who went to serve from the Tuesday Book Group that morning helped transport these items to the JOMM site.

FOX POINT FARMERS MARKET

For the summer through mid-October, our church parking lot hosts the Fox Point Farmers Market. Come, meet friends, enjoy live music, and shop for fresh farm goods. And bring your shoes:

Soles for Jesus collection boxes are at the entrance of the market, so clean out those unused shoes and drop them off while you stroll through the many delicious delights available on Saturday mornings.

We also have a donation box for St. Ben's, which is located on the Market's information table. We are grateful for the generosity of the community around the church!

SOLES FOR JESUS

We have an upcoming Sort and Serve date: **August 20, 9:00 – 11:00**. This ministry is something children and adults can do together! You will find the address on the sign up link. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4EA9A829A5FE3-soles9>

REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

It's not too late to sign up for our **August 7 Bag Lunch Express** 'make and drop' for Repairers of the Breach. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4eacaf2ca6fd0-august2>, and then plan to prepare your lunches to be **dropped off** inside the portico entrance on **Sunday, August 7**, between 8am and noon.

WORSHIP MATTERS



The time has come. **Midweek Manna starts August 3**, and will continue each Wednesday at 6:30pm. Join us in the chapel on August 3 and 10, and then for evening services outdoors (weather permitting) on August 17 and 24.

Make a special note in your calendar for **August 24**, when our Midweek Manna service will **gather around a campfire and conclude with a S'mores Buffet!**



Calling all children and youth of the church...we are looking for your **artwork** for the covers of our worship orders this fall. **Starting on September 7, and continuing into November**, we will spend our weekly worship services focusing on the Parables of Jesus. Throughout the series, we'd love to have our **worship covers designed by the children and youth** of the church. Please watch your emails for a link to sign up for different weeks and either scan and email or drop off your completed pieces to Rev. Marty.

NACCC 2022 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

The 68th Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches took place June 25-28, and is now in the history books. I had the honor of attending as your NSCC Delegate, along with Alternate Delegates Marty Hall and Lisa Wermuth.

A total of 153 in-person registrants gathered in downtown Wichita, Kansas, combined with 70 on-line attendees, altogether representing 77 of the 280 active member churches in the NACCC.

This was the first “hybrid” annual meeting of the NACCC, and the excitement of being together in person for the first time since 2019 was palpable, with plenty of laughter, hugs and singing among old and new friends.

Attendees came from places spanning the continent from Alaska to Maine, including California dreamers, down-the middle Midwesterners, and buttoned-down New Englanders, all united in doing God’s work in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. There were presentations by missionaries sponsored in part by the NACCC, doing important work in places like Myanmar, Cameroon, Argentina, Mexico, eastern Tennessee and western Pennsylvania.

There wasn’t too much drama in the business portion of the meeting. One highlight was the formal admission of 6 new churches to the NA, located in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Connecticut and Iowa.

Our own Marty Hall was busy this year, hosting a town hall session one evening, presenting by-laws revisions to the full assembly, and finally coordinating an enthusiastic group promotion from all the Wisconsin attendees to gather for next year’s meeting in metropolitan Milwaukee. It included a slick video ad for Milwaukee, and even little chilled bags of cheese curds that we handed out! Keep in mind that YOU might be asked to donate your time and talent in putting this together next year.

Yours in Christ,

Doug Wermuth, Moderator

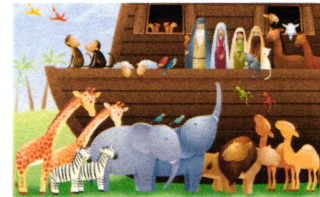
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Summer! Sunday mornings we will have simple games and activities for children from 10:15-11:00 in the Crib 'n Crawler play room, or outside (weather permitting). On the 4th Sunday of the month we will all worship outside!

Don't forget to see the Beyond our Walls page with opportunities to serve in the community. Both Soles for Jesus and Repairers of the Breach lunch making are easy for all ages to engage in together.

Parents, always check out the Noah's Ark shelf! There are books, bags of items, and children's bulletins available for children to take into worship with them. We are always happy for the sight and sound of children joining in.



Families, watch for updates as we approach our September and beyond with information about Music and Movement, Godly Fun, Bible Sunday and Youth related activities!

If you have any questions or want to know and see more of how this works, please contact the church office.



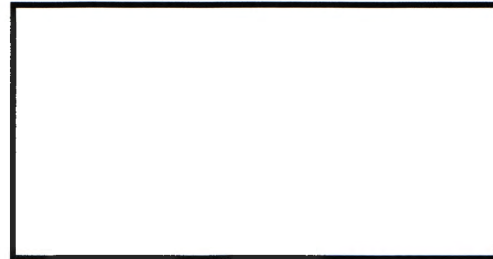
Our 2022-2023 confirmation class is currently forming, and will be open to all youth in grades 7-9. If you would like to participate, but have not seen emails or information about the program, please contact Rev. Marty.

414-352-6123

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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
Rick Kieffer, Music Director
Office Manager

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

Megan Hall, Becca Hall, and Linnea Plichta, Sunday Custodians