

North Shore Church News

g r o w i n g G o d ' s c h u r c h

**moving
forward**

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

September 2022

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Sunday Worship

10:00am

Worship (Sanctuary/Facebook)

10:15am

Music & Movement and
Godly Fun

Midweek Manna

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

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Fox Point, WI

Vol. 40 Issue 8



“A Few Thoughts On.....”

What's happening now? ...

My reflections in our last newsletter (just a few weeks ago) were titled ‘What Happens Now?’ As the news was just emerging that Julie had been invited to candidate for the Sr. Minister position at our sister church in Wauwatosa, that article was a portion of our wider effort to answer some of the key questions that we knew would be emerging as we approach this next chapter of ministries here at NSCC. It has been (and continues to be) our goal to be as open and transparent as we can be throughout this period of transition, hoping that we are all as aware as possible of the steps being taken and the decisions being made. If you have questions (especially after reading this message), that message from the last newsletter, and our worship service from July 31, would be good places to start.

The one downside to all of our previous communications, of course, was that a lot of the lingering questions were met with the same answer, ‘We don’t know!’ In numerous questions, particularly those dealing with more long-range plans, that remains the case (and will for a while). In many areas surrounding the more immediate transitional considerations, however, there are a number of updates that can be shared. So, in an effort to continue in that effort of transparency and awareness, I want to shift from last month’s question of “What happens now?” to the question of “What’s happening now?”

With Julie’s call to FCC Wauwatosa formally confirmed by vote of their congregation on August 21, our sights are increasingly turning in the direction of actions that will help us move through the transition to come. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see information about opportunities to celebrate Julie’s rich and meaningful ministry here at NSCC, as we send her on to the new call that God has in store for her. In addition to the fellowship events that are planned, we will have the blessing of listening to Julie’s final sermon at NSCC on September 18,

What's happening now? continued....

and will take the opportunity to bring closure to her ministry here, while seeking God's blessing on her new call, during our worship service on September 25. There are many things in store to give thanks to Julie, and God, for the gift she has been to our church.

Looking beyond that date, I'm happy to be able to say that a lot of faith, thought and creativity has gone into making plans for the uninterrupted continuation of the many ministries and programs of our church. I do not want to take the time to get into the minutia of it all in this note, but I do want to highlight some major elements of what is happening in the coming weeks and months.

- Searches are underway for staffed leadership for our children's programs our youth ministries, and a team is meeting in early September to make plans for how to cover these responsibilities until such staff support is hired.
- A rotation of guest preachers is being lined up to cover worship leadership 1x per month, helping to alleviate some of the extra preaching load that is created in Julie's absence.
- Lay leaders have stepped up to lead the Tuesday book group, and a few creative options (both lay led and otherwise) are being explored for the Thursday Bible Study.
- A new approach to confirmation is being explored that will allow for a meaningful experience for our confirmands, while simultaneously providing essential flexibility for both their busy families and me throughout the coming year.
- Planning is underway (for proposal to the Deacons at their September meeting) for the development of a structured visitation ministry that will equip and organize members to get out and be in touch with our members who are unable to consistently be with us in worship and fellowship. This was already a need in the life of our church, and we are excited that this new chapter of our ministries will help to bring about even greater engagement with this portion of our membership.
- A group of lay readers has been formed and will meet in the coming weeks to bring meaningful support to our Wednesday and Sunday worship services.
- Teams for special projects (e.g. Advent Tea, Advent Devotional) are already meeting to make plans for this year's offerings.

(Continued...)

OK... so what now?

What's happening now? continued....

There are many other elements and considerations, and various responsibilities are being passed along to boards, volunteers and staff as fitting. What is important to note, however, is that the 'Ministries to be Paused' list is nearly non-existent, and our church leaders have found those creative and faithful ways to carry on nearly all of our existing ministries (as well as the new ones just getting started) without interruption. There will be more to come in the weeks ahead, offering opportunities for each of our members to be a part of these many initiatives. For today, however, I hope you will join me in praying for Julie and Tom as they embark on their new journey, and in giving thanks to our many church leaders who are playing such a pivotal role in help to bring about the next chapter of ministry and faith here at NSCC.

Your Pastor and Friend, *Marty*



In light of the many happenings in September, our **Commissioning Sunday fellowship has been changed to an ice cream social.**

With much coming up 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 share this time of fellowship immediately after our worship service on **September 11.**

SAVE THE DATE

Two Farewell Gatherings for Rev. Julie in September

With regret for our great loss, we must bid Julie Sheridan Smith a fond farewell as she answers God's call to serve as senior pastor at First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa. Her last official day serving our congregation will be September 25th. She and her husband, Tom will be joining a new church family, but they will always have a place in the hearts of this church family. We will so miss their bright presence in our midst.



Julie first served our church as director of children's ministries in August 2004, eventually taking on the additional duties of Christian involvement coordinator and overseeing family ministries. Nine years ago, she became an ordained minister and soon answered the call to serve as our associate pastor. We've been graced by her able leadership, by her patience, and by her great love for God over the past eighteen years. She has served enthusiastically, and with great sensitivity, creativity, and capability. We thank her for her devoted service, and wish her Godspeed on her journey.

We are planning two Sunday after-worship gatherings: a **luncheon** including honoring Julie's service on **September 18**, and a **special coffee hour** to visit with Julie and Tom on **September 25**. Both Sunday gatherings will immediately follow the 10:00 worship service.

Please join us for these special Sundays in the life of our church. Come share your memories as we honor and thank Julie for her service to our church family, and to wish her well on her life's journey answering God's call.

See you in September!

ADULT FORMATION

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

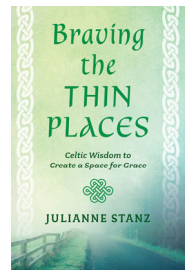
Thursday Bible Study has been in good discussions about how this gathering for Bible study will continue starting October and through the fall. Several members of the current group will be working together, sharing responsibilities for facilitating conversations. This team will meet with Rev. Julie, choosing several sources they will use. Please watch for updates, and if you are not already on the email reminder list, let us know and you will be able to get first hand notes and updates.

Through September we continue to explore Jesus' Parables. 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

Through September we are discussing "*Braving the Thin Places: Celtic Wisdom to Create a Space for Grace*" by Julianne Stanz. Please watch your Monday E-news (and if you are not currently in the Book Group email list, and wish to be, just contact us in the office). We will use this email to communicate information relating to book choices for October through the Fall.



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

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendar for some of these key dates coming up later this fall...

- ♦ October 9, 2022: Launch of the 2023 EOG Campaign
- ♦ October 23, 2022: Bible Sunday
- ♦ October 30, 2022: Congregational Meeting after worship
- ♦ November 6, 2022: Remembrance Sunday
- ♦ November 20, 2022: Thanksgiving Sunday
- ♦ December 4, 2022: Advent Fest after worship
- ♦ December 11, 2022: Music Sunday

North Shore Congregational Church is *seeking to hire* an **Interim Director of Children's Ministries and a Director of Youth Ministries**. Both are part time positions that could be filled by separate individuals, or a single person who has a passion for both aspect of our ministries to children and youth. If you know of anyone who might be interested in serving in such a position, please contact Rev. Marty for more information.





Loaves & fishes — MINISTRY —

WE'RE BACK!!!! St. Ben's Meal is an outreach program that serves Milwaukee's neediest citizens. On the third Tuesday of each month, September through May, NSCC provides casseroles, desserts and servers for the evening meal. Please consider joining our NSCC volunteers who already help out on this much needed, and personally gratifying program. **DUE TO REDUCED NUMBERS OF GUESTS, WE HAVE SCALED BACK THE AMOUNT OF FOOD WE PROVIDE.** If you have questions, please contact Dona Wininsky, 414-426-3086 or Dona.Wininsky@gmail.com.

- **I will provide casseroles (ONE RECIPE – ONE LARGE LOAF PAN IN CHURCH KITCHEN) RECIPE WILL BE PROVIDED.**

Monthly (September-May) _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

- **I will prepare desserts (30 pieces)** (Your choice of “finger food – cookies, bars, brownies, cupcakes, etc.)

Monthly _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

- **I will serve (5:00 – 6:30pm) at St. Ben's** (please list number of servers) _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

- **I will drive food from church to St. Ben's** (pick up at 3:30pm)

Monthly _____

The following months (please list) _____

As needed (Dona will confirm) _____

Name _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Please return form to church or to Dona at Dona.Wininsky@gmail.com. Thank you.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Importance of the Present Moment

The calendar page has turned to September, our summer has passed, and new activities are underway.

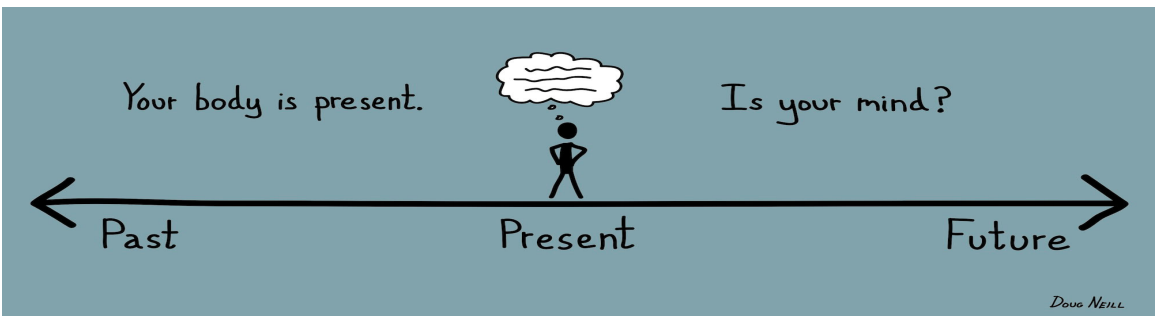
Are we excited or wary? Likely a bit of both. New events bring questions and concerns: children are returning to school - some after long periods of virtual learning; high school grads are off to college, workers are finding out if their jobs will call them back to the office or allow work from home. Covid will continue its varied presence. Unpredictability and change often lead to stress.

There's help to allay anxiety and confusion. Give mindfulness a try. It's a brief but powerful call to calm the mind and to focus on the present moment at any given time. No specific skills or equipment is needed, except 5 or 10 minutes of your time, a quiet space, and comfortable seating. Close your eyes to avoid distraction; in some cases you may wish to have eyes open, especially in a nature setting.

Here's a technique using all senses; notice each for what they are at that moment; you may mentally describe them as you slowly inhale and exhale: - notice 5 things you can see; - notice 4 things you can hear; - notice 3 things you can smell; - notice 1 thing you can taste

Rev. Julie shares this "breath prayer": Choose a name for God/Jesus; focus on it as you inhale — and name a desire or "ask" for what you wish to receive as you exhale. Example: (Name) "Spirit of God"/ inhale; (Desire) "Breathe peace into me"/ exhale. Repeat a few times.

It is best to use a mind-centering exercise before you feel or take on a stressful situation. A helpful website with many topics on handling life situations is: www.npr.org/lifekit. It has options to listen or read, get newsletter or podcasts.





Beyond Our Walls

SOLES FOR JESUS

Our Sort and Serve date is **September 17, from 9:00 -11:00.** Bring the kids, your neighbor, or a friend – all are welcome and it is a wonderful way to spend a few hours! You will find the address on the signup link.

Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4EA9A829A5FE3-soles10>



REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

In September, Repairers of the Breach has a community hosted special event for Labor Day Weekend and do not need bag lunches. Please note! Beginning in October through the Fall we will be back in the kitchen making lunches together on the first Sunday of the month. Please come downstairs and enjoy this work together. **Mark October 2** on your calendar now!

What a wonderful way to celebrate World Communion

Sunday, by extending a meal to others! A round of applause for all of those who pitched in over the summer months to keep this important work going.



JUST ONE MORE MINISTRY

We continue our collection of plastic bags, peanut butter and non-perishable items 'Under the Portico.' Stay tuned for another service opportunity at JOMM this fall!



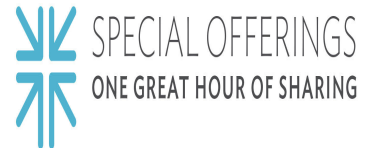
ST BEN'S LOAVES AND FISHES

We are back the second Tuesday of each month making casseroles and desserts for our long-time friends at St. Ben's. Covid has reduced the numbers, but we still need volunteers to make either one pan of the casserole or one recipe of a finger-food dessert. You can do this every month from September through May, or as you are able. Church has the pans and Dona has the recipe. Please consider helping from home for this important cause: dona.wininsky@gmail.com.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – KENTUCKY FLOOD RELIEF

Please consider a contribution to those suffering from extraordinary hardship - <https://onrealm.org/NorthShoreCongr/give/Kentucky>



FOX POINT FARMERS MARKET

Come to the church parking lot Saturday mornings to enjoy the yummy offerings, live music and camaraderie of this wonderful market until mid-October. Remember to bring along any shoes you are no longer using and deposit them in the Soles for Jesus box. A special thank you to our very own Terry Doty-Webb, Midge Croysdale, and Carol Wink for putting the boxes out and then hauling the two to three bags of shoes collected back into church each week!



WORSHIP MATTERS



Our Midweek Manna services are entering their second month, after a great beginning. We have been thrilled to enjoy worship together in this alternative format and look forward to continuing this journey into the fall. Please consider inviting your friends to be a part of this unique worship gathering. Social media posts are regularly available for sharing, and postcards are available to be sent to anyone who might like to know of this opportunity.



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.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Commissioning Sunday, September 11! Families – so many good things for September! Music and Movement followed by Godly fun in the NEWLY REVONATED classrooms downstairs begins on **September 11**. Begin in the Sanctuary together to celebrate this beginning and those helping to make it happen. Stay for the Ice Cream Social after church!



Enrollment Forms. Please watch for and/or ask about our simplified **enrollment form** for children engaging in **Music and Movement, Godly Fun**, and **YouthConnect** activities. You should have received an email, but help us check in with you if you have not!

Midweek Manna, Wednesdays at 6:30, has had a great beginning! For families—please know *we have some fun, accessible bulletins and items to help children engage* that are updated each week to work alongside the focus that evening. The setting is welcoming and casual, come see what you think!

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.

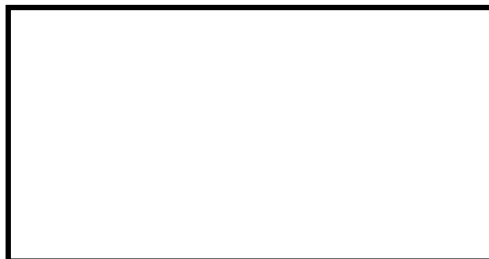


If you have any questions or want to know and see more of how this works, please contact the church office.



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.

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**North Shore
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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
Kerrin White, Office Manager

Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith, Associate Minister
Meike Pampalone and Heide Hongsermeier, Organists
Mike Fugarino, Custodian

Megan Hall and Becca Hall, Sunday Custodians