

North Shore Church News

FAITH • COMMUNITY • SERVICE



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

January 2024

“A Few Thoughts On.....”

The Close of Weekly Worship

OUR PURPOSE IS TO GROW AND DEEPEN
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Sunday Worship

10:00am
Worship (Sanctuary/YouTube)

10:15am
Music & Movement and
Godly Fun

Midweek Manna

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

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Fox Point, WI

Vol. 42 Issue 1



Many of our church members had the opportunity, last winter, to attend the installation service for the Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith, as she settled into her role as the Sr. Minister of our sister church in Wauwatosa. It was a joy and a privilege for us to be there on that snowy day. There was a moment of silent humor for me at the end of the service, however, that I have shared with a handful of you in recent months. At the close of the installation worship, Julie shared a benediction, and the organ began to play a postlude. Most of the attendees immediately began to mill about, visit with one another, and make their way to the fellowship hall for a reception. The 20 or so NSCC members, however, who were all seated in a group on one side the sanctuary, heard the first note from the organ and immediately sat right back down to listen. It was a remarkable display of unplanned synchronicity, as every NSCC member there followed that routine without missing a beat!

That is, of course, the longstanding practice here at NSCC. Without getting into the roots of the practice, it is something that goes back well over a decade in the life of our church. When the benediction is done, the postlude begins (typically on the organ), the congregation sits, and then, at the end of the postlude, we all clap in appreciation for the postlude that was shared. For some, it is a meaningful aspect of our weekly worship life. For others, however, it is not experienced in the same way. Which is the reason for this article as we head into 2024.

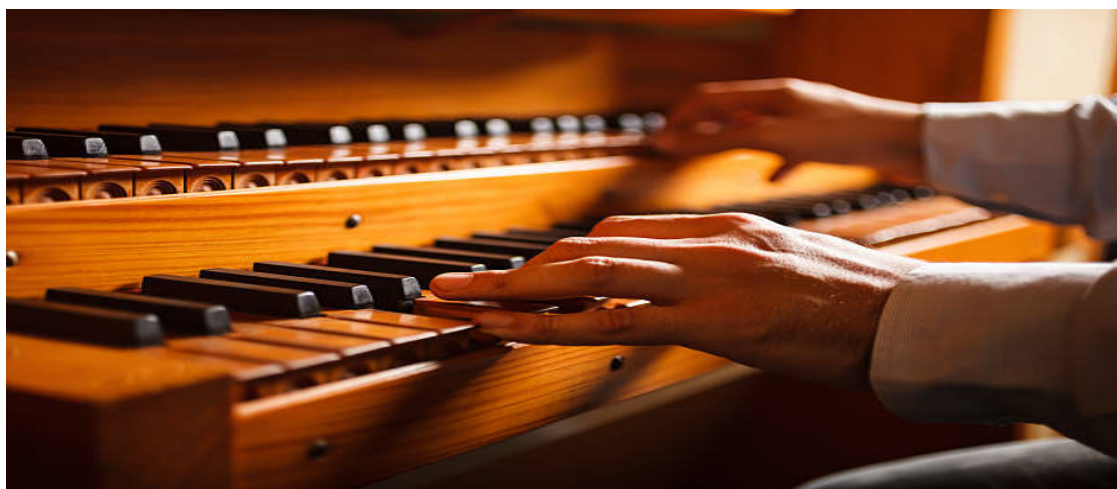
The question of how we currently close our worship service came to the attention of our Deacons when it arose in some of the listening sessions that were held regarding our search for a new Director of Music. Not wanting to leave the question lingering for the person who steps into that role sometime in 2024, the Deacons decided to tackle the question now and, starting in January, a new (and evolving) approach to concluding worship will take place.

It has long been stated in the order of worship that people are welcome to stay for the postlude, or depart the sanctuary, at their discretion. The end goal in the minds of the Deacons is to embrace this very concept. We want people who are served by listening to the postlude to be able to do so, but we also want those who wish to depart to feel free to do so without feeling compelled to sit and remain because that is the perceived expectation or routine of the congregation. To get this point of flexibility, however, we are going to make some temporary changes that might help to break away from current patterns and allow people to settle into new norms based on how they best experience the close of worship.

Beginning with worship on January 7, there will be a period of weeks in which there will be no postlude. In its place, the choir will return to the past practice of recessing during the final hymn, and there will be some sort of brief musical response to the benediction (choral or congregational) that will close the service. Note that the lack of a postlude is not expected to be a permanent change. The practice of sharing an organ postlude will be built back into the practice of worship in time, and the Deacons will be focused on when and how to best accomplish that goal. In the short term, however, it is our hope that this temporary shift in practice will allow some new norms to emerge, enabling us to embrace a more flexible pattern for our members in the future.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to speak to me or to any of our Deacons. For now, however, I simply ask that you be patient with the group as we work through this transitional period towards what we hope will be a more meaningful worship experience for all in the years to come.

In Faith, *Marty*



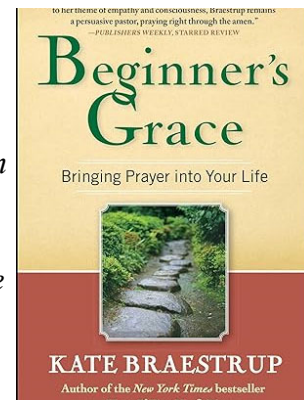
FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday Morning Book Group

We talk about so many things during the Tuesday Book Group gatherings, and recently, the topic of prayer has come up. How do we pray? Why do we pray? Are we praying in the right way? With all this in mind, our next book is *Beginner's Grace* by Kate Braestrup. **We will begin our discussion on January 9**

Amazon offers this description,

"Prayer is an ancient and simple way to prepare yourself for grace, or love, and to learn to recognize it when it comes. Even the briefest 'grace' spoken before dinner offers its time-honored wisdom. Yet, despite hundreds of traditions, teachings, and books about prayer, millions of Americans have become ambivalent about it. They are unsure how, when, where, and even why they might pray, afraid they'll do it wrong, or worried they won't be heard."



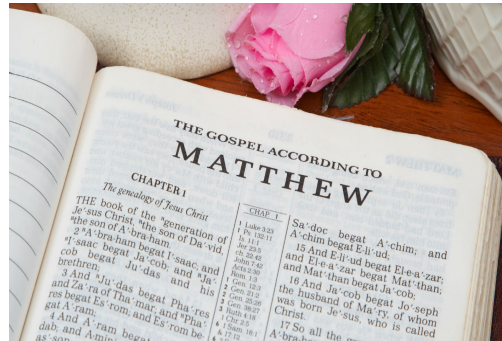
Writing in the beautiful, funny, honest narrative style that moved and inspired readers of her first book, Here If You Need Me, Kate Braestrup explains what prayer is and the many ways we can pray. With an approach that is both personal and inclusive, Beginner's Grace is a new kind of prayer book. Even if you don't pray and don't consider yourself religious, there's room in this book for you. In these pages, Braestrup explains how and why the practice of prayer can open a space in our busy lives for mindfulness, gratitude, contentment, and a wider compassion toward others.

Inspired by her work as a chaplain, Braestrup includes many examples of prayers to draw from—beginning with grace, a brief prayer of thanks. She provides clear models and practical suggestions for making your own and your family's prayers meaningful and satisfying, and offers prayers for situations in which words might fail: times of anxiety, helplessness, or grief. And she invites you to explore forms of prayer that extend into the wider community, including prayer with and for people we don't like or with whom we disagree."

Please join us as we explore prayer's role in our faith and how we can become more at ease incorporating prayer into our lives. This book is available in paperback, audio, and Kindle. Please let Kerrin know by January 3 if you would like to order the paperback version at \$16.00.

Thursday Bible Study: 9:30am

Join us on Thursday mornings at 9:30 for a study of the Gospel of Matthew. We meet upstairs in the Owl Room and we would be so pleased to see new members! **Our January 11 meeting will be held in kitchen** downstairs where we will prepare casseroles for St. Ben's. More cooks welcome! Winter weather will be upon us soon so feel free to Zoom into our meetings. The link is available in Marty's Monday email.



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



Did you know that our church has two active prayer chains? In addition to our traditional phone chain (receive a call, make a call), we have an email blast that is sent out to subscribers anytime a prayer request is received.

The traditional phone chain has long been spearheaded by Lois Malkasian, who will be stepping down as we head into 2024. ***We are looking for someone to step into that coordinating role.*** If you would be interested in serving the church by taking on the responsibility of receiving prayer requests and making the initial calls, please contact Marty for more information.

If you would like to be included as a member of either the traditional phone chain or the email group, please contact the church office and we will be sure to add you to the list.



North Shore Congregational Church

FOX POINT, WI

Faith • Community • Service

Welcome to 2024 and the 75th Anniversary of our church!

The 75th Anniversary Committee, consisting of myself (Bob Erdahl), Sharon & Marty Hall, Katherine Gregory, Ginny Kannenberg, Jeff Leypoldt, Amy Petersen and Becki & David Schimpf has met a couple of times to begin preparing for the big year ahead.

But where to start? After a lot of brain storming, the committee decided to base our anniversary celebrations on 10 pillars that have formed the foundation of our church's success and will continue to guide us in the years ahead. The 10 pillars are:

- ✚ · Church Charter and Founding Members
- ✚ · Our Meeting House
- ✚ · Past and Present Members of the Congregation
- ✚ · Past and Present Ministers and Staff

✝ · Fellowship Events

✝ · Music Ministry

✝ · Youth Ministry

✝ · Community Service Projects

✝ · Mission Trips

✝ · The Congregational Way

Each of the pillars will be the focus of a monthly newsletter article and a presentation on Sunday at the start of worship. In addition, pictures and other historical information to document each of the 10 pillars will be displayed in Friendship Lounge, on social media and on the TV in the main hallway. A lot of the committee's ideas are still in the formative stage so stay tuned for updates as the year unfolds. One of the many ways the committee is working on to get the entire congregation involved in the celebration will be a request for your favorite memory of one of the pillars or any other remembrance that you would like to share. These memories, the history of the church and so much more will be included in a commemorative booklet that will be distributed at the main anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 19.

In order to insure that our 75th Anniversary will be a success, the committee is asking for your assistance. Please contact Marty or a member of the committee if you would like to help with an event or can provide historical pictures or documents.

With everyone's help, we can make 2024 a memorable year!

Bob Erdahl - Moderator

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>31 10:00am Worship with Rev. Dr. Barry Szymanski Preaching 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>1 Office Closed - Happy New Year 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>2 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge) 10:30am Yoga 6:00pm BCE (Youth Room) 6:00pm Stewardship Board (Upstairs Classroom) 6:00pm Trustees (Library)</p>
<p>7 Communion 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 10:15am Music & Movement and Godly Fun 11:00am Fellowship 11:00am Repairers of the Breach - Bag Lunch Express</p>	<p>8 9:30am PEO AM 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>9 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge) 10:30am Yoga 7:00pm Director of Music Search Committee</p>
<p>14 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 10:15am Music & Movement and Godly Fun 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>16 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge) 10:30am Yoga 4:00pm Loaves and Fishes 7:00pm Council</p>
<p>21 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 10:15am Music & Movement and Godly Fun 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>22 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>23 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge) 10:30am Yoga 7:00pm Director of Music Search Committee</p>
<p>28 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 10:15am Music & Movement and Godly Fun 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>29 1:00pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>30 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge) 10:30am Yoga</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 9:30am Bible Study (hybrid) 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 7:00pm NSCC @ Milwaukee Admirals 7:30pm RR Historical Society	6 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:30am OEAnon Special P- Meyer - Friendship Lounge
10	11 9:30am Bible Study (hybrid) 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	12 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	13 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
17 8:30am Quilters 6:00pm Midweek Manna Meal 6:45pm Midweek Manna Worship	18 9:30am Bible Study (hybrid) 9:30am Yoga 6:30pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	19 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	20 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
24	25 9:30am Bible Study (hybrid) 9:30am Yoga 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	26 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	27 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
31	1 9:30am Bible Study (hybrid) 9:30am Yoga 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	2 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 7:30pm RR Historical Society	3 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:30am OEAnon Special P- Meyer - Friendship Lounge



HOUSE OF PEACE & ST. BEN'S COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAMS

Blankets Needed! These programs regularly distribute blankets to their guests who use them as protection from the cold while homeless. There is a continued need for blankets during the months of January and February. Please bring donations to the church office.



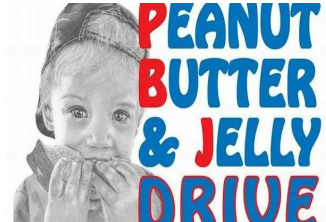
REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

Lunches will be made downstairs in the kitchen on Sunday, January 7, after worship. Plan to lend a hand with this important ministry if you can.



JUST ONE MORE MINISTRY (JOMM)

Coming Soon: Spread the Love - Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive February 11 - 29. February is the month of love! What better way to spread love than to help those in need. Mark your calendars now for the Spread the Love peanut butter and jelly collection this February.



P.S. In case you didn't hear, we just couldn't let another month go by without sharing an alleluia and amen to the number of frozen turkeys collected during this past November's turkey drive: 49! We are still gobbling on about it.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE OF MILWAUKEE Annual Giving Tree

A huge THANK YOU to all who supported the 102 children of Neighborhood House of Milwaukee this Christmas season. Gifts were purchased, wrapped, labeled and distributed. A special shout out to the Benevolence Board elves and Kerrin White for organizing and executing behind the scenes!



UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* EVENTS



Midweek Manna Worship and Fellowship - Starting January 20

Join us on the third Wednesday of each month for a shared meal beginning at 6:00pm and a relaxed worship service at 6:45. This monthly gathering is meant to be a special opportunity to take a little time for God in the midst of our often harried lives.



Celebrating 34 Years with Rick Kieffer



A thank you celebration will be held for Rick Kieffer during and after worship on Sunday, **April 21, 2024**. Be a part of this special day as we look back on Rick's 34 years with NSCC and wish him well on his pending retirement. More details to come in the New Year.

Rejoicing in 75 Years of Ministry

Did you know that North Shore Congregational Church will celebrate it's 75th anniversary in 2024? Presentations and reflections will be shared throughout the year, but mark your calendar for our Midweek Manna service on **May 15**, the 75th anniversary of the first worship service of North Shore Congregational Church in 1949. Then set aside Saturday evening, **October 19**, for our 75th anniversary celebration dinner and events.



**North Shore
Congregational
Church**

FOX POINT, WI






Faith • Community • Service

HEALTH COMMITTEE

ARE YOU 60 OR OLDER? ENRICH YOUR LIFE BY BECOMING A LIFE-LONG LEARNER!

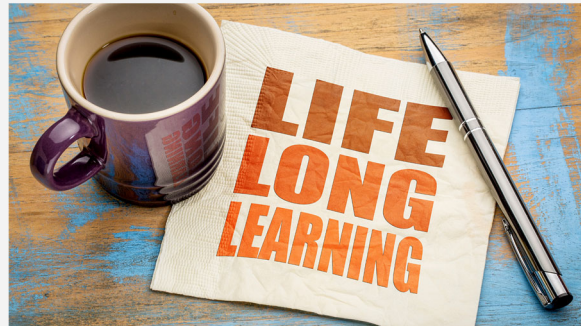
One key indicator of aging well is a commitment to life long learning, according to Vanderbilt Health. It helps us maintain cognitive health and strengthens the brain.

Senior Planet from AARP was created for those 60 and older to help them thrive in a digital world. They offer:

-  Online classes Monday through Friday
-  In person classes
-  Articles
-  Technology tips
-  1:1 tutoring

This impacts 5 areas:

- ⇒ Financial security
- ⇒ Social engagement
- ⇒ Creative expression
- ⇒ Health and wellness
- ⇒ Civic participation



To sign up, simply search for Senior Planet. It is free to join. You do not need to be a member of AARP. The site is sponsored by 17 corporations/organizations. It is ad-free with no posting or hyperlinks allowed. Bloggers may post. Give it a try!

Check out these local sources: [North Shore School for Seniors](http://nsss4s.org) (nsss4s.org), and your public library.





Midweek Manna is evolving as we head into 2024!

Starting on Wednesday, **January 17,**

Midweek Manna services will shift to a monthly offering

(Dinner at 6:00pm, Worship at 6:45pm).

- . We look forward to this new phase of our Manna worship taking shape in 2024.

LOAVES AND FISHES

January 16, 2024



Loaves & fishes
— MINISTRY —

CASSEROLES

DESSERTS

Barsch	Nelson
Bartlett	Hadcock, M
Prayer Group	Donner
Prayer Group	Dowsett
Prayer Group	Schill
Prayer Group	Tornetta
Swenson	Shawger
Moore	Wauck
Ford	Wink
<i>Half recipe, single pan</i>	Wood, Sue
	<i>Single batch ~30</i>

DRIVERS

Osborne	-----	-----
---------	-------	-------

SERVERS

Osborne	Doty-Webb
Barsch	Holmes
Dallman	Holmes
Doty-Webb	TBD



Godly Fun Lesson Schedule

- ✝ **January 7** – What happened after Jesus' birthday? We will answer this question and many more!
- ✝ **January 14** – Prayer – Who can pray? What do we pray about? Where and when can we do it? And why do we do it?
- ✝ **January 21** – Super Prayer of the Bible – We will dive in to the most famous prayer of them all, the Lord's Prayer!
- ✝ **January 28** – Prayer Power! – We will learn about some Bible Superheroes who used the power of prayer.



KidsConnect Scheduling – February 2024

Please fill out this link with your February availability for another fun afternoon for kids in grades 2-6!



Volunteers always appreciated!

Are you interested in helping with our Godly Fun lessons? Ms. Haley leads our lessons and the children always appreciate a helping hand with crafts. Contact Kelsey with any questions!
kelseymolinari@nscchurchwi.org

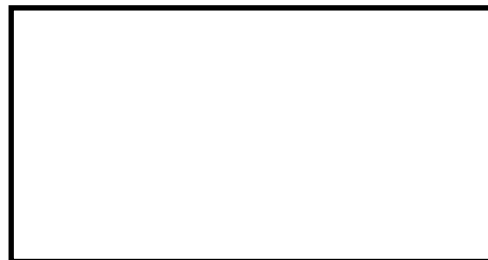


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Rick Kieffer	RLKieffer1@gmail.com		414-698-6252
Kelsey Molinari	KelseyMolinari@NSCChurchWI.org	x103	
Mike Fugarino	MichaelFugarino@NSCChurchWI.org	x105	



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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

Kerrin White, Office Manager

Rick Kieffer, Music Director

Kesley Molinari, Children's Ministries

Mike Fugarino, Custodian

Meike Pampalone and Heide Hongsermeier, Organists

Becca Hall, and Haley Krueger, Children's Ministry Assistants

Jay Hall, and Megan Hall, Sunday Custodians