

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.

December 2025

“A Few Thoughts On.....”

Giving Thanks



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Sunday Worship

10:00am Worship
(Sanctuary/YouTube)

10:15am Music & Movement
and Godly Fun
(September - Early June)

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Congregational Church,
Fox Point, WI

Vol. 43 Issue 12



Dear Friends,

Towards the end of 2024, our Board of Christian Enrichment chose to pursue a ‘Sharing Vitality Grant’ - a funding project through the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches supporting churches engaged in ministries focused on reaching out to the community in unique and meaningful ways.

Over the course of the last 12 months, that initial inspiration, combined with funding through the Vitality Grant as well as the NSCC Growth Committee, has become the Power Up Series. Throughout the first few months of 2026, we will host a three-part speaker series designed to support parents and children in this complex world of technology, tension, and declining mental health.

We are very excited about this opportunity to reach out to our neighbors, and I am deeply grateful to the members of BCE who have worked tirelessly to pull this together. Now, with just a matter of weeks before things kick off, we need your help to get the word out!

There will soon be posters printed and ready to be displayed at your local coffee shop, salon, or restaurant. There is a Facebook event ready to be shared with your family and friends. There will be cards available for you to give to your neighbors. The next page summarizes the series and the QR code links to the Facebook Event (where more details will be shared as we go).

Please take a look at this upcoming event, share word with anyone in your life who might be interested, and help us make the most of this opportunity to be a blessing to our neighbors throughout the North Shore.

In Faith, *Marty*



Parenting in the Age of Anxiety, Big Emotions & Technology

January 11, February 21, March 1, 2026

Free to Attend, Open to All, Childcare Provided

Sunday, January 11, 2026 - 2:30pm

Erin Walsh: Boundaries without Battles

Screens are everywhere - and so is the advice about how to manage them. Join Erin Walsh for an interactive presentation that uses brain science, stories, and humor to support your child's digital wellbeing.



Saturday, February 21, 2026 - 2:30pm

Eileen Kennedy-Moore, PhD: Friendship Skills for Kids

Creator of "Kids Ask Dr. Friendtastic," a weekly, five-minute podcast, where she answers questions from children about making and keeping friends. Her blog, Growing Friendships, on Psychology Today, has over 5 million views, and her TEDx talk, Conflict Resolution on the Playground: Is It Bullying or Ordinary Meanness?, has over 800,000 views.



Sunday, March 1, 2026—2:30pm

Charlene Gaebler-Uhing, MD: The Teenage Brain

Dr. Gaebler-Uhing will review key social, emotional, physical and brain development of teens and identify how these changes are linked to the emergence of anxiety and depression. She will review strategies and resources for effective parenting of teens, the importance of healthy lifestyles and stress management in the development of resiliency. In addition, Dr. Gaebler-Uhing will provide key indicators when professional care is indicated for teen anxiety and depression.



North Shore Congregational Church
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(414) 352-6123; www.NSCChurchWI.org

FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

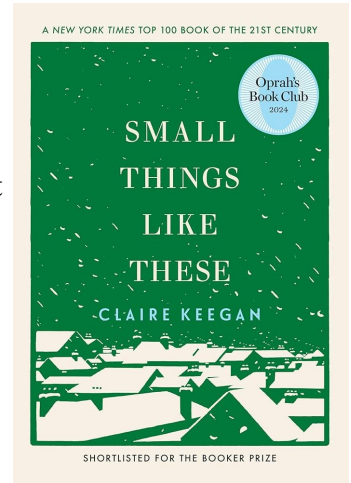
Tuesday Morning Book Group

The Advent selection for the Tuesday book group is *Small Things Like These* by award-winning author Claire Keegan. This short novel was named one of the New York Times's 100 Best Books of the 21st Century and The Irish Times Best Book of the 21st Century. It was also shortlisted for the prestigious Booker Prize.

On Amazon we read, "An international bestseller, *Small Things Like These* is a deeply affecting story of hope, quiet heroism, and empathy from one of our most critically lauded and iconic writers."

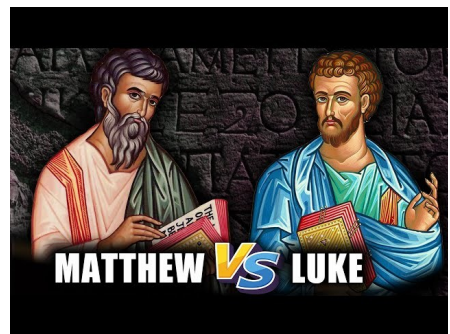
Because this is a short novel, we ask that you read the entire book before our first discussion on December 2. Each week, we will explore how one of the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are developed and portrayed in this story.

Please let Lizz Loder know if you'd like her to order a copy for you. Email her at lizzloder@yahoo.com. Looking forward to more spirited conversation as we read together, *Small Things Like These*.



Thursday Bible Study: 9:30am

The Thursday morning Bible study group meets in the library at 9:30. We are just beginning a comparison study of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Come and join in the discussion. All are welcome – we hope to see you there!



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

The Longest Night

A service of Lament and Hope...
...of Reaching Towards the Light.

Sunday, December 21
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

*For those whose joy of the season is
sometimes interrupted by hardship,
disappointment, and grief...*

*Join us as we look
towards the promise of
Emmanuel - God with us.*

All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



- * Hark! The Herald Angels Sing... Join us for a blend of music and readings that draw us into the angel voices that echoed throughout the Christmas story. Our annual **Music Sunday** worship gathering is set to go on **Sunday, December 7!**
- * Be sure to be here for worship on **Sunday, December 14**, as our Children's Ministry shares a **Christmas Pageant** during the worship service. They have been working towards this day since mid-November and hope you will be with us to enjoy the day!
- * Join us on **Wednesday, December 17**, for a special **Christmas Midweek Manna** gathering focused on the stories and singing of many of our beloved Christmas carols. We will gather for dinner at 6pm, with worship starting at approximately 6:45.
- * Be a part of our annual **Carol-Sing** prior to worship on **Sunday, December 21**. Join us, starting at 9:30am, and select your favorite hymns for us to share as we get closer and closer to Christmas day.
- * We are very much looking forward to hosting our second **Longest Night worship** service on **Sunday, December 22, at 7pm**. Postcards will be available for you to share this opportunity with your friends and family. We hope you will be a part of this meaningful night!
- * Our **Christmas Eve candlelight** services will follow their normal schedule of **4pm and 9pm**. There will be pre-service music for the 9pm gathering beginning at 8:30pm.
- * Our **Christmas Sunday worship, December 28** at 10am, will be a full service of **Lessons and Carols** as we spend our time working through the whole of the Christmas story while singing many of our favorite carols.

*Wreathed in Love: A Ladies'
Advent Luncheon
Celebrating the Season of Expectation*



**Saturday, December 6 • 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
North Shore Congregational Church**

You are warmly invited to gather 'round the wreath to remember the gift of Christ and the unending love that encircles us all. Let's step into the season together with a light lunch, fellowship and faith-filled moments. You won't want to miss the rousing games of BINGO!

Pay It Forward

Bring new items to be donated to the **HOPE Network for Single Mothers** and get one ticket for your chance to win a fabulous basket of goodies!

RSVP

Call the church office at (414) 352-6123, email office@nscchurchwi.org or find the sign-up sheet at church below the bulletin board in the hallway.

Please RSVP by Friday, November 28th.

Items Needed for HOPE Network for Single Mothers

Diapers (newborn, sizes 4, 5, 6), Pull-ups (sizes 4t, 5t, 6t), Wipes, New Diaper Bags, Pack 'n Plays, Swaddling Blankets, Baby Carrier Wraps, Teethers, Natural Baby Body Care items (body wash, shampoo, lotion, ointment), Gender Neutral Onesies, Socks, Receiving Blankets.

Only unopened, new items please.

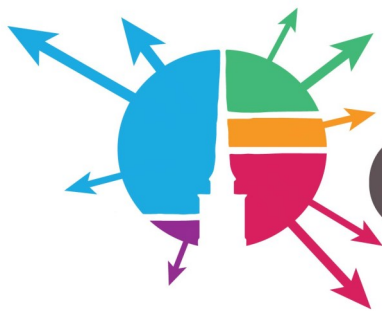
Many thanks to the NSCC Soupers for sponsoring the meal for this event!

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>30 Advent Begins 10:00am Worship with Rick Ruenzel preaching 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>1 9:00am AI Adventure (Upstairs Classroom) 9:00am PEO 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon</p>	<p>2 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 10:00am Book Group (Library) 1:00pm LX Club 5:30pm Benevolence Board (Friendship Lounge) 6:00pm BCE (Youth Room) 6:00pm Deacons (Large Upstairs Classroom and Zoom) 6:00pm Stewardship Board (Small Upstairs Classroom) 6:00pm Trustees (Library)</p>
<p>7 Communion 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Music Sunday Worship 11:00am Advent Fest Fellowship 12:00pm Repairers of the Breach - Bag and Drop by noon</p>	<p>8 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon</p>	<p>9 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 10:00am Book Group (Library) 1:00pm LX Club</p>
<p>14 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship with Children's Pageant 11:00am Congregational Budget Meeting followed by Fellowship 11:10am Memoir Group</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon</p>	<p>16 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 10:00am Book Group (Library) 1:00pm LX Club 4:00pm Loaves and Fishes 7:00pm Council</p>
<p>21 9:00am Chancel Choir 9:30am Carol-Sing 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 7:00pm Longest Night Worship</p>	<p>22 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon</p>	<p>23 1:00pm LX Club</p>
<p>28 10:00am Lessons and Carols Worship 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>29 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon</p>	<p>30 1:00pm LX Club</p>

2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 5:00pm Kobylinski-Vickery Rehearsal 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 5:00pm Kobylinski-Vickery Wedding 7:30pm RR Historical Society	6 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:30am OEAnon Special P-Meyer - Friendship Lounge 11:00am Ladies' Advent Luncheon
10 8:30am Quilters	11 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 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 6:00pm Midweek Manna Meal 6:45pm Midweek Manna Worship	18 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	19 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	20 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
24 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 8:30pm Pre-service Music 9:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	25	26 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	27 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
31	1	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



Beyond Our Walls

Turkey Drive Success!

What a success! From approximately 50 turkeys two years ago, to 60-some in 2024, we leapt to providing over 100 turkeys for Just One More Ministry in 2025! Many thanks to those who helped spearhead the event, and to all who contributed to its tremendous success!



Just One More Ministry

Please continue to donate non-perishable food items for Just One More Ministry Food Bank. Food insecurity continues to be an issue in the Milwaukee area so consider giving to this organization as the holiday season begins! Peanut butter and plastic bags are always a necessity. If you donate plastic bags, please remember they should be usable grocery type bags (not sleeves from newspapers). Thank you!



If you are able to be a driver to Just One More Ministry to deliver the donated items, please email Sarah Wood at swood80@wi.rr.com.

Repairers of the Breach



In light of the Advent Fest activities, December's Bag Lunch Express for Repairers of the Breach will be a 'make and drop' format. Please sign up to make as many bag lunches as you'd like and drop them at the church by noon on Sunday, December 7. Lunches will then be delivered to Repairers on Monday. Scan the QR code to sign up.



Soles for Jesus



We continue to collect shoes for Soles for Jesus (bins can be found inside the south entrance). Consider donating to this worthy cause as you clean out closets this fall!

Neighborhood House Giving Tree



Get into the Holiday Spirit by giving a gift to a child who may not receive gifts this year! The Giving Tree gift donation runs 11/23-12/7! Please stop by the Narthex to choose an ornament from the tree or scan the QR code to sign up via Sign-Up Genius to purchase a gift for a child. We will be partnering with Neighborhood House again this year!



Christmas Special Offering

The Christmas Special Offering will be going to Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge. At Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge, the mission is to foster a community of compassion and friendship by providing basic necessities such as clothing and hygiene products to the homeless and those who need support in Milwaukee and the surrounding communities. Keep a look out in the mail for this special offering in December!



St. Ben's is Seeking Volunteers

St. Ben's will be opening their doors again to the homeless seeking safe overnight shelter from December 1 - March 31, 2026. The Warming Center hosts both men and women; the men in the meal hall and women in the Gathering Space. Bathrooms are provided adjacent to each space allowing guests to attend to their hygiene needs.

Volunteers are needed. Duties can include setting up cots, preparing warm drinks or serving a light meal. Shifts generally are from 6pm - 9pm. "By then, most guests are asleep," said one volunteer. "They're exhausted after spending the day outside in the cold. Once they're inside somewhere safe and warm, they're ready for rest." Those interested can contact Corday Sterling, 414-509-8463 or csterling@thecapuchins.org.

LOAVES AND FISHES

December 16, 2025



Loaves & fishes
— MINISTRY —

CASSEROLES

DESSERTS

Gregory	Arnold
Shawger	Fleck
Slagle	Krosnosky
Slagle	Lemorande
Tollefsen	Nelson
Weiss	Schill
White, S.	Wink
Book Group	Zganjar
Book Group	Holmes
Book Group	Navarro
Book Group	Schuyler
<i>Half recipe, single pan</i>	<i>Single batch ~30 pieces</i>

DRIVERS

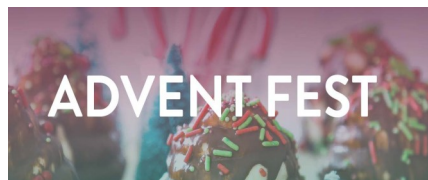
Osborne	Holmes	-----
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SERVERS

Holmes	Slagle
Holmes	Slagle
Barsch	Slagle
Gregory	Weiss
Weber	Tollefsen
Weber	Tollefsen

TAKE NOTE...

Stay after our Music Sunday worship on Sunday, December 7, for our annual Advent Fest celebration. Great food provided by our Fellowship Committee, crafts for the kids, and the warmth of sharing time with our church family is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit!



The next congregational meeting will take place after worship on Sunday, December 14. The purpose of this meeting will be to act on the proposed budget for 2026. Copies of the budget have been distributed by email and paper copies are available for pick-up in the church office.



Calling all knitters! Are you ready to put your talent to good use? We are looking to re-stock our prayer shawl supply. This longstanding and meaningful ministry in the life of our church is in need of a boost, as we have exhausted our supply of shawls. Look for a copy of the knitting instructions on the bulletin board. If you are interested in helping, or know someone who would, please contact Rev. Marty!



Please note that the office will be closes **December 23-25, and then again on December 31 and January 1**. If you need any assistance during those weeks, please be sure to touch base with Julia in advance of those dates.

Marty will be away December 27-January 5. He will be available by cell phone in the case of emergency, but will be otherwise unavailable during that time.



Advent Craft Fest - December 7th (after the 10am service)

Our annual Advent Fest meal and crafts will take place right after worship. Our craft leader extraordinaire for the past several years, Ms. Laurie, will lead the kids through making wonderful crafts and ornaments to treasure for many years.

Children's Christmas Pageant – December 14 – 10AM

Following the adorable return of the children telling the story of Christmas last year, we will share the story of Jesus' birth again this December. Be sure to be there on December 14th during the 10am service! There will be shepherds, angels, and more as the children tell the tale of Christmas.

Christmas Eve Services - 4pm and 9pm

Join as we celebrate with music, candles, and the powerful story of Christmas. Worship bags in the narthex will be full of Christmas fun for the kids.

No Godly Fun - December 28

Due to the holiday break, there will be no Godly Fun during worship on December 28. The worship bags in the narthex will be fully stocked with Christmas cheer during the Lessons and Carols service.

Winter Break KidsConnect Pajama Party

Keep an eye out for a December date to wear your best Christmas jammies to church for an afternoon of fun and fellowship for kids in grades 2-6.



Ladies' Advent Brunch - December 6 (11:00am)

Music Sunday Worship with Communion - December 7

AdventFest - December 7 (after worship)

Children's Christmas Pageant - December 14 (during worship)

Congregational Budget Meeting - December 14 (after worship)

Pre-Service Carol-Sing - December 21 (9:30am)

Longest Night Worship - December 21 (7:00pm)

Christmas Eve Worship - December 24 (4pm and 9pm)

Lessons and Carols Worship - December 28

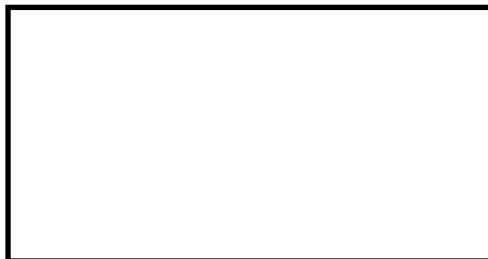
Please continue to watch upcoming weekly notes and newsletters for information about these events and more!

414-352-6123

North Shore Congregational Church

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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

Kelsey Molinari, Children's Ministries

Trinny Schumann, Music Director

Haley Krueger, Social Media Coordinator and Children's Ministry Assistant

Jay Hall, Walker Ford and Morgan Pilling, Sunday Custodians

Julia Holmes, Office Administrator

Justin Montello, Maintenance

Heide Hongsermeier, Organist