

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.

April 2026

“A Few Thoughts On.....”

The New Life of Spring



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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. 44 Issue 4



Dear Friends,

I saw it just yesterday - the tiny green shoots of those first plants that emerge in a small garden in front of our house. It’s only been a few days since that March storm brought a decent amount of snow to our area (and snow measured in feet just 100 miles north of us!) but, sure enough, as those lingering flakes of winter melt away, the burgeoning birth of spring comes peaking through. It’s far from immediate, and there are likely to be a few moments in which those signs of winter pop back up here and there, but those tiny green shoots draw my heart and mind back to the anticipation of what’s to come.

I am the first to admit that I am not one of those Wisonsinites that ‘needs’ winter. I put up with it just fine, but its end is something to which I look forward with great anticipation. The darkened days of January and February seem to grow longer and longer for me, and adding frigid temps and snow to the mix simply exaggerates those effects. So, those signs of spring are something that truly enrich my spirit. As the days grow a bit longer and those frigid temps fade, the darkness of winter gives way to those green shoots peeking out of the ground as a reminder of the new life—the fresh beginning—that has been simmering thereunder throughout all of those months of waiting and anticipation. It is a sight I love to see. It is also, however, an apt reminder of this faith to which we cling in each moment of our lives.

There is no doubt that life is filled with its moments, and even seasons, of darkness. The cold of life's vicissitudes is undeniable, at times, and the shadows of life's pain can leave us clamoring for some light amidst the trials. Sometimes it is short-lived, while at other times it seems to drag on like one of those particular Wisconsin winters that refuses to release its grasp! Beneath the surface of that strife, however - hidden by the darkness and cold of the moment - there is something at work! Like those plants readying themselves beneath the snow to peek through when winter fades, there is fresh new life building itself beneath the surface amidst even our darkest winters of life.

Paul tells us that, 'God works in all things for those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.' (Romans 8:28) This is not to say that God is 'causing' the darkness that we know, nor that our difficulties are somehow manufactured by God to lead us to something new. It is, however, an echo of that fundamental promise that, even in the darkness of life's winters, God's faithful hand is at work to bring to us new life and new beginnings. No matter the cold of the moment, there is hope for new life in God's work beneath it all!

In these coming weeks, we will all be blessed to enjoy more and more of that blossoming newness of spring. Shoots will turn to stems, buds will turn to flowers, and the cold brown dirt of winter will soon be bathed in the technicolor artistry of a Wisconsin spring. I want to encourage you, however, to not be suddenly surprised by the spring that has sprung, but to be attuned, in these coming weeks, to the springing thereof. Don't wait to stop and smell the roses when they've bloomed. Take the time to watch it happen!

There is great hope in the darkness of winter that spring will come, and there is great beauty in the spring when those colors abound. Between those moments, however, rests a fundamental reminder of the power of God's creation to rebuild anew from each winter season to the next. I encourage you to take it in, to embrace that burgeoning life, and to allow that process to be a reminder to you, as it is so often for me, of the unfettered power of God to bring new life out of even our coldest winters.

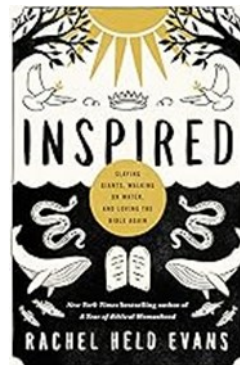
In Faith, *Marty*

FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday Morning Book Group

The Tuesday Book Group will be reading *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, And Loving the Bible Again* by the late Rachel Held Evans.

The author's website says, "New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans invites readers on a journey of rediscovery as she explores the magic of the Bible, engaging the old, familiar stories in new ways that honor the past and enlighten the present. Drawing upon recent scholarship and literary analysis, Evans creatively retells our favorite Bible stories, explaining their contexts and possible interpretations, and then connects these ancient stories to our present-day ones. Readers are invited to fall in love with Scripture all over again without checking their intellect--or their imaginations--at the door."



This book is available in paperback, Kindle, and audiobook formats from Amazon. We meet every Tuesday at 9:00am via Zoom and at 10:00am at church, typically in Friendship Lounge, and look forward to having you join the conversation!

Thursday Bible Study: 9:30am

Thursday morning Bible study will resume after Easter (April 8) at 9:30am in the library. At that meeting we will discuss the next book of the Bible to be studied. We welcome all who are interested in discussing the Bible!

Memoir/Writing Group

The Memoir/Writing Group continues through the spring with planned meetings on April 12 and May 17. The group meets after worship upstairs and all are always welcome to join to listen, learn, or contribute to the group.

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



Looking ahead...
Holy Week at NSCC
March 29 -
April 5, 2026

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday – March 29

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem
Stay after worship for our annual *Eggstravaganza Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt*.

Maundy Thursday – April 2

Our remembrance of the Lord's Supper will follow the pattern we have enjoyed in recent years as we gather around the table and share in worship, fellowship and food beginning at **6pm**. Gathering in worship, sharing in a light meal, and breaking bread with one another, we will be reminded of what it was like for those who ate with Jesus on that very night he was betrayed.

Good Friday - April 3

We will gather at **2pm**, as we have for many years, to worship and reflect upon the crucifixion. The service will end with the tolling of the bell at 3pm.

Easter Sunday - April 5

We will celebrate the joy and wonder of the resurrection with two services (**9am and 11am**). Both services will be identical, including the choir, brass, and an atmosphere of joy in the celebration of the Risen Lord.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Fellowship With a Purpose!

April 19, 2026

Join us after worship on Sunday, April 19, as we gather for a meal provided by our Fellowship Committee while also creating bags of snacks for Family Sharing of Ozaukee. Family Sharing of Ozaukee places these bags in the backpacks of children who might otherwise not have such food to eat throughout the day. We look forward to this great opportunity to nourish both body and soul!



*April 26, After Worship
In the Church Library*

Stewardship is Hosting Planned Giving Overview

You might recall our recent “Joy of Giving” campaign this past fall. As in earlier years, this campaign was to ask the congregation for pledges of their Estimates of Giving (EOG’s), which is the primary source for funding our church’s annual operating budget. Building on this theme, the Stewardship Board will be hosting an information session to explore ways you can contribute *outside* the EOG framework. NSCC member Mark Plichta will discuss ‘Planned Giving’, ways to make contributions from different financial assets – retirement funds, stocks, annuities, and trusts – and various approaches that can be used to donate these assets.

Confirmation Sunday *May 3, 2026*



Our confirmands have been hard at work for the past 9 months exploring their faith, digging into church life, and growing in their relationship with God. Please plan to join us as we celebrate with these confirmands in worship on Sunday, May 3. A special reception will follow our traditional dove release at the close of worship.

NSCC Annual Meeting *May 24, 2026*

Due to scheduling conflicts throughout the rest of the month, our Annual Meeting of the church will be held after worship on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Please plan to stay with us for this important meeting if you are at all able.



Celebrate the Year in Worship and Fellowship *Sunday, June 7, 2026*

Join us for a celebratory worship service, rejoicing in the blessings of the 2025-2026 program year, and then stay to enjoy fellowship and a few treats with your fellow members of NSCC!

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
29 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Palm Sunday Worship 11:00am Eggstravaganza Brunch and Fellowship	30 10:00am Sanctuary window cleaning (interior only) 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon	31 8:15am Yoga (Yoga Room) 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Yoga Room) 10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club
5 9:00am Easter Worship 11:00am Easter Worship	6 Office Closed 8:00am AI Adventure Day Camp 9:00am PEO 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon	7 8:15am Yoga (Yoga Room) 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Yoga Room) 10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge) 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)
12 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship with Rebekah Barsch preaching 11:00am Fellowship 11:10am Memoir/Writers' Group 4:00pm KidsConnect	13 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon	14 8:15am Yoga (Yoga Room) 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Yoga Room) 10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club
19 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship	20 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon	21 8:15am Yoga (Yoga Room) 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Yoga Room) 10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 4:00pm Confirmation at L&F 4:00pm Loaves and Fishes 7:00pm Council
26 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:00pm Planned Giving Overview	27 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/AI-Anon	28 8:15am Yoga (Yoga Room) 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Yoga Room) 10:00am Book Group (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 8:15am Yoga (Yoga Room) 8:30am Thursday AA 9:30am Yoga (Yoga Room) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship and Meal	3 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 2:00pm Good Friday Worship 7:30pm RR Historical Society	4 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:30am OEAnon Special P-Meyer - Friendship Lounge
8	9 8:15am Yoga (Yoga Room) 8:30am Thursday AA 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Yoga Room) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	10 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	11 8:30am Confirmation at JOMM 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
15 Newsletter Deadline 8:00am Quilters 6:00pm Midweek Manna Meal 6:45pm Midweek Manna Worship	16 8:15am Yoga (Yoga Room) 8:30am Thursday AA 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Yoga Room) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	17 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	18 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
22	23 8:15am Yoga (Yoga Room) 8:30am Thursday AA 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Yoga Room) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	24 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	25 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge
29	30 8:15am Yoga (Yoga Room) 8:30am Thursday AA 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Yoga Room) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	1 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 7:30pm RR Historical Society	2 8:00am Quilters (field trip) 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:30am OEAnon Special P-Meyer - Friendship Lounge



Beyond Our Walls

Spring Benevolence/Fellowship Event

We will be having a combined Fellowship/Benevolence Event right after church on Sunday, April 19th! We will be stuffing bags for “Bags in Backpacks” through Family Sharing of Ozaukee County. The “Bags in Backpacks” program provides food for kids through the weekends in place of school meal programs. Join us in Fellowship Hall to stuff the bags and enjoy a yummy meal!



Just One More Ministry



We continue to need drivers to Just One More Ministry on a bi-weekly basis! 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.

NSCC Mission Reserve Fund Grant

The NSCC Mission Reserve Fund has Grant availability up to \$5,000 for local organizations. Please see Bruce Loder if you have a group that you think would benefit from applying for our NSCC Grant!

Repairers of the Breach



Our April Bag Lunch Express falls on Easter this year, so we are using our Bag and Drop model. Please sign up to make some lunches at home (sign up for 5, 10, 20...) and then drop them at the church anytime on Easter Morning. To sign up, please scan the QR code or use the link provided in the weekly email.



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 winter!

LOAVES AND FISHES

April 21, 2026



Loaves & fishes
— MINISTRY —

CASSEROLES

DESSERTS

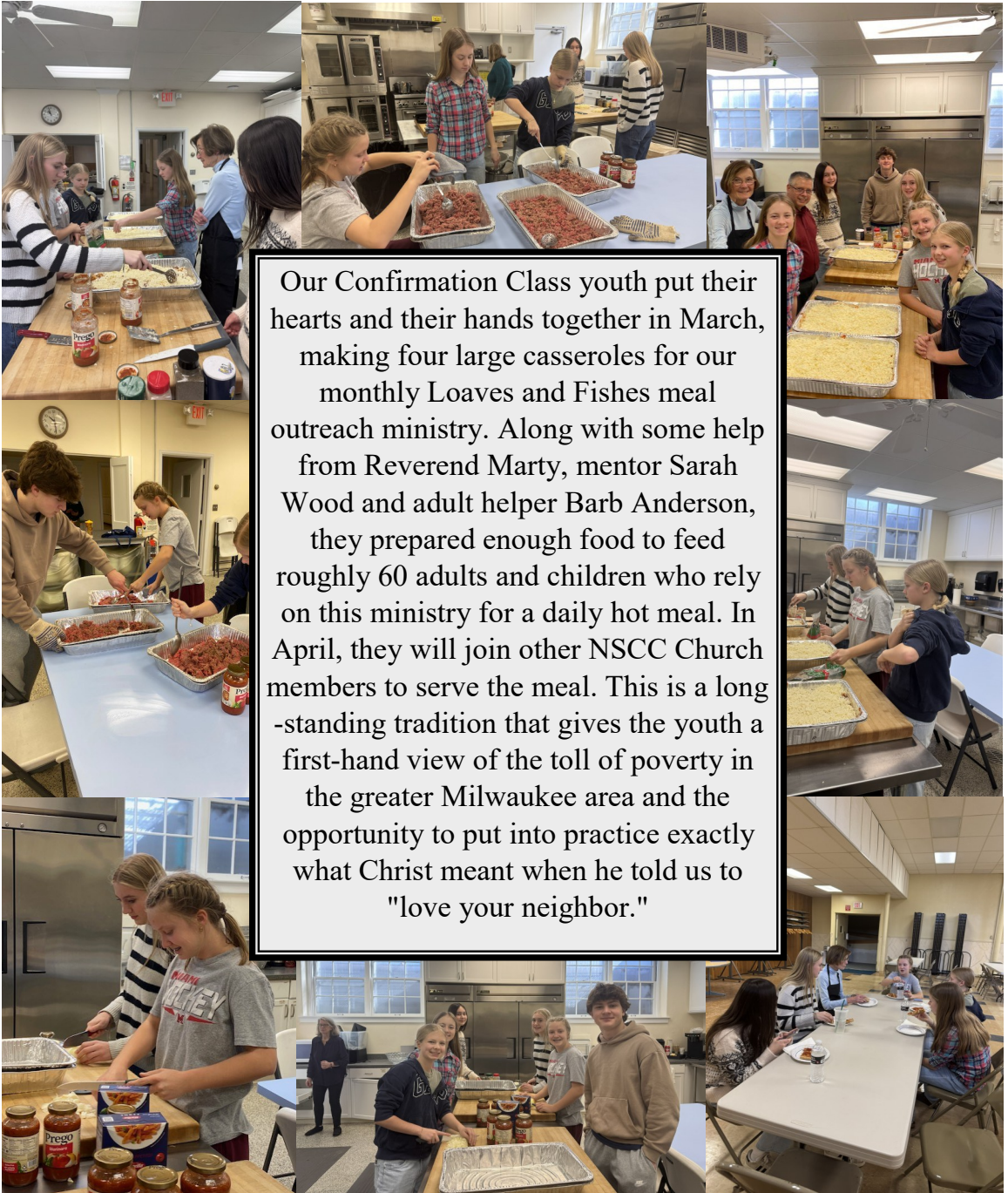
Barsch	Donner
Dowsett	Fleck
Gregory	Krosnosky
Scharnweber	Lemorande
Schimpf	Nelson
Weiss	Schill
Wink	Weber
Lange	Zganjar
White, S.	Callaway
	Ford
<i>Single pan</i>	<i>Single batch ~30 pieces</i>

DRIVERS

Osborne	White, S.	-----
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SERVERS

Confirmation	Scharnweber
Confirmation	Dallman
Confirmation	Osborne
Confirmation	White
Confirmation	Scharnweber
Confirmation	Schimpf



Our Confirmation Class youth put their hearts and their hands together in March, making four large casseroles for our monthly Loaves and Fishes meal outreach ministry. Along with some help from Reverend Marty, mentor Sarah Wood and adult helper Barb Anderson, they prepared enough food to feed roughly 60 adults and children who rely on this ministry for a daily hot meal. In April, they will join other NSCC Church members to serve the meal. This is a long-standing tradition that gives the youth a first-hand view of the toll of poverty in the greater Milwaukee area and the opportunity to put into practice exactly what Christ meant when he told us to "love your neighbor."



April Godly Fun - What Happened After Easter

What comes next? The kids will learn about the events that came after Easter morning from the road to Emmaus to the Ascension of Jesus.



KidsConnect - April 12

Join us on April 12th from 4-6pm for a fun afternoon of games, crafts, and pizza! KidsConnect is for kids in grades 2-6 and friends are always welcome. RSVP to Kelsey at kelseymolinari@nscchurchwi.org.



Parable Party VBS

July 6-10 (9a-12p)

North Shore Congregational Church

For all kids who have completed k5-5th grade

Each day we will learn a parable taught by Jesus and invite the kids to join the party!

VBS is open to kids of the church and community. A \$40 registration fee per child covers the cost of all supplies and healthy snacks for the week. Contact Kelsey with any questions.

Register here:

<https://form.jotform.com/260764370129155>



Pay via Realm or Check:



WCA Summer Camp, July 12-18



Join the Wisconsin Congregational Association for their annual, transformative summer camp. Held at Mt. Morris Camp & Retreat Center near Wautoma, WI, this experience is for kids who have completed grades 3-12 and features all of the summer camp favorites (swimming, crafts, games) plus biblical discussions, devotionals, prayer, faith-based activities and more! Brochures are available from Kelsey or more detailed information can be found: [https://](https://www.wiscongregational.net/registration)

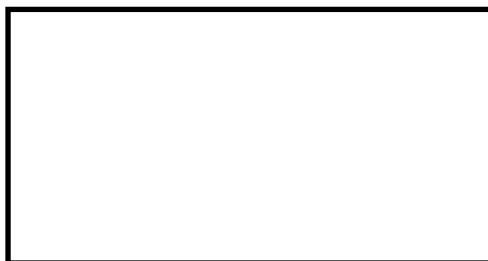
www.wiscongregational.net/registration

414-352-6123

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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