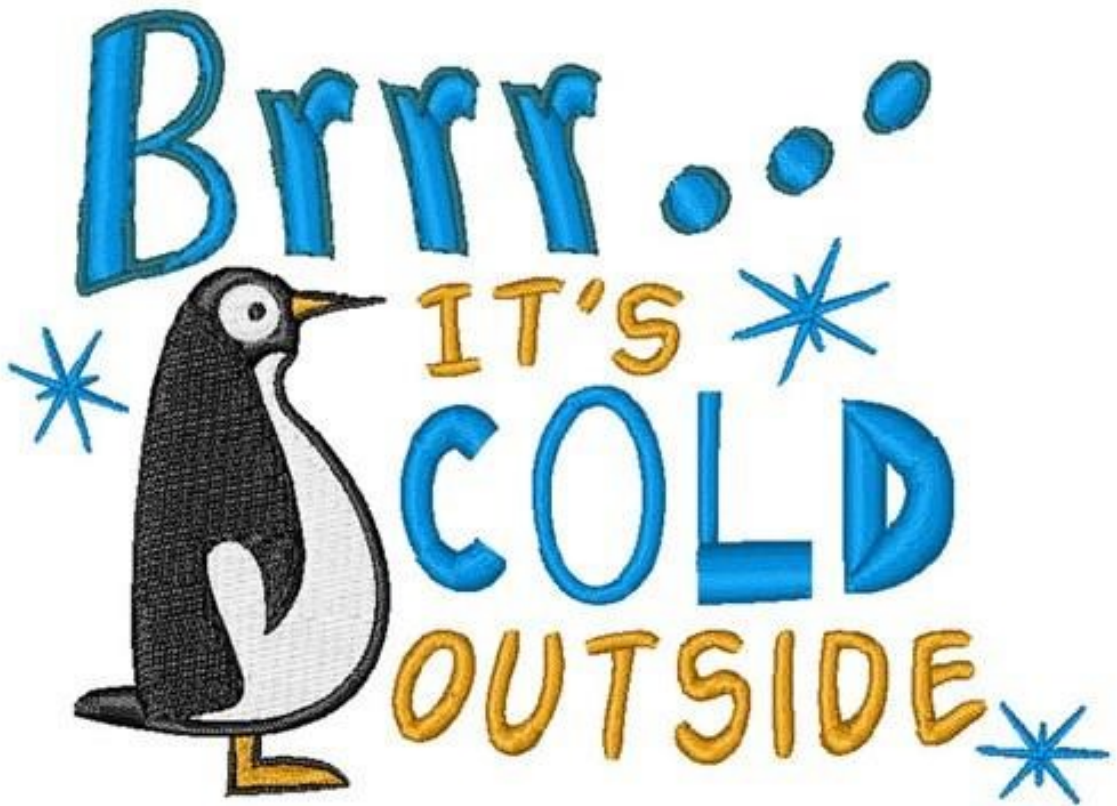


North Shore Church News

FAITH • COMMUNITY • SERVICE



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

February 2026

“A Few Thoughts On.....”

‘Hearing’ God



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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 2



Dear Friends,

Whenever we consider the question of prayer, particularly the idea of seeking God’s guidance or direction in our lives, we can quickly find ourselves wrestling with the notion of what it means to ‘hear’ God. The reality is that the commonplace experience for most of us doesn’t measure up to the stories we often see in Scripture. Moses and the burning bush... Gabriel visiting Mary... Saul being struck blind by God... in ways both big and small, there is a distinctiveness and clarity to the ‘voice of God’ throughout the biblical narrative that often causes us to wonder what it means for us to know that voice in our lives.

While there are some who have such mountaintop experiences, most of us are left struggling to find that ‘still, small voice’ of God in the midst of the deafening noise that echoes around us. So, how do we know? How can we tell when it is God and when it is not? How do we know if/when we are truly hearing God?

The answer, as is true for so much in our faith, is not as clear as we’d like it to be. It starts with practice - the more we talk to God (prayer), the more we can begin to discern God amidst those prayers. There is also the basic litmus test of the values and teachings of our faith. If

what we are ‘hearing’ is not in line with what we see in the preaching, teaching and example of Jesus, it’s likely that some other ‘voices’ are chiming in.

The other more subtle test I’ve found myself valuing over the years, however, is the question of self-affirmation. In it’s simplest form, the more things agree with my pre-disposed sense of what I think/believe/hope for/want, the less likely it is that it is the voice of God I’m hearing. The more I agree with what I’m sensing in my prayer, the more likely it is that it’s me answering that prayer myself. Rarely (if ever) do we get it all right! Rarely (if ever) does God’s voice mirror our own. God’s voice will challenge us, critique us, and even at times convict us, and if that’s missing from the conversation, we have to wonder if God’s is the voice being heard.

I raise this particular point, as we continue into 2026, because the risk of self-affirmation seems to grow by the day. We live in a culture in which so much of the noise around us is shaped to intentionally mirror what we already think. We are surrounded by platforms and devices that are specifically designed to agree with us so that we will keep coming back. And it is increasingly the cultural norm that people choose what they watch, what they listen to, who they spend time with, and even where they live, based on this desire to be surrounded by those mirrored voices in our lives.

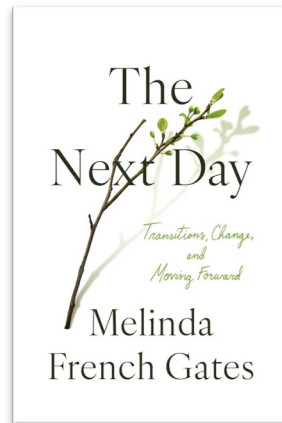
We cannot let that happen to prayer. We cannot let that happen to our exploration of Scripture. And we cannot let that happen in our faith! It is far from a perfect rule. My experience (and that of many I’ve known throughout the years), however, is that the true voice of God in our lives is more often than not going to disagree/question/stretch or in some other way push us beyond the preconceptions we bring to the conversation. It can be extraordinarily difficult to discern the true voice of God amidst all the noise. If the voice we are hearing is simply echoing what we already think, however, we likely need to keep looking!

In Faith, *Marty*

FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday Morning Book Group

The Tuesday Book Group is currently reading *The Next Day: Transitions, Change, and Moving Forward* by Melinda French Gates. In the book jacket we read, “Transitions are moments in which we step out of our familiar surroundings and into a new landscape—a space that, for many people, is shadowed by confusion, fear, and indecision. *The Next Day* accompanies readers as they cross that space, offering guidance on how to make the most of the time between an ending and a new beginning and how to move forward into the next day when the ground beneath you is shifting. The stories she tells illuminate universal lessons about loosening the bonds of perfectionism, helping friends navigate times of crisis, embracing uncertainty, and more.”



Please join us as we read and discuss *The Next Day: Transitions, Change, and Moving Forward* by Melinda French Gates. We meet on Tuesdays at 9:00am via Zoom and at 10:00am in the church library. New voices are always welcome! Please let Lizz Loder know if you'd like her to order a copy for you. Email her at lizzloder@yahoo.com.

Thursday Bible Study: 9:30am

Our Bible study group meets on Thursday morning at 9:30. We are currently comparing and contrasting the stories presented in Mark, Matthew and Luke. Each Gospel writer has his own perspectives on the story of Jesus and although there are similarities between the three stories, the differences stand out. They are telling us something about the early church and the communities that heard these tales of Jesus' life and death. We hope you will join us in our study. All are welcome!



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

FROM YOUR HEALTH COMMITTEE

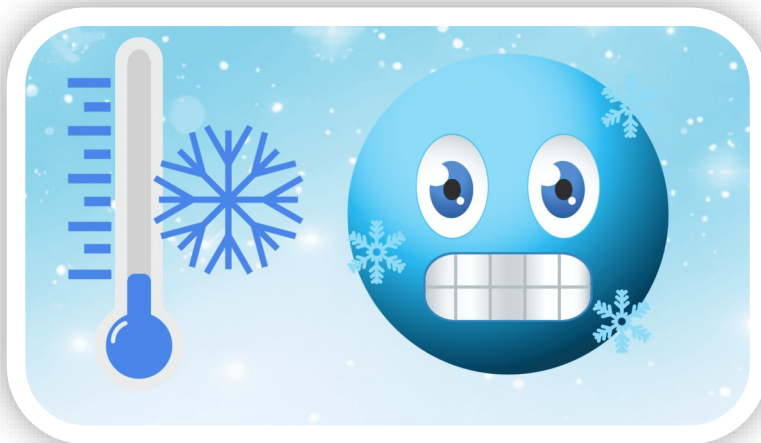
The season of winter may not be everyone's favorite but take a look on the brighter side: Trying some of these things can divert your attention from negative thoughts about colder and darker days:

List a few things that you look forward to about winter — the beauty of a glistening snowfall covering the bare lawns and trees; the colorful flames and warmth of a fire; glowing candles; the crisp air..

Bring more warmth to your daily routine — spread out a warm comforter for your bed and cozy throws for your reading chair and sofa; gather your favorite sweaters and scarves; switch from a cold to a warm breakfast - try a new flavor of coffee or tea..

Bundle up and head outside. People who live in northern latitudes say ‘There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.’ Learn to dress in layers: a thin base layer top and bottom for insulation, then other layers as appropriate to your comfort and the weather. Be sure to wear shoes or boots with non-slip soles, and you may find walking poles helpful. Take a brisk walk — breathe in the fresh crisp air; notice things around you — be aware of what you see, hear, smell. Returning to the warmth of your home, you will be rewarded with feeling revitalized both physically and mentally.

Book: “How to Winter” by Kari Liebowitz, PhD.



Continuing This Month...



The *Power Up Community Speakers Series* is a group of three lectures on topics of interest to Parents of School Aged Children.

Please join us for our second speaker, **Eileen Kennedy-Moore, PhD—AKA, Dr. Friendtastic.**

Dr. Kennedy-Moore is the second in a lineup of three dynamic speakers. Please share this information with friends and join us for this special kid-focused presentation on February 21.

Eileen Kennedy-Moore, Phd. at Power Up
Saturday afternoon, February 21, 2:30-4:00 PM
North Shore Congregational Church
7330 N. Santa Monica Boulevard, Fox Point

All are welcome! ***It is free!***

Child Care provided for infants and toddlers. *Elementary and Middle School children encouraged to attend - this event is for you!*

*Registration appreciated, not required. Text/call Trish at 414-378-0718.



Ask Dr. Friendtastic!

Eileen Kennedy-Moore, Phd., is the 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.



Most Importantly:

All church members are welcome—especially kids!!

Think about bringing a friend!

You don't have to have school aged children to benefit from this!

We need your help getting the word out. Please share with friends and family.

**KIDS ASK
DR. FRIENDTASTIC**



-Eileen Kennedy Moore, PhD talks to kids and adults on **Friendship Skills** Saturday, February 21st 2026 at 2:30 pm

-Charlene Gaebler-Uhing, MD on the **Teenage Brain** Sunday March 1st at 2:30 pm

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 2:30!

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>1 Communion 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship 11:00am Repairers of the Breach - Bag Lunch Express</p>	<p>2 9:00am PEO 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>3 8:15am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 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>8 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>9 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>10 8:15am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 10:00am Book Group (Library) 12:00pm LX Club</p>
<p>15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Luncheon and Card Making 4:00pm Kids Connect</p>	<p>16 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>17 8:15am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 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>22 9:00am Chancel Choir 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship</p>	<p>23 1:15pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Evening Prayer 8:00pm AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>24 8:15am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 9:00am Book Group (Zoom) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 10:00am Book Group (Library) 1:00pm LX Club</p>

2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 7:00pm Confirmation	5 8:15am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 8:30am Thursday AA 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	6 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite) 7:30pm RR Historical Society	7 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 10:30am OEAnon Special P-Meyer - Friendship Lounge
11	12 8:15am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 8:30am Thursday AA 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	13 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	14 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 9:30am PEO AM
18 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	19 8:15am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 8:30am Thursday AA 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	20 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	21 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge 2:30pm Power Up Presentation - Eileen Kennedy-Moore
25 7:00pm Confirmation	26 8:15am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 8:30am Thursday AA 9:30am Bible Study (Library) 9:30am Yoga (Friendship Lounge) 1:00pm LX Club 6:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	27 6:30am Men's Bible Study (Zoom and offsite)	28 9:00am OEAnon - Friendship Lounge



Beyond Our Walls

Let's Celebrate!

As a committee we voted last meeting to give to the following organizations this year! We are so happy that North Shore Congregations Church is able to support these well deserving groups!

- Advocates of Ozaukee
- Family Sharing of Ozaukee--backpack Program
- Hope Street Ministry
- St. Ben's Outreach
- Father Gene's Help Center
- Trickle Bee Cafe
- Bridge to Brighter
- Street Angels Milwaukee
- Our Next Generation (ONG)



Spread the Love

In February we will have our Spread the Love drive for Just One More Ministry! We will be collecting peanut butter and jelly for JOMM from February 8-February 22! Please drop your items in the baskets in the lower narthex or outside under the portico!



St. Ben's Warming Room

Help Us Keep Our Guests Warm This Winter!

The Warming Room at St. Ben's is still looking for volunteers—and this year, we're collecting coffee and hot cocoa mix to support our efforts.

Here's how it works:

The meal hall opens at 4:00 PM so guests can come in and stay warm. Guests enjoy snacks, desserts, coffee, hot chocolate, and milk during warming.

Friday & Saturday: Because there's no evening meal program, we provide a hot meal on these days.



Want to help?

Volunteer: <https://thecapuchins.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/SaintBenMinistry#>

Donate: We're accepting coffee, hot cocoa mix, desserts, hats, and gloves.

Repairers of the Breach

Join us on Sunday, February 1, in the kitchen after the service to help make PBJ sandwiches for Repairers of the Breach. Many hands make light work!



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

February 17, 2026



Loaves & fishes
— MINISTRY —

CASSEROLES

DESSERTS

Gregory	Krosnosky
Petersen	Donner
White	Lemorande
Wink	Loder
Wininsky	Nelson
Navarro	Schill
Webb	Schuyler
Molinari	Holmes
Anderson	Lange
	Block
<i>Single pan</i>	<i>Single batch ~30 pieces</i>

DRIVERS

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

SERVERS

Dallman	Schimpf
Holmes	Schimpf
Holmes	Scharnweber
Osborne	Tornetta
Webb	Tornetta
White	

Want to share a little of that Valentine's spirit with those who can no longer join us in person for worship and fellowship?

Plan to stay after worship on Sunday,
February 15, for

Paper and Plates



As we enjoy an always-delicious meal provided by our Fellowship Committee, we will make cards and write notes to share a little of our love with those whose presence we so often miss.



We are excited to be gathering a new member inquiry session for anyone interested in learning more about our church and the possibility of membership. We will gather on two occasions to explore more about our church family, history, and structure, at which point people will be invited to decide whether or not membership is right for them at this time.

Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to attend! Please use the QR code to share your interest and availability or contact Rev. Marty directly to let us know of your interest!





Godly Fun Lessons

This month we will be focusing on Love! We will explore how we can show our love for God by loving our neighbors, learn what the bible says about what love is and isn't, and how we can show others our love through kindness. And Ms. Trinny will be teaching the kids the classic song "Jesus Loves Me" to share with the congregation later in the season.



Spread the Love

Once again, the kids will be joining in for the Spread the Love event, helping to collect peanut butter and jelly jars for Just One More Ministry. If the kids bring in 20 jars of pb and j, they can have a pajama day!



PowerUp Series - February 21 at 2:30pm

with Dr. Eileen Kennedy-Moore

This one is for the kids!

Bring the kids along to ask questions about friends, friendship, and other relationships.



KidsConnect

February 15 from 4-6pm

Love is in the air! Love for KidsConnect!
Bring a friend and join other kids in grades 2-6
for an afternoon of games, pizza, and crafts.

Family Greeters

Would you and your family be interested in greeting before a worship service? Greet members and hand out the order of worship as they arrive for worship. Contact Kelsey for more information.

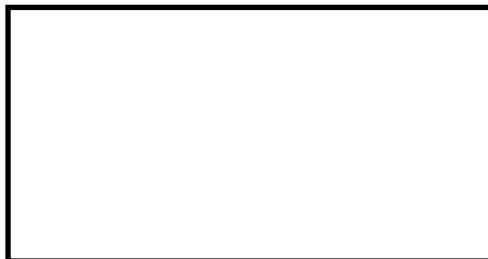


414-352-6123

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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