

Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Easter People

Jesus is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! In the resurrection, all creation is made new through God's self-giving love. And, God wants us to be a part of it. Again and again in the Bible, Risen Christ invites people to follow him and tell others. We are invited to be resurrection people, both now and into eternity!

What a wonderful gift! Yet, it can be a challenge living as Easter People in this broken world. The pain and suffering in our lives and in the world can make us doubt and lose hope.

This month's readings in *The Story* are all about what it looks like to live as the church - the Body of Christ - in the midst of all the struggles of life. Those first disciples and apostles have much to tell us about how to live faithfully today.

April 7 - Chapter 28: *New Beginnings*. The followers of Jesus become a community emboldened by the Holy Spirit to do the things that Jesus did: proclaim the good news, heal the broken, and welcome the stranger

April 14 - Chapter 29: *Paul's Mission*. Once an opponent of those following the Way of Jesus, Paul is transformed into the most prolific communicator about Jesus. Through Paul's travels and letters, the story of Jesus is shared far beyond the original community.

April 21 - Chapter 30: *Paul's Final Days*. Because of his boldness, Paul - like Jesus - is eventually confronted by the powers that be. And, like Jesus, he uses this confrontation as an opportunity to share the love of God with others.

April 28 - We will take a break from *The Story* and welcome DeeDee McVety, Director of Faith Centered Engagement for *Samaritas*. Her story will share tangible ways the love of God is shared through her for refugees, the homeless, and other folks on the margins. DeeDee has been a wonderful encourager for the Northbrook team sponsoring a refugee family from Venezuela.

Christ is Risen. Let us keep learning how to experience, live and *share the love of Jesus Christ*.

Blessings,
Ben



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”



One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Special Offering. Contributions are shared with three PCUSA program areas: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. If you would still like to donate to OGHS, we will be collecting through Tuesday, April 2. When you make your contribution, please make a notation to specify that your contribution is for OGHS. *Be a part of sharing God's love, comfort, and healing in the world.*

*Every gift makes a difference
in the life of the most vulnerable
of God's people.*

**WE ARE THE CHURCH,
TOGETHER.**

Brady's Bunch—Tuesday, April 2

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to Brady's Tavern (31231 Southfield Rd., Beverly Hills) on Tuesday, April 2 at 5:30 for some snacks/dinner (at your own expense) and friendly conversation. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or RSVP to Barb Stetson at (248)302-3033. If you need a ride, contact Barb.

Friday Fun Zoom—Friday, April 19 at 7pm

For our next gathering, think about your "PERFECT DAY." This could be a day you might spend by yourself or with others. Perhaps you have a couple of "perfect day" scenarios. Maybe you would be at home, somewhere local, or somewhere far away. Our ZOOM chats can build deep connections, and laughs are almost guaranteed! To receive the ZOOM link, contact Winnie Davies-Hancock via email or phone/text at winsomeann@aol.com or 248-931-0821. Please put NORTHBROOK in the subject line of an email. Thanks.



Detroit Historical Museum Tour—Saturday, April 20

The Life Long Learners Committee is organizing a docent-led tour of the Detroit Historical Museum on April 20th at 11am. The tour will last about an hour and you are welcome to stay after. Admission is \$11 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$6 for children 6 - 17. The tour fee will be collected the week before. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. This is a family-friendly tour, and grandchildren are welcome!

Men's Connection—Tuesdays at 8am and 10am

Join us on Tuesdays at 8am on Zoom and 10am on Zoom and in the Library live. Any men new to the group are invited. In April, we finish *The Story*, an abbreviated readable version of the bible. Starting in May, we will study *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. Nouwen reflects on Rembrandt's painting of *The Return* in light of his own life journey. A review of the book states, *he evokes a powerful drama of the classic parable in a rich, captivating way. The challenge to love as God loves, and to be loved as God's beloved, will be seen as the ultimate revelation of the parable known to Christians throughout time, and is here represented with a vigor and power fresh for our times.* For a Zoom link, please contact the church office.

LOGOS - Wednesdays at 5pm

LOGOS meets after school on Wednesdays from 5-7pm for all 1st-12th graders. For more information, please contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, at stetson.kenny@gmail.com.

Pastor's Bible Study - Wednesdays at 10am and 7:00pm

Join us at 10am or 7pm either in the library or via Zoom to discuss each chapter of *The Story* and get a deeper understanding of how your story is a part of God's story. **Note: There will be no Bible Study on April 3 or April 24.*

Senior Soup Lunch & Learn —April 11 and April 25

Please join us in the Library at 1pm on Thursday, April 11th and April 25th for a delicious soup lunch and plentiful conversation.

We are excited to share that on April 25th, the Northbrook's Life Long Learner's Committee has planned to have Lois Kurta share pictures of her trip to Iceland after your delicious lunch. Iceland is a land and culture forged by fire and ice...steaming lava fields and massive glaciers, sculpt mountains and valleys, leaving thundering waterfalls and plunging fjords. It is a land of many natural wonders. Come join us for a special treat on the 25th.



Northbrook Garage Sale
June 21—22, 2024

The Northbrook Garage Sale is back! We will need lots of items to sell so keep us in mind as you do your Spring cleaning. New this year: No clothing or BIG furniture. This will require an *all-hands-on-deck* effort—whether it's donating items, organizing donations, spreading the word, volunteering for shifts, or helping with clean up. More details to follow. Please see Judy Owen or Barb Voight for more information.

Finance Matters—Giving and Taking Stock

A sense of gratitude for God's many gifts can certainly impact your feelings of joy and happiness. Whenever you feel a little down, take stock of the people in your life, including everyone you know at Northbrook. Speaking of taking stock, Northbrook has received many generous donations of publicly traded securities over the years. When such a gift is made, the donor receives a deduction for the full fair market value of the stock and avoids any capital gain. In other words, if you own stock worth \$10,000 which you bought for \$4,000, you would incur a capital gain of \$6,000 if you sold the stock. Your tax on the gain would be approximately \$1,500. If you then contributed the net proceeds to the church, Northbrook would receive \$8,500 and your tax deduction would be \$8,500. If, on the other hand, you transferred the stock directly to Northbrook, your deduction would be \$10,000 and the church would receive \$10,000 (the church can sell the stock without paying any tax). You can even satisfy your stewardship pledge with a transfer of appreciated stock. If you are interested in making a gift of appreciated stock, please contact Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink or Dan Gross, Chair of the Finance Committee.

With endless gratitude for the ways you show that Finance Matters,
Your Finance Committee: Dan Gross (Chair), Tim Boese, Tom MacFarlane, Mark Best, Mike Krug (Financial Secretary), and Pastor Ben Larson-Wolbrink

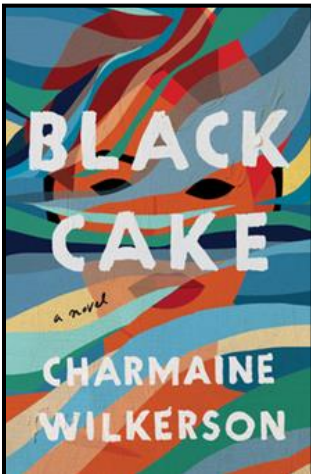
Highlights from the March Session Meeting

We are excited to share the following items that were discussed at the March Session meeting:

- ◆ **Communication Team** - Northbrook's communication team is eager to help you get the word out about your upcoming ministry activity, especially if it might be something you want to share with the community. We have put together an event communication form (available in the office) with everything you'll need to know to help us help you promote your event!
- ◆ **Neighborhood Nights** - On the second Wednesday during summer months - June 12, July 10, and August 14. We will have live music, food trucks, and activities for all ages from 5-8pm. Each month will have a different theme. Mark your calendars and stay tuned!
- ◆ **Reimbursement Timeframe** - The Session added a timeframe for reimbursement requests (using either pink slips or via email) to our Manual of Administrative Operations. *All reimbursement requests are due - *with receipts* - within 30 days of the original purchase. (If submitting via email, a photo of the receipt is acceptable.)
- ◆ **Spring Fun Raiser** - Stay tuned for more details regarding a fundraiser on May 21 at 6pm where we'll gather at Northbrook to enjoy some pizza, spin the wheel, and raise some money for our ministries here.



Northbrook Book Club—Monday, April 29 at 7pm In-Person or via Zoom



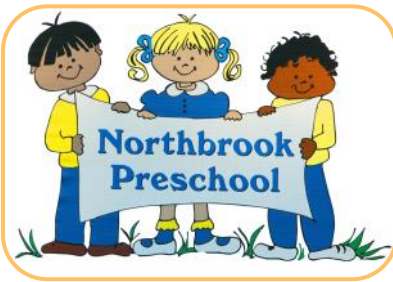
Everybody is welcome to attend the Northbrook Book Club discussion of *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson on Monday, April 29 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Please let Pastor Ben or Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation. Peggie D. will be hosting this discussion.

Book Summary: In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett's death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. The heartbreaking tale Eleanor unfolds, the secrets she still holds back, and the mystery of a long-lost child challenge everything the siblings thought they knew about their lineage and themselves. Charmaine Wilkerson's debut novel is a story of how the inheritance of betrayals, secrets,

memories, and even names can shape relationships and history. Deeply evocative and beautifully written, Black Cake is an extraordinary journey through the life of a family changed forever by the choices of its matriarch.

Book Club Calendar

- ◆ June 10: Beneath A Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan (Jan hosts)
- ◆ July 22: State of Wonder by Ann Patchett (Barb hosts)
- ◆ September 9—book TBD (Mary hosts)
- ◆ October 14—Being Henry: The Fonz...and Beyond by Henry Winkler (Yvonne hosts)
- ◆ December 2—book TBD (Nancy hosts)
- ◆ January 13, 2025—Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride (Winnie hosts)



Northbrook Preschool has been having fun rhyming and doing things that are all Dr. Seuss!! We even celebrated his birthday!! We are now getting ready for Easter. Happy Spring!!

For more information about our wonderful preschool program, please contact Kerry Callaghan, Director, at (248)642-0200 or email her at preschool@northbrookpc.org.



Sharing the Joy of Easter



On Palm Sunday, church members assembled Easter baskets for *Kids Empowered On the Move*, an organization dedicated to helping families stay out of homeless situations, primarily in Oakland County. Thank you for your generous donations!

“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

Calendar

April 1		OFFICE CLOSED
April 2	8am 10am 5:30pm	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom) Brady's Bunch
April 3	5pm	LOGOS
April 7	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
April 9	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)
April 10	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
April 11	1pm 4:30pm	Senior Soup Lunch Worship Committee Meeting
April 12-13	7pm	Camp Lock-In
April 14	10am 11:30am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Deacons' Meeting
April 16	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)
April 17	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
April 19	7pm	Friday Fun Zoom
April 20	11am	Detroit Historical Museum Tour
April 21	10am 11:30am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Meeting
April 23	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)
April 25	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch & Learn
April 28	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
April 29	7pm	Northbrook Book Club Meeting
April 30	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)

April Birthdays

04/07 Madison Broadwell	04/19 Kristen Miller
04/07 Winnie Davies-Hancock	04/20 David Burnham
04/08 Gretchen Larson- Wolbrink	04/21 Carlos McIntyre
04/10 Dorothea Clarke	04/23 Valerie MacFarlane
04/10 Robert Olson	04/24 Denise Getchell
04/13 Darwin Chungag	04/25 Kelsey DeCarteret
04/14 William Back	04/25 Graham Lockett
04/14 Connie Jordan	04/25 Jennifer Wicker
04/14 Penny Willey	04/26 Carson Sowle
04/15 Petie Forbush	04/26 David Wind
04/15 Robert Sandercock	04/28 Jan Sansom
04/18 Debbie Smith	04/30 Jennifer Sicora
	04/30 Nicki Walgren

April Anniversaries

Kimberly & Michael Yekin—39 years on April 4
 Bill & Connie Jordan—39 years on April 20
 Grant & Barbara Burnham—52 years on April 29

Worship with Us

Sundays at 10am in the sanctuary

The Sunday service is also found:

- Livestream on YouTube—[Northbrookpc](#)
- Livestream on Facebook—[Northbrookpc](#)

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Friday: 9am—Noon

Staff Contact Information

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor	ext. 17
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Angel Gippert, Director of Traditional Music	
Dan Gross, Musician	
Pete Zajicek, Musician	
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