

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### What's Next, After *The Story*?

It's hard to believe that - this month - we will have made it to the end of *The Story*. How is it that, after working through the book for such a long time, all of a sudden it's almost over? Kudos to those who were able to keep up with the reading, even when the going got tough. Whether you were able to read along or not, I hope that all of us at Northbrook have a better sense of the narrative arc of the Bible.

Of course, there are a whole bunch of stories and scriptures that weren't included. I can't help but find myself missing some of my favorite verses that didn't make the cut. As I ponder what's next for my preaching, I imagine that we will fill out some of the scripture that *The Story* may have missed. In the meantime, here's what we have lined up for worship in May:

May 5 - Chapter 31 of *The Story: The End of Time*

The Bible ends with a dramatic vision of God's future for us. While some of the images are startling, it's also a powerful promise of heaven and earth coming together. The Tree of Life will be in the middle of the city, and the leaves of the tree will be for the healing of the nations. What a way to end the story. And what a future to behold!

May 11 - Mothering God

Scripture can be a challenge for us today as it is so grounded in an ancient - and very patriarchal - culture. Yet, there are wonderful windows into God's feminine side. Celebrating Mother's Day can sometimes be a mix of gratitude and grief. As we remember mothers, and all the challenges of motherhood, we'll be reminded of how God is a mother to us all.

May 19 - Pentecost

Wear red and be ready to celebrate the story of the Holy Spirit sent to the disciples of Jesus. How might the Holy Spirit be bubbling up among us at Northbrook, inviting us to share God's love in new ways?

May 26 - Guest Preacher: Robyn Hudgins, Commissioned Ruling Elder in Training

In my role as Co-Chair of the Presbytery of Detroit's Commission for Preparation for Ministry, I get to support folks as they discern a call to ministry. I am learning that each person has a unique calling, and I'm excited to support Robyn as she pursues a call to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder. Part of her training is to get experience preaching in different churches, and I'm excited for Northbrook to host her - and give her an opportunity to learn in a different context - while I am on vacation with my family.

The Story Continues In Us,  
Ben

PS - I'm sorry that I'll also be missing the Beverly Hills Memorial Day Parade at 11am on Monday, May 27. But, I hope you can make it as we share an exciting summer opportunity with our neighbors!



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”



### Sunday, May 5 following Worship

Join us for Mexican food and bingo games with prizes to raise money for our Northbrook student programs--adults and kids are welcome! Tickets are \$10 or \$25 per family. All proceeds go towards student program scholarships, supplies, and costs.

For more information, please contact Ken Stetson at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com).

### Brady's Bunch—Tuesday, May 7 at 5:30pm

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to Brady's Tavern (31231 Southfield Rd., Beverly Hills) on Tuesday, May 7 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.

### Balance Workshop - Thursday, May 9 at 11am

The Life Long Learners Committee has been developing a class to help keep you safe in your home and in your daily activities by reducing your risks. We will address home safety, strength training with an emphasis on making your body more resilient, and learning falling techniques to help have a fall with less harm and damage. We will also provide good resources for supporting healthy living. Learn simple exercises to strengthen your core so it can stand up better to trauma. As an added benefit, you will lower your risk of depression by developing these techniques and practicing them. Please come prepared in comfortable clothing with water, to do some simple exercises. We will provide equipment. The class will last approximately 90 minutes. If you would like to stay for the Senior Soup Lunch afterward, you are welcome to. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall, and also indicate if you will be staying for lunch. Join Denise Getchell RN, Mary Beth Kiefer OT, and Liz Hurbis, lifelong exercise enthusiast.

### Mother's Day—Sunday, May 12

Mother's Day is coming and the Congregational Life Committee would like to celebrate our Mothers. Please join us for worship and Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 12 and bring your mother, too. If your mother is out of town or no longer with us, do not despair. Bring a favorite photo so she can sit beside you in the pew. Help fill our pews on Mother's Day.



### Flint Institute of the Arts Tour - Wednesday, May 15

The Life Long Learners Committee has organized a visit to the Flint Institute of the Arts. Our docent-led tour is scheduled for 10:30am on Wednesday, May 15. We will plan to travel by van (driven by Pastor Ben), leaving the church parking lot at 9:15. If you wish, you may drive on your own. Our tour is titled *From Earth to Sky: Ancient Art of Americas*, featuring clay objects offering clues about how these people lived in west

Mexico 2000 years ago. After the tour, we may visit some of the other exhibits if time allows and will culminate with lunch at the Flint Farmers Market featuring an array of food choices. Lunch is at your own cost. The cost of the tour will range from \$11 for seniors and \$13 for adults. The fee will be collected at the museum. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Liz Hurbis for more information.



# SPIN TO WIN FUN RAISER

Join us for a Pizza Party and a chance to “Spin the Wheel” to win prizes or generously donate to Northbrook Church.

Everyone, adults and children, are invited to attend.

Cost: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, \$25 per family  
Includes: Pizza, Salad, Refreshments and BYOB (Beer & Wine)

Everyone will have the opportunity to purchase a spin package and win gift cards, fun surprises, and donations to Northbrook. Everyone will also get 1 free chance to spin the “Prize Only” wheel. There will also be several live auction items.

Spin Packages (sold separately at the party):

Bronze: 1 spin for \$15

Silver: 2 spins for \$25

Gold: 5 spins for \$50

Platinum: 12 spins for \$100

**TUESDAY • MAY 21 • 6PM**  
**NORTHBROOK • FELLOWSHIP HALL**

RSVP to the church office or sign up in Fellowship Hall



## It's Time to Celebrate!

The Deacons are pleased to invite you to a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Marilyn Thomas on Mother's Day, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please join us after church for a very special coffee hour and a time to celebrate Marilyn's special day.

## Memorial Day Parade - Monday, May 27 at 10:30am

Enjoy the day and help get the word out about Northbrook. The Northbrook Band will be playing live on a towed trailer. We hope you can come walk alongside and pass out frisbees to the crowd!



## Neighborhood Nights @Northbrook

Live music, trucks, and fun for the family are happening this summer at Northbrook! Three evening events will be held on the second Wednesday of each month from 5pm—8pm:

**June 12 — July 10 — August 14**

Local bands will be featured at each event for all to enjoy. Food will be available for purchase from a local food truck with the menu changing each month. The games will include a bounce house, basketball, pickleball, cornhole and more. Watch for more information.

We would love volunteers with setup and hospitality for each event. \*Our August 14th event will feature classic/fun cars. **Let the office know if you - or someone you know - have a car to show off as part of this event!**

**FOOD • FUN • MUSIC • GAMES**

## Senior Soup Lunch — May 9 and May 23

Please join us in the Library at 1pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month for a delicious soup lunch and plentiful conversation. In May, we will meet on May 9th and May 23rd.

## Friday Fun Zoom—Friday, May 17 at 7pm

For our next online gathering, we will have fun chatting about the following topics: (1) Whom do you really admire? (2) If you were a late-night talk show host, who would be your first guest? These could be two different people, and the first one may be living or deceased. 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](mailto:winsomeann@aol.com) or 248-931-0821. Please put NORTHBROOK in the subject line of an email. Thanks.

## 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. For a Zoom link, please contact the church office. 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.*

**Men's Connection will wind up the school year season on Tuesday, June 4 at 9am with a combined session for breakfast at The Gallery (6638 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills).**



## 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. Sign-up sheets to help will be available starting Sunday, May 5th.

**Drop Off Dates:** June 16 (11am-1pm) | June 17 (8am-8pm) | June 18 & 19 (8am-4pm)

**Work Shifts Available:** June 17 (8am-8pm) | June 18—20 (8am-4pm) | June 21 7am– 3pm | June 22 (7am-3pm)

For more information, please contact Barb Voight or Judy Owen.

### Summer Camp 2024

Our Summer Camp dates are set for **August 4th-10th**. Camp is open to any completed first graders and above. In preparation, we held our annual Camp Lock-In at Northbrook on Friday, April 12th for our students to come and experience a night of summer camp. We had 30 students between 1st and 12th grade who attended! If you know anyone who is interested in attending camp this summer, contact Ken Stetson at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com). **Registration/payment due June 15.**



### Pentecost Offering

The PCUSA Pentecost Special Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its youth and young adults and provides funding for initiatives that address the needs of at-risk children, youth, and young adults through Presbyterian Mission Agency ministries. Sixty percent of our congregation's collection will go towards these PCUSA efforts, and 40% will go to Northbrook's support of Baldwin Center's youth



programs. However you choose to contribute, please indicate online or with your check that your offering is for Pentecost.



## Little Free Library – Take a Book. Share a Book.

Northbrook's Book Club has purchased two Little Free Libraries in honor of past and current members of our book club. We have installed one at the north entrance near the labyrinth for adults and one at the south end of the church near the preschool entrance for children's books.

The children of the preschool added their handprints in a variety of colors to decorate the library and Emily Stetson Szukhent beautifully painted the library designated for the adults. There will be an official dedication ceremony in May.

The mission of the Little Free Library is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries. Our libraries are registered with the worldwide network of Little Free Library and will appear on the map of book-sharing libraries around the world. Currently, there are 150,000+ Little Free Libraries around the world where more than 73 million books are shared every year.



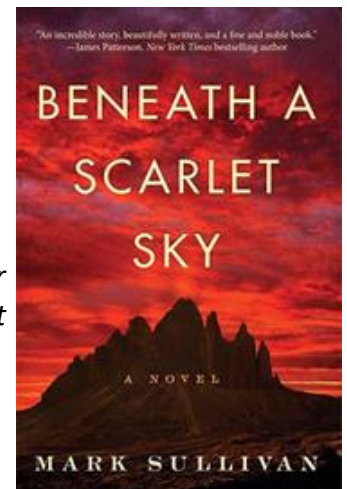
You can find our libraries at [LittleFreeLibrary.org](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org) – charter #175341 – children and #175340 – adult.

***Anyone can take a book – neighbors, friends, passersby, church members – the books are always free.  
You can also share books – book donations are welcome at both our libraries.***

## Northbrook Book Club—Monday, June 10 at 7pm In-Person or via Zoom

Everybody is welcome to attend the Northbrook Book Club discussion of *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan on Monday, June 10 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Jan S. is hosting this discussion. Please let Pastor Ben or Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation.

Book Summary: *Based on the true story of a forgotten hero, Beneath a Scarlet Sky is the triumphant, epic tale of one young man's incredible courage and resilience during one of history's darkest hours. Pino Lella wants nothing to do with the war or the Nazis. He's a normal Italian teenager—obsessed with music, food, and girls—but his days of innocence are numbered. When his family home in Milan is destroyed by Allied bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps, and falls for Anna, a beautiful widow six years his senior. In an attempt to protect him, Pino's parents force him to enlist as a German soldier—a move they think will keep him out of combat. But after Pino is injured, he is recruited at the tender age of eighteen to become the personal driver for Adolf Hitler's left hand in Italy, General Hans Leyers, one of the Third Reich's most mysterious and powerful commanders. Now, with the opportunity to spy for the Allies inside the German High Command, Pino endures the horrors of the war and the Nazi occupation by fighting in secret, his courage bolstered by his love for Anna and for the life he dreams they will one day share.*



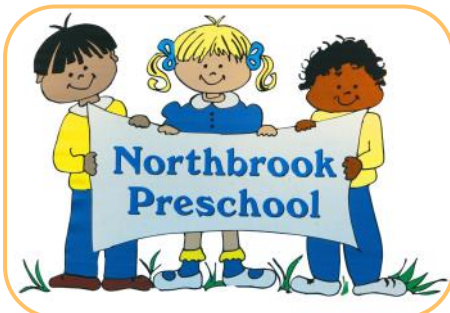
### **Book Club Calendar**

- ◆ July 22: State of Wonder by Ann Patchett (Barb hosts)
- ◆ September 9—Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelvy Van Pelt (Mary hosts)
- ◆ October 14—Being Henry: The Fonz...and Beyond by Henry Winkler (Yvonne hosts)
- ◆ December 2—Good Night Irene, by Luis Alberto Urrea (Nancy hosts)
- ◆ January 13, 2025—Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride (Winnie hosts)

## Pastor's Bible Study

Join us at 10am or 7pm either in the library or via Zoom to wrap up our discussion of *The Story* and get a deeper understanding of how your story is a part of God's story. *\*Note: In May, the last 10am Bible Study will be on May 8 (no 10am class on May 1st), and the last 7pm Bible Study will be on May 1st.* Bible Study will take a short break after May 8—stay tuned for more information.

**Northbrook Preschoolers have been very busy. We are learning about spring and had a great time visiting Bowers Farm.**



We still have openings for our fabulous program, so tell all of your friends and neighbors

what a wonderful place Northbrook Preschool would be for their child. For more information, please contact Kerry Callaghan, Director, at (248)642-0200 or email her at [preschool@northbrookpc.org](mailto:preschool@northbrookpc.org).

## Care & Share Collection: Presbytery of Detroit Hunger Ministries Program's 9th Annual Cereal for Summer Drive



Many children who receive subsidized breakfasts and lunches through their schools deal with family food shortages during the summer months. This initiative helps to fill in the gap. We will collect the following items near the manger in the main hallway on Sunday, **May 5 through Monday, June 3:**

- ◆ Kid-friendly cereals (still avoid artificially colored)
- ◆ Healthy cereals
- ◆ Juice and milk boxes (individual servings) that don't require refrigeration until after opening
- ◆ Breakfast and granola bars
- ◆ Individual serving size fruits

On behalf of children who may not have enough to eat, thank you! It's a joy to help others.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the drive or if you have any questions, please contact Winnie Davies-Hancock at 248-931-0821 or [winsomeann@aol.com](mailto:winsomeann@aol.com).

## Northbrook Mission Tithes Dollars at Work as We Share the Love of Jesus Christ

Due to the compassion and generosity of our church community, Northbrook was able to contribute \$1500 to Kids Empowered on the Move. Our support will help fund the needs of individuals and families trying to avoid homelessness and help those who are setting up a "new home."

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***"Live the Love of Jesus Christ"***

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## Refuge Family Update

Our time as co-sponsors with this wonderful family is nearly over. Our relationship is now changing into one where we are more like neighbors, providing help for things that we would do for our neighbors or friends. We know that Samaritas will also continue to partner with Astrid, Jose, and Santiago for the next 5 years.

These past months have flown by as we learned about the difficulties in getting jobs, finding doctors who speak Spanish and even have appointments, the need for transportation (and finding it through the Drinkert family's donation), the inability of Santi's school to meet his needs the many documents and forms required to open a bank account and even get a library card, setting up a budget, introducing them to Detroit, and all this time helping this family adjust to life in the United States.

Our co-sponsor team could not have done this alone. Sincere thank you to Northbrook members and friends who generously contributed to the fund that helped us get this family settled, to those who donated everything, and I mean everything down to the last teaspoon, that was needed for this family to set up their new home and for the wonderful fundraiser at O'Maras that will continue to help other families as they are welcomed to this country. And, of course, thank you to Samaritas; Mackenzie in particular, who trained us, was always available to us to answer questions and hear our concerns, and who provided valuable insight into life as a refugee coming to a new home in a new country.

And, lots of love to our co-sponsor group who cared so much for this family in so many ways and for so many hours: Kathy Bauhof, our leader and support person, Michael Bauhof, Tracey Parker, Nancy Best, Jan Sansom, Mary Beth and Jim Parks, Lee Anne Hemberg, and Sue Koss. You helped this family find a new life in their new forever home in the United States of America!

Blessings to all as this journey continues,  
Sherrill Heinrichs

### Thank you!

I can't adequately express how grateful we are to our Northbrook family. Boy, did you support us through my surgery and continued recovery—all the delicious food (for which Michael was sooo grateful), the visits, calls, and especially prayers. I felt so loved and cared for and so happy to be a part of our community. Thank you again,

Kathy and Michael Bauhof

**THANK YOU!**  
*thank you!*

## In Memoriam

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*Ellsworth (Leke) Adams*

September 6, 1923

April 18, 2024





**Happenings Around Northbrook during April**



## Calendar

May 1	7pm	Pastor's Bible Study
May 4	9am	Session Retreat
May 5	10am 11am	In-Person & Livestream Worship & Communion Bingo de Mayo Fundraiser
May 7	8am 10am 5:30pm	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom) Brady's Bunch
May 8	7pm	Pastor's Bible Study
May 9	11am 1pm 4:30pm	Balance Workshop Senior Soup Lunch Worship Committee Meeting
May 12	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~Happy Mother's Day~
May 14	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)
May 15	10:30am 6pm	Flint Institute of Art Trip Confirmation Dinner
May 17	7pm	Friday Fun Zoom
May 19	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~Pentecost Sunday~
May 21	8am 10am 6pm	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom) Spin to Win Fundraiser
May 23	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
May 26	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
May 27	11am	OFFICE CLOSED Beverly Hills Memorial Day Parade ~Happy Memorial Day~
May 28	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)

### May Birthdays

05/03 Jordan Sandercock	05/22 Kim Bowden-Adair
05/05 Alma Ross	05/22 Claire LaSota
05/06 Maggie Francis	05/22 Marilyn Thomas
05/08 Hal Koss	05/23 Wendy Powell
05/09 Steve Taylor	05/24 Suzy Burger
05/10 Lauren Guindi	05/26 Kim Ault
05/11 Bill Stetson	05/27 Susan Boese
05/19 Pierce Broadwell	05/29 Karen Vander Weide
05/19 Hope Larson-Wolbrink	05/30 Zephyr Ault
05/19 Cooper Sowle	05/30 Susan Riggan
05/21 Kai'Yah King	05/31 Keith Lepard

### May Anniversaries

Michael & Roberta Campion—53 years on May 1  
 Beverly & Jeff Singer—44 years on May 10  
 Michael & Michele Buscaino—38 years on May 17  
 Tom Jr. & Val MacFarlane—34 years on May 19  
 Jeff & Marjorie Wilhelmi—32 years on May 24  
 Erin & David Swenson—10 years on May 25

### Office Hours

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

### Worship with Us

**Sundays at 10am in the sanctuary**

**The Sunday service is also found:**

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

### Staff Contact Information

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor ext. 17  
[ben@northbrookpc.org](mailto:ben@northbrookpc.org)  
 Angel Gippert, Director of Traditional Music  
 Dan Gross, Musician  
 Pete Zajicek, Musician  
 Sherrill Heinrichs, Congregational Care Coord. Ext. 15  
[sherrill@northbrookpc.org](mailto:sherrill@northbrookpc.org)  
 Ken Stetson, Youth Director  
[stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com)  
 Becky Bachand, Administrative Assistant ext. 10  
[becky@northbrookpc.org](mailto:becky@northbrookpc.org)  
 Mike Krug, Finance Administrator ext. 13  
[mike@northbrookpc.org](mailto:mike@northbrookpc.org)  
 Kerry Callaghan, Preschool Director ext. 16  
[preschool@northbrookpc.org](mailto:preschool@northbrookpc.org)

## Northbrook

### Presbyterian Church

22055 West Fourteen Mile Road  
 Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025  
 Phone (248) 642-0200  
 Fax (248) 642-7495  
[www.northbrookpc.org](http://www.northbrookpc.org)

