

Northbrook Notes

AUGUST 2026



NORTHBROOK

Live the Love of Jesus Christ

NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

The Power of a Good Story

I want to begin this reflection by sharing my gratitude for your care during our Family Leave time this summer. The health crisis of our child came on so suddenly that I wasn't sure exactly how to tell the story, or what parts of the story were appropriate for telling. I'm very grateful for the Northbrook session for their support and understanding, as well as the Northbrook staff for continuing the important operations here - and for holding a boundary - so that I could focus on our family and begin healing together. I'm grateful for the meals that you offered so we could have time and energy for all the appointments and paperwork. I'm also grateful for the thoughtful cards that you sent to uplift us.

I'm so glad to share that our family has come a long way. We have our professional care network established, and we are moving in a great direction. Raising kids - especially teenagers - isn't for the faint of heart. Many of you have been in the trenches, and I'm so grateful for the understanding and wisdom you have shared with me. Most of all, I'm grateful for your prayers. There have been times when this has been tremendously overwhelming. Remembering that you are praying for us has been such an anchor of faith for me in the midst of the storm.

Throughout the ordeal, I just happened to be reading *Liturgies of the Wild* by Martin Shaw. He believes that we live in a myth-impoverished age, cut off from the deep wells of story and meaning that once prepared us for life's challenges. In the book, he shares some wonderful stories from around the world - myths, fairy tales, legends, etc. - and invites us to mine them for meaning. He also invites us to encounter Christ as the ultimate, transforming story that invites us to journey down a road to wholeness, maturity, and connection. The book couldn't be more timely for me...

As is the theme of Northbrook Church Camp this Year: *Life on Screen*. As evidenced by the blockbuster, *The Odyssey*, these ancient stories have a way of returning to us in each age. In addition to the beauty of being in the wilderness and the joy of all the camp games, I'm really excited to take a deep dive into the stories we tell - whether they are on the big screen, contained in ancient scrolls, or shared around the campfire. As challenging as it can be, it is also an honor to guide and support our young people. I'm eager for our campers to discover some of these old stories and to be encouraged that - in Christ - they have everything they need to face the inevitable monsters of life.

This summer during worship, we have been exploring some *Unsung Heroes* of the bible. They aren't familiar to most people - and their names can be hard to pronounce - but they have a lot to tell us about the life to be found in our Lord. I pray that you might rediscover some of these unsung heroes, either in scripture or in your life. May you find your story deeply rooted in the God who creates us. May you have the courage to follow the Christ who invites us. And, may you trust the Spirit who inspires the next step and sustains us for the adventure.

May it be so,
Pastor Ben

Contact Barb Voight for more information.

Northbrook Church GARAGE SALE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14: 9AM - 2PM
&
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15: 9AM - 1PM

DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS FOR THE GARAGE SALE:
small kitchen appliances and utensils, toys, tools,
small electronics, small furniture, lamps, sporting goods,
jewelry, outdoor equipment, holiday decorations, etc.

Declutter your house & garage by donating items!

No clothing, books, or large furniture items.

Tell your friends & neighbors.

Please see the last page of this newsletter for more details about how you can volunteer to help, and when you can drop off your donations.

Cleaning Supplies *Care & Share* Drive *In support of those served by Kids Empowered on the Move*

Household cleaning supplies are items that every family needs and needs to resupply on a regular basis. Their costs add up and can be draining on those with a very limited income. We will collect items in the manger in the main hallway. Here are some suggested items, but you may think of others:

- Laundry soap
- Laundry stain-fighter sprays
- Multipurpose cleaning sprays
- Disinfectant cleaning sprays
- Bleach
- Glass cleaner
- Floor cleaners for mopping
- Disinfecting/Sanitizing wipes
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Sponges, etc.
- Dish soap – probably most for sink dishwashing vs. dishwasher detergent



To volunteer to help with the drive or ask questions, please contact Winnie Davies-Hancock at 248-931-0821 or winsomeann@aol.com.

Donations Due Monday, August 24

Camp Sunday – August 9

Join us for Camp Sunday at 9:30am on Sunday, August 9 in the sanctuary. Come learn from our campers and enjoy their great energy as they return from a week of camp.



Lifelong Learners: The Scarab Club – Friday, August 21

The Lifelong Learners Committee has organized a tour of the Scarab Club of Detroit on Friday, August 21. Built in 1928, the Scarab Club has an illustrious history as an artist club in the heart of midtown's Cultural Center, on Farnsworth, tucked in next to the DIA. It is a home for culture and celebration of the arts of Detroit, including visual, literary, and performing arts. The club consists of an artist's club, gallery, and working studios.

The symbol of the club is an emblem of the Egyptian Scarab Beetle, which was designed by Buck Stratton and consists of Pewabic pottery fired by his wife, Mary Chase Stratton. The beetle represents rebirth and renewal of the arts in Detroit.

The Scarab Club opens at noon, so we will visit following a delicious lunch at the restaurant Chartreuse, which happens to be just a few steps from the club. We'll travel by carpool or possibly by church van at 10:55am. Attendees will be responsible for paying for their own lunch, and we may collect for a possible donation to our tour guide, Molly. Please sign up in the main hallway. Please contact Liz Hurbis for more information.

Senior Lunch - Resumes in September

Senior Lunch will take a break in August and resume in September on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 1pm in the library.

Yoga with Lis - Wednesdays

Join us for Yoga with Lis on Wednesdays. Please contact Bill Jordan for specific times. No fee required, but donations are welcome.

Men's Connection - Resumes September 15

We continue with our book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, by Eugene Peterson, Chapter 9 "Work", when we re-convene for the fall session on Tuesday, September 15. There is a Zoom connection at both 8am and 10am, and in-person at the library at 10am. Contact Bill Jordan at (248) 917-7201 to be included on Zoom. Returning members are keen to welcome men new to our fellowship circle. We hope you'll join us.



Unsung Hymns - August 23

Do you have a favorite hymn that hasn't been sung in a while? Please use this QR code or this [LINK](#) to share your request. Or, you can call or email the office by August 14 with your favorite "unsung hymn." We will do our best to sing it during this song-centric service.



Dear Northbrook Congregation,

We are writing to share with you that we met with the Rev. Adam Grosch and Rev. Kimberly Secrist Ashby on Sunday, July 26th to review the report of their mediation work with the Northbrook Choir. We are grateful for their intentional listening to all members of the choir, as well as their care and wisdom. At their recommendation, we have discerned that the Northbrook Session should articulate a clear vision to guide the music ministry at Northbrook moving forward. While the scope of the mediation work was limited to the choir, we continue to be concerned for all who have been impacted by the conflict around worship music. We desire to rebuild trust in our congregation and offer an opportunity for anyone wishing to be heard.

To support these efforts, we will be hosting two “Coffee and Chats” following worship on August 16 and 23. Anyone who desires can attend these gatherings in Fellowship Hall and share their perspective with members of the Northbrook Session.

If you are unable to attend, we invite you to share your answers to the following questions that will frame our conversations:

1. Describe an experience of worship music that nurtured your faith. For example: What was the music like? How did you participate? How did you feel God’s presence?
2. Share a favorite memory of worship music at Northbrook.
3. What are your prayers as the session discerns the future of worship music at Northbrook?
4. Are there ways you would like to contribute to the Northbrook music ministry?
5. Is there anything else you would like to share that would be helpful to the Northbrook session?

Please email your answers to becky@northbrookpc.org by August 31st. (We will also send out an online form in the weekly email update if that is easier.) While we had originally planned for the choir to restart when we return to indoor worship in September, we acknowledge that this process may require more time. We will keep the congregation updated regarding our process. In the meantime, we always welcome direct feedback, and we hope you will feel free to reach out to any one of us - and Pastor Ben - if you have any questions or concerns.

In Christ,

The Northbrook Session: Kathy Bauhof, Tim Boese, Barbara Burnham, Tricia LaSota, Tom MacFarlane, Jan Sansom, Ryan Stottlemeyer, Grant Tengler, and Penny Willey



Our *Cereal for Summer* collection was a big success! Both church members and VBS families donated cereal, juices, and other breakfast items this year. The donations were delivered to the Presbytery of Detroit for distribution.

Thank you for your generosity!



Neighborhood Nights @Northbrook

We held our one and only Neighborhood Nights @Northbrook this summer on the evening of June 17th. Although we decided to move the festivities indoors due to the weather, everyone who came out had a great time. We had food for purchase from Tim's Gourmet Sliders food truck, music by DJ Unkle Eli, a bounce house, games, face painting, and more. The Village of Beverly Hills even stopped by with their fire truck for our younger guests to explore.

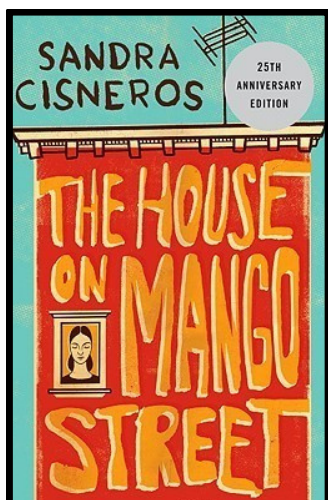
Many people made this annual summertime event a success. Thank you for your support!



Neighborhood Nights @Northbrook

Neighborhood Nights @Northbrook





Northbrook Book Club—Monday, August 24 at 7pm

Everybody is welcome to attend the upcoming Northbrook Book Club discussion of *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros on Monday, August 24 at 7pm. Jan is hosting. Join in person in the library or by Zoom. Please let Nancy Best know if you would like to attend by Zoom.

Book Summary: Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught everywhere from inner-city grade schools to universities across the country, and translated all over the world, The House on Mango Street is the remarkable story of Esperanza Cordero. Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes deeply joyous—it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers (Goodreads).

Please mark your calendar with these upcoming titles and discussion dates:

- October 5 - *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans - Barb hosts
- November 16 – *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick – Kim hosts
- January 11, 2027 - Book TBD – Winnie hosts

Sunday Greeters

Thanks to all who have greeted in the past! We are hoping you'll sign up again, and we are asking those who have not had this experience to learn the process and sign up now. Why? Because, this this minimal commitment of your time has a wonderful impact on the attitude of the church congregation. The act of welcoming people to our service, both members and newcomers, shows our warmth and love. It demonstrates that we are glad to see you.



Can you welcome people to the service? Light the candles? Take up the collection? If you can, please sign up on the board in the hallway or contact Bill Travis at 248-917-1481.

Finance Matters

We are just past the halfway point of the calendar year, and hopefully everyone has now fulfilled 50% of their annual pledge. Staying on par with our year-to-date budget helps us minimize the need to access our reserve funds to meet the operating needs of the church. Please check your current giving status. Also, if you have not yet paid your Per Capita Dues (\$41 per member), please do so separately from your pledge amount. We are so grateful for your continued support of Northbrook!

Your Finance Committee



Lifelong Learners Event: The Parade Company Tour Saturday, November 14

The Lifelong Learners Committee has organized a tour of The Parade Company on Saturday, November 14. Families and children are welcome to attend. Watch for more details in the weekly emails, Sunday bulletins, and monthly newsletter.



THE PARADE COMPANY
DETROIT

Vacation Bible School

We had an AMAZING week of VBS in June with 66 children! Ten youth volunteers, countless adult volunteers, and all of our preschool teachers combined their time and talents to transform Northbrook into a VBS winter wonderland. Whether you helped prepare crafts, laminate name tags, fill water jugs, rinse tie-dye shirts, make giant bubbles, or console a crying friend, we could not have done it without you! And, a very special thank you goes out to Tricia LaSota for the countless hours of planning and execution she put in to make VBS a tremendous success!



VBS @Northbrook



VBS Theme: Snowball Mountain Challenge



Live the Love of Jesus Christ

AUGUST CALENDAR

Aug 2	9:30am: In-Person & Livestream Worship ~Communion Sunday~ Summer Camp (8/2-8/8)
Aug 9	9:30am: In-Person & Livestream Worship ~Camp Sunday~ 10:30-12:30: Garage Sale Drop-Off
Aug 10	9am-3pm: Garage Sale/Set-Up Rooms 4:30pm: Worship Comm. Mtg. 5-7pm: Garage Sale Drop-Off
Aug 11	9am-3pm: Garage Sale/Set-Up Rooms 5-7pm: Garage Sale Drop-Off
Aug 12	9am-3pm: Garage Sale/Set-Up Rooms
Aug 13	9am-3pm: Garage Sale/Set-Up Rooms
Aug 14	9am-2pm: GARAGE SALE
Aug 15	9am-1pm: GARAGE SALE 1-3:30pm: Garage Sale Clean-Up
Aug 16	9:30am: In-Person & Livestream Worship 10:30am: Coffee & Chats
Aug 21	Scarab Club & Lunch Outing
Aug 23	9:30am: In-Person & Livestream Worship 10:30am: Coffee & Chats
Aug 24	7pm: Book Club Meeting
Aug 30	9:30am: In-Person & Livestream Worship

Visit the calendar on our website for the most up-to-date information.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/03 Mark Best	08/16 Ken Stetson
08/04 Jennifer Lodge Livernois	08/19 Kay Kizer
08/05 Clark Sowle	08/21 Emma Swenson
08/06 Tracey Parker	08/23 Cayce Sowle
08/06 Ryan Stottlemeyer	08/24 Lori Friesner
08/08 Stephen Sicora	08/25 Amy North
08/09 Gary Faigle	08/26 Nancy Best
08/09 Grant Tengler	08/27 Alex Guindi
08/10 Elizabeth Hurbis	

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Kimberly & Wes Ault – 14 years on August 11
 Faith & Jay Rick – 57 years on August 16
 Winnie Davies-Hancock & Bill Hancock – 43 years on August 20
 Walt & Donna Young – 60 years on August 20
 Michael & Kathy Bauhof – 44 years on August 21
 Jan & John Bennish – 58 years on August 24
 Dave & Pam Grim – 52 years on August 24
 Frank & Tricia LaSota – 41 years on August 31



Staff contact Information

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor ben@northbrookpc.org	Ext. 17
Jannah Cole, Music Team Leader	
Dan Gross, Musician	
Pete Zajicek, Musician	
Sherrill Heinrichs, Coord. of Congregational Care sherrill@northbrookpc.org	Ext. 15
Ken Stetson, Youth Director	
Becky Bachand, Administrative Assistant becky@northbrookpc.org	Ext. 10
Mike Krug, Finance Secretary mike@northbrookpc.org	Ext. 13
Kerry Callaghan, Preschool Director preschool@northbrookpc.org	Ext. 16

Worship with us:

9:30am on the patio (6/21 - 9/6)

The Sunday service is also found:

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

Contact us:

22055 W. 14 Mile Road
 Beverly Hills, MI 48025
 248-642-0200 www.northbrookpc.org

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 9am - 4pm
 Friday: Closed during June, July & August

Northbrook Garage Sale

Friday, August. 14 9am - 2pm
Saturday, August 15 9am - 1pm

Drop-Off Days

Sunday, Aug 9: 10:30-12:30pm **Monday & Tuesday, Aug 10 & 11: 5-7pm**
(Contact Barb Voight to make other arrangements.)

Volunteer Sign-Up

Name

Email

Phone Number

When are you available to help?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| ☐ Sun. 8/9 | 10:30-12:30 | Drop off/Set up rooms |
| ☐ Mon. 8/10 | 9am-3pm | Set up rooms |
| ☐ Mon. 8/10 | 5-7pm | Drop off |
| ☐ Tues. 8/11 | 9am-3pm | Set up rooms |
| ☐ Tues. 8/11 | 5-7pm | Drop off |
| ☐ Wed. 8/12 | 9am-3pm | Set up rooms |
| ☐ Thurs. 8/13 | 9am-3pm | Set up rooms |
| ☐ Fri. 8/14 | 8:30am-2:30pm | Garage Sale |
| ☐ Sat. 8/15 | 8:30am-1:30pm | Garage Sale |
| ☐ Sat. 8/15 | 1-3:30pm | Clean up |

What are your areas of interest?

- ☐ No preference - wherever help is needed
- ☐ Set up Boutique/Jewelry (library)
- ☐ Set up Holiday (hallway)
- ☐ Set up Electronics/Sporting Goods (F. Hall)
- ☐ Set up Housewares/Home Goods (F. Hall)
- ☐ Set up Toys/Games (hallway)
- ☐ Fri./Sat. Runner
- ☐ Fri./Sat. Holiday/Toy area
- ☐ Fri./Sat. Boutique room (library)
- ☐ Fri./Sat. Fellowship Hall
- ☐ Fri./Sat. Security
- ☐ Fri./Sat. Check-Out/Cashier

Donate \$ for a Meal or Prepare a Meal

- ☐ Lunch - Friday 8/14
- ☐ Lunch - Saturday 8/15

**Please check all that apply. Return the completed form to
Barb Voight or place in the tray on the table in Fellowship Hall.
Thank you!**