

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### Lenten Listening

Lent will be here before we know it, whether we are ready or not. I always appreciate the lenten invitation to get honest with ourselves... about the truth of the world, about our mortality and our struggles. As a season of preparation for Easter, this honesty inevitably makes us realize how much we need the promise of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

So, let's be honest: times were already tough for churches before the pandemic. Now, it's even more challenging to connect with people. And, we know that all too well here at Northbrook. This season of Lent, what might we need to get honest about? How might we need to trust the promise of Easter?

We'll kick off this year's lenten journey with an **Ash Wednesday service at 7pm**. I hope you'll make time to gather to "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" with soulful music and simple, heartfelt prayer. \*If you are uncomfortable driving at night but would like to attend the service, please contact the office. If you want to be here, we want to help make it happen.



During Lent, Northbrook will be using resources from a group called *Sanctified Art*. Other pastors have found the materials quite meaningful. Our theme for the season of Lent will be "**seeking: honest questions for a deeper faith**" and we'll have a variety of resources - from a daily devotional to children's materials to original art - to add depth and breadth to the season.

I've always loved asking the big questions. What I'm learning to love even more is listening deeply - to God and others in the family of faith - to find answers. I look forward to Lent as a time of listening to God and each other.

But, before Lent starts, we're going to have a great opportunity to practice our listening at our upcoming **Vision & Planning Day on Saturday, February 11 from 10am-2pm**. Given the profound changes going on all around us, the leadership of Northbrook is ready to do some long-range planning to ensure that we are faithful and fruitful for years to come. If you have a heart for Christ and how we are called to serve him in our neighborhood and beyond, you are invited to gather as we listen deeply to God and each other so we can take the next step together into the future God has planned for us.

Ears and Eyes Open,  
Pastor Ben

"Live the Love of Jesus Christ"



**“For Such a Time as This”: Northbrook Vision Day**

**Saturday, February 11, 10am-2pm**

Gather with Northbrook leaders, hear a vision from Pastor Ben, and take time to discern together the future God has for us. Your voice is important as we reflect on our gifts, get honest about our challenges, and get energized for a new season. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP to the office by Monday, February 6 if you plan on attending.

**Bedding Collection: January 29 - February 6**

**Sending a Big Valentine Hug to Oakland County Neighbors**

Let’s send some Northbrook warmth to those less fortunate who receive beds and bedding from the Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan. For our February Care & Share, we will partner with the Furniture Bank to help provide NEW bedding. While all sizes are accepted, there is a greater need for twin sizes, especially for children and youth. Bedding sets are appreciated, though not necessary.

Located in Pontiac, the Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan picks up gently used items and delivers them to clients needing essential home furniture. In 2020, through the “Furniture for Families” Program, 6,981 individuals (2,183 families) were served. More than 55% were children under 18. The families served are usually coming out of a crisis situation – fire, eviction, homelessness. Thanks to the Furniture Bank, more children remain healthy by sleeping in a warm bed, more families can share a meal at a dining table, and more people can live in a home with stability and dignity.



**Wednesday, February 22 at 7pm**

Begin the season of Lent in the Sanctuary with soulful music, time of prayer, and the timeless invitation to “remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Even still, our hope is in the Lord.

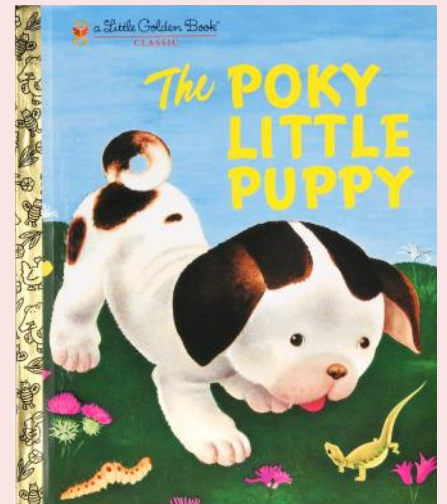
**Senior Soup Lunch and Learn—February 23 at 1p.m.**

Remember those cute little books that you and your kids read so very long ago? They had gold bindings and wonderful drawings on the covers. They sold for 29 cents each.

We know you want to know more about them as Golden Books is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.

We want you to learn more about them so the Congregational Life Committee and the Adult Education Committee have teamed up to share the story behind The Poky Little Puppy and all those other charming books.

Senior Soup Lunch will be served in the library at 1p.m. on Thursday, February 23 followed by a sharing of memories of those books. Admission is by free-will offering and one new Golden Book. Please call the church office for a reservation and to let us know you will be attending.



## **Friday Fun Zoom—Friday, February 24 at 7-8:30pm via Zoom**

Are you longing for good conversation and laughs with friends? You might not want to miss out on some of our great stories. Join our next Friday Fun Zoom, when we will have two topics for our chat: names, and our favorite childhood toy. The names topic will be broad: our own names (meaning, how we got them), our children's names, names we like or dislike, etc. To receive the Zoom link, please contact Winnie Davies-Hancock at (248)593-8035 or at [winsomeann@aol.com](mailto:winsomeann@aol.com) (put NORTHBROOK in the subject line), or see her in church.

## **Pastor's Bible Study: *This is How We Pray* - Wednesdays at 10am and 7pm**

How do we pray? People have been asking this question since the time of Jesus. For the winter months, we will continue to learn about prayer by reading Adam Dressler's book: *This is How We Pray* (which proved to be a great study for the Men's Connection this fall). Join us in the library or [via Zoom](#).

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

Men's Connection meets on Tuesdays at 8am (via Zoom) and at 10am (in the library and via Zoom). Please contact Walt Young at [walt2701@earthlink.net](mailto:walt2701@earthlink.net) for more information and to receive the Zoom link. All men are welcome. In January and February, the Men's Connection group is reading, [The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus](#) by Lee Strobel.

## **LOGOS—Wednesdays from 5-7pm**

LOGOS meets on Wednesdays 5-7pm and will run until April for all K-12 students. The LOGOS program is a fun-filled 2 hours that includes lessons, discussion, music, games, and dinner. For more information and to register, please contact Ken Stetson at 248-302-2177 or [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com).

## **Youth Group**

On Sundays, we hold a group meeting for our middle and high school students. This is a time to give students space to discuss what is on their minds, engage with spiritual lessons, and participate in fun games and team building together. For information, contact Ken Stetson at (248)302-2177 or [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com).

## **Senior Soup Lunch—2nd and 4th Thursdays of the Month at 1pm**

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. Invite a friend! This month, the February 23rd Soup Lunch will be a special *Lunch and Learn* (see previous page for more information).

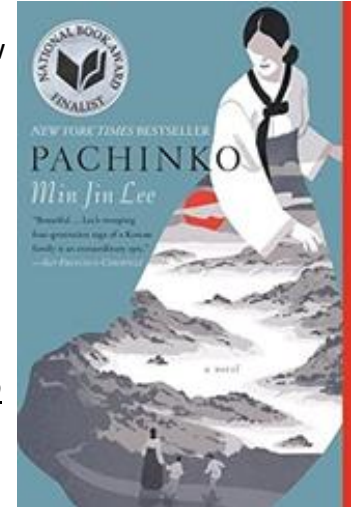
## **Northbrook's Mission Tithed Dollars at Work as we *Share the Love of Jesus Christ***

In January, we distributed the following funds, thanks to the generosity of members and visitors:

- ◆ \$1000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for USA Disaster Relief Efforts
- ◆ \$1000 to South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless (S.O.C.H.)
- ◆ \$2500 to Kids Empowered on the Move to provide assistance to people experiencing homelessness or the threat of it.

## Northbrook Book Club—Monday, March 6 at 7 p.m. via In-Person or Zoom

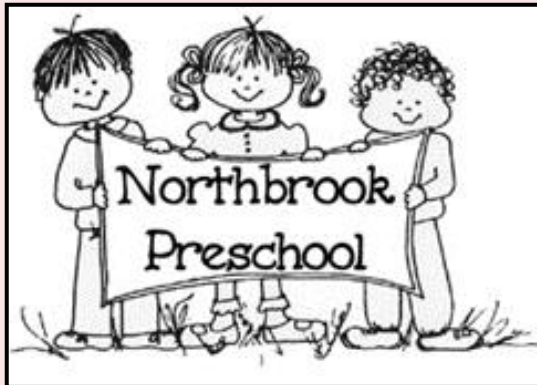
Everybody is welcome to attend the Northbrook Book Club discussion of *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee, on March 6. Please let Pastor Ben or Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation for that night. A copy of *Pachinko* was distributed at the January book club meeting. Please contact Nancy if you would like a copy to read.



Book Summary: *Pachinko* follows one Korean family through the generations, beginning in the early 1900s. Sunja, the prized daughter of a poor yet proud family threatens to shame them all because of her unplanned pregnancy. Deserted by her lover, Sunja is saved when a young sickly minister offers to marry her and bring her to Japan. Richly told and profoundly moving, *Pachinko* is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters — strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis — survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history. *Pachinko* is a national bestseller, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice and an American Booksellers Association's Indie Next Great Reads. Everybody should get reading as it's 490 pages long!!!

Please mark your calendars with these upcoming book club dates:

- ◆ April 17 *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus, (Peggie hosts)
- ◆ May 22 *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver, (Jan hosts)
- ◆ July 10 (book tbd, Barb hosts)
- ◆ August 21 *Call Me Athena: Girl from Detroit* by Colby Cedar Smith, (Kim hosts)
- ◆ October 2 *Not All Who Wander (Spiritually) Are Lost: A Story of Church* by Traci Rhoades (Ben hosts)
- ◆ November 13 (book tbd, Yvonne hosts)
- ◆ January 8, 2024 (book tbd, Winnie hosts)
- ◆ February 12, 2024 (book tbd)



Northbrook Preschoolers are having a great time learning and playing. Our Dads came in for *Donuts with Dads* and we had such a wonderful time!! We have been learning about outer space.

We are registering for the 2023-2024 school year so please tell everyone you know with young children about our wonderful school. We would be happy to answer questions and have anyone come and visit us. For more information, please contact Kerry Callaghan, Director, at (248)642-0200, Ext. 16., or at [preschool@northbrookpc.org](mailto:preschool@northbrookpc.org).

## Calendar

Feb. 1	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
Feb. 5	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Communion/Family Sunday
Feb. 6		Care & Share Bedding Donations Due
Feb. 7	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Feb. 8	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
Feb. 9	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
Feb. 11	10am	Vision Day Meeting
Feb. 12	10am 11am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Deacons' Meeting
Feb. 14	8am 9:30am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Finance Comm. Meeting Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Feb. 15	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
Feb. 19	10am 11am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Meeting
Feb. 21	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Feb. 22	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Feb. 23	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
Feb. 24	7pm	Friday Fun Zoom
Feb. 26	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
Feb. 28	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom

### February Birthdays

02/02	Janet Evans	02/11	Logan Sylvia
02/03	Tom Brown	02/15	Jim Hothem
02/03	Cindy Sowle	02/16	James Grady
02/03	Justin Wicker	02/17	Nicholas Maurer
02/04	Tim Boese	02/19	Griffin Taylor
02/05	Kimberly Annett	02/20	Kae'Yanna King
02/05	Lauri Dailey	02/21	Dan Gross
02/06	Jimmy Mack	02/22	Nathan Willey
02/07	Betsy Savage	02/23	Natalia McIntyre
02/08	Jeff Keoleian		

### February Anniversaries

Todd Dolan & Lauri Dailey – 27 years on February 10

### Mission Thank You Hat & Mitten Tree Collection

**Thank you** for your contributions of hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks to the *Mitten Tree*. Items were delivered to Oakland County Jail Outreach Ministry in Pontiac.



Please visit our website:  
[www.northbrookpc.org](http://www.northbrookpc.org) for the most update  
calendar information.

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# *“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”*

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## **Northbrook**

### **Presbyterian Church**

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#### **Worship with Us**

**Sundays at 10am in the sanctuary**

**The Sunday service is also found:**

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

#### **Office Hours**

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

#### **Staff Contact Information**

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor	ext. 17
<a href="mailto:ben@northbrookpc.org">ben@northbrookpc.org</a>	
Angel Gippert, Director of Traditional Music	
Dan Gross, Musician	
Sherrill Heinrichs, Congregational Care Coord.	Ext. 15
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Kerry Callaghan, Preschool Director	ext. 16
<a href="mailto:preschool@northbrookpc.org">preschool@northbrookpc.org</a>	