

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### Digging in the Sandbox

When we were kids, every spring - right around March - my brother and I would start pestering our dad to get out the sandbox. Though it was not very large, the space in the sandbox was perfect for all kinds of creativity: building sandcastles, setting up elaborate scenes with our action figures, or simply digging around. When the snow finally melted, we would spend hours in our backyard with the neighborhood kids, digging in the sandbox.

When summer came, we'd set our sand-sights on the beach, with its wide expanses and endless digging possibilities. In addition to larger building projects, we'd inevitably build a channel system, dragging heavy buckets high up on the beach, and following the poured water as it surged down toward the shore and the great reunion with its source.

I still remember the first time my young mind was stretched into pondering life on a globe when someone said, "If you dig deep enough, you'll reach China." (Though, I quickly became dubious when they showed handfuls of dirt they found under the sand, saying, "See?")

I have a confession to make: this article was originally supposed to be titled "digging deep". My original intent was to encourage you to "dig deep" and hang in there as winter - and hopefully the pandemic - begins to wind down. The double-meaning was also intended to invite you to "dig deep" during the season of Lent to help you connect with God, the Source who will see us through our present challenges. On that note, I'm excited to be reading *The Deeply Formed Life* with you this Lent.

But, I'd like to invite your digging to be easy and downright playful this year. I know how tired we all are. The truth is, faith doesn't have to be hard work. The season of Lent gives us a great invitation to intentionally make space in our lives to focus on - and receive - what God is giving. The purpose of the season is to prepare ourselves for the greatest gift that God gives: God's very self in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

To that end, I'm still going to invite you to do a little digging this Lenten season. But, my prayer is that it will be easy and playful...like digging in the sandbox.

I love this image from one of my favorite poets, Rabindranath Tagore:

*On the seashore of endless worlds children meet...  
They build their houses with sand, and they play with empty shells.  
With withered leaves they weave their boats and smilingly float them on the vast deep.*

One glorious day, the heavenly beach season will come, with a warm sea breeze and a glorious sunset. That's the promise of Easter. In the meantime, we can dig in the sandbox.

May this Lenten season be an opportunity to experience "the unforced rhythms of grace."  
May the space you make for God be a delight and may your digging lead to discovery with the wonder of a child.

Pastor Ben



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”



**Wednesday, March 2**

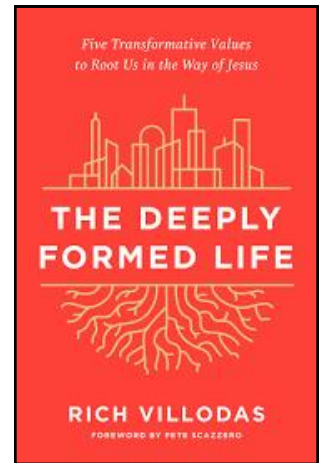
Noon-1pm & 5-6pm

*Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.*

Begin Lent with a powerful reminder of our humanity as we begin the journey with Jesus toward the Cross and the Resurrection. Stop by the church anytime between noon and 1pm or 5 and 6pm to receive the imposition of ashes. We will gather in the sanctuary in small groups and pause for prayer before receiving the ashes.

**Dig Deep with Northbrook During Lent**

Grab a copy of *The Deeply Formed Life* to dig deep in these chaotic times. In his book, New York City pastor Rich Villodas will help you discover five values that can spark internal growth and help reconcile Christian faith with the complexities of race, sexuality, and social justice. Lent kicks off in March and we'll be spending the season exploring this text - winner of the Christianity Today book award - during our Tuesday Men's Connections and the Wednesday Pastor's Bible Studies. Whether reading the book as a solo adventure or with a group (one of ours or a group of your own), *The Deeply Formed Life* is a great roadmap to live in the richly rooted place we all yearn for: a place of communion with God, a place where we find our purpose.



*Easter Flowers*

Adorning our Sanctuary with Easter Flowers is a Northbrook tradition. Please fill out this form and place it, along with your check, in the offering plate or in the office. Please make checks payable to Northbrook Church and write "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. Plants may be taken home following the 10am Easter Service on Sunday, April 17. **Orders are due by Sunday, March 20th.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Plants at **\$9.00 each:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Lily \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth

Total Number of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedication**

I would like my plant(s) placed in memory of/in honor of (circle one):

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please print clearly. This dedication information, along with your name, will be printed in the Easter bulletin.)*

## FINANCE MATTERS

Northbrook Presbyterian is blessed to have received a number of very generous legacy pledges over the years. While some of these donations are for designated purposes, others provide the flexibility of offsetting specific operating expenses. At the recent Annual Meeting, the 2022 budget was presented to the congregation. Balancing the budget required utilizing some of the legacy account reserves, the use of which we hope to minimize in the future. Recently, a member of the congregation generously donated \$4,000 to ensure adequate funding for youth education during the 2022 calendar year. We are very grateful for this special gift. These in-kind donations provide needed budget relief, and, as a result, in the next couple of months, we are going to "reach out" to our membership to support/sponsor similar high priority activities and needs within the church. We are so appreciative of your ongoing support to help all of us...*Live the Love of Jesus Christ.*

Your Finance Committee: Tim Boese, Mark Best, Dan Gross, and Pastor Ben Larson-Wolbrink

## Northbrook Covid Safety Update

At its February 20th meeting, the Northbrook Session voted to adopt the Michigan mask guidelines, removing the requirement to wear masks when gathered at Northbrook.

- ◆ Please take a moment to explore [this link](#), and take time to familiarize yourself with it.
- ◆ This action is based on the fact that we are in a "recovery (post surge)" phase, and we acknowledge that we may need to shift back to stricter measures in the future.

Also included with this action is the provision that all Northbrook staff reserve the right to request anyone (visitor, church member, staff, etc.) to wear a mask so they can be assured of their own safety while fulfilling their work responsibilities. Likewise, if you find yourself in a setting that requires close contact with a staff member, please feel free to request them to wear a mask if it will help ensure your safety.

We will continue to reserve space in the sanctuary for those who wish to remain masked and distanced during worship.

While we will continue to be thoughtful about other safety measures, we celebrate the opportunity to be able to connect with each other more fully at this time.

### *Family Sundays*

We are excited to have the families of Northbrook lead worship on the **first Sunday of each month**. Northbrook member Steve Taylor will help us with music and our LOGOS friends will guide us through other parts of the service. You won't want to miss this special monthly service: led by our young people, for *all God's people*.

It is with sadness that I write to say *Good Bye* and *Thank You* to each of you who listened to me, studied, and worked with me in the past. We created memories I will treasure forever. I am moving nearer to my daughter:

Gaslight Village Assisted Living  
2625 N. Adrian Highway  
Adrian, MI 49221

I leave praying we all may continue to *Live the Love of Jesus Christ*.

Joyce Hamburg



## Friday Fun Zoom - Friday, March 4th and 18th at 7pm

Are you longing for fun conversation, fellowship, and some laughs with friends? Friday Fun Zooms take place the 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. If you'd like to join, let Winnie Davies-Hancock know by this Friday at 4:00 p.m: [winsomeann@aol.com](mailto:winsomeann@aol.com) (please put *Northbrook in the memo line when you email Winnie for the Zoom details*). For our March 4th theme, we will share stories about our favorite foods from childhood.

## Lenten Soul Stroll - Saturday, March 5 at 9am

Though we couldn't gather in February, we'll try again in March, which will be the first Saturday in the season of Lent ("slowing"). Dress for the weather and join Pastor Ben for a prayerful stroll around the church grounds and neighborhood. Our monthly Soul Stroll series dedicates the first Saturday of the month to observing - and pondering - what God is doing in this place.

## Men's Connection – Tuesdays at 8am via Zoom & 10am In-Person and via Zoom

Starting on March 8th, the Men's Connection will be reading *The Deeply Formed Life* by New York City pastor Rich Villodas as part of the Lenten book study. Join us at 8am via Zoom, or at 10am in-person in the church library or via Zoom. Please contact Walt Young at [walt2701@earthlink.net](mailto:walt2701@earthlink.net) for Zoom details.

## Pastor's Pivot Point Bible Study - Wednesdays at 10am and 7pm

Beginning March 2nd, we will be reading *The Deeply Formed Life* by New York City pastor Rich Villodas for a Lenten book study. Join us in-person in the church library or via Zoom at either 10am or 7pm.

## LOGOS—Wednesdays from 5-7pm

LOGOS, our weekly youth program, takes place on Wednesdays from 5-7pm for all K-12th grade students. LOGOS includes evening devotions, music, dinner and group games. The cost is \$70 per semester to cover dinner and supplies. For more information, email Ken Stetson at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com).

## Northbrook Youth Group

Our mid and seniors highs meet on Sundays from 4-5:30pm. For more information, contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com).

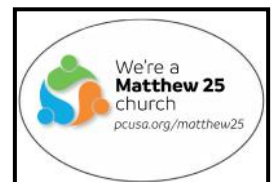
## Knit Wits

The Knit Wits meets monthly meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 1-3pm in the Library.

## Understanding the Racial Wealth Gap—Thursday, March 24 at 7p.m.

**Matthew 25 "Dismantling Structural Racism" Speaker Series - First Presbyterian Church – Birmingham**

The keynote speaker for this event will be Mary Mbiya, Vice President, Diversity and Inclusion Director, Flagstar Bank. The event is hosted by the Matthew 25 Workgroup of First Presbyterian Church-Birmingham. You can participate in person or online. *Please register in advance for this free event at the [fpcbirmingham.org](http://fpcbirmingham.org) under the Matthew 25 "button" on their webpage.*



## Lion's Club International Donation Box

We have a new Lion's Club Donation box in the main hallway. Please consider donating your used eyeglasses, hearing aids, and cell phones. Thank you.



Every gift makes a difference  
in the life of someone  
who deserves  
God's love and support.

 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

03.02.22-  
04.17.22

### One Great Hour of Sharing, March 2—April 17

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. You may make your contribution during worship, online through Northbrook's website, or by sending it to the church. However you make your offering, please indicate that it is for the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. Thank you!

### Shop Early for Easter and Spring!



Shopping for Fair Trade food and gift items using Northbrook's own website link via [SERRV.org](http://SERRV.org) (SERRV International) gives you a way to contribute more to Northbrook's Mission Fund while also helping the planet and people of the world who need our support of their Fair Trade enterprises.



Purchases made by anyone, including friends, relatives, and colleagues via Northbrook's custom link will allow Northbrook's Mission Fund to earn 20% of the total sales. Here is our link, which you need to use in order for Northbrook Mission to earn the extra funds: <http://serrv.org/?a=Northbrook>. Sign in as a guest or create your own log-in. For help, contact Winnie Davies-Hancock at [winsomeann@aol.com](mailto:winsomeann@aol.com) or 248-593-8035. *Give a gift that shows your love and blesses others!*

Here are some websites for other Fair Trade organizations in need of our support:

- ◆ [Equal Exchange](#) (coffees – including organic, teas, chocolates, food and gifts)
- ◆ [Mayan Hands](#) (fashion, household, and gift items) [mayanhands.org](http://mayanhands.org)
- ◆ [MayaWorks](#) (fashion, household, and gift items) [mayaworks.org](http://mayaworks.org)
- ◆ [UPAVIM](#) (fashion, household, and gift items) [upavimcrafts.org](http://upavimcrafts.org)

*THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE MADE ONLINE PURCHASES.  
YOU HAVE ADDED TO THE FUNDS THAT MISSION COMMITTEE IS ABLE TO DISTRIBUTE TO ORGANIZATIONS  
THAT DO IMPORTANT WORK IN THE WORLD!*

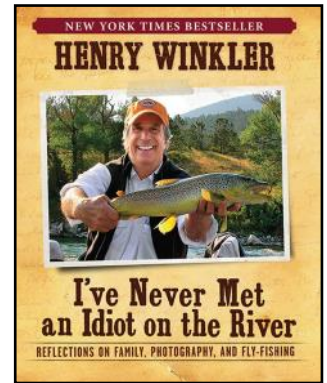
Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13  
*Don't forget to set your clocks forward an hour.*

# Northbrook

## Northbrook Book Club—Monday, April 4 at 7pm

All are welcome to read and discuss *I've Never Met an Idiot on the River* by Henry Winkler at the next Northbrook Book Club meeting on Monday, April 4 at 7pm in-person in the church library or via Zoom. Please contact Nancy Best at [nancyibest@gmail.com](mailto:nancyibest@gmail.com) for Zoom meeting details if you are not a regular attendee.

*Description: A New York Times best-selling collection of humorous anecdotes and heartfelt observations from Henry Winkler. He shares the joy and wisdom he's accumulated while honing his skills as a fly-fisherman. Winkler has learned that his yearly trips to the river are not just about catching trout. More importantly, they're about adopting the proper perspective on life. Or, as Winkler puts it, when he's fly-fishing, the river acts like a "washing machine for my brain," recharging him and reminding him that anything is possible. An expression of the inherent optimism that stems from the simplicity of the outdoors, *I've Never Met an Idiot on the River* is an invitation to share in the realizations and achievements Winkler has found while fishing. Hopefully, it will help you catch a few of your own.*



Please mark your calendars with the upcoming book club dates for 2022:


- ◆ May 16: *Untamed* by Glennon Doyle, memoir, 352 pages (Peggie hosts)
- ◆ June 27: *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng, fiction, mystery, 298 pages (Kim hosts)
- ◆ August 8: *Save for Fireflies* by Nathaniel Missildine (Pastor Ben's friend)
- ◆ September 19: *A Place at the Table* by Susan Rebecca White, fiction, 336 pages (Winnie hosts)
- ◆ October 24: *The Women of the Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell, historical fiction, 341 pages. Michigan Great Read book (Barb hosts)
- ◆ December 5: *The Yellow House* by Sarah M. Broom, memoir, 384 pages (Paulette hosts)
- ◆ January 23, 2023: *Have You Seen Luis Velez?* by Catherine Ryan Hyde, fiction, 320 pages (Nancy hosts)

## In Memoriam

*Vera McBride*

September 14, 1936

February 1, 2022



### Care & Share Bedding Drive



Thank you to everyone who donated their time and bedding items for our February Care & Share. These items have been delivered to the Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

## Calendar

Mar. 1	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Mar. 2	10am 12-1pm 5-6pm 5pm 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study Ash Wednesday-Imposition of Ashes Ash Wednesday-Imposition of Ashes LOGOS Pivot Point Bible Study
Mar. 4	7pm	Friday Fun Zoom
Mar. 5	9am	Lenten Soul Stroll
Mar. 6	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Communion/Family Sunday
Mar. 8	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Mar. 9	10am 5pm 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study LOGOS Pivot Point Bible Study
Mar. 12	3pm	Neighborhood Project Meeting
Mar. 13	10am 11:30am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Deacons' Meeting
Mar. 15	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Mar. 16	10am 5pm 7pm 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study LOGOS Pivot Point Bible Study PYCT Meeting
Mar. 18	7pm	Friday Fun Zoom
Mar. 19	3pm	Neighborhood Project Meeting
Mar. 20	10am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Meeting
Mar. 22	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Mar. 23	10am 1pm 5pm 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study Knit Wits LOGOS Pivot Point Bible Study
Mar. 24	7pm	Dismantling Structural Racism Program/Matthew 25 Series

Mar. 27	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
Mar. 29	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Mar. 30	10am 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study Pivot Point Bible Study

### March Birthdays

03/02 Don Hemberg	03/19 Judy Owen
03/06 Mona Guindi	03/19 Judith Stucky
03/08 Jan Carroll	03/19 Erin Swenson
03/08 Hunter Tengler	03/23 Beverly Singer
03/11 Alex Burnham	03/25 Camille Cheairs
03/11 Grace Daniels	03/28 Roman Kafarski
03/15 Annie Burnham	03/29 Sherrill Heinrichs
03/15 Barbara L. Davidson	03/29 Colin Tengler
03/16 Owen Hurbis	03/30 Carolyn Hemmye
03/17 Grant Burnham	03/31 Madelyn Willey
03/17 Derek Stottlemeyer	

### March Anniversaries

Doug & Diane Joppie – 52 years on 03/07

### The Wedding of Q & U



Pastor Ben performed the *wedding ceremony* of the letters Q and U for **Northbrook Preschool** students and parents. This was a symbolic union of these two letters who spend their lives together. Celebration festivities also included a *reception* in Fellowship Hall with cake and lots of dancing.

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

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# *“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”*

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## **Northbrook**

### **Presbyterian Church**

22055 West Fourteen Mile Road  
Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025  
Phone (248) 642-0200  
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www.northbrookpc.org



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#### **Worship with Us**

##### **Sundays at 10am**

- In-person in the sanctuary (masks required)
- Livestream—[NorthbrookPresCh YouTube Channel](#)
- 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
<a href="mailto:ben@northbrookpc.org">ben@northbrookpc.org</a>	
Angel Gippert, Director of Music	
Dan Gross, Contemporary Music Director	
Sherrill Heinrichs, Congregational Care Coord.	Ext. 15
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<a href="mailto:preschool@northbrookpc.org">preschool@northbrookpc.org</a>	