

Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Lenten Listening, Part 2

Reckoning is a word we don't use much anymore. But, it feels like it fits perfectly with Lent. During Lent, we reckon with the reality of our mortality. We reckon with the choice that God - in Jesus - made to enter into our mortality. Hopefully, this reckoning will help us prepare for just how amazing the resurrection - and all it means for our lives and our future - truly is.

At the Northbrook Vision Day in February, we took some time to remember God's faithfulness in this place and to reimagine the future for our congregation. There was a sense of gratitude for some wonderful times together, as well as some real creative energy for what is possible here.

We also took time to reckon with our present circumstances. Covid changed our world and our congregation. Who are we as a congregation, and what does it look like to be a faithful and relevant congregation in our world today? As the Session is working on its long-term plan, these are important questions.



And, they would love your input. Is there something missing at Northbrook for which your soul is yearning? Is there a need or issue in the community that Northbrook might address? Are there ways you might want to participate more fully in the life of Northbrook? Is there a challenge holding you back? Is there anything else you'd like the Northbrook elders to know?

For the season of Lent, we have coordinated several listening sessions where the leadership of Northbrook can intentionally hear from the congregation. We have put together a variety of listening sessions to make them accessible to anyone who might participate. Please consider attending one of the following:

- ◆ Tues March 7 at 7pm - Bauhof Residence (4138 Washington Crescent, Troy)
- ◆ Thurs March 16 at 11am - Northbrook Library
- ◆ Thurs March 16 at 7pm - Willey Residence (29725 Bristol Lane, Bingham Farms)
- ◆ Tues March 21 at 7pm - Dailey / Dolan Residence (29650 Bristol Lane, Bingham Farms)
- ◆ Sat March 25 at 10am - LaSota Residence (22022 Camelot Court, Beverly Hills)
- ◆ Sun March 26 at 11:30am - Northbrook Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP to the church office if you plan on attending. We would love to hear from you as we discern - and prepare for the future that the Resurrected One has for us in this place.

Listening,
Pastor Ben

“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”



Beholding Still...

Exploring Van Gogh's Faith in His Art
Saturday, March 18 at 11am

Discover Vincent Van Gogh's spiritual perspective and how it was expressed - and is still experienced today - through his artwork. Pastor Ben will share how Van Gogh's intensity and passion were anchored by a deep and evolving faith. Artist Michael Bauhof will illuminate how these commitments - to loving God's creation and the people who labor therein - are expressed in the bold brushstrokes Van Gogh put on canvas. *Post presentation refreshments will be provided by the Northbrook Adult Education Committee.*



The Sower, 1888 Image taken from the Van Gogh in America exhibit at the Detroit Institute of Arts



Adult Education Outing: Schoolcraft College Concert March 8 at Noon

Join us on Wednesday, March 8 at noon at Schoolcraft College for a musical treat! The Adult Education Committee has organized a trip to Schoolcraft College to hear a free classical concert performed by the Schoolcraft music faculty. The free concert will take place in the auditorium in the Vista Teck Building on the north campus. Park in the north lot along Haggerty Road and enter through the east door. Depending on the interest, we may take the van or carpool from the church (meet at 11:15am at Northbrook) or you can meet us there. Lunch plans are still being determined. Sign up in Fellowship Hall, and contact Liz Hurbis at (248)225-5273 or LHurbis@comcast.net for more information.

March Finance Committee Update

When I started in ministry, I never imagined that the Holy Spirit could move through a church budget. But, it feels like this is one of those times. I am grateful to all who came to the Annual Congregational meeting in January to watch a clear and useful finance video put together by Dan Gross, chair of the Finance Committee. The video - and the input from other members of the Finance Committee and Session - acknowledged the real financial struggles we face here at Northbrook as we reckon with a significant budget deficit. In the midst of the discussion, I experienced the resolve of the Northbrook leadership to take this challenge head-on.

And, the work has already begun. Close to 40 people came to our Northbrook Vision Day on Saturday, February 11, and a host of ideas - and lots of good energy - were generated as we reflected on the past, reckoned with the present, and reimagined our future. At its February 19th meeting, the Northbrook Session began the hard work of turning these ideas into a long-range plan for the health - and, by God's grace, growth - of Northbrook.

It would be easy to be overwhelmed by such financial challenges, but I find myself feeling surprisingly encouraged and energized working with you all. Stay tuned for more updates as we move forward, and please keep all Northbrook leaders in prayer for the work ahead.

Pastor Ben

For our March Mission *Care & Share* Donation Drive, we are joining with other churches within the Presbytery of Detroit to collect **INDIVIDUALLY-WRAPPED ROLLS** of toilet paper. You may find these at Costco and other area stores. Please place your donations by the manger area in the main hallway. Let's see if we can help the Hunger Ministries program exceed its goal of collecting this very basic necessity!



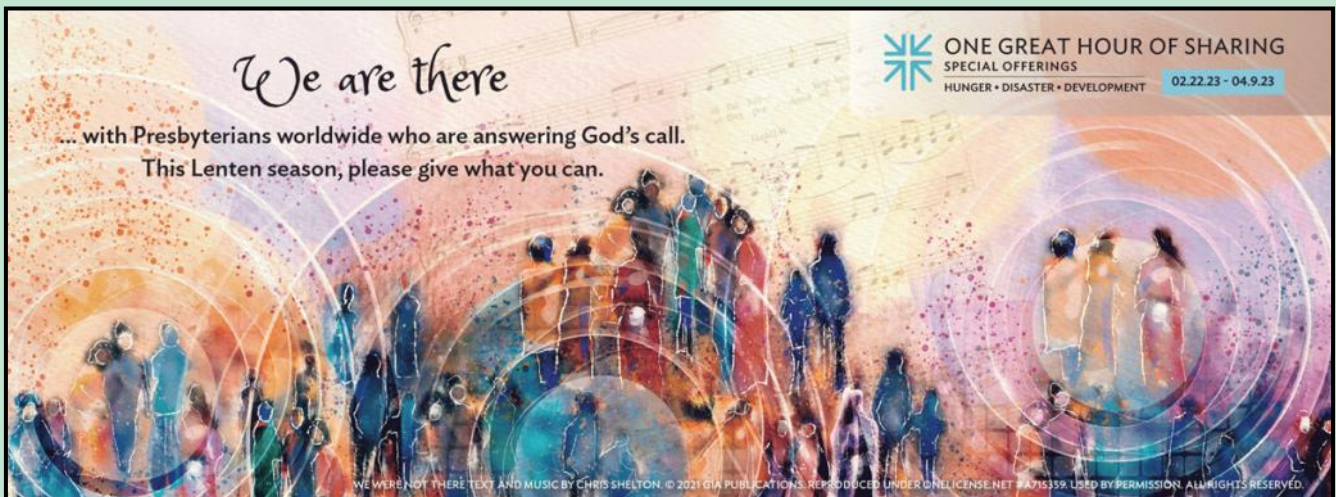
POD TOILET PAPER DRIVE

Many families served by the Hunger Ministry struggle with being able to purchase other essentials, so we are initiating a drive to collect single-wrap toilet paper to offer to pantry families

ROLL WITH IT!

*3 rolls per family for a total of 1300 families = 3900 ROLLS.

Please consider helping.



We are there
... with Presbyterians worldwide who are answering God's call.
This Lenten season, please give what you can.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT 02.22.23 - 04.9.23

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One Great Hour of Sharing—Special Offering

In a world of hunger, oppression, and natural disasters, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - 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.

Whether you contribute via Northbrook's website, with a check, or with cash, please indicate that your payment is for **OGHS** so your donation is accounted for and passed along appropriately. We will accept contributions through the week following Easter Sunday.

Lenten Devotionals

If you would like a lenten devotional this year and still have not picked yours up, please contact the church office and we will be glad to print one out for you. Our theme for this year will be *Seeking: honest questions for a deeper faith*, using thoughtful resources provided by a curriculum collective called Sanctified Art.

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 for more information and to receive the Zoom link. All men are welcome. Men's Connection is currently reading Easter From The Backside: A Different Look at the Story of Christ's Resurrection by J. Ellsworth Kalas.

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

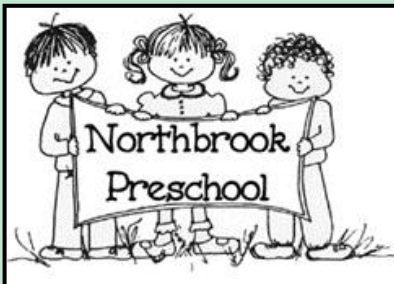
Please join us in the Library at 1pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month for a delicious soup lunch and plentiful conversation. Invite a friend!

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.

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.



Northbrook Preschool's Dad's Donuts Day and Valentine's party were a success. We are learning about rhyming and Dr. Seuss.

If you get a chance, come see our art hanging in the hallway!

We are currently enrolling for the preschool's 2023-2024 school year. We expect another wait list for the coming year!!



Roman John
Kafarski

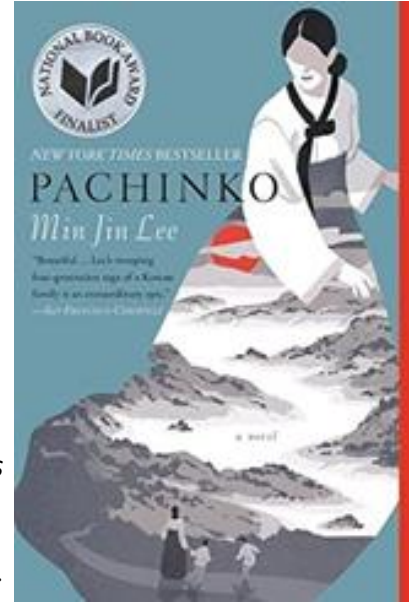
March 28, 1933—February 2, 2023



Northbrook

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)





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 9. **Orders are due by Sunday, March 12th.**

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Plants at **\$9.50 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.)

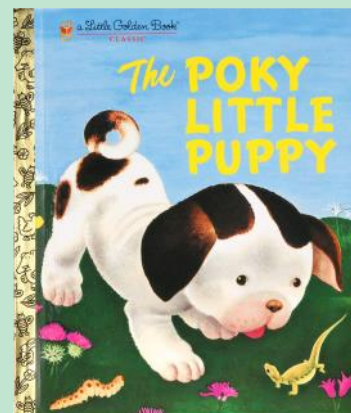
Senior Soup Lunch and Learn—Rescheduled for March 23 at 1pm

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 75th 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, March 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.



Coffee Hour Hosts—Flowers for the Sanctuary

Did you know that the sign-up sheets for being a coffee hour host, and placing Chancel and Window flowers are in the main hallway? Please take a look, sign up and help be a part of the Sunday service at Northbrook.

Calendar

March 1	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
March 5	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Communion/Family Sunday
March 6	7pm	Northbrook Book Club Meeting
March 7	8am 10am 7pm	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom Lenten Listening Session (Bauhof's house)
March 8	Noon 5pm	Adult Ed Trip—Schoolcraft Concert LOGOS
March 9	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
March 12	10am 11am	<i>Daylight Savings Time~Spring Forward</i> In-Person & Livestream Worship Deacons' Meeting Easter Flower Orders Due
March 14	8am 9:30am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Finance Comm. Meeting Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
March 15	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
March 16	11am 7pm	Lenten Listening Session (in the library) Lenten Listening Session (Willey house)
March 18	11am	Beholding Still...Exploring Van Gogh's Faith in His Art Workshop
March 19	10am 11am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Meeting
March 21	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom Lenten Listening Session (Dailey/Dolan house)
March 22	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
March 23	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch—Golden Book Program
March 25	10am	Lenten Listening Session (LaSota house)

March 26	10am 11:30am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Lenten Listening Session (in Fellowship Hall)
March 28	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom

March Birthdays

03/02 Don Hemberg	03/19 Judy Owen
03/02 Maggie Parks	03/19 Judith Stucky
03/06 Mona Guindi	03/19 Erin Swenson
03/08 Jan Carroll	03/23 Beverly Singer
03/08 Hunter Tengler	03/25 Camille Cheairs
03/11 Alex Burnham	03/25 James Wicker
03/11 Grace Daniels	03/28 Laura Kerr
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 – 53 years on March 7



Care & Share Bedding Drive

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



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

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

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