

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### Holy Week, Holy Journey

Recently, I was reminded of a profound Christian concept: the Good News of Jesus Christ is as much about the world that is coming - as we say in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" - *as it is about our souls after we die.*

Like the spring flowers, this reminder keeps popping up all over: from Adam Hamilton (a Midwestern Methodist megachurch pastor) whose books we've read at the Men's connection, from N.T. Wright (an Anglican bishop from England) whose book, *God and the Pandemic*, we discussed at our backyard gatherings last summer, and, most recently, from Rich Villodas (a Puerto Rican Pentecostal pastor in NYC) in his book we are reading for Lent, *A Deeply Formed Life*. Whatever your background or theological frame of reference, we get to read the same story about what God was - and is - up to in Jesus.

Holy Week invites us to enter into this story right along with Jesus.

**Palm Sunday** - We'll begin on Sunday (April 10 at our 10am service) where the story of Jesus' last week begins: with his entrance into Jerusalem to confront the powers of this world. We'll also hear the devious plan to betray him that sets the story for the rest of the week in motion.

**Maundy Thursday** - We'll gather (April 14 at 7pm) for an "upper room" experience in the sanctuary to hear the story of the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples, and we'll share communion together. There will be plenty of silence throughout the time to allow for the power of the story - and God's presence - to be felt deeply.

**Good Friday** - The story continues (April 15 at noon) in the sanctuary with Jesus' arrest in the garden, his several trials, his suffering, his execution, and his burial. On that horrible, wonderful day, God was handed over to experience the worst in us in order to save us. But, the story doesn't end there...

**Holy Saturday** - We'll gather (April 16 at 7:30pm) on the patio to celebrate a traditional Easter Vigil, led by the families of Northbrook. They will tell the ancient stories of God's liberation in the Hebrew scriptures, culminating in the story of the empty tomb. We'll carry the paschal light into the darkened sanctuary for a first taste of Easter with communion.

**Easter Sunday** - We'll have two opportunities to hear the story of Christ's resurrection and let the story settle into our beings through communion:

- Our **Outdoor Service** (April 17 at 8am) will be held in the labyrinth among the beauty of a spring morning.
- Our **Easter Sunday Service** (April 17 at our 10am service) will be in the sanctuary with the scent of beautiful flowers and the sound of beautiful music.

I look forward to sharing this holy journey with you.

- Pastor Ben



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

## Family Sunday for Ukraine Sunday, April 3

Our hearts are heavy with the daily news of the ongoing war in Ukraine. As a part of our Family Sunday service on April 3rd, we will hear a story about Ukraine and ponder how we can be gifts for God's peace. The Mission Connection Committee has made arrangements to hand-out blue and yellow ribbons and we will bless them during the service. Following worship, we'll head outside to tie the ribbons onto the tree (like we did last year during Lent) as a visible witness to our prayers for peace.

This will be a great service to invite friends and neighbors, and if they can't make it to worship, we'll be available outside from 11am-1pm to distribute the prayer ribbons to the community. (The bin of ribbons will remain outside for people to stop by anytime to add their prayers.)

We'll also learn how we can support Presbyterian efforts to respond on the ground in and around Ukraine. To give online: <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/?appeal=PDA&package=UK22-ABB>.

***Join us on April 3 as we raise up our prayers and money for Ukraine.***

## *Holy Week at Northbrook: the Story of God's Wondrous Love*

### **Palm Sunday Service - Sunday, April 10 at 10am in the sanctuary**

Celebrate Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem with palms and music. Holy week begins when the "kingdom" of God confronts the kingdom of this world. \*Will be livestreamed.

### **Maundy Thursday Upper Room Experience - Thursday, April 14 at 7pm in the sanctuary**

Hear the story of Christ's Passover meal with his disciples. Embrace the gift of silence in the midst of the story, and share the Lord's Supper. \*Will be livestreamed.

### **Good Friday Service - Friday, April 15 at 12pm in the sanctuary**

The story continues as Jesus is arrested, sentenced to death, and crucified. Ponder the height, breadth, and depth of God's love for us in Jesus Christ, when God gives God's very self for us. \*Will be livestreamed.

### **Easter Vigil - Saturday, April 16 at 7:30pm on the back patio**

Bring a lawn chair and gather around the campfire as young people tell the stories of God's redemption, culminating in the resurrection of Christ.

(In case of bad weather, this service will be held in Fellowship Hall.)

# Easter Sunday - A New Creation!

## Easter Sunrise Outdoor Service

**Sunday, April 17 at 8am on the labyrinth**

Celebrate the new day - and our new life - in the Risen Christ during an informal outdoor service.

(In case of bad weather, this service will be held in Fellowship Hall.)

## Easter Service

**Sunday, April 17 at 10am in the sanctuary**

Enjoy beautiful music and lovely flowers as we proclaim the Risen Christ during our Easter Sunday worship.

Shout Hosanna! Christ is risen, indeed!

\*Will be livestreamed.

## Visit Northbrook's Beautiful Indoor Labyrinth during Holy Week or Just Come and Find Rest and Peace in this Sacred Space During Holy Week

***Set time aside this week on Maundy Thursday from 9 am – 7 pm or Good Friday from 9 am-4 pm.***

During this sacred week leading up to Easter, come and experience the labyrinth's sacred path. In our anticipation of Easter, let's not miss the opportunity for reflection that Holy Week offers us. For nearly 2000 years, Christians have dedicated the days leading up to Easter to drawing close to God. This is a time to refocus our hearts, minds, and lives by intentionally setting aside everything else and, as Henri Nouwen says, "making time and space to give God our undivided attention," and to come into God's loving, healing, and transforming presence.

One way to do this is by committing time during Holy Week to visit the prayer labyrinth. In this peaceful space, dedicate time to reading the Biblical story that takes place during Easter week, choosing your "path photograph", walking the prayer labyrinth, and being calm in this spirit-filled space. Walking the labyrinth helps you quiet your mind and see your life in the context of a path or pilgrimage. The labyrinth is a place where you can release stress, pray, bring your grief and find healing, or participate in a walking meditation that allows your spirit to become more receptive to the voice of God. You may also symbolically make the walk with Christ to Jerusalem, using the labyrinth as a tool for silent reflection and prayer.



There will be information to guide you on your walk if you are new to the labyrinth, but there is no right or wrong way to walk...just come and put one foot in front of the other. If you would like to know more about the labyrinth, Sherrill Heinrichs will be available to answer any questions.

## Join us for Coffee & Conversation

Coffee Hour will resume on Sunday, April 3rd immediately following worship!  
Join us for this time of light snacks and fellowship.



### Friday Fun Zoom - Friday, April 1st and April 22nd at 7pm

Are you longing for fun conversation, fellowship, and some laughs with friends? In April, Friday Fun Zooms will take place the 1st & 4th Friday from 7-8:30 p.m. If you'd like to join, let Winnie Davies-Hancock know at [winsomeann@aol.com](mailto:winsomeann@aol.com) by Friday at 4pm (please put Northbrook in the memo line when you email Winnie for the Zoom details). For our April 1st theme, we will share stories about family Easter season traditions from our youth to the present. On April 22nd, the topic will be in honor of Earth Day and anything related to Earth's beauty (favorite place, scenery, topography, season, plant, etc.) as well as sharing about an idea or practice about "going/being green."

### Lenten Soul Stroll - Saturday, April 2 at 9am

Join us on Saturday, April 2 at 9am for another Lenten Soul Stroll. 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.

### Camp Lock-In—Friday, April 22

We will be hosting a Camp Lock-In at Northbrook on Friday, April 22nd from 7pm until Saturday, 9:30am for anyone in 1st grade or older. This is for anyone interested in trying out a night away from home or just want to have a fun night! The cost will be \$10 and will include a snack on Friday night and a lite breakfast on Saturday morning. Please bring any sleeping materials and/or an air mattress to sleep on. For more information, please contact Ken Stetson at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com).

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

The Men's Connection will continue 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

We will continue 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 following worship. 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.

## Easter & Spring Shopping with Meaning and for Mission Support

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.*

### Senior Soup Lunch Returns



Senior Soup Lunch is starting up again on April 28, and will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 1pm in the library. Our amazing chef, Judy Owen, will once again be creating delicious soup, salad, bread, and dessert accompanied by her beautiful table decorations. There will be plenty of time for conversation and getting to know one another.



**Sunday, May 1**

Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins and weekly emails about this fun event. Proceeds will go to the Northbrook youth programs.

### One Great Hour of Sharing—Now through April 17

*A special dedication of our offering will take place on Palm Sunday, April 10.*

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!

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

## FINANCE MATTERS

Last month in the newsletter, we shared how blessed we have been for legacy pledges over the years. This month, we want to discuss how unique, personal giving opportunities might fit squarely into the needs of Northbrook.

We are in the midst of the season of Lent leading up to a glorious Easter celebration. We continue to be thankful for your generosity in meeting the financial needs of our church. In addition to our pledged contributions, we are blessed with funds we draw from which provide help in meeting ongoing operating needs. But, those funds are not unlimited by any means. We know times are tight financially for many of us. So, as we faithfully consider how important Northbrook is to our faith journey, a couple of questions emerge.

How could we further align our resources with specific growth opportunities for the coming year? What are your individual passions you see which can be celebrated by giving? We invite you to let us know what you are most excited about. Are your passions most visible to you on behalf of our children and youth, our musical offerings, for adult ministry or our mission goals? Would you love to see an enhanced playground area that will enhance opportunities for our youth and our vibrant pre-K program? It may be continued improvements in sound equipment for our music ministry to be enjoyed by those tuning in to our online community. Or, it could be as simple as funding for flowers for our sanctuary.

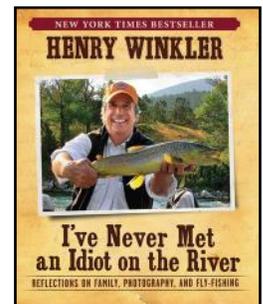
Stay tuned as we share more of our blueprint for tangible growth opportunities which could be matched with legacy funding choices by our congregation.

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

## 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)

## Calendar

April 1	7pm	Friday Fun Zoom
April 2	9am	Lenten Soul Stroll
Apr. 3	10am 11am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Communion/Family Sunday Help for Ukraine Event
Apr. 4	7pm	Book Club Meeting
Apr. 5	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Apr. 6	10am 5pm 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study LOGOS Pivot Point Bible Study
Apr. 9	3pm	Neighborhood Project Meeting
Apr. 10	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Palm Sunday
Apr. 12	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Apr. 13	10am 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study Pivot Point Bible Study
Apr. 14	7pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Apr. 15	12pm	Good Friday Service
Apr. 16	7:30pm	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
Apr. 17	8am 10am	Easter Sunrise Service Easter Worship: In-Person & Livestream
Apr. 18		Church Office Closed
Apr. 19	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Apr. 20	10am 1pm 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study Knit Wits Pivot Point Bible Study
Apr. 22	7pm 7pm	Camp Lock-In Friday Fun Zoom
Apr. 24	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
Apr. 26	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Apr. 27	10am 1pm 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study Knit Wits Pivot Point Bible Study
Apr. 28	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch

### April Birthdays

04/02	Bradley Wicker	04/21	Carlos McIntyre
04/07	Madison Broadwell	04/23	Valerie MacFarlane
04/07	Winnie Davies-Hancock	04/24	Denise Getchell
04/10	Rob Olson	04/24	Joyce Hamburg
04/13	Darwin Chungag	04/25	Kelsey DeCarteret
04/14	William Back	04/25	Graham Lockett
04/14	Connie Jordan	04/25	Jennifer Wicker
04/14	Penny Willey	04/26	Carson Sowle
04/15	Petie Forbush	04/26	David Wind
04/15	Robert Sandercock	04/28	Jan Sansom
04/18	Debbie Smith	04/30	Jennifer Sicora
04/19	Kristen Miller	04/30	William Swink
04/20	David Burnham	04/30	Nicki Walgren

### April Anniversaries

Kimberly & Michael Yekin – 37 years on April 4  
 Bill & Connie Jordan – 37 years on April 20  
 Grant & Barbara Burnham – 50 years on April 29

### *Family Sundays*

We are excited to have the families of Northbrook lead worship on the **first Sunday of each month**. You won't want to miss this special monthly service: led by our young people, for *all God's people*.



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**

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### **Worship with Us**

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

- In-person in the sanctuary
- 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**

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