

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### Holy Seeking / Seeking Wholely

Holy Week is here. And, our seeking will take us to even deeper - and more abundant - places as we bring our honest questions along to the journey with Jesus. We begin Holy Week with our **Palm Sunday Service at 10am on Sunday, April 2nd**. The young people of Northbrook will help lead worship, kicking off the service with the traditional procession of palms. Together, we'll ponder the question of Jesus, *Where are you going?*

We will continue Holy Week in Fellowship Hall for a **Maundy Thursday Gathering at 6pm on April 6th**. Bring food to share for a potluck meal and an informal celebration of the Last Supper around our tables. After the last meal with his disciples, Jesus washed their feet, even though some protested, *Will you wash my feet?* Following our meal, we will share the ancient practice of foot washing for those who would like to participate.

The next day, we'll hold a **Good Friday Service at 7pm on April 7th** in the sanctuary. *Why have you forsaken me?* Jesus cried from the cross. It will be a simple service of silence and sorrow, remembering God's presence in the darkest moments of our lives.

Embrace the mystery of the Resurrection on the night of Holy Saturday, when the light of the Risen Christ breaks into the darkness. We will celebrate an informal **Easter Vigil at 7:30pm on April 8th on the Patio** where we'll gather around the fire and share the stories of God's redemption. We'll later enter the sanctuary and celebrate the Resurrected One by remembering our baptism and sharing communion. While this started as a service for our families during Covid, we are hoping all at Northbrook will take the opportunity to experience this meaningful service.

We'll proclaim the Empty Tomb on **Easter Sunday at 10am on April 9th in the Sanctuary**. God's love is stronger than the worst of us. God's love is stronger even than death. Celebrate the hope we share in Christ Jesus with beautiful flowers and traditional music. Like the first disciples, we are confronted with the question: *Who are you looking for?*

May it be so,  
Pastor Ben

*...I was holding my five-month-old little boy. He had a fever and was inconsolable. I felt desperate to offer him comfort and solace; it felt like my heart was breaking open. And then it occurred to me: this perspective I was drawing was... the perspective of God the Creator looking at her son who was screaming out in agony... (It) reveals something profound to me about the heart of God, and I connect with it in a new way after becoming a mother.*

~ Lauren Wright Pitman's reflection on her artwork



*Why Have You Forsaken Me?*

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“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”



## FINANCE MATTERS

With the first quarter of 2023 behind us (how time flies!), we'd like to bring you a brief update on the progress being made toward the outdoor beautification project that was initiated during our Wish List Initiative last Fall.

As you may recall, one of the Wish List items centered around a revamping of the area surrounding the south entrance to the church, with the intention of making this area a more inviting space to gather. A total of \$14,250 was contributed towards this particular project. And since the Initiative, many wonderful ideas have been floated – from benches and gazebos to play structures to walkways, fountains, and other landscaping ideas.

Over the Winter months, several discussions have taken place, during which the various proposals (and their respective costs) have been mulled. Though no final decisions have yet been made concerning exactly how the money raised for this project will be best put to use, we are getting closer to making that determination. And, as the weather starts to break, we are looking forward to getting out there and putting this money to its intended use.

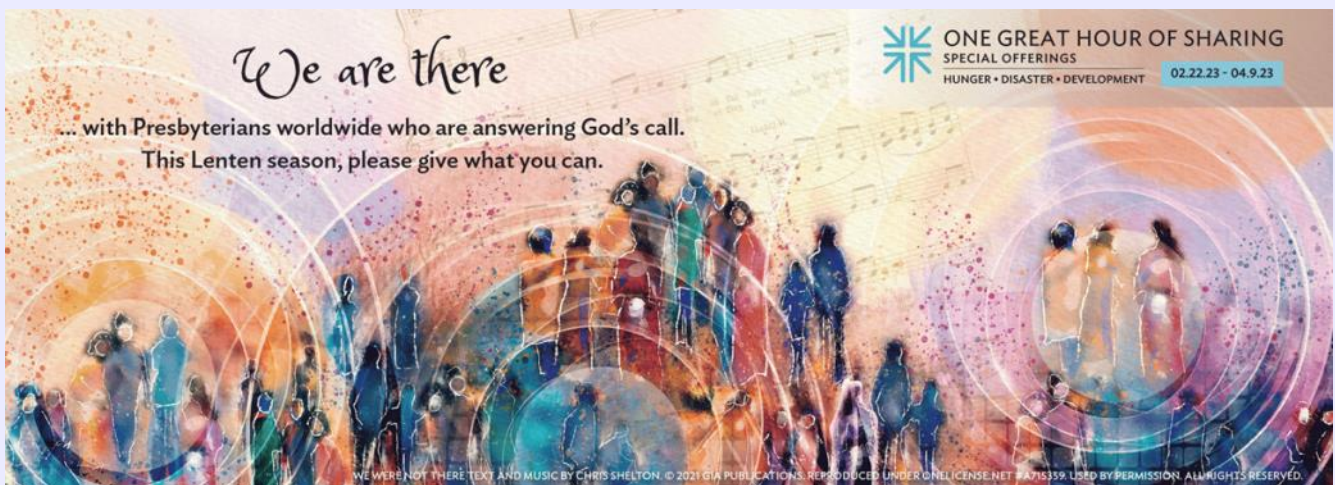
If you contributed to this particular Initiative (or want to contribute) and would like to submit input toward the final decisions concerning how to apply these dollars, please speak with Pastor Ben.

With endless gratitude for the ways you show that Finance Matters,  
Dan Gross on behalf of your Finance Committee: Tim Boese, Mark Best, Tom MacFarlane, Dan Gross (Chair), Mike Krug (Financial Secretary), and Pastor Ben Larson-Wolbrink

### 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 collect the offering on Palm Sunday and accept contributions through the week following Easter Sunday.*



## **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](#). \*Note: We will not meet on April 12th.

## **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. We will continue reading, *Easter From The Backside: A Different Look at the Story of Christ's Resurrection* by J. Ellsworth Kalas through mid-April, with a sure-to-be thought provoking book to follow. All men are welcome to join in for good conversation and fellowship.

## **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](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).



Thank you to everyone who donated toilet paper for the Presbytery of Detroit's Toilet Paper Drive!

On Sunday, March 12th, we welcomed The Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick, Executive of the Synod of the Covenant, as our guest pastor. He was also joined by Adrienne Adams, the Moderator of the Synod.







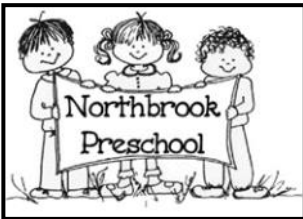
## Ecumenical Advocacy Days—April 25-27

Ecumenical Advocacy Days is an ecumenical annual gathering of Christian advocates and activists. Through worship, educational sessions, and speaker presentations, participants delve deeply into the pressing issues of the day, and lift their voices by speaking truth to power to local and state Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill.

Again in 2023, the conference will be held VIRTUALLY, as it has been held since the pandemic started in 2020. The conference dates are April 25-27 with optional virtual meetings with members of Congress on the afternoon of April 27. It is during these “lobby” sessions that participants advocate for the innovative and courageous policies needed to realize God’s promise of peace. This year’s theme is "Swords into Plowshares: Achieving Enough for All & Pursuing Peace." Having spent so long running in every direction but peace, it’s easy to forget there’s another way. No one can serve two masters; we cannot excel in both war and justice, both wealth and mercy. We cannot take by force what is intended to be shared. Let us heed Christ’s call and gather as one body to discern how we can re-forge weapons of destruction into tools of growth, cultivate healing throughout God’s creation, and pursue systems that empower each person to thrive.

If you have been at Northbrook for a good number of years, you may have heard my talk about my life-changing experiences attending this conference in person in Washington, D.C. While I missed being able to go in person a few years before 2020 due to a change in my school calendar and the EAD dates, I’ve appreciated that I could attend some virtual sessions over the last couple of years. Many sessions are recorded, so it’s possible to watch them at times that work for you. Registration is only \$50, which is also a positive of being virtual. It is wonderful to connect with others from around Michigan and the country – especially when you share similar values and hopes for a better world.

For more information, reach out to me, Winnie Davies-Hancock via email at [winsomeann@aol.com](mailto:winsomeann@aol.com), by phone at (248)931-0821 (cell/leave a message), or see me in church. I would love to chat with you about Ecumenical Advocacy Days! More information and registration details are at [advocacydays.org](http://advocacydays.org). Church World Service is a primary organizer of Ecumenical Advocacy Days.



Northbrook Preschool has been having fun rhyming and doing things that are all Dr. Seuss!! We even celebrated his birthday!! We have also been having fun with a Pizza Day and the wedding of Q & U!!

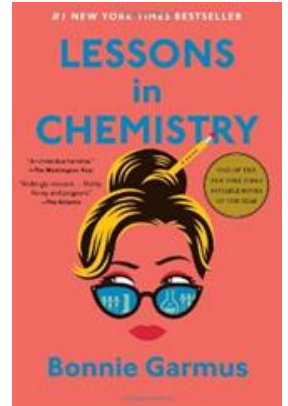
If you get a chance, come see our art hanging in the hallway!



## Northbrook Book Club—Monday, April 17 at 7 pm via In-Person or Zoom

Everybody is welcome to attend the Northbrook Book Club discussion of Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus on April 17 at 7pm. Please let Pastor Ben or Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation for that night.

*Book Summary: Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans, the lonely, brilliant, Nobel Prize-nominated grudge holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.*



*Like science, though, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother but also the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show, *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because, as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women how to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo. Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, Lessons in Chemistry is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.*

Please mark your calendars with these upcoming book club dates:

- ♦ May 22 Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver, (Jan hosts)
- ♦ July 10 The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan (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)



The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program (IVC) provides assistance to older and disabled neighbors who need a little extra help. Many frail and physically challenged adults struggle daily to maintain their independence -- their helping hands often make it possible for them to remain in their own homes. IVC is not a professional service and does not provide home health care. Rather, IVC volunteers are simply neighbors helping neighbors.

The Interfaith Volunteer Care program tries to find a helping hand for anyone regardless of religious preference. All older and disabled adults who need assistance to remain at home are eligible for help, however, priority is given to those with the greatest need. All services are offered without charge, although donations are greatly appreciated and help reach out to more people in need.

The IVC program is in need of volunteers who can provide transportation in the local area. They especially need drivers who are available during daytime business hours—mornings and afternoons. If you have just a couple hours a month that you can give to someone in need, you can make a huge difference in the life of a struggling neighbor. You can specify what days, times, and areas are convenient for you, and they will call you with specific appointments that meet your criteria. If you are free, say yes. If you're not, simply decline and you will be called another time. Even one more ride a year will make a big difference to a person who needs it! For more information, please call the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers office at (586) 757-5551.



# Camp Lock-In

On Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Northbrook Youth Committee hosted a Camp Lock-In for anyone interested in trying out a night away from home in possible anticipation of going to summer camp. It was a night of fun and games! This year, summer camp will be held August 6—12th at Camp Timbers. For more information about camp and all the youth programs held at Northbrook, please contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com). Click [HERE](#) to register online for camp. Registration is due by June 15th.





## Calendar

April 2	10am 11am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Palm Sunday and ~ Communion/Family Sunday Preparing Easter Baskets Choir Practice
April 4	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
April 5	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor' Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
April 6	6pm	Maundy Thursday Potluck & Service
April 7	7pm	Good Friday Service
April 8	7:30pm	Easter Vigil—on the Patio
April 9	10am	Easter Service ~ In-Person & Livestream Worship
April 10		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
April 11	8am 9:30am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Finance Comm. Meeting Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
April 12	5pm	LOGOS
April 13	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
April 16	10am 11am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Meeting
April 17	7pm	Northbrook Book Club Meeting
April 18	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
April 19	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
April 20	7pm	Choir Practice
April 21-22		Confirmation Lock-In
April 23	10am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Choir Practice
April 25	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
April 26	10am 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study Pastor's Bible Study
April 27	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
April 30	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship

### April Birthdays

04/02 Bradley Wicker	04/19 Kristen Miller
04/07 Madison Broadwell	04/20 David Burnham
04/07 Winnie Davies-Hancock	04/21 Carlos McIntyre
04/08 Gretchen Larson-Wolbrink	04/23 Valerie MacFarlane
04/10 Dorothea Clarke	04/24 Denise Getchell
04/10 Rob Olson	04/25 Kelsey DeCarteret
04/13 Darwin Chungag	04/25 Graham Lockett
04/14 William Back	04/25 Jennifer Wicker
04/14 Connie Jordan	04/26 Carson Sowle
04/14 Penny Willey	04/26 David Wind
04/15 Petie Forbush	04/28 Jan Sansom
04/15 Robert Sandercock	04/30 Jennifer Sicora
04/18 Debbie Smith	04/30 Nicki Walgren

### April Anniversaries

Kim & Michael Yekin—38 years on April 4  
Bill & Connie Jordan—38 years on April 20  
Grant & Barbara Burnham—51 years on April 29

### ~ 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.





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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
<a href="mailto:sherrill@northbrookpc.org">sherrill@northbrookpc.org</a>	
Ken Stetson, Youth Director	
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Mike Krug, Finance Administrator	ext. 13
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