

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### What We Heard

Northbrook, you have some important things to say. And, we've been listening. Among the five Lenten Listening sessions, there were some common themes that emerged.

**There's Been a Lot of Change** - There have been all kinds of fits and starts in the three years since the Covid-19 pandemic started. While we seem to be settling into a "new normal," you acknowledge that change will always be with us as we move forward.

**And, Some Things Just Don't Change** - You continue to experience Northbrook as a community that is welcoming, comfortable, and "down to earth." You feel cared for and nurtured here. As one of our youth shared: "People truly want the best for you." You enjoy discussion and are open to a variety of perspectives. Questions are welcome and people are respected for who they are on their faith journey. You all appreciate Northbrook's family focus, though there are quite a few dynamics (busy schedules, technology, a declining priority of church in the culture) that challenge us to find new ways to connect with - and support - families.

**More Potlucks, Please!** - You love eating food together, and all kinds of fellowship were dearly missed during the pandemic. You have also missed serving others, and you are yearning for new ways to do so that are both impactful and relational. Not only that, you really want to find ways to welcome more folks to experience the positive energy and inclusion you have experienced here. And, it would be nice to have others to help carry the load!

**Becoming an Anchor in the Neighborhood** - Speaking of food, our kitchen is a wonderful asset, and it's just one of many spaces here that are under-utilized. Many of you acknowledged that the Northbrook Preschool has been an ambassador in the area for generations. What are other ways to offer our space to serve the neighborhood and welcome more people into this space?

**Let's Get the Word Out** - You feel like we could do a better job of advertising (locally, on social media, etc.) what we are doing. And, there are probably more creative, engaging, and personal ways of letting others know how they can get involved.

**We're Getting Closer** - You are encouraged by more involvement in recent months, but you're aware that things still feel unsettled. You are looking for more consistency in our activities, as well as our worship. At the same time, you appreciate fresh perspectives. You are hoping that we can find a way to have a little more energy and be a little less cliquish.

**Next Steps** - Big thanks to the 37 folks who came out to one of the 5 listening sessions in March. Extra big thanks to Penny and Dan Willey, Tricia and Frank LaSota, Lauri Dailey and Todd Dolan, and Ken Stetson for hosting. The Northbrook Session has been taking time to listen to each other, in addition to you. They are working on a vision and plan from Session to focus our efforts, leverage our strengths, and stretch us into new ways of being faithful together. In the meantime, it's safe to say that - at the very least - we have all been blessed in the listening...

Pastor Ben



*"Live the Love of Jesus Christ"*



**Sunday, May 7 at 11am  
(following worship)**

Join us for Mexican food and Bingo games with prizes! Tickets are \$10 or \$25 per family. Proceeds will benefit the Northbrook Youth Programs. All ages welcome! RSVP to Ken Stetson at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com) or sign-up in Fellowship Hall.



**Saturday, May 20 at 9am**

It's time for our annual Spring Clean-Up! Please join us with your gloves, shovels, rakes, hedge trimmers, and your gardening magic at 9am on Saturday, May 20th as we weed, edge, plant and make our grounds bloom again. If you want to share plants from your own gardens, they are welcome.

If you have questions, call Jan Sansom at (313)460-9918. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall. Thanks in advance for all your help!



**May 28 Mexican Fiesta – Mark your calendars**

On Sunday, May 28, we will welcome mission co-workers Mark Adams and his wife, Miriam Maldonado Escobar, from Frontera de Cristo, a border ministry supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Located in the sister cities of Agua Prieta, Sonora and Douglas, Arizona, Frontera de Cristo works with churches, presbyteries, and secular organizations on both sides of the border to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

We'll hear from Mark and Miriam in worship and conversations can continue during Coffee Hour. Miriam is quite the chef and she'll host a Mexican cooking class in our kitchen at 4pm Sunday afternoon. We will join her in preparing a traditional meal that we'll share together at 6pm. At dinner, we'll also enjoy some "Loteria" (Mexican bingo with artful cards unique to Frontera de Cristo). Whether you want to cook at 4pm, or simply join us for dinner at 6pm, you can plan on a special Mexican treat the evening of May 28!





## Northbrook Spring Silent Auction

Come One Come All! It's your opportunity to showcase your talent in the Northbrook Spring Silent Auction. We're calling on all Northbrook members, young and not so young, to both donate and ultimately purchase an auction item. Auction items will be collected in May and the bidding will take place in June.

So, take a moment to consider your unique talent, passion, skills, personal resources, and available time, and create your personalized silent auction donation. Below is a "thought starter" list to inspire your imagination and generosity as well as a donation form to register your auction item(s) by Wednesday, May 24th:

- A week or weekend at your cottage, condo or lake house
- Commission a piece of artwork or photography...maybe even a family photo shoot
- Offer a group or series of bridge, knitting, cooking, or quilting lessons
- Provide babysitting, mowing, dog walking, or flower-planting services
- Use your woodworking skills to build a custom table, bookcase or birdhouse
- How about tickets to a Tigers game or the Detroit Symphony Orchestra?
- Cook a gourmet meal or a special birthday cake

The possibilities are endless. Stay tuned for bidding details in June. Let's have some fun & raise some money!

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### DONATION FORM (Also available online)

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

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

Contribution Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Description (details, location, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Retail Price: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Suggested Minimum Bid: \$\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please share this offering to the Northbrook community only. (\*Unchecked offerings will be shared online with friends and neighbors in the hopes of increasing our donor pool.)

**Please submit this form - along with 2-4 images of your donated item(s) - to the Church Office by Wednesday, May 24.**



## May Care & Share Donation Drive

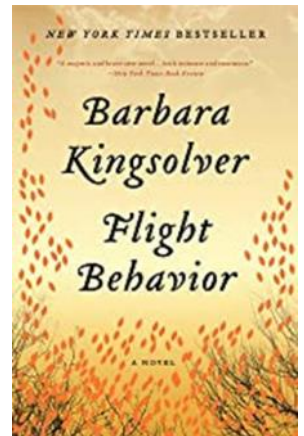
Throughout May, the Mission Committee will be collecting the items listed below. The collection will be donated to Baldwin Center so they can have a Cinco de Mayo celebration day during summer camp. Items may be dropped off in the main hallway near the manger during May. Thank you for participating!

- \* Canned corn
- \* Canned diced tomatoes, especially fire-roasted
- \* Canned beans – white, black, kidney, and refried
- \* Canned fire-roasted green chilies (peppers)
- \* Hot sauce
- \* Mexican-style tomato sauce
- \* Minced garlic
- \* Ground cayenne, chipotle, and Mexican spices
- \* Boxed taco shells – check date
- \* Rices, including Spanish
- \* Mexican candies

## Northbrook Book Club—Monday, May 22 at 7 pm via In-Person or Zoom

Everybody is welcome to attend the Northbrook Book Club discussion of Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver on May 22 at 7pm. Please let Pastor Ben or Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation for that night.

Book Summary: *Barbara Kingsolver's seventh novel, Flight Behavior, addresses global warming and the failings of public education through the story of a Tennessee woman whose thus-far disappointing life changes when 15 million monarch butterflies alight in the woods near her home. The publisher says: "with a deft and versatile empathy, Kingsolver dissects the motives that drive denial and belief in a precarious world." Flight Behavior was declared "Best book of the year" by the Washington Post and USA Today.*



Please mark your calendars with these upcoming book club dates:

- ♦ 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)

### Friday Fun Zoom

**Friday, May 12 7-8:30pm**

Join our next round of good conversation and laughs as we chat about our favorite (or not) fashion trend of the past. See if you have a picture of yourself in such fashion to share "on screen" with the group. To receive the ZOOM link, see Winnie Davies-Hancock in church or contact her via email or phone/text: winsomeann@aol.com or (248)931-0821. Please put NORTHBROOK in the subject line of an email. Thanks. We would love to have you join the fun!!



## In Memorium

*Mary Alice Shroobree*



December 12, 1928  
March 29, 2023

## Summer Camp - Registration is Now Open!

Northbrook will host its annual youth summer camp August 6-12th at Camp Timbers. Registration is now open and due by June 15th. Click [HERE](#) to register online. Please contact Ken Stetson for more information about camp at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com).

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

Men's Connection meets on Tuesdays at both 8am (via Zoom) and 10am (in the library and via Zoom). Men's Connection is reading *A Life of Jesus* by Shusaku Endo. We will look at Jesus as a Buddhist might as "a warm-hearted loving mother, rather than a stern father," a God who "suffers with us" and who "allows for our weakness." Contact the office for more information and to receive the Zoom link.

## 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. We are continuing 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](#).

## 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!

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

Because of the compassion and generosity of our church community, Northbrook was able to contribute the following in April:

- ♦ \$5000 to Presbytery of Detroit, Synod of the Covenant, and General Assembly (PCUSA) Shared Missions
- ♦ \$1000 to Freedom House – Detroit
- ♦ \$1250 to Presbytery of Detroit Hunger Ministries

**Thank you** for your contributions to fill Easter baskets for Metro Detroit neighbors served by Kids Empowered on the Move. The families really appreciated the fun and joy we delivered as a symbol of love and generosity. Also, if you helped to assemble the baskets, thank you! Mission Committee and Youth Ministries coordinated to carry out this multigenerational initiative.







*Holy Week & Easter 2023*





## Calendar

May 2	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
May 3	10am 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study Pastor's Bible Study
May 7	10am  11am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Family Sunday & Communion Bingo de Mayo Deacons' Meeting
May 9	8am 9:30am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Finance Comm. Meeting Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
May 10	10am 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study Pastor's Bible Study
May 11	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
May 12	7pm	Friday Fun Zoom
May 14	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~Happy Mother's Day ~
May 16	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
May 17	10am 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study Pastor's Bible Study
May 20	9am	Spring Clean Up
May 21	10am 11:15am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Choir Practice Session Meeting
May 22	7pm	Northbrook Book Club Meeting
May 23	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
May 24	10am	Pastor's Bible Study Confirmation Dinner
May 25	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
May 28	10am 4pm 6pm	In-Person & Livestream Worship Cooking with Mission Partners Dinner & Loteria with Mission Partners
May 29		OFFICE CLOSED ~Happy Memorial Day ~
May 30	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom

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

### May Birthdays

05/03 Jojo Sandercock	05/22 Kim Bowden-Adair
05/05 Alma Ross	05/22 Claire LaSota
05/06 Maggie Francis	05/22 Marilyn Thomas
05/08 Hal Koss	05/23 Wendy Powell
05/09 Katherine Rankin	05/24 Suzanne Burger
05/09 Steve Taylor	05/26 Kimberly Ault
05/10 Lauren Guindi	05/27 Susan Boese
05/11 Bill Stetson	05/29 Karen Vander Weide
05/19 Pierce Broadwell	05/30 Zephyr Ault
05/19 Hope Larson-Wolbrink	05/30 Susan Riggan
05/19 Cooper Sowle	05/31 Keith Lepard
05/21 Kai'Yah King	

### May Anniversaries

Michael & Roberta Campion – 52 years on May 1  
Beverly & Jeff Singer – 43 years on May 10  
Michael & Michele Buscaino – 37 years on May 17  
Tom & Valerie MacFarlane Jr. – 33 years on May 19  
Jeff & Marjorie Wilhelmi – 31 years on May 24  
Erin & David Swenson – 9 years on May 25



### Another Year of LOGOS Comes to an End

It truly takes a team effort of staff, church  
volunteers and parents to run the LOGOS  
program.

**Thank you** to everyone who participated with  
LOGOS this year!

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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

[ben@northbrookpc.org](mailto:ben@northbrookpc.org)

Angel Gippert, Director of Traditional Music

Dan Gross, Musician

Sherrill Heinrichs, Congregational Care Coord. Ext. 15

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