# "Live the Love of Jesus Christ"

# Northbrook Notes



## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

#### **Finding Favor**

In the October newsletter, I invited you to reflect on the summer with me. It was a gift to find ways to connect outdoors after being forced to be apart for so long. Since that article, it feels as if it hasn't stopped raining, limiting chances to get outside and muting the autumn leaves. I've always experienced the brilliant colors of fall to be a final, glorious gesture from nature before we have to hunker down for the winter. Not so much this year.

Speaking of hunkering down, I knew that would be inevitable last year. It wasn't ideal for my first Advent/Christmas season with you all, but we all knew we needed to stay apart to stay safe. Yet, somehow, here we are again this November. Despite the vaccine availability, Covid cases are on the rise (and, sadly, have impacted members of our congregation). We are once again needing to assess how we can follow Christ faithfully and also keep our community safe. Can you blame me for wanting to linger on the fond memories of summer?

Enter Thanksgiving, a November tradition that is coming right on time. I'm not invested in the myth of the holiday's origins and the unresolved injustice bestowed upon the native inhabitants of this land. But, I welcome any reminder to put gratitude front and center... especially when I'm in high-whine mode. It's true that we have so much for which to be grateful. Northbrook is a well-to-do congregation in the wealthiest nation on the planet. But, gratitude is so much more.

## Gratitude invites us to celebrate that everything - everything we have, everyone we love, everything that exists - is a gift from God.

Gratitude liberates us from our self-centeredness. Gratitude reminds us that life isn't dependent on us. In fact, life's not even about us. Gratitude opens us to life - and a future - that's all God's.

Wherein Advent takes the stage, the Sunday after the big feast (again, right on time). Advent is when we prepare for the birth of Jesus, and this year we will spend the four weeks of the season in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. A lot happens during that chapter, including several important stories that aren't typically included in the Sundays of Advent.

Through it all, we'll encounter a familiar Advent message: Do not fear. That's a message we can use all the time. But, we'll also discover something else. Each week, we'll hear about how people are drawn into the story. And, as they do so, they find God's favor. Whatever their station in life, whatever their circumstances, they are blown away by the realization that they are favored by God.

Guess what? So are you. Let's help each other remember. Especially when it's raining...

Pastor Ben

# Guest Pastor—The Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott Sunday, November 14

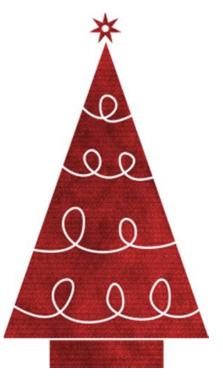
Please join us in welcoming The Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott as she leads us in worship on Sunday, November 14. Pastor Ott grew up at Northbrook Presbyterian Church and is the daughter of Tom and Sue McDowell. She has been an ordained Presbyterian (PCUSA) minister for over twenty-two years. After receiving her Master of Divinity degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, she served the church in a variety of pastoral positions. In 2008, she completed her Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary. She served Monmouth College as Chaplain from 2011 to 2021 and recently accepted a new call as Editor of The Presbyterian Outlook. Inspired by her work with college students and her experience volunteer teaching in a men's prison, Teri's forthcoming book from Fortress Press discusses, Necessary Risks: Challenges Privileged People Need to Face.



#### Angel Tree Christmas Gift Card Drive – 2021 November 7 - 21

Once again, we are partnering with Oakland Family Services to provide a happy holiday for children and families in our community who are in need. Like last year, Oakland Family Services (OFS) has asked that we provide gift cards in lieu of gifts. This allows families to shop for gifts in a manner of their choosing and reduces the risk of COVID-19 by limiting contact between OFS staff, volunteers, donors and clients. Each child represented by the Angels on our tree will provide a wish list of toys and needed clothing as well suggested stores where the gift cards may be purchased.

In addition to Angel tags for the families of OFS, we are also including tags that represent local foster care children and their families. The Faith Communities Coalition on Foster Care has identified a need for children's books that can be given to the families. Each of these Angel tags contains a list of desired books.



Please consider adopting an angel(s) this year and help us meet these needs in our community. The tree will be accessible for those who attend in-person worship on November 7 and November 14. For who will not be attending in-person worship, please call or email Becky in the church office (becky@northbrookpc.org) to select an angel to adopt. All gift cards and children's books must be brought to the church by Sunday, November 21.

#### **FINANCE MATTERS**

#### 2022 Stewardship Campaign

"All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you."

— Deuteronomy 16:17 (NRSV) —

We are excited at "press time," to be right in the middle of our annual Stewardship Campaign – the yearly "ask" of our members to support All Things Northbrook by committing a portion of one's personal financial resources to the church. Roughly two-thirds of Northbrook's overall budget last year came from those dollars pledged by our members. Pledged dollars make for a more concrete budget, and they allow us to make more definitive promises to the missions we so humbly & gratefully serve – missions that count on us.

This year's campaign got off to a healthy start. We are happy to report each member of the Session submitted their pledge by the time the campaign kicked off on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Adding to the pledges of the Session were several others from both long-time and newer members. This gave our campaign great momentum, which we hope will carry us beyond our stated goals for the year. Here are a few key notables regarding this year's endeavor:

- The theme of our stewardship campaign this year is *Gather, Grow, Give*.
- We have set a lofty yet reachable goal this year of a 7% increase in both pledged dollars and new pledgers.
- Pledge commitments are due by Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- We will celebrate our 2022 pledges and dedicate them on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- We aim to direct more of our energy as a congregation in 2022 toward expanding outreach into our surrounding community, strengthening our mission partnerships, and growing more in our Matthew 25 vision.

If you are discerning whether to begin contributing informally to Northbrook, whether you are ready to formalize your giving by *pledging* for the first time, or whether you are aiming to help reach our 7% increase with your existing pledge, you are encouraged to pray on it. Let God guide your decision-making process.

However much you are able to contribute, we are so very thankful for your generosity. Again, your contributions play a major role in facilitating Northbrook's ability to offer its programs, maintain our building and participate in our missions. We are all God's people, and everything we have is given to us by Him. We commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, and to share our time, our talent, and our material gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus. Here's to a successful stewardship campaign for 2022!

With endless gratitude for the ways you show that Finance Matters,

Dan Gross on behalf of your Finance Committee, Amy Annett, Mark Best, Dan Gross (Chair) and Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink

## GATHER ~ GROW ~ GIVE

# Cans for Communion/Care & Share Donation Collection November 28—December 12

Please consider sharing God's bounty by purchasing the following items needed by Baldwin Center in Pontiac for its holiday food and gift basket distribution:

- Cornbread and stuffing mixes
- Brownie & cake mixes (and frostings, if fitting)
- Gravy mix
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Macaroni and cheese, Velveeta/Kraft or similar types
- Canned green beans
- Canned sweet potatoes
- Boxed Cereal

We will begin collecting these items at church on Sunday, November 7 and continue through the following Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to drop off items on a weekday, please make sure someone will be at the church when you plan to stop by. Items can be placed in or near the manger and basket in the main hallway.

## Thank you! Let's share God's bounty and the love of Jesus with the Baldwin Center community!

Would you like to participate in a mission project once monthly for about 3 hours? If you would like to **volunteer** to help with future Saturday *Care & Share Drive-Ins*, please contact Winnie Davies-Hancock via (248)931-0821 or winsomeann@aol.com.

THANK YOU to all who contributed to our Second Mile Center youth clothing Care & Share Donation Drive-In on October 2<sup>nd</sup>!

#### How can this be? How can we already be embarking on the 2021 holiday season?

Shopping for Fair Trade food and gift items using Northbrook's own website link via 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.

Check out the SERRV website featuring over 1000 wonderful items. Purchases made by anyone including friends and relatives via Northbrook's custom link will allow Northbrook's Mission Fund to earn 20% of the total sales. This means you will be bringing joy to your gift recipient, providing economic support, relief and empowerment to those in need in the U.S. and around the world and contributing to the mission work done by our congregation. Here is our link: <a href="http://serrv.org/?a=Northbrook">http://serrv.org/?a=Northbrook</a>. Sign in as a guest or create your own log-in. For assistance with questions or ordering, please contact Winnie Davies-Hancock at <a href="mainsomeann@aol.com">winsomeann@aol.com</a> or (248)593-8035. Give a gift that shows your love and blesses others! Thank you to those of you who have made online purchases. You have added to the funds that the Mission Connection Committee is able to distribute to organizations that do important work in the world!

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

- <u>EqualExchange.coop/pcusa</u>: coffees including organic, teas, chocolates, cooking ingredients, food and gifts
- Mayanhands.org: fashion, household and gift items
- Mayaworks.org: fashion, household, and gift items
- <u>UPAVIMcrafts.org</u>: fashion, household, and gift items

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

Thank you for continuing to make your contributions to Northbrook so we can share our blessings with others. Based on Northbrook's September offering collections and the corresponding tithe for mission, we sent out the following mission support in October: \$2400 in support of PCUSA Mission Co-Workers Jhan Dotel-Vellenga and lan Vellenga and \$500 to International House Ann Arbor (IHAA). This is our budgeted amount for IHAA and does not yet include our portion of the Peace and Global Witness Offering collection. We are still determining our final amount to be sent in November in honor of Seglinda Kelle-Pritchard.

## Environmental Justice (Environmental Impact on Health in Neighborhoods) ~ A Matthew 25 Opportunity ~



On **Thursday, November 18 at 7 p.m.**, First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham will host a webinar with Marnese Jackson, NAACP and the Governor's Council on Climate Solutions; and Elayne Elliot and Andrew Sarpolis, from the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club. Visit <u>FPC's website</u> to reserve your spot. You can experience the event in person in FPB's sanctuary or via livestream. Events will continue in 2022, with the next one on January 13 covering criminal justice.

#### **ADVENTure Program—Save the Date**

Northbrook's youth ADVENTure program will be on Saturday, November 27 at 10am and will include Advent crafts, music and decorations. Stay tuned for more information.

#### Northbrook Book Club—Monday, December 6 at 7pm

Everybody is welcome to the Northbrook book club discussion of <u>The Giver of Stars</u>, by JoJo Moyes on Monday, December 6 at 7pm. The discussion will take place in Fellowship Hall or via Zoom. If you would prefer to Zoom into the discussion, please email <u>nancyjbest@gmail.com</u>

#### LOGOS—Wednesdays from 5-7pm

LOGOS (aka Wednesday Mahn-Go) takes place on Wednesdays from 5-7pm for all K-12th grade students through May. LOGOS is often described as being a lot like a mini version of Camp Mahn-Go during the week, including 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 <a href="mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com">stetson.kenny@gmail.com</a>.

#### **LOGOS Kitchen Help Needed**

Hello Northbrook Members! We are looking for volunteers to help cook In our kitchen on Wednesday evenings for our LOGOS group! Please see the Sign Up Genius and contact Terri Hurbis If you have any questions! <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044badaf2aa4f58-logos">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044badaf2aa4f58-logos</a>.

#### Men's Connection—Tuesday Mornings at 10 a.m.

Men's Connection meetings continue on Tuesdays at 10:00am. Join in the conversation over the next several weeks as we explore Adam Hamilton's book, *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* with one of us as the leader. We will both be LIVE in the church library and on ZOOM. Instructions for ZOOM will be sent ahead of the meeting. Please contact Walt Young at <a href="mailto:walt2701@earthlink.net">walt2701@earthlink.net</a> for ZOOM instructions. We look forward to greeting returning members and welcoming all new men who would like to join up with this thoughtful and sincere group of Northbrook men.

#### **Northbrook Youth Group**

Our mid and seniors highs meet on Sundays from 4-6pm. For more information, please contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, at <a href="mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com">stetson.kenny@gmail.com</a>.



#### **Knit Wits**

The Knit Wits will resume their monthly meetings on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 1-3pm in the Library. For more information, please contact Mary Hendrien.

# Please welcome the following Elders, Deacons and member of the Nominating Committee who were elected at the October 24th Congregational Meeting.

#### **Elders**



#### Matt Broadwell (3 year term)

Matt has previously served as an Elder and on the Worship Committee, and is eager to continue to serve in any way as needed. Northbrook has helped Matt realize his deep desire to be closer to God and that his spirituality should not be taken for granted but is something he needs to continue to develop. Matt always looks forward to Wednesdays and Sundays when he can surround himself with other members and visitors who help him learn from their experiences and backgrounds in his search for a closer relationship with God.



#### Terri Hurbis (3 year term)

Terri joined Northbrook with her family in February of 1987. At that time, Peter Moore was the Associate Pastor, and he enthusiastically welcomed her to become involved in the youth programming. Since that time, Terri has served as an Elder, Deacon, Sunday School teacher and Angel Choir Director. She has spent 20+ summers at church camp as a JC, a counselor and now as the Camp Nurse. Her current responsibilities at Northbrook include serving on the Children's Ministry Committee and as a volunteer at LOGOS. She considers herself blessed to be part of such an amazing community of faith.



#### Jan Sansom (3 year term)

Jan Sansom and her parents, Don and Lois Hoogstra were charter members of Northbrook Presbyterian Church, which was pioneered by Woodward Avenue Presbyterian Church in the mid-1950's. After (too) many years away, she returned "home" 6 years ago. Jan graduated from Alma College, was married at Northbrook, and taught elementary school for 2 years in Southfield. She has 2 children, Ken and Karen, who live in Southfield and 5 grandchildren. In 1975, she moved back to the Detroit area from St. Paul and began her career in the temporary staffing industry,

continuing until her retirement 2 years ago.

Along the way, she managed several Jazz artists, most notably guitarist Earl Klugh. Another highlight was taking 14 Jazz cruises with friends. Her major interest is gardening, and she hopes to establish a gardening committee at Northbrook to further beautify the grounds at church. Both parents served Northbrook as elders which adds a blessed richness to this nomination. Jan is looking forward to serving the congregation and to her spiritual growth under Pastor Ben's leadership.

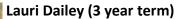


#### Deacons

#### Susan Boese (3 year term)

Sue and her husband, Tim, have been members of Northbrook for close to 34 years with a few years with transfers in there. Sue and Tim have two daughters who live in Chicago. Her daughter, Caroline, married Sean at Northbrook and they have a sweet baby boy. Sue graduated from Miami of Ohio and has been very involved with the Mission Connection Committee and has been an Elder and on the Nominating Committee. She is so grateful for the members at Northbrook and looks forward to serving as a Deacon.

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Lauri grew up in Michigan and attended Orchard Lake Presbyterian Church as a child. Lauri, along with her husband, Todd, joined Northbrook in 2016. She has served on the Worship Committee and enjoys greeting the congregation on Sundays, and as an occasional Liturgist!

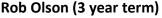
Lauri is a professional photographer, with a specialty in families, and senior portraits. Her hobbies include cycling, hiking in the woods, reading a great novel, creative writing,

listening to music, dancing and travel adventures.

#### Claire LaSota (2 year term)

Claire has attended Northbrook her whole life. Growing up, she participated in youth activities like carol choir, LOGOS, youth group, mission trips and camp. As an adult, she has been a counselor for camp, a table parent for LOGOS and helped with worship.

Claire teaches history at Canton High School. She likes to go for walks with her dog, Sadie, in her free time.





Rob and his wife, Marcia, were almost charter members of Northbrook. They missed it by a few months. Rob has been an Elder and Deacon before, and served on several committees and other programs such as head of Parables and Mariners, and captain of both bowling leagues. Rob also was head of the Northbrook band, a 27-piece group that played for many events such as church plays, senior luncheons, Christmas programs, local malls, church picnics and even regularly at St. Ives Church! His brass quintet and other groups played in the church for many services and weddings. Professionally, Rob had a successful dental practice for 48 years. He established the

nation's first in-house full service dental office in a well-aged and medical facility. Presbyterian Village in Detroit was the first in the entire nation. George Rock (a previous member) and Rob formed a dental study club that is still one of the best in Michigan. He has also taught a post graduate dental course, done some research, and lectured at many meetings including the dental school at the University of Gothenburg.

#### **Nominating Committee**

#### **Tracey Parker (2 year term)**

Tracey has been a member of Northbrook since 1997. She was active in the Logos program, has served as an Elder and also on the Nominating Committee, and sings in the choir. Mom to 3 grown sons-Parker, Harrison, and Griffin, Tracey works at My House of Style. Her interests include travel, music, biking, and cooking and is teaching herself how to knit. She's grateful for the caring members of Northbrook who have been a huge support during both difficult times and times of joy in her life.

#### Walt Young, Jr. (2 year term)



Walt, his wife Donna and two children joined Northbrook when they moved here 37 years ago from Ohio. Their teenage daughter, Michelle, picked Northbrook for its youth program and minister. Walt was a preacher's kid and met Donna at Muskingum, a Presbyterian school in Ohio (55 years ago). Both children and now four grandchildren live in the area. Walt was busy leading public company turnarounds until 2003, when he began a new career with startups. He has been Chair and Interim CEO of Gleaners Food Bank, as well as Trustee at Muskingum University. Since the pandemic, Walt has been the

Zoom operator for the weekly Mens' Connection. He welcomed Pastor Ben –since they share the same birthday—30 years apart!





#### Care & Share in October

Northbrook held a Care & Share Day on Saturday, October 2nd. The morning began with pancakes on the patio, and included a car wash to benefit the Northbrook youth programs and Second Mile Center, a winter coat and children's clothing donation drive for Second Mile Center, and a morning of cleaning up the church grounds in preparation for the winter months. Thank you to all participated and donated their time and resources on this beautiful fall day.





## Christmas Poinsettia Order Form—Orders Due Nov. 14

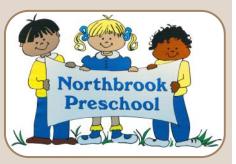
#of Red Poinsettia Plan Total Number of Plants	nts #of White Poinsettia Plants s Ordered Total \$ payment	POINSETTIA
lame:	Phone:	
mail:		
mountaining my plant(o) place	ed in memory of/in honor of (circle one):	





#### Northbrook Preschool

We are having a busy fall in the Preschool!!! We are busy getting ready for Thanksgiving. We have been learning about the Native Americans and pilgrims. We will be preparing and eating our very own Thanksgiving Brunch. We hope you enjoy your Thanksgiving with family and friends.





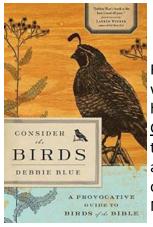




#### Youth Fall Retreat 2021

Youth from Northbrook along with volunteers and Youth Director, Ken Stetson, spent a weekend in October at the Howell Nature Center for our annual fall retreat. One of their many fun activities was mastering the ropes course.





# Consider the Birds: Pastors Bible Study Wednesdays, 10am & 7pm

Ready for a fresh window into scripture? Our guide for this ten week journey will be the Rev. Debbie Blue as we read her humorous and insightful book: Consider the Birds: A Provocative Guide to Birds of the Bible. Books are available at your Amazon or through your favorite book store. Classes take place in the library and via Zoom, so be sure to check the weekly email update or contact the office for the link. This class runs weekly through November 17th.

# HALOWEEN FUN

















## **Calendar**

Nov. 2	10am	Men's Connection
Nov. 3	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
Nov. 6	9am	Officer Training
Nov. 7	10am 4pm	In-Person & Livestream Worship Communion Sunday Youth Group
Nov. 9	10am 7pm	Men's Connection Mission Connection Comm. Mtg.
Nov. 10	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
Nov. 12		Stewardship Commitment Pledges are Due
Nov. 14	10am 11:30am 4pm	In-Person & Livestream Worship
Nov. 15		December Newsletter Articles Due
Nov. 16	10am	Men's Connection
Nov. 17	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study
Nov. 21	10am 11:30am 4pm	In-Person & Livestream Worship Angel Tree Gift Cards/Books Due Session Meeting Youth Group
Nov. 23	10am	Men's Connection
Nov. 25		OFFICE CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving
Nov. 26		OFFICE CLOSED
Nov. 27	10am	ADVENTure Youth Program
Nov. 28	10am 4pm	In-Person & Livestream Worship Youth Group

	10am	Men's Connection
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## **November Birthdays**

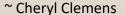
11/01	Mary DeCarteret	11/16	Linda Voight
	Michael Bauhof		Bill Travis
11/02	Yvonne Cousineau	11/21	Lily Stottlemyer
11/02	Lois Kafarski	11/22	Owen Higley
11/05	Richard Keier	11/23	Dave Tengler
11/07	Tom MacFarlane	11/27	Doug Joppie
11/13	Michael Campion	11/28	Phil Owen
11/13	Dave Vander Weide	11/28	Eleanor Poster
11/14	Liz Lustenberger	11/28	Kimberly Yekin
11/14	Megan Taylor	11/29	Bryan Adair
11/16	Jay Rick		·

#### **November Anniversaries**

Phil & Judy Owen – 53 Years on November 2
Mary & Horst Hendrien – 39 years on November 12
Keith Larson & Liz Lustenberger – 28 years on November 20
Bob & Kristin Miller – 23 years on November 28

Thank you Northbrook family for all the sympathy, get well, birthday cards & phone calls

this past year. They certainly helped me to have a positive outlook during the times of sadness & illness.







## "Live the Love of Jesus Christ"

## **Northbrook**

#### **Presbyterian Church**

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#### **Worship with Us**

#### Sundays at 10am

- In-person in the sanctuary (masks required)
- Livestream—<u>NorthbrookPresCh YouTube</u> Channel
- Livestream—Facebook

#### **Office Hours**

Mon-Thurs: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friday: 9am-noon

#### **Staff Contact Information**

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