

Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Awkward Openings

Wow. Things can sure change quickly. On Pentecost - after the sudden rush of the Holy Spirit - the disciples were set free to tell the story of Jesus in ways that surprised them. With the sudden change in the CDC Covid guidelines, we're finding ourselves freer than we've been in a long time at Northbrook. Some of us are chomping at the bit to open up - our doors and our arms - to embrace the world. Others will need more time before they are ready.

After Pentecost, the book of Acts continues with stories of how the Good News of Jesus Christ was shared with the world. In addition to all the exciting ways those Galilean disciples opened up to the world, there were all kinds of uncomfortable confrontations and downright awkwardness along the way. But, as they navigated the tension, they discovered new opportunities and they gained clarity around their faith convictions.

Likewise, with the CDC guidelines distinguishing between the vaccinated and unvaccinated, the Northbrook Session became clear that this distinction is not a helpful one in our community. Like those first Christians in the book of Acts, Northbrook is committed to inclusion, so we'll stay masked indoors for the time being - as awkward as it feels - until all are able to be vaccinated, including children.

But, outside, we won't be requiring masks (unless our gatherings exceed 100). And, we're excited to be shifting our Sunday worship outside at 9:30am starting June 13. We'll have chairs available, but you're also invited to bring your own lawn chairs to space out on the patio. Or, you can bring blankets and spread out on the grass. We won't be using tents to make set-up/tear-down easier, but the doors to Fellowship Hall will be open for those who would prefer the shade & AC (though, it's technically inside, so masks will be needed). Of course, if the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll all put on our masks and move inside. We'll try to make the call in a timely manner and get the word out ASAP.

Whether we're inside or out, we'll continue our worship livestream for those who can't be with us in person. But, outdoors, it will be a simple continuous stream. Both in-person and online, outdoor worship will feel a little more open and free-flowing... and, it will probably feel a bit awkward, at first.

As we discovered during our first attempt at the Passing of the Peace in worship in over a year - trying to figure out who feels comfortable reaching out to touch others and who still wants to maintain social distance - these kinds of things can be awkward. When this was pointed out to me by a Northbrook member after worship, I realized that most of my valuable faith experiences had at least a bit of awkwardness along the way. "It was really awkward, but," she wisely continued, "we'll figure it out." Yes, we will. Because, yes, God works in the openings... *especially the awkward ones.*

Pastor Ben



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

Northbrook Mission *Care & Share* Donation Drop-Off
Saturday, June 12 (Rain or Shine)
10am—Noon in the Northbrook Parking Lot

“COVID times” continue to have an impact on many of our Metro Detroit neighbors. ***Live the Love of Jesus Christ*** in a safe and generous way by participating in our June drive. We are collecting the following types of donations on behalf of:

- ◆ **American Indian Health & Family Services:** Diapers, wipes, baby formula, toilet paper, paper towels, PPE, personal care items, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and canned and packaged foods.



American Indian Health and Family Services (AIHFS) is a wonderful organization that has been serving many people in metro Detroit for over 42 years. Northbrook has done multiple hands-on mission service projects with AIHFS over our decades of relationship. Thanks for your continued support of this important health clinic and community service organization.

To participate, please enter using the Lahser Road entrance, pull up alongside the center church doors to drop off your items and exit via 14 Mile Road. If you have any questions or would like to help with the drive, please contact Winnie Davies-Hancock at (248)931-0821 or winsomeann@aol.com. **Thank you!**
It's a joy to help others.

THANKS go out to everyone who stopped by to drop off donations at our **May 15 *Care & Share* Donation Drive-In!**

We were able to fill the Young's big van and fill a lot of shelf space at the food pantry at Westminster/the Presbytery of Detroit Office.



*** Care & Share * Drive In * Drop Off ***



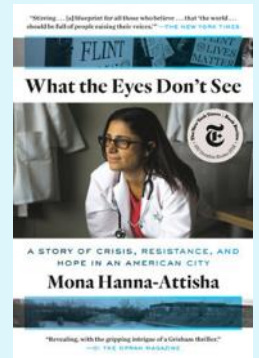
Outdoor Worship Begins June 13th at 9:30am

Join us outdoor on the patio at **9:30am** for Summer Worship. Bring a chair or a blanket to spread out, or take a chair to use. Seating will also be available inside in Fellowship Hall (*masks are required indoors*). If the weather is inhospitable, we'll move inside. We will also continue to livestream the outdoor service on our YouTube Channel at [NorthbrookPresCh](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/...).

Northbrook Book Club—Monday, June 14, 2021 at 7:00pm

Everybody is welcome to the book club discussion of ***What the Eyes Don't See*** by Mona-Hanna-Attisha on Monday, June 14 at 7:00pm. We will meet at Northbrook on the back patio or in Fellowship Hall if the weather is inclement. If you would rather attend by Zoom, please email nancyjbest@gmail.com no later than June 13.

What the Eyes Don't See is the inspiring story of how Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, alongside a team of researchers, parents, friends, and community leaders, discovered that the children of Flint, Michigan, were being exposed to lead in their tap water—and then battled her own government and a brutal backlash to expose that truth to the world. Paced like a scientific thriller, ***What the Eyes Don't See*** reveals how misguided austerity policies, broken democracy, and callous bureaucratic indifference placed an entire city at risk. And, at the center of the story is Dr. Mona herself—an immigrant, doctor, scientist, and mother whose family's activist roots inspired her pursuit of justice.



Upcoming Books and Discussion Dates:

- ◆ July 26: ***The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*** by Sue Monk Kidd (autobiography, 264 pages), reader obtains the book, BV leads.
- ◆ September 13: ***Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King Jr, Malcolm X and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation*** by Anna Malaika Tubbs, (Biography, 168 pages), WDH leads
- ◆ October 25: ***City of Girls*** by Elizabeth Gilbert, (historical fiction, 482 pages), reader obtains the book, PS leads.
- ◆ December 6: ***The Giver of Stars*** by JoJo Moyes, (historical fiction, 402 pages), reader obtains the book, KBA leads.
- ◆ January 10: ***Hamnet*** by Maggie O'Farrell, (historical fiction, 322 pages), reader obtains the book, PL leads.



Summer Camp registration is now open! We will be returning to Camp Timbers again from Saturday, July 31st to Friday, August 6th. Camp registrations are due by July 1st. To complete the initial registration, please complete the form at this [link](#). The cost for camp will be \$425 and can be paid by check made out to Northbrook Presbyterian Church or online [here](#). While at camp, we will be following all CDC, State of Michigan and YMCA guidelines and protocols for summer camps. If you have any further questions, please contact to Ken Stetson at stetson.kenny@gmail.com.



Family Fun Day

On Pentecost Sunday, Northbrook held a Family Fun Day to raise money for our youth programs. Thanks to all who helped behind the scenes and to those who participated!



SERRV—A BETTER WORLD IN THE MAKING SINCE 1949!

SERRV INTERNATIONAL, One of the First Fair Trade Organizations in the World

The Mission Connection Committee encourages you to watch this wonderful video:

<https://youtu.be/nT5qyFbYQSE>

to learn more about SERRV and the positive impact they have worldwide.

Please visit 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, which you have 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 assistance with questions or ordering, contact Winnie Davies-Hancock at winsomeann@aol.com 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!

Finance Matters—*Money and the Bible*

Interesting facts: Though the Bible contains roughly 500 verses concerning prayer and faith, it contains well over 2,000 verses on money, and approximately 40% of Jesus' parables relate to money. It's obvious that God has plenty to say about money and giving. So, what *does* the Bible say about money and giving?

For one, the Bible teaches that money is a good gift from God, but it is also a major temptation and can be a terrible master. Often misquoted, 1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV) says, "*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*" The misquote is that money is evil. Money itself is not evil. It is the *love of money* that is *a root of all kinds of evil*.

A wise and careful use of one's wealth has been an important part of a right relationship with God since creation. For many people in the Bible, faith greatly affected their management of wealth and giving. God undoubtedly values justice for the poor as a key responsibility of those with financial means. It is important to be intent upon harnessing the utility of money for God's benevolence, while also protecting ourselves from its potential to taint our lives. After all, worldly possessions are fleeting, but heavenly treasure is eternal.

Here are a number of principles extracted from the Bible that suggest how we should handle our money:

- ◆ Recognize that everything we have ultimately belongs to God.
- ◆ Our wealth and possessions should be used for God's purposes.
- ◆ Money is a good gift from God.
- ◆ Be thankful for all we have.
- ◆ Be generous; giving generously for the good of the poor is a moral duty in an immoral world.
- ◆ Support the church and care for others.
- ◆ Cultivate contentment and guard against greed and covetousness.

There are other Biblical principles concerning money, but this list covers most of the predominant tenets. Which of these Biblical principles concerning money speaks to you? Are there any that stand out to you over the others? Are there any with which you disagree? There is never a bad time to reflect upon these – or *any* – Biblical doctrines. Perhaps, this month we could each spend a little time, in the privacy of our own homes, reflecting upon how we treat money in our own lives, and if we are doing with our resources as God intended. There is something fundamentally and unavoidably human about the need to share our resources for the good of others. And this, I believe, is also a gift from God.

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

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

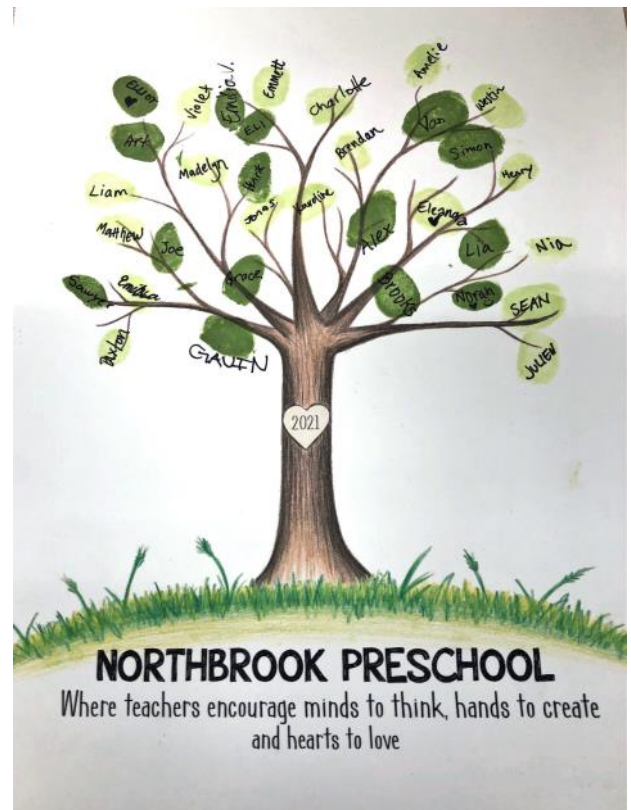
Northbrook's Mission Tith Dollars at Work **as we *Share the Love of Jesus Christ***

Thank you for continuing to make your contributions to Northbrook so we can share our blessings with others. We sent out the following mission support in May:

- ◆ \$1250 to A Place of Refuge in Detroit
- ◆ \$475 to the Southwest Detroit (and Pontiac) Immigrant and Refugee Center
- ◆ \$500 to Presbyterian Disaster Relief for responding to the COVID-19 crisis in India.

Northbrook Preschool

We are finishing up our wonderful school year!! We have amazing families and they gave us the best Teacher Appreciation Week!! We are enjoying the warmer days and love riding on the bikes!! Be sure to check us out on Facebook and remember to like us! Contact preschool@northbrookpc.org for 2021-2022 enrollment information.



Pivot Point Bible Study—Thursdays at 10am and 7pm via Zoom

At a pivot point between Sundays, we will continue to unpack the scripture from the previous week and get a taste of what's to come the upcoming Sunday. We will also be exploring how God's word may be inviting us to pivot in this challenging season. Please contact the church for Zoom login information.

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

Men's Connection meets via Zoom on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom. *Please note that Men's Connection will take a summer break from July 6th through August 31st.*

Northbrook Youth Group

Our mid and seniors highs meet on Sundays from 4-6pm. For more information, please contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, at stetson.kenny@gmail.com.

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.



June & July Birthdays

06/01 Matt Broadwell	06/15 James Francis	07/01 Gary Voight	07/12 Michael Wicker
06/02 James Johnston	06/15 Julie Huddlestun	07/03 Peggie Schiller	07/22 Kathy Bauhof
06/02 Celia Metcalf	06/18 Beverly Dinsmore	07/05 Camille Higley	07/23 David Hough
06/02 MaryBeth Parks	06/18 Meredith Riggan Maurer	07/05 Judie Murdock	07/25 Diane Vanasupa
06/04 Cheryl Clemens	06/19 Larry Guindi	07/09 Aayla Ault	07/26 Dave Grim
06/06 Carl von Ende	06/20 Claire Higley	07/10 Leah Guindi	07/26 Grace Nji
06/08 Pam Grim	06/24 Gayle Travis	07/11 Ann Daniels	07/30 Joyce Vander Weide
06/08 William Hancock	06/27 Lila Daniels	07/12 Grace Burnham	

Calendar

May 31		OFFICE CLOSED ~ Happy Memorial Day ~
June 1	10am	Zoom Men's Connection
June 6	10:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship— Communion Sunday
June 8	10am	Zoom Men's Connection
June 10	10am 7pm	Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study
June 12	10am	Care & Share Donation Drive
June 13	9:30am 11:00am	Outdoor & Livestream Worship ~Graduation Sunday~ Session Meeting
June 14	7pm	Book Club Meeting
June 15	10 am	Zoom Men's Connection
June 17	10am 7pm	Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study
June 20	9:30am	Outdoor & Livestream Worship ~Happy Father's Day~
June 22	10am	Zoom Men's Connection
June 23	1pm	Knit Wits
June 27	9:30am	Outdoor & Livestream Worship
June 29	10am	Zoom Men's Connection
July 1	10am 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study via Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study via Zoom
July 4	9:30am	Outdoor Service with Communion & Livestream Worship ~Happy 4th of July!~
July 5		OFFICE CLOSED Independence Day Holiday Observed
July 8	10am 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study via Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study via Zoom
July 11	9:30am	Outdoor & Livestream Worship

July 15	10 am 7pm	Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study
July 18	9:30am	Outdoor & Livestream Worship
July 22	10am 7pm	Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study
July 25	9:30am	Outdoor & Livestream Worship
July 26	7pm	Book Club Meeting
July 28	1pm	Knit Wits
July 31		Summer Camp (7/31-8/6)

June & July Anniversaries

William & Vicki Back – 52 years on June 1
 Kim Bowden-Adair & Bryan Adair – 38 years on June 11
 Robert & Lori Sandercock – 28 years on June 12
 Ron & Susan Riggan – 43 years on June 17
 Steve & Megan Taylor – 19 years on June 22
 Michael & Cheryl Clemens – 42 years on June 23
 Steve & Mary DeCarteret – 28 years on June 26
 David & Bonnie Hough – 39 years on June 26
 Seglinda Kelle-Pritchard & Clyde Pritchard – 58 years on July 6
 Roy & Bonnie Annett – 32 years on July 8
 Ann & Jason Daniels – 21 years on July 8
 Tim & Susan Boese – 46 years on July 12
 Jim & MaryBeth Parks – 43 years on July 15
 Stephen & Jennifer Sicora – 49 years on July 15
 Amy & Bruce Annett – 36 years on July 20
 David & Annie Burnham – 16 years on July 23
 Cayce & Cindy Sowle – 25 years on July 27
 William & Judy Swink – 55 years on July 30



The church office will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day.

SAVE THE DATE!!


 The Second Mile Center of Detroit
 5th Annual Charity Golf Scramble



Sunday, September 26, 2021
 Glen Oaks Golf Course
 More information coming SOON!!

“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

Northbrook

Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Fridays: Closed June 6-September 3

Worship with Us

Sunday, June 6 at 10:15am

- ◆ In-Person in the Sanctuary
- ◆ Livestream on:
 - [NorthbrookPresCh YouTube Channel](#)
 - [Facebook](#)

Sunday, June 13—August 31: 9:30am

- ◆ In-Person outdoor
- ◆ Livestream on:
 - [NorthbrookPresCh YouTube Channel](#)
 - [Facebook](#)

Staff Contact Information

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