

Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Preparing for Pentecost

What a wonderful Easter we had at Northbrook! Whether you attended our Easter services in person or online, it was a joy to celebrate the risen Christ with you. Those who were able to attend the outdoor Easter Vigil had a new - and powerful - experience of an ancient tradition. Now that Easter is over, and spring is upon us, it's time to start shifting gears in preparation for the summer.

Wait. Not so fast.

Scripture invites us to take time to let the resurrection of Jesus Christ settle into our souls. The first disciples needed to break bread with Jesus, touch his wounds, and even eat broiled fish with him, before they were able to recognize and fully understand - and believe - that he was alive among them!



And, here's the thing. The resurrection of Jesus Christ isn't even the end of the story. In some ways, it's just beginning. Those very disciples - who struggled to understand that Jesus had risen - would be sent out into the world to share God's love in the power of the Holy Spirit. But first, they needed to wait for this power to be revealed to them.

There's a reason Easter is a season.

Speaking of revelation, *Shavuot* is a Jewish holiday that commemorates when God revealed the Torah (the covenant between God and the people) to Moses on Mt. Sinai. God had freed the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt in dramatic fashion. But, they had a period in the wilderness when they needed to learn to trust that God would provide for them. It was only after they let this trust settle into their souls that they were ready to receive the Torah.

The Greek word for, *Shavuot*? Pentecost. Maybe you remember that, in Acts 2, Jews were gathered in Jerusalem from all over the world. They were there to commemorate the revelation of God through the Torah. But, they received an entirely new and wonderful revelation: the love of Jesus Christ... revealed to them through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the disciples.

Have you moved on from Easter? How are you letting the resurrection - in all its fullness - settle into your soul? Are you pondering how the power of the Spirit might be revealed in your life?

Wait for it...

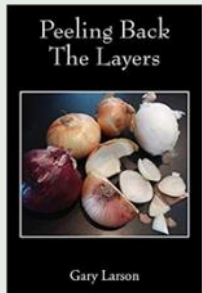
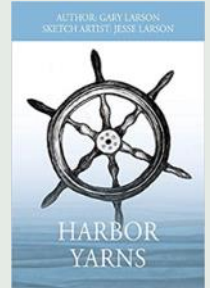


“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

Northbrook Book Club—Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

Everybody is welcome to the ZOOM book club discussion of *Harbor Yarns* and *Peeling Back the Layers*, both books by Gary Larson, the father of Pastor Ben!! The discussion will be lead by Pastor Ben with his father Gary as guest speaker. Undoubtedly, the discussion of these books will be lively and likely to provide some truly valuable insight. Readers can obtain the books from Amazon or Barnes & Noble. Please email Nancy Best if you would like an invitation to the ZOOM discussion. This is not necessary if you regularly attend book club discussions.

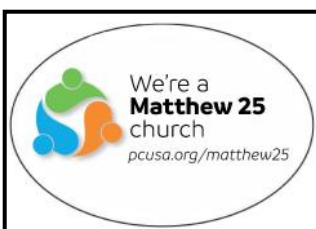
What kind of book is **HARBOR YARNS**? Fiction, to be sure. But like all fiction, there could be true events behind the tales. The reader might imagine taking a big cooking pot and tossing in some ingredients. Begin with a copious amount of whiskey broth. Certainly stir in, many hearty dashes of Garrison Keillor and Will Rogers. Then add several cupfuls of Mark Twain and Tristan Jones. Don't forget dollops and spoonfuls more of Edgar Allan Poe and Woody Guthrie. Stir it all around. Maybe, that's the book.



PEELING BACK THE LAYERS is a miscellaneous collection of ideas which explore subjects in further detail. Larson employs the object lesson of an "onion", which if peeled back has multiple layers, each one different from the ones before. The book is an examination, an exploration, a 2nd, 3rd, and 4th look at otherwise obvious topics. He digs beneath the surface leading the reader into new insights and understandings. From the funny to the very serious, they will make you laugh or cry and want to discuss, possibly argue.

Upcoming Books and Discussion Dates:

- ◆ June 14: *What the Eyes Don't See* by Mona-Hanna-Attisha (Biography, 417 pages), 10 copies of the book and readers guide provided, NB leads. A GREAT MICHIGAN READ BOOK
- ◆ July 26: *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd (autobiography, 264 pages), reader obtains the book, BV leads.



Films with Fort Street—Thursday, May 20 at 7:30pm

Northbrook is once again invited to join Fort Street Presbyterian Church's exploration of what it means to be a "Matthew 25 Church," this month exploring **congregational vitality**. In the last of a 3-part series, we're invited to watch *The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song*, a moving 4-hour, 2-part PBS series that traces the 400-year-old story of the Black church in America, all the way down to its bedrock role as the site of African American survival and grace, organizing and resilient, thriving and testifying, autonomy and freedom and solidarity and speaking truth to power. You can watch it [HERE](#) on your own time, and join the Zoom discussion on Thursday, May 20, 7:30-9pm. The Zoom link will be provided in the week leading up to the discussion, or visit [Fort Street Presbyterian Church Events](#) for the link and more details. If you have any questions, please call Penny Willey at (248)225-1680.

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.

Family Fun Day—Sunday, May 23rd

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd immediately following worship, join us for a Family Fun Day Fundraiser to raise money for our youth programs at Northbrook! There will be activities for all ages including games, crafts and ice cream. The cost is \$10 per person or \$25 per family.

The event will be entirely outside and masks required, weather permitting. For more information, please contact Ken Stetson at stetson.kenny@gmail.com.

Finance Matters

It's amazing what happens when we join together. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Presbyterians are part of a remarkable tradition. The PC(USA) has four church-wide *Special Offerings* each year to help share Christ's love with millions of people around the world. These offerings are:

- ◆ One Great Hour of Sharing (a.k.a. *OGHS*, received during Lent)
- ◆ Pentecost offering (received during the season of Pentecost, generally in April-May)
- ◆ Peace & Global Witness offering (received on World Communion Sunday)
- ◆ Christmas Joy offering (received during Advent)

Through gifts to the Special Offerings, we support ministries of compassion, justice, hunger, Christian formation, education, peacemaking and global witness. The Special Offerings of the PC(USA) offer the whole Church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts which place us in partnership with those who have least. A very big *Thank You* to all who contributed to the recent OGHS collection at Northbrook. One hundred percent of OGHS pledges are sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to be used by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People (SPD) to provide people in need with safety, sustenance and hope.

This month, we will be receiving the Pentecost Special Offering. This offering helps the Church to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. **Unlike the OGHS offering, 40% of the Pentecost Special Offering stays at Northbrook to make an impact on the lives of young people within our own community.** To donate to the Pentecost Offering, please use the special envelope included in your envelope packet. You may also use a regular envelope sent to the church office or contribute online via Northbrook's website. Please be sure to note that your donation is for the Pentecost Offering. Contributions may be sent in through May 24.

James Matthew Barrie (Scottish novelist and creator of Peter Pan) said, *"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."* We encourage you to consider giving as you can to the upcoming Pentecost Special Offering. Rest assured, any contribution you can make will not go unappreciated. And, the sunshine will most certainly be spread far and wide! ***Thank you for your support and generosity.***

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 Mission *Care & Share* Donation Drop-Off
Saturday, May 15 (Rain or Shine)
10am—Noon in the Northbrook Parking Lot

“COVID times” continue to have a major impact on many of our Metro Detroit neighbors. ***Live the Love of Jesus Christ*** in a safe and generous way by participating in our May drive. We are asking for donations for the following organization:

- ♦ **The Presbytery of Detroit Hunger Ministries Program’s Sixth Annual *Cereal for Summer Drive* and for other ministries of the Presbytery of Detroit:** Kid-friendly cereals, healthy cereals, juice and milk boxes (individual servings) that don’t require refrigeration until after opening, breakfast and granola bars, individual serving size fruits, personal & hygiene care travel size items, travel-style toothbrushes

To participate, **please enter using the Lahser entrance only and exit onto 14 Mile Road.** Please drive alongside the donation-receiving vehicles that will be lined up in front of the church. All volunteers will be masked. You will not need to get out of your vehicle, but please wear a mask if you have your windows open, if volunteers have to get items from the back seat of your car, or if you do get out of your car. If you have any questions, contact Winnie Davies-Hancock at (248)931-0821 or winsomeann@aol.com. **Thank you! It’s a joy to help others.** If you would like to **volunteer** to help with the drive or if you have any **questions**, please contact Winnie Davies-Hancock.

THANKS go out to everyone who stopped by to drop off donations at our April 10th *Care & Share* Donation Drive!



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

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

Men's Connection takes place on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, please contact Walt Young.

LOGOS

LOGOS, our youth program, takes place on Wednesday evenings at 5pm. For more information, please contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, at stetson.kenny@gmail.com.

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.

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. We sent out the following mission support in April:

- ◆ \$1650 to Second Mile Center in Detroit
- ◆ \$1325 to the Hunger Program of the Presbytery of Detroit
- ◆ \$650 to American Indian Health and Family Services in Detroit

ARE YOU WANTING TO SPRUCE UP YOUR OUTDOOR SPACES FOR WARMER WEATHER?

Use Northbrook's Custom Online Link to shop Fair Trade at SERRV.org.

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!

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

- ◆ Equal Exchange (coffees – including organic, teas, chocolates, cooking ingredients, food, and gifts): <https://equalexchange.coop/pcusa>
- ◆ Mayan Hands (fashion, household, and gift items): <https://www.mayanhands.org/>
- ◆ MayaWorks (fashion, household, and gift items): <http://www.mayaworks.org/>
- ◆ UPAVIM (fashion, household, and gift items): <https://upavimcrafts.org/>



Lent and Easter at Northbrook - 2021



Calendar

May 2	10:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship— Communion Sunday
May 3	7pm	Zoom Book Club Meeting
May 4	10am	Zoom Men's Connection
May 5	5 pm	LOGOS
May 6	10am 7pm	Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study
May 9	10:15 am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Happy Mother's Day ~
May 11	10 am 7pm	Zoom Men's Connection Mission Connection Comm. Mtg.
May 12	5 pm	LOGOS
May 13	10am 7pm	Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study
May 15	10am	Care & Share Donation Drive
May 16	10:15am Noon	In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Meeting
May 18	10am	Zoom Men's Connection
May 19	5 pm	LOGOS
May 20	10am 7pm 7:30pm	Pivot Point Bible Study via Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study via Zoom Fort Street Film Zoom Discussion
May 23	10:15am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~Pentecost ~ Family Fun Day Fundraiser
May 25	10am	Zoom Men's Connection
May 26	5 pm	LOGOs
May 27	10am 7pm	Pivot Point Bible Study via Zoom Pivot Point Bible Study via Zoom
May 30	10:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
May 31		OFFICE CLOSED ~ Happy Memorial Day ~

May Birthdays

05/03 Jojo Sandercock	05/22 Claire LaSota
05/05 Alma Ross	05/22 Marilyn Thomas
05/06 Maggie Francis	05/23 Jackson Back
05/08 Hal Koss	05/23 Wendy Powell
05/09 Steve Taylor	05/24 Suzanne Burger
05/10 Lauren Guindi	05/26 Kim Ault
05/11 Bill Stetson	05/27 Susan Boese
05/18 Griffin Watt	05/29 Karen Vander Weide
05/19 Pierce Broadwell	05/30 Zephyr Ault
05/19 Cooper Sowle	05/30 Susan Riggan
05/21 Kai'Yah King	05/31 Keith Lepard
05/22 Kim Bowden-Adair	

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!!



Baptism

Payton Olivia Malott

April 18, 2021



May Anniversaries

- Michael & Roberta Campion – 50 years on May 1
- Beverly & Jeff Singer – 41 years on May 10
- Michael & Michele Buscaino – 35 years on May 17
- Tom & Valerie MacFarlane – 31 years on May 19
- Jeff & Marjorie Wilhelmi – 29 years on May 24
- Erin & David Swenson – 7 years on May 25

“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: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Worship with Us

10:15am on Sundays

- ◆ In-Person (RSVP by noon the Thursday before)
- ◆ Livestream on:
 - [NorthbrookPresCh YouTube Channel](#)
 - [Facebook](#)
 - www.northbrookpc.org

Staff Contact Information

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