

Northbrook Notes

OCTOBER 2026



NORTHBROOK

Live the Love of Jesus Christ

NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Make a Joyful Noise!

As Presbyterians, we believe that - when the elders discern God's will together - the Holy Spirit leads them to an understanding that no single leader can come to on their own. I have been so impressed by the discernment of the Northbrook elders on session - Kathy Bauhof, Barbara Burnham, Tim Boese, Tricia LaSota, Tom MacFarlane, Jan Sansom, Ryan Stottlemeyer, Penny Willey, and Grant Tengler - as they have navigated the challenging waters of worship music here. We have been praying for any personal wounds to be healed in as a result of the conflict around music over the past several months. At the same time, we have recognized deeper questions about worship culture that have lingered since Northbrook shifted from two services - traditional and contemporary - to one "blended" service many years ago. Thanks to all who shared in the lively conversations held after worship in the summer. After some deep and honest reflection, the Northbrook Session approved the vision for worship music (posted below) at its meeting on September 20th. It will clarify expectations and guide Northbrook moving forward in our worship planning, staff evaluations, etc.

The elders also made a commitment to restart the choir and volunteered to join the choir as it returns to singing in worship. We hope you might consider joining the choir in the future regardless of your singing background. We understand that calendars are busy, so the choir will be singing on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, with rehearsals starting at 9am sharp on the days the choir will be singing. At first, we will be singing simple, familiar songs, but we hope to grow our abilities with practice. In addition to restarting the choir, we will be exploring the possibility of having other groups singing occasionally. We learned that folks in the congregation really appreciate traditional choral pieces around Christmas and Easter. We hope to form a singing group for these special occasions that will be able to put in the extra rehearsal time required to sing some of the beloved pieces.

Vision for Worship Music at Northbrook

Make a Joyful Noise - We are committed to joy in worship: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing." (Psalm 100:1-2). As stated in the Directory for Worship in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Order, those ordained to serve in leadership of the church make vows to do so with "energy, intelligence, imagination, and love" (W-4.0404). We recognize the value and power of the *entire congregation* bringing a similar passion and commitment in its shared worship of God.

Participation - We welcome the participation of all abilities in the Northbrook Choir and will work to celebrate other musical offerings of the congregation, emphasizing effort and energy over styles and standards. In doing so, we affirm the Directory for Worship: "The congregation itself is the church's primary choir; the purpose of rehearsed choirs and other musicians is to lead and support the congregation in the singing of prayer. Special songs, anthems, and instrumental music may also serve to interpret the Word and enhance the congregation's prayer... Music in worship is always to be an offering to God, not merely an artistic display, source of entertainment, or cover for silence" (W-2.0202).

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Diversity of Music - We seek to praise God through a variety of musical styles, including traditional hymns, gospel, global praise, and contemporary Christian music. "Whenever and wherever we gather in Jesus' name, we join the praise and prayer of the people of God in every time and place. Therefore, it is fitting that we share stories and sing songs from cultures other than our own as we pray for and with the Church throughout the world" (W-1.0304).

It's a beautiful vision. And, I look forward to embracing it with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben

World Communion Sunday Potluck - Sunday, October 4 after Worship

As a part of our celebration of our connection with our family of faith from around the world, you are invited to share a favorite dish - either from your ethnic ancestry or another favorite global cuisine - to share following worship. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Brady's Bunch - Tuesday, October 6 at 5:30pm

Please join us on Tuesday, October 6 at 5:30 pm at the Honey Tree Grille (3633 W. Maple Rd., Bloomfield Twp.) for food and fellowship. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Contact Barb Voight with questions.

LOGOS - Wednesdays at 5pm

LOGOS, our weekly gathering for kids of all ages with games, songs, devotions, crafts, and dinner, begins in September. Registration, calendar, kitchen volunteer sign-ups, and themes can all be found at this [link](#). Contact Ken Stetson at stetson.kenny@gmail.com with any questions.

Senior Lunch - 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the Month

Please join us in the Library at 1pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month for a delicious lunch and good conversation. In October, we will meet on October 8 and October 22.

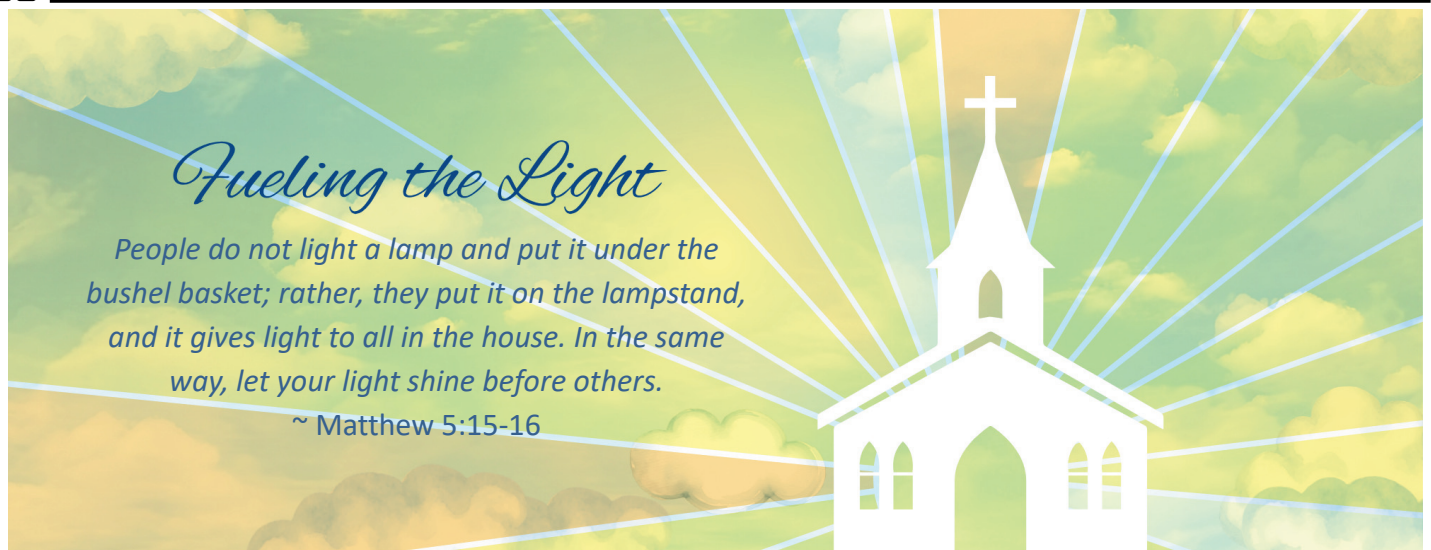
Men's Connection - Tuesdays at 8am & 10am

We continue with our book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, by Eugene Peterson through October 6. On October 13, we will start John Ortberg's popular book, *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Join at 8am via Zoom or at 10am in-person in the library or via Zoom. Please contact Bill Jordan at (248) 917-7201 to be included on Zoom.

World Communion Sunday Care & Share Food Drive Now through Monday, October 5

Please bring contributions of non-perishable food items now through Monday, October 5. If you bring items before Sunday, October 4, please place your items in the manger in the main hallway. **If you bring your food items on Sunday, October 5, please bring them with you into the sanctuary.** We will call you forward during worship to bring your items to the displayed collection near the communion table. These food items will be given to Kids Empowered On the Move for their regular food distributions of food bags to families and individuals struggling with food and housing insecurity. Thank you for your generosity!





Fueling the Light: Alive in this Place

2027 Stewardship Campaign

For a church of its size, Northbrook has so many lights shining brightly for others:

- Northbrook shares the light of Christ on Sunday mornings through its worship, preaching, and music, as well as the Kids' Connection program.
- Throughout the week, participants are enlightened in mind and body through Men's Connection, LOGOS for Kids & Youth, Yoga, and Pastor Ben's *Growing Together* gathering on Wednesdays.
- Lifelong Learners provide opportunities to explore rich cultural offerings, the Book Club stimulates deep sharing, Senior Lunch provides community for our elder members, and the New Brady's Bunch offers fellowship and a great meal out on the town.
- Northbrook shines out into the community, especially serving families through the Preschool, VBS, and Summer Camp programs.
- Through the Mission Connection Committee, a tenth of all the contributions to Northbrook goes directly to support ministries and agencies in Metro Detroit that are serving folks in need. Support is also given to Presbyterian ministries around the world responding to disasters and feeding the hungry.
- There are countless other events and traditions, from the Garage Sale to Trunk-or-Treat, that brighten our congregation and community.
- If that wasn't enough, the church building and grounds are used by so many groups in the community to serve others, including language schools, caterers, 12-step groups, a driving school, and a variety of other community groups and cultural performances.

We couldn't share all these lights without your support to fuel them. In October, we will kick off our Fall Stewardship Campaign: *Fueling the Light*. We hope that you will consider making a financial pledge to fuel the many lights of Northbrook so they can shine brightly in 2027.

Pledge cards will be sent out shortly by mail. They will also be available online via the church website. Extra hard copies are available in the church office. Please return your pledge card to the Northbrook office by Friday, November 6. As you consider your pledge for 2027, remember that fuel prices always seem to keep rising!

In addition to pledge cards, we will be sending out something new this year: a per capita envelope. Per capita is the amount Northbrook owes for each member as a part of our affiliation with our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA). This amount is distributed to support ministries at each level of the denomination.

NORTHBROOK

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The per capita amount has been set at \$42 per member for 2027. We are encouraging all members to make sure that they submit their per capita contributions this year. If we can each fulfill our obligation, more money will be freed in the Northbrook budget to fuel other ministry lights.

If you have any questions about your contributions or the finances of Northbrook, do not hesitate to ask. We are blessed by this calling to fuel the light of Christ that is alive in so many ways in this place, and we are grateful for your support!

Your Finance Committee,

Tim Boese, Dan Gross, Michael Krug (Financial Secretary), Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Tom MacFarlane, and Ryan Stottlemeyer



A festive Halloween poster with a light orange background. At the top, the word "HALLOWEEN" is written in a large, black, arched font. Below it, "Trunk or Treat" is written in a smaller, black, arched font. In the center is a white ghost with a simple face. To the left of the ghost are two black bats. Below the ghost are two orange jack-o'-lanterns with carved faces. To the right of the ghost is a large orange circle with the text "OCT 28" in white. At the bottom, the text reads: "Northbrook Church Parking Lot, 22055 W. 14 Mile Road Beverly Hills, 6 PM-7PM". Below this, it says: "We invite all families to join us at 5PM for pizza and fellowship before the event begins. Come and learn about our LOGOS program! To reserve a spot for dinner, please email terri.hurbis@gmail.com (please note any allergies so we can accommodate!)" At the very bottom, it says: "To volunteer to decorate a trunk, please contact Terri Hurbis (church families) or Kerry Callaghan (preschool families); terri.hurbis@gmail.com or preschool@northbrookpc.org"

HALLOWEEN
Trunk or Treat

OCT 28

Northbrook Church Parking Lot
22055 W. 14 Mile Road Beverly Hills
6 PM-7PM

We invite all families to join us at 5PM for pizza and fellowship before the event begins.
Come and learn about our LOGOS program!
To reserve a spot for dinner, please email terri.hurbis@gmail.com
(please note any allergies so we can accommodate!)

To volunteer to decorate a trunk, please contact Terri Hurbis (church families) or Kerry Callaghan (preschool families); terri.hurbis@gmail.com or preschool@northbrookpc.org

THERE IS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE
AT CHRIST'S COMMUNION TABLE.



World Communion Special Offering

Our contributions to the PCUSA World Communion Offering support the church's initiatives to cultivate reconciliation through peacemaking efforts, racial and gender justice, global witnessing, and the nurturing of ecumenical and interfaith relationships. However you choose to contribute, please indicate online or with your check that your offering is for the World Communion Offering. We will collect this offering through **Monday, October 5**. Thank you for helping to bring about a more just and peaceful world.



Kids' Connection, our Sunday ministry for young children at Northbrook, is for children in preschool through 5th grade.

Children may begin worshiping with their families in the sanctuary and will be dismissed for Kids' Connection after Pastor Ben's children's message. Each Sunday, the children will learn about connecting with God and others by hearing the stories of the Bible in fun and meaningful ways. We hope to see your kids on Sundays!

FLU SHOTS  **FLU SHOTS**

**ON-SITE VACCINATION CLINIC
REGISTRATION**

**October 11, 2026
9:00AM - 11:00AM**

**PLEASE VISIT
REGISTRATION WEBSITE**

<https://flu.vna.org>

**CLINIC ID: 3261
CLINIC PASSCODE: 3rEZB8h**

or Scan QR Code to Register



FLU SHOTS **FLU SHOTS**

Northbrook Safety Night with Deputy Shane Freiberg, Oakland County Sheriff's Department Monday, October 19 at 7pm in the Northbrook Sanctuary

Join us as we raise awareness and increase safety efforts at Northbrook. Deputy Freiberg worked with us on developing a Safety Plan.

Key items to be covered:

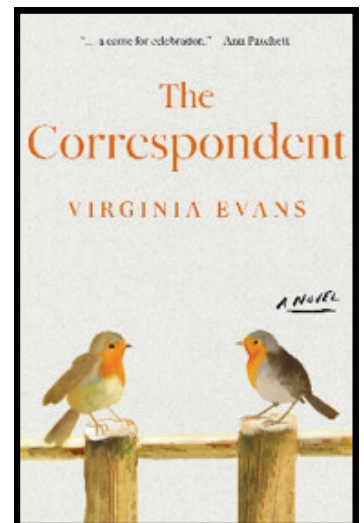
- Update on NB Safety Program
- Building Security
- Best practices working with other churches, schools, etc.
- Situational Awareness - suspicious people
- County and local police support
- Learn "Run..Hide..Fight" as a defense

Northbrook members, groups, renters, and other building users are invited and encouraged to attend. Please contact Peggie DiFalco or Penny Willey with questions.

Northbrook Book Club—Monday, October 5 at 7pm

Everybody is welcome to attend the upcoming Northbrook Book Club discussion of *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans on Monday, October 5 at 7pm. Barb is hosting. Join in person in Fellowship Hall or by Zoom. Please let Nancy Best know if you would like to attend by Zoom.

Book Summary: *It follows Sybil Van Antwerp, a retired lawyer in her early seventies, who has spent her life writing letters to friends, family, authors, strangers, and even one person she never actually sends her letters to. The story spans from 2012 to 2022. During this time, Sybil loses her sight, repairs broken bonds, carries deep guilt, and faces a letter from her past that forces her to reopen her most painful wound. What begins as a quiet character study slowly builds into something emotionally overwhelming. This book earned its place at the top of the New York Times bestseller list. Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, The Correspondent is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime.*



Please mark your calendar with these upcoming titles and discussion dates:

- November 16 – *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick – Kim hosts
- January 11, 2027 - *Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline – Winnie hosts

Growing Together on Wednesdays

Explore *The Art of Vinemaking* by Bette Dickinson

Northbrook's *Growing Together* gatherings on Wednesdays at 10am and 7pm, continues through November 18th. We are revisiting our theme for the year - *Abide and Thrive* - by reading through *The Art of Vinemaking*, by Bette Dickinson. In a culture that measures fruitfulness by productivity, *The Art of Vinemaking* offers a countercultural and deeply compelling invitation: to return to the slower, sacred rhythm of abiding. Through the rich metaphor of John 15, author and artist Bette Dickinson guides readers through a Traverse City vineyard where she's been learning from both the vine and a local organic vinedresser, Dave Bos. On this 10-week journey through the book, we will engage scripture, personal story, and original hand-drawn illustrations, embracing a deeply embodied reflection on what it means to be rooted in Christ in every season.

October & November Course Schedule:

October 7 - *No class*

October 14 - Come ready to discuss:

- Chapter 5: Descent into the Roots
- Chapter 6: Post-Harvest
- Chapter 7: Dormancy
- Chapter 8: Pruning

October 21 - Come ready to discuss:

- Chapter 9: Ascent into the Branches
- Chapter 10: Bud Break

October 28 - Come ready to discuss:

- Chapter 11: Growing
- Chapter 12: Flowering

November 4 - Come ready to discuss:

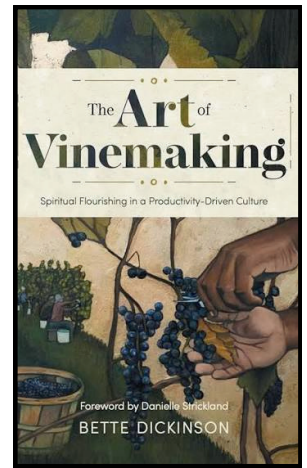
- Chapter 13: Ripening Fruit
- Chapter 14: Veraison

November 11 - Come ready to discuss:

- Chapter 15: Harvest
- Chapter 16: Wine

November 18 - Come ready to discuss:

- Epilogue
- Note from the Vinedresser: Dave Bos



Achieving & Maintaining Physical Balance - Thursday, November 5 at 11am

Statistically, people are falling at an increased rate, especially seniors. This often leads to disability and sometimes death. The Lifelong Learner's Committee has organized a special workshop that will help us practice balance on a daily basis. Our presenter, Michael Rice, will inspire us with exercises and factual information. For more than 40 years, Michael Rice has worked with a variety of clientele from all walks of life and ages. As a teacher, presenter, and instructor in the disciplines of Therapeutic Yoga, Pilates, and Massage Therapy, he has spent a lifetime studying the human form and lecturing on Anatomy and Physiology, as well as creating private and public group programs for its maintenance and longevity. The core of his work is educating others on the importance of regaining and maintaining their balance. You won't want to miss this very important one-hour workshop on Thursday, November 5 at 11am in Fellowship Hall. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes to try a few of his exercises.

☐☐ IN MEMORIAM

James E. Hothem

February 15, 1931
September 16, 2026



Academy of Early Music Concert at Northbrook Friday, October 9 at 7:30pm

Since their founding in 2019, Filament has become a leading proponent and champion of 17th-century chamber music, an artistic universe unto itself that, though not widely known, speaks directly to the lived experiences of today's audiences. With The Muse's Prism, Filament offers an eclectic mix of "greatest hits" from their first seven years together — including unpublished sonatas taken directly from manuscript sources, consort music of William Lawes, a heart-stirring violin sonata of Élisabeth Jaquet de la Guerre, and Filament's own arrangement of J.S. Bach's beloved Schübler Chorales — celebrating their collective inspiration and the manifold ways their musical endeavors reflect and illuminate each other.



Filament is a chamber ensemble, formed in 2019, of Philadelphia-based period-instrument soloists. With a core trio of violin, viola da gamba, and keyboards, their respective founding members are Evan Few, Elena Kauffman, and John Walthausen. As a collective, their mission is to be the bright connective thread — that eponymous filament — linking the world of audiences with that of their repertoire, illuminating the delightful, sometimes uncanny familiarity of the emotions and images it evokes.

Visit www.academyofearlymusic.org for ticket information and more details about the concert.

Save the Date

Northbrook Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 25

At the end of the service, we will have a brief Congregational Meeting to elect officers for the next year. All members are encouraged to attend, and all are welcome as we choose leaders for the congregation.

Lifelong Learners Event: The Parade Company Tour Saturday, November 14

The Lifelong Learners Committee has organized a tour of The Parade Company on Saturday, November 14. Families and children are welcome to attend. Watch for more details in the weekly emails, Sunday bulletins, and monthly newsletter.

Northbrook Elders & Deacons

Elders

Kathy Bauhof
Tim Boese
Barbara Burnham
Tricia LaSota
Tom MacFarlane
Jan Sansom
Ryan Stottlemeyer
Grant Tengler
Penny Willey

Deacons

Nancy Best
Suzy Burger
Mary DeCarteret, Moderator
Peggie DiFalco
Rob Olson
Tracey Parker
Dave Tengler
Barb Voight

Clerk of Session

Terri Hurbis

Live the Love of Jesus Christ

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct 4	10am: In-Person & Livestream Worship & Communion 11:15am: World Communion Sunday Potluck
Oct 5	7pm: Northbrook Book Club Mtg.
Oct 6	8am: Men's Connection (Zoom only) 10am: Men's Connection 5:30pm: Brady's Bunch at The HoneyTree
Oct 7	11:15am: Yoga 5pm: LOGOS
Oct 8	1pm: Senior Lunch
Oct 9	10/9-10/11: Youth Fall Retreat
Oct 11	9am: Flu Shots 10am: In-Person & Livestream Worship & Communion 11am: Flu Shots 11:30am: Deacons' Mtg.
Oct 12	4:30pm: Worship Comm. Mtg.
Oct 13	8am: Men's Connection (Zoom only) 9:30am: Finance Committee Mtg. 10am: Men's Connection
Oct 14	11:15am: Yoga 10am: <i>Gathering Together</i> 5pm: LOGOS 7pm: <i>Gathering Together</i>
Oct 18	10am: In-Person & Livestream Worship 11:15am: Session Mtg.
Oct 19	7pm: Northbrook Safety Planning with the Oakland County Sheriff's Dept.

Oct 20	8am: Men's Connection (Zoom only) 10am: Men's Connection
Oct 21	11:15am: Yoga 10am: <i>Gathering Together</i> 5pm: LOGOS 7pm: <i>Gathering Together</i>
Oct 22	1pm: Senior Lunch
Oct 25	10am: In-Person & Livestream Worship 11am: Congregational Meeting
Oct 27	8am: Men's Connection (Zoom only) 10am: Men's Connection
Oct 28	11:15am: Yoga 10am: <i>Gathering Together</i> 6pm: Trunk-or-Treat 7pm: <i>Gathering Together</i>

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/07 Walt Young	10/16 Barbara Burnham
10/08 Lori Spiewak	10/16 Dana DeCarteret
10/10 LeeAnne Hemberg	10/16 Brooke Ratton
10/11 Amy Annett	10/22 Jeffrey Lein
10/11 Vicki Back	10/23 Cassidy Boyd
10/11 Lori Sandercock	10/23 Judith Swink
10/13 Michael Clemens	10/29 Faith Rick
10/14 Susan Koss	10/31 Edna Gadsby

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Susan & Hal Koss - 54 years on October 7
 Dan & Penny Willey - 38 years on October 8
 Bruce & Judie Murdock - 37 years on October 14
 Michael & Jennifer Wicker - 11 years on October 24

Staff contact Information

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor ben@northbrookpc.org	Ext. 17
Jannah Cole, Music Team Leader	
Dan Gross, Musician	
Pete Zajicek, Musician	
Sherrill Heinrichs, Coord. of Congregational Care sherrill@northbrookpc.org	Ext. 15
Ken Stetson, Youth Director	
Becky Bachand, Administrative Assistant becky@northbrookpc.org	Ext. 10
Mike Krug, Finance Secretary mike@northbrookpc.org	Ext. 13
Kerry Callaghan, Preschool Director preschool@northbrookpc.org	Ext. 16

Worship with us:

10am in the Sanctuary

The Sunday service is also found:

- Livestream on YouTube - [Northbrookpc](#)
- Livestream on Facebook - [Northbrookpc](#)

Contact us:

22055 W. 14 Mile Road
 Beverly Hills, MI 48025
 248-642-0200 www.northbrookpc.org

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 9am - 4pm
 Friday: 9am - Noon