

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### Resurrection Living



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

It’s been quite a Lent this year. Normally, I adopt practices during Lent - devotionals, fasting, etc. - to help me embrace the season and follow Jesus toward the cross. This year, Lent seemed to happen to us - and all around us - without much intentionality on our part. The pain of the cross has been playing out around the world and even right here at Northbrook.

The other day, I put on the soundtrack to *Godspell*. As a teenager, I was in the cast of a local community theater production, and it was a thrill to perform on the stage. On a deeper level, the gospel story came alive for me as we embodied the scripture story. A couple of years later, we performed *Jesus Christ, Superstar*. Both plays invite us into the drama of Christ’s sacrifice for us. We see the conflict brewing and hear Jesus’ message of love in the midst of it. When it comes to the crucifixion scenes, my heart starts racing and I always find myself in tears.

It’s interesting, though, how both stories handle the resurrection. After so much drama at the cross, both productions portray the resurrection in an indirect way. It’s almost as if the writers didn’t know how to portray the resurrection. Two thousand years after the empty tomb - when the entire cosmos was made new in the resurrected Jesus Christ - we still struggle to make sense of it. In a recent Wednesday discussion of *At the Foot of the Cross*, one of the members encouraged us to trust that God’s love will overcome all the pain and destruction around us. It gave us all hope... and we felt encouraged to follow Jesus.

If the resurrection is hard to understand, it may be even harder to live. But that’s what we’re called to do as followers of Jesus: live as resurrection people, daring to believe that it happened on that first Easter Sunday and that - one day - it will be fulfilled throughout all creation. Even as the bombs fall and our neighbors are apprehended, we have hope. And, we have the courage to follow Christ and stand for love.

On the original *Godspell* soundtrack, a song called *Beautiful City* has a bouncy, upbeat feel. When I saw the revival on Broadway in 2012, they updated the soundtrack. In this version, the song is slower, more pondering, and purposeful. The lyrics to the bridge always catch me:

*When your trust is all but shattered  
When your faith is all but killed  
You can give up, bitter and battered  
Or you can slowly start to build...*

Despite our instincts to avoid or numb the pain, may we look - clear-eyed - at the suffering of our neighbors and the world. May we dare to imagine that Christ is present and working even there.

In the midst of death, may we trust.

In the midst of despair, may we hope.

In the midst of division, may we love.

May it be so,  
Pastor Ben



*Lent & Easter  
at Northbrook*

MAUNDY THURSDAY

**April 2 at 6pm**

Gather for a potluck and to celebrate the Last Supper around the table. We'll move into the Sanctuary for a service of music and foot/hand washing as we remember Christ's command to, "Go and do likewise."

EASTER

**Sunday, April 5 at 10am**

Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ - and the reconciliation of all creation - with beautiful flowers and joyful music! Christ is risen, indeed!

## Lenten Study: Cross Connections - Wednesdays at 10am & 7pm

Join us on Wednesdays - in person or via Zoom - for our Lenten Study, an exploration of select chapters of *At the Foot of The Cross*. This book, written by the Rev. Thomas John, Ben's host father from his time in India, will offer a fresh perspective on Lent and Easter for us. \*The book is not available for purchase, but Pastor Ben can provide the pdf link for free upon request.

## The New Brady's Bunch - Tuesday, April 7 at 5:30pm

Please join us on Tuesday, April 7 at 5:30pm at the Honey Tree Grille (3633 W. Maple Rd, Bloomfield Twp.) for food and fellowship. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Contact Barb Voight for any questions.

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

Men's Connection meets weekly on Tuesday mornings at 8am via Zoom and 10am in-person in the library and via Zoom. We are studying N. T. Wright's book, *Romans for Everyone, Part 1, Chapters 1-8 (20th Anniversary Edition with Study Guide)*. Contact Bill Jordan at (248) 917-7201 to be included on Zoom.

## Senior Lunch - 2nd & 4th Thursday 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 lunch and good conversation. In April, we will meet on April 9th and April 23rd. *Please consider volunteering to help with this important program.* See the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

## LOGOS - Wednesdays, 5-7pm

LOGOS is our weekly gathering for kids of all ages with games, songs, devotions, crafts, and dinner. Contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, for more information.

## Yoga with Lis - Wednesdays at 11:15am

Join us for Yoga with Lis classes on Wednesdays at 11:15am. No fee required, but donations are welcome.



### One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

During the season of Lent, we will collect this PCUSA Special Offering to share our blessings with others who struggle due to disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, or immigration/migration/refugee status. Worldwide humanitarian work supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds provides people and communities with safety, sustenance, and hope through sustainable food resources, clean water, sanitation, education, disaster recovery, and economic opportunity. If you have a packet of offering envelopes, you will find an OGHS envelope in your packet. Whether you use an envelope or not, and whether you give at church or online, please indicate that your payment is for OGHS so your contribution is handled accordingly. Thank you so much for your gifts to help support vulnerable people around the world.



Donations Due by Monday, April 6

## Finance Matters

At the core of our youth ministry program is our unforgettable Summer Camp. Several generations of our Northbrook family have had their faith nurtured during the fun-filled week at camp. Many of our campers have gone on to be volunteer counselors. In addition to offering their time (for some, it is a week of unpaid vacation), our volunteer counselors share their faith, energy, and love with the campers.

We don't often mention the costs and numbers that go into creating such a memorable experience. Just to list a few:

- ◆ It costs \$355 for each student we bring to Camp Timbers.
- ◆ It costs \$335 for every adult volunteer counselor we bring to Camp Timbers.
- ◆ The camp buses that bring us to and from camp total about \$4000.
- ◆ We usually have about 25 adult volunteers to serve as counselors at camp.

This year, we are charging a competitive rate of \$600 per student for attendance at camp. In addition to covering the Camp Timbers fee and buses, this will cover the cost of our volunteer counselors, as well as supplies for bible studies, games, and other activities. Camp Scholarships are available to help offset the cost. See the next page for more details about this year's camp experience, and how to register. We encourage you to spread the word and invite the young people in your life to come to camp! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ken Stetson, Youth Director, for more information.

On Friday, April 10th, we will be having the Camp Lock-In at the church for those who want to experience a night at camp if they have never attended, or for us die-hard members, to get our early fill, for \$15 per person.

With both your financial and in-kind support, we can continue supporting the costs to our campers and dedicated volunteer counselors. We hope to see you at our Breakfast & Bingo event on April 19<sup>th</sup> in support of this impactful ministry. Watch for more details in the weekly bulletin and emails. Thank you!

With Gratitude,  
Your Northbrook Finance Committee



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026**  
**SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE**  
FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD

Accept the Challenge!  
**REGISTER NOW**

Bible Stories  
Frosty Games  
Creative Crafts  
Snowy Surprises  
Science Experiments  
Music & more

**Are you ready for the ultimate Adventure?  
Join us for a week of snowy, action-packed fun!**

**When:** June 22-26, 9:00am-12:00pm  
**Where:** Northbrook Presbyterian Church  
22055 West Fourteen Mile Road  
**Who:** Preschool - 5th grade  
**Cost:** \$50 per child

**Register before June 1 to receive your free VBS t-shirt.**

To Register, Scan or Visit:  <https://myvbs.org/northbrook-vbs-2026>

### Camp Lock-In - Friday, April 10

The Camp Lock-In is on Friday, April 10th from 7pm until 9:30am. The cost will be \$15 per person. There will be a s'mores snack around 9pm and a light breakfast in the morning. This event is great for all current 1st through 12th graders who want to experience what a night at camp is like. For more information, contact Ken Stetson, Youth Director, at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com).



### Camp Registration is Now Open

Summer Youth Camp Registration is now open. Applications are due by June 1st. To register, please complete this [form](#). The cost for camp this year is \$600. Payment can be made by check (payable to Northbrook) or online [here](#). Summer Youth Camp will be August 2nd-8th for all completed 1st-12th graders at YMCA Camp Timbers in West Branch. For more information, contact Ken Stetson, Youth Director, at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com).

### Breakfast & BINGO—Sunday, April 19

The Children & Youth Ministry Committee invites you to a Breakfast & Bingo fundraiser to support our youth programs. (This is taking the place of our annual Bingo de Mayo fundraiser.) We'll be serving up a delicious pancake breakfast and playing BINGO with prizes after the worship service. Bring your appetite and BINGO spirit! The cost is \$15 per person or \$30 per family. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Ken Stetson or Terri Hurbis.



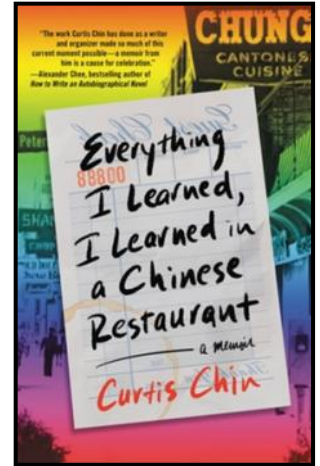
### Youth Mission Trip—June 28 to July 1

Mark your calendars for our summer youth mission trip to Camp Timbers. We'll be heading there on Sunday June 28th to Wednesday July 1st. The trip is available to all middle and high school students. Cost and registration will be available in the coming weeks.

## Northbrook Book Club—April 20 at 7pm

Everybody is welcome to attend the next Northbrook Book Club discussion of *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant* by Curtis Chin. Attendance can be in person or by Zoom. This book was selected by the Michigan Humanities Council as the Great Michigan Read book for 2026. It's being read throughout the entire state by various groups and organizations. Also, the author has speaking engagements in many locations this spring. Nancy Best is hosting this discussion – please let her know if you would like to attend by Zoom.

**Book Summary:** *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant* is a memoir. Nineteen-eighties Detroit was a volatile place to live, but above the fray stood a safe haven: Chung's Cantonese Cuisine, where anyone—from the city's first Black mayor to the local drag queens, from a big-time Hollywood star to elderly Jewish couples—could sit down for a warm, home-cooked meal. Here was where, beneath a bright-red awning and surrounded by his multigenerational family, filmmaker and activist Curtis Chin came of age; where he learned to embrace his identity as a gay ABC, or American-born Chinese; where he navigated the divided city's spiraling misfortunes; and where—between helpings of almond boneless chicken, sweet-and-sour pork, and some of his own, less-savory culinary concoctions—he realized just how much he had to offer to the world, to his beloved family, and to himself. He shares life lessons on race, sexuality, and class, framed by his family's restaurant, Chung's, which served as a community hub during Detroit's economic decline.



Please mark your calendar with these book titles and dates:

- ◆ June 1—*The Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang - Yvonne hosts
- ◆ July 13—Book TBD-Shirley hosts
- ◆ August 24—*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros - Jan hosts
- ◆ October 5—*The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans - Barb hosts
- ◆ November 16—Book TBD
- ◆ January 11, 2027- Book TBD

## Hospitality TEAM

You are invited to be on the elite Northbrook Hospitality TEAM. The Hospitality TEAM is responsible principally for greeting worshipers to service, handing out bulletins, and taking the offering.

This is a valuable volunteer service to your church. We start a half hour before the service, and finish up about a quarter hour after the service. You will be the spirit and face of Northbrook—warm and welcoming—both to the congregation and, importantly, to all new visitors.

When you have decided that you are curious enough to explore further, we will be happy to give a fuller description of the duties. For more information or to sign up, please contact Bill Travis at 248-917-1481 or [wftravis46@gmail.com](mailto:wftravis46@gmail.com).

We look forward to having you as a face on the TEAM!



## Calendar

April 1	10am 11:15am 7pm	Growing Together—Lent Series Yoga Growing Together—Lent Series
April 2	6pm	Maundy Thursday Service & Potluck
April 5	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship & Communion ~ <i>Happy Easter!</i> ~
April 6		OFFICE CLOSED
April 7	8am 10am 5:30pm	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom New Brady's Bunch Dinner
April 8	10am 11:15am 5pm 7pm	Growing Together—Lent Series Yoga LOGOS Growing Together—Lent Series
April 9	1pm	Senior Lunch
April 10	7pm	Camp Lock-In
April 12	10am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Deacons' Meeting
April 13		Worship Comm. Meeting
April 14	8am 9:30am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Finance Comm. Mtg. Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
April 15	11:15am 5pm	Yoga LOGOS
April 19	10am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Pancake Breakfast & Bingo Fundraiser
April 21	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
April 22	11:15am	Yoga
April 23	1pm	Senior Lunch
April 26	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ <i>Elsie Yun Baptism</i> ~
April 28	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom Confirmation Dinner
April 29	11:15am	Yoga

### April Birthdays

04/02 Bradley Wicker	04/20 David Burnham
04/07 Winnie Davies-Hancock	04/23 Valerie MacFarlane
04/08 Gretchen Larson-Wolbrink	04/24 Denise Getchell
04/10 Rob Olson	04/25 Graham Lockett
04/13 Darwin Chungag	04/25 Jennifer Wicker
04/14 William Back	04/26 Carson Sowle
04/14 Connie Jordan	04/26 David Wind
04/14 Penny Willey	04/28 Jan Sansom
04/15 Robert Sandercock	04/30 Jennifer Sicora
04/18 Deborah Smith	

### April Anniversaries

Kimberly & Michael Yekin—41 years on April 4  
 Bill & Connie Jordan—41 years on April 20  
 Grant & Barbara Burnham—54 years on April 29



**Northbrook Preschool**

**2026-27 ENROLL NOW**

- 3 yr-old program 2-3 days/week
- Pre-K program 3-5 days/week
- Extended day option until 2 pm

Please visit our website: [www.northbrookpc.org](http://www.northbrookpc.org)  
 for the most current calendar of events.



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# *“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”*

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## Northbrook

### Presbyterian Church

22055 West Fourteen Mile Road  
Beverly Hills, Michigan 48025  
Phone (248) 642-0200  
Fax (248) 642-7495  
[www.northbrookpc.org](http://www.northbrookpc.org)

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22055 W. 14 Mile Rd. Beverly Hills, MI 48025



Kids' Connection, our Sunday ministry for young children at Northbrook, is for children in preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children may begin worshipping 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!***

#### **Staff Contact Information**

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor	ext. 17
<a href="mailto:ben@northbrookpc.org">ben@northbrookpc.org</a>	
Jannah Cole, Worship Team Leader	
Dan Gross, Musician	
Pete Zajicek, Musician	
Sherrill Heinrichs, Congregational Care Coord.	ext. 15
<a href="mailto:sherrill@northbrookpc.org">sherrill@northbrookpc.org</a>	
Ken Stetson, Youth Director	
<a href="mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com">stetson.kenny@gmail.com</a>	
Becky Bachand, Administrative Assistant	ext. 10
<a href="mailto:becky@northbrookpc.org">becky@northbrookpc.org</a>	
Mike Krug, Finance Administrator	ext. 13
<a href="mailto:mike@northbrookpc.org">mike@northbrookpc.org</a>	
Kerry Callaghan, Preschool Director	ext. 16
<a href="mailto:preschool@northbrookpc.org">preschool@northbrookpc.org</a>	

#### **Worship with Us:**

**10am in the sanctuary**

#### **The Sunday service is also found:**

- Livestream on YouTube—[Northbrookpc](https://www.youtube.com/Northbrookpc)
- Livestream on Facebook—[Northbrookpc](https://www.facebook.com/Northbrookpc)

#### **Office Hours**

Mon-Thurs: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9am—Noon

22055 W. 14 Mile Road, Beverly Hills, MI 48025  
248-642-0200 [www.northbrookpc.org](http://www.northbrookpc.org)