

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### Love Looks like... The Three Days of Easter

I'm so excited to celebrate our **Easter Sunday Service at 10am on April 20** when we gather to proclaim the power and mystery of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. All creation is made new! The empty tomb is the culmination of the story, but so much happens leading up to that resurrection morning. The Three Days - the *triduum* - proclaims the drama of God-For-Us in three acts. The events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter are best understood as one service, unfolding over the course of three days. Through this profound and transforming experience at the heart of the Christian year, we are immersed in the holy mystery of Christ's death and resurrection and the great story of God's saving love.

Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, Latin for commandment) proclaims Jesus' new commandment to love one another as he has loved us. It celebrates Christ's example of humble service and self-offering, represented by the washing of feet and the sharing of communion.

**Maundy Thursday Potluck Service: April 17 at 6pm, Fellowship Hall** - We will gather for a potluck and share communion together around the table. We will transition to the sanctuary for music from the choir and a dramatic reenactment of the foot-washing story. The service will end with the stripping of the church and silence in preparation for Good Friday. \*(see dinner sign-up information on next page)

Good Friday proclaims the good news of salvation through the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. It honors the depth and passion of the divine heart for the world in the ultimate act of self-giving love.

**Good Friday Seven Last Words Poetry & Music Slam: April 18 at 7pm, at First Methodist Church, Royal Oak** - Instead of the traditional practice of preaching on these final words of Jesus from the cross, there will be offerings of poetry and music to express of the passion of Good Friday from people from different backgrounds. Musicians from Northbrook will offer music reflecting on: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

The Easter Vigil proclaims God's victory over sin and death through Christ's resurrection. Traditionally, the Easter Vigil begins at sunset, keeping with the ancient Jewish/Christian understanding of evening as the start of a new day. The Easter Vigil consists of four movements: 1) Light - rejoicing in the coming of Christ as the light of the world; 2) Readings - remembering the story of God's liberation through history, leading up to Jesus' resurrection; 3) Baptism - reaffirming God's covenant with us; 4) Communion - giving thanks for new life in Christ and anticipating the joyful feast of the realm of God.

**Easter Vigil at Northbrook: April 19 at 8pm on the Back Patio** - We'll gather around the campfire as the families and friends of Northbrook retell the ancient stories in fun and creative ways. We'll move into the sanctuary to welcome the light in the darkness, remember our baptisms and share communion as we celebrate the resurrection.

~ Pastor Ben



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”



### **Maundy Thursday Potluck ... *Come and Share the Love!***

Accompanying our lovely Maundy Thursday service, we will be serving all the delicious food our congregation is known for. We will continue our tradition of sharing communion at each table. Please sign up either in Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office (248-642-0200) to bring one of the following items to share to feed 12 hungry people. Please contact Sherrill Heinrichs with questions.

- \* Main Course or Casserole
- \*Potatoes or Veggies
- \*Fruits or Salads
- \*Bread or Rolls
- \*Dessert.



### **One Great Hour of Sharing March 5—April 20**

We will be collecting this year's first PCUSA Special Offering, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS), which supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From the initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Whether you make your contribution using a check or online to Northbrook,

please indicate that your payment is to be applied to OGHS. If you use the church envelope packet, there is a special envelope for this in your packet. *Thank you.*



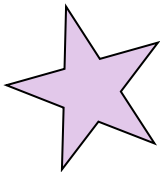
## Easter Basket Project

For this year's Easter Basket Project, we will be assembling very special Easter baskets for two families we have "partnered" with in their life journeys. Jose, Astrid, and Santi make up one of the families, and the other family is currently in the process of trying to secure housing so they can move out of a hotel.

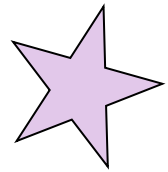
If you haven't already done so, please see the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall with options for contributing food, gifts, gift cards, and other needed items for these baskets.

**Items are due on or before Sunday, April 6, and the**

**baskets will be assembled on Palm Sunday, April 13.** What a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ during the Lenten and Easter seasons.



### YOUR STAR WORD JOURNEY...



Have you taken time to reflect on your star word for this year, spent time with your word, or noticed your word pop up in unexpected places? If you felt a little uneasy when you first read the word that you chose, have you discovered ways that your word really does relate to you and where you are in your life, or what you may be seeking?

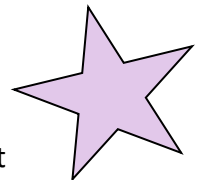
I know when I saw my word, I thought, "Hmmm this one doesn't really speak to me". Well, it may not have then, but through these past 3 months, I have found so many opportunities for this word to help me grow in ways I never imagined. It has popped into my mind in situations where I have had decisions to make, advice to offer, a new skill to learn. I am beginning to seek the meaning of my word in my life more and more often. How about you?

Maybe this month look for a book, a podcast, or a movie that might give you further insight into your word's meaning for you and how it could make a difference in your life. It could be a great opportunity to explore your word in a new and deeper way.

My star word has been challenging me and allowing me to see God at work in my life in unexpected ways and at unexpected times. Open your mind and heart and allow God to enter in through this devotional practice of praying based on a single word, your star word for this year, as you search for God's guidance!

Things to do this month:

- ◆ Consider why your word is important for you and why it would come up in a list of "spiritual" words.
- ◆ Make a list of ideas for "living" your star word in your daily life as you consider what God might be leading you to "live out" your word.



Blessings on your "star" journey,  
Sherrill Heinrichs



## The New Brady Bunch - Tuesday, April 1 at 5:30pm

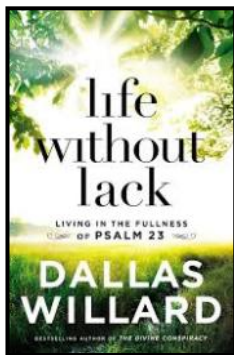
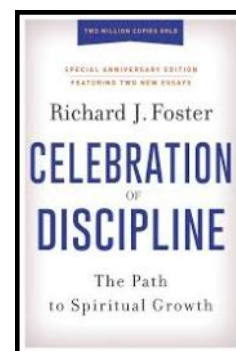
Please join us Tuesday, April 1 at 5:30pm at Mr. Joe's (located at 26077 12 Mile Rd. in Southfield) for some good food and fellowship. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, call Barb Voight at 248-302-3033.

## Lifelong Learners Program—Wednesday, April 23 at Noon

Beverly Dinsmore, a member of the Lifelong Learners Committee, will open her home in Milford for a tour of her art collection on April 23rd. Bev is an accomplished artist working primarily with colored pencil and watercolor. She was an art teacher in the Birmingham school district for 34 years and since her retirement in 1999, traveled worldwide, with her husband, collecting ideas for her artwork. She is particularly interested in wildlife. She also has a collection of works from her travels. Please join us for a tour of her three-story home followed by lunch at Baker's in Milford. We will carpool from the church or meet at her home at noon, beginning with the tour. More information to follow in the bulletin. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

## Pastor's Book Study Group—Wednesdays, 10am & 7pm

Can we really break out of old habits? Can we find more space for grace in our lives? You are invited to pick up a copy of *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster to join us as we continue our exploration of this book. We meet on Wednesdays at either 10am or 7pm (in-person & Zoom options available). If you are ready to stretch and grow in faith, we hope you will pick up a copy of the book and be ready for some good conversation as we plan to learn how spiritual disciplines - and the grace they can offer - are something worth celebrating! Beginning April 30, the study group will begin a new book (see next page for more details).



## Men's Connection—Tuesdays, 8am & 10am

Men's Connection is reading *Life Without Lack: Living in The Fullness of Psalm 23* by Dallas Willard. Willard shares the biblically-backed secret to living with true contentment, peace, and security.

Men's Connection meets weekly on Tuesdays at 8am (via Zoom) and 10am in the Library (in-person and via Zoom). Contact Walt Young at (248) 877-5411 for Zoom information. New men are always welcome to participate in this fellowship circle.

## Senior Soup Lunch - 2nd & 4th Thursdays 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 soup lunch and plentiful conversation. In April, we will meet on April 10 and April 24. Feel free to invite a friend!

## LOGOS—Wednesdays, 5-7pm

LOGOS is our weekly gathering for kids of all ages with games, songs, devotions, crafts, and dinner. We are still seeking more LOGOS dinner sponsors from the congregation to relieve the burden of our busy parents. Sign-up sheets are available in Fellowship Hall. Contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, for more information.

***Join us for Pentecost Pride Sunday on Sunday, June 8.***

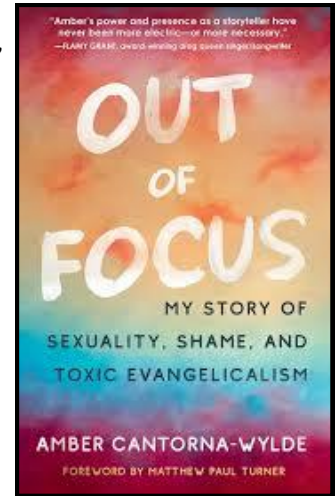
## Wednesday Pastor's Book Study: *Out of Focus: My Story of Sexuality, Shame, and Toxic Evangelism* by Amber Cantorna-Wylde

Are you wondering how Northbrook might love our LGBTQ family, friends, and neighbors better? Pick up a copy of *Out of Focus* by Amber Cantorna-Wylde, and join us on Wednesdays at 10am or 7pm starting April 30th as we discuss this 2023 Indies Award Finalist. "A blend of heart-wrenching memoir and astute cultural analysis, *Out of Focus* will help heal individuals harmed by evangelicalism's toxic influence and inspire Christian communities to pursue a path of love and inclusion."

Our hope is that this will be a mind-opening and heart-opening experience for all, and you are invited to join whatever your personal convictions may be. \*This will help us prepare for Northbrook's first-ever Pride Sunday service, scheduled for Pentecost Sunday, June 8th.

### Reading Plan:

April 30 - Forward, Prologue, Chapters 1 & 2  
May 7 - Chapters 3, 4 & 5  
May 14 - Chapters 6, 7 & 8  
May 21 - Chapters 9, 10, 11 & 12  
May 28 - Chapters 13, 14 & 15  
June 4 - Chapters 16, 17 & 18



## Northbrook Presbyterian Church & The Open Table Collective partner to present: Gender, Sexuality, & Faith Gathering

Saturday, May 3, 10am-2pm

Lead presenters: Pastor Danny Cox & Beatrice Cox

There is so much discussion in our culture about the LGBTQ+ community, sexuality, and faith. This gathering is designed to open up topics of discussion about faith, sexuality, gender, and how to radically love and respect those around us that we might see as an "other" or different from us.

In this time, Pastor Danny Cox along with his trans daughter, Beatrice, will share parts of their journey through life, faith, family, sexuality, and the spiritual struggles, insights, and lessons they are learning along the way.

This gathering will include multiple sessions including:

1. Creating Radically Inclusive, Affirming, and Receptive Communities
2. Non-Heteronormative People and Themes in Historical Christianity
3. Theological and Conceptional Ways to Think Through Gender, Sexuality, and Faith
4. Personal Journey Between Father & Daughter: Lessons and Insights

The main goal of our time together is to prayerfully contemplate, wrestle, discuss, and learn together in a diverse community about people and topics that many times are avoided.

\*Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by April 28 to [becky@northbrookpc.org](mailto:becky@northbrookpc.org) indicating any dietary requirements you may have. A free-will offering will be taken to help defray the cost of food.

## Northbrook Book Club—April 7 at 7pm

Everybody is welcome to attend the Northbrook Book Club discussion of *The Paris Apartment* by Lucy Foley on Monday, April 7 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Peggie D. is hosting this discussion. Please let Pastor Ben or Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation.

Book Summary: *The Paris Apartment* is a 2022 mystery novel by British author Lucy Foley. The novel follows a young woman named Jess who arrives at the luxury Paris apartment of her half-brother, Ben, who is a journalist. There, she finds that Ben has gone missing. She investigates his disappearance, and in doing so, uncovers the secrets of the building's other tenants. Everyone's a neighbor. Everyone's a suspect. And everyone knows something they're not telling.

Please mark your calendar with these upcoming book club dates:

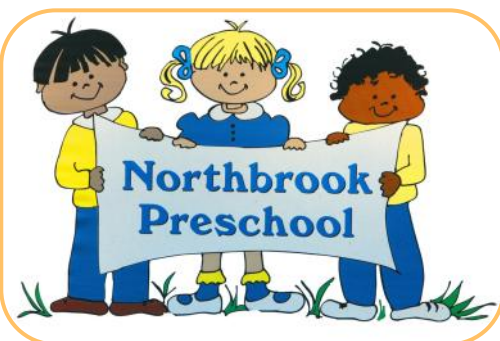
- ◆ May 19, 2025 - *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon (Mary hosts)
- ◆ June 30, 2025 - *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury (Jan hosts)
- ◆ August 11, 2025 - *Bloomsbury Girls* by Natalie Jenner (Yvonne hosts)
- ◆ September 22, 2025 - *Wayward: A Novel* by Dana Spiotta (Barb hosts)
- ◆ November 3, 2025 - *The World According to Fannie Davis: My Mother's Life in the Detroit Numbers* by Bridgett Davis (Kim hosts)
- ◆ January 12, 2026 - *Fellowship Point* by Alice Elliott Dark (Winnie hosts)



## THE *Academy of Early Music*

Michigan's Presenter of Early Classical Music

The Academy of Early Music is having a concert at Northbrook on **Friday, April 11** at 7:30pm. Join Baroque string trio *Un tas de cordes* for a concert of chamber music from the courts of Louis XIV and Louis XV, including sonatas by Jean-Féry Rebel and Georg Muffat as well as a viola da gamba solos by the famed Marin Marais and Antoine Forqueray and a charming and regal chaconne by Marais' student Jacques Morel. Tickets are available for purchase at The Academy of Early Music website: [www.academyofearlymusic.org](http://www.academyofearlymusic.org).



Northbrook Preschool has been having fun rhyming and doing things that are all Dr. Seuss!! We even celebrated his birthday!! We are now getting ready for Easter.  
Happy Spring!!

**Now enrolling for the 2025-2026 school year!**





# ai, faith, and you.



REV. DR. ANDY MORGAN

THURSDAY, MAY 8TH  
NOON - 1:00PM (EST)  
ZOOM

Join Rev. Dr. Andy Morgan (First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville) for a thought-provoking Zoom session on the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and faith-informed ethics. This session will provide a unique chance to explore how AI, particularly large language models like ChatGPT, can be understood and in a faith based context.



Learn what A.I. can and cannot do, with a particular focus on how tools like ChatGPT function.



Explore the major concerns and considerations for persons of faith to move toward a faith-informed relationship with AI.

Please RSVP to [becky@northbrookpc.org](mailto:becky@northbrookpc.org).



### Northbrook Summer Camp

Camp registration is now open. Please complete this [registration form](#). **Camp dates are August 3rd-9th.** The cost for camp this year will be \$515 per person. The full amount or a \$100 deposit can be made by check or online [here](#). We will have scholarship money available, but we are asking that anyone seeking a scholarship to please apply first to First Presbyterian Church Grand Haven—their scholarship applications are due by **May 15**. Please contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, for more details.



### Vacation Bible School June 22—26

We are excited to host Vacation Bible School at Northbrook this summer, in partnership with Kensington Church, on **June 22-26** for pre-school through fifth-grade students.

We will be building on the spirit of camp and applying it to the theme of *Live It Out*. Engaging in the fun and adventure of camp life, children will learn how to love like Jesus and live their faith through kind words and actions.

Many volunteers, both youth and adult, will be needed to provide the best VBS summer camp experience! Please mark your calendar and spread the word! More details to follow.



### Neighborhood Nights are back:

5-8pm on the third Wednesdays this summer!

Come on over to the Northbrook parking lot for live music, food trucks, and games for all ages.

Mark your calendars:

- June 18**
- July 16**
- August 20**

### Northbrook Kitchen For Rent!

Did you know that Northbrook’s fully equipped commercial kitchen is available for rent? If you or someone you know are Department of Agriculture or Save-Serve certified by the health department and are looking for a beautiful kitchen in which to prepare your food, please call us and come for a visit. Our kitchen is also available for one-time uses...perhaps a large family event or the many many cookies you volunteered for your child’s school.

Please pass on the word to your family and friends! If you have any questions, please call Sherrill Heinrichs at 248-642-0200.





## Calendar

April 1	8am 10am 5:30pm	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person) Brady's Bunch at Mr. Joe's
April 2	10am 11am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga LOGOS Pastor's Book Study
April 6	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Family Worship & Communion ~ Easter Basket Items Due
April 7	7pm	Northbrook Book Club Meeting
April 8	8am 9:30am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Finance Committee Mtg. Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person)
April 9	10am 11am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga LOGOS Pastor's Book Study
April 11	7:30pm	Academy of Early Music Concert
April 13	10am 11:15am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~Palm Sunday~ Assemble Easter Baskets Session Meeting
April 15	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person)
April 16	10am 11am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga LOGOS Pastor's Book Study
April 17	16pm	Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner & Service
April 18	7pm	Good Friday Seven Last Words Poetry & Music Slam at First United Methodist Church in Royal Oak
April 19	8pm	Easter Vigil on the Patio
April 20	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~Easter Service~
April 21		Church Office Closed
April 22	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person)
April 23	11am 12pm 5pm	Yoga Lifelong Learners Program LOGOS

April 24	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
April 27	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
April 29	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person)
April 30	10am 11am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga LOGOS Pastor's Book Study

### April Birthdays

04/02 Bradley Wicker	04/18 Debbie Smith
04/07 Winnie Davies-Hancock	04/19 Kristen Miller
04/08 Gretchen Larson-Wolbrink	04/20 David Burnham
04/10 Dorothea Clarke	04/23 Valerie MacFarlane
04/10 Rob Olson	04/24 Denise Getchell
04/13 Darwin Chungag	04/25 Graham Lockett
04/14 William Back	04/25 Jennifer Wicker
04/14 Connie Jordan	04/26 Carson Sowle
04/14 Penny Willey	04/26 David Wind
04/15 Petie Forbush	04/28 Jan Sansom
04/15 Robert Sandercock	04/30 Jennifer Sicora

### April Anniversaries

Kimberly & Michael Yekin—40 years on April 4  
Bill & Connie Jordan—40 years on April 20  
Grant & Barbara Burnham—53 years on April 29

**Yoga with Ana at  
Northbrook  
Wednesdays at 11am  
in Fellowship Hall**



Pay what you can. Invite a friend! For more information, call 248.979.3577.



### In Memoriam

*Kitty Dunbar*

October 18, 1929  
February 27, 2025

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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

#### **Staff Contact Information**

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor ext. 17  
[ben@northbrookpc.org](mailto:ben@northbrookpc.org)  
Angel Gippert, Musician & Choir Director  
Dan Gross, Musician  
Pete Zajicek, Musician  
Sherrill Heinrichs, Congregational Care Coord. Ext. 15  
[sherrill@northbrookpc.org](mailto:sherrill@northbrookpc.org)  
Ken Stetson, Youth Director  
[stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com)  
Becky Bachand, Administrative Assistant ext. 10  
[becky@northbrookpc.org](mailto:becky@northbrookpc.org)  
Mike Krug, Finance Administrator ext. 13  
[mike@northbrookpc.org](mailto:mike@northbrookpc.org)  
Kerry Callaghan, Preschool Director ext. 16  
[preschool@northbrookpc.org](mailto:preschool@northbrookpc.org)

#### **Worship with Us: 10am Sundays**

##### **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