

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### Keep Growing!

The summer has gone by in the blink of an eye and in a flurry of activity. So many of us headed on vacation Up North, Out West, and in so many other directions! On the home front, Neighborhood Nights @ Northbrook kept us connected with folks who were around over the summer. And, where do I begin when talking about the wonderful week of summer that is church camp? I think I'm finally recovered... and I was only there half a week!

It's hard to believe, but it was my 5th summer attending camp. (And, how can it be that my 5th anniversary at Northbrook is coming up this month?!?) The blessing of returning each summer is that we get to witness how much the campers grow. It's obvious when you see the pictures. But, what's less obvious in the photos is how the campers mature as they come back year after year. It's a beautiful thing to behold a community growing in Christ!

I've been thinking about growth a lot lately, and it's become one of the most important items on the agenda for our session meetings. Yes, we want to ensure we grow to have the people and resources to sustain this wonderful congregation. And, as we ponder how we grow, we realize that we can't do it without Jesus Christ at the Center:

Growing *in* Jesus Christ.

That's what we're about. And, that's where I want to focus my energy - for our congregation and in my personal life. How do you and I mature into the fullness of life that we are promised in Jesus Christ? There will inevitably be pruning and pain. We will need to let go of our own agendas and - day by day - attune our lives to the deep rhythms of life God has for us. And, by God's grace, there will be fruitfulness... for us and for others.

As I was pondering this, I found myself starting to substitute prepositions to add nuance and flavor to our growth:

Growing *through* Jesus Christ

Growing *and* Jesus Christ

Growing *from* Jesus Christ

Growing *with* Jesus Christ

Growing *by* Jesus Christ

Growing *around* Jesus Christ

You get the gist. Our summer in Ephesus helped us learn about how we can participate in God's cosmic plan of redemption in Jesus Christ. It's all about growing in Christ together:

<sup>15</sup> ...we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>  
from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament  
with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the  
body's growth in building itself up in love.

Let's keep growing!  
Pastor Ben



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

## **Yoga Returns to Northbrook on September 3 - Wednesdays at 11am**

Yoga will return to Northbrook beginning Wednesday, September 3rd. Yoga with Liz classes will be held on Wednesday at 11am. All are welcome to attend. Bring a mat and yoga supplies if you have them. No fee required, but donations are accepted.

### **Micah 6 Block Blitz**

**Saturday, September 6: 9am-3pm**

We'll join our friends at the Micah 6 for a high-energy, community-driven event where volunteers come together to beautify, repair, and uplift the

neighborhood! Projects may include: yard cleanups, painting, trash removal, landscaping, community building & more. All ages welcome! Please RSVP in Fellowship Hall or to the church office by Tuesday, September 2. You can learn more about Micah 6 here: <https://www.micah6community.com/>.



## **LOGOS Returns - Wednesday, September 10, 5-7pm**

LOGOS - our weekly gathering for kids of all ages with games, songs, devotions, crafts, and dinner - starts September 10th. Registration and fee information will be coming soon, so mark your calendars and reach out to Ken Stetson at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com) with any questions you might have.

## **Confirmation Class Parents' Meeting - Sunday, September 14**

Parents and youth wishing to participate in this year's confirmation class are invited to stay after worship to learn more about the class and how it will run. Be sure to bring your calendars as we'll be sharing key dates for the year!

## **Men's Connection—Resumes September 16**

Men's Connection weekly Tuesday meetings resume September 16 with a thoughtful discussion of John Ortberg's Soul Keeping: Caring For The Most Important Part Of You. The first week we will bite off the Forward, The Prologue, and the Introduction. There is a Zoom connection at both 8am and 10am and in-person at the library at 10am. Contact Walter Young at (248) 877-5411 to be included on Zoom. Returning members welcome new men to this fellowship circle.

## **Senior (Soup) Lunch - Thursday, August 28 at 1pm**

Senior (Soup) Lunch will continue as Senior Lunch. Judie Murdock will be hosting the first Senior Lunch on Thursday, August 28 at 1pm in the Library. With the new name, our volunteer "chefs" will be able to serve a variety of goodies of their choice. Many volunteers will be needed to continue this important program. Bruce Murdock will be doing dishes as usual so all you would have to do is prepare and serve lunch for approximately 12 people. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.



We are thrilled to share that Kids' Connection, our Sunday ministry for young children at Northbrook, will begin again on Sunday, September 7, 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!***



## Growing Together Wednesdays at 10am and 7pm

Previously known as bible study, Wednesday pastor's study, or book study, this is a regular gathering of folks who seek to grow in faith together. It's a time to share honestly - both deep thoughts and hard questions - within a caring community. Conversation is often grounded in scripture reading, a book or a video series.

The two video series for the fall are brought to you by The Work of the People. You can learn more at: <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/>.

\*If you would like to grow in your faith but Wednesday isn't a good time for you, we are looking to expand to other groups. Please reach out to Pastor Ben if you would like to gather at an alternative time.

### ***Reclaiming Wholeness***

#### **Three-week video series starting September 17**

Suzanne Stabile invites participants to explore the challenges of division, fear, and polarization in our relationships and communities. Through the lens of the Enneagram, Suzanne Stabile provides insight into how creating space for others, overcoming fear, and embracing hospitality can guide us toward wholeness in our lives and communities. Each session highlights practical and spiritual ways to move beyond fear and division into deeper connection and belonging.

- ♦ Sept. 17 - Crisis and Connection
- ♦ Sept. 24 - Making Space for Others
- ♦ Oct. 1 - Fear, Freedom, and Belonging



### ***Grateful***

#### **Six-week video series starting October 15**

What does it mean to live with gratitude? Diana Butler-Bass not only offers us an opportunity for a personal and systemic transformation, but also welcomes us into her own personal journey with gratitude. She writes, "My hope and prayer is that these films lead you to a deeper truth in your spiritual growth and inspire you to move outward into the world with the kind of generosity and gratitude that defies systems of scarcity and brings healing to the world."

- ♦ Oct. 15 - Where is God?
- ♦ Oct. 22 - A Table of Gifts
- \* Oct. 29 - *Off for Trunk or Treat*
- ♦ Nov. 5 - Table Ethics
- ♦ Nov. 12 - Grace, Gratitude, and Gifts
- ♦ Nov. 19 - Gratitude and Abundance
- \* Nov. 26 - *Off for Thanksgiving*
- ♦ Dec. 3 - Table Memory





## Coffee Hour this Fall

Coffee Hour will be starting back up on Sunday, September 7. Everyone loves the treats, and in order to have them out on the tables, we need volunteers! You can provide your own food or use food from the freezer in the kitchen. Diane Joppie has volunteered to do once a month all year!! If you could do just one or two, our calendar would be full. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

## The New Brady Bunch - Tuesday, September 16 at 5:30pm

Join us on Tuesday, September 16 at 5:30pm at Duggan's Irish Pub (31501 Woodward Ave.) for a great evening of food and fellowship. Please let us know you're coming by signing up in Fellowship Hall or calling Becky in the church office. This is always a fun event!

## Flu Shots - September 21, 9-10am & 11-12pm

Flu Shots will be offered at Northbrook on Sunday, September 21 before and after worship. Please pre-register at: <https://flu.vna.org> or scan the QR Code. Please contact Kathy Bauhof at 248-515-5307 with questions. [Clinic ID: 2999, Passcode: UYvZGMW]



## Underground Railroad & the Second Baptist Church's History Tour—Sept. 25

Join us on Thursday, September 25 for a tour and lecture of the church and learn about how they helped runaways escaping slavery (Freedom Seekers) who rested in secret in the church's special basement area before crossing the Detroit River to safety in Canada. Cost of the tour is \$10. Pastor Ben will be driving the church van and leaving from Northbrook at 9am. Please note, as part of the tour, you need to be able to walk down stairs to the basement. After the tour, we will be walking down the street to Pegasus restaurant in Greektown for lunch at your own cost. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Stephanie Wicker at 248-701-6287 for more information.

## New Members Class - Sunday, September 28 after worship

Are you interested in exploring membership at Northbrook Presbyterian Church or maybe just a little curious about what it entails? Join us in the library from 11:30-12:30 as we learn about a deeper commitment to faith here and connecting with others on the journey!

## Finance Matters—*New Universal Charitable Deduction*

Under the Big Blue Bill (officially the One Big Beautiful Bill Act), starting in **2026**, taxpayers who **do not itemize** their deductions can still claim a **charitable deduction** of up to **\$1,000** for individuals or **\$2,000** for married couples filing jointly. This is a **permanent provision** and replaces the temporary CARES Act deduction of \$300/\$600.

Key points for Northbrook members:

- ◆ You don't need to itemize to benefit.
- ◆ Only **cash donations to qualified public charities** (such as Northbrook) count.
- ◆ **Donor-advised funds and private foundations are not eligible.**
- ◆ This deduction is **above the standard deduction**, offering extra tax savings.

In Faithful Service,

Tom MacFarlane on behalf of your Finance Committee: Tim Boese, Tom MacFarlane, Mark Best, Ryan Stottlemeyer, Mike Krug (Financial Secretary), Dan Gross (Chair), and Pastor Ben Larson-Wolbrink





# Northbrook

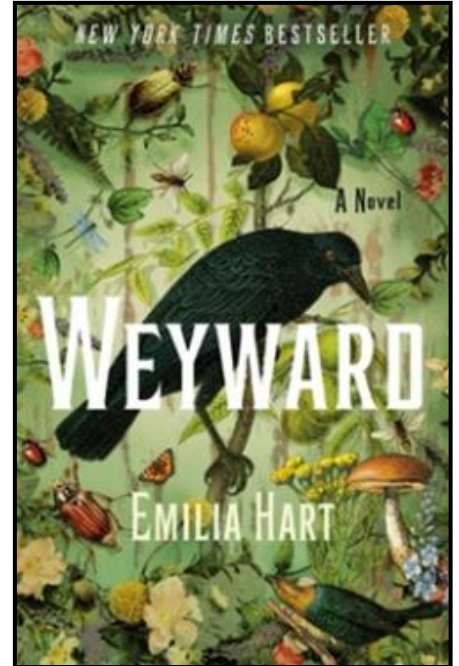
## Northbrook Book Club—September 22 at 7pm

Everybody is welcome to attend the Northbrook Book Club discussion of *Weyward* by Emilia Hart Monday, September 22 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Barb V. is hosting this discussion. Please let Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation. **IMPORTANT:** Book Club members should begin thinking about their reading selection for 2026. Dates will be furnished at the September meeting!

**Book Summary:** *A NYT bestseller, this debut novel was published in 2023 and is categorized as historical fiction but has elements of the supernatural. It's a story of female power and resilience. The novel intertwines three stories of different women throughout history: Altha in the 1600s, Violet in the 1940s, and Kate in the present day. As each of them faces obstacles because of their gender, each also has access to a mysterious power that comes from nature.*

Please mark your calendar with these upcoming book club dates:

- ◆ 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)



## YOUR STAR WORD JOURNEY...

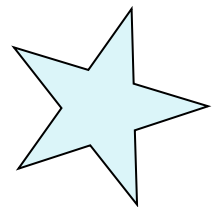


### September, Full of New Beginnings...

Many people are getting their kids ready for school, but even if the beginning of school isn't on your radar, September seems to start the year in many ways. This fall, keep your star word in your "mental backpack" to pull out throughout the day to remind you of God's presence in your everyday life.

Fall is also the time of year we reflect on the change of seasons. As we transition from summer to autumn, think about the season of life you are in right now? Are you just starting the transition to college, becoming a grandparent, feeling your age or getting excited about a new career in the offing. How does your star word fit in with your current season? Take walks in your neighborhood park and watch the trees change from their summer green to the glory of the fall colors. No matter what season of your life you are in, think about the wonders of that season and what God has in store for you yet.

Certainly, our small paper stars are not a big deal. It is the faith we bring to those paper stars that is a big deal. It is how we use them on our journey to listen and look for God at work in our lives and in our world. The ritual of our star gifts is about listening for God's voice of love, listening even when God's voice is very quiet and sometimes hard to hear.



Abundant blessings during this change of seasons,  
Sherrill Heinrichs, Coordinator of Congregational Care



The time has come!! For what you ask?

To fill out and submit the Auction Donation Form for Individuals for our live auction fundraiser at The Main Event on November 8th. We need your donation. Get together with your friends and/or family and brain storm some ideas. Maybe you want to host a Euchre Party at your house or the church, or host a tour at some historical place you know a lot about, or really anything that is you. Just talk to us. With your talents, we can help you develop a fun experience or desirable item!! We may seek you out. Just don't take off when you see one of us coming your way (hee-hee)!!

Donation forms can be found:

- ◆ In this newsletter on the next page
- ◆ On the church website.....just scroll down until you see THE MAIN EVENT. This form is completed electronically-no paper needed.
- ◆ On the tables in the hallway

Please return paper forms to a committee member or the church office when completed.

### **What makes this auction so unique?**

Our format is really unlike other auctions you've attended in the past. There will be competitive bidding on some items like you've seen, but there will also be numerous items that are offered for a smaller contribution and not competitive. There really will be something for everybody.

While this is a fundraiser, we have another very important goal to accomplish: increasing fellowship within our church. Many of the items being offered are experiences that you will share with other church members. You'll be able to get to know your fellow congregants in a new way. It's all about relationship building!!

### **Why should you come to THE MAIN EVENT?**

1. It's a lot of fun!
2. It's a great way to transition into the fall holiday season.
3. You'll get a chance to dress casually in accordance with the theme to be announced in early September.
4. You'll enjoy a plated dinner with dessert, soft drinks, wine, beer, light entertainment, and the chance to bid on some really great items.
5. There will be something of interest to bid on for everyone.
6. You can fill up your social calendar for the next year.
7. It's a great way to get to know your fellow "Northbrookers".
8. It's the biggest party of the year at church!
9. The proceeds are a big support for Northbrook's annual budget.
10. You don't want to feel left out when everybody else is attending.

We hope you are as excited as we are!!

The Auction Fundraising Team: Barb Voight, Liz Hurbis, Kim Bowden-Adair, and Nancy Best



## Auction Donation Form for Individuals

*This form is for use by individuals or church members only. Please give completed form to Becky in the church office or to an Auction Committee Member (Barb Voight, Liz Hurbis, Kim Bowden-Adair, or Nancy Best). Please note that dates requested for donated events will be honored according to when this form was received.*

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the item or event you are donating: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description of the item or event (be specific): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How many people can win this item or attend this event? (specify number of winners or indicate unlimited): \_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of your event: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested starting bid or amount of firm bid: \_\_\_\_\_

**This form must be submitted no later than October 6, 2025 - (the earlier the better)**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!!**

For Fundraising Committee use only: date & time form was received: \_\_\_\_\_



# Summer Camp 2025









## Academy of Early Music Concert—Friday, September 19 at 7pm

The Academy of Early Music presents the New York Polyphonic - *Eternity* concert at Northbrook on Friday, September 19 at 7:30pm. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit:

<https://academyofearlymusic.org/events/new-york-polyphony/>.

*In this program, New York Polyphony approaches the theme of “Eternity” in several ways. Through plainsong, early polyphony, and more complex Renaissance works, they show the eternal nature of music as a vehicle for beauty and text “painting” through the musical development in Western Music. The manuscript sources provide an undercurrent for this program, encouraging a sense of connection between the ancient and modern in the transformation of music from the page to the interpretation of the singers.*



Members of the Men's Connection took a field trip to Jabal Coffee House in Dearborn.

## **GOLFING FOR GLACIERS 18-Hole Charity Golf Tournament** **Friday, September 19**

*Not only are we golfing for glaciers, but for our children and grandchildren, our neighbors, all the wild creatures and for the health of the beautiful planet that sustains us!*

Greenfield Presbyterian Church's Climate Action Now team is hosting a fun day of golf at the Pontiac Country Club to support the important work of Michigan Climate Action Network, and we would love for you to join us. Your cost of \$80 includes 18 holes of golf with a cart along with food, prizes and chances to win a 50/50 raffle, which last year paid \$300 to our lucky winner. It is open to golfers of all levels and genders, so encourage your friends, family and co-workers to join you for this worthwhile event. If you don't have a foursome, we will pair you with other golfers. Sponsorships are also available at a cost of \$75. Please let us know if you or your company would be interested in sponsoring a hole. Secure a spot now and show your support for climate action! If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Deb Basierbe at 248-497-2767.



## Calendar

Sept. 1		Labor Day—OFFICE CLOSED
Sept. 3	11am	Yoga
Sept. 7	<b>10am</b>	In-Person & Livestream Worship with Communion <i>~Move back into the sanctuary~</i>
Sept. 9	9:30am	Finance Committee Meeting
Set. 10	11am 5pm	Yoga LOGOS
Sept. 11	1pm	Senior Lunch
Sept. 14	10am 11:15am 11:30am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Confirmation Class Mtg. w/ Parents Deacons' Meeting
Sept. 15	4:30pm	Worship Comm. Mtg.
Sept. 16	8am 10am 5:30pm	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom The New Brady's Bunch at Duggan's
Sept. 17	10am 11am 5pm 7pm	Growing Together Video Series Yoga LOGOS Growing Together Video Series
Sept. 19	7:30pm	Academy of Early Music Concert
Sept. 21	9am 10am 11am 11:15am	Flu Shots In-Person & Livestream Worship Flu Shots Session Meeting
Sept. 22	7pm	Northbrook Book Club Meeting
Sept. 23	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
Sept. 24	10am 11am 5pm 7pm	Growing Together Video Series Yoga LOGOS Growing Together Video Series
Sept. 25	9am 1pm	Underground Railroad Tour Senior Lunch
Sept. 28	10am 11am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Special 90th Birthday Coffee Hour New Member Class
Sept. 30	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom

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

### September Birthdays

09/02	Barb Voight	09/13	Keith Lee
09/04	Stephanie Wicker	09/17	Bruce Murdock
09/08	Emily Stetson	09/19	Diane Joppie
09/09	Terri Hurbis	09/20	Patty Van Loo
09/10	Abby Adair	09/21	John Eierman
09/10	Lois Kurta	09/22	Bozena Johnson
09/10	Evan Willey	09/27	Brian Long
09/11	Erik Higley	09/28	Jim Parks
09/12	Roberta Campion	09/30	Ryan Larson
09/12	Dan Willey		

### September Anniversaries

Don & LeeAnne Hemberg—46 years on September 15  
Bill & Gayle Travis—55 years on September 19  
Dan & Jennifer Gross—19 years on September 23



For all of you who contributed school supplies for the Mission Committee Back-to-School Care & Share Drive, **THANK YOU!!** School can be challenging enough without the additional stress of not having the items you need to be successful. Your generosity is a blessing!



Our contributions to the **PCUSA Peace & Global Witness Special Offering** enable the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice around the world. On behalf of our congregation, the Mission Committee will be able to use 25% of our total collection to support efforts to address anxiety and discord we see in our suffering world. However you choose to contribute, please indicate online or with your check that your offering is for the Peace & Global Witness Offering. We will collect this offering through **Monday, October 6**. Thank you for helping to bring about a more just and peaceful world.



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# *“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”*

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## **Northbrook**

### **Presbyterian Church**

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*Northbrook Notes* is a monthly publication of  
Northbrook Presbyterian Church

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Pete Zajicek, Musician

Sherrill Heinrichs, Congregational Care Coord.

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Kerry Callaghan, Preschool Director

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### **Worship with Us:**

**10am in the sanctuary**

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

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

### **Office Hours**

Mon-Thurs: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 9am—Noon

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248-642-0200 [www.northbrookpc.org](http://www.northbrookpc.org)