

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### Love Looks Like... Rest

*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”*  
- Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message paraphrase)

When I was just starting out in congregational ministry, a pastoral colleague warned me about January. After the wonderful - and exhausting - gauntlet of Advent and Christmas, pastors start the new year with all the annual reports, financial reconciliations, congregational meeting prep, etc. Throw in kids’ activities and funerals, and my January plate was overflowing. Instead of tending my soul with a hot beverage and a good book, or taking a stroll out in the snow, I found myself scrambling from one obligation to the next.

Finally, I gave myself permission to stop and rest... and to play. When our kids were younger, making an ice sculpture was one of our favorite winter survival strategies. This year, I was on my own. With the polar vortex dropping the temperature last month, it was perfect ice-making weather. I filled up bowls and buckets with water, and occasionally added a drop of food coloring into the mix.

Finally, I had enough ice frozen - and enough time on my hands - to start stacking. Sometimes the ice freezes perfectly. Other times, it breaks into different shapes in the freezing process. My technique is pure impulse: just see how I can get the varied blocks to stack up on each other. The ice stacking process takes my full attention, so I easily forget all the demands and pressures of life. And, I love how sun shines through the ice!

The morning after I took this picture, I walked outside to see that the whole thing collapsed. That’s the way with ice sculptures. If it gets colder again, I’ll restack. If not, I just need to be grateful for the ephemeral beauty of light & ice.

Here’s hoping February brings some rest and play to your life. May you allow God to delight you as winter lingers.

~Pastor Ben



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”



## South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless (SOCH)



### Volunteer Opportunities

February 23 - March 1

We are partnering with Greenfield Presbyterian Church to host a week of dinner and overnight security at Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak. Sign-up sheets are available in Fellowship Hall for Sunday, February 23, Monday, February 24, Wednesday, February 26, and Friday, February 28. Shifts are for dinner and security (includes overnight shifts). For questions, please call/text Barb Voight at 248-302-3033 or [barbvoight@icloud.com](mailto:barbvoight@icloud.com).



### Star Words...

 On Epiphany, we celebrated the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child. We remember how the Magi followed the star to find Jesus, brought Him gifts, and worshiped Him. 

Selecting a “star word” or “star gift” as some people call them, for the coming year is a way to celebrate Epiphany. The idea is that this word might function as a sign for each of us and that we will allow ourselves to be guided by this word, just as the Magi were guided by a star.

Part of this practice of adopting a star word includes trusting that the word selected for us is the word we need as we chose it from the many stars on the table. The word may seem strange at first, just as the Magi must have puzzled over their unusual journey, but through our own journeys, we are likely to discover God guiding us in new and unexpected ways.

The ritual of the star words is about listening for God’s voice of love as you spend time with your word and reflect on its meaning for you and the changes your word may encourage you to take in your daily lives.

If you haven’t selected a star word for 2025, there are many left in the basket in the narthex or you may look online for [wordoftheyear.me](http://wordoftheyear.me) or other online source for star words and allow the site to choose a word for you. If you are at home without access either to in-person or computer-generated stars, just call the church office and we will choose a star for you and mail it to you.

Keep your word somewhere you will see it frequently and ask, “Where are You leading me, Holy One? What are You saying to me?”

**Prayer:** *Gracious God, use my star word to guide me in the coming year, and may my journey lead me ever closer to You.*

## Northbrook 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. In January, we were able to make the following donations:

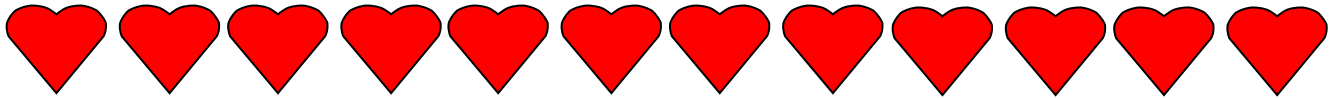
- ◆ \$250 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for California wildfires relief efforts
- ◆ \$705 to support the fighting homelessness work of Kids Empowered on the Move
- ◆ \$1000 to Baldwin Center.

Northbrook friends, thanks for supporting others who work for justice, peace, and a better life for all of God’s children and for living out the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you and bless you!

### February Care & Share Drive



We'll collect **hypoallergenic (non-feather) standard size bed pillows, standard size pillow protectors, and adult men's underwear** for the Welcome Inn prior to our co-hosting in late February-early March. Please place your contributions in the manger in the main hallway. The most requested underwear style for men is boxer briefs and in **sizes medium and large**. We will collect through February. *Let's show how providing even a person's most basic needs can be a symbol of God's great love.*



### Help for California Wildfires

As you know, Southern California is facing multiple uncontrollable fires, exacerbated by strong winds and dry conditions. Tens of thousands of residents have been forced to evacuate and more than 57,000 homes are threatened. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is in communication with the affected presbyteries and has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and provide immediate care. The magnitude of this event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance - years of recovery lie ahead.



Please join the Mission Connection Committee in responding. Contributions can be made online at [pcusa.org/CAfire25](http://pcusa.org/CAfire25), by phone at 800-728-7228, ext. 5885, by check made payable to Northbrook with "PDA-CF25-BI" written in the memo, or by using the QR code which directs you to the PDA giving website. And, please keep the people of Southern California and those responding to this horrific situation in your prayers.

### Northbrook Book Club—February 24 at 7pm

Everybody is welcome to attend the Northbrook Book Club discussion of *Hello Stranger* by Katherine Center on Monday, February 24 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Shirley B. is hosting this discussion. Please let Pastor Ben or Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation.



*Book Summary: Sadie Montgomery never saw what was coming . . . Literally! One minute she's celebrating the biggest achievement of her life—placing as a finalist in the North American Portrait Society competition—the next, she's lying in a hospital bed diagnosed with a "probably temporary" condition known as face blindness. She can see, but every face she looks at is now a jumbled puzzle of disconnected features. Imagine trying to read a book upside down and in another language. This is Sadie's new reality with every face she sees.*

Please mark your calendar with these upcoming book club dates:

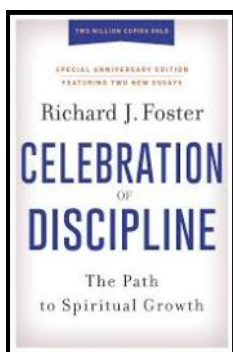
- ◆ April 7, 2025—*The Paris Apartment* by Lucy Foley (Peggie hosts)
- ◆ May 19, 2025—Book TBD (Mary hosts)
- ◆ June 30, 2025—*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury (Jan hosts)
- ◆ Additional dates: August 11, 2025 | September 22, 2025 | November 3, 2025 | January 12, 2026

## **The New Brady Bunch - Tuesday, February 4 at 5:30pm**

Please join us Tuesday, February 4 at 5:30pm at Brown Iron Brewhouse at 13 Mile & Woodward in Royal Oak (30955 Woodward Ave.) as we meet for our new Brady Bunch dinner. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, call Barb Voight at 248-302-3033.

## **American Harvest Restaurant - Thursday, February 27**

Back by popular demand, the Life Long Learners Committee has once again made reservations to visit the American Harvest Restaurant run by the culinary school at Schoolcraft College. The luncheon begins at 11:45am on Thursday, February 27th. Travel plans will be forthcoming. We have 12 reservations. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall, and prepare to be wowed!

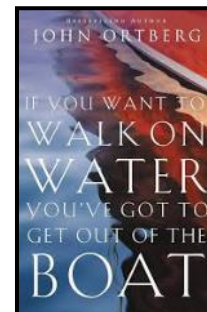


## **Pastor's Book Study Group—Wednesdays, 10am & 7pm**

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!

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

Men's Connection is studying *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg. The book's promotion reads: *Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God.* 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.



## **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. \*Note: LOGOS will not meet on February 19th.



## **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 February, we will meet on February 13 and February 27. Feel free to invite a friend!

## **Save the Date: Michigan Central Train Station - Sunday, March 25**

We have 25 spots reserved for a tour of the Michigan Central Train Station on Tuesday, March 25 from 11:30am-1pm. Sign-up will begin on Sunday, March 2. Adults and mid-high and senior-high students are welcome. The price is dependent on the number of people attending and will be in the \$18-30 per ticket range. More information will be coming soon.



# ORDINATION & INSTALLATION



On January 12, we ordained and installed a new class of elders and deacons to be servant leaders for Christ’s ministry here at Northbrook. Grant Tengler and Ryan Stottlemeyer were installed as Elders, and Peggie DiFalco and Tracey Parker were installed as Deacons. The process involved the “laying on of hands” by the congregation as seen here.



Congratulations and thank you to Peggie, Ryan, Grant, and Tracey!

Our current Elders and Deacons can be found listed to the right.

<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>DEACONS</u>
Tim Boese	Suzy Burger
Kim Bowden-Adair	Yvonne Cousineau
Ann Daniels	Lauri Dailey
Tricia LaSota	Mary DeCarteret
Tom MacFarlane	Peggie DiFalco
Jan Sansom	Rob Olson
Ryan Stottlemeyer	Tracey Parker
Grant Tengler	Barb Voight
Vacancy	Stephanie Wicker, Moderator
Terri Hurbis, Clerk of Session	

## Northbrook



### Yoga with Ana at Northbrook

Pay what you can. Invite a friend!  
~ All are welcome ~

For more information,  
call 248.979.3577

**Wednesdays  
at 11am  
in Fellowship Hall**

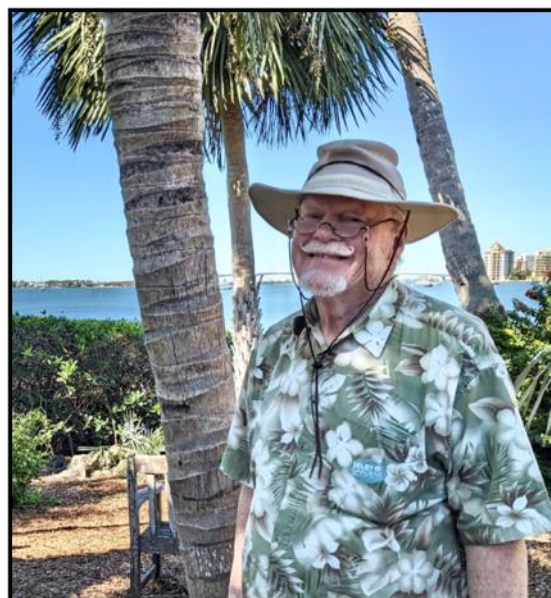
## THE *Academy of Early Music*

The Academy of Early Music has two more scheduled concerts at Northbrook. The next one is on Friday, March 7 and the other is Friday, April 11. Both are at 7:30pm . Tickets are available for purchase at The Academy of Early Music website: [www.academyofearlymusic.org](http://www.academyofearlymusic.org). Please visit their website for more information and a musical sample of the upcoming concerts.

## In Memoriam

*Douglas W. Joppie*

November 27, 1948  
January 6, 2025



## Calendar

Feb. 2	10am 12pm	In-Person & Livestream Worship Inside ~Communion & Family Sunday <i>Holocaust Museum Tour</i>
Feb. 4	8am 10am 5:30pm	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person) Brady's Bunch at Brown Iron Brewhouse
Feb. 5	10am 11am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga LOGOS Pastor's Book Study
Feb. 9	10am 11:15am 4pm	In-Person & Livestream Worship Deacons' Meeting Youth—Movie Night
Feb. 10	4:30pm	Worship Committee Meeting
Feb. 11	8am 9:30am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Finance Committee Mtg. Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person)
Feb. 12	10am 11am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga LOGOS Pastor's Book Study
Feb. 13	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
Feb. 16	10am 11:15pm	In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Mtg.
Feb. 18	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person)
Feb. 19	10am 11am 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga Pastor's Book Study
Feb. 23	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
Feb. 24	7pm	Northbrook Book Club
Feb. 25	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person)
Feb. 26	10am 11am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga LOGOS Pastor's Book Study
Feb. 27	11:45am 1pm	American Harvest Restaurant Outing Senior Soup Lunch
Feb. 28	7pm	1Friday

### February Birthdays

02/02 Janet Evans	02/15 Jim Hothem
02/03 Tom Brown	02/16 James Grady
02/03 Cindy Sowle	02/18 Melanie Bruske
02/04 Tim Boese	02/19 Griffin Taylor
02/05 Kimberly Annett	02/20 Kae'Yanna King
02/05 Lauri Dailey	02/21 Dan Gross
02/07 Betsy Savage	02/22 Nathan Willey
02/08 Jeffrey Keoleian	02/23 Natalia McIntyre
02/11 Logan Sylvia	

### February Anniversaries

Todd Dolan & Lauri Dailey—29 years on February 10

## THANK YOU



Members of the Northbrook choir planned, prepared, and served dinner for the LOGOS program on January 15th.

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

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[www.northbrookpc.org](http://www.northbrookpc.org)



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

#### **Office Hours**

Mon-Thurs: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Friday: 9am—Noon