

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter



NORTHBROOK

“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

### Love Looks like... Fearless Conversations

I recently remembered one of my favorite chapters in scripture: 1 John 4. Verse 7 is especially dear: *Beloved, let us love one another. For love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God...* There are lots of songs that refer to this scripture, and the one I remember was a catchy tune from my childhood performed by Psalty, the singing songbook.

Reading further to verse 17 & 18, we read more about living in God’s love and how it empowers us to be in the world: *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear...* This month, we will have a couple of conversations that will invite us to let go of fear and trust God’s love.

The first is our **Gender, Sexuality, & Faith gathering** that we are hosting on Saturday, May 3, 10am-2pm. We are partnering with Pastor Danny Cox and his trans daughter, Beatrice, to have a safe and honest space to talk about how we understand faith in the midst of the changing sexual and gender identities in our culture. How can we strengthen our empathy? How can we learn from people who see things very differently than us? We are creating an open and generous space for the conversation, so we are providing lunch for our participants. \*Please RSVP by April 30 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.

Speaking of lunch, we’ll have a lunch & learn opportunity to strengthen our courage muscles. I don’t know about you, but I have all kinds of concerns about artificial intelligence and it’s implications for our world. I’m grateful that faithful people are out there engaging this subject like Rev. Dr. Andy Morgan, from the First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville. I invite you to join us for a webinar on **A.I., Faith, and You** on Thursday, May 8, at noon. For registration materials, contact [becky@northbrookpc.org](mailto:becky@northbrookpc.org) if you want to catch the webinar from your home or office. If you would prefer to come in person, join us in Fellowship Hall where we’ll learn together. And, you’re welcome to stick around for Soup Lunch afterwards.

I am so grateful for the ways you show up for challenging conversations. It doesn’t mean that they are easy. But, I sense a deep hunger for God, and God has a way of leading us to places we wouldn’t normally go on our own. I look forward to having these fearless, loving conversations with you, and with others who are eager to have these conversations with other followers of Christ.

May we be blessed in the risk!

~ Pastor Ben

NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH & THE OPEN TABLE COLLECTIVE  
PARTNER TO PRESENT

# GENDER SEXUALITY

## & Faith Gathering

There's so much discussion in our culture about the LGBTQ+ community. This gathering aims to open up conversation about how to radically love and respect those different from us. Come to prayerfully contemplate, wrestle, and learn together in a diverse community about people and topics that are often avoided.

### SPEAKERS:

Pastor Danny Cox and his trans daughter, Beatrice, will share their journey through life, faith, family, and sexuality, as well as the struggles and insights they are learning along the way.

### MULTIPLE DISCUSSION POINTS:

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

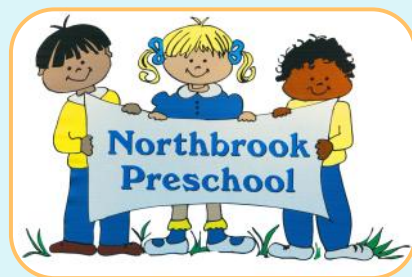
SATURDAY, MAY 3  
10 AM to 2 PM



RSVP by April 30

 248-642-0200 or [becky@northbrookpc.org](mailto:becky@northbrookpc.org)

\*Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP indicating any dietary requirements you may have. A free-will offering will be taken to help defray the cost of food.



Northbrook Preschoolers have been very busy. We are learning about spring and celebrating Easter.



*We still have openings in the Pre-K program, so tell all of your friends and neighbors what a wonderful place Northbrook Preschool would be for their child.*



## Finance Matters

### *A Fresh Face in Finance ... What I Hope to Bring*

My first memories of the church are as a preschool student. I had taken a particular liking to the alphabet, always felt cared for by the teachers, and was given what became my favorite stuffed animal by Ms. Borich for my fifth birthday. As I grew, I began attending LOGOS, Camp Mahn-Go, as well as Sunday school. It's been an incredible journey going from camper to counselor, member to elder, and joining the finance committee. It's surprisingly difficult recounting my path here, as becoming an adult (as well as the last 4-5 years as a whole) has felt almost instantaneous.

When I started taking college courses, I wasn't too sure which direction to go in. I used to jokingly say, "I like working with numbers, but not letters, so calculus is out of the picture." I decided my first two classes would be chemistry and statistics. While chemistry wasn't quite for me, I found statistics charmingly simple yet engaging, and from there, I investigated accounting.

It was fall last year I was told I was under consideration to become an elder, and that I might be interested in involving myself with the finance committee. This was before I was wholly certain it was what I wanted to pursue. Come to the present day, I was nominated for an Outstanding Student award by my accounting professor and have also found great interest in my economics courses.

It's been with the help of the church's faith in me as an elder, and my fellow members of the Finance Committee, that I've been able to perform in my classes with a newfound sense of importance. I'm more motivated than ever to study finance in my free time and use everything I've learned to give the church what I've got. I feel extraordinarily lucky to have such a supportive congregation by my side.

With endless gratitude for the ways you show that *Finance Matters*,  
Ryan Stottlemeyer on behalf of your Finance Committee: Tim Boese, Tom MacFarlane, Mark Best, Dan Gross (Chair), Mike Krug (Financial Secretary), and Pastor Ben Larson-Wolbrink

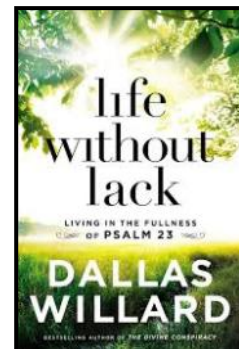


## The New Brady Bunch - Tuesday, May 6 at 5:30pm

Please join us Tuesday, May 6 at 5:30pm at Moose Preserve (located at 43034 Woodward Ave in Bloomfield Hills) for some good food and fellowship. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, call Barb Voight at 248-302-3033. *\*Note the new location this month.*

## 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 May, we will meet on May 8 and May 22. Feel free to invite a friend!

## Bridge Housing Campus Tour—May 22

The Lifelong Learners Committee has organized a tour of the Pope Francis Center's Bridge Housing Campus on Thursday, May 22 at 10:30am (tour to last about 1 hour). Northbrook's own Abby Adair, Philanthropy Officer at the center and daughter of Kim and Brian, will be leading the tour.



Pope Francis Center (PFC) works towards the vision of ending homelessness in Detroit through two facilities: a drop-in Day Center for anyone seeking support to meet their basic needs, and a residential transitional housing facility, Bridge Housing Campus. PFC's Bridge Housing Campus provides residents with 90-120 days of shelter, along with medical, respite, psychological, addiction, social, and job-readiness services. This allows people recovering from chronic homelessness the adequate time and support needed before transitioning into permanent housing.

Following the tour of this excellent program, please join us, if able, for lunch at El Barzon, just a few minutes away from the PFC. The restaurant, in Southwest Detroit, serves both traditional Mexican and Italian food. There is no fee for the tour, however, lunch will be on your own (payment). Sign up in Fellowship Hall.



## Northbrook Summer Camp

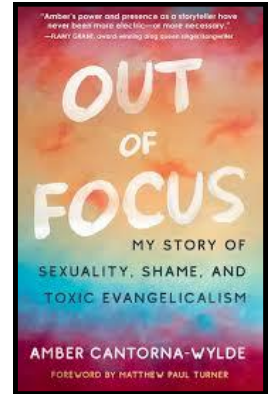
Camp registration is now open. Please complete this [registration form](#). **Camp dates are August 3rd-9th.** The cost for camp this year will be \$515 per person. The full amount or a \$100 deposit can be made by check or online [here](#). Scholarship funding is available.

Applications are due by June 15. Please contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, for more details.

## 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.

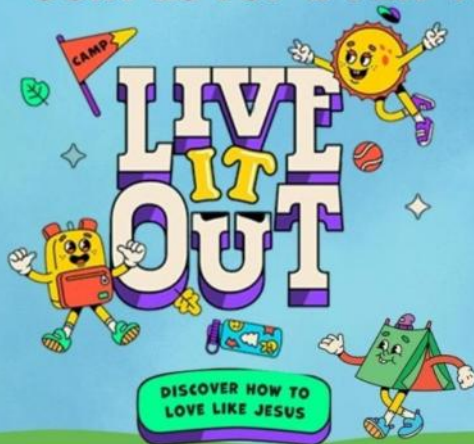


## A.I., Faith, and You—Thursday, May 8 at Noon



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 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). \*We will also host the Zoom in Fellowship Hall if you would prefer to attend in person.

Join us for a fun-filled week at Northbrook!



**Vacation Bible Camp**  
**Monday - Friday, June 23 - 27**  
**9:00 am - 12:00 pm**  
**Cost: \$40/child**

**For preschool kids through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

Get ready to Live It Out this summer as our kids experience the fun and adventure of camp while learning how to love, be kind, forgive, and serve one another through games, crafts, stories, music, and more!

Questions: Contact Kerry Callaghan [preschool@northbrookpc.org](mailto:preschool@northbrookpc.org)

**Northbrook Book Club—May 19 at 7pm**

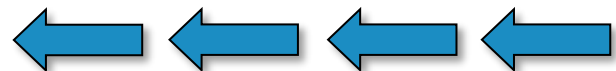
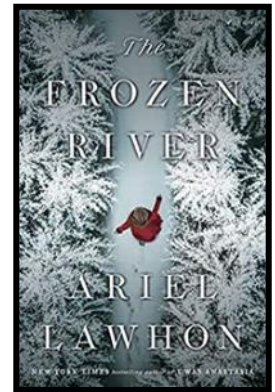
Everybody is welcome to attend the Northbrook Book Club discussion of *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon on Monday, May 19 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Mary D. is hosting this discussion. Please let Pastor Ben or Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation.

Book Summary: *The Frozen River is a gripping historical mystery set in 1789 Maine. It is inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history. The story explores themes of justice, gender roles, and societal expectations in the 18th century. You just don't want to put this book down!*

Books are available to **sign-out** in the church office. All books must be returned at the meeting on May 19, or before.

Please mark your calendar with these upcoming book club dates:

- ◆ 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)



**What is THE MAIN EVENT?** It's a night you really don't want to miss at Northbrook that is focused on building up our church community and supporting our finances. We are trying a new and exciting format for fundraising with a plated dinner that will be filled with fun!! *There will be something for everyone.* Put this date on your calendar NOW so you don't miss it. Good news—both U of M and MSU have a bye that date for football, so you can come to Northbrook to truly enjoy yourself! Watch the upcoming newsletter and announcements as more information is revealed.

***We can feel it...the excitement is building!!***

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

SAVE THE DATE  
for

**THE MAIN  
EVENT**

Saturday, November 8, 2025  
5:00-9:30 PM

Dinner served at 5:30 PM  
Wine and beer included

Fellowship Hall  
Northbrook Presbyterian Church



## YOUR STAR WORD JOURNEY...



“Lean” into your star word this month. Take some time to think about ways you can live your word. Maybe make a list and try a different way to live out your star word each week this month.

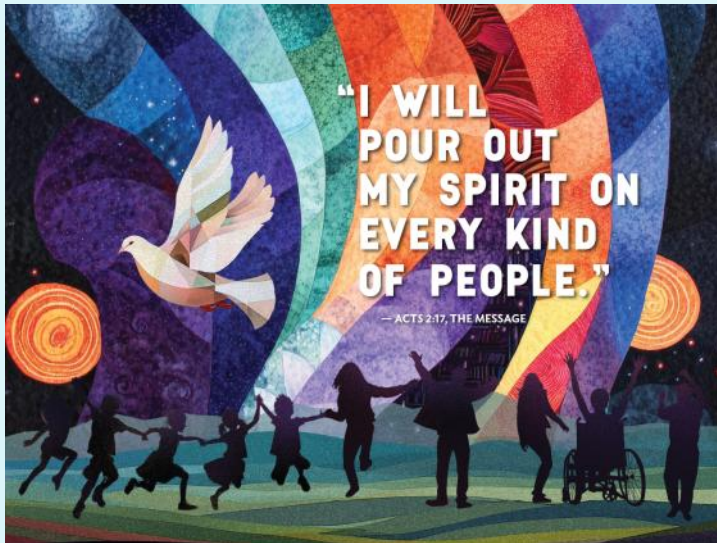
Your star word might be tied to learning a new skill, memorizing (or writing) a poem, helping someone in your neighborhood, joining a book study group, or getting on YouTube to learn about things you could do related to helping you discover more about your relationship with your star word.

Maybe your star word is encouraging you to get out into the springtime at a nearby park or nature center where you can relax and think about how God is speaking to you through your word.

Perhaps the ideas above will give you a little “Godly nudge” to try something new as your word begins to have a more personal meaning for you.

Blessings on your “star” journey!

Blessings on your “star” journey,  
Sherrill Heinrichs



## Pentecost Special Offering May 11—June 9

The PCUSA Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By contributing to the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of children, youth, and young adults and

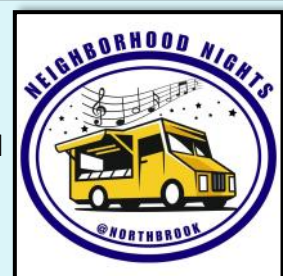
supporting initiatives that help support young people whose wellbeing and futures are at risk. Northbrook will be able to designate how we wish to use 40% of our collection to support work with at-risk children, youth, and young adults in our area. Whether you give by check or online, please designate that your contribution is for the Pentecost Offering. We will collect this offering beginning on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11 and continuing through Monday, June 9.

### 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**



# Lent & Easter at Northbrook

Pastor Ben invited the congregation to join in fasting one day each week this Lenten season. Different focus areas were identified for each week with opportunities from which to choose. Northbrook members and friends worked at Micah 6, a social service organization supporting Pontiac neighborhoods to help prepare their gardens for planting. Others helped prepare and serve dinner at the Welcome Inn, many contributed to Easter baskets for two special families, and others made donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering. Thank you so much to everyone who generously contributed your time, dollars, food, and clothing as we continue to *live the love of Jesus*.



One Great Hour of Sharing has been a catalyst for love for over 75 years.

Every gift makes a difference in the life of the most vulnerable of God's people. We are the Church, together.





## THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped support the South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless in late February. In collaboration with members of Greenfield Presbyterian Church, you provided security, meal prep, meals, and more for the guests of the Welcome Inn for a week. The guests were truly appreciative of all the help they received. Thanks again from the Mission Connection Committee and Congregational Life Committee!



## In Memoriam



*Sallie Dorer*

October 28, 1928  
April 6, 2025



### **Staff Contact Information**

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

## Calendar

May 3	10am	Gender, Faith and Sexuality Gathering & luncheon
May 4	10am 11am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Family Worship & Communion ~ Bingo de Mayo Fundraiser
May 6	8am 10am 5:30pm	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person) The New Brady's Bunch at the Moose Preserve
May 7	10am 11am 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga Pastor's Book Study
May 8	Noon 1pm	AI, Faith & You (In-Person & Zoom) Senior Soup Lunch
May 11	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~Happy Mother's Day~
May 12		Worship & Music Committee Meeting
May 13	8am 9:30am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Finance Committee Meeting Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person)
May 14	10am 11am 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga Pastor's Book Study
May 18	10am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Meeting
May 19		Northbrook Book Club Meeting
May 20	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person)
May 21	10am 11am 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga Pastor's Book Study
May 22	10:30 1pm	PFC Bridge Housing Campus Senior Soup Lunch
May 25		In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Baptism ~
May 26		OFFICE CLOSED ~ Happy Memorial Day ~
May 27	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (Zoom & In-Person)
May 28	10am 11am 7pm	Pastor's Book Study Yoga Pastor's Book Study

### May Birthdays

05/03	Jojo Sandercock	05/22	Marilyn Thomas
05/05	Alma Ross	05/23	Jackson Back
05/06	Maggie Francis	05/23	Wendy Powell
05/08	Hal Koss	05/24	Suzanne Burger
05/09	Steve Taylor	05/26	Kimberly Ault
05/10	Lauren Guindi	05/27	Susan Boese
05/19	Pierce Broadwell	05/29	Karen Vander Weide- Terroba
05/19	Hope Larson-Wolbrink	05/30	Zephyr Ault
05/19	Cooper Sowle	05/30	Susan Riggan
05/21	Kai'Yah King		
05/22	Kim Bowden-Adair		
05/22	Claire LaSota		

### May Anniversaries

Michael & Roberta Campion—54 years on May 1  
 Beverly & Jeff Singer—45 years on May 10  
 Tony Terroba & Karen Vander Weide-Terroba—1 year on May 11  
 Tom & Val MacFarlane Jr.—35 years on May 19  
 Erin & David Swenson—11 years on May 25

### 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.



**Save the Date**

**Join us for Pentecost Pride Sunday  
on Sunday, June 8 at 10am.**

