

## Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

### Welcome to Northbrook's Two-Page Plan

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

~ Jeremiah 29:11

We are so glad to finally share with you Northbrook's Two Page Plan in this newsletter. As you know, the Northbrook Session has been putting it together for quite some time, and our ministry teams have begun integrating it into their work. We used a template provided by an online church consultation group called Church Fuel, and it has proven quite energizing.

The first page will be our guiding document over the next three years. It lays out our **purpose**, expanded from *Living the love of Jesus Christ* to include experiencing and *sharing* the love of Jesus Christ. And, it states a clear **mission** that will be our focus for the next three years: "become a church *with* and *for* the community..." We wrestled a bit with our **profile**, because - of course - we want *all* to be welcome here. But, we acknowledged both Northbrook's history as a congregation that welcomes families, as well as our desire to commit to families for our future (knowing that family life has changed radically since Northbrook began). We enjoyed putting together our **values** and found them to be an honest reflection of both who we are and who we strive to be. And, we believe that there are people beyond our walls that would resonate with our **distinctives**. Our **keystone ministries** are the tangible ways we express ourselves and we would not be Northbrook without them. We hope that our **strategy** will be simple and compelling moving forward.

The second page is where the rubber hits the road in the plan. Our **three-year outlook** is our best effort at what we hope Northbrook will look like in three years. We look forward to measuring our **annual goals** and - after a long season of Covid - we are glad to be able to plan in such a tangible fashion.

I am most energized by the last column on the second page: the **90-day focus**. It has been helpful to think of setting goals in a bite-sized timeframe. We are just starting the rhythm of quarterly planning - based on the Two Page Plan - with our ministry teams and committees. It has been so encouraging to see them using the Ministry Action Plans (MAPs) to put their own goals in place.

Please take time to read through the Two Page Plan on the next two pages, and feel free to send us any questions you have. You can learn more at our **Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, October 1**. We have significant financial challenges ahead of us. We believe that God has a plan for Northbrook, and we can rise to any challenge when the whole Northbrook congregation finds their part in the plan!

~ Pastor Ben



*"Live the Love of Jesus Christ"*



## Two Page Plan™

# NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN

### PURPOSE

Experience, live, and *share* the love of Jesus Christ.

*"Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)*

Your purpose is your deep sense of why. It's the ultimate reason you exist and is rooted in Scripture. It's not going to change and it will always push you forward. Because of this, you'll never really accomplish it and it doesn't have an end date.

### PROFILE

Families with kids and young adults looking for a place to explore and grow their faith and find purpose, meaning, and community.

Most churches say "everyone" and while that's a great sentiment, it could set you up for confusion. Instead, think through who you are and what you do, and wrestle through who you are called to reach and most likely to reach.

### VALUES

At Northbrook, we

- seek to learn God's story and share it with others
- roll up our sleeves and help
- believe kindness counts
- have fun together
- nurture faith growth
- try new things for heaven's sake

Values are words or phrases that describe who you are and how you behave. Some can be aspirational, meaning you're striving to personify them. Some can be obvious (i.e. we believe the Bible), but you should try to be specific.

### KEystone MINISTRIES

- Worship - encountering God and being sent out to serve
- Group Fellowship - groups for all ages to connect and grow (Logos, bible study, Men, youth, book club, etc.)
- Mission Tithing and Direct Service - serving others beyond the congregation
- Camp - experiencing faith and community in creation
- Preschool - nurturing development in PreK children

Your church does a lot of things, but not all of them are equally important. Call out the ministries that hold your church together. What would fundamentally change your DNA if they went away?

### MISSION

Northbrook - Church and Community Center:  
become a church *with* and *for* the community that makes life better for individuals and groups through hospitality, connection, and spiritual growth.

*"The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood..." (John 1:14, The Message paraphrase)*

While your purpose is eternal, your mission needs a due date. NASA's current mission is to land people on Mars. When they accomplish it, they will ask, "What's next?" Give your mission a due date and make sure everyone in your church can be involved.

### DISTINCTIVES

At Northbrook, we

- welcome new perspectives and all voices
- enjoy being outdoors together
- dive deeply into faith learning and strive to integrate it into our living
- offer genuine care
- believe our community expands beyond our walls to neighborhood and around the world

Similar to core values, but an opportunity to be even more descriptive. This is what makes you different from every other church in town. This is where you reflect on your unique DNA. These often show up in your communication.

### STRATEGY

1. Experience and share life with God
2. Prioritize the community beyond the Northbrook congregation, both in person and online
3. Serve others and build relationships
4. Steward the Northbrook campus and welcome the community to participate in its use

The most overlooked part of most church plans, strategy answers the *how* question. What are the steps you are taking in pursuit of your purpose?



### Two Page Plan™

#### THREE-YEAR OUTLOOK

Northbrook Church and Community Center will:

- be an anchor in the community that makes life better for all connected
- be known as a congregation of welcome and faith formation
- have partners sharing space and serving the community
- have a focused ministry beyond our neighborhood that builds relationships and changes lives
- have taken tangible steps to be more financially sustainable

This is a place to crystalize your mission, vision, and goals and describe what your church will look like a few years from now. By giving words to your picture of the near-term future, you help people see where you're going. You're not trying to be artistic with your language, but specific in how you describe the future.

#### ANNUAL GOALS

1. Have at least 25% of the Northbrook membership (50 people) read *The Story* in its entirety so that our future planning and ministry will be grounded in God's story.
2. Increase the participation in keystone ministries by 10% of the Northbrook membership (20 people).
3. Align Staff and Volunteer Structure to implement Two-Page Plan.
4. Create at least 4 events/experiences that facilitate interaction with our neighbors.
5. Welcome at least 5 groups/individuals (congregations, presbytery, neighborhood org, etc.) to utilize the church as a way of serving them.
6. Host at least 6 events (weddings, banquets, etc.) and add at least 3 building users as a way to generate income.
7. Reduce the budget deficit by 20%.
8. Replace our church sign at the corner of 14 Mile and Lahser with a digital sign.

Your goals originate from your purpose and mission and you're tracking success through metrics and reporting. The intent is not to have too many, but to lift up a handful of goals that will be easy to understand and track. Alignment happens here.

#### 90-DAY FOCUS (4th Quarter - 2023)

1. Create a New Members team to focus church energy on reaching and receiving new members.
2. Connect playground dedication with the chili cook-off on Nov 5 to connect with preschool families/neighborhood.
3. Fall Ministry Summit on 11/12 to gather committees to coordinate and collaborate on 2024 first quarter planning.
4. Plan experimental monthly Sunday evening gatherings to connect with folks who don't attend Sunday morning.
5. Implement fall 2024 stewardship campaign.
6. Update website format to reflect plan (highlighting building use possibilities for groups/individuals beyond Northbrook).
7. Finalize design of park area near playground.

As your entire team pursues your annual goals, how can you make significant progress in the next 90 days? By breaking your goals into smaller chunks, you're more likely to make progress.

9/20/2023





## The Story Continues in October

Join us as we continue reading a chapter a week of The Story, an abbreviated version of the Bible in story form. Here is what's on tap for October. *\*Note: please see the updated reading schedule below for the remainder of the year.*

### **Chapter 4: Deliverance Beyond our Wildest Dreams - Sunday, October 1**

In Chapter 4, Deliverance, the family has grown quite large in Egypt, but there is a new Pharaoh who "does not know Joseph" and enslaves the Hebrew people. Moses emerges - after time in the wilderness with God - as the one who will deliver the people from slavery. Pharaoh finally relents when a horror afflicts the Egyptian children, and he allows the Hebrew people to leave Egypt (though changes his mind and later pursues them). Through Moses, God provides in amazing ways, in the face of Egyptian aggression and Hebrew doubt. God's deliverance can come through people - and ways - we never could have dreamed.

### **Chapter 5: New Commands and a New Covenant - Sunday, October 8**

The holy presence descends upon the mountain, revealing God's commitment to the Hebrew people. Unfortunately, the people aren't so faithful. Moses mediates between God and the people as they learn how to live with each other and worship God.

### **Chapter 6: Wandering - Sunday, October 15**

The people repeatedly doubt God's plan and provision. Rather than enter the abundant land God has promised, they'd rather go back to slavery in Egypt! They are forced to wander in the wilderness for 40 years as a consequence for their doubt.

### **Chapter 7: The Battle Begins - Sunday, October 22**

The people are ready to enter into the promised land. But, there's a problem: people are already living there. With God's help, the people overcome overwhelming odds to invade and occupy the land.

### **Chapter 8: A Few Good Men... and Women - Sunday, October 29**

Judges rule the promised land as the 12 tribes struggle amongst themselves and with their neighbors. These heroes - both men and women - lead the people as they learn to live together in the land.

Do you know anyone who might want to read along? How about a neighbor or co-worker? Thanks to your generosity, we have 30 copies of *The Story* to give away to people. If you know of someone who would like one, we'd be glad to send it their way. Better yet, feel free to pick one up in the office and deliver it to them personally.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>
9/10	1	10/22	7	12/3	13
9/17	2	10/29	8	12/10	14
9/24	3	11/5	9	12/17	Christmas Pageant
10/1	4	11/12	10	12/24	15
10/8	5	11/19	11	12/31	Christmas Carol Sing
10/15	6	11/26	12		

## Congregational Meeting

**October 1 at 11am (following worship)**

Join us for a special congregational meeting following worship on October 1. In addition to our usual tasks, electing our officers and kicking off our stewardship campaign, we'll learn more about the Two Page Plan put together by our Session.

## FINANCE MATTERS

**October 2023—It's Stewardship Season!**

We continue to be blessed by your financial support of Northbrook Presbyterian Church. We are encouraged to note that as we come to the close of our third quarter, we remain on target with our 2023 budget. It is important to remind you, however, that our forecast included a shortfall from ongoing operations of \$100k. Our endowments provide a degree of support for our needs but they will not alone sustain us on an ongoing basis. As a result, we need prayerful consideration for both continued and enhanced contributions from our members as we begin our Fall Stewardship campaign. Please consider how you may meet or exceed your commitment this year when you pledge support for 2024.

There is so much to be excited about here at Northbrook. Camp was a great success this year. Our Wednesday evening gatherings in the summer gave us an opportunity to raise visibility with our community. Sunday evening gatherings are underway, and don't forget the quality of our preschool program which has been enhanced with a new playground. Plans are underway to further improve our grounds so stay tuned for some exciting initiatives to be shared.

In the meantime, we hope you'll be there as we kick off our Fall Stewardship Campaign during worship on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Pledge cards will be making their way to your door shortly thereafter. Please return your pledge card by **Friday, November 10**.

We are convinced with your active participation, prayers, faith and giving that the future is bright here at Northbrook.

## Wild Life Service

**Sunday, October 15 at 6pm**

Something powerful happens when we connect with creation together. Folks of all ages and all backgrounds are welcome to join us in the Northbrook parking lot for the first of our monthly outdoor gatherings where we'll learn about abundant life by:

- ♦ Singing music with Steve Taylor and friends
- ♦ Listening to ancient wisdom from scripture and exploring the landscape with Pastor Ben
- ♦ Having fun together led by Ken Stetson



***Bring a lawn chair and a friend!***



## PCUSA Peace and Global Witness Offering Special Offering Collection on October 1

The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world. God empowers congregations and individuals to be peacemakers. If you have a book of offering envelopes, there is a special envelope for this offering in your pad. If paying online or with a check, please indicate that your payment is for this offering.

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

We continue reading the entire Bible this year—the easy way, with The Story, an abbreviated readable version on Tuesdays at 8am on Zoom and 10am on Zoom and in the library live. Any men new to the group are invited in to the fellowship and discussions. If you haven't already done so, please get your \$5 copy of The Story from Becky in the office. Contact the office for more information and to receive the Zoom link.

## Senior Soup Lunch—Thursday, October 12 and October 26 at 1pm

Please join us in the Library on Thursday, October 12 and October 26 at 1pm for a delicious soup lunch and friendly conversation.

## Roaring 90's Coffee Hour—Sunday, October 29

Join us for a very special coffee hour on Sunday, October 29 as we celebrate all of our Northbrook members who are 90 years old and above. The Deacons have lined up some delicious treats, and Rob Olson and his friends will be providing music with tunes from the roaring 20's.

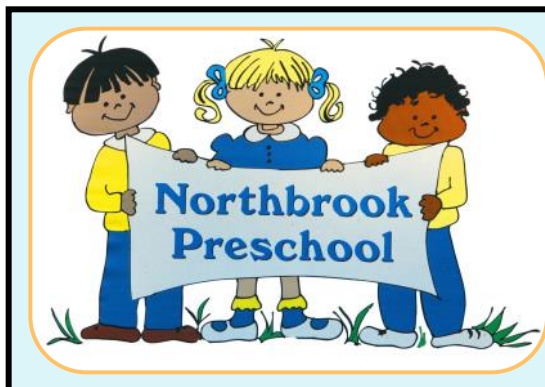


## Upcoming LOGOS & Youth Group Programs and Activities

We have several activities coming up so mark your calendars!

- ♦ Wednesdays from 5-7pm: LOGOS Youth Program (1st-12th grade)
- ♦ October 27-29: Fall Retreat (middle/high school)
- ♦ Wednesday, October 25th, 6-7pm: Trunk or Treat (all ages)
- ♦ Sunday, November 5th, 11am-12pm: Chili Cook-Off/Corn-hole Tournament Fundraiser (all ages)
- ♦ Friday, November 17th, 7-9:30pm: 1friday (middle/high school)

For more information, contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson at [stetson.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:stetson.kenny@gmail.com).



The Northbrook Preschool still has some openings for the 2023—2024 school year. Please let your family, friends, and neighbors know about our wonderful preschool.

For more information, please contact Kerry Callaghan, Director, at (248)642-0222, ext. 16 or via email at [preschool@northbrookpc.org](mailto:preschool@northbrookpc.org).



# TRUNK OR TREAT!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR SPOOKY FUN!  
IN YOUR COSTUME, WITH A DECORATED  
TRUNK, OR BOTH!



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH  
6:30-7:30 PM IN THE NORTHBROOK  
PARKING LOT  
22055 W. 14 MILE ROAD  
TO SIGN UP FOR A TRUNK, PLEASE EMAIL  
[TERRI.HURBIS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TERRI.HURBIS@GMAIL.COM)



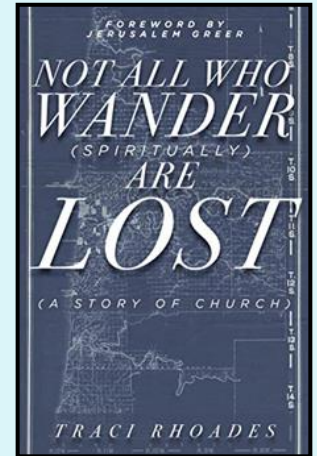
## Northbrook Book Club—Monday, October 2 at 7 pm

All are welcome to join in the discussion of October 2 Not All Who Wander (Spiritually) Are Lost: A Story of Church by Traci Rhoades on Monday, October 2 at 7pm. Discussions are held in person and on Zoom simultaneously. Please let Pastor Ben or Nancy Best ([nancyibest@gmail.com](mailto:nancyibest@gmail.com)) know if you would like a Zoom invitation for that night. Readers will need to purchase their own book – sources are Amazon, local bookstores or the author's website.

Novel summary: *Not All Who Wander* walks readers through the author's faith journey, and how her experience with churches in a number of traditions has left her longing for more of Jesus than any one church offers. It also presents stories from other believers to give readers a sense of how alike, and different, our spiritual experiences can be. Rhoades has developed a passion for discovering all the ways we worship Jesus and invites readers to join her. With utter delight, she's discovered no matter which traditions she worships with, Jesus meets her there.

Please mark your calendars with these upcoming book club dates:

- ◆ November 13 (Fire Keepers Daughter by Angeline Boulley (Michigan Great Read, Yvonne hosts). Copies are now available in the church office. Please write your name on the sign-out sheet when taking a book.
- ◆ January 8, 2024 (Finding Your Inner Mooser by Susan Poulin, Winnie hosts)



## Stations of the People Mover Saturday, October 14

Please join us for our first inclusive tour of the stations on the People Mover in Detroit. Each station is adorned with beautiful artwork by many artists using unique materials. In addition, spectacular views can be seen from the train include the river, Detroit architecture, The Spirit of Detroit, and colorful murals.

The tour takes place on Saturday, October 14 at approximately 10:30am in Detroit. The van will leave the church at



10am, or you can meet us at one of the stations (yet to be decided). The cost of the People Mover is 75 cents by purchasing a token; the machine

takes 1 and 5 dollar bills. Lunch will be at your own cost following the tour. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Liz Hurbis at [LHurbis@comcast.net](mailto:LHurbis@comcast.net).



Church members enjoyed a bike ride in downtown Detroit courtesy of Northbrook members, Kathy Bauhof and Tracey Parker. This outing on September 17th was one of the donated items to the Northbrook Silent Auction held earlier this year.





## Calendar

Oct. 1	10am 11am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Communion & Family Sunday Congregational Meeting & lunch
Oct. 2	7pm	Northbrook Book Club Meeting
Oct. 3	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)
Oct. 4	10am 5PM 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study (in-person & Zoom) LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study (in-person & Zoom)
Oct. 8	10am 11am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Deacons' Meeting
Oct. 10	8am 9:30am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Finance Committee Meeting Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)
Oct. 11	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study (in-person & Zoom) LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study (in-person & Zoom)
Oct. 12	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
Oct. 14	10:30am	Stations of the People Mover Outing
Oct. 15	10am 11:15am 6pm	In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Meeting Wild Life Service Nov. newsletter articles are due
Oct. 17	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)
Oct. 18	10am 5pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study (in-person & Zoom) LOGOS Pastor's Bible Study (in-person & Zoom)
Oct. 22	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship
Oct. 24	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)
Oct. 25	10am 5pm 6:30pm 7pm	Pastor's Bible Study (in-person & Zoom) LOGOS Trunk or Treat Pastor's Bible Study (in-person & Zoom)
Oct. 26	1pm	Senior Soup Lunch
Oct. 27		Youth Fall Retreat 10/27-29
Oct. 29	10am 11am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Roaring 90's Coffee Hour
Oct. 31	8am 10am	Men's Connection (via Zoom) Men's Connection (in-person & Zoom)

### October Birthdays

10/01 Bob Miller	10/16 Brooke Sandercock
10/07 Ben Larson-Wolbrink	10/17 Dylan Gross
10/07 Walt Young	10/18 Kitty Dunbar
10/08 Lori Spiewak	10/22 Michele Buscaino
10/10 LeeAnne Hemberg	10/22 Jeffrey Lein
10/11 Amy Annett	10/23 Cassidy Sandercock
10/11 Vicki Back	10/23 Judith Swink
10/11 Lori Sandercock	10/23 Marjorie Wilhelmi
10/13 Michael Clemens	10/28 Sallie Dorer
10/13 Keith Larson	10/29 Faith Rick
10/14 Susan Koss	10/31 Edna Gadsby
10/16 Barbara Burnham	
10/16 Dana DeCarteret	

### October Anniversaries

Matt & Allison Broadwell—28 years on October 6  
 Susan & Hall Koss—51 years on October 7  
 Dan & Penny Willey—35 years on October 8  
 Bruce & Judie Murdock—34 years on October 14  
 Michael & Jennifer Wicker—8 years on October 24



Northbrook celebrated the baptism of Savanna Grace Malott during worship on Sunday, September 17. Savanna is the great-granddaughter of Northbrook member, Edna Gadsby.

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# *“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”*

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## **Northbrook**

### **Presbyterian Church**

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### **Worship with Us**

**Sundays at 10am**

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

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

### **Office Hours**

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

### **Staff Contact Information**

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor	ext. 17
<a href="mailto:ben@northbrookpc.org">ben@northbrookpc.org</a>	
Angel Gippert, Director of Traditional Music	
Dan Gross, Musician	
Sherrill Heinrichs, Congregational Care Coord.	Ext. 15
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