Northbrook Notes

NOVEMBER 2026

NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Live the Love of Jesus Christ

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home. All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin…

I love the words to this traditional hymn and the invitation to be grateful for the gifts of the earth at the harvest time. Thanksgiving will be here before we know it, and some of us will visit family and friends to enjoy a feast of our favorite dishes (mine happens to be Gretchen's sweet potato casserole). Some of us will catch the parade downtown. Some of us will be glued to the TV screen to see if the Lions can manage a win over the Chicago Bears.

Like many of you, I have wonderful childhood memories of traveling to see family for Thanksgiving. I also remember a twinge of sadness on the drive home, staring out through the car window onto the brown and barren scenery. After enjoying the warmth of loved ones, I felt empty. After the flair of autumn leaves, the landscape felt bleak and exposed.

As Northbrook's *Growing Together* groups have been reading through *The Art of Vinemaking*, by Bette Dickinson, we have been invited to embrace these seemingly barren seasons of dormancy as vital parts of our life-cycles. These seasons of dormancy invite us to postures of surrender, waiting, and releasing. "In the depths of the soil, we come to understand our belovedness in God apart from our fruit. We encounter his loving gaze even in our failures, mistakes, and shame. As we let go of our tight grip on the coverings of our false selves - our performance, our addictions, our status - we see that we are still grafted into Christ. And that is the truest thing about us. From that deeply rooted place in Christ, we grow into our truest selves and rise with new life when spring comes."

My sense of my need for a sabbatical in 2027 was a deep need to be reminded of my own belovedness in God apart from the fruits of my labors. Unfortunately, Northbrook was not awarded a Lily Clergy Renewal grant, despite a strong application with feedback from many of you. A sabbatical is a unique privilege offered to pastors, and I don't take it for granted. And I am eager for the entire Northbrook family to experience their own times of resting in God. Though we won't have the generous resources the grant would have provided, the planning team is committed to exploring ways next summer can be a time for all of Northbrook to remember the truest thing about who you are: a child of God, grafted into Christ.

Thanksgiving kicks off the holiday season that has a way of keeping us busy and distracted, even when the rhythms of nature - and even our own souls - may be yearning to slow down and rest. So, I invite you to find ways to embrace the dormancy of November. Snuggle up with a good book. Take a slow walk in the barren woods. Light a candle and pray. Ponder the rest of the verse to the hymn:

God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

May we be grateful for the abundance of the harvest. And may we trust God in the dormancy that follows,

Pastor Ben



Brady's Bunch - Tuesday, November 3 at 5:30pm

Please join us on Tuesday, November 3 at 5:30 pm at the Honey Tree Grille (3633 W. Maple Rd., Bloomfield Twp.) for food and fellowship. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Contact Sherrill Heinrichs with questions.

Achieving & Maintaining Physical Balance - Thursday, November 5 at 11am

Statistically, people are falling at an increased rate, especially seniors. This often leads to disability and sometimes death. The Lifelong Learner's Committee has organized a special workshop that will help us practice balance on a daily basis. Our presenter, Michael Rice, will inspire us with exercises and factual information. For more than 40 years, Michael Rice has worked with a variety of clientele from all walks of life and ages. As a teacher, presenter, and instructor in the disciplines of Therapeutic Yoga, Pilates, and Massage Therapy, he has spent a lifetime studying the human form and lecturing on Anatomy and Physiology, as well as creating private and public group programs for its maintenance and longevity. The core of his work is educating others on the importance of regaining and maintaining their balance. You won't want to miss this very important one-hour workshop on Thursday, November 5 at 11am in Fellowship Hall. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes to try a few of his exercises.

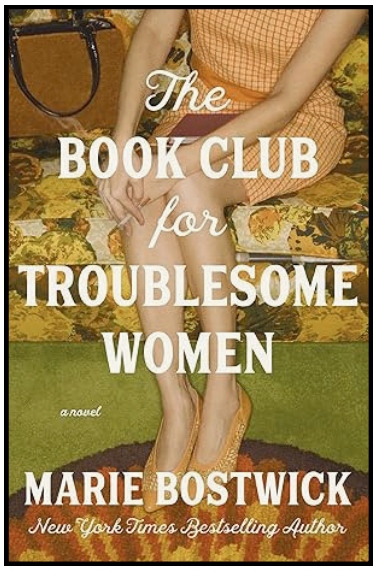
Senior Lunch - Thursday, November 12

Please join us in the Library at 1pm on Thursday, November 12 for a delicious lunch and good conversation.
Please note: In November, we will only meet once due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Parade Company Tour - Saturday, November 14 at 11am

The Lifelong Learners Committee has organized a tour of The Parade Company on Saturday, November 14 at 11am. Families and children are welcome to attend. You can either meet us at the Parade Company or travel in the church van. The church van, driven by Pastor Ben, will be leaving the Northbrook parking lot at 10:15am. The tour cost is payable to Stephanie Wicker prior to the event: Adults - $12, Seniors - $10, and Children - $8. Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Northbrook Book Club—Monday, November 16 at 7pm



Everybody is welcome to attend the upcoming Northbrook Book Club discussion of *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by Marie Bostwick on Monday, November 16 at 7pm. Kim is hosting. Join in person in Fellowship Hall or by Zoom. Please let Nancy Best know if you would like to attend by Zoom.

Book Summary: *By 1960s standards, Margaret Ryan is living the American woman's dream. She has a husband, three children, a station wagon, and a home in Concordia--one of Northern Virginia's most exclusive and picturesque suburbs. She has a standing invitation to the neighborhood coffee klatch, and now, thanks to her husband, a new subscription to A Woman's Place--a magazine that tells housewives like Margaret exactly who to be and what to buy. On paper, she has it all. So why doesn't that feel like enough? Margaret is thrown for a loop when she first meets Charlotte Gustafson, Concordia's newest and most intriguing resident. As an excuse to be in the mysterious Charlotte's orbit, Margaret concocts a book club get-together and invites two other neighborhood women--Bitsy and Viv--to the inaugural meeting. As the women share secrets, cocktails, and their honest reactions to the controversial bestseller The Feminine Mystique, they begin to discover that the American dream they'd been sold isn't all roses and sunshine--and that their secret longing for more is something they share. Nicknaming themselves the Bettys, after Betty Friedan, these four friends have no idea their impromptu club and the books they read together will become the glue that helps them hold fast through tears, triumphs, angst, and arguments--and what will prove to be the most consequential and freeing year of their lives.*

Please mark your calendar with these upcoming titles and discussion dates:

- January 11, 2027 - *Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline – Winnie hosts

Men's Connection - Tuesdays at 8am & 10am

We are continuing to read John Ortberg's popular book, The Life You've Always Wanted. Join at 8am via Zoom or at 10am in-person in the library or via Zoom. Contact Bill Jordan at (248) 917-7201 to be included on Zoom. We invite new men to join our Connection discussions.

LOGOS - Wednesdays at 5 pm

LOGOS, our weekly gathering for kids of all ages with games, songs, devotions, crafts, and dinner, begins in September. Registration, calendar, kitchen volunteer sign-ups, and themes can all be found at this link. Contact Ken Stetson at stetson.kenny@gmail.com with any questions.

Yoga with Lis - Wednesdays at 11:15am

Join us for Yoga on Wednesdays at 11:15am in Fellowship Hall. No fee required, but donations are welcome.

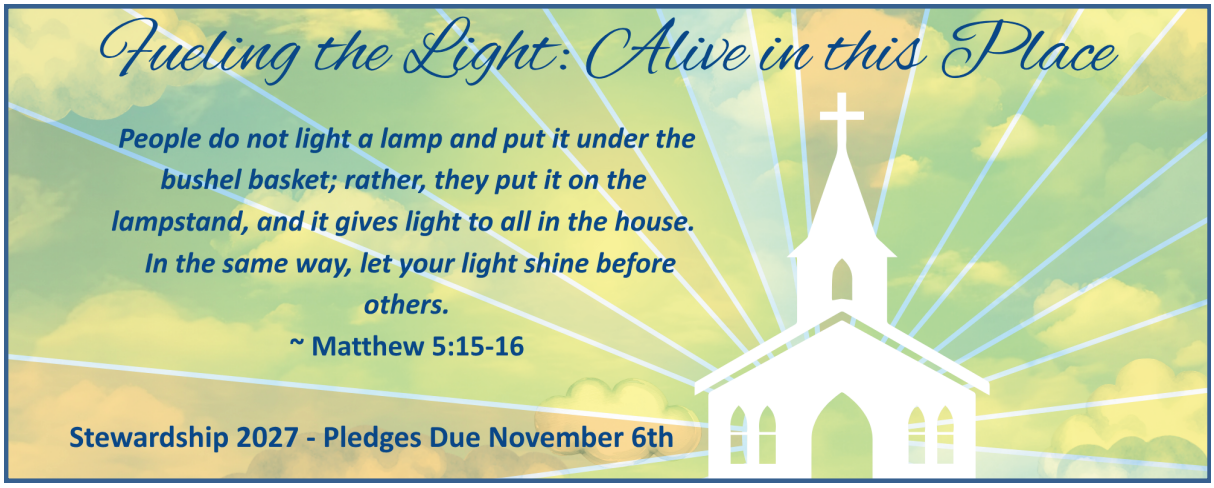
Northbrook Safety - General Building Hours

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep the building secure, we want to remind everyone of the building hours of operation. We understand there are exceptions to the hours below, but appreciate your cooperation when scheduling meetings, etc.

Building available for use: 9 AM - 9 PM (Monday - Friday); 8 AM - Noon on Sunday
Office hours: 9 AM - 4 PM Monday – Thursday, and 9 AM – Noon on Friday

Questions? Feel free to contact Peggie DiFalco, Penny Willey or Pastor Ben

NORTHBROOK



As November is upon us, we are excited to be wrapping up our annual Stewardship Campaign – *Fueling the Light: Alive in This Place*. Through our worship, fellowship, ministries, and service to others, Northbrook shines the light of Christ in so many wonderful ways. Your generosity provides the fuel that keeps that light shining brightly, both within our church and throughout our community.

This year's campaign has gotten off to a healthy start, and we are eagerly looking forward to tallying the results of all pledges after the due date of Friday, November 6th. For those who have already submitted your pledge for 2027, thank you! If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider an amount you can comfortably pledge, and submit your commitment in either of these ways:

- Complete and return the Pledge Card you were mailed to the church office, either in person or by mail. Additional cards are available in the church office.
- Submit your pledge electronically at *2027 Stewardship Campaign* - *Fueling the Light: Alive in this Place*.

For a church our size, Northbrook has so many lights shining brightly for others. We couldn't share all this light without your support to fuel it. Please consider making a financial pledge to support the 2027 Stewardship Campaign - *Fueling the Light: Alive in This Place* - to help fuel the many lights of Northbrook. Pledge cards are available in the office and via the church website (from the homepage, click Give, navigate to the Stewardship Campaign 2027 section, and click PLEDGE FORM). Please return your pledge card to the office by Friday, November 6. As you consider your pledge for 2027, remember that fuel prices always seem to keep rising!

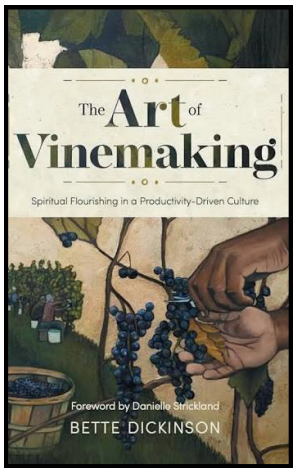
A separate word about Per Capita: Each year, Northbrook is responsible for a Per Capita contribution for every church member, which helps support the work of our wider Presbyterian Church (USA). For 2027, that amount is $42 per member. Last year, individual Per Capita contributions covered approximately 35% of our church's total obligation, leaving the remainder to be paid from Northbrook's general funds. Please consider contributing $42 for each church member in your household, separately from your 2027 pledge. Every Per Capita contribution helps preserve more of our regular offerings for the ministries, programs, and missions that make Northbrook such a special place.

Last year, over 70% of Northbrook's overall budget was funded by dollars contributed by our members, and a great majority of those funds were pledged funds. Pledged dollars provide a more dependable foundation for our annual budget, allowing us to plan confidently and make meaningful commitments to the missions we so humbly and gratefully serve – missions that count on us. To everyone who has pledged, contributed, or otherwise supported Northbrook's mission, thank you! Your faithful generosity makes an extraordinary difference, and it is because of you that Northbrook's many wonderful Lights continue to be Alive in This Place.

With endless gratitude for the ways you show that Finance Matters,
Your Finance Committee: Tim Boese, Tom MacFarlane, Dan Gross (Chair), Ryan Stottlemeyer, and Mike Krug (Financial Secretary)

Growing Together on Wednesdays

Explore *The Art of Vinemaking* by Bette Dickinson



Northbrook's *Growing Together* gatherings on Wednesdays at 10am and 7pm, continues through November 18th.

November Course Schedule:

November 4 - Come ready to discuss:

- Chapter 13: Ripening Fruit
- Chapter 14: Veraison

November 11 - Come ready to discuss:

- Chapter 15: Harvest
- Chapter 16: Wine

November 18 - Come ready to discuss:

- Epilogue
- Note from the Vinedresser: Dave Bos

KIDS' CONNECTION

Kids' Connection, our Sunday ministry for young children at Northbrook, is for children in preschool through 5th grade. Children may begin worshiping 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!

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

The cost of each plant is $12. Make checks payable to Northbrook Presbyterian Church and add "Poinsettia" in the memo portion of your check.

# of Red Poinsettas:____ # of White Poinsettas:____ TOTAL # of Plants Ordered:____

TOTAL Payment: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like my plant(s) placed in honor of/in memory of (circle one):

_____

_____

Please drop off or mail your order/payment to: 22055 W. 14 Mile Rd., Beverly Hills, MI 48025. Poinsettias will be available for pickup after the Christmas Eve Service. **Orders are due Monday, November 23rd.**

Thank You

For many years, Northbrook has been blessed to have our Camp Sunday led by local musician - and member of the congregation - Steve Taylor. For the past four years, we have also been blessed to have Steve and his son, Fin, join us in leading our Family Sundays on the first Sunday of the month. With his busy teaching and performing schedule, Steve has decided that he can no longer commit to leading worship at Northbrook on a regular basis. While we will miss his regular presence, we look forward to seeing him on special occasions, and we remain grateful for the gifts he - and Fin - have shared with us.



Thanks go out to everyone who contributed to this bountiful food collection shared with *Kids Empowered On the Move*. You have helped fill tummies in this time that is so difficult for so many.



Northbrook Preschool

We are having a busy fall making Apple Crisp and decorating pumpkins. We are getting ready for Thanksgiving. We have been learning about the Native Americans and Pilgrims. We will be preparing and eating our very own Thanksgiving Brunch. We hope you enjoy your Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Academy of Early Music Concert at Northbrook featuring Due CPE
Saturday, November 7 at 7:30pm



From ***Gallantry to Madness*** showcases the polarity between polite and untethered expression that was cultivated in the German salon circa 1800. Music of the gallant style, representing elegance and restraint, coexisted and intermingled with music of the sensitive style, representing fantasy and vulnerability. Among the musical circle of Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, our ensemble's namesake, composers established the gallant folk-song genre and revolutionized other genres like the cantata and fantasia. This program brings to life the charming Lieder of Louise Reichardt, Mozart, and Haydn, contrasting cantatas of CPE Bach and Johann Friedrich Reichardt, and dramatic keyboard music of CPE Bach.

Inspired by the sensibilities and cultural revolutions of the Age of the Enlightenment, Duo CPE is dedicated to pushing the bounds of historical performance practice beyond Baroque.

For more information about the concert and for ticket information, visit: www.academyofearlymusic.org.

Live the Love of Jesus Christ

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov 1	10am: In-Person & Livestream Worship & Communion **Daylight Saving Time Ends**
Nov 3	8am: Men's Connection (Zoom only) 10am: Men's Connection 5:30pm: Brady's Bunch at The HoneyTree
Nov 4	11:15am: Yoga 10am: Gathering Together 5pm: LOGOS 7pm: Gathering Together
Nov 5	11am: Balance Workshop 1pm: Senior Lunch
Nov 6	Pledge Cards are Due
Nov 8	10am: In-Person & Livestream Worship & Communion 11:15am: Chili Cook-Off & Cornhole 11:30am: Deacons' Mtg.
Nov 9	4:30pm: Worship Comm. Mtg.
Nov 10	8am: Men's Connection (Zoom only) 9:30am: Finance Committee Mtg. 10am: Men's Connection
Nov 11	11:15am: Yoga 10am: *Gathering Together* 5pm: LOGOS 7pm: *Gathering Together*
Nov 12	1pm: Senior Lunch
Nov 14	11am: The Parade Company Tour
Nov 15	10am: In-Person & Livestream Worship 11:15am: Session Mtg.
Nov 16	7pm: Book Club Meeting
Nov 17	8am: Men's Connection (Zoom only) 10am: Men's Connection
Nov 18	11:15am: Yoga 10am: *Gathering Together* 5pm: LOGOS 7pm: *Gathering Together*
Nov 22	10am: In-Person & Livestream Worship
Nov 24	8am: Men's Connection (Zoom only) 10am: Men's Connection
Nov 26-27	OFFICE CLOSED - *Happy Thanksgiving!*
Nov 29	10am: In-Person & Livestream Worship *~First Sunday of Advent~*

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01 Mary DeCarteret
11/02 Michael Bauhof
11/02 Yvonne Cousineau
11/02 Lois Kafarski
11/05 Richard Keier
11/07 Tom MacFarlane
11/13 Michael Campion
11/13 Dave Vander Weide
11/14 Megan Taylor
11/20 William Travis
11/21 Lily Stottlemyer
11/23 Dave Tengler
11/28 Phil Owen
11/28 Eleanor Poster
11/28 Kimberly Yekin
11/29 Bryan Adair

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Phil & Judy Owen - 58 years on November 2

Staff contact Information

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor Ext. 17
ben@northbrookpc.org
Jannah Cole, Music Team Leader
Dan Gross, Musician
Pete Zajicek, Musican
Sherrill Heinrichs, Coord. of Congregational Care Ext. 15
sherrill@northbrookpc.org
Ken Stetson, Youth Director
Becky Bachand, Administrative Assistant Ext. 10
becky@northbrookpc.org
Mike Krug, Finance Secretary Ext. 13
mike@northbrookpc.org
Kerry Callaghan, Preschool Director Ext. 16
preschool@northbrookpc.org
David Mack, Custodian

Worship with us:

10am in the Sanctuary

The Sunday service is also found:

- Livestream on YouTube - Northbrookpc
- Livestream on Facebook - Northbrookpc

Contact us:

22055 W. 14 Mile Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
248-642-0200 www.northbrookpc.org

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs: 9am - 4pm
Friday: 9am - Noon