

Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Stop and Pray

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. - Philippians 4:6

If you're like me, there may be more than a few things in your life you wish you could do over. But, there's one thing I never regret doing: stopping to pray. Prayer is an opportunity to be connected with God and grounded in the midst of the hustle of life. It's an opportunity to return and remember who we were created to be. And, with all the chaos and suffering in the world, it's a way to give voice to our hurt and fear, as well as to listen to how we might faithfully respond.

But, it's amazing how easily we can get consumed with our responsibilities or our anxieties and neglect prayer. This fall, I invite you to stop and pray... on your own, with each other, and as a community of faith.

Stop to pray on your own - Do you have a regular rhythm of personal prayer? Since the spring, I've been attempting to pray both the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23 daily. Sometimes, it takes me a matter of seconds. Other times, I linger, recalling people and circumstances in my life that I offer to God. Some mornings, I completely forget to do it as I rush off to that day's agenda. Though, I often catch myself later in the day. It's never too late to stop and pray. Maybe you have a favorite devotional or a prayer journal. Whether it's a set time or whether you simply need to pause in the midst of the daily grind, it's never too late to stop and pray.

Stop to pray with each other - Recently, I've found myself meeting individually with Northbrook members or other friends in faith. Sometimes it's a pastoral visit, sometimes it's some committee work to discuss. Occasionally, the conversations can be hard as we make room for different perspectives or feelings about something. Whatever the reason for meeting, I always relish the chance to pray together... to lift up to God the struggles, to bring someone to mind who may be hurting, and to remember God's presence and purpose in the midst of our work. It can be so easy to rush off to the next task or meeting, but you'll never regret stopping to pray with someone.

Stop to pray as a community of faith - One of my favorite things about being a part of a community of faith is when we pray together. Something powerful happens when we listen deeply to the joys and struggles shared in the family of faith. In shared prayer, our hearts open to God and each other, and we are encouraged to go out and live as God's people in the world.

It takes commitment to make prayer a part of our daily lives. It can feel like a risk to say to someone, "Can I pray with you?" And, we can find all kinds of reasons to miss a Sunday worship service. Yet, when we take the risk and make it a priority, we experience renewed energy and purpose. We remember the God who created us. We connect with Christ who redeems us. And, we are inspired by the Spirit who equips and empowers us.

~ Pastor Ben



"Live the Love of Jesus Christ"

Growing Together Wednesdays at 10am and 7pm

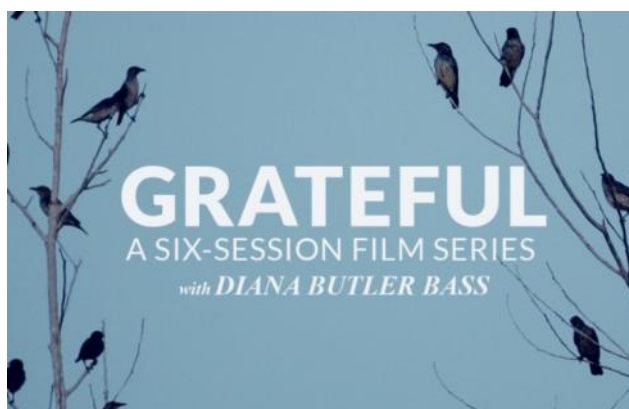
Previously known as bible study, Wednesday pastor's study, or book study, this is a regular gathering of folks who seek to grow in faith together. It's a time to share honestly - both deep thoughts and hard questions - within a caring community. Conversation is often grounded in scripture reading, a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

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

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



Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

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. The Mission Connection Committee has designated that **25% of our total collection will be sent to the Southwest Detroit Immigrant Resource Center (SWIRC)**. SWIRC has offices in Pontiac and Detroit. The Rev. Kevin Picuch, Esq. is the Executive Director of the Center; the center's mission aligns with the intent of the offering to support initiatives that address anxiety and discord 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.



Surely, you have all heard of The Main Event by now! That's our new and exciting Auction and Dinner event being held at Northbrook on November 8. Here are some quick facts:

- ◆ Individual and Committee Donations are due October 6, 2025. We'll be in Fellowship Hall on October 5 to receive donations and answer questions.
- ◆ The theme is *Victory for the Detroit Lions!* Accordingly, Fellowship Hall will be joyously decorated to honor our hometown football team. Everyone is invited to dress in Lions gear on the night of the event.
- ◆ The program booklet will be published on October 26- that's 2 weeks before the event. What will the booklet reveal?
 - ◇ List of all items available to purchase that night – by raffle and by auction
 - ◇ The delicious dinner menu
 - ◇ The timeline of the evening and general instructions
- ◆ The time of the event is 5:00 PM– 9:30 PM on Saturday, November 8
- ◆ Dinner reservations will be taken in Fellowship Hall for 3 Sundays: Oct 19, Oct 26, and Nov 2. Also, a Google Doc link to reserve your place will be listed in the weekly Northbrook email. Dinner will cost \$25 per person. Beer and wine will be served, so attendees must be at least 21. We are asking everyone in our church family to attend. Please let Ben know if you would like assistance with dinner costs.
- ◆ Please feel free to invite a friend or an extended family member to enjoy this evening with you.
- ◆ Everyone can be issued a bidder number. If you cannot attend that night, you can appoint a friend to bid on your behalf and purchase those things you don't want to miss out on. Also, you can contact a committee member to purchase raffle tickets for basket items; however, committee members cannot participate in the live auction bidding process on your behalf. Your account can be settled when you return.
- ◆ There will be a wide variety of items available to purchase, many at reasonable prices. We truly believe there is something of interest for everyone.
- ◆ You can fill up your social calendar for the next year.
- ◆ This night is going to be a lot of fun! It's the biggest party of the church year!
- ◆ All proceeds from The Main Event directly support Northbrook's annual budget.
- ◆ You'll get to know your fellow "Northbrookers" in a new way when you participate in one or more of the experiences offered.

We hope you are as excited as we are!!

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



Northbrook



Join us for our annual Chili Cook-Off and Cornhole Tournament on Sunday, October 5th after worship. We will need people who are willing to make chili, and plenty of participants. This is an important fundraiser for our youth programs, and we appreciate your support! Tickets are \$15 per person or \$30 per family. Please let Youth Director, Ken Stetson (stetson.kenny@gmail.com) know if you would like to make chili, or sign up in Fellowship Hall.

LOGOS - Wednesdays, 5-7pm

LOGOS, our weekly gathering for kids of all ages with games, songs, devotions, crafts, and dinner, meets weekly on Wednesdays from 5-7pm. Contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, at stetson.kenny@gmail.com for more information.

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

Men's Connection meets weekly on Tuesday mornings at 8am via Zoom and at 10am in-person and via Zoom. We are discussing John Ortberg's Soul Keeping: Caring For The Most Important Part of You. Contact Walter Young at (248) 877-5411 to be included on Zoom. New men are always welcome to this fellowship circle.

Senior Lunch - 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 1pm in the Library

Senior Soup Lunch will continue as Senior Lunch and meet at 1pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. 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.

Yoga - Wednesdays at 11am

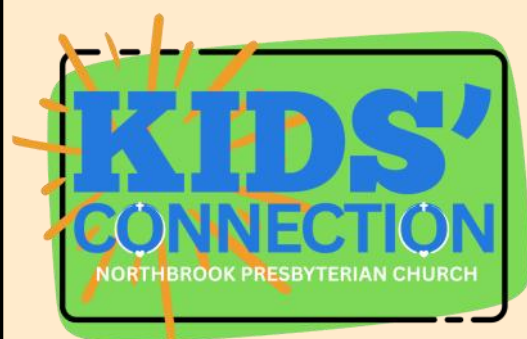
Join us for Yoga with Liz on Wednesdays at 11am. All are welcome to attend. Bring a mat and yoga supplies if you have them. No fee required, but donations are accepted.

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Everyone loves the treats after worship on Sundays, 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. 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, October 7th

Join us on Tuesday, October 7th at 5:30 at Griffin Claw Brewing Company (575 E. Eton St., Birmingham) 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.



Kids' Connection, our Sunday ministry for young children at Northbrook, is for children in preschool through 5th 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!***



**Northbrook Church Parking Lot
22055 W. 14 Mile Road Beverly Hills
6 PM-7PM**

We invite all families to join us at 5PM for pizza and fellowship before the event begins.

Come and learn about our LOGOS program!

To reserve a spot for dinner, please email terri.hurbis@gmail.com
(please note any allergies so we can accomodate!)

To volunteer to decorate a trunk, please contact Terri Hurbis (church families) or Kerry Callaghan (preschool families):
terri.hurbis@gmail.com or preschool@northbrookpc.org

YOUR STAR WORD JOURNEY...*Gratitude!*

This month, we want to give gratitude for our Star Words, giving thanks to God for these words that have been a part of our lives for 9 months. Time certainly does fly by. Here are some questions to think about in relation to your words.



What are you most grateful for that God has brought to you through your Star Word? You might try keeping a Gratitude Journal. I kept one for several years and found that when I went back through my entries, they brought feelings of comfort and calm to me. It's always good to be reminded of even the simplest things for which we are grateful: the rising or setting sun, a child's smile, the changing colors of the leaves, another birthday, a hug, knowing that God loves me and hears my prayers of thanksgiving, discovering my place in God's world, feeling loved by members of my family or looking closely at a photograph that remind you of the people for whom you are grateful. We have been given such precious lives; take time to share your gratitude for this gift of life with which God has blessed us.

During this season, we often think of the cornucopia, a symbol of harvest and abundance. Draw a cornucopia and list under it all the things that bring you that feeling of gratefulness. Have your family share together over a special meal all the things for which your family is grateful.

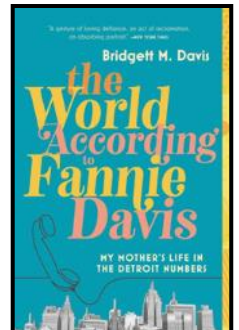


Sherrill Heinrichs, Coordinator of Congregational Care

Northbrook Book Club—November 3 at 7pm

Everybody is welcome to attend the Northbrook Book Club discussion of *The World According to Fannie Davis: My Mother's Life in the Detroit Numbers* by Bridgett Davis on Monday, November 3 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Kim B-A is hosting this discussion. Please let Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation.

Book Summary: *This true story of an unforgettable mother, her devoted daughter, and their life in the Detroit numbers of the 1960s and 1970s highlights "the outstanding humanity of black America" (James McBride). A daughter's moving homage to an extraordinary parent, The World According to Fannie Davis is also the suspenseful, unforgettable story about the lengths to which a mother will go to "make a way out of no way" and provide a prosperous life for her family — and how those sacrifices resonate over time.*



Please mark your calendar with these upcoming book club dates:

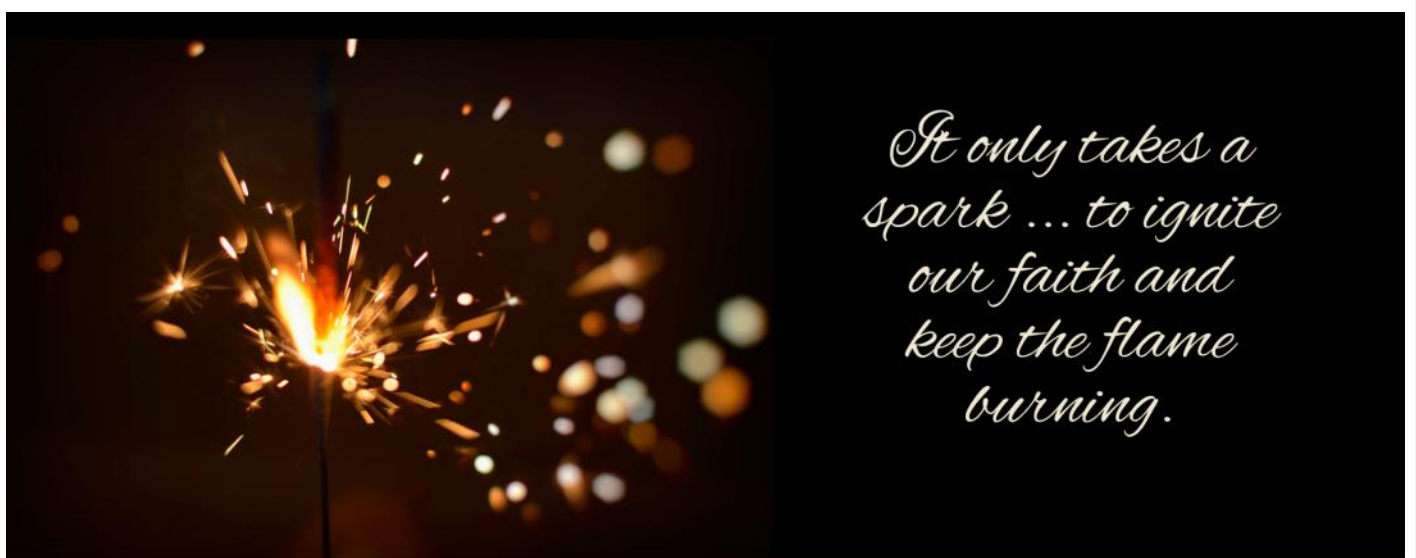
- ♦ January 12, 2026 - *Fellowship Point* by Alice Elliott Dark (Winnie hosts)

Northbrook Mission Tithe Dollars at Work as We Share the Love of Jesus Christ

In July, we sent out the following support to nonprofits based on Northbrook's mission tithe of January through June contributions:

- ♦ \$500—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Texas flood relief
- ♦ \$10—One Great Hour of Sharing (individual contribution-larger group amount sent earlier)
- ♦ \$400—Presbyterian Mission Agency/Pentecost Offering
- ♦ \$268—Kids Empowered On the Move/Pentecost Offering portion
- ♦ \$956.50—Frontera de Cristo (Border Ministries) specifically to go to the support of Miriam Maldonado Escobar and Mark Adams in their partnership with FdC.

Northbrook, thank you for continuing to give generously so we can address our mission of working to *Live the Love of Jesus Christ* out into the world.



*It only takes a
spark ... to ignite
our faith and
keep the flame
burning.*

Stewardship 2026

One of our favorite songs to sing in (and out of) church is the classic “Pass It On.” I’ll bet the tune jumped right into your head the moment you read that! This year, our stewardship campaign theme, “It only takes a spark ... to ignite our faith and keep the flame burning,” is inspired by the spirit of this wonderful song. We invite the congregation to reflect on how the smallest gestures, actions, and gifts can kindle something much greater within our church community. Jesus taught that a mustard seed of faith can move mountains—reminding us that the tiniest spark can grow into a radiant flame of hope, generosity, and service for all.

The Bible offers many images of sparks and flames as the beginning of transformation and renewal:

- ♦ **James 3:5:** “Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.” Just as one spark can set a whole forest ablaze, a single act of faith or generosity can inspire and transform our ministry.
- ♦ **2 Timothy 1:6:** “Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you.” Each of us is called to keep the flame of faith alive, nurturing the gifts God has given us for His purpose.
- ♦ **Matthew 17:20:** “If you had even a faint spark of faith, as tiny as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

The spirit at Northbrook continues to inspire and uplift our community as we look ahead to 2026. With faith in God's plans for our church, we invite you to affirm your support for our ministries in the coming year. Your generosity plays a vital role in our 2026 ministry budget, and we ask that you complete a pledge card by Sunday, November 9th.

Our heartfelt thanks go out for the many ways you nurture Christ’s work here at Northbrook. Each gift, large or small, fuels our shared purpose and brings hope where it’s most needed. Together as stewards, may we ensure that Northbrook remains a beacon of joy and refuge for all who enter, and for the wider world touched by our outreach.

In Faithful Service,

Mark Best & Dan Gross 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



Celebrating the Baptisms of Lila and Natalie Luoma on September 14th.



The Deacons hosted a special coffee hour on September 28th in honor of Lois Kurta's 90th Birthday.



In Memoriam

*In
Loving
Memory*



*Patricia (Petie)
A. Forlisch*

April 15, 1930
September 19, 2025



Calendar

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|--|
| Oct. 1 | 10am 11am 5pm 7pm | Growing Together Video Series Yoga LOGOS Growing Together Video Series |
| Oct. 5 | 10am 11am | In-Person & Livestream Worship with Family Sunday & Communion <i>Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser</i> |
| Oct. 7 | 8am 10am 11:45am 5:30pm | Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom Seasoned Oak Café The New Brady's Bunch at Griffin Claw |
| Oct. 8 | 11am 5pm | Yoga LOGOS |
| Oct. 9 | 1pm | Senior Lunch |
| Oct. 12 | 10am 11:15am 11:30am | In-Person & Livestream Worship Confirmation Class Mtg. Deacons' Meeting |
| Oct. 13 | 4:30pm | Worship Comm. Mtg. |
| Oct. 14 | 8am 9:30am 10am | Men's Connection via Zoom Finance Comm. Mtg. Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom |
| Oct. 15 | 10am 11am 5pm 7pm | Growing Together Video Series Yoga LOGOS Growing Together Video Series |
| Oct. 17 | | Youth Retreat (10/17-10/19) |
| Oct. 19 | 10am 11:15am 11:15am | In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Meeting Confirmation Class Mtg. |
| Oct. 21 | 8am 10am | Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom |
| Oct. 22 | 10am 11am 5pm 7pm | Growing Together Video Series Yoga LOGOS Growing Together Video Series |
| Oct. 23 | 1pm | Senior Lunch |
| Oct. 26 | 10am 11am 11:15am | In-Person & Livestream Worship Congregational Meeting Confirmation Class Mtg. |
| Oct. 28 | 8am 10am | Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom |
| Oct. 29 | 11am 5pm 6pm | Yoga LOGOS Trunk or Treat |

October Birthdays

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

October Anniversaries

Susan & Hal Koss—53 years on October 7
 Dan & Penny Willey—37 years on October 8
 Bruce & Judie Murdock—36 years on October 14
 Mike & Jennifer Wicker—10 years on October 24

Please visit our website: www.northbrookpc.org
 for the most current calendar of events.

Please Welcome Our New Custodian

I'm Rob Kosha, and I've been a lifelong tinkerer. For over two decades, I've honed my skills fixing everything from cracked screens to complex circuit boards, and I'm proud to bring that expertise to my electronic repair shop, eXalted Repair, in Troy, MI. When I'm not in the shop, my world revolves around my 5-year-old daughter, Cora, and our next great adventure. On the rare occasion I can sneak away, you'll find me out in the wild, using my GPS and wits to go geocaching.



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

Northbrook

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www.northbrookpc.org



Northbrook Notes is a monthly publication of
Northbrook Presbyterian Church

Micah 6 Block Blitz

Thank you to those who came out on September 6th to beautify, repair, and uplift their neighborhood! You can learn more about Micah 6 here: <https://www.micah6community.com/>.



Staff Contact Information

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor

ben@northbrookpc.org, ext. 17

Dan Gross, Musician

Pete Zajicek, Musician

Sherrill Heinrichs, Congregational Care Coord.

sherrill@northbrookpc.org, ext. 15

Ken Stetson, Youth Director

stetson.kenny@gmail.com

Becky Bachand, Administrative Assistant

becky@northbrookpc.org, ext. 10

Mike Krug, Finance Administrator

mike@northbrookpc.org

Kerry Callaghan, Preschool Director

preschool@northbrookpc.org, ext. 16

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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