

Northbrook Presbyterian Church Newsletter

A Poem/Prayer for Lent

Lenten greetings, Northbrook. When I scrolled through my Facebook, I was stopped in my tracks when reading this poem. It was written by my friend and colleague, Rev. Jeff Nelson of the First United Methodist Church of Royal Oak. It spoke to my soul. I share it now with his permission as a prayer for you, for me, for our congregation, and for our whole world this season of Lent.

~ Pastor Ben

God of the in-between,

I don't need a new life right now—
I need a pause inside this one.

I'm carrying a full day like a tray held too high:
appointments, texts, decisions,
other people's needs, my own unfinished thoughts—
and I can feel myself speeding up.

So meet me here,
in this small gap I didn't earn,
in this breath I almost skipped.

Loosen my jaw.
Drop my shoulders.
Unclench my hands.
Give my mind permission to stop rehearsing and returning.

Let this moment be enough:
not productive, not impressive—
just honest.

Remind me that I am not what I complete.

I am not what I manage.
I am not the urgency I've swallowed.

If there is one thing to do right now,
let it be this:
receive the gift of being alive
in the middle of it all.

Plant my feet back on the ground.
Put gentleness back in my voice.
Put mercy back in my pace.
Put love back at the center.

And when I step back into the day,
send me with a steadier heart—
not because everything is handled,
but because You are here.

Amen.



“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”



*Lent & Easter
at Northbrook*

PALM SUNDAY

March 29 at 10am

Worship will begin with a Palm procession to remember Jesus' final entrance into Jerusalem. We will also hear part of the story of his Passion as we learn of the depth of God's love for us.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2 at 6pm

Gather for a potluck and to celebrate the Last Supper around the table. We'll move into the Sanctuary for a service of music and foot/hand washing as we remember Christ's command to, "Go and do likewise."

EASTER

Sunday, April 5 at 10am

Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ - and the reconciliation of all creation - with beautiful flowers and joyful music! Christ is risen, indeed!

Lenten Study: Cross Connections - Wednesdays at 10am & 7pm

Join us on Wednesdays - in person or via Zoom - for our Lenten Study, an exploration of select chapters of *At the Foot of The Cross*. This book, written by the Rev. Thomas John, Ben's host father from his time in India, will offer a fresh perspective on Lent and Easter for us. *The book is not available for purchase, but Pastor Ben can provide the pdf link for free upon request.

Share the Love and Hope of Easter—Easter Basket Project

On Sunday, March 1, sign-ups for participation in this year's Easter Basket Project will begin in Fellowship Hall. Basket items – food, gifts, household items and supplies, and treats – will be due back to church by Sunday, March 22. We will assemble the baskets on Palm Sunday, March 29 following worship.



The New Brady's Bunch - Tuesday, March 3 at 5:30pm

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

Trivia Night - Friday, March 13 at 7pm

Join us for Trivia Night on Friday, March 13 at 7pm. This event is open to all those who bid on it during The Main Event auction, as well as anyone who wants to enjoy a fun evening of trivia and light refreshments. Walk-ins are welcome. The fee is \$20 a person at the door. Our trivia host for the night is our own Mike Wicker. All the funds we raise that night will go directly to the church, as the auction funds did. We hope to see you there, and please bring a friend! For more information, contact Stephanie Wicker.

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

Men's Connection meets weekly on Tuesday mornings at 8am via Zoom and 10am in-person in the library and via Zoom. We are currently discussing N. T. Wright's book, *Romans for Everyone, Part 1, Chapters 1-8 (20th Anniversary Edition with Study Guide)*. Please contact Walter Young at (248) 877-5411 to be included on Zoom. We welcome new men to this fellowship circle. Hope to see you there and then.

Senior Lunch - 2nd & 4th Thursday 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 lunch and good conversation. In March, we will meet on March 12th and 26th. *Please consider volunteering to help with this important program.* See the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

LOGOS - Wednesdays, 5-7pm

LOGOS is our weekly gathering for kids of all ages with games, songs, devotions, crafts, and dinner. Contact Youth Director, Ken Stetson, for more information.

Lifelong Learners

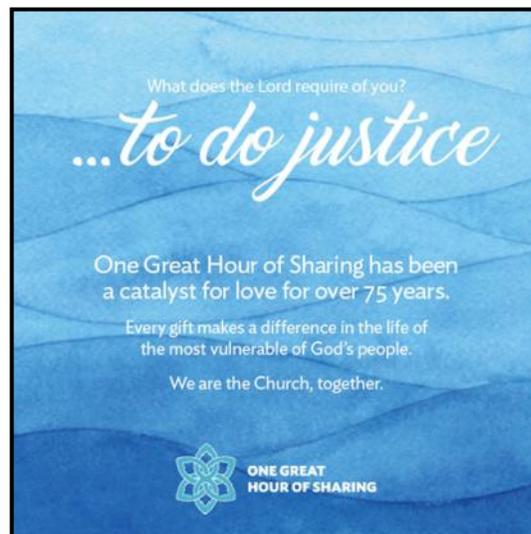
The Lifelong Learners Committee is making plans for two upcoming events. The first is a tour of the St. John Armenian Church in Southfield, and the second is a tour of the Ford Piquette Avenue Plant—the birthplace of the Model T. Stay tuned for more information.

Yoga with Lis - Wednesdays at 11:15am

Join us for Yoga with Lis classes on Wednesdays at 11:15am. No fee required, but donations are welcome.

One Great Hour of Sharing Now through April 6

During the season of Lent, we will collect this PCUSA Special Offering to share our blessings with others who struggle due to disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, or immigration/migration/refugee status. Worldwide humanitarian work supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds provides people and communities with safety, sustenance, and hope through sustainable food resources, clean water, sanitation, education, disaster recovery, and economic opportunity. If you have a packet of offering envelopes, you will find an OGHS envelope in your packet. Whether you use an envelope or not, and whether you give at church or online, please indicate that your payment is for OGHS so your contribution is handled accordingly. Thank you so much for your gifts to help support vulnerable people around the world.



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

We were able to send \$1320 to PCUSA from our Christmas Joy Offering. Northbrook, thank you for your generous contributions that will support Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need, and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Easter Flowers

Adorning our Sanctuary with Easter Flowers is a Northbrook tradition. Please fill out this form and place it, along with your check, in the offering plate or in the office. Please make checks payable to Northbrook Church and write "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. Plants may be taken home following the 10am Easter Service on Sunday, April 5th. **Orders are due by Sunday, March 15th.**

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Plants at **\$12 each**:

_____ Lily _____ Daffodil _____ Tulip _____ Hyacinth

Total Number of Plants: _____

Dedication

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

(Please print clearly. This dedication information, along with your name, will be printed in the Easter bulletin. You will be able to take home your plant(s) after the Easter Sunday service.)

Northbrook Preschool

Love abounded at Northbrook Preschool in February with a flurry of Valentine's activities including the wedding of the letters Q and U! We thank Pastor Ben for officiating the wedding and for sharing his love of books by reading to us. Coming up in March, we will work on our rhyming skills with the help of Dr. Seuss and prepare for the coming of spring and Easter.



Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is happening now, so please tell everyone you know with young children about our wonderful school. For more information, contact Preschool Director Kerry Callaghan at 248-642-0200 ext. 17 or by email at preschool@northbrookpc.org.



Service Opportunity: Little Dresses for Africa

Mary DeCarteret is organizing a service project supporting Little Dresses for Africa, a charity that provides simple dresses to girls in need (<https://littledressesforafrica.org>). With the support of the Mission Connection Committee, Mary is looking for volunteers with basic sewing skills who are willing to commit a few hours. All fabric, materials, and instructions will be provided. Volunteers will just need access to a sewing machine. If you enjoy sewing and would like to use your talents in service to others, this is a wonderful opportunity to help. There will be an informational & instructional meeting on Sunday, March 15 in Fellowship Hall after coffee hour. Please contact Mary at 248-302-7709 for more information.



Kids Empowered on the Move, a local non-profit that supports those who are dealing with housing insecurity and those who are finally able to move into an apartment or home, is appreciative of your donations to our recent Bedding Care & Share Drive. Of course, the recipients of your gifts will be thankful for comfortable, new bedding! Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE

(Ages 3 to Grade 5)

Vacation Bible School

JUNE 22-26

Northbrook Presbyterian Church

WHAT TO EXPECT

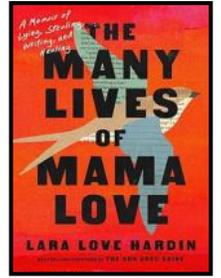
- Interactive Bible Stories
- Exciting Games & Activities
- Creative Crafts
- Music & Singing
- Friendship & Fun



Registration begins in March

Northbrook Book Club—March 9 at 7pm

Everybody is welcome to attend the next Northbrook Book Club discussion of *The Many Lives of Mama Love* by Lara Love Hardin on Monday, March 9 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Mary D. is hosting this discussion. Let Nancy Best know if you would like a Zoom invitation.



Book Summary: *The Many Lives of Mama Love* is a heartbreaking and tender journey from shame to redemption. It's *New York Times* bestselling author Lara Love Hardin's memoir about her transformation from a suburban housewife funding a heroin addiction through credit card theft to a successful ghostwriter, detailing her time as a convicted felon in jail and her journey toward redemption, self-acceptance, and healing. It was chosen as an Oprah's Book Club pick for its themes of hope and reinvention. The book chronicles her life as inmate S32179, where she became a leader among inmates, and her subsequent life as a felon navigating a new identity while confronting her past.

“Once you start reading, be prepared, because you won’t want to stop.” — Oprah Winfrey

Please mark your calendar with these **updated** book titles and dates:

- ◆ April 20—*Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant* by Curtis Chin (Great Michigan Read) - Nancy hosts
- ◆ June 1—*The Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang - Yvonne hosts
- ◆ July 13—Book TBD-Shirley hosts
- ◆ August 24—*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros - Jan hosts-
- ◆ October 5—*The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans -Barb hosts
- ◆ November 16 and January 11, 2027- Book TBD

Finance Matters

We're excited to relaunch our very successful "Wish List" program for 2026 in support of one of our most valuable assets – our Youth.

During the year, we have 4 significant Youth programs: Summer Camp, LOGOS, a Mission Trip, and Vacation Bible School. These programs are a vital component of the Northbrook "heartbeat" and require the necessary investment, not only financially, but also the time and talent of many adult members of our Northbrook family.

To that end, we would like to increase our line-item budget for 2026 in support of one of the most important priorities for our church. Donations of any dollar amount will be appreciated so that we can provide sufficient support, not only for our Youth contingency, but also for the many adult volunteers required to make these initiatives successful.

If you donate via check, through FaithStreet, or through Zelle (see below), please note "For the Youth" on your contribution so we can properly account for your generosity.

Also... BREAKING: As of March 2026, we have added the Zelle option for making financial contributions to the church! Zelle is a fast and safe digital payments network that allows users to send and receive money directly between U.S. bank accounts. Note, there will be a flat \$0.50 fee per transaction. Consequently, we discourage the use of Zelle for transactions under \$50.

With Gratitude,
Your Northbrook Finance Committee

Calendar

March 1	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Family Sunday & Communion ~
March 3	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
March 4	10am 11:15am 5pm 7pm	Growing Together—Lent Series Yoga LOGOS Growing Together—Lent Series
March 6-7		Confirmation Lock-In
March 8	10am 11:15am	<i>~Daylight Saving Time—Spring forward~</i> In-Person & Livestream Worship Deacons' Meeting
March 9	4:30pm	Worship Comm. Meeting
March 10	8am 9:30am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Finance Comm. Mtg. Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
March 11	10am 11:15am 5pm 7pm	Growing Together Yoga LOGOS Growing Together
March 12	1pm	Senior Lunch
March 13	7pm	Trivia Night
March 15	10am 11:15am 11:30am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Session Meeting Little Dresses for Africa Info Mtg ~Easter Flowers Orders are Due ~
March 17	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
March 18	10am 11:15am 5pm 7pm	Growing Together Advent Study Yoga LOGOS Growing Together Advent Study
March 22 Feb. 22—28	10am	In-Person & Livestream Worship Welcome Inn Mission Activities
March 24	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom
March 25	10am 11:15am 5pm 7pm	Growing Together Advent Study Yoga LOGOS Growing Together Advent Study
March 26	1pm	Senior Lunch

March 29	10am 11:15am	In-Person & Livestream Worship ~ Palm Sunday ~ Easter Basket Assembly
March 31	8am 10am	Men's Connection via Zoom Men's Connection—In-person & Zoom

March Birthdays

03/02	Don Hemberg	03/17	Derek Stottlemeyer
03/06	Mona Guindi	03/19	Judy Owen
03/08	Jan Carroll	03/19	Judith Stucky
03/08	Hunter Tengler	03/19	Erin Swenson
03/11	Alex Burnham	03/23	Beverly Singer
03/11	Grace Daniels	03/25	Camille Cheairs
03/15	Annie Burnham	03/29	Sherrill Heinrichs
03/15	Barbara Davidson	03/29	Colin Tengler
03/16	Owen Hurbis	03/30	Carolyn Hemmye
03/17	Grant Burnham	03/31	Madelyn Willey

New Member Spotlight



Hello! I'm Beth Ellis. My journey here started because my kids jumped in first — and their excitement inspired me to take a closer look. I'm so thankful they did. I've found such a welcoming, encouraging community, and becoming a member feels like a natural next step for our family. I'm excited to continue building relationships and growing in faith together.

I was born and raised in Michigan and met my husband, Nick, at Michigan State University. We have two sons, Ben (14) and Henry (8), who keep us busy, mostly at soccer fields since they both play for DCFC. When I'm not at a game or practice, I enjoy spending time up north at our cabin on the Manistee River.

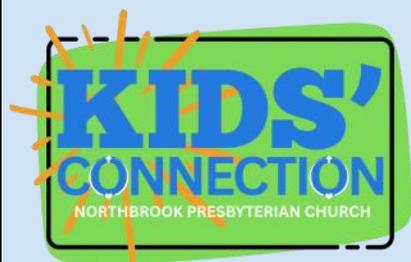
“Live the Love of Jesus Christ”

Northbrook

Presbyterian Church

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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!***

Staff Contact Information

The Rev. Ben Larson-Wolbrink, Pastor	ext. 17
ben@northbrookpc.org	
Jannah Cole, Worship Team Leader	
Dan Gross, Musician	
Pete Zajicek, Musician	
Sherrill Heinrichs, Congregational Care Coord.	ext. 15
sherrill@northbrookpc.org	
Ken Stetson, Youth Director	
stetson.kenny@gmail.com	
Becky Bachand, Administrative Assistant	ext. 10
becky@northbrookpc.org	
Mike Krug, Finance Administrator	ext. 13
mike@northbrookpc.org	
Kerry Callaghan, Preschool Director	ext. 16
preschool@northbrookpc.org	

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