

Northfield Presbyterian Church

# The Good News December 2022

## Pastor's Pen

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low, and the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plane" (Isaiah 40:3-4).

The prophet likens the preparation for the messiah's coming to the kind of preparation you make for the coming of a king. In ancient times, when a king made a journey from one location of his kingdom to another, the people receiving him were responsible for clearing the way for his journey. They were to make a straight road, "to make the uneven ground level." This meant literally lowering hills and filling in valleys.

The visual which Isaiah portrays contains lots of activity. We see people working together and working hard to prepare the way in order to get the highway ready for the arrival of their king.

These words serve as a reminder that this season of Advent, the season of hope and expectation, is not about standing still and waiting for God to come to us, it is about actively moving forward, anticipating and preparing for God's movement toward us. It is about seeking and searching for God's presence, striving to know God's will for us, and speaking on behalf of God in a world which often does not want to hear what God has to say. There is all the difference in the world between waiting and preparing. To wait is passive; to prepare is active. And the word which the prophet uses to describe how we are to get ready for the coming of the messiah is *prepare*.

Some appropriate questions for us to ask ourselves during this season are, What piece of the road of preparation are we engaging this Advent? Are we being an active player in God's redemptive work, or a passive onlooker? Are we standing up for the things God wants us to stand up for, or sitting down? May the prophet's words inspire our thoughts and motivate our actions.

See you in Church,

*Pastor Peter*

### **DECEMBER 4:**

This Second Sunday of Advent the message is called, "What Time Is It?" We will explore Paul's words taken from Romans, referencing Christ's Second Coming: "You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep" (Romans 13:11).

We will also be celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper that day.

### **DECEMBER 11:**

This Sunday's focus will be on John the Baptist. The text is Mark 1:1-8 and the message is called, "The One in the Way."

### **DECEMBER 18:**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent the choir will be providing their Christmas presentation: "Jesus, Name Above All Names".

### **DECEMBER 24:**

Our Christmas Eve Service will be a Service of Lessons and Carols and Candlelight, concluding with the singing of *Silent Night*.

The message is called "God's Surprise." The service begins at **7:00 pm**.

### **DECEMBER 25:**

This year Christmas Day falls on the Lord's Day! We will continue to celebrate the Word becoming flesh on this day of worship.

## FROM THE SESSION

The session met for its stated meeting on Monday, November 14, 7:00 pm at the church. Below are some of the actions and reports:

1. The session approved the date for a special congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11, following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive nominations from the nominating committee for next year's slate of church officers and to vote on the terms of call for the Pastor.
2. The Personnel Committee presented recommendations for pay adjustments for church employees for 2023. Pastor Peter agreed to have his salary and benefits reduced for 2023 in order to help the church financially. The Personnel Committee will meet with him to discuss the amount and make a recommendation to session for approval. Once session approves, the congregation will vote on the revised terms of call at the December 11 meeting.
3. The Property and Finance Committee provided a revised status report on the financial forecast for 2023 and updates for ongoing work projects.
4. Worship and Music: Presently working the Advent and Christmas Eve plans.
5. Presbytery Meeting: The next stated meeting of presbytery is Monday, November 28, and will be conducted by zoom.

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

**Sharon Danko** (friend of Renell Noack, now home)  
**Jeff Cavallo** (friend of Ted Kokenos)  
**Braylon Gallagher** (John and Cindy Gallagher's grandson)  
**Amanda Karduck** (friend of Earl and Sharon Kane)  
**Karyn Patton** (Friend of Judy Kovitch)  
**Michael Kufner** (Pauline Enczur's grandson)  
**Carolyn Glinski** (knee surgery)  
**Donna Hamed** (rehab at The Avenue)  
**Lincoln Czech** (Debbie Czech's grandson-eye surgery)

### SPECIAL

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

There will be a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, December 11, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the new slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee and to vote on the terms of call for the pastor.

## Mission Committee News: Nordonia Schools Adopt a family Christmas and MORE!

Our church utilized the funds we retained from two special offerings (\$550.00) to purchase a wonderful wish list gift for our Nordonia schools adopted family. The family has 6 children, four of whom are 4 years old and younger. "Mom" requested many items but...made a special request. She asked for a new backyard wooden play set with canopy for her young children. We were able to find a wonderful, quality play set for a total cost of \$550.00. It is being delivered this week and the family has handy relatives to assemble the playset. Amy Gay has asked another church to consider purchasing a few more items from the long wish list.

Thank you to everyone in our congregation for contributing to the Special Offerings... the funds retention permitted Northfield Presbyterian to provide Christmas blessings and smiles to a local family in need this Holiday Season.

NPC Missions also delivered meals on Thanksgiving to 25 home-bound local residents.

The Mission Committee will be providing lunch for the North Church congregation Sunday December 4, 2022. Lunch items have been purchased and will be delivered to North Church this Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is our final luncheon distribution to North Church in 2022.

Many thanks and blessings to each of you,  
The members of the Northfield Mission Committee

## Property and Finance Committee Updates

### Capital Improvement ---Fund Balance \$41,015

Many of you have given a Thumbs UP for the new Northfield Presbyterian Church sign on our sanctuary building—It is nice when a plan comes through successfully! Thank you, Chriss Burdis, for your diligence and work on the building sign. Thank you to Session for approving the Capital Improvement project.

**Staircase repair** - Gil Polcen and the Building/Grounds group are gaining cost comparisons for contractor stair covering replacement vs material purchase and installation by two members of the building/grounds group. We have a temporary fix in place but rest assured, for safety concerns to our church members, employees, daycare workers and children we will complete permanent stair covering replacement this Winter.

### Financial Statement Jan-Nov 27,2022 YTD

**Total Income** \$158,841.00  
**Total Expenses** \$174,103.00

**\*\*Shortfall** \$ -15,261.00

Thank you to all of you who are donating/tithing to our church. You can see our shortfall continues to grow. The Finance Committee and Congregation will need to plan new/creative ways to earn extra funds in 2023. Please start brainstorming for good, fun, profitable events we may sponsor in our local community. Also, thank you to all who have submitted pledge cards for 2023. We need and utilize the financial information to generate a vital forecast budget for next year's expenses.

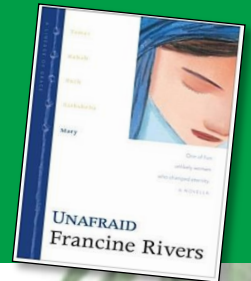
Peace and Holiday Blessings to each of you,  
Finance/Building Grounds Committee

**Christmas Eve  
Candle Light  
Service 7pm  
Saturday, December 24th**

### COMFORTING WORDS Our Christian Women's Book Club

To herald the Christmas season, we are reading a brief, historical fiction on the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus. See new, subtle insights into the Christmas story and how our sovereign God uses His faith-filled as well as unfaithful people and the natural world to accomplish His will.

Read and mark your calendars for our discussion of Unafraid by Francine Rivers on Tuesday, January 10, at 5:30.



Carolyn Glinski	8-Dec
Amy Williams	9-Dec
Sue Shick	15-Dec
Riley Smith	18-Dec
Carol Fenn	19-Dec
Joe Geshke	19-Dec
Ron Maxhimer	22-Dec
Beth Smith	29-Dec
Deanna Williams	30-Dec
Karyl Neubauer	31 Dec



Thank you ladies from the Women's Association, for updating the living area wreaths for this Christmas Season! They removed the worn décor and replaced it with beautiful new bows and trimmings.

Thanks to Cheryl Emch, Carol Metz, Linda Goldenbogen, Trudy Polcen, Fran Merriam, Sharon Hofmeister and Kerry Buddie (behind the camera)!

**Sunday, December 18th 10:15 Service:**  
Join us for the Christmas Choir presentation of "Jesus, Name Above All Names" a celebration in word and song.



# December 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

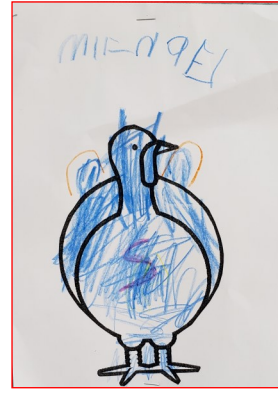
Fri

Sat

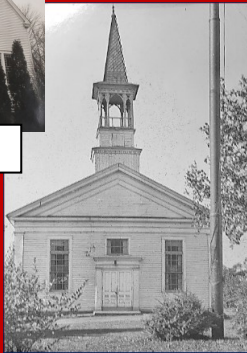
				1	2	3 10am Ladies Christmas Tea  7pm Decorate for Tea (Hostesses)
4 <b>Communion</b> 10:15 Worship w/Coffee Hour  12:30 VBC Worship	5  7pm Property & Finance meeting	6	7 9:30am Daycare Chapel  1pm Adult Advent Study	8  6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	9	10
11 10:15 Worship CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  12:30 VBC Worship	12  7pm Session	13	14 9:30am Daycare Chapel  1pm Adult Advent Study	15  6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	16	17 9am Choir dress rehearsal
18 10:15 Worship w/Choir program Cookies & Coffee Hour  12:30 VBC Worship	19	20	21 9:30am Daycare Chapel  1pm Adult Advent Study	22  7pm Choir 8pm AA	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b>  7pm Candle Light Service
25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 10:15 Worship  12:30 VBC Worship	26	27	28 9:30am Daycare Chapel	29  7pm Choir 8pm AA	30	31

# At the Daycare...Where's the Turkey?

The Bridge to Kindergarten class disguised their turkeys to help them escape from the Thanksgiving festivities! They were disguised as a Valentine, Popcorn, Santa, a Blueberry and a Pokemon.



Old UP Church



"Park" Presbyterian Church

## 190th Anniversary of NPC

At the November 20th service, we celebrated the 190th anniversary of the founding of the two churches that became Northfield Presbyterian.

There are many photo and History albums that will remain on display in the Living Area for the time being. Stop by and take a walk down memory lane.

...sorry, there's no cake left, but it was delicious!

Thank you, Deacon's Board, for all your work in assembling the displays. And Kerry Buddie, for fishing through envelopes of photos and putting them in albums for everyone to enjoy!



**COOKIE BAKERS:**  
Sunday, December 18th, the Deacons will be preparing the cookie boxes for home-bound members. If you would like to donate a dozen cookies, please bring them to church before the service. They are much appreciated by those who cannot get out for the Holidays.



**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

We will be promoting the Christmas Joy Special Offering during Advent. This offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions for the Presbyterian Church (USA) as well as educational scholarships for students attending Presbyterian affiliated colleges and seminaries.

**50%**

of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.



**50%**

of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

