

Northfield Presbyterian Church

# The Good News

January 2022

## *Pastor's Pen*

Sunday, January 9 is called the Baptism of the Lord Sunday. It marks the day we remember the baptism of Jesus at the River Jordan by John the Baptist. It also marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry. At the age of 30 Jesus left his parents Mary and Joseph to heed the call of God to fulfill what God had set him apart to do, and it began with his Baptism in the Jordan. When Jesus stood waist deep in the River Jordan, with the water dripping from his hair and body, God spoke the words, "This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." This was God's affirmation of who Jesus was, and a clear call to Jesus to go forth.

On this day when we recall the baptism of Jesus, we will also set apart a time to recall our own baptism and the meaning of it by providing a Service of Baptism Renewal. During worship we will provide the questions which are asked when a person is baptized, and then we as a congregation will "renew" these baptismal vows by answering them as a congregation. For those of us who were baptized as infants, we have no memory of hearing these questions, as they would have been addressed to our parents. The renewal service will be a way to hear these questions again and to reaffirm their meaning for our discipleship today. This a day to remember our baptism and to be strengthened in the knowledge that we are baptized.

However, more than just remembering, we also recall the implications of our baptism. Just as with Jesus' baptism, our baptism is a reminder that we are called to "go forth" to do the faithful work as Jesus' disciples. One of the questions asked at baptism which the congregation will be asked to reaffirm is, "Do you intend to be Christ's faithful disciple obeying his word, and showing his love, to your life's end?" If you think about it, that is a question we need to be asking ourselves on a daily basis because it is a daily challenge for us to affirm and live this out. God's word to us is "Remember your baptism, you are loved and claimed by God." Yes, we affirm this, and each of us must ponder then how we have and will continue to respond to the baptism we have received.

See you in church,

*Pastor Peter*

## **WORSHIP FOR JANUARY:**

### **JANUARY 2:**

On this first Sunday of the new year we will be installing and ordaining newly elected elders and deacons. We will be celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper that day as well.

### **JANUARY 9:**

On this Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we will look at what took place on the day Jesus was baptized. The title of the message is "At the Jordan," and the text is Matthew 3:13-17

### **JANUARY 16:**

This Sunday begins the first in a three-part series on the three Temptations of Jesus as described in the Gospel of Matthew. Following the baptism of Jesus, we are told, "He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). On this Sunday we will look at the first one, when the tempter came to Jesus and said, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread" (Matthew 4:3). What might this say about our perspective on material possessions?

### **JANUARY 23:**

The second temptation of Jesus described in Matthew's gospel is found in Matthew 4:5-7, when he is taken to the pinnacle of the temple and the tempter says to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down" (Matthew 4:6). What does this say about how our faith relates to personal security?

### **JANUARY 30:**

Matthew's gospel portrays Jesus taken to a high mountain and is shown all the kingdoms of the world and the tempter says, "All these I will give to you if you fall down and worship me" (Matthew 4:9). What does this say about our faith as it relates to power?

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION JANUARY 23

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation for confirmed members will be **Sunday, January 23**, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to receive annual reports from the various committees and organizations of the church. The session will also be requesting a congregational vote on revisions to the church bylaws. These recommendations will be available to the congregation on January 9 for those who would like to review them before the meeting. Any other new business or concerns may be engaged at this meeting.

### FROM THE SESSION

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The session met for its stated meeting on Monday, **December 13, at 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was conducted in person at the Northfield Church.

Session actions/discussion included:

1. Mission and Evangelism Committee: reported on the mission partnership event on December 12 with North Presbyterian Church in Cleveland and the community Thanksgiving food distribution on November 20. Additional mission gifts of \$250 each to Rahab Ministries, The Emergency Assistance Center, Interlink, North Presbyterian, and SAMAIR (total of \$1250) will be distributed by end of year.
2. Property and Finance: the one category unified budget will be reflected on the offering envelopes for 2022.
3. Christian Education: the Adult Sunday School class is underway and meets at 9:00 a.m. The midweek Advent Adult Study will continue through December 22.
4. Worship and Music: session approved the Baptism Renewal Service for January 9. This is Baptism of the Lord Sunday. Christmas Eve will be a Service of Lessons and Carols and Candlelight.
5. Memorial Music Fund: session approved that \$1,000 from the Memorial Fund be designated as a Music Memorial Fund to support the special music efforts of the choir and to assist in paying instrumentalists and soloist during special seasons in the church. The membership will be invited to contribute as well.
6. Personnel Committee: session approved updated job descriptions of the four paid employees of the church.
7. Bylaw Revision: session appointed two people from session to make recommended revisions to the church bylaws. These will be presented to the congregation for vote at the January 23 annual meeting, after session approves the changes.
8. Daycare: session approved the slate of officers for the Daycare Board for the new year.
9. Session reinforced that there would be no action to revise the in-person worship policy which is in place. People are encouraged to wear face coverings and practice social distancing or stay home if they feel their health is in any way being compromised.

## MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND:

At its last meeting the session designated \$1,000 to a newly formed Music Fund to support the music program of our church. Through the generous contributions from various people within the congregation and others, we now have a total of **\$2,700** in this fund.

With the passing of former choir members Maribelle Rudin and Bev Meyer in 2021, we believe this is a fitting memorial to identify in their memory.

If you would like to contribute to it, please designate the desired portion "**Music Fund**" on your offering envelope.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### John Jackson:

ongoing health concerns related to a lung ailment

### Bernie Bolt:

(friend of Chris Fenn), ill with cancer

### Paul Jackson:

now on hospice care

### Betty Lou Boers:

(Jack Peter' sister), recovering from surgery

## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS:

On Sunday, January 2, we will be installing the newly elected officers to their respective positions on the session and the board of deacons. Newly installed elders for session will be Don Davies, Deana Williams and Chriss Burdis for the Class of 2024. Of these three, Chriss Burdis will be ordained. Newly installed deacons will be Cindy Kokenos, Judy Kovich, Donna Patz, and Rick Patz for the Class of 2024, Kerry Buddie and Kirk Louis for the Class of 2023, and Amy Williams for the Class of 2022. Of these deacons to be installed, Rick and Donna Patz, and Kirk Louis will be ordained.

## SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2022

### SESSION

#### Class of 2022

Marcia Alcorn  
Kathy Moore  
Steve Brooks

#### Class of 2023

Karyl Neubauer  
Michelle Williamson  
Dylan Maholm

#### Class of 2024

Don Davies  
Deana Williams  
Chriss Burdis

### BOARD OF DEACONS

#### Class of 2022

Ed Selzer  
Joyce Selzer  
Debbie Brooks  
Amy Williams

#### Class of 2023

Scott Williamson  
Chris Louis  
Kerry Buddie  
Kirk Louis

#### Class of 2024

Cindy Kokenos  
Judy Kovitch  
Donna Patz  
Rick Patz

### DAYCARE BOARD

#### Class of 2022

Debbie Brooks  
Chris Louis  
Beth Smith

#### Class of 2023

Kathy Moore  
Sharon Hoffmeister  
Linda Goldenbogen

#### Class of 2024

Marcia Alcorn  
Fran Merriam  
Donna Patz

## MISSION PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTH

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

Through the Mission and Evangelism Committee our congregation has established a partnership with the North Presbyterian Church in Cleveland.

We are now supporting this church with a portion of our mission dollars.



On Sunday, December 12, Pastors Peter and Charlie Hurst switched pulpits.

Our church provided over 30 lunches to those attending worship at North Church that day and Charlie came to Northfield to tell us about the unique ministry taking place at North Church. Thanks to all who assisted in this effort!



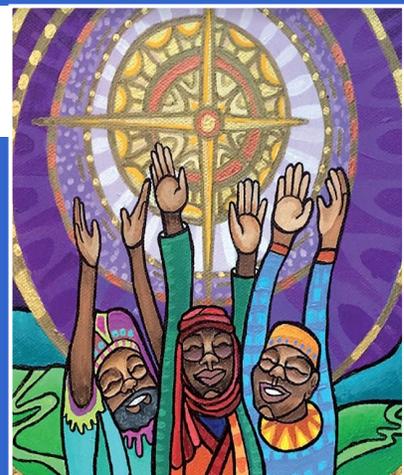
CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas Joy Special Offering which 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.

The total we received was \$775.00





### Poinsettia Sunday

Thank you to the Deacon's for coordinating and delivering the beautiful poinsettias for Christmas!



## Happy Birthday January

Carol Kreger	4-Jan
Kristyn Van Der Meulen	6-Jan
Marianne Fiala	7-Jan
Margaret Stitt	13-Jan
Heather Williamson	16-Jan
Patty Fenn	19-Jan
Don Davies	23-Jan
Cindy Bican	26-Jan



### WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

We welcome into our fellowship of faith Sue Shick who formally joined Northfield Church on Sunday, December 19. Sue comes to us by reaffirmation of faith and has been actively involved in the Women's Association and the Adult Study groups.

### Christmas Cheer

This year, we packed cookie containers to give to the folks that come to the Community Meal Food Distribution and packed cookies to deliver with poinsettias to the shut-ins of our Congregation. Thank you Deacons for arranging and to the members of the Congregation who provided cookies!





# January 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>
<b>2 Communion</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC Worship	3	4  7:00 pm Community Bible Study in Person	5  9:30 am Daycare Chapel	6  8:00 pm AA	7	8
9 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Deacons 12:30 pm VBC Worship	10 10:00 am Women's Association  7:00 pm Session	11	12  9:30 am Daycare Chapel	13  7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm AA	14	15
16 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship & Coffee Hour 12:30 pm VBC Worship	17	18  7:00 pm Day Care Board	19  9:30 am Daycare Chapel	20  7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm AA	21	22
23 9 am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship <b>11:15 Annual Meeting</b> 12:30 pm VBC Worship	24  31	25	26  9:30 am Daycare Chapel	27  7:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm AA	28  4 - 5 pm Grocery Distribution	29  10:00 am AED/ CPR Training
30 9am Sunday School 10:15 am Worship 12:30 pm VBC						

# At the Daycare: Christmas Celebrations

## Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Pastor Peter and the older daycare children gathered around the nativity in the Living Area for Chapel the week of Christmas. He told the story of Jesus birth and the wise-men bringing their precious gifts. The school-agers each made special cards to celebrate and left them as birthday gifts for Jesus at the manger.



## All Aboard the Polar Express!

It was a pajama day with hot cocoa, golden tickets, and Miss Sherry reading the Polar Express. Each child received a sleigh bell to take home...the halls were ringing!

