

Northfield Presbyterian Church

The Good News

November 2024

Leaving a garden - *Rev. Beth Merrill Neel*

Every morning as I walk the dog I pass by my neighbors' garden, which is beautiful. I think it took them a long time to get it to the place it is today, filled with beauty and grace and some whimsy. They've lived there over twenty years, and I imagine they've been working on the garden for that long. It's a gift to me, and to the neighborhood.

When I was young, my grandparents lived in Tacoma. The railroad tracks ran a few blocks away from their back yard, and when we spent the night there, we heard the trains go by in the early hours of the morning. They lived next door to a diner, and when we'd get off the plane and drive to their house, we'd stop for lunch there and get hamburgers and wild blackberry milkshakes. It was heaven.

My grandparents had gardens there, too – my grandmother grew roses and my grandfather had a vegetable garden. Tried as he did, he never could get me to like lima beans, but he'd delight us with funny-shaped carrots and new peas. Standing in the garden you could see Mt. Rainier in the distance, haughty and majestic and cold, such a contradiction from my grandparents' sweet, small plots.

My grandfather died in that house. A few years later, as the neighborhood changed and the diner became a massage parlor, my grandmother left. The gardens went fallow. The house was sold and eventually some owner tore it down - it and the massage parlor - and now a strip mall occupies that space.

I miss the house, with the view from the upstairs window of the drive-in far away, and the llama rug my uncle brought back from Venezuela. I miss the dog run and the old black Lab Lady who lived there. I miss the shed attached to the garage, full of Grandma's canning. I miss her roses, and I even miss his lima beans. I miss them more, of course, but it has been a long time since they died.

I think about what it must have been like for my grandmother to leave that place and that garden. I think about all those people who spend decades planting seeds, and tending to the plants, pruning and weeding and sometimes throwing something out and sometimes starting all over again. A garden is so personal, such an effort of labor and imagination and hope. And patience. I can't imagine what it's like to leave such a labor of love.

I wonder if God was sad when Adam and Eve left that garden, sad that there was no one there to tend it anymore, or simply to appreciate it. It's such a lovely founding myth, the Eden story. We know how Adam and Eve fared; they made it out alive and started over, but life was different after they left the garden.

It always is.

- from the blog by
Rev. Beth Merrill Neel
Westminster Presbyterian, Portland, OR
holdfasttowhatisgood.com

NOVEMBER 3

Preaching:
Rev. Cassie Wolfe
Communion
All Saints Sunday

NOVEMBER 10

Preaching:
Rev. Missy Shiverick

NOVEMBER 17

Preaching:
Rev. Wally Scofield

NOVEMBER 24

Preaching:
Rev. Wally Scofield

FROM THE SESSION

Summary of Session Meeting on October 11, 2024

1. The Mission Committee signed up to meet with North Church on the following dates: 12/8/24, 12/29/24, plus these dates in 2025: 3/30, 8/31 and 11/30. There are plans to collect and donate water proof backpacks and thermal shirts this winter, too.
2. Our financials show a positive net income for 2024 (January through September) of \$60,627.65. This is a direct result of our not having an installed pastor.
3. Session approved contracts with Turfscape for the next year. The lawn maintenance contract is for \$7065 which includes a fall clean up. The snow and salt contract is \$4875.
4. The Congregational Meeting and election of officers will be on Sunday, December 8th following the church service.
5. The Pastor Nominating Committee is considering an applicant now, but the applicant is transitioning and working to ensure that his insurance is secure before considering a commitment to a church.
6. There will be a small increase in the Per Capita, if it is approved at the November Presbytery meeting. It will be \$40 per person for 2025. Of this, \$25.76 goes to our Presbytery, \$10.84 goes to PCUSA and \$3.40 goes to the Synod.

Minutes summary by Kathy Moore, Clerk



Knit.Crochet.Pray.

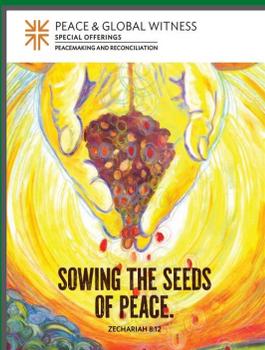
(No wool, or delicate yarns, please.) Let's encourage our hurting members to feel wrapped in the comfort of Jesus.

As winter winds blow us inside, the Prayer Shawl knitters are itching to get working again. But, our yarn supply is almost gone! Our shawls go out to members of our congregation who are hurting. We are hoping members will donate yarn (new bundles or leftover yarn) or funds for us to purchase yarn.



Don Kovitch	2 Nov
Dave Cavanaugh	13 Nov
Ron Fenn	16 Nov
Sharon Hofmeister	19 Nov
Jack Stitt	27 Nov
Barb Anderson	28 Nov

PCUSA PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING - THANK YOU!

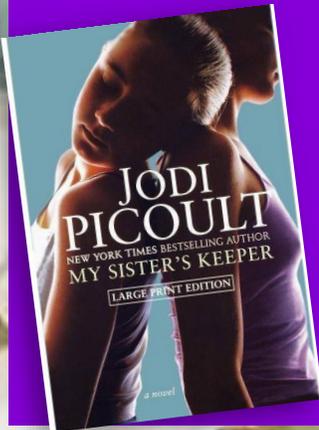


\$655 was raised for this offering. Our congregation retains 25% of this offering to support peacemaking and reconciliation within our own community. The other 75% goes to joining with other congregations in our area to support peacemaking work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOV. 3rd.
Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour!**



Comforting Words Women's Book Club:



Our current reading is Jodi Picoult's novel, My Sister's Keeper. Since we won't meet again until January 7, 2025, you can read this captivating soul-grabber between holidays at your own pace.

From the book jacket: "My Sister's Keeper examines what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person. Is it morally correct to do whatever it takes to save a child's life, even if that means infringing upon the rights of another? Is it worth trying to discover who you really are if that quest makes you like yourself less? Should you follow your own heart, or let others lead you? Once again, in My Sister's Keeper, Jodi Picoult tackles a controversial real-life subject with grace, wisdom, and sensitivity."

CALENDAR at a Glance:

NOV 3 - Property & Finance Meeting
 NOV 9 - Chili Cook - Off 6 pm
 NOV 10 - Deacons meet after Worship
 NOV 11 - Session meeting 7 pm
 NOV 11 - Women's Association meeting 10 am
 NOV 13- Chipotle Fundraiser for Daycare
 NOV 28 - Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
 Nov 30 - Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas 9 am



**Church Decorating
 for Christmas -
 volunteers needed!
 Saturday, Nov. 30th
 9am-noon**

Finance / Property / Stewardship Committee Report

United Presbyterian Church aka Northfield Presbyterian Church

Profit and Loss

January - September, 2024

	TOTAL		
	JAN - SEP, 2024	JAN - SEP, 2023 (PY)	CHANGE
Income			
4XXX INCOME	131,167.41	120,234.09	10,933.32
Total Income	\$131,167.41	\$120,234.09	\$10,933.32
GROSS PROFIT	\$131,167.41	\$120,234.09	\$10,933.32
Expenses			
51XX SALARIES	31,720.72	66,691.00	-34,970.28
52XX OTHER PAYROLL COSTS	5,712.29	16,995.88	-11,283.59
53XX LEADERSHIP	2,946.83	3,676.63	-729.80
54XX BUILDING & GROUNDS	26,989.79	17,321.99	9,667.80
55XX CHURCH OFFICE	4,693.58	7,691.76	-2,998.18
56XX CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	7.88	146.65	-138.77
57XX WORSHIP	741.43	611.84	129.59
58XX EVANGELISM	125.00	125.00	0.00
59XX MISSIONS	3,059.44	3,157.68	-98.24
Total Expenses	\$75,996.96	\$116,418.43	\$ -40,421.47
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$55,170.45	\$3,815.66	\$51,354.79
Other Income			
9XXX Non Operating Sources of Revenue	9,524.78		9,524.78
Total Other Income	\$9,524.78	\$0.00	\$9,524.78
NET OTHER INCOME	\$9,524.78	\$0.00	\$9,524.78
NET INCOME	\$64,695.23	\$3,815.66	\$60,879.57



November 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
<p>3 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS Communion 10:15 Worship 11:00 am P & F Meeting 12:30 VBC Worship</p>	4	<p>5 TIME TO VOTE</p>	6	7	8	9
<p>10 10:15 Worship 11:30 Deacons 12:30 VBC Worship</p>	<p>11 10 am Women's Association 7 pm Session</p>	12	13	<p>14 7 pm Choir 8pm AA</p>	15	16
<p>17 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship</p>	18	19	20	<p>21 7 pm Choir 8pm AA</p>	22	23
<p>24 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship</p>	25	26	27	<p>28 THANKSGIVING Office Closed</p>	29	<p>30 9 am Decorate Church for Christmas</p>

*Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.
Hebrews 13:16*



PRAYER FOR A SERVANT'S HEART

Gracious Lord we gather as simple, broken people to discover ways to together fulfill your plan for us. Teach us to embrace selflessness and compassion, for in serving others, we find our true purpose and joy.

Grant us the strength to put others' needs before our own, to listen attentively, and to respond with love and kindness. May we be mindful of the pain and struggles of those around us, offering a helping hand to ease their burdens.

Fill us with empathy, so we can understand the feelings of those we encounter. Help us to be patient and understanding, treating all with respect and dignity, recognizing the inherent worth in every soul.

Guide us to be a source of comfort for the weary, a beacon of hope for the lost, and a healing presence for the broken-hearted. Let our actions speak louder than our words, demonstrating the grace and mercy that you have shown us.

In moments of weariness and doubt, may we find renewed strength in your love and grace. Remind us that even in the smallest acts of service, we can make a difference and bring about positive change in the lives of others.

Lord, shape our hearts to be vessels of your love, pouring out kindness and understanding wherever we go. May our lives be a living testament to the selfless love exemplified by your Son, Jesus Christ.

We offer this prayer in all humility and sincerity, trusting that through your guidance, we can cultivate a servant's heart and be a light in this world.

Amen.

Peace and Blessings to each of you,
NPC Mission Committee

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

It is the time of year when the Deacons need to place our holiday order for poinsettias. Varieties listed below are available for purchase. The **cost is \$11.00** for a 6 ½ inch foil wrapped pot with a cover and plastic saucer.

All orders must be received in the church office by Wednesday, November 20th. The order will be placed with the greenhouse the following day to assure pricing and delivery dates. Please indicate color and number of plants.

Make checks payable to Northfield Presbyterian Church and marked for Christmas Flowers in the memo section.

Cash payments should be placed in an envelope and marked "Christmas Flowers".

Payment must accompany all orders. **All orders must be on this form. Sorry, no telephone orders.**

Red _____ Pink _____ Jingle Bells _____ (red with white flecks)

White _____ Marble _____ (Pink and White)

Your Name(s) _____ Phone _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Taking Poinsettia home? Yes _____ No _____ Cash () Check () Total: \$ _____

Poinsettias marked for home may be picked up after the 10:15 service on December 22, 2024.
Remaining flowers will be taken to home-bound members. See Kerry Buddie with any questions.



Ladies' Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 7th 10am

*Celebrate the season with food, fellowship,
music and a special message.*

*Invite your friends, family, neighbors and
co-workers to join us for a celebration
of this this JOYFUL Season!*

*All women are invited! Please fill out an
invitation form on the narthex table
or call the office. There will be a place for you!*

COOKIE BAKERS:
Sunday,
December 22nd,
the Deacons will be
preparing cookie
boxes for our home
bound members.



If you would like to donate a dozen
cookies, please bring them to church
before the service.

NEW Chipotle Fundraiser Nov. 13 4-8 PM

**DO GOOD
WITH CHIPOTLE**



**CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
NORTHFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DAY CARE CENTER**

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH | 4-8PM
8195 GOLDEN LINK BLVD, NORTHFIELD, OH, 44067

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **E3TMLPE**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count toward the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$50 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

At the Daycare...Preschool is back!

Miss Misty and Miss Dawn are teaching 3-day Preschool classes this school year, preparing the kids for Kindergarten and a 2-day pre-school class for the younger kids.



The 4s class is learning about nocturnal animals. With flashlights at the ready, they're learning to identify the animals that move about at night



AND THEIR FIRST FIELD TRIP!

Preschool field trip to Miss Dawn's farm police and firemen paid a visit, kids did crafts, a hayride and cute farm animals - goats and sheep, but no cows...so the class adopted their own! Meet Peony... no, she doesn't live in the building, but they visit her online.



Meet Your Calf

Peony



Birthday: September 8, 2024
Gender: Heifer (Female)
Breed: Holstein
Birth Height: 32 inches
Birth Weight: 100 pounds
Caretaker: Farmer Mackenzie

At the Harvest Festival! Parents enjoyed a costume parade, songs and spooky stories!



Great parent and grand-parent turn out ...and our teachers managed to wrangle the costumed chaos!

SOCK-TOBER!

Daycare collected over 200 pairs of new socks for The Emergency Assistance Center during the Daycare's Spirit Days! Great work kids!

