

Northfield Presbyterian Church

# The Good News

January 2024

## Who Hopes for What She Already Has?

Hope is fascinating. I talk about it a lot, often with my friends. We exchange words and songs, writings, scriptures, artistic expressions - always trying to grasp its substance and essence.

Over the weekend, one of them asked me to recall my earliest memory of hope. I was a toddler waiting for someone to pick me up from day-care. I remember the inside of the apartment. It was in the complex where we lived in Houston, Texas. It was dimly lit. I was the only kid left. The feeling I recall was yearning. I wanted to be with my family. I wanted to go home. I specifically remember the moment my second cousin arrived at the door. As soon as I saw her face, tears started streaming down my face. The emotions my body was holding were released. Looking back, I can see that hope was the thing sustaining my 3-year-old self in the unknown.

But what *is* it?

And how did it do that?!

Essentially, hope is desire + belief. The belief is magical. The belief that someone really was coming for me held my little self together in the waiting. None of my people were there. I didn't have the thing I was waiting for. But I was holding hope that it would come and that was enough. *Hope changed the present moment.*

What a powerful thing to experience. And something we never would but for the absence of the thing we desire. Hope is not tied to the receiving of the thing but exists in the believing for it.

**The only time we *have* hope is in the void, the lacking, the absence. Who hopes for what she already has? (Romans 8:24).**

In his book *Man's Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankl, a survivor of four Nazi death camps (including Auschwitz) whose parents, brother, and pregnant wife did not survive, reveals the incredible power each one of us has in the face of suffering: ***we get to choose how we see it.*** He tells stories of how prisoners who chose gratitude, humor, and hope experienced inner freedom and purpose in the midst of unfathomable pain while those who let go of hope lost physical strength and immunity and died. He writes: "In the final analysis it becomes clear that the sort of person the prisoner became was the result of an inner decision, and not the result of camp influences alone. Fundamentally, therefore, any man can, even under such circumstances, decide what shall become of him—mentally and spiritually. He may retain his human dignity even in a concentration camp."

That hope can physically sustain our lives is mind blowing. But there's something cooler still - we have the ability to give hope to people who don't have it for themselves. God has empowered us to carry our belief into dark and desperate spaces and speak it into the ears and hearts of those who don't yet know its power. If we can convey even a tiny bit of hope to a hopeless woman, her experience of life shifts ***in that moment.***

Hope is God's compassionate provision for shattered souls, and we have the privilege of delivering it in any given moment. What a powerful, miraculous experience. What sacred work.

Reprinted from the RAHAB Newsletter - CEO, Jaime Blair

JANUARY 7th  
Preaching: Rev. Luke Choi  
**Communion Sunday**

JANUARY 14:  
Preaching: Rev. Wally Scofield  
Ordination and Installation  
of officers

JANUARY 21:  
Preaching: Rev. Wally Scofield  
**Annual Congregation Meeting**

JANUARY 28:  
Preaching: Rev. Sharon Core

## FROM THE SESSION

The session met for its stated meeting on Monday, **December 11, at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting was conducted in person at NPC. Session actions/discussion included:

1. The Per Capita amount for 2024 is \$38 per person, for a total of \$3648 due from NPC. Individuals are encouraged to include this amount, per person, in their annual giving.
2. The Mission Committee will send a team to worship with North Church on December 31st. We will continue to support North Church in 2024, with \$800 included in the 2024 budget for food and clothing expenses. We also will support the Nordonia Hills Senior Meal program in 2024.
3. Our financials are in the black for 2024 by \$8477. This is due to the decrease in payroll and benefits, as well as reduced hours for the custodian. The proposed budget for 2024 shows a deficit, however, and Session approved a 2024 budget which reflects a 50% time pastor.
4. Ron Fenn and Carol Metz were approved as new members of the Daycare Board.
5. Church membership was adjusted with 2 transfers, 1 death, and 16 members moved to Inactive status. Final count for 2023 is 77 members.
6. Installation of Officers will be on January 14th and the annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, January 21st following the service. **Committee reports are due to the office by January 10th.**

### ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS:

On Sunday, January 14, we will be installing the newly elected officers to their respective positions on the session and the board of deacons. Installed elders will be Dylan Maholm, Karyl Neubauer and Chris Fenn for the Class of 2026.

Newly installed deacons will be Scott Williamson, Stacy Harber, Cindy Gallagher, and Katie Williamson for the Class of 2026. Stacy Harber and Katie Williamson are being ordained.



### SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2024

#### SESSION

##### Class of 2024

Chriss Burdis  
Don Davies  
Deana Fenn

##### Class of 2025

Michelle Williamson  
Kathy Moore  
Renell Noack

##### Class of 2026

Dylan Maholm  
Karyl Neubauer  
Chris Fenn

#### BOARD OF DEACONS

##### Class of 2024

Cindy Kokenos  
Judy Kovitch  
Rick Patz  
Donna Patz  
Kerry Buddie

##### Class of 2025

Patty Fenn  
Barb Anderson  
Jim Anderson

##### Class of 2026

Scott Williamson  
Stacy Harber  
Cindy Gallagher  
Katie Williamson

#### DAYCARE BOARD

##### Class of 2024

Marcia Alcorn  
Fran Merriam

##### Class of 2025

Chris Louis  
Marianne Fiala

##### Class of 2026

Kathy Moore  
Sharon Hofmeister  
Linda Goldenbogen  
Ron Fenn  
Carol Metz

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Following the worship service,  
to receive the annual  
reports from the committees and  
organizations of the church.

All Committee reports are due  
no later than January 10th.

### JANUARY Birthdays!

Carol Kreger	4th
Marianne Fiala	7th
Margaret Stitt	13th
Heather Williamson	16th
Patty Fenn	19th
Don Davies	23rd
Cindy Bican	27th

## Property and Finance Committee Updates

January-November 2023 NPC is \$8,476.99 in the black

Jan - Nov 2023 INCOME	\$144,649.25
Jan - Oct 2023 EXPENSE	\$136,172.26
Building & Grounds	23,954.38
Christian Education	146.65
Church Office	8,631.38
Evangelism	125.00
Leadership	4,120.22
Missions	3,768.70
Other Payroll Costs	20,935.45
Salaries	73,404.66
Worship	1,085.82
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Jan-Nov 2023 Net Income	\$8,476.99

If anyone wishes to see the entire October Financial report, please contact the church office.

Many Thanks to each of you for your commitment to our Church!

May you and everyone you love have a blessed, healthy and happy 2024!!

Members of the Finance / Building Grounds Committee

## COMFORTING WORDS

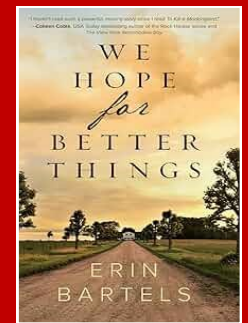
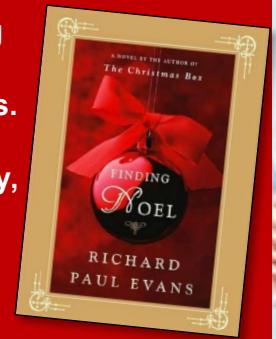
### Our Christian Women's Book Club

We have been reading Finding Noel, by Richard Paul Evans.

Join us on on Tuesday, January 9, at 5:30.

Upcoming reading: February - We Hope for Better Things, Erin Bartels

A forbidden interracial marriage, an escaped slave, an expectant mother waiting for her Union soldier's return. The hard realities of racism during various eras of American history.



### Poinsettia Sunday

The Deacons would like to thank the congregation for their purchase of poinsettias to beautify our church this Christmas season. Several flowers are donated so that they can be taken to the home bound members. We want to thank you for your donations of cookies to be distributed to our home bound members also. They truly look forward to their treats!

### At the Daycare...Holiday Events!

...Santa paid a visit to take pictures with the kids.

...The Owls class program was held in the Sanctuary on December 18th. The kids sang songs from Jingle Bell Rock to The Baby Born in Bethlehem.



...there was a Daycare Fundraiser at Panda Express the same day...it raised \$141.00 to go toward the Summer fieldtrips and events. There is another fundraiser at Chipotle on January 10th from 4 - 8pm...Look for additional fundraising opportunities in the near future!

Did you notice the Christmas tree from the daycare kids in the living area? They decorated with handmade ornaments...so cute!



# January 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 <b>New Year's Day</b> Daycare and Office closed	2	3	4 8pm AA	5	6 9am –12pm Take down Christmas Decorations
7 <b>Communion</b> 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	8 10am Women's Association 7pm Session	9 5:30 pm Women's Book Club	10 10am Property & Finance meeting	11 8pm AA	12	13
14 10:15 Worship Deacons meeting 12:30 VBC Worship	15	16	17	18 8pm AA	19	20
21 10:15 Worship <b>Annual Congrega- tional Meeting</b> 12:30 VBC Worship	22	23	24	25 8pm AA	26	27
28 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	29	30	31			

## Mission Committee News:

We will serve the congregants of North Church on December 31. YOUR generous donations to the NPC Mission Fund have permitted us to feed those in need who arrive at the door of the North Church on Sunday morning. The North Church congregants truly appreciate the food and worship with NPC.

**THANK YOU** goes out to Stacy Harber for the wonderful idea to suggest ladies attending the Christmas Tea bring feminine personal care products as donations to women being serviced by our local TEAC (The Emergency Assistance Center). Congregants of NPC, Victory AND guests provided a remarkable amount of personal hygiene presents for our needy neighbors. None of these items are covered by S.N.A.P. benefits. Thank you, ladies -Thank you ALL!

### Northfield Presbyterian 2024 Mission Budget

RAHAB Ministries	\$1,000
Local Mission Projects	800
TEAC	500
North Church(2 Sunday Meals)	800
Nordonia Hills Refugee Family	2,400
Nordonia Hills Senior Meals	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,500</b>

Peace and Blessed Christmas to All,  
Members of the NPC Mission Committee



### Ladies' Christmas Tea

The first weekend in December, as a prelude to Advent, we held the NPC Ladies' Christmas Tea. The tables were beautiful, the food was delicious, and we had a wonderful morning of fellowship. We were blessed with the inspired telling of the story of the Christmas by our guest speaker, Anita Morrison, and music from Sylvia Benford and Jennifer Abdo. It was a lovely morning of song and praise. Thank you all hostesses and guests for once again making this event memorable!

A special thank you to the gentlemen who made sure the coffee was plentiful, cleaned up and moved tables and furniture so the ladies could enjoy this festive morning!