

Northfield Presbyterian Church

The Good News August 2025

How One Quiet Voice Shaped the PC(USA)'s Brief Statement of Faith

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell shares a little known backstory behind one of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.'s most beloved theological documents: the [Brief Statement of Faith](#).

She recalls the emotionally charged process of editing the statement, especially the addition of the line: "to hear the voices of peoples long silenced." This was no abstract phrase - it was rooted in a real story of intergenerational faith and cultural memory from an Indigenous colleague whose family's journey touched the committee deeply.

A Brief Statement of Faith 'is the latest of our statements written by American Presbyterians. It came out of our reunion in 1983. And then a process was set in place. I was not actually on the drafting committee. I was on the second committee. Because the process of adopting one of these things in the Presbyterian Church is a little convoluted, formidable.

Anyway, by the time my committee received a first line of approval, it was our job to look at all the material of comments. We had over 15,000 comments from Presbyterians around the country and to make changes. And the drafting committee, as you might imagine, was very, very nervous about what we would do to their precious document. Some of them were really not pleased at one or two of the changes we made. But one of them I want to talk about is, I think, so powerful. The last section on the Holy Spirit begins, "In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage," and then it lists these things that the Spirit gives us courage to do. One of the things we added was the phrase "to hear the voices of peoples long silenced."

We did that because of a man on the committee who was at the University of Dubuque. He'd run a program there for years for Native American students coming mostly from the Dakotas, who could do a B.A. and an M.Div. in an accelerated fashion and go back to their people. He himself was an Indigenous person and one very quiet man told us the story. He was originally from Alaska.

His grandfather was the religious leader of this particular community and was the first convert.

My friend and his whole family, as they grew, embraced the faith. They were all Presbyterians. By the time his parents had died, it fell to him to clean out the house. He went up to the attic and found a trunk he'd never seen open. He opened it and inside was his grandfather's ceremonial robe, which he had put away at the time of his conversion. My friend got it out and put it on and felt his grandfather's voice.

He said, "You know, that's something we need to do is hear voices that have been silenced but can still speak."

The gift of this conversation lies not just in historical insight but in a challenge to every person of faith: How do we listen to voices that have long been silenced?

Rev. Dr. Campbell reminds us that theology isn't written in isolation - it's shaped by stories, communities, and courageous listening. The Brief Statement of Faith's call to hear "voices of peoples long silenced" wasn't symbolic. It was spiritual and deeply personal.

Monday May 19, 2025

[Rev. Dr. Cynthia Campbell](#)

McCormick Theological Seminary

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Day1.org

(the voice of the historic Protestant denominations.)

FROM THE SESSION

Highlights of the Session Minutes from July 20, 2025

1. The Property and Finance Committee is working on repairing lights on the church signs and in the parking lot. They also repaired two leaking toilets (hoping to reduce our increasing water bill).
2. Year to date, we are in the negative \$5893. This compares to being \$32,099 in the black at the same time last year.
3. The Mission and Evangelism committee is collecting funds for the Community Christmas Connection project now. Mark your donation so it goes in the correct fund.
4. Also, we are collecting for Rahab to help fund their retreat this fall. It costs \$200 to sponsor one woman. Please add any amount to your offering, mark it for Rahab, and the church will collect them all and send a check to Rahab.
5. The Daycare is paying to have the rear driveway paved in July. Say goodbye to the potholes!!
6. The August 17th Session meeting has been cancelled as a traditional summer break.
7. The Presbytery Women's Association will have their next gathering at NPC on Saturday, November 1st, and all women at NPC are invited to attend. We will serve coffee and tea and will provide a light lunch.

Minutes summary by Kathy Moore, Clerk



Community Bible Study

Community Bible Study (CBS) for women will commence for the school year in September to study in depth the book of Psalms.

In small groups and in lecture, we study practical guidance on how to apply eternal truths from the Bible in our everyday lives.

There are 3 groups and meeting times to choose from that meet weekly:

1. The in-person group meets at Northfield Baptist Church, across Rt. 82 from us, Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:15 am, beginning September 10.

2. One online group meets every Thursday morning, 9:30-10:30 am, starting September 11.

3. Another online group meets every Thursday evening, 7:00-8:00 p m, starting September 11.

For more information call or see Sharon Hofmeister, 440-645-6045.



HOPEFULLY, NOT OUR FINAL VISIT

Rev. Sharon Core has retired as the General Presbyter for the Presbytery of the Western Reserve, where she served for the last eight and a half years.

We were blessed to have her join us for what was her final service in this Presbytery on July 20th.

She is not retiring entirely, Sharon has accepted a position as a Pastor of a Lutheran Church and will be moving back to her home in Virginia to be with her family. We wish her Godspeed on her next journey.

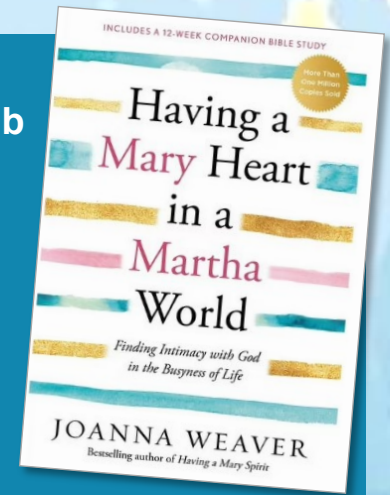


COMFORTING WORDS - Christian Women's Book Club

As we close the books on the 3rd year of Comforting Words, our women's book club, we are opening a new roster of the coming year's books. We are starting with a modern story based on the Biblical story of Mary and Martha:

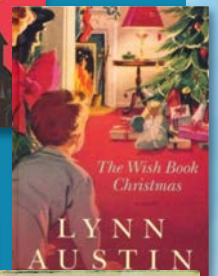
Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, by Johanna Weaver.

Any woman is welcome to join our discussion of the book on Tuesday, September 9, 5:30-7:00 p.m., at the church. For more information, pick up a flier on the entrance table.

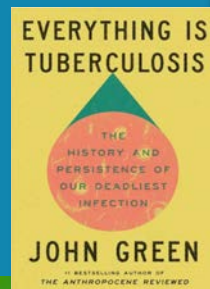


Below is the list of the 2025-2026 meeting dates and the book we will discuss on that Tuesday, 5:30, at NPC:

- October 28, 2025 The Dead Ringer by M.C. Beaton
- January 6, 2026 The Wish Book Christmas by Lynn Austin
- February 24, 2026 The Nature of Fragile Things by Susan Meissner
- April 14, 2026 When Crickets Cry by Charles Martin
- June 2, 2026 Unlocked by Karen Kingsbury
- July 21, 2026 Everything is Tuberculosis by John Green



Get your book and mark your calendars for our next meeting on Tuesday, September 9th- 5:30, in the living area.



NOTEWORTHY NEWS - from Deacons for August

from Co-Moderators Barb and Stacy

The first half of our tenure as “rookie co-moderators” has flown by. We would like to thank the deacons and those in the congregation who have volunteered as servants to our Lord for your support. Our gratitude for your patience as we learn what is required of us in this role of leadership is beyond words. Enjoy a bit of a respite for the rest of the summer. Fall activities are just weeks away! God Bless everyone who is part of NPC!
Next meeting is Sunday, August 10th after the service.

Who says you can't go home again?

July 13th, we were visited by Dr. James Wallace, who was the choir director for Northfield Presbyterian in 1968.

He joined the armed services in their music division, that support military operations and public relations through musical performances.

He was in town for a class reunion. He and his friend, Esther joined us for worship. It was wonderful to meet them and so glad they joined us!





12 MONTHS OF CARING

Women's Association
Monthly Collections

The Women's Association will be collecting the items below each month. We plan to buy in bulk, if possible, so if you would prefer to donate cash, we will take those funds and purchase the items each month at Sam's or Costco. Please feel free to donate smaller packages and place your donated items in the blue bin in the Narthex.

Any cash donations should be marked "Women's Association" and may be placed in separate envelopes in the Collection Plates or the Mailbox on the wall outside the church entrance.

January Pullups - Toddler size 4T-5T (pull-up diapers)	July Pet Food and Supplies Canned or Bags (single bags will be divided up)
February Incontinence Underwear Men's XXL Women's Medium	August Diapers and Wipes All sizes
March Paper Goods: Toilet Paper Paper Towels, Kleenex	September Home Cleaning Products Sprays, Liquids Brooms, Brushes
April Personal Hygiene Shampoo, Body Wash, Soap	October Deodorants, Shaving Products for Men and Women
May Denture Tabs, Floss Toothbrushes, Toothpaste	November Kitchen Disposables Foil, Cling Wrap, Baggies
June Feminine Hygiene Pads and Tampons	December Paper Plates and Napkins Containers for leftovers


THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CENTER
I love Your Neighbor

THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Continues to collect new items each month this year to help supply items not covered by SNAP benefits to TEAC.

The category for AUGUST is all diapers and wipes. All sizes are needed.

Calendar copies are available on the Narthex table.

You can help TEAC supply the women, men and children in need by donating the items highlighted each month.

Your donations will be delivered to The Emergency Assistance Center.

THANK YOU!

MISSION HIGHLIGHT - NORTH CHURCH



June 29th, 4 members of our congregation shared worship and a hearty lunch with over 45 members of North Presbyterian Church.

The music and prayers were uplifting, the food was consumed with appreciation and we felt deep comradery and joy in our hearts for the community experience.

Sunday August 31st we will travel again to provide a bit of sustenance and worship of our Lord with our brothers and sisters at North Church. Please remember them in your prayers this month. Please contact Karyl Neubauer (216-650-7647) if you are interested in joining this mission to North Church in August.



North Church New Pastor,
Katherine Chilcote



Congregation gathers to listen as Brenda expresses prayer and praise in dance.



Updates from the Mission Committee:

1. Thank you to Bethany Miller from RAHAB Ministries for updating our congregation on the work they are doing and who we support.
2. We will be serving North Church August 31st. All are welcome.
3. Met on July 31st with our partner churches on Christmas Community Connection to take place December 6th for needy local families.



August 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 Communion 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	4	5	6	7 7 pm Choir 8pm AA	8	9
10 10:15 Worship 11:30 Deacons 12:30 VBC Worship	11	12	13	14 7 pm Choir 8pm AA	15	16
17 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	18	19	20	21 7 pm Choir 8pm AA	22	23
24 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	25	26	27	28 7 pm Choir 8pm AA	29	30
31 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship						

At the DAYCARE: It's been a BUSY SUMMER!

SUPERHERO VBS!



It's not Where's Waldo... it's Where are the Disciples?

There are 13 (including Jesus) hidden in plain sight for the kids to spot as they go to Chapel and downstairs to play. They sang a song to learn all 12 + Jesus! How many can you name?



Owl's Class at the Nature Center

Fundraising helped make these trips happen! THANK YOU!



Magic Show



Amazing Animals



Making Ice Cream & the Ice Cream Truck

The next fundraiser - August 20th HANDEL'S ICE CREAM 3-9 PM

Northfield Presbyterian Church Daycare Spirit Day at Handel's

Northfield Presbyterian Church Daycare is hosting a Spirit Day at Handel's Homemade Ice Cream. This flyer is good for Wednesday, August 20, 2025 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. only. Every flyer that is returned to the Northfield Handel's on that one special day will be totaled and the organization will receive 20% of the total sales.

What: Spirit Night at Handel's

Where: Handel's Homemade Ice Cream
10333 Northfield Road
Northfield, Ohio 44067
330-467-0960



When: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Who: All the "Friends & Family" of Northfield Presbyterian Church Daycare

Why: To enjoy Great Ice Cream with Great People