

Northfield Presbyterian Church

The Good News

January 2023

Pastor's Pen

“See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare” (Isaiah 42:9).

These words were spoken to the Israelite people who were held in captivity in Babylon. A generation before (587 BC) the Babylonians invaded the Promised Land and conquered the city of Jerusalem which was their capital and destroyed their temple. From there two things happened: people fled the city and settled elsewhere. Others, that is the more prominent citizens, were taken prisoner and deported to Babylon so they could not take back control and rebuild Jerusalem.

Then in 539 BC, King Cyrus of Persia conquered Babylon and he allowed the Hebrew people to go back to Judah. Many of these who making that journey to Jerusalem had been born in Babylon during the 40-year period of exile, so they had never personally seen their homeland of Judah and the great city of Jerusalem. But for years, those exiles had heard story after story told by their parents and grandparents – stories about the peace and prosperity of Judah, stories about the beauty of the land and the magnificence of Jerusalem's Temple.

And they were thinking, now we can turn back the clock and restore our land to what it was in the past. Let's make Jerusalem what our parents described it to be. We will rebuild our city and replace every stone in the walls of the Temple that had been destroyed and we will make an exact replica of what we had before.

But God had other plans for them: “The former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare.” And that new thing for God's people would be this: “I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness” (Isaiah 42:7). God was not looking for them to turn the clock back, but forward. They were now called, not to hunker down and avoid those nations which surrounded them, they were to be a light to them.

The beginning of a new year is a reminder that “the former things have come to pass,” and the same God who provided new beginnings for his people in the Old Testament continues to create new beginnings for his people today. This means being forward looking people. Biblically, to be a part of God's plans always involves a willingness to partipicle in a future that is different than the past. When we get stuck in the past, the result is likely to be an unclaimed future blessing. Let's be looking for what new thing God will declare in 2023 for Northfield Presbyterian Church

See you in Church,

Pastor Peter

JANUARY 1:

On this first Sunday of the year, Rev. Cassie Wolfe will be preaching. Her message will focus on the Wisemen and their role in the Christmas story (Matthew 2:1-12). The church will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper that day as well.

JANUARY 8:

On this Sunday we will be installing our new slate of Elders and Deacons for their respective terms of service.

JANUARY 15:

On this Sunday we will recall the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. This baptism marked the beginning of the ministry of Jesus. As we reflect on our Lord's baptism, we will also reflect on the meaning of our own baptism with a service of baptism renewal.

JANUARY 22:

Matthew's gospel provides a listing of the twelve disciples of Jesus (Matthew 10:1-11) of whom he asks to do extraordinary things in his name. The message is in the form of a question: “Why these Twelve?”

JANUARY 29:

This Sunday we will be exploring the words of Jesus found in the Sermon on the Mount, which covers two entire chapters in the Gospel of Matthew (Matt. 5-7). The message for this Sunday is called, “When Jesus Asks the Impossible.”

FROM THE SESSION

The session met for its stated meeting on Monday, **December 12, at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting was conducted in person at the Northfield Church. Session actions/discussion included:

1. Mission and Evangelism Committee: session approved reduced mission budget of \$6,000. This is done in light of the recent financial challenges of the church. Also offered plans for mission projects in the local community, to include assistance for families in need and Senior Day at Nordonia High School. Plans are to provide meals for North Church for four Sundays in 2023.
2. Property and Finance: Offered the recommended budget for 2023, session approved.
3. Worship and Music: Christmas Eve will be a Service of Lessons and Carols and Candlelight.
4. Personnel Committee: session approved revised salary for the church custodian and Administrative Assistant.
5. Daycare: session approved the slate of officers class of 2025 for the Daycare Board.
They are: Beth Smith, Marianne Fiala and Chris Louis
6. Session voted to move nine members to the inactive roll.
7. Received report from the November 20 meeting of the presbytery.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS:

On Sunday, January 8, 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 Kathy Moore, Don Kovitch, and Renell Noack for the Class of 2025. Of these three, Renell Noack will be ordained. Newly installed deacons will be Patty Fenn, Barb Anderson, and Jim Anderson for the Class of 2025. Amy Williams will fill a one-year term for class of 2023. Of these deacons to be installed, Barb Anderson is being ordained.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to receive annual reports from the various committees and organizations of the church. Any other new business or concerns may be engaged at this meeting.

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

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2023

SESSION

Class of 2023

Karyl Neubauer
Michelle Williamson
Dylan Maholm

Class of 2024

Don Davies
Deana Williams
Chriss Burdis

Class of 2025

Kathy Moore
Renell Noack
Don Kovitch

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2023

Scott Williamson
Chris Louis
Kerry Buddie
Kirk Louis
Amy Williams

Class of 2024

Cindy Kokenos
Judy Kovitch
Donna Patz
Rick Patz

Class of 2025

Patty Fenn
Barb Anderson
Jim Anderson

DAYCARE BOARD

Class of 2023

Kathy Moore
Sharon Hoffmeister
Linda Goldenbogen

Class of 2024

Marcia Alcorn
Fran Merriam
Donna Patz

Class of 2025

Chris Louis
Beth Smith
Marianne Fiala

Property and Finance Committee Updates

Capital Improvement Projects In Progress

Dec 26th Royalton Flooring will be installing new stair covering for the Education Building...from the basement to the third floor. For Safety and Building Improvement, Session approved us to move forward with the install. Royalton will install on Monday Dec 26th while our daycare is closed for the Christmas Holiday.

Cost: \$5,200

Thank goodness Northfield Church hired Jackson HVAC to install 2 new furnaces this year. Fall turns to Winter and Winter brings increased utility bills to all our homes. The same holds true for our church!

LET'S STAY WARM!!

Financial Statement Jan-Nov 30, 2022

Total Income YTD	\$160,256.83
Total Expenses YTD	\$175,241.79

****Shortfall \$ -14,984.96**

NPC members who tithed for 2022, have met or exceeded their tithe amount.

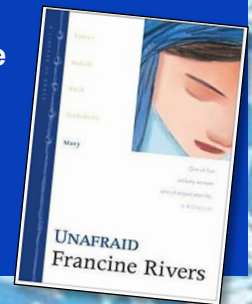
Thank you to everyone for remembering our church in your prayers and/or financial donations.

Peace, blessings and many thanks to all of you!
Members of the Finance / Building Grounds Committee

COMFORTING WORDS

Our Christian Women's Book Club

We are reading a brief, historical fiction on the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Whether you have read the book, or not, please join us for a discussion of Unafraid by Francine Rivers on Tuesday, January 10, at 5:30.



Knit.Crochet.Pray

Many thanks to those who have completed one or more shawls for this ministry! We will soon be giving out the shawls first to members of our congregation. We will pray over the shawls as we receive them. Please know that your time and talents are much appreciated.

If you need yarn there are bags in the Deacons Closet. Please ask a deacon for access. Feel free to call me with questions. Judy Kovitch 330-467-6181.



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 \$ 1,045.00.

And the Word became flesh
and lived among us...

—JOHN 1:14



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS:

The ADOPT -A-FAMILY project was a very joyful event. A local family received a gift from their wish list. The Mom requested a new playground set for her young children. Northfield Presbyterian Church purchased a lovely new set and the adopted family had friends offer to assemble the set. Mom sent our church a lovely Thank you card...our efforts were truly appreciated.

Friday December 2, we delivered food to the North Church which supplied them with sufficient lunch items for 2 Sundays in December. Northfield Presbyterian also donated new socks for the congregants.

Throughout this year Northfield Presbyterian Church has received thank you communication from RAHAB, SAMAIR, Mary Williams, The Emergency Assistance Center, Nordonia Schools, Rev. Charles Hurst of North Church, and John McCall in TAIWAN. Each of YOU make our mission efforts a success to people in need.

Gracious thanks, peace,
and many blessings to everyone!

Members of the Mission Committee



January 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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



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 poinsettias and Christmas box of goodies. Plus the congregation got to enjoy a nice coffee hour with the extra cookies and holiday fellowship. Thank you again.



A most Joyful noise:

December 18th was the choir presentation of "Jesus, Name Above All Names" in words and music.

Flutist Sara Kois joined Tom Hall and Jennifer Abdo on instrumentals. Thank you, musicians, choir members, and special thanks to Jennifer for arranging the program!



Ladies' Christmas Tea

After a 2-year hiatus, we were so happy that we could host the NPC Ladies' Tea! The tables were beautiful, the food was delicious, but most importantly - we shared fellowship! Our speaker was Sheila Benson, who shared the Christmas message wrapped in everyday occurrences that were very relatable to us. Thank you all hostesses and guests for making this day memorable!

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



At the Daycare...

Gifts for Baby Jesus: The school-agers had a birthday party for Jesus. They each made gifts and left them in front of the Nativity in the Family Living Area.



Happy
New Year!

JANUARY

Birthdays!

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

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Sharon Danko
(friend of Renell Noack)

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)

Nicole Kovach
(daughter of a friend of Renell Noack)

Sarah Bicknell,
(Marcia Alcorn's sister – recovering at home)

Tracy Wyant
(recovering from surgery)

Carol Fenn
(hip replacement surgery)

Donna Hamed
(rehab at the Avenue)

2023 Nordonia Hills Community MLK Day Program

"Better Together"

***Guest Speaker: Chip Freed, Chief Missional Strategist &
Teaching Pastor at Garfield Memorial Church***

with

performances by Nordonia Hills Students



Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Nordonia High School Auditorium

Sponsored by: The Nordonia Hills Ministerium

In partnership with:

Nordonia Hills Public Library

Nordonia Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council

Nordonia Hills Community Connection

Youth for Christ

The Emergency Assistance Center

Keep the conversation going.

Join the Nordonia Hills

Library for their Community

Book Read and Discussion

with books by Tyler Merrit on

February 25, 2023. Go to

www.akronlibrary.org for

more information.