

Northfield Presbyterian Church

The Good News

February 2023

Pastor's Pen

The seasons in the life of the church move quickly. It was just a few weeks ago that we removed the Christmas and Advent decorations from our church sanctuary and building, and more recently we celebrated the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17) which Jesus received from John the Baptist in the Jordan River. Here God confirmed the call of Jesus and his destiny when the voice of God said, "This is my beloved Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

Then we are told the Spirit of the Lord drove Jesus into the desert where he was tempted for forty days and forty nights (Matt. 4:1-11). This period of testing in the desert would be a time for Jesus to come to terms with the kind of messiah he would be and prepare Jesus for his ministry of teaching and healing. After this, Jesus began his ministry. We are told, "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every sickness among the people" (Matt. 4:23). Jesus also called disciples to follow him. Matthew's gospel tells us that Jesus saw fishermen casting their nets into the sea and Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him (Matt. 4:20). Jesus would eventually call twelve disciples who would share in his ministry. Jesus would teach his followers about the kingdom of God. We see this especially emphasized in his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7), and the many parables he told.

Now, this month of February we will be turning our attention to another season in the life of the church and that is the season of Lent, the 40 days before Easter. This season starts on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and it represents a time to reflect on the journey of Jesus as he pressed on toward Jerusalem to fulfill his destiny and God's purpose which would culminate in his death on the cross. This quick movement to the somber season of Lenten reflection should remind us that this is what God had set apart Jesus to do from the beginning: to go to Jerusalem "and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed" (Matt. 16:21). The sum of Jesus's life was a relentless, unbending commitment to his heavenly Father's purpose which was established well before Jesus was born.

See you in Church,

Pastor Peter

FEBRUARY 5:

On this Sunday we look at the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, found in Luke 18:9-14. These two men come to the Temple and offer their prayers before God. The message is called *Nothing in Common*, as it focuses on what appears to be a complete incompatibility of two persons. Yet, both offer a prayer to God. Which prayer does Jesus commend? We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper that day as well.

FEBRUARY 12:

This Sunday we look at another parable of Jesus known as the Laborers in the Vineyard (Matt. 20:1-15). Like many of Jesus's parables it begins with Jesus saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like...", which is to say the parable is a reflection on what God is like and what his kingdom is about. Might it be not what we think it should be? The message for this day is called, *What Kind of Boss is This?*

FEBRUARY 19:

This Sunday is called *Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday*, and it recalls when Jesus ascended a Mountain with three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, and Jesus was "transfigured" before them (Matt 17:2). This marked a key revelation moment for Jesus and these disciples. Rev. Cassie Wolfe will be bringing the message this day.

FEBRUARY 22

ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM:

This marks the beginning of Lent and we be starting our Lenten Journey as a congregation with a Service of Ashes. The Imposition of Ashes will be available for those who would like to receive them. The ashes symbolize our common human frailty and mortality.

FEBRUARY 26:

This marks the First Sunday in Lent, the season of self-examination and reflection. As we ponder the redemptive journey Jesus made to the cross on our behalf for our forgiveness, it is also a time to examine our own discipleship in response to what Jesus has done for us. This Sunday begins a series of life lessons from the Sermon on the Mount which covers two entire chapters in Matthew's gospel (Matt 5-7). The message for this day is called, *When Jesus Asks the Impossible* (Matt. 5:17-20).

FROM THE SESSION

The session met for its stated meeting on Monday, **January 9, at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting was conducted in person at the Northfield Church. Session actions/discussion included:

1. This was the first meeting of the year with the newly elected and installed elders. Committee chairs and session appointments to the committees were made as well as the appointment of the Clerk of Session and the Clerk Pro Tem (back-up Clerk when regular Clerk not available).
2. Mission and Evangelism Committee: Don Davies appointed as chair. Don Kovitch and Renell Noack were appointed as members. This committee promotes the special offerings and coordinates support for our local mission efforts.
3. Christian Education: Michelle Williamson appointed as chair; Deana Williams appointed as session member.
4. Property and Finance: Karyl Neubauer as chair and Chriss Burdis as session member. Alan Gruber is now the Church Treasurer and serves on this committee.
5. Worship and Music: Dylan Maholm appointed as chair. This committee works with the pastor and choir director along with select members of the choir.
6. Chairs for the Nominating and the Personnel Committees will be appointed at the February meeting.
7. Next presbytery meeting is January 23, by zoom.
8. Kathy Moore, the liaison to the daycare, informed the session that the Director, Sherry Pomeroy, will be resigning at the end of January. Daycare Board representatives are forming a search committee to find a replacement.

SYMPATHY: We extend our sympathy to the family and many friends of Rev. Dick Seawright, one time pastor at Northfield Church. Rev. Seawright died on January 22. He had been living in Utah. Of his life of service and ministry let us say, "Well done good and faithful servant" (Matt 25:23). Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his son Bob Seawright at: 3267 East 3300 South, Ste RDS, Millcreek, UT 84109



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Beginning February 22, collection begins for the **One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering.**

One Great Hour of Sharing supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self Development of People.

If you would like to read more about the Special Offerings, please access this link:
<http://specialofferings.pcusa.org>.

Property and Finance Committee Update

“Hello NPC Members and Friends!
Have you gone to our website recently?
<https://www.northfieldpreschurh.com>

Our website is secure and mobile friendly. Please click on the website and listen to a worship service live, or one you especially enjoyed-- then share it with a friend!

One of your friends, coworkers or neighbors may enjoy worshipping with us online. And...if they tell you they enjoyed the worship; invite them to join us in person.

Let's demonstrate God's love by drawing more believers to our Church, its website and worship service streaming live each Sunday on YouTube.

Keep watching as the updates to the website continue to unfold. In the near future we will enhance the website further to include online donation options.

Right: Click on the YouTube link on any page for the most recent sermons.

Below: The current bulletin is found on the “Worship” page - click the icon and it will open. You can follow along with the service. The “About” tab will link you to the newsletters and the up-dated calendar. We are working on the rest of the links on the “About” tab.

Northfield Presbyterian Church Home Worship Teach About

Sunday Worship 10:15am In-person and live-streaming on YouTube

WORSHIP
A Christ-centered focus with the Word of God, both read and preached.
Adult Sunday School 9am
Sunday Worship 10:15am

Sunday Bulletin
(Bulletins are posted for the convenience of those joining with us at home.)

Sunday Worship
We meet in person Sunday at 10:15 am for Worship. The Service is also live-streaming on YouTube and archives of past Services can also be found there. The Sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Loop, for those with hearing aids to broadcast directly to your hearing aid. Headsets are also available.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated the first Sunday of each month and on special holidays. We welcome all guests who are believers in Jesus Christ to join in the celebration of Communion with us. We do not make denominational distinctions.

Our congregation is a blend of ages. The music is a balance of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs. The piano is regularly accompanied by guitar, and on occasion, violin, flute, chimes and handbells.

Kids Own Worship
Kids Own Worship (KOW) is a special time during our worship for children 4 years old to 5th grade. Children leave the sanctuary together with their teachers, hear a Bible story, do crafts and have a snack.

Adult Sunday School
The Adult class meets in the library on the second floor 9am Sunday before service. Study consists of study and discussion around a book with a dvd presentation around various authors, Biblical places and occurrences. Classes meet in the Spring and Fall.

Music "Our Great, Passionate God...You are the Reason We Sing!"

Northfield Presbyterian Church Home Worship Teach About

Sunday Worship 10:15am In-person and live-streaming on YouTube

NORTHFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pastor Peter Lawson
7755 S. Boyden Rd., Northfield, OH 44067
(Corner of Aurora's Road and South Boyden Road)
330-467-4137
Email Church Office
Email Rev. Peter Lawson
Northfield Presbyterian Church

Our purpose is to demonstrate God's love and bring people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Together, we accomplish our mission through prayer, worship, the study of God's Word, and service to others. (Acts 2:42)

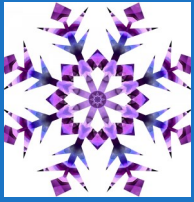
Worship
Teach
Believe
Serve
Share
Give

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And...when spring flowers and sunshine returns, we will have an updated photo to include our new church sign!

If you have not already made your tithing commitment for 2023, NOW is the right time to submit your pledge for yearly contribution. We all count on one another for prayers, participation and also financial donations.

Peace and many blessings-stay healthy!
Members of the Finance/Building Grounds Committee



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30am Daycare Chapel	2 6:30 Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	3	4
5 Communion 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	6 10am Women's Association	7	8 9:30am Daycare Chapel 10am Property & Finance meeting	9 6:30 Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	10	11
12 10:15 Worship Deacons meeting 12:30 VBC Worship	13 7pm Session	14	15 9:30am Daycare Chapel	16 6:30 Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	17	18
19 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday 9:30am Daycare Chapel 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	23 6:30 Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	24	25
26 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	27	28 5:30pm Comforting Words - Women's Book Club				

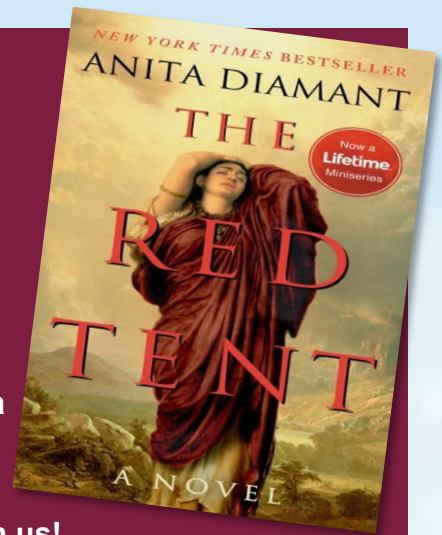
COMFORTING WORDS: Women's Book Club

THE RED TENT By Anita Diamant

This 6 weeks, we are staying in the Old Testament times. Although The Red Tent is clearly a fictional favorite, there are twisted bits of Bible stories and people woven into a touching tale of Jacob's family. We will explore the messages you are sure to discover in The Red Tent on:

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 5:30 at NPC in the Living Area

More information about this women's book club, Comforting Words, as well as a list of the meeting dates and books through July, is on the vestibule table. Come join us!



February Birthdays!

Katie Williamson	1st
Pauline Enczur	2nd
Robin Su	4th
Donna Hamed	4th
Kathy Moore	4th
Joyce Selzer	9th
Marie Fiala	10th
Jean Swanson	13th
Abby Williamson	15th
Bart Benjamin	17th

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

We welcome into our fellowship of faith Tracy Wyant, who formally joined NPC on Sunday, January 29.

Tracy comes to us by membership transfer from Canfield Presbyterian Church.



Our prayer shawl ministry is coming together nicely. We now have shawls that are ready to be given to those in need of comfort. God has truly blessed us in this project. Thank you to all of our knitters and crochet ladies who have worked so hard to make this happen. Please contact Judy Kovitch if you're interested in helping, or need more yarn.

Judy Kovitch with one of the completed prayer shawls.

Notes From the Deacons:

ADDITIONAL COFFEE HOURS:

We are adding another coffee hour on the first Sunday of the month. If you would like to help out either by baking or purchasing bakery for that Sunday, there is a coffee hour donation schedule posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. There are 2 lines on the schedule if you want to share with someone else or provide your email address as a means to contact you. The deacon that has signed up to host will set up, make the coffee and clean up. All you need to do is provide the goodies. A deacon will contact you during the week to remind you of your donation.



COLLEGE / MILITARY GIFT CARDS:

The Deacon's Board will be sending gift cards to college students and military families in March. If you have a college student or child in the military, please share their names and address with the office. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the cards to let them know we're thinking about them, please write **Deacon's Gift Card** on your envelope. Thank you.

HELP WANTED:

The Presbytery of the Western Reserve is looking for Recording Clerk to take minutes for stated and special meetings. This position is to be supervised by the Stated Clerk. The stipend is \$159 per meeting. Minutes must be completed no more than 10 working days following the meeting. If interested, please reply with a paragraph on your qualifications to Judy Mitchell :jmittchell@preswesres.org



TEAC is a network partner of the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank. Our Center is an Accredited Charity of the Better Business Bureau by having met all 20 of their Standards for Charity Accountability. We have also been awarded the GuideStar USA Platinum Seal of Transparency.

We are honored to be *entirely* community-funded and are humbled by the continued partnership of our community to help feed those families who need assistance putting food on their tables.

<https://teacenter.org/home.aspx>



At the DAYCARE: A visit from Mother Goose!

The children were visited by a very animated Mother Goose, who read them Nursey Rhymes and was plagued by a silly goblin named Razzle, who left his hat in the Three Little Kittens' pie!



Snow plow art from the Pre K kids..they love those snowy days!

Congratulations, Miss Sherry!

Many of you might not be aware that after 14 years with NPCDC, I am leaving my position to pursue a new opportunity. I will be the Executive Director of Portage Learning Centers, which is Portage County's Head Start organization. While I am excited to begin this new chapter of my life, I will miss the staff, families, and children here. I want to thank the church members, especially those who serve and have served on the daycare board for their wisdom, support, and prayers over the years. You can never know how much they meant to me and my staff. A special thanks to Chris Louis and Ellen Miller for helping to make a working partnership between the daycare and the church and to Gil Polcen for always being available to come up when something in the building went awry.

My last official day with the daycare is January 31st. I wish the daycare continued success! They truly help educate and develop children physically, socially, emotionally, cognitively, and spiritually.

Sherry

