

# The Good News August 2023

## *Pastor's Pen*

This month we focus our attention on moving forward to the next season of ministry at Northfield. As most of you know, I will be starting a new ministry at the Rocky River Presbyterian Church in Rocky River Ohio beginning on August 28. This is an interim pastor position (also known as transitional pastor), as this congregation is presently without an installed pastor.

I would like to challenge this congregation to actively prepare for the months ahead. On my part, I will work hard with leaders of the church and representatives of the presbytery to prepare for this next phase for Northfield. On your part I would ask that you support our church leaders as they work with members of presbytery as they guide them in the steps ahead. I've truly appreciated the teamwork of this congregation which I have observed and been a part of since arriving at Northfield and I encourage you to keep that same team spirit throughout this period of change.

This month will also be a time for good-byes, and of course this is never easy. I personally am feeling a heavy heart as I anticipate the future without Northfield Church being a part of my life. The relationships I've formed with members here over the past three years have shaped me in many and various ways – much more than many of you probably realize – and the prospect of saying good-bye to those relationships leaves me with a sense of loss. I am so thankful to the members and friends at Northfield who have enriched my life and faith. What I have learned by serving as your pastor and my experience here will greatly help me in my life and ministry in the years to come. I will miss you very much.

These dynamics are what we can expect when we stand on the cusp of change. Even the healthiest changes in life involve putting the familiar behind to face the unfamiliar, and it is completely appropriate to feel both anxiety and sadness during this time of transition in the church. The best way to move forward at this point is to express what we're experiencing as best we can to each other and then help each other along in the process.

Let's also remember that God is with us in times of change, and because God is present and at work within and among us, we can all look to the future with hope.

See you in Church,

*Pastor Peter*

### **AUGUST 6:**

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

This Sunday we will look at one of the most familiar parables of Jesus, often called the Prodigal Son or Lost Son (Luke 15:11-31). The message is called "What Kind of Father Is This?"

The service will also include the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

### **AUGUST 13:**

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

This Sunday we will look at one of the healing stories of Jesus, the healing of a blind man in (John 9:1-41). The title of the message is "Are We Also Blind?"

### **AUGUST 20:**

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

This Sunday's message will focus on the theme of preparation for change. The texts are taken from John's gospel (John 1:1-9; 3:25-30). The title of the message is "The Art of Decreasing."

We will also be celebrating an infant baptism on this day.

### **AUGUST 27:**

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

This Sunday will be our good-bye Sunday for Pastor Peter. He will be reflecting on the last chapter of Deuteronomy (34:1-8), when Moses is allowed to look upon the Promised Land but will not be permitted to enter it. The Lord said to him, "I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there" (Deut. 34:4). The message is called "Unfinished Business."

## FROM THE SESSION

The session met for its annual joint meeting with the deacons on Sunday, **July 9, 11:15 am**, following worship. Following the joint meeting, the session met separately for its stated meeting.

Session actions/discussion included:

1. Joint Meeting With Deacons: The two boards reviewed the pastoral concerns within the congregation as well as the concerns related to the homebound. The deacons reported their plan to return to having communion the way it was done before COVID. Target for this change is September.
2. Mission and Evangelism Committee: Don Davies updated the session on the mission speakers scheduled for this summer. This committee will also be collecting from the membership water bottles and T-shirts to take to North Church on July 30.
3. Christian Education: The focus now is on plans for Christian Ed activities and classes for the Fall.
4. Property and Finance: Members are being encouraged to fill out the Emergency Contact Information Form which are provided in the Sunday bulletins as inserts.
5. Session approved the adult baptism for Courtney Leahy on July 23, and infant baptism for Everlee Leahy on August 20.
6. Presbytery: The next presbytery meeting is July 24 at the Christ Presbyterian Church in Chesterland.
7. Daycare: The search for the Daycare Director continues.

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION:

The session has called for a special meeting of the congregation on Sunday, August 6, following the worship service. The formal motion for this meeting is this: "The Northfield Presbyterian Church Congregation recommends to the Presbytery of the Western Reserve the dissolution of its pastoral relationship with Rev. Peter Lawson as of August 28, 2023." There will be no other formal business for this meeting.

### WELCOME COURTNY LEAHY!

**On Sunday, July 23, we welcomed Courtney Leahy into our membership.**

**She has joined this congregation by way of Profession of Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism.**

**Prayers with Courtney for this new beginning for her in her faith in Jesus Christ.**



## Finance/Building & Grounds Committee

As of June 30, 2023 the following financial information is available

Total Current Assets	\$121,314.95
Capital Improvements Fund	27,547.54
Restricted Funds	52,792.54
Income Jan-June	80,452.83
Expense Jan-June	76,254.21
Net Jan-June Income	4,198.62

Northfield Presbyterian Emergency Contact Information Form is now available. By completing the Emergency Contact form; if there should be an emergency before, during or immediately following a worship service or meeting, the Northfield leadership, Fire / Police will be best equipped to assist all members. The form will be retained in a confidential, locked cabinet for use only in case of an emergency. All completed forms can be deposited in a separate envelope in the Sunday collection plate or dropped off at the church office.

2023 Per Capita is \$36.50 per Northfield member. Thank you for your continued generous support to our church. Together we are a strong, vibrant, and giving community.

Peace and Blessings to all of you!  
Members of the Finance  
/ Building Grounds Committee

## August Birthdays



Loraine Ellett	5-Aug
Donna Jackson	7-Aug
Lilah Smith	8-Aug
Owen Fox	8-Aug
Karen Koenig	9-Aug

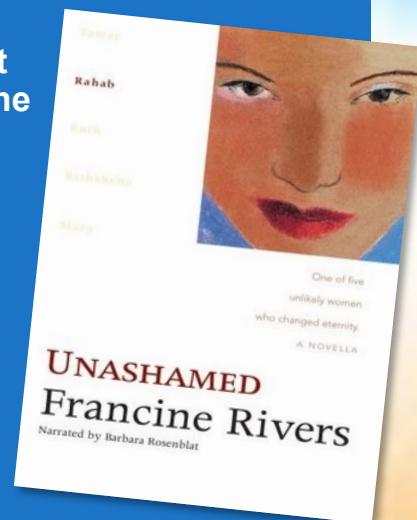
**CBS - Community Bible Study** will begin meeting again via zoom Tuesday September 19, at 7pm. They will continue to meet via zoom, Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30pm. Contact Tom and Mary Beth Williams at [tw@aol.com](mailto:tw@aol.com) for the zoom link.

## Comforting Words Women's Book Club:

Having successfully completed our first year of NPC's women's book club, we begin Year Two with a favorite author, Francine Rivers.

**Unashamed: The Biblical Story of Rahab** is a fictional but historically accurate expansion of the story of Rahab in the Bible. Rahab was a business woman and prostitute in Jericho who changed from an idol-worshipping pagan of ill-repute to a godly, faith-filled heroine in the Hebrew conquest of the Promised Land...and Jesus' ancestry!

All women are welcome to join our discussion of Rahab on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 5:30 to 7:00, in our Living Area. No requirements — just read and come!





# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 8pm AA	4	5
6 <b>Communion</b> 10:15 Worship <b>Special Congregational Meeting</b> 12:30 VBC Worship	7	7	9 10am Property & Finance meeting	10 8pm AA	11	12
13 10:15 Worship Deacons meeting 12:30 VBC Worship	14 7pm Session	15	16	17 8pm AA	18	19
20 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	21	22	23	24 8pm AA	25	26
27 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	28	29	30	31		



## Missions and Evangelism Committee

1. This school year we are using the funds retained from the special offerings to provide six 7<sup>th</sup> graders with their needed school supplies. Middle school is a time of transition for all young teens. Thank you for the funds you provided that helped give generously and appropriately to these students whose families cannot provide for the required school supplies to succeed in the upcoming school year. Many Thanks for your support to our Nordonia Hills Community!
2. Our day care is filled with fun loving, energetic pre-school and school-age children this summer. Your mission dollars have covered the purchase of Beginners Bible Activity and Sticker books for each child. The titles are “Heroes of the Bible” and “Miracles of the Bible”. Chapel time will focus on stories correlating to these activity books. Fun and Christian education combined for the happy and healthy kids attending summer day care. Thank you for your support to our important mission to our local, neighborhood young children.

Peace and Blessings to everyone,  
Members of the NPC Mission Committee



## TEAC NEEDS TO RELOCATE!



## THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Emergency Assistance Center is looking for a new location and we need our community's help!

The property TEAC is located on is up for sale, and we're looking for a new rental space in the same general area.

If you know of any clean, available properties that fit our requirements, please contact Joyce at:  
[joyce@teacenter.org](mailto:joyce@teacenter.org)

Or call  
[330-467-7945](tel:330-467-7945)

### TEAC MOST NEEDED

#### FOOD

Ground Coffee	Instant Potato Packets
Yellow Cake Mix	Fruit Cups (especially applesauce)
Canned Frosting	Canned Spaghetti or Ravioli

#### HYGIENE

Body Wash	Deodorant
Feminine Pads & Liners (without wings)	Moderate & Heavy Flow Bladder Pads
Depends - XL	Toothpaste

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Laundry Detergent	Paper Towels
Liquid Hand Soap	Toilet Paper