

Northfield Presbyterian Church

The Good News

January 2025

New Year's Resolutions

Each New Year, many people make New Year's Resolutions.

They make promises to eat healthy, do better budgeting, read more, lose weight, stop smoking. Statistics tell us that within two weeks, their good intentions fail.

Resolutions have a long history - dating back to the ancient Babylonians, 4,000 years ago. The Babylonians made promises to their gods. Then came the Romans, who continued the practice and made promises to Janus, one of their gods. They believed keeping the promises would bring them good fortune in the new year.

Today, resolutions are more secular, with people making promises to themselves. I started to make resolutions in my early teens. Most of them were about being a better athlete. But one I remember was being nicer to my kid sister.

I usually broke that resolution the same day I made it (she was a pest).

But, I think making a resolution can be a good thing. To be kind, or more generous, or to protect the environment are good things.

Maybe this year we could make a promise, like the Babylonians and the Romans - to God.

Maybe the divine-focused resolution could be about and for our church.

We could promise to attend worship more often, or join the choir. Maybe we could participate in a Bible study discussion group. We could promise to engage in a church mission or serve on a church committee.

With others supporting our promise, we might not break them so fast. This year will be an exciting one for us, and our promises for our church will benefit all of us.

Happy New Year, Church!
Pastor Wally

JANUARY 5th

Preaching: Rev. Anita Stuart-Steva
Communion Sunday

JANUARY 12th:

Preaching: Rev. Missy Shiverick
Ordination and Installation
of officers

Congregational Annual Meeting

JANUARY 19th:

Preaching: Rev. Kerry Peterson-Davis

JANUARY 28:

Preaching: Rev. Bob Richardson

FROM THE SESSION

Summary of Session Meeting - December 9, 2024

1. The Mission Committee reported on their visit to North Church on 12/8/24. They served a hot lunch and gift-wrapped desserts. They also commended Stacey Harber for collecting all the items at the Ladies' Tea for the Emergency Assistance Center. The committee also gave every child in our daycare animals from the Nativity scene.
2. The Property and Finance Committee presented its proposed 2025 Budget, which was approved by Session. It shows a half-time pastor and a deficit of \$19,000. However, without a half-time pastor, we have accrued a surplus this year of \$62,000.
3. The Worship and Music Committee reported that a television was installed in the Youth Sunday School room so that children and the adults watching them can watch the livestream of the Sunday service.
4. The Pastor Nominating Committee is considering a Transitional Pastor position which would only last 12 to 18 months. There is a possible candidate for this position.
5. The Deacons chose Barb Anderson and Stacey Harber to be their co-chairs for 2025.
6. Session will be proposing that the Daycare Board have the same term limits as the other committees. Members could serve two consecutive three-year terms, then would be required to go off the Board for a year. This will require an amendment to the NPC Church By-Laws, so it will be part of the Annual Congregational meeting in January.
7. Rev. Shiverick suggested that we conduct several items of church business on January 12, 2025, when she will be in the pulpit. So, the Annual Congregational meeting and the ordination and installation of officers will be held that day.
8. The Annual Reports for all committees need to be submitted to the church office to Chris Louis before January 1st to allow time to put together the Annual Report for our January 12, 2025 Congregational meeting.

Minutes summary by Kathy Moore, Clerk

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS:

On Sunday, January 12, we will be installing the newly elected officers to their respective positions on the session and the board of deacons. Installed elders will be Amy Williams, John Gallagher and Kirk Louis for the Class of 2027. Newly installed deacons will be Ron and Cindy Maxhimer and Pauline Enczur for the Class of 2027.



Birthdays!

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

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2025

SESSION

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Michelle Williamson	Dylan Maholm	John Gallagher
Kathy Moore	Karyl Neubauer	Kirk Louis
Renell Noack	Chris Fenn	Amy Williams

BOARD OF DEACONS

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Patty Fenn	Scott Williamson	Cindy Kokenos
Barb Anderson	Stacy Harber	Pauline Enczur
Jim Anderson	Cindy Gallagher	Cindy Maxhimer
Katie Williamson		Ron Maxhimer

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

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 6th.



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!



AND, there was a joyful noise!

Our worship that same Sunday was enhanced by special music performed by the Forest City Brass Quintet.

WOMENS ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF GIVING

The Women's Association is collecting a item category each month through 2025 to help supply TEAC with Items not covered by SNAP benefits.

The items for January are hats, gloves and scarves.

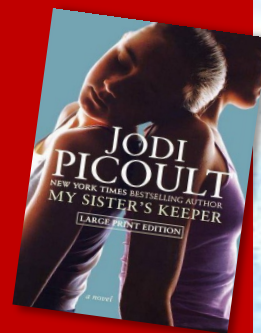
2025 Calendar copies are available on the Narthex table.

You can help The Emergency Assistance Center supply the women, men and children in need by donating the items highlighted each month.

Your donations will be delivered to TEAC. THANK YOU!

COMFORTING WORDS Our Christian Women's Book Club

We have been reading Jodi Picoult's novel, My Sister's Keeper. Join us on Tuesday, January 7, at 5:30.



Upcoming reading: February 25, 2025 The Brilliance of Stars, by J'Nell Ciesielski



"Amid the chaos of the Great War, two elite assassins learn precisely how dangerous it is to have something-or someone-worth losing."



12 MONTHS OF CARING - 2025

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.

A member of the Women's Association will deliver the collected items to TEAC throughout the month.

January Hats, gloves and scarves For men, women and children	July Pet Food and Supplies Canned or Bags (large bags will be divided up)
February Incontinence Underwear Men's XXL Women's Medium	August Diapers (all sizes) and Wipes Pull-Ups for Toddler size 4T-5T
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, Paper Plates & Napkins, Leftover Containers
June Feminine Hygiene Pads and Tampons	December Socks! For Men, Women and Children

Thanks for helping!





January 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

AMAZING PEACE: A Christmas Poem
by Maya Angelou

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Flood waters await us in our avenues.

Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.

We question ourselves. What have we done to so affront nature?
We worry God. Are you there? Are you there really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory. Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard. We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder. Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for. Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.
Peace.

Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you, to stay a while with us. So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion and see community.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

On this platform of peace, we can create a language
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.

At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ
Into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices to celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Non-Believers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

Peace, My Brother. Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.

The Mission Committee