

Northfield Presbyterian Church

# The Good News March 2025

## *The Community of Trees*

A few years ago I had the pleasure of reading *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate* by Peter Wohlleben. He opened my eyes to a world I had never known and I was struck by the way trees not only live in community, but thrive in community. As Tim Flannery writes in the foreward, "...the most astonishing thing about trees is how social they are. The trees in a forest care for each other, sometimes even going so far as to nourish the stump of a felled tree for centuries after it was cut down by feeding it sugars and other nutrients, and so keeping it alive. Only some stumps are thus nourished. Perhaps they are the parents of the trees that make up the forest of today.... The reason trees share food and communicate is that they need each other. It takes a forest to create a microclimate suitable for tree growth and sustenance. So it's not surprising that isolated trees have far shorter lives than those living connected together in forests."

Then I understood my current fascination with trees. Community is not only fun, and wanted, it is utterly essential for our thriving. assign moral value to community and trees are communal beings.

The other thing that struck me about trees is that they have muscle memory of a sorts, wood memory. We see it in the rings they make after they have died or we have chopped them down. We can tell what sort of year it was by the width of the ring - a year of growth, maybe, or a year of drought or some other calamity.

People carry muscle memory, gray hairs, and wrinkles in our brow that won't go away. We carry bags under our eyes, and extra flesh around our middle after indulging in necessary comfort food and drink. We carry stressed-out hearts, and headaches that won't go away, and are not all that surprised when our blood pressure, like our weight or our bad cholesterol, goes up and up.

Well, then, what are we to do. A sentence, not a question. For now, I will be like a tree. I will give thanks for my many communities, and however I can, be a resource, a friend, a helpmeet to all those. I hope that my community grows larger, like a forest that is untamed.

If you can, in the next few days, go wander among the trees for a bit. Breathe deeply. Listen to them. Be inspired. Be like a tree, and take care of your forest.

From: "Hold Fast to What is Good"  
holdfasttowhatisgood.com  
Beth Merrill Neel  
Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Portland, Oregon

## FROM THE SESSION

### Summary of the Minutes of the Session Meeting on February 10, 2025

1. Our new pastor, Rev. Jenni Walker Noyes, acted as Moderator and got to meet the Elders and learn about our committees and ongoing projects.
2. It was approved that we participate in all four of the Presbytery's Special Offerings throughout 2025.
3. Session approved participating in the Christmas Shopping project sponsored by the Macedonia Methodist church. We will assist with providing presents and volunteers so that needy families can choose gifts for their children.
4. There will be a proposed change to the NPC Bylaws regarding the Daycare Board and terms of the board members. This will be in line with existing terms for Session and Deacons, so that members will be required to go off the board after six consecutive years and take at least one year off before being elected again. The wording will be in the Bulletin in February and there will be a Special Congregational meeting on March 2nd immediately after the service to vote on the proposed changes.
5. Session meetings will be held on the third Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m. beginning on March 19, 2025.

Minutes summary by Kathy Moore, Clerk

### Calendar at a glance:

- March 8 Set your clocks ahead 1 hour before bedtime
- March 9 Deacon's Meeting after worship service
- March 10 10 AM Women's Association Living Area
- March 16 Session Meeting after worship in Library



**March**  
BIRTHDAYS

<b>Scott Williamson</b>	<b>5th</b>
<b>Carol Metz</b>	<b>12th</b>
<b>Linda Goldenbogen</b>	<b>22nd</b>
<b>Kirk Louis</b>	<b>27th</b>

## REPAIRING THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58



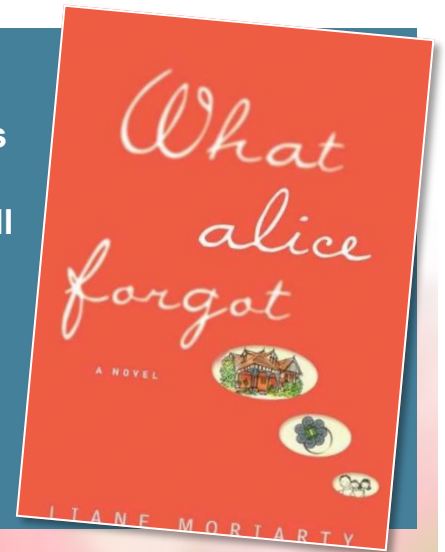
**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

**March 5 - April 20**

Serve the "least of these" among us: each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

**COMFORTING WORDS - Christian Women's Book Club**  
Popular novelist Lianne Moriarty in What Alice Forgot brings the extraordinary life experiences of Alice Love to us in our current reading. Thirty-nine year old Alice awakes from a fall with head trauma and can't remember anything in her last 10 years! And, her new life is dramatically different than the decade-ago life she remembers.

Our discussion of Alice's "recovery" will be Tuesday, April 15, 5:30 - Spring! We hope you will read and join us.



## **SPRING FORWARD!**

**Yes, We STILL do this...MARCH 9h,  
Daylight Savings Time begins.  
Set your clock ahead 1 hour.**

### **Questions to the congregation from Pastor Jenni:**

Last Sunday, Pastor Jenni asked the congregation to share thoughts on the following::

What do you appreciate about this church?

What would you love to see happen next?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

This is a simple way for her to get to know us and to communicate this information. You can drop in the offering plate, return to the church office (in-box outside pastor's office), or email to the church office. **Please add your name, submissions will be kept private.**



## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

Choir was requested to pay a visit to Northfield Village Rehab and Skilled Nursing Center while Marie Fiala was there recuperating.

Jennifer and Tom played music and choir sang hymns and requests from the patients, who joined in! We had a great time and discovered Marie was not the only one to be celebrating a birthday!

Ms. Luvenia Rogers was about to turn 104! (Marie is the youngster at 103!) Happy Birthday ladies!

Thanks to Sharon Smalls, the Activity Director for asking us to come.

We can't wait to visit again this Spring!

## United Presbyterian Church aka Northfield Presbyterian Church

### Profit and Loss

January 2025

	TOTAL		
	JAN 2025	JAN 2024 (PY)	CHANGE
<b>Income</b>			
4XXX INCOME	13,169.00	16,394.00	-3,225.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,169.00</b>	<b>\$16,394.00</b>	<b>\$ -3,225.00</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$13,169.00</b>	<b>\$16,394.00</b>	<b>\$ -3,225.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
51XX SALARIES	4,125.49	3,632.88	492.61
52XX OTHER PAYROLL COSTS	305.57	655.69	-350.12
53XX Service Costs (leadership)	2,638.00	480.00	2,158.00
54XX BUILDING & GROUNDS	8,383.25	5,226.34	3,156.91
55XX CHURCH OFFICE	1,162.40	1,293.11	-130.71
57XX WORSHIP	85.00	97.83	-12.83
59XX MISSIONS	386.52	286.52	100.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,086.23</b>	<b>\$11,672.37</b>	<b>\$5,413.86</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -3,917.23</b>	<b>\$4,721.63</b>	<b>\$ -8,638.86</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
Reconciliation Discrepancies	25.00		25.00
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -25.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ -25.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -3,942.23</b>	<b>\$4,721.63</b>	<b>\$ -8,663.86</b>

## MISSION HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 2025

Sessions has agreed to move forward with the “Four for Four” special offerings.

They are, as a refresher:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Pentecost Offering
- Peace & Global Witness Offering
- Christmas Joy Offering

As the time get’s closer, Missions will provide you with a history of the program and percentages that the church would receive.

Session approved working with Macedonia UMC on a project for families, for Christmas. They are looking to adopt 25 families (for the first year) and provide them with a free scheduled “Christmas Shopping Experience”. This will allow the parents/guardians to personally shop for their children. In addition, we will be representatives for our church to connect with these families on a more personal level.

North Church – NPC was scheduled to be there in March but it has been moved to June 29<sup>th</sup>, for anybody that was interested in participating. Please reach out to Karyl Neubauer if interested.

Missions also approved to purchase for the Day Care children items for Easter. Total cost was \$76.00 and this will provide for 137 children. What was purchased, based on age groups:

- 72 Mini “He’s got the whole world” mini flying discs
- 50 Religious spring stuffed animals
- 15 Bible lesson activity books

It was a busy January meeting but brought many smiles on our faces, as we adjourned.

Submitted by:

Renell Noack and John Gallagher (Co-Chairs)

*Do not neglect to do good  
and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

*Hebrews 13:16*



## THE WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION:


Is collecting a new item category each month throughout 2025 to help supply items not covered by SNAP benefits to TEAC.

The items for MARCH are paper products:

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper and Kleenex  
Calendar copies are available on the Narthex table.

**March**  
Paper Goods: Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels, Kleenex

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



### 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.

<b>January</b> Hats, gloves and scarves For men, women and children	<b>July</b> Pet Food and Supplies Canned or Bags (large bags will be divided up)
<b>February</b> Incontinence Underwear Men’s XXL Women’s Medium	<b>August</b> Diapers (all sizes) and Wipes Pull-Ups for Toddler size 4T-5T
<b>March</b> Paper Goods: Toilet Paper Paper Towels, Kleenex	<b>September</b> Home Cleaning Products Sprays, Liquids Brooms, Brushes
<b>April</b> Personal Hygiene Shampoo, Body Wash, Soap	<b>October</b> Deodorants, Shaving Products for Men and Women
<b>May</b> Denture Tabs, Floss Toothbrushes, Toothpaste	<b>November</b> Kitchen Disposables: Foil, Cling Wrap, Baggies, Paper Plates & Napkins, Leftover Containers
<b>June</b> Feminine Hygiene Pads and Tampons	<b>December</b> Socks! For Men, Women and Children

**Thanks for helping!**





# March 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 <b>Communion</b> 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins	6 7pm Choir 8pm AA	7	8
9 <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME</b> 10:15 Worship Deacons meeting 12:30 VBC Worship	10 10am Women's Association	11 3pm Daycare Board	12	13 7pm Choir 8pm AA	14	15
16 10:15 Worship Session Meeting 12:30 VBC Worship	17	18	19	20 7pm Choir 8pm AA	21	22
23 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	24	25	26	27 7pm Choir 8pm AA	28	29
30 10:15 Worship 12:30 VBC Worship	31					

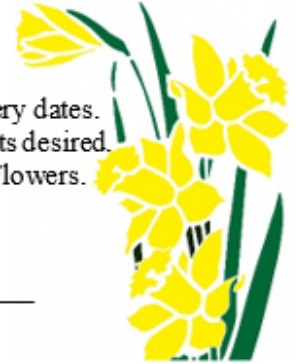
### Easter Flowers Order Form

Spring will be here soon and with it the season of rebirth and renewal. Easter is April 20th. It is time for the Deacons to place our order for Easter flowers. The flowers listed below are available for purchase.

The cost is \$11 for a 6 ½" foil wrapped pot.

All orders must be received in the church office by Wednesday, March 26th.

The order will be placed with the greenhouse the following day to assure pricing and delivery dates. Please indicate your choice of flower, circle color preference, and mark the number of plants desired. Checks should be made payable to Northfield Presbyterian Church and marked for Easter Flowers. Cash payments should be placed in an envelope and also marked Easter Flowers. Payment must accompany all orders.



Easter Lilies \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips (red, pink, or yellow) \_\_\_\_\_

Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_

Hyacinths (Blue or Pink) \_\_\_\_\_

Pansy Baskets (Assorted Colors in one basket) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Taking flowers home? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Cash ( ) Check ( ) Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers marked for take home should be picked up after the 10:15am service on Easter Sunday. All other flowers will be distributed to those who are ill or home-bound. Please mark your order form appropriately.

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS

from February Deacons Meeting from Co-Moderators Barb and Stacy

The congregation will be acknowledging the efforts of our college students and active military members with care packages in March. If you know of someone who should be receiving a package please contact a deacon. If you are interested in making a cash donation toward this project, place in an envelope marked CARE PACKAGES and place in collection plate or drop off at church office.

We need your help decorating the sanctuary with flowers for Easter. While Easter is April 20 this year, the deadline for placing our order with the Nursery is the end of March. An order form is included in this newsletter and forms will be included in church bulletins on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. All orders must be in church office by our March 26<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Deacons will be delivering a plant to each of our shut-ins after the Easter service.

Coffee Hours are being well attended. Thanks to all in the congregation who have signed up to provide the pastries the second Sunday each month. A signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board with a few Sundays still available. If you have any questions about what is involved you can talk with Stacy or Barb,

The Usher/Greeter Schedule is all set for 2025. Thank you Patty Fenn.