

February 2018

Volume 63, Issue 2

Northminster News

The Northminster News shares information about programs and activities of interest as well as news and milestone events in the lives of our church and larger community.

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- Our Christmas Outreach Mission Update

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*Friends in Christ,
every year at the time of the Christian Passover
we celebrate our redemption through the death and
resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.
We begin this holy season
by acknowledging our need for repentance,
and for the mercy and forgiveness
proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes.
This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and
uncertainty of human life,
and marks the penitence of this community.*

*I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ,
to observe a holy Lent
by self-examination, penitence, prayer,
fasting, and by works of love,
and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.*

With these words, we are called to enter into the 40 days of Lent. The invitation is to reflect on our own living in light of Christ's teaching found in Matthew 6:1-18. This teaching provides the tasks of Christian life: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting.

Giving alms -- sharing one's wealth/goods with the marginalized
Praying -- bringing before God the concerns/needs of the community
Fasting -- seeking atonement for one's self and community

Join your sisters and brothers in Christ for worship on **February 14** at either **1:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.** at Central Woodward Christian Church to begin this Lenten journey. Our service will include prayer, music, time for personal reflection, the imposition of ashes for those who desire, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Let us enter this most holy season with hearts that are open to God's re-creation of us as individuals and as a congregation.

Pastor's Message

On February 14th, we enter LENT. This well-known season of the Church Year may have originated as a final period of preparation for adult candidates seeking baptism, which would have occurred at Easter. Baptism is a way of acting out the Christian's participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So the time proceeding Easter was a time of discipline and instruction, modeled after the Lord's 40 days in the wilderness.

Lent also came to be a time for reaffirmation of baptismal vows, and a time of restoring those who had fallen away from the church. Thus, this season developed into an opportunity for penitence and the discipline of prayer with fasting leading up to recommitment.

The season of Lent lasts for 40 days, the same amount of time that Jesus spent in the wilderness when he was tempted. However, the Sundays are not counted in the 40 day period before Easter that comprises Lent. The reason: Sunday is always the Lord's Day, the Day of Resurrection, a "little Easter." Therefore, Sunday is a day of rejoicing – quite in contrast with the penitential mood of Lent. There is one item that changes in worship during Lent: the Church refrains from using the word "Alleluia." Then on Easter morning, our shouts of "Alleluia!" sound new to our ears, as if proclaiming Christ's resurrection for the first time.

The liturgical color for Lent is purple. Traditionally, purple was a royal color reserved for the king and his family. Since we proclaim Christ to be King, it is appropriate that the liturgical color be purple while we focus our attention on Jesus' ministry and our relationship to him. More recently, work in the area of color therapy has revealed that purple is seen objectively as dignified, mystic, mournful; and is seen subjectively as producing feelings of loneliness and despair. Thus, purple does pick up the contrasting moods of the Lenten season.

As we journey through Lent this year, let us reflect on our own deep need for God's redemption, as well as contemplate the mystery of God's salvation in Christ. Lent is not a time to give up some tangible item, but principally an opportunity to give ourselves up to God anew as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Your Pastor,

Neeta R. Nichols



Deacon Roles

Deacons would like people to know of a few projects that Deacons undertake each year: One is **sending cards** to our members for illness, sympathy, “thinking of you” or special and significant birthdays. They are then put out to be signed by as many people attending that Sunday as possible before being mailed. Those cards are kept in a small rolling plastic cart back by the ushers’ table where bulletins are handed out. Whenever we are aware of a need for a card, we’ll put it out and announce it.

However, we want everyone to know that *you too*, are welcome to put out a card for

signing and to mention it (or ask Neeta to) during announcement time. If you take that on, please take it after church and mail it for all of us.

Another project is to **provide support** through driving, taking meals or doing simple tasks (such as picking up something from the store) for our congregation, after an illness or surgery or dealing with any family crisis. While we know it’s perhaps not comfortable asking for help, we actually *really* appreciate it when told so that we can set those things up and enable our members to help in some small

way. If we’re told by a friend, we would, of course, connect with the individual before doing anything. The people to contact would be Pastor Neeta, or Deacons Gary Pocisk or Ann Cole.

And finally, Deacons are the group responsible for organizing the **Northminster Caring Community**. This project matches people with others in our congregation who can provide services or support in non-crises situations. Tasks our congregation have undertaken to help one another might be picking someone up for a meeting or group lunch, installing a computer, doing a small household repair, running an errand etc. In addition to helping facilitate such support, another goal of NCC is to track those volunteering tasks and hours spent by our community. Please contact Clay Dobrovolec or Ken Smits if any support or help is needed, or to report something you might have done for others so it’s noted.



What Is “Per Capita”?

One of the regular expenses in the church budget is Per Capita, a yearly apportionment that each Presbyterian congregation is asked to pay to cover the administrative costs of the three governing councils: Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Per Capita allows our mission dollars to be spent directly on mission projects rather than on costs for administering mission.

Per Capita for the year 2018 is \$26.33 per church member. The total apportionment for Northminster is \$2,607.00. If each member of Northminster contributed an extra \$26.33 for Per Capita, the church budget would be relieved of this \$2,607 expense and have extra dollars to put toward mission and programs.

If you are willing to contribute



the Per Capita amount, please multiply \$26.33 by the number of church members in your family. Mark your contribution “**2018 Per Capita**” so it can be properly credited on your giving statement. Thank you.

Congregational Survey

During Lent, Northminster members and friends will be asked to participate in a different type of Lenten discipline. This discipline will be taking a Congregational Survey. This is the initial step in the Self Study process.

This survey is designed to access who we are as a congregation. It will identify aspects of Northminster's culture and the church's energy and satisfaction levels. This information is significant

as we begin the Self Study – knowing who we are provides us with insight for moving forward into a new future.

In mid-February, letters will be sent inviting members and friends to participate in the survey and sharing the specifics of the process. This is a survey that is designed to be taken on-line; however, paper copies will be available for those who do not have internet or are not comfortable taking it on-line. Emails will be sent the last week of February providing the on-line

link to the survey. The survey will be available on-line and in paper form from March 1 through March 25.

The Session encourages all those invited to take this short survey so that Northminster can learn more about itself and its ministry. If you have questions about this survey, please contact a member of the Planning Team: Martha Babcock, Larry Sweet, Sarah Wright, Pastor Nichols.

Troy-Area Interfaith Group



A recent program in which we showed a film and followed with discussion, about a shooting at a Sikh Gurdwara in Oak Creek WI, was very well attended – 70+ people! The program was co-sponsored by TIG affiliated organizations: Troy Area Alliance Against Crimes, Troy Police Dept, and Know Your Neighbor Daily (KYND) and the hope is that we can schedule follow-up programs on what we can do individually and as a community to combat bias and hate crimes. A disturbing statistic from the Troy Police is that they were called to respond

35,000 times (no typo!) in 2017 to incidents regarding negative comments or voiced threats based on racial, religious or sexual orientation bias, so we have a long way to go even in our town deemed one of the “safest in the country”!

The next TIG program will be an opportunity to learn more about the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, commonly called Mormon faith. The history, traditions, outreach efforts and some of the unique perspectives of this Christian faith will be explored.

The meeting will be 7:00 pm at the Troy LDS Meetinghouse, 2784 Square Lake Rd. in Troy on Tuesday

February 6 (Meetinghouse isn't open Mondays).

KYND will host a night with Dr. Michelle Johnson, who will explore the times and experiences in Michigan and the Caribbean countries that were the center of Black culture. She will discuss how these connections contributed to the philosophy and efforts of Malcolm X.

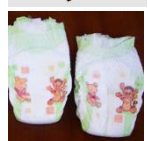
This presentation will be at the Troy Public Library Wed. Jan. 31 from 7-8:30 pm. This will be followed up by a discussion of the book written by his daughter Ilyasah Shabazz, X: A Novel. That event will be Thur. Feb. 22 7-8:30 pm at the Troy Community Center.

[Church, Society & Mission, continued on next page]



Church, Society & Mission

**2017 Northminster
Alternative Giving
Opportunities Market**



Northminster folks, through their generous donations to Alternative Gifts International (AGI), helped support Eco-homes, programs to feed the hungry and house the homeless, and provide dental care in the U.S.

Throughout the rest of the world, support will be given to help child soldiers, victims of human trafficking, those needing medical care, refugees fleeing violence, books and other teaching supplies or staff, food and water and so much more!

The total donated to AGI was \$1,294. Another \$25 was donated to Troy People Concerned to help those in our own community.



Mittens and Hats Reach Their Destination

Look at this filled tree! This is just one side, and it was equally filled all around. There were 56 hats, 32 pairs of gloves and mittens, and 1 scarf! Chris Riddering took all of these plus one bag of socks to Whitman Elementary in Pontiac after school resumed from Christmas vacation.

Chris says that when she gave them to teacher Miss Pat, she got a big hug. Another hug goes out to all of you for your generosity!

Baby Basics



Thank you to all who supported Baby Basics through the Northminster Alternative Giving Opportunities (NAGO), as well as those who perhaps donated diapers or other items to benefit our families. We also had 4 Northminster members who donated time to buy & bundle or distribute diapers all year, and 3 members who serve on the Board.

A wonderfully generous donation made in January will enable us to soon add more babies on our waiting list!

Building & Grounds Update

Building and Grounds members met with DTE for an energy audit at the church in late January and gave energy efficiency recommendations for us to consider for our older building. They were able to provide some free LED bulbs to replace our old fluorescents.



We continue to monitor any water leaks in the building and fill salt containers by entry doors for safety.

Happy Birthday!

Eliza Edrington	02/06
Ben Gano	02/15
Pam Gano	02/20
Jonathan Pocisk	02/26
Donna Farnar	02/27

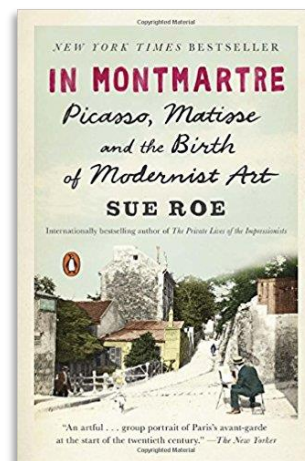
Book Group

In our January selection, *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead presented a story of slavery in the United States using Magical Realism to heighten the horror of the lives of the slaves. Our February selection has a lighter tone, as Sue Roe in *In Montmartre: Picasso, Matisse and the Birth of Modern Art* focuses on Picasso and Matisse, who became the competing giants of Modernism, and also presents more than a

dozen other artists who were part of this Montmartre “gang”.

Relating the colorful lives and complicated relationships of this dramatic bohemian scene, Roe brings to life one of the key moments in the history of art.

Everyone is invited to read the book and join us in our discussion on Thursday, February 8, at 7:00 in the Lounge.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Pastor Nichols Vacation 9:15 Praise Pals rehearse 9:45 Choir rehearsal 10:30 Worship	29 7:30p Tai Chi	30	31 7p Bells rehearsal 8p Choir rehearsal	Feb 1 7p Session Mtg	2	3
4 9:15 Praise Pals rehearse 9:45 Choir rehearsal 10:30 Worship - Sacrament of	5 7:30p Tai Chi	6	7 6p Baby Basics distribution 7p Bells rehearsal 8p Choir rehearsal	8 Book Group: In Montmartre: I 10 Grace in Aging	9	10
11 Transfiguration of the Lord 9:15 Praise Pals rehearse 9:45 Choir rehearsal 10:30 Worship	12 7p Baby Basics Board 7:30p Tai Chi	13 7:30p Bldg & Grounds Mtg	14 Ash Wednesday 7p Worship	15 7p Stewardship & Finance	16	17
18 Newsletter Info Due 9:15 Praise Pals rehearse 9:45 Choir rehearsal 10:30 Worship	19 12p Women's Bible Study 7:30p Tai Chi	20 12:30p Men's Lunch	21 6p Baby Basics distribution 7p Bells rehearsal 8p Choir rehearsal	22	23	24
25 9:15 Praise Pals rehearse 9:45 Choir rehearsal 10:30 Worship	26 11:30 Women's Lunch 7:30p Tai Chi	27	28 7p Bells rehearsal 8p Choir rehearsal	Mar 1 7p Session Mtg	2	3

**Northminster
Presbyterian Church**

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Our Facebook page is
*Northminster Presbyterian
Church – Troy*

and our private friends group is
Northminster Troy

PASTOR:
Neeta Nichols

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:
Suzanne Joy

MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Dr. Brandon Ulrich

**Handbell Choir Going
to Mackinac in Spring**

As members of the Handbell Musicians of America, the Northminster Bells will be joining many other handbell musician groups from the Midwest for a weekend of education, fellowship and music at the Grand Hotel on Mackinaw Island in April. They will be under direction of guest conductor Fred Gramann.

This sounds like a wonderful time!



About Our Church...

Our core purpose is to love God and our neighbors as we seek to understand, respect and celebrate our differences.

In recognizing Christ's calling to treat others as

we desire to be treated, Northminster Presbyterian Church welcomes all people, regardless of sexual orientation, color, gender, religion, age, politics, social or economic class, ethnicity, nationality or disability.

We value all members of the community. We consciously strive to create an environment of mutual respect, hospitality and warmth in which none are strangers and all may flourish.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3633 W. Big Beaver Rd
Troy, MI 48084

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