

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.

## In this Issue:

- Congregational Survey Results
- Fall Workday, November 10
- Our Peace & Global Witness Local Commitment

## Highlights:

Pastor's Message	2
Survey Results	3
Building & Grounds	4
Church, Society & Mission	5, 6
Calendar	7

## Don't Miss Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

### It's World Communion Sunday . . .

World Communion Sunday was born November 1, 1936. In the winter of 1935, some ministers met to study the spiritual needs and possibilities of the church in the midst of the Great Depression. In the Lord's Supper, they saw a prime opportunity to unite Christians in rededication to the Lord Jesus Christ. In 1937, General Assembly changed the date of World Communion to the first Sunday of October.

In this holy meal, we who are many are made one, united with Christ and with the faithful in every time and place. The unity given in this Sacrament is a sign of the unity God wills for all creation. Thus, made one at the table of our Lord, we offer ourselves anew in obedient service to God's reign as we await the fulfillment of the kingdom Christ proclaimed: "People will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God."

. . . we're receiving the



The 2018 Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church of our time to cast off anxiety, fear, division, and embrace our reconciling God's mission to those around the corner and around the world. The Session has designated that 25% of Northminster's gifts to this offering will be given to the South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless WELCOME INN. For over a decade, Welcome Inn Day Center has been the only daytime winter warming center in South Oakland County.

. . . and there's a **PARTY!**

Pastor Nichols was ordained to Ministry of Word and Sacrament on October 7, 1973, so we will celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her Ordination during coffee time.

***October 7<sup>th</sup> will be a day full of celebration!***

## Pastor's Message

Greetings:

Sometimes it feels like the world is coming at us so quickly that we don't know which way to turn, where to look, what to do next. In a chaotic world, we find strength in knowing that God is always near. That is why I'm grateful for *A Season of Peace* we are in, which culminates with the Peace & Global Witness offering on World Communion Sunday. The ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation witness to the Prince of Peace. It is good to be reminded that, with all the discord, pain, and conflict in our communities and in the world, we serve a God who promises harmony and responds to violence with reconciliation and peace.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It has helped support our church partners in Madagascar recover from years of destructive development. Scriptural resources helped congregations, like the one in Old Bergen, New Jersey, find common ground with neighbors of many faiths, bringing their children together to learn from one another and to build a peaceful future. And the whole church joins together, through this Offering, to work for an end to all forms of human trafficking, specifically, the sin of child soldiers.

This is why we give to the Peace & Global Witness offering. We give because we know that every level of society is in need of Christ's peace – at all times, in all ways. From our congregation, where this year we retain 25 percent of this offering to support South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless WELCOME INN; to the region, where 25 percent is retained by Detroit Presbytery and the Synod of the Covenant to support peacemaking efforts being pursued, together with our neighboring congregations; and to the ends of the earth, where the remaining 50 percent is deployed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe. We join these monetary gifts with our prayers for peace and our work for justice.

You are invited to visit the Peace & Global Witness website ([www.presbyterianmission.org/peace-global](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/peace-global)) to find out more information on how your support of this offering helps. As a community of faith, we want to deepen our commitment to peacemaking so that it becomes a visible and profound witness to our community. I challenge each of us to consider how we might increase our witness, and increase our giving to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. I pray that the God of Peace might open the generosity in our hearts to join with Christians all over the country on World Communion Sunday, October 7, in response to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

As Presbyterians, we claim Jesus Christ as Prince of Peace and pattern our lives in the compassion, kindness and grace that he shows us.

Your Pastor,





## Some Information from the Holy Cow! Survey

Last spring, 67 individuals completed the Holy Cow! Conversations Survey about Northminster Church. This represents 82% of the people invited to take the survey, an extremely high percentage.

The bulk of the questions on the survey were answered by a six-option continuum:

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Tend to Disagree	Tend to Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
-------------------	----------	------------------	---------------	-------	----------------

For purposes of the tabulation, *Holy Cow!* identifies “Agree and Strongly Agree” as responses that **CLEARLY AGREE** with the statement. Likewise, “Disagree and Strongly Disagree” are responses the **CLEARLY DISAGREE** with the statement. The responses marked “Tend to Agree/Disagree” are identified as **ON THE FENCE**.

The following 4 statements from the Survey define Key Indicators of the congregation’s life:

**Overall Satisfaction** (Shalom or Wholeness)

On the whole, I am satisfied with how things are in our church.

Clearly agree	23%
On the fence	53%
Clearly disagree	24%
Rating of church satisfaction level	<b>average*</b>

**Overall Energy** (Passion or Engagement)

It seems to me that we are just going through the motions of church activity. There isn’t much excitement about it among our members.

Clearly agree	14%
On the fence	55%
Clearly disagree	32%
Rating of church energy level	<b>average*</b>

**Church Vitality Trend**

Compared to three years ago, would you say the church is

Clearly weaker	85%
About the same	13%
Clearly stronger	2%
Rating of vitality trend	<b>very low*</b>

**Value of Church Activity Beyond Worship**

Participating in church activities beyond worship is very meaningful to me.

Clearly agree	65%
On the fence	33%
Clearly disagree	2%
Rating of activity value	<b>average*</b>

\*as compared with all congregations (over 3000) in the *Holy Cow!* database

**[Survey results continued on next page]**

## Survey Results, continued

Here are the **Top Three Priorities** where the congregation felt *additional energy* should be placed to expand or improve Northminster's ministries:

### FIRST

Discern how our ministries might be strengthened by exploring a variety of options for our future (e.g. shared pastoral leadership, merger, change of worship venue).



### SECOND

Explore how the church facility might be adapted to become a greater community asset that would increase utilization.

### THIRD

Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.

The Session continues to review the totality of the Survey results as it works on the various other aspects of the Self Study process, seeking to determine where God is calling Northminster to serve. As further Self Study information is gathered, the Session will share insights for the church's present and future with the congregation.

## Building & Grounds

### Fall Workday

Fall work day at the church will be **November 10th**. We would love people to come help us spruce up the building that day. Our jobs could be inside or outside depending on the weather.

If members are not available that day, check with Martha Babcock on what jobs you might do before or after November 10.

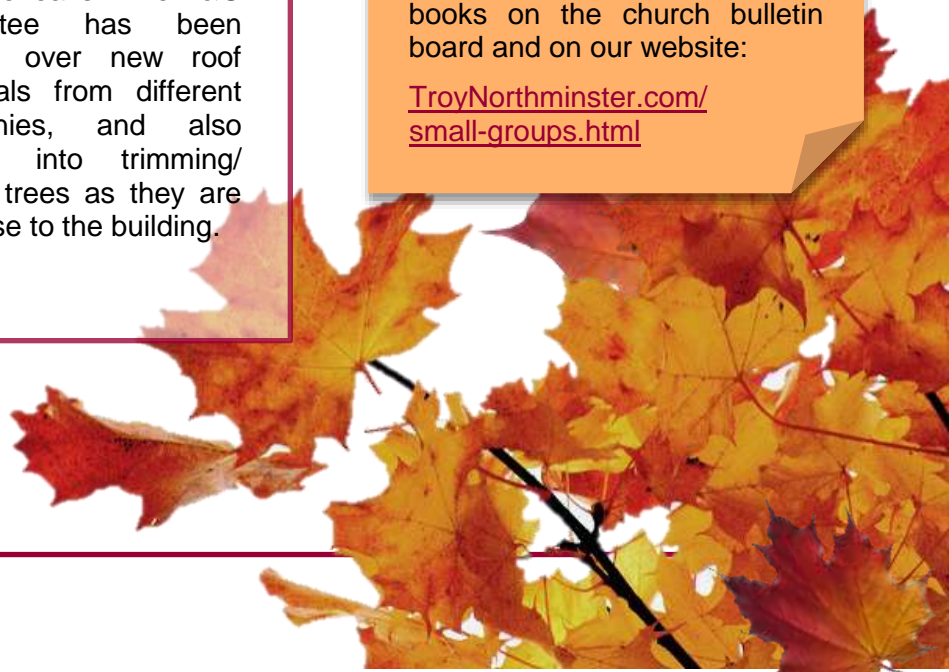
### Building Roof

There have been leaks in the ARK lately, and Bruttell roofing came out to fix the leaks. The B&G committee has been looking over new roof proposals from different companies, and also looking into trimming/cutting trees as they are too close to the building.

**Book Group** will be discussing *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid on October 11 at 1:00pm in the Lounge. Join us!

See our full list of upcoming books on the church bulletin board and on our website:

[TroyNorthminster.com/  
small-groups.html](http://TroyNorthminster.com/small-groups.html)





## Session

The following motions were approved during the September 2 meeting of the Session:

1. Participate with South Oakland Shelter to provide food and shelter to the homeless from October 14-21, at the Congregational Church of Birmingham.
2. Participate in the Alternative Gift Market on Sundays, December 9, 16, and 23.
3. Charge Discovery Corner users \$.05 per black and white copy and \$.15 per color copy on the Toshiba Copier.
4. Offer *Dinners for Eight* program beginning this Fall as part of Deacons' Fellowship and Hospitality. Clay Dobrovolec and Judy Love will organize this program.

## Happy Birthday!

<i>Judy Cotter</i>	10/01
<i>Marilyn Harris</i>	10/01
<i>Luanne Fisher</i>	10/02
<i>Robin Cronin</i>	10/04
<i>Larry Sweet</i>	10/05
<i>Chase Bailiff</i>	10/09
<i>Wesley Edrington</i>	10/09
<i>Luke Armstrong</i>	10/13
<i>Mary Spencer</i>	10/15
<i>Linda Stein</i>	10/16
<i>Jody Wright</i>	10/19
<i>Ruth Turner</i>	10/19
<i>Dave Cizmas</i>	10/22

# 45 YEARS

## A Celebration

The Northminster Community extends its heartfelt congratulations to Reverend Neeta Nichols on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her Ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament on October 7, 1973.

We invite you to join us in worship on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate this anniversary with her!

## South Oakland Shelter

We're gearing up for our 6<sup>th</sup> participation as co-hosts of **South Oakland Shelter** this year at Congregational Church, Birmingham (CCB).



We will help provide food for breakfasts Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Mary Spencer has graciously offered to make sure our breakfast casseroles get cooked and served. Additionally, we will provide soups and chilis along with both CCB and Central Woodward on Sunday; those soups/chilis continue providing a warm start before dinner throughout the week.

We will also provide dinners on Monday and Saturday, with Christy Cook serving as our "kitchen supervisor".

And of course, we contribute to the supplies for take-away lunches and onsite snacks, as well as all paper products as well as some of the much-needed manpower to cook, serve & clean up meals, host the guests, drive to and from SOS office or workplaces, launder linens, and more.

Please mark your calendars for October 14-21 and look for the sign-up sheets that are out on the table in the Sanctuary to volunteer or donate!



## Church, Society & Mission

### Troy-Area Interfaith Group



TIG's next monthly Monday night meeting will be on Oct. 1 at 7:00 pm at Central Woodward Christian Church. The program will be an Authors' Night featuring five TIG members who have written or contributed to published works focusing on questions or journeys of faith. Three of those authors are known to Northminster members, so we especially hope you can join us to hear from Dr. Rev. Bob Cornwall, Rev. Charlotte Sommers and Padma Kuppa!

After the authors' brief presentations, there will be time for questions and hopefully for people to talk about the topic among themselves over coffee and cookies! Hope to see you there.

## Peace & Global Witness Offering



The **Peace & Global Witness Special Offering** is used by the PCUSA and Presbytery for programs on peace and justice, but 25% of what each church collects remains with that church to use in local projects under this banner.

This year, the Church, Society & Mission committee, with Session approval, has

designated the recipient of our Peace & Global Witness Offering as the South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless WELCOME INN.

For over a decade, Welcome Inn Day Center has been the only daytime winter warming center in South Oakland County. Without any State or County funding, Welcome Inn

Day Center provides a cadre of services to homeless men and women with the help of community members, area churches and civic groups. Look for more information in the next newsletter, and keep them in mind as you give for this Special Offering.

Sun 30	Mon Oct 1	Tue 2	Wed 3	Thu 4	Fri 5	Sat 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9am Bells Rehearse</li> <li>● 9:50am Choir rehearsal</li> <li>● 10:30am Worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7:30pm Tai Chi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7pm Deacons meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6pm Baby Basics distributik</li> <li>● 7:30pm Choir rehearse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7pm Session Mtg</li> </ul>		
<p>7</p> <p><b>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9am Bells Rehearse</li> <li>● 9:50am Choir rehearsal</li> <li>● 10:30am Worship - Sacram</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6pm Baby Basics Board</li> <li>● 7:30pm Tai Chi</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7:30pm Bldg &amp; Grounds Mtg</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7:30pm Choir rehearse</li> </ul>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1pm Book Group: Exit West</li> </ul>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p><b>South Oakland Shelter Support</b></p> <p><b>Stewardship Commitment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9am Bells Rehearse</li> <li>● 9:50am Choir rehearsal</li> <li>● 10:30am Worship</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7:30pm Tai Chi</li> </ul>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 12:30pm Men's Lunch</li> </ul>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6pm Baby Basics distributik</li> <li>● 7:30pm Choir rehearse</li> </ul>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 10am Grace in Aging</li> </ul>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p><b>South Oakland Shelter Support</b></p> <p><b>Newsletter Info Due</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9am Bells Rehearse</li> <li>● 9:50am Choir rehearsal</li> <li>● 10:30am Worship</li> </ul>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 11:30am Women's Lunch</li> <li>● 7:30pm Tai Chi</li> </ul>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7:30pm Choir rehearse</li> </ul>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 9am Bells Rehearse</li> <li>● 9:50am Choir rehearsal</li> <li>● 10:30am Worship</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7:30pm Tai Chi</li> </ul>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7:30pm Choir rehearse</li> </ul>	<p>Nov 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 7pm Session Mtg</li> </ul>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>



**Northminster  
Presbyterian Church**

3633 W. Big Beaver Road  
Troy, MI 48084

[TroyNorthminster.com](http://TroyNorthminster.com)

PHONE:  
(248) 644-5920

E-MAIL:  
[office@troynorthminster.com](mailto:office@troynorthminster.com)

Our Facebook page is  
*Northminster Presbyterian  
Church – Troy*

and our private friends group is  
*Northminster Troy*

---

PASTOR:  
Neeta R. Nichols

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:  
Suzanne Joy

MUSIC DIRECTOR:  
Dr. Brandon Ulrich



***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.

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

**Newsletter for October 2018**