

PROCLAIM

A publication of Northminster Presbyterian Church

Streams of Generosity

Rivers of Grace

Fall 2025

80 years



An Advent of Giving

Advent is one of my favorite times of year. I know. I know. You are probably thinking, “You have to say that. It’s your job.” Well, okay. That is partially true, but it is also true that this season is one of my favorites for many reasons. First, I love the music. It is so beautiful and anticipatory. Second, I love the way the church is bedecked in all of its finery. The sights and smells of the season are on full display. Third, I love the expectation of it all. There is a hope-filled and hopeful longing for something that is to come. It is thrilling.

The challenge of the season is keeping all of this in the front of our minds and spirits as we are constantly overwhelmed with the demands that come along with the end of the year and the Christmas season. It is so easy for us to arrive on the other side of Advent having missed the season all together — or maybe, that is just me.

One of the sources of “the overwhelm” for many of us is the pressure to find and purchase just the right gift for all of those on our list. What a glorious time to remind those in our immediate circle that we pay attention and care about them. This year, many have expressed to me that they are struggling with what to do for gifts. It feels like a time to gently push against the material pressure to buy things and fill toy boxes and closets. The Matthew 25 Council of Northminster Presbyterian Church that was formed over a year ago to study and encourage our work as a Matthew 25 congregation, came up with the idea of an alternative guide to giving this season if you are looking for some new “gift” ideas.

Here are some for 2025:

• **Neighbors in Need Fund** – designated by the Session to be managed by Pastors Brian and Karen to help



support individuals and families in need in our broader community as well as our church.

• **Education Support Fund** – designed to support our refugee families and other students pursuing post high school education who need help making that pursuit possible.

• **Clothe-A-Child** – providing children from School 55 with Christmas gifts, clothing, and coats each year.

• **Christmas Joy Offering** – a denominational offering designed to assist church workers and their families in their time of critical financial need and students of color in their pursuit of higher education.

In addition to giving directly to any of these funds and offering through the church, **10 percent** of your annual pledge to the church goes directly to our Mission Team to support our identified mission partners throughout the city, state, nation, and world. Each of these more than 15 mission partners works in one or more of the areas of mission focus for Northminster - housing, hunger, inclusion, education, and health. In 2025, that amount totaled over **\$93,000**. This 10 percent is in addition to the income

from the two mission funds managed by the Northminster Foundation. Your generosity to the church through your annual pledge has a deep and profound effect in many incredible ways. If you have yet to make your pledge for 2026, please consider doing so before the end of the year so that our Session and Teams can plan effectively for 2026.

Thank you for your faithfulness and incredible generosity through your time, energy, talent, and resources.

In Advent Anticipation. ✦



Mission

Seek, Serve and Embrace

Vision

Engaging with Neighbors Near and Far in Christ’s Love

Values

Christ-Centered
Grounded in the Word
Relevant
Inclusive
Nurturing
Serving

On the cover: Northminster youth enjoy Camp Pyoca, summer 2010.

Stewarding in the Next 80 Years



2025 marks Northminster's 80th anniversary. This year, each *Proclaim* issue will contain photos and recollections of our 80 years here at 1660 Kessler Blvd. Our present-day mission — to seek, serve and embrace — embodies eight decades of the comfort that comes from being embraced by a family of faith and the joy that is felt in seeking and serving our Lord and Savior.

Northminster's current Mission, Vision and Values are borne out of 8 decades of living our faith in Broad Ripple and beyond. Since 1945, we have been seeking, serving and embracing our neighbors near and far in Christ's love, by being Christ-centered, Grounded in the word, Relevant, Inclusive, Nurturing, and Serving.

All of this begins in our church home with a commitment to nurturing our faith through Christian Education and especially nurturing the faith of our children. Over the years, our children's programs have helped teach our young ones how to pray and worship, work alongside each other, give of themselves, have fun, celebrate life and faith. The Joyful Noise bucket, Peace Choir, Youth Sundays, baptisms, fish banks, Vacation Bible School and modern iterations of same, Sunday School, Youth Group Sundays, family outings to Pokagon, and mission trips to Mexico, Europe, and Kenya have all modeled for our children how Christians share their faith, talk about God, and live as Jesus lived.

Remembering the past helps us look to the future. Here are a few photos from the last 80 years of the ways we nurture our children. ◀



Sunday School, c. 1950s



Childrens Choir of the 1970s

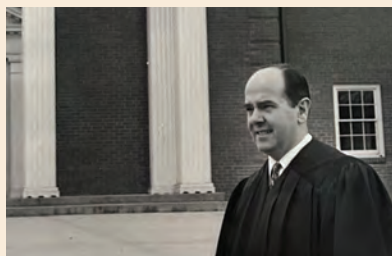


Youth Caravan of the 1980s



Youth joined the Northminster mission trip to Kenya in 2013

Dr. Wilbur Closterhouse, pictured here, was misidentified in the summer issue of *Proclaim*. Dr. Closterhouse served Northminster from 1949-1962 during which time our current sanctuary was constructed.



Youth-led Pancake Breakfast (early 2000s)



Youth help organize Joy's House during Northminster's Day of Caring in 2023

A Sitting Session like a Stream on the Move



A few days ago, I wrestled our now-ancient, gargantuan Random House dictionary off a bookshelf, dusted it off, and looked up the word “session.” Two things to note. One Christian denomination has definition number 8 all to itself: “the governing body of a local Presbyterian church.” Second, the word derives from the Latin for “to sit.”

At our own Session meetings, we do, indeed, sit. But we don’t sit still. Ideas and actions are streaming through the system. A summary follows, but first some background for those less familiar with Session operations.

Session Primer

What does a Session do? As the Book of Order tells it, a local church’s Session “shall have the responsibility of governing the congregation and guiding its witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world.” In practice, NPC’s Session meets monthly (and otherwise as needed), considers reports from our pastors and teams; makes decisions about personnel, facilities, budgets, and all internal and external programming; and makes denomination-prescribed choices, such as communion dates, baptism and member applications, and representatives to Presbytery.

Who’s on the Session and how did they get there? Our Session consists of our pastors (also called “teaching elders”) and 16 elected elders (technically “ruling elders”) chosen by the congregation for staggered three-year terms (except for a youth elder’s one-year term). The 2025 Session members are pictured on these pages.

How do Session meetings work? Regular meetings typically happen on the third Tuesday of each month in the

lower-level Board Room. Pastor Brian (or in his absence, Pastor Karen) presides as “moderator,” and stated clerk Cheryl Plunkett records the minutes. In most respects, each meeting follows familiar rules of procedure, with two exceptions: each meeting starts with testimony and opening prayer by one elder and ends with reflections and closing prayer by another. Now and then, Session deliberations can resemble jam sessions.

Session Year-to-Date

So far this year, Session focus has included these highlights:

- **Strong financials.** Pledges for 2025 exceeded 99% of the stewardship goal, pledge payments are ahead of schedule, and spending is below budget. Recognizing that the 2025 budget included a \$30,000 deficit, the Session had reserved that amount from a large estate gift to cover any gap, but present trends suggest that little of that reserve will be needed.
- **Special savings.** To restore some of the NPC Foundation’s heightened financial support since 2000 (see Spring 2025 Proclaim article), the Session transferred to the Foundation special receipts from estate gifts and the federal Employee Retention Credit program.
- **Matthew 25.** To promote and coordinate our Matthew 25 initiative, the Session chartered a new Matthew 25 Council (see the M25C sidebar). The Session also encouraged NPC’s growing involvement in local homelessness and other advocacy efforts, including participation with the Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance (GIMA) and Indy Action Coalition.
- **Restructured teams.** The Session began implementing the revised team structure: Building & Grounds, Communications,

Community Outreach & Engagement (new), Connections (formerly Congregational Life), Finance, Generosity (including the former Stewardship), Mission, Personnel, Spiritual Growth (formerly Christian Education), and Worship & Arts.

- **Facility improvements.** The Session approved several facility enhancements, including a higher glass wall for the balcony, a new Gathering Place coffee bar (funded primarily through a member gift), upgraded pre-school facilities (lighting, ceiling tiles, flooring), art room floor repairs, and boiler pump replacement.
- **Mathias Fund grant.** Continuing our support for Ian Clarke’s path to the ministry, the Session dedicated the Mathias Fund’s annual allocation to Ian’s seminary expenses.
- **Camp PYOCA.** To help Camp Pyoca’s \$2.3 million campaign to upgrade Indiana’s only PCUSA camp, the Session pledged \$20,000 annually for four years.
- **Communication technology.** The Session approved a new and comprehensive Northminster app (in conjunction with ShelbyNext) for Apple and Android users, a new software portal for recruiting and coordinating volunteer resources, and a pilot program for helping home-bound members participate virtually in worship services.
- **Long-range planning.** The Session authorized creation of a task force to propose a long-range (three to five year) plan for Northminster programming.

A productive year. More to come. ❖



Matthew 25 Happenings

In recent months, Northminster has been intensifying its Matthew 25 efforts. For example:

- The new Matthew 25 Council (M25C) — Carol McDonald (chair), Peggy Brandes, Dolly Craft, Jen Dzwonar, Susan Holewinski, Becky Huehls, Matt Kroeger, Roz Lancaster, Victor Perkins, Emily Plunkett, John Purcell, and Rebecca Ryan — has been meeting and acting.
- The M25C approved \$25,000 as a lead gift for NPC’s contribution to the city’s Streets-to-Home initiative, to permanently house those who are homeless. With added donations from the congregation, NPC’s total gift now exceeds \$44,000.
- The M25C surveyed NPC teams and other groups to assess their awareness of and support for Matthew 25. In short, they know about it and overwhelmingly approve.
- The Session has approved a permanent “mission control” site in the Gathering Place to highlight our Matthew 25 commitment, feature mission partners, and publicize and assist with programming. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Ryan Kim will coordinate the effort to design, develop, and fund this new space.

Streams of Generosity — Rivers of Grace

Thank you!

The vision of Northminster Presbyterian Church is to “engage with neighbors near and far in Christ’s love.” Supporting our mission partners, nurturing children’s programming, maintaining an inspiring music program, becoming a Matthew 25 congregation, and continually working to be more inclusive and welcoming to all are all currents that flow to make this vision a reality. As you plan for the coming year, thank you for considering how you might be a part of this vision in 2026 and pledging your 2026 annual commitment!

What is stewardship?

We have started using the word ‘generosity’ in place of the word ‘stewardship’ in hopes of capturing this broader meaning. Generosity is more than an annual pledge. Generosity is how we sustain our congregation and connect with the community. Generosity demonstrates our commitment to this congregation and our surrounding community. Generosity is the face of Northminster and is our faith in action.

Why is this important?

Your commitment of interest, time, and energy allows us to deepen our impact and broaden outreach to our neighbors near and far, maintain and improve our building and grounds, serve the needs of our broader community, engage with youth inside and outside of the church, fairly compensate our staff, and strive to fulfill our current mission and ministry goals, as well as envision new possibilities yet unseen. These Streams of Generosity are tributaries of mighty Rivers of Grace.

Submitting your 2026 pledge now allows the officers and staff of the church to budget and plan for the coming year.

Did you know?

Northminster Presbyterian Church prioritizes our community mission partner organizations in the community who are living out the mission of NPC, as a Matthew 25 church, 10% of our pledged income will support these community mission partners!

There is still time!

There is palpable energy and enthusiasm in the church hallways, classrooms, Gathering Place, and sanctuary. We have before us an incredible opportunity to build on it. If you have not completed your 2026 annual pledge, there is still time! You can submit your pledge by completing the annual pledge card and dropping it in the mail or bringing it to the church office. If you pledge online through the Northminster website or through your bank, please also fill out a card and submit it. ✦

Meet Our Hidden Gem: Barb Angotti

The Generosity Team is excited to launch Hidden Gems, a monthly feature celebrating members who quietly demonstrate generosity through service, leadership, and compassion. This initiative highlights the diverse ways our congregation shares its gifts, inspiring others to discover how they, too, can serve and strengthen our community connections. This month features Barb Angotti.



Barb Angotti

How do you share your generosity with Northminster?

“Time, enthusiasm, caring, and commitment,” Barb says simply. For nearly 20 years, she’s led Spiritual Striders, a group that combines walking, fellowship, and faith study. “I’ve run my schedule around being in town for the Striders. It’s really special.” She has also chaired Chancel Care for two decades. “I began by volunteering for 3 or 4 years” and then she moved into the chairman role. She is grateful for the 16 people who help with everything from preparing and

cleaning up communion to making sure the pews are orderly (and much more).

What motivates you to share your gifts?

In the early 2000s, church members were encouraged to create Christ prayer groups. Barb recalls a persistent feeling that “this was something I should do.” After pushing it off a few times, she decided to step forward and created Spiritual Striders! Why does she continue

to lead the group? “It’s joyful service. I always walk out feeling great. I get more than I give.”

What’s your Northminster origin story?

Barb and her husband Art discovered Northminster in 1972 when they moved to Indianapolis. “Howard Lindquist was the pastor. We came for one service and we never left,” she shares. While acknowledging the tough transitions Northminster has experienced in the past, Barb exclaims, “Now we’re reaping the rewards with Brian and Karen’s leadership!”

What’s something people might not know about you?

Beyond her volunteer work, Barb taught at Butler University’s School of Education for nine years. “Professor Jack Fadely hired me on the spot after career counseling my kids,” she laughs. “Those college students kept me on my toes. I love to learn—it’s very important for me to keep growing as I age.” ✦

MEMBERS IN THE FLOW OF THE COMMUNITY

By (unbiased reporter) Mike Shannon, member since 2001

Our very own Julianne Shannon spoke on September 15th at the Jewish Community Center as part of a distinguished panel discussing food insecurity in Washington Township. Julie shared insights and stories, and she answered questions about her daily interactions with students at North Central High School as a school social worker. Julie discussed the growing needs and how she connects families to food pantries, community partners and other resources.

The panel also included Fred Glass, CEO of Gleaners Food Bank, Braca Cantor MD, a Geriatric Physician at Community Health Network, and Kate Howe Executive Director of Indy Hunger Network. The event was moderated by Julie Sondhelm, Clinical Director of Jewish Family Services. The discussion was enlightening as the panel highlighted that needs are increasing at a rapid rate in Indianapolis. Even with a tremendous amount of support from congregations and corporate sponsors, hunger needs will continue to rise with government support set to decrease drastically in the coming years. The discussion was part of a fundraising event for Popsie’s Pantry at the JCC. ✦



Camp Pyoca: Rivers and Lakes of Grace

Pyoca is the only PCUSA camp still operating in Indiana and will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2027. It became an independent not-for-profit organization a few years ago to be able to receive grants outside of Presbyterian Churches' support. One of those grants is from the Lilly Endowment to provide day camp to underprivileged kids in Jackson County, where Pyoca is located. Another Lilly grant program is in its first round with the expectation that Pyoca will raise matching funds.

Pyoca has embarked on a \$2.28M capital campaign to renovate its older buildings, including adding showers to the popular yurts and shoring up the beloved chapel building.

Attendance at Pyoca has hit recent high marks between the church camps and the Jackson county daycamp for at-risk kids.

The Northminster Session has pledged support for Pyoca at \$20K/year for the next four years, as we did with the camp's last campaign in 2008. For all of us who have experienced the value of outdoor ministry to our faith development, we feel these are funds well invested.



BOB GUDGEL

"Pyoca was a popular spot for youth from Washington Ave. Presbyterian Church where I grew up in Evansville. Unfortunately, at age of about 10, I attended a 'forgettable' week at the camp ... hot, muggy, flies and mosquitoes everywhere. I was sick with stomach distress and spent most of the week confined to my cabin. That being said, most kids had good experiences and returned for future weeks.

My good friend and Northminster member Gary Ryan (2 years younger) also used to go to Pyoca with his friends from Evansville."

GARY RYAN

"Happy to share my PYOCA experience with you! Fortunately, it's much more positive than my good friend, Bob Gudgel's. I attended PYOCA twice, when I was around 10 and 11 - pretty much the "camping years" - while growing up.

Although I was always impressed with the program and the facilities (especially the lake), the best takeaway for me was how easily it was to develop some great relationships with my cabin mates and other campers. Terrific experience!"

NANCY FLAMME

"I find Pyoca to be somewhere to find God in so many places – in nature, gathering around the campfire at night, or just talking with others about our beliefs, our doubts, our questions. My time there was always a good opportunity to get away from the city, experience nature, and reflect on my life and what was important to me.

I can remember three different times in my life when Pyoca provided good memories for me. The first was when Northminster's youth group went down for weekend retreats. I remember staying in the cold, unheated cabins – before the beautiful new ones were built. You never knew what critters you might encounter in the cabins. I loved hiking around the lake and singing songs around the campfire.

My second memory was when Julie Shannon and I went with the youth to the ropes course at Pyoca. It was challenging but I completed most of it, including swinging down to the ground on a rope, screaming the whole way. What a great feeling physically, mentally and spiritually!

My last memory is when the church had an all-ages retreat several years ago. I enjoyed the time together playing games, eating together, discussing pertinent issues and getting to know each other – especially members I didn't know well. I haven't been to Pyoca for some time but hope there will be an opportunity soon to go back."



ANDY LONGO

“Our children, Emma and Michael, loved going to Camp Pyoca and the experiences it provided. I remember, quite vividly, the excitement they had when arriving at Camp and the anticipation of what the week would bring.”

WADE RICCHIUTO, member of current Confirmation Class

“What I love about pyoca is you can go there and just be who you are. Everyone there is always inviting, and it’s just a great community to be a part of! I always feel closer to God when I’m there because of all the great songs and sermons and I feel so close to Him there because I always want to thank Him for creating something so great for everyone. I genuinely think it might be my favorite place on earth besides my bed.”

Whether it was on the waterfront, the craft cabin, small and large group activities, mealtime or time in worship, our kids left camp energized, a bit more crafty, connected to a new network of friends and further along in their individual faith journeys. They still remember the “energizers” they learned to pop songs.

Over the years, many Northminster youth and adults have shared the Pyoca experience. Northminster has a rich history of supporting the Camp through its youth program involvement, work as camp counselors, service on the Pyoca Board, and through its financial support.

Camp Pyoca continues to reimagine and transform itself. As a board member, I am honored to help shape a future that will refresh and expand our facilities and ministry capacity. This will allow Pyoca to meet the growing desire for outdoor ministry and a place to unplug and explore one’s faith in God’s beautiful creation. ❖



THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON OUTDOOR MINISTRY

- **Creation as Revelation:** Outdoor ministry invites people to encounter God not just in words or rituals, but as the very fabric of creation – rivers, forests and stars become living testimonies to the creator.
- **Incarnation and Embodied Faith:** Outdoor ministry reminds us that faith is lived bodily, through hiking, singing, eating together, serving and resting. Spiritual growth happens not only in the mind but through the rhythms of embodied life in community.
- **Sabbath and Renewal:** Outdoor ministry becomes a living enactment of God’s rhythm of work and rest.
- **Community and Covenant:** Outdoor ministry echoes formative journeys, living, praying, and working together fosters covenant bonds that mirror God’s relational love.
- **Call and Vocation in the Wilderness:** Outdoor ministry provides wilderness moments where people can ask questions of themselves. This mirrors the biblical pattern of wilderness as a place of testing, calling and transformation.



Day of Caring – By the Numbers



40
MUMS
PLANTED

Northminster’s annual Day of Caring event took place on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025 and featured 10 different service projects that supported Northminster mission partners, the surrounding community, and homebound members. Participants supported organizations focused on Northminster’s core mission priorities of housing, hunger, inclusion, education, and health.

By the Numbers

- 100 participants
- 9 homebound members visited
- 40 mums planted at Dayspring Center, plus additional weeding, cleanup
- 2,411 diapers delivered to the Indiana Diaper Bank and many more inventoried in their warehouse
- 1,000 diapers delivered to Raphael Health
- 100 welcome kits assembled for Wheeler Mission
- 100 snack bags created for Brightlane Learning
- 15 bathroom kits assembled for Exodus Refugee
- 15 baby kits delivered to Little Timmy Project
- 60+ birthday cards written for Habitat for Humanity
- Many additional notes of encouragement written for Wheeler Mission guests
- Lots of cleanup around Broad Ripple along Kessler

100
PEOPLE



3411
DIAPERS
DELIVERED



100
SNACK BAGS
CREATED



In the last issue of *Proclaim*, we highlighted the Bread for the World Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C. and mentioned the Offering of Letters Northminster does each year to support Bread for the World. By the Numbers for 2025:

- 5,500 letters from across the state were sent to Indiana's two U.S. senators and nine U.S. Representatives.
- 150 of the letters were from Northminster
- 2 Northminster representatives attended BFTW Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC in June 2025 ❖



15
BATHROOM KITS
ASSEMBLED



100
WELCOME
KITS



Our River Guide This Season

When Northminster's Director of Music Ministries John Wright began his sabbatical in October, we needed a "fill-in" choir director. We (and John) were most fortunate that the Associate Artistic Director of the Indianapolis Children's Choir, Amy Hoffman Hughley, was available for the position!

Amy holds Bachelor of Music Education and Piano Pedagogy degrees from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, as well as a Master of Music Education from the University of Georgia. She has served as Visiting Asst. Professor of Music at DePauw University, and as an adjunct faculty member at Butler University. She also taught high school music in Georgia for 14 years.

Since joining the ICC staff in 2014, she has held artistic and administrative roles. She currently serves as Youth Coordinator for the Indiana Choral Directors Association (ICDA), and previously served as president of the Georgia American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and Honor Chair Coordinator for the Midwestern ACDA Division. Her choral articles have appeared in national and state ACDA publications. In July of this year, she was one of the American conductors for the International Children's Choir Festival in London and Canterbury, England. She has also arranged several published choral arrangements under ICC Publishing House and Colla Vice Music LLC.

I was fortunate to be able to connect with Amy to learn about her experiences in Indianapolis.

How did you get into music?

My mom's side of the family is quite musical. My grandmother was a pianist and elementary music teacher, and my mother was a violinist and elementary orchestra director. She directed the children's choir at my ELCA Lutheran Church growing up, where my dad was the pastor. I joined the choir with her as my director, and I started taking piano in third grade.

When I entered the fifth grade, my music teacher asked me to accompany at the spring fifth-grade choir concert, and I loved every minute of that experience. I would later become a Music Education major at Westminster Choir College with a double principle in piano and voice. By the end of my sophomore year, my piano teacher convinced me to add a piano pedagogy degree.

How did you and John and Krista Wright get to know one another?

My family and I moved to Indianapolis in August of 2013 from Atlanta, for my husband's job, initially as Associate Music Director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He knew John from the church music circuit, and I knew John because he was the Music and Worship chair for the Indiana American Choral Directors Association (ICDA). Soon after our move, I was editor of ICDA, and I met John by editing his quarterly articles.

When we moved to our home in Nora in 2018, we randomly came upon John during a walk in our neighborhood one day. We then realized he and Krista lived just a few houses down from ours. After that day, we became good friends.

What are your plans for the choir at Northminster?

Since my first experience with the Northminster Chancel Choir, I have



been impressed by their musicality. John has done an outstanding job of building a wonderful community of dedicated, hardworking, and talented singers. It is an absolute honor to have the opportunity to work with them for a couple of months.

I am particularly looking forward to our performance of Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*. I have sung and conducted this work many times, but I have never done it for a group of mixed voices including tenors and basses. I know it will be a real treat to make music with this wonderful group of singers.

What are some special ways you like to warm up or rehearse choir?

I don't know that I have a special way, but I always focus on breath and vowels. I also always plan for a timely and organized rehearsal structure. John is pretty similar, so we work together well.

Who is your favorite composer, or what is your favorite choral piece or hymn?

As a pianist, for most of my life I have had a deep love of Claude Debussy. As a choral singer, Johannes Brahms is unparalleled in my opinion. (I also love Coldplay, Indigo Girls, and '80s hits, but I usually try not to mention those officially 😊)

Confluence of Confirmation

My favorite hymn of all time is *King of Glory, King of Peace*. As long as the descant is included, it will be sung at my funeral!

What do you like to do when not doing music?

I love spending time running, doing yoga, cooking, entertaining, and reading. I enjoy spending time with my daughter Katharine and music, celebrating who she is and what she is becoming. She is a freshman at Purdue majoring in the honors program as an Engineering Major, as well as a gifted pianist, singer, and Irish dancer. She is my pride and joy.

What are some of your favorite things about Indianapolis?

After living in Atlanta for 14 years, I must say my very favorite thing is the lack of INSANE TRAFFIC!

Other favorites:

- My time at Indianapolis Children’s Choir
- Broad Ripple - all of it
- The Monon (I live on a cul de sac that connects to the Monon, so I’m on it every day)
- Great and accessible restaurants
- The vibrant performing and visual arts community
- The friends I have made here

Anything else you would like the congregation to know about you or anything about your filling-in for John, or your thoughts about the choir or about Northminster?

I would reiterate how honored I am to work with such a fine and talented group of people. They are kind and welcoming, and I do feel that God has guided me to serve these few months as a part of John’s long-time legacy. ❖

Another year of confirmation is underway! Confirmation is a year-long process where middle and high school youth meet about twice each month to explore topics related to membership in the Presbyterian Church, including faith, The Bible, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, worship, and our denomination.

Youth participating in confirmation select an adult mentor to journey with them throughout confirmation. At the end, the youth will create a faith statement where they express their beliefs at that moment in time and choose to join the church as full-fledged members with an eligible voice and vote in our annual meetings and the ability to serve as officers or on pastor nominating committees.

At Northminster, Confirmation is held about every-other-year and is led by Pastors Brian and Karen with assistance from youth leader, Emma. Lots of information and messages are shared throughout confirmation from multiple voices and in the end, we want the youth to know that they already belong, that they are loved by God, and that confirmation is not the end of their faith journeys. ❖

This year we have eleven youth participating in confirmation:

Assa Byaombe	Jana Hochbein	Wade Ricchiuto
Chanciella Chipola	Josie Hochbein	Ben Ronco
Mae Dinwiddie	Mears Kincaid	Jude Wareham
Norah Ellington	Scout Mann	



Books for Sitting by a River or a Cozy Fire

Managing God's Money: A Biblical Guide

by Randy Alcorn

We've all heard the scripture "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." (Mark 12:17) In the 21st century that may be interpreted as "pay your taxes and give to the church." God cares about our relationship to money and possessions, and Jesus speaks of it more than almost any other topic.

Randy Alcorn, a Christian Church pastor, pulls together New Testament scripture on the subject of managing and giving money. Pastor Alcorn gets into the nitty-gritty of tithing and discusses how much to leave to your children and how much to the church. The book is an easy and helpful read.



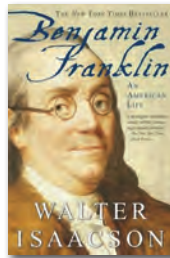
Benjamin Franklin: An American Life

by Walter Isaacson

Author Isaacson says Benjamin Franklin was a prototype of a typical American who kept reinventing himself his whole life. He was a scientist, inventor, diplomat, writer and ladies' man on both sides of the Atlantic.

Franklin saw himself as a simple tradesman practicing diligence, frugality and honesty who had little interest in people of wealth and power. His civic-improvement schemes — libraries, fire corps, postal system and much more — led to Franklin's proposals to unite the then 13 colonies and envision a federal government.

Franklin was the only Founding Father to sign the four essential documents that established the U.S. as an independent nation: The Declaration of Independence in 1776, a treaty with France that recognized the U.S. as an independent nation in 1778, a treaty with England that ended the Revolutionary War in 1785, and the U.S. Constitution in 1789.



The Massacre at Fall Creek: A Novel

by Jessamyn West

Indiana had not long been a state and settlers who lived along Fall Creek not far from Pendleton were now citizens of Indiana and the U.S. Over the years there had been skirmishes with Indians, mostly Senecas and Miamis. When white men killed Indians, there was no trial or punishment — their Christian beliefs notwithstanding.

In the massacre, nine Indians — three squaws, two bucks, and four children — were killed. For the first time, white men were to be tried for killing Indians. A goodly crowd showed up for the trial and sentencing. All four defendants were found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging.

Among the many questions after the hanging: Why were there only three hangings and not four? How did one convict manage to escape to visit his wife and newborn son? Why did the preacher volunteer to take the place of one of the convicts? What about the romance between one of the defense attorneys and the preacher's daughter?



The Children's Blizzard

by David Laskin

In the 19th century, thousands of Northern European immigrants settled in the American Midwest searching for land and freedom. On January 12, 1888, they were inundated by a horrific storm that covered the Dakota Territory, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Iowa.

At the time, weather forecasting was largely a military exercise with the U.S. Signal Corps recording "indications" — temperature, barometric pressure, wind speed and direction, etc. This data from all over the country was sent by telegraph to Washington, D.C. and relayed to St. Paul, MN, where it was released to railroads, newspapers, and the general public.

This catastrophic event was called the Children's Blizzard because on that fateful day, in the dozens of one-room schoolhouses scattered over the storm area, teachers were deciding whether to send the children home or to keep them at school. Some made it home, and others were buried in huge drifts, their bodies not to be found until the spring thaw months later.



HERE COMES THE SUN

On August 9, a group gathered to “Let It Be” in Ralston Commons, to twist (but not shout), and to “Come Together” for yoga with a great local Beatles tribute trio. ❖



PUZZLE

By Pennie Lumley, member since 1965

Words of Faith: A Cryptoquip

Below is a scrambled-up quotation from the Old Testament of the Bible. Given that the letter I stands for the letter L, can you unscramble the quotation?

L

Q E B I L O A F P J V P E B M E B O A ,

F P E X I I K L Q T X K Q

Find answers to the puzzle at the bottom of page 13.



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Babies and Minnies and Firefighters Streamed In

On Oct. 25, dozens of kids and their families had the run of the Northminster parking lot to collect candy, show off their costumes, and enjoy the BOOtiful fall day. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who helped bring the fun!



Proclaim is a quarterly publication of Northminster Presbyterian Church celebrating the stories, people and work of our church. It features more human interest than timely information. Let us all *Proclaim* the good news! Please send interesting story ideas and photos to jennifer.dzwonar@borshoff.biz. We cannot guarantee publication of all submissions, but we appreciate recommendations. Thank you for reading and for all you do to support Northminster.
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