

PROCLAIM

A publication of Northminster Presbyterian Church

Telling Our Stories

Summer 2024

Narrative and Storytelling

One of the most intriguing things I have been a part of in recent years is something called *Storywork*. Jennifer and I traveled to Northern Ireland in 2019 to participate in a conference by the same name at Corrymeela led by Pádraig Ó Tuama and Sara Cook. *Storywork* is a narrative based approach to conflict resolution and community building. At the heart of the approach is discovering the power of storytelling and the importance of integrating storytelling into your work. Embedded in the practice of storytelling is the art of active listening to the stories of others. It was a transformational gift to have the opportunity to sit at the feet of Pádraig and Sarah, who are master storytellers and gifted listeners in their own right.

Corrymeela has been a center of reconciliation and a refuge for people throughout the conflict and deep divisions in Northern Ireland for over 50 years. It is a place of transformation and story. On their website it says, "When a person can engage with the story of another, the capacity for change, dialogue, fruitful argument, empathy, and collaboration increases." Corrymeela is a place and a group of people who embody *Storywork*.

Stories provide a pathway through which intimacy and vulnerability can be discovered. Stories give us a safe way for us to share our faith with one another.

This program was a perfect fit for me because throughout my life I have been a collector of stories. Once I hear them or experience them, they become a part of me. Whether it is visiting a congregant in the hospital, sitting at the table with my



grandparents, coloring with a child, taking a long walk with someone, it is story that animates our shared time together. It is story that deepens relationship. It is story that leaves each person transformed.

In this divisive time, I believe it is important for us all to recapture the power of stories in our daily lives and our interactions with one another. Stories provide a pathway through which intimacy and vulnerability can be discovered. Stories give us a safe way for us to share our faith with one another. Stories have the power to change our lives. Spend time in this issue of *Proclaim*. It is our hope that you, too, will discover the power of story. ✨



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 front cover: Maeve Spears in the Gathering Place

Jessie Gritton
Senior Reflection
Youth Sunday 2024

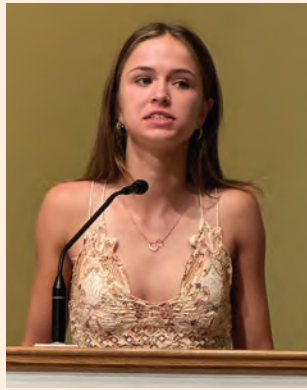
Throughout all the growing and busyness of childhood there are very few constants that are a part of your childhood the whole way through. I was baptized here at Northminster by Pastor Teri at 8 months. Now, as one of the graduating seniors being recognized today, I want to thank this community for being one of my constants. Whether I was 8 and singing in the Celebration Choir or 14 and serving as youth elder, I always felt welcomed here at Northminster.

This church has taught me so much about what it means to give and love one another. It is these lessons that I think about every day and hope to bring with me as I start this new chapter of my life.

Northminster not only helped teach me how to love everyone as my neighbor or how to give back in ways that matter, but also it brought me unconditional support and so many valuable relationships in my life.

As I moved schools, a lot of my other friends began to change but as I fell out of touch with others, I never felt far from the group of kids I grew up with here at Northminster. Many of the girls I once called my church friends I now call my best friends and I know they will always be there for me no matter what.

I feel much more comfortable and confident going forward into my life knowing I have so much love and support behind me. I don't think I would be where I am today, or who I am today, without this church and the hand it held out to me as I grew and learned the kind of person I wanted to be.



Mary Winkler
Faith Statement
Youth Sunday 2024

I believe God is... A person who is always going to be there for you. I think God is like a friend that you never have to worry about disappointing or losing.

I believe Jesus is... God's son, a human form, who came to make the world a better place. He sacrificed so much, and had to be so brave for people he didn't even know and people who didn't believe in him or care for him, but he still helped them anyways.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is... Like a feeling inside that is hard to put into words, but you know it is there. The Holy Spirit is feeling God's presence within even when he is not really there.

I believe A Christian is... a follower of God. A Christian is a person that makes mistakes and trusts in God to forgive them. They know that God is like a friend, a person you can count on when things get hard, and, despite all of the things people say, Christians aren't perfect, they all make mistakes, and if they didn't, they wouldn't need to go to God for help, which is a big part of Christianity.

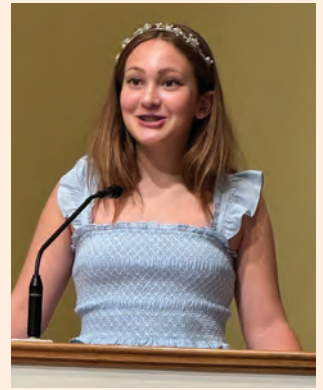
Being a member of a church means... Being a part of a community with similar interests as you, having people to relate to you and learn from.

One of the things I love about Northminster is how welcoming it is. I couldn't feel more proud of being in a church that doesn't care who you love or how you look or things that you've done. We are all able to just be together and have fun together while doing things for the community and the world while learning about God.

I am thankful for... My relationship with the whole congregation, God, and just the church in general. I have been going to Northminster for as long as I can remember, and every moment of it has mattered to me, I have built such a strong bond with the church and the people and it is so special to me. I have made so many amazing memories at Northminster and plan on making many many more.

God invites Christians to serve the world by... spreading his love and his Word. God wants everybody to love themselves, and what we can do to help is make sure people love themselves and trust God, and we can share His stories of how He and other people have sacrificed so much to help us and get us to where we are today.

My goal to serve God and the world is... To make sure everybody who is sad knows that they are loved, and that they can always have somebody to trust, those who are curious and want to learn more about God will be able to, and I want to make sure that I'm always a safe space for people that I love. 💎



Jackie Gritton reads during Youth Sunday as Emma Longo looks on.



Ryan (left) and Finnley Kim as two members of the Confirmation class received into the church on Youth Sunday.

Help! A Harrowing Story with a Hope-filled Ending

On Friday, May 17, Northminster's Julie Shannon and Jill de las Alas attended graduation ceremonies at J. Everett Light Career Center. There they presented the annual Health Care Heroes Scholarship, which honors and aids a student pursuing an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) career. This year, the recipient was Emily Hedlund, a North Central senior who comes from a family of firefighters, is continuing her EMT education, and plans on becoming her family's next firefighter.

On another Friday afternoon—five years earlier, to the day—Julie and Jill, along with Sarah Hittle, were on their way down to Deb Ronco's lake place near Columbus, where the women of Northminster's Mom-to-Mom group were gathering for a weekend retreat. They couldn't stay for the entire outing but wanted to get in one night of camaraderie before heading back to other responsibilities.

Saturday morning, Sarah caught an early ride with Allison Gritton, and Julie and Jill left a little later, with Jill driving her Subaru and Julie riding shotgun. Northbound I-65 traffic was heavy, and near the Edinburgh exit it slowed to a complete stop. Jill braked, as did the car immediately behind, but the next vehicle in that lane, a full-size tractor-trailer, kept coming. The intervening driver saw the truck in time to veer out of the way, leaving Jill no chance to react. The semi struck the Subaru from behind, drove it into the car in front, collapsed its backseat, and compressed its front compartment, deploying all airbags and sending the accorded Subaru spinning off the roadway.

As other drivers, including an Army medic, ran to help, they found Jill unconscious, pinned against a jammed driver-side door. They found Julie alert and her door workable, but her injuries

In their first post-accident reunion in 2019, Jill de las Alas (left) visits Julie Shannon at St. Vincent's



were so severe that she couldn't move.

They also saw that the two Moms were holding hands.

When the EMTs arrived and saw the scope of Julie's injuries, they called in a helicopter, which landed on the now-closed highway and transported her to St. Vincent's. Meanwhile, on the driver side, other EMTs used Jaws of Life equipment to free Jill and get her to an ambulance, which took her first to St. Francis and then to IU Methodist. I 65 remained closed for hours, in both directions, stranding hundreds of travelers, including Liz Neterval, on her way down to the Moms' retreat.

Since Jill (still unconscious) and Julie were being transported separately to different hospitals, Jill's medical team had no information about family to call. Julie, not sure of husband Mike's new cell number, gave a friend's number to her EMTs, and from there the news surged through their network of family and friends — to Mike, the Hittle home (where Sarah had already returned), the lake place, Rob de las Alas, and countless others. When the call found Mike on a soccer field, he gathered up Leah and Stella and rushed to St. Vincent's. And

when the news reached Rob, he suddenly understood why his earlier text to Jill had gone unanswered (and why his phone's locator app showed her phone still on I-65). He arrived at the Methodist emergency room at the same time as Allison Gritton. And Jill's ambulance.

The litany of injuries was almost heartbreaking. For Jill: two broken vertebrae; two broken ribs; a broken foot; complex scalp lacerations (requiring 36 staples to close); and a concussion that left her unconscious for more than 24 hours and with permanent amnesia about the accident and the surrounding hours. For Julie: a broken vertebra; five broken ribs; a broken pelvis (in six places); a shattered right upper arm (requiring insertion of a titanium rod); and an abdominal wall tear. Each suffered a chipped front tooth. Jill spent three days at Methodist; Julie, one week at St. Vincent's and two weeks at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana.

Almost heartbreaking conditions, but not quite. Their own list of effects, in fact, included "enlarged hearts of gratitude."

The gratitude encompasses, along with other friends and relatives, their church family. Northminster "was kind



On Pentecost Sunday 2020, Julie and Jill celebrate their first joint return to Northminster

of amazing” (Julie) and “really came through” (Jill). Teri Thomas was out of town, but “Ruth [Moore] came right away.” Maureen Wilson delivered care packages, including *The Little Book of Sloth Philosophy: How To Live Your Best Sloth Life*, which proved “really helpful as we tried to cope with how much we had to slow down and let go to recover after the accident.” Bill Dynes provided copies of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, a book that had helped him process his own health crisis. Jill marveled at the “very meaningful cards” from scores of church members, some of whom she “didn’t know and had to look up on Shelby.” Julie was moved by “the connectedness of people praying for you.” With Julie’s extended recovery time, NPC folks joined the online registry to supply food, walk the Shannon dogs, and just sit a while with Julie. Others, including Sarah Hittle and Anne Ricchiuto, helped them navigate the healthcare and legal systems.

As with any “inflection point” in life, some of its effects linger. Julie retains some “heightened startle response” that loud sounds can trigger. For Jill, certain smells can bring back the accident

aftermath, smells that have no apparent connection to identifiable events. But their predominant takeaways are about gratitude. For their own survival. And for the many people who helped them heal (including for the CNA married to a truck driver).

It was that gratitude, of course, that prompted the Healthcare Heroes Scholarship. Soon after both had received damage settlements, they decided to use some of the proceeds to help the medical professions that had helped them. They established the scholarship through J. Everett Light Career Center and the Washington Township Schools Foundation and endowed it with contributions to the Central Indiana Community Foundation. Julie and Jill review the applications, select the recipients, and make the presentations.

How did such trauma produce such a compassionate legacy? Those who know Julie and Jill can already guess, but it’s worth hearing the answer in their own voices. Julie saw heroes at work in the “EMTs on the side of the road, in the helicopter, and in the ambulance rides” and in the “three solid weeks of CNAs who

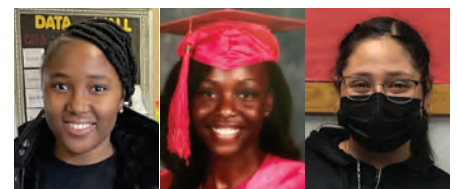
helped me dress, move, shower, and do everything else,” all while staying “kind, calming, and funny.” And she understood that “those two healthcare professions do not make enough for the kind of challenging work they do.” Jill agreed immediately with “Julie’s beautiful idea” and turned to designing the scholarship certificate. “I was and continue to be profoundly grateful that Julie and I survived, and that we’re still the same people we were before the accident. Things could have been so different. The scholarship is a small gesture, but it’s gratitude in action.”

Their joint story is about things to be thankful for. But more than that, it’s about **seeing** and **responding** to the things, and people, to be thankful for. And for us, that means people like Julie and Jill. ♦

Jill and Julie present the 2024 Healthcare Heroes Scholarship to Emily Hedlund of North Central High School. Counting her previous days as a lifeguard, Emily has already saved one life. And now she’s hoping to continue, as an EMT and firefighter, “to make a difference in someone’s life” and “to lift my community on its darkest days.”



Previous Scholarship Winners:

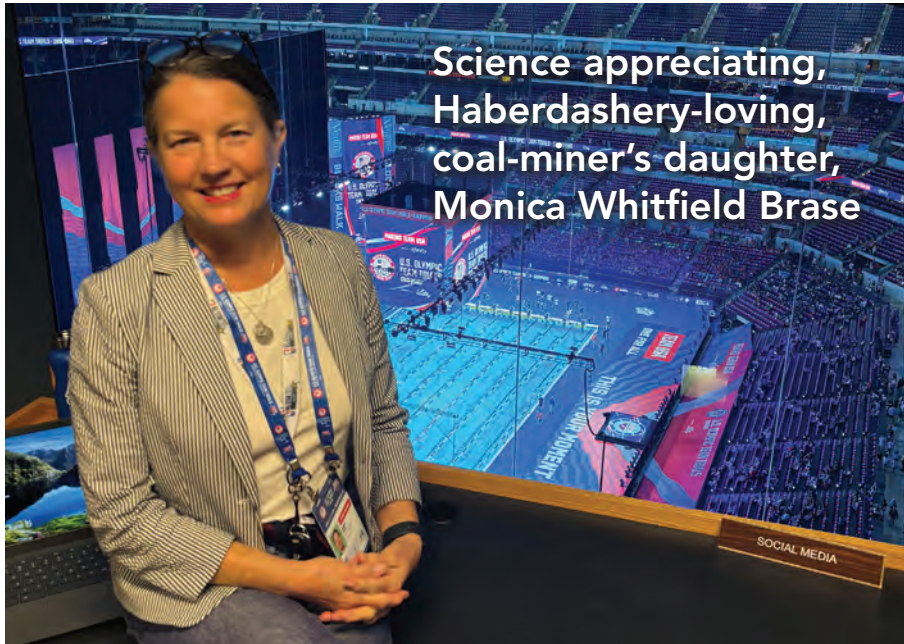


Patricia
Shain
2023

Aniya
Richardson
2022

Salma
Salzar Mora
2021

Catching Up with Monica Whitfield Brase (if you can)



**Science appreciating,
Haberdashery-loving,
coal-miner's daughter,
Monica Whitfield Brase**

She has her rivals, of course. The English royal family, for example, likely has more hats than Monica Brase. But she may have them beat in variety. She claims to have about thirty, many from thrift stores but favorites have come from her family and friends, special berets with memorable logos, a cowboy hat, and one that she purchased herself from a milliner. A hat lover myself, I have further identified her vintage bucket hats, in straw with a black bow, one that's frosted with a splendid mass of silk Spring flowers, a fedora, a cloche, and I might have seen one with an actual veil. And while she has not kept it, perhaps the most interesting one she has donned was a hardhat with a fetching flashlight on the front, a loaner helmet she wore to find her way through the dark caves of a western Kentucky coal mine. The occasion then was "take your daughter to work day" and her father was the guide.

Born in Kentucky, Monica Whitfield Brase is the oldest of five children. She

grew up with a love of science and went to the University of Evansville intending to study physical therapy. She broke up with the major after an unfortunate relationship with organic chemistry. Since she was funding her education largely on her own and needed to graduate in four years or less, she switched to communications.

"I asked my advisor what I could graduate on time with, and communications was it. I'm convinced

that failing out of organic was God's way of directing me to what I truly love."

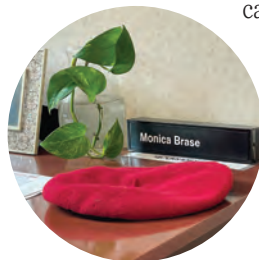
One of her first jobs when she landed here was Press Secretary for the City of Indianapolis under then-mayor Bart Peterson. Later, she honed her skills in positions

like community relations and internal communications, writing employee newsletters, editing, creating strategies, websites, and blogs. Her resume reads almost like a college course; every new position enriching the last.

A little over two years ago, just as she was ending her duties as Moderator of

the Northminster Deacons, Monica was hired by the Capital Improvement Board, operators of the Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium, as Public Information and Marketing Manager. Now lessons learned and skills honed in local organizations are serving thousands and thousands of people who stream into the city (make that FLOOD into the city) on a regular basis in order to be with thousands more. They come to watch a competition or be the competition. They are gamers, football players, religious scholars, politicians and monster truck drivers, they are elite broadcasters. They are here in Indianapolis because the downtown has the room for international competitions, national rallies, large conferences and the occasional small wedding. And in the thick of the chaos is Monica Brase, updating brochures, attending press conferences, writing the news for a greater audience and informing the rest of the employees of what's up, the big things, and the seemingly minor. She publishes an internal newsletter, the Capital Chronicle, and shares stories like the Sensory Room installed to help people

Visiting *Sweets and Snacks* at the stadium



One of Monica's many hats



with sensory processing disabilities.

“It is part team building and part helping employees know what’s happening in our buildings.” In this way, her job is not so far from her position as Deacon moderator.

While she enjoys the discoveries made on her sojourns around these two magnificent spaces and diverse events, Monica doesn’t have to go far to find out how, among the thousands in attendance, occasionally people can get into an unusual amount of trouble.

“Do you put out fires or, “I teased, “do you start them?”

“Actually, I’m involved in fire prevention,” she smiled.

A recent television news story reported that a man was inebriated when he flipped over the rail at Lucas Oil and fell to the seats below.

Monica, the professional spokesperson, was called upon to comment on the incident and, like the steady, studied scientist she once hoped to become, measured all the elements and kept the mixture stable.

“Late last evening we were made aware that a person was injured as the result of a fall during the Stadium Tour. The person was assessed by on-site paramedics and transported by ambulance to an area hospital. Although we do not know the extent of the person’s injuries, the individual appeared to be communicating with paramedics on site prior to leaving the stadium. At this time, we do not believe other guests or employees in the Stadium were involved in the incident.”

What happens after this, well, that’s for another fire department.

She admits the work and long hours can sometimes be grueling, even tedious, as are all jobs. She refreshes herself by going on her own “walk about” to cruise the colorful wide halls of the convention



After the show – dismantling the Eiffel Tower

center and around the concourse in the stadium and to get into a bit of mischief. She wanted to do a post on social media about some of the amenities around the building and coerced random people in the building to put on swim goggles and other swimming gear and do funny poses while drawing attention to the cash-to-card machines and phone chargers. And for a final, whimsical touch, she drew attention to the Mamacava, a special room set aside for nursing mothers, by placing a pair of swim goggles on the door handle so it looked like someone had just come out of the pool to feed a baby.

“We host a lot of different kinds of events and I find myself wondering what kinds of life-changing discoveries or new policies might come out of them ... because of all the brain power mixing it up in our building ... and it’s gratifying to give people a place to be with others who share their interests. I get excited just thinking about what comes out of all these types of gatherings. I feel privileged to play a tiny role in it all.”

Monica’s office is located inside the Convention Center on the

main floor. Her tall window looks directly across Capitol Street toward the heart of a busy city near an Eiffel Tower built and placed at the head of Georgia street for the US Olympic swimming trials in advance of the 2024 Olympics. The summer of 2024 has been a season of change. While swimmers set records in the pool and visitors set records in the stands, Monica and her husband Matt sent off their youngest child and recent grad Elizabeth to Germany where she will work as an Au Pair. She joins her older sister Meredith already launched in the nonprofit world living in New York City. Exciting really. Within a few weeks the pool will have magically turned back into a football field.

Nearby is a huge hole in the ground and a few handsome cranes barely breaking a sweat are escorting slabs of rock from the pit to waiting truck beds. This will be the site of the ICC’s sixth expansion since it opened in 1972. The 800-room convention hotel will open in 2026.

Until then, hold on to your hats! Taylor Swift comes in the fall. ♦

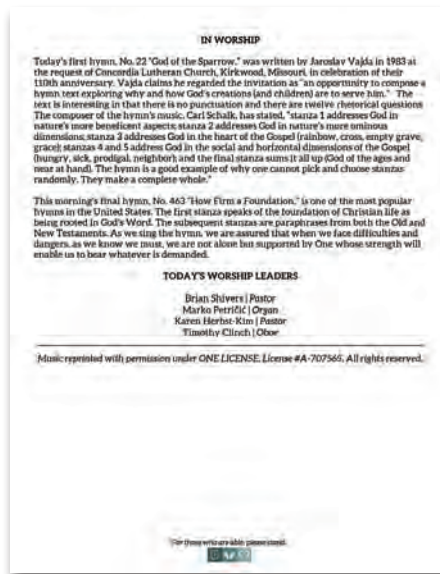
A lanyard for every occasion

Stories Behind the Repertoire

Music is something we both hear and sing when we worship. Worship is call and response. The call of God reaches the depths of our hearts with special power through music and our singing expresses the deepest response of our hearts to God.

Music adds to the power, beauty and understanding of scripture, preaching, prayer, liturgy, and sacrament. It could be argued that singing the Doxology on Sunday after Sunday has done more to teach faith in the Trinity than all the sermons on the doctrine of the Trinity.

In order to assist worshippers in connecting to music and art in Northminster worship, each week the printed bulletin contains a section entitled *Music in Worship* or sometimes *In Worship*. These are notes designed to bring the worshipper to a greater understanding of the music, whether it is a choral anthem, instrumental solo, or hymn. In a sense, these are truncated program notes, similar to those found in a symphony program, albeit with a more spiritual emphasis as opposed to a strictly academic emphasis. *Music in Worship* is a thumbnail sketch of a piece of music that may involve why the composer wrote the piece, what the poet's intent might be, or what to listen for. It is written for people who are interested in worship, liturgy, and music, rather than a gathering of musicians. Past *Music in Worship* notes have included the fact that Indianapolis violinist Noelle Gosling is one of five children, all of whom are professional musicians; the descending oboe and flute passages in Bach's aria "Zerfließe mein Herz" (from St. John Passion) represent Christ's tears as he died on the cross; and the hymn "My Song is Love Unknown" was arranged and recorded by Coldplay on their 2005 album *X & Y*.



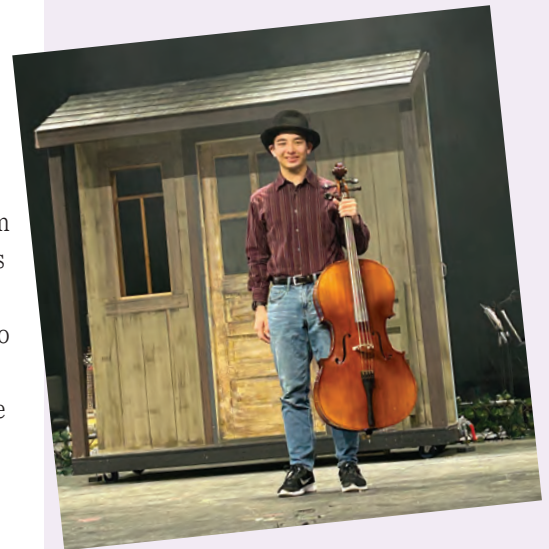
When writing these notes, I wonder
 a) Is this genuinely interesting? and
 b) Does this information assist in one's connection to the text or music? As Northminster's worship expands to incorporate drama and art, we sometimes use the heading *In Worship*. This allows us the capability to offer insights into aspects of worship in addition to music, such as chancel art, sanctuary art, bulletin cover art.

Different people connect to different aspects of worship in different ways. Some worshippers appreciate silence while others are uncomfortable with it. There are those in the congregation who would rather let the music wash over them without any sort of printed guide. There is something to be said for approaching the music with "innocent ears." For those who may appreciate learning something new or unexpected about a particular piece, we offer *Music in Worship*.

Ryan Kim

On May 5, Youth Sunday, the music during communion featured a cello solo — the "Tarantella, Opus 23," by William Henry Squire, played by Ryan Kim. As someone who has a history with cellists, I was blown away by the quality of Ryan's performance, considering he was just finishing his freshman year in high school! We talked, and he was willing to tell the story behind his playing.

Ryan began playing cello in kindergarten, age 5 or 6, with the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (MYO). He has just finished his 10th year with them. MYO is a youth and family development program of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. They have different level orchestra groups that study together, always learning and playing pieces as a group rather than individuals. And for the first few years, if possible, there is an adult who plays alongside each child — in Ryan's case, it was his mother Karen Herbst-Kim, playing cello with him. Incidentally, Fynnley began playing violin in the MYO a year ago — family tradition continues!



Ryan plays in the orchestra pit for Footlite Musicals.



Ryan performing on Youth Sunday, 2024

As the students progress, receiving private lessons, they also receive training from ISO members. Their winter concerts feature classical style music; spring brings “pops concerts.” (If you spend a few minutes on the ISO website searching the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, you can find a number of cool pictures of Ryan!). In addition, the MYO has a Chamber Ensemble which performs by invitation at various community venues, and Ryan has been a member of it for a year and a half.

Ryan attended Center for Inquiry School #27 through 8th grade. This fall he will be a sophomore at Herron High School. This past year, Ryan got to perform Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” with the Herron orchestra. But perhaps most remarkable, this young man even plays cello in the Pit Orchestra for Footlite Musicals!

When Ryan and I talked, I asked him if he found joy in his playing. He smiled and responded, “Yes – it’s very special!” While his future plans likely include majoring in some form of engineering, he knows that his musical gift is something that can provide opportunities for joy in playing for the rest of his life. ❖

Your Stewardship In Action

Stewardship is how we all donate our time, talent, and treasure to the church. Stewardship is how we sustain our congregation and how we connect with the community. Stewardship is how we demonstrate our commitment to this congregation to sustain our surrounding community. One part of Stewardship is your annual pledge, and the **Stewardship Team, Buildings and Grounds Team** and the Mission Team want you to see how your annual giving furthers Northminster’s Mission of engaging with neighbors near and far in Christ’s love.

The Buildings and Grounds (B&G) Team has been busy keeping Northminster operational, safe and beautiful! In 2024 we have made a number of improvements including: creating Wellness/Yoga Room 210 on the second floor; replacing all interior lights in the gathering space and office wing with brighter, energy efficient LED bulbs; installing a new VoIP phone system for staff; replacing dated network hardware and internet switches; installing new fiber optic cable for faster/more efficient internet and streaming; modifying pews in the Sanctuary to provide space for wheelchairs and people with accessibility needs; replacing sump pumps; and rerouting/improving exterior water drainage. In total (year to date), B&G has invested around \$15,000 to make these and other improvements to our building and grounds.

There are also several upcoming projects the Committee is excitedly planning to undertake later in 2024 including replacing exterior siding and fascia board around the church, repairing the sidewalk by the south narthex entrance, updating signage in and around the building, and updating the Sanctuary balcony wall to improve visibility and

safety. We are thankful for the many gifts provided by our congregation to make these projects possible!



Nancy Flamme (left) presents a check from Northminster to Westminster Neighborhood Services.

The Mission Team leads a wide collection of activities that benefit the larger community. Your gifts have helped us disseminate \$64,000 across community partners including: Westminster Neighborhood Services, Inc., Family Promise, Exodus, Raphael Health Center, Inc., The Little Timmy Project, the Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity, the Umoja Partnership, Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance (GIMA), Covenant Network of Presbyterians, Pyoca Camp & Retreat Center, the Society of St. Andrew, and Bread for the World. We provide up to \$7,500 in back-to-school supplies and through our relief fund, we support Gleaners Food Bank, Wheeler Mission, and the Julian Center.

Stewardship is more than the annual pledge campaign. Stewardship is how we use our time, our talents and our treasure to benefit our community and the community at large. Our Stewardship is the face of Northminster. Our Stewardship is our faith in action. ❖

KICKING OFF SUMMER 2024



SUMMER
FUN





Westminster hygiene products

MISSION PROJECTS

Food box installations in Spades Park Neighborhood and at Westminster Neighborhood Services



Northminster youth volunteers at Gleaners Food Bank



Night without a bed



The Mission Team has been busy distributing everything from shampoo to school supplies to food boxes to checks. Thanks to YOUR GENEROSITY, organizations throughout our community are able to better assist our neighbors near and far, in Christ's love.



In June, a group of 11 enjoyed the first Theology on Tap of 2024 at The District Tap

I'm baaaaaaaaack

Northminster is my home: I was born, baptized, and confirmed into this congregation. My faith formation began in NPC's nursery, Sunday School, and youth rooms. It grew in "thin places" like Pyoca, Massanetta, and Montreat, and it grew through service opportunities in Indianapolis and mission trips to Cancun. It was nurtured by members, volunteers, mentors, and pastors, and in participation in the Peace and Chancel Choirs.

After moving away from Northminster in 2015, I lived in Denver. I was first called to Denver while participating in the PC(USA)'s young adult mission program, Young Adult Volunteers (YAV). What I thought would be a year in Denver (and me quickly returning to my comfort zone), turned into eight years in Denver, working with an anti-hunger nonprofit organization called Metro Caring. For many of those years I served as full-time Operations Manager for the organization, ensuring that our team had the ability to fulfill our mission and purpose without having to worry about technology, HVAC, or supply levels.

I also had the opportunity to work part-time as the Youth Ministry Assistant at Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Denver where I organized youth activities, mission trips, and Presbytery-wide youth events in collaboration with youth, other leaders, and faith communities.

While life in Denver was pretty darn lovely (mountains, sunny skies, no humidity), my husband, Terry, and I were ready to relocate closer to family so that we could have a community of support and to be a community of support. Terry had no trouble securing a job in greater Indianapolis, but I struggled for many months trying to find a position that fit my skill set and that was values-aligned. I had the opportunity to meet with Brian, to connect and to share my job-hunt struggles, and he shared that the Operations and Youth Ministry roles would be coming available soon. Two roles that seem completely unrelated happened to be the two roles that I held during my time working in Denver.



Emma Moore, back home at Northminster

And as is often the case, there was God in my job search, calling me home to Northminster. I am so excited to be here to support this community of faith and its many missions, in the same way that Northminster has supported me my whole life. I can't wait to make meaningful relationships with the youth and love them the way that I was loved while ensuring that our church building remains healthy for generations to come. ✦



Emma from infancy through her youth in Indy to her wedding in Colorado to her return to Northminster as a professional in both Operations and Youth Ministry



Solution to the puzzle on page 15:

1. fed	10. pine
2. said	11. spine
3. wed	12. twine
4. spread	13. line
5. dread	14. fine
6. tread	15. vine
7. bed	16. shine
8. red	17. nine
9. instead	18. shine

The Joyful Noise Bucket Benefits Others



Each Sunday, we look forward to hearing a few loud clinks in the Joyful Noise Bucket in front of the sanctuary when the kids come forward for the Children's Message. A few pennies here, a few quarters there, and guess what? It adds up! The money collected from June 2023 to May 2024 totaled \$1,250, which will go to Heifer International.

Fortunately, at the same time we made our gift, Heifer had a 5X matching gift, making our donation worth \$6,250. The \$5,000 from the matching gift went for Heifer's determination of the greatest need. On May 12, the \$1,250 we donated created the following shopping list from Luca, Elliott, Juniper, Emmett, Penelope, Johnny, and Mack:

- \$120 Sheep
- \$250 Water Buffalo
- \$20 Flock of Chicks
- \$300 Clean Water
- \$500 Heifer
- \$50 Hope Basket of Chicks and Rabbits

These animals will benefit individuals and whole communities to help fight poverty and hunger. Joyful noise indeed!

How It All Started

The Northminster Foundation is in its 37th year. The Foundation is the forward-looking part of Northminster, welcoming gifts and bequests from members and friends, investing them wisely and supporting the Church in all its endeavors. At the end of March 2024, the Foundation was valued at approximately \$2.5M.

Associate Pastor Emeritus Don Durrett and James Todderud are the only surviving members of the original Foundation board. Don says that in the early '80s there was considerable discussion among church fathers about forming a foundation. Don had a vision to guarantee Northminster's future and the congregation's commitment to that future. The foundation idea picked up momentum in the mid-80's when Pastor Fred Mathias came to Northminster.

Don made a list of potential board members, choosing them for expertise in communications, banking, law, financial planning, etc. For bylaws, he relied on those from Glendale Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, Arizona. Don unearthed these bylaws through research in church literature on Presbyterian foundations. Interestingly, here in Indianapolis, Southport Presbyterian, St. Luke's Methodist and Garfield Park United Church of Christ were considering foundations as well. They each benefited from Northminster's experience.

Don credits the Presbyterian system of government as being helpful in establishing the Foundation: "It kept things tight." (That sounds like Presbyterians doing things decently and in good order.) The Foundation was incorporated in 1987, a separate entity directed by the Session.

Slowly contributions began coming to the Foundation. John Ashby and P.E. MacAllister purchased insurance policies, making the Foundation the beneficiary.

Don recalls one member who gave modestly to stewardship campaigns. She willed \$250,000 in Texaco stock to the Foundation; the bequest was completely unexpected. About this time an elderly couple, who had no children and were not particularly active in the congregation, left \$300,000 to the Foundation in their estates. Charles McGaughey contributed a sizable sum for the purpose of leadership training and guest speakers. This led to a dedicated fund within the Foundation, The McGaughey Fund. The generosity of these individuals began to form the corpus of the Foundation's assets.

So that's how it all started. After 37 years, the Northminster Foundation is firmly fixed on the future, dependent on the generosity of church members and friends and ready to support the mission of Northminster Presbyterian Church for many years to come. ✨



The new logo for the Northminster Foundation represents those who came before us (roots); who stand beside us (trunk); who follow us (leaves). It bears witness to the importance of having deep roots, a strong trunk, and wide branches for a tree — or a church — to thrive. When you give to the Foundation, your gift joins those from the past to benefit the church both today and long into the future.



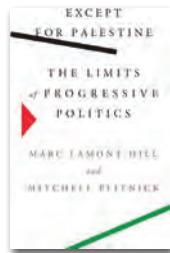
What We Are Reading

Timothy Foster –
Communications Director

Except for Palestine

by Marc Lamont Hill and Mitchell Plitnick

Highly recommend. Hill and Plitnick charge progressives and liberals with applying the same core principles of opposing regressive policies to the Palestinian people. They do a great job of examining multiple dimensions of the Israel-Palestine conversation and take seriously the political concerns and well-being of both Israelis and Palestinians.



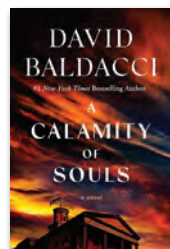
Cheryl Plunkett –
Office Administrator

A Calamity of Souls

by David Baldacci

Recommend. Historic fiction.

A racially charged murder case that sadly, could probably still happen today.

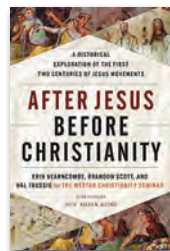


Brian Shivers – Pastor

After Jesus Before Christianity: A Historical Exploration of the First Two Centuries of Jesus Movements

by Brandon Scott, Erin Vearncombe, and Hal Taussig

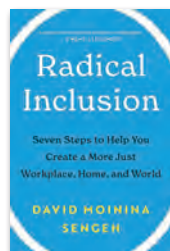
This is my current read. It is an in depth look at some of the lesser known Jesus movements during the first two centuries after Jesus' death and resurrection. Reshapes our understanding of history of what we call Christianity.



Radical Inclusion: Seven Steps to Help You Create a More Just Workplace, Home, and World

by David Moinina Sengeh

A wonderful, challenging book on how to move toward radical inclusion and sustain it. Very readable.



Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection

by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

A rich devotional book perfect for your nightstand. Anything by Kate Bowler is wonderful.

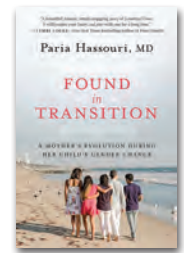


Karen Herbst Kim – Pastor

Found in Transition: A Mother's Evolution During Her Child's Gender Change

by Paria Hassouri, MD.

It is one mother's beautifully honest and vulnerable story of the struggles, joys, and challenges of accompanying her child on his gender transition. Highly recommend.



John Wright – Director of Music

Boys in the Trees

autobiography by Carly Simon

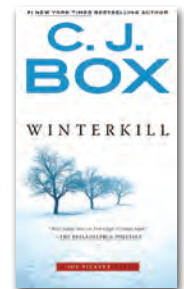
Recommend for those who appreciate biographies and autobiographies of pop/rock artists. Very well written. Carly Simon is the daughter of Richard Simon of Simon and Schuster publishing company.



Winterkill

by C. J. Box

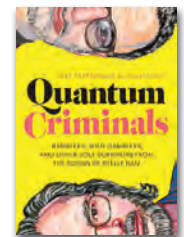
Fiction, detective-type series involving Wyoming Game Warden Joe Pickett. Recommend this series for those who appreciate western US hiking and adventures, particularly Wyoming, and for those who appreciate crime series.



Quantum Criminals

by Alex Pappademas

Nonfiction. Takes several Steely Dan songs and provides cultural, historical background, and provides insights into the possible meaning of the lyrics. Recommended for ardent Steely Dan fans who pore over the stories, dark humor, and meaning of the quirky and puzzling lyrics in their songs.



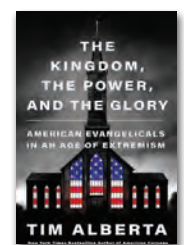
Pennie Lumley – Proclaim contributor

The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism

by Tim Alberta

A journalist who had an evangelical upbringing, objectively interviews evangelical pastors and leaders all over the U.S.

My impression is that some evangelicals have serious problems, mostly having to do with too much politics in their religion.





VOTE: November 5, 2024

To request an application for absentee ballot, contact the Indiana Election Division by September 21.

To register to vote or verify your voting status, contact the Indiana Election Division by October 7.

Indiana Election Division
302 W. Washington St. #204
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2743
317-232-3939
1-800-622-4941
IndianaVoters.IN.gov

Transparency Project

In late summer and early fall, the low balcony wall will be replaced with glass to provide better visibility for those in the balcony and to bring the height of the wall up (literally) to today's building codes. The project will take about two weeks to complete and is being done by a contractor recommended and known by our own Bob Gudgel. Clearly, it will be a welcome update!

Bread and the Wine: A Rhyming Quiz

Use the clues to determine words that rhyme with "bread" and "wine." Answers to clues 1-9 rhyme with **bread** and answers to clues 10-18 rhyme with **wine**.



1. Nourished: _____
2. Uttered: _____
3. Tied the knot: _____
4. Butter: _____
5. Fear: _____
6. Found on a tire: _____
7. Where to sleep: _____
8. Crimson: _____
9. In place of: _____
10. Furniture wood: _____
11. A book's backbone: _____
12. Twisted string: _____
13. Sign on the dotted: _____
14. Thin like hair: _____
15. Trailing plant: _____
16. Rise and: _____
17. Supreme Court number: _____
18. The Taj Mahal is a: _____

See page 12 for answers.



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www.northminster-indy.org

Blue Highway captured blue-sky attendance

Blue Highway, the only bluegrass band to appear twice in 20 years of Northminster's *Sound & Spirit* concerts, set a Sound & Spirit attendance record on May 10th with 367 people.

"In a city not exactly known as a bluegrass hotbed, *Sound & Spirit* provides a space for high quality bluegrass bands and their fans." — John Wright, Director of Music and of *Sound & Spirit*



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.

Editor: Jennifer Dzwonar