

PROCLAIM

A publication of Northminster Presbyterian Church

Summer 2025

80 years

Welcome to Northminster!



Moving Our Faith Forward

Covenant Conversation Moves Our *Faith Forward*

Several years ago, Northminster Presbyterian Church adopted a new vision statement. You likely know it by now: “Engaging with neighbors near and far in Christ’s love.” Since that time, the congregation has faithfully explored exactly what that means for us as a community of faith. What we continue to discover is that this commitment is aspirational. We will always be working toward it, and we will never fully arrive. And that is good news.

One of the ways Northminster decided to live into this vision of who we are and who we hope to be in the world is by becoming a part of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. This was a furthering of Northminster’s commitment to be a place of welcome and full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in the life of the congregation.

The Covenant Network of Presbyterians began in 1997 with the vision of eradicating PCUSA legislation that discriminated against the full participation of LGBTQIA+ church members. With the restrictions against ordination and against recognizing same-gender marriage eliminated from our Book of Order, the network shifted its focus to seek an equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society, by:

- **Engaging** the church to invite all of God’s children into safe and welcoming congregational spaces of affirmation, healing, dignity, and purpose;
- **Educating** the church to expand our welcome of LGBTQIA+ people, to affirm their gifts for ordained office, and to uphold marriage equality for all; and



• **Equipping** the church to bear witness to justice through advocacy and activism at the international, national, and local church levels; speaking a prophetic word in anxious and divided times; and standing with others in fighting hate and oppression against any of God’s children.

As a part of our commitment, Northminster, in partnership with Covenant Network, Whitewater Valley Presbytery, Presbytery of Ohio Valley, and Presbytery of Wabash Valley, will be host to a Covenant Conversation where congregations from across the state will come to Northminster for a day of celebration, conversation, and learning.

We hope you will join us on Saturday, September 27, from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. for “A Deeper Welcome, A Wider Table” as we explore more ways to “engage our neighbors near and far in Christ’s love.” ✧



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: Freddy Vlahogeorge welcomes everyone! Photo courtesy of his Aunt Emma Moore.

Faith Forward Together



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.

80 years ... 10 heads of staff

1945-1947
Rev. Ray Downs
 1947-1948
Rev. Richard Williams
 1949-1962
Rev. Dr. Wilbur Closterhouse
 1962-1981
Rev. Dr. A. Howard Lindquist
 1981-1983
Rev. Dr. Jerry Johnson, interim
 (Not pictured)
 1983-1997
Rev. Fred Matthias
 1997-2001
Rev. Dr. Ron Smith, interim
 2002-2020
Rev. Dr. Teri Thomas
 2020-2022
Rev. Dave Smazik, interim
 2022- present
Rev. Brian Shivers

Associate Pastors

1955-58: **Rev. James R. Tozer**
 1958-66: **Rev. Karl W. Gillmeister**
 1964-72: **Rev. Frank E. Bean Jr.**
 1966-2000: **Rev. Dr. Donald R. Durrett**
 1970-73: **Rev. Margaret E. Towner**
 1973-80: **Rev. Warren G. Corbett**
 1975-76: **Rev. David Peters**
 1980-83: **Rev. Glenn W. McDonald**
 1981-83: **Rev. Eleanor J. Brouillard**
 1985-86: **Rev. Scott W. Douglas**
 1985-91: **Rev. F. Sue Berry**
 1986-87: **Rev. Janet C. Lowery**
 1988-94: **Rev. Scott T. Marrese-Wheeler**
 1991-93: **Rev. Heidi Hudnut-Beumler**
 1993-97: **Rev. Donna E. Wells**
 1997-2001: **Rev. Nancy A. Howard**
 2000-02: **Rev. Dr. John G. Stevens**
 2003-09: **Rev. Lawrence Moslener**
 2003-21: **Rev. Ruth Chadwick Moore**
 2023-present: **Rev. Karen Herbst-Kim**

God Bless our Pastors

Born of belief, a sense of mission, faith in each other and faith in the promises of God, we celebrate 80 years of our family of faith. "[Ours] is not a story of flawless achievement. It reflects countless unsung gifts of time, talent and treasure, keeping faith in a shared vision for what this church could and can become." (*Keeping Faith*, 50th anniversary history)

Together with our pastors, we are a congregation that has met challenges and triumphs with the curiosity of seekers, the attitude of servants and the willingness to embrace others with the love of Christ. Since our founding, we have called pastors who understand our mission to know God and to faithfully meet God's challenges. With their help, we are a congregation that is moving our faith forward. ✦



1945-1947
Rev. Ray Downs



1947-1948
Rev. Richard Williams



1949-1962
Rev. Dr. Wilbur Closterhouse



1962-1981
Rev. Dr. A. Howard Lindquist



1983-1997
Rev. Fred Matthias



1997-2001
Rev. Dr. Ron Smith
Interim

2002-2020
Rev. Dr. Teri Thomas
Longest serving Head of Staff



2020-2022
Rev. Dave Smazik
Interim



2022- present
Rev. Brian Shivers

Interested in learning more about Northminster's history?
 Visit this link: <https://www.northminster-indy.org/about/history/>

NPC Does M25 – A Thousand to One

Northminster became a “Matthew 25 Church.” The story continues.

Since our earliest days, Northminster has engaged in mission work through its own direct-service projects, broader Presbyterian efforts, and financial support for other mission partners. So when the Presbyterian Church (USA) challenged its congregations to redouble their mission efforts and pledge themselves to a Matthew 25 focus — declaring special commitments to look outward, engage with the world around them, and serve those most in need — NPC’s Session said “of course.”

The Scripture

The challenge takes its inspiration from a parable in the Gospel of Matthew, told in verses 31-46 of chapter 25. There, in an extraordinary statement, Jesus effectively equates himself with the world’s neediest people, announcing that our love of him will ultimately be judged by our treatment of them. To those who did not provide help: “just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” And to those who didn’t: “just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” The verses mention some examples of “least of these” populations — those in need of food or drink or clothing; the stranger needing to be welcomed; the prisoner needing visitors; the sick needing healthcare — but the message reaches broadly to protect all those deemed “least” not by God, but by human society. And human government.



The PCUSA Background

- **2016-2018:** At the urging of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the PCUSA began Matthew 25 programming at the national level at its General Assemblies
- **2019:** The General Assembly issued the invitation to congregations and other church entities to dedicate themselves to Matthew 25’s challenge to look beyond church walls to serve those most in need.

The program asked congregations to adopt at least one of three primary focus areas:

- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

Additional areas were added later where M25 values intersect (victims of gender inequality, militarism, and environmental change). No doubt there will be other categories and expanding needs, particularly in an era when national

and state governments are slashing vital aid programs for at-risk populations.

The NPC Background

In 2020, after our Mission Team reported favorably on the Matthew 25 initiative, the Session found time during a complicated year (you remember: chancel remodeling, organ installation, retirement of one pastor, departure of another pastor, pandemic closings, virtual services, racial and political conflict) to make our Matthew 25 commitment. Given what we were already doing — through Mission Team projects and giving, Deacons’ activities, book studies (on poverty, homelessness, racism, other pressing issues), immigrant family sponsorships, and more — the Matthew 25 initiative aligned perfectly with where we were heading. It was, in Carol McDonald’s words, “a no-brainer.”

While we worked our way through the transitions of the early 2020s, NPC continued our mission efforts and expanded them, including into such areas as advocacy and Court Watching. We soon realized, however, that Matthew 25 had a broader reach than one or two teams. It was too pervasive, a framework for virtually everything the church does.



Terri Hubbard

Meanwhile, in 2024, the church received a game-changing gift from the estate of long-time member Terri Hubbard, and NPC set aside \$150,000



of that gift for enhanced Matthew 25 programming. It also commissioned a new group, called the Matthew 25 Council (the M25C), to champion and coordinate Northminster's Matthew 25 efforts. It tasked the M25C to study the national program in depth, monitor other congregations' examples, keep Matthew 25 front and center in church decision-making, evaluate community needs, recommend program ideas, communicate the Matthew 25 message throughout Northminster, and decide how to allocate the Hubbard fund allocation. In short, the M25C became, as one of its members described it, our "keeper of the Matthew 25 flame." The M25C is now up and running, with Carol McDonald as leader and members Peggy Brandes, Jen Dzwonar, Dolly Craft, Susan Holewinski, Becky Huehls, Matt Kroeger, Roz Lancaster, Victor Perkins, Emily Plunkett, John Purcell, Moriah Root, and Rebecca Ryan.



As its first concrete act, the M25C made a bold investment in Streets to Home Indy, a long-awaited public-private effort to end chronic homelessness in Marion County. Given NPC's history of homelessness programming — long-standing work with the Interfaith Hospitality Network/Family Promise and

Habitat for Humanity, working through the Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance to dispatch Court Watchers to eviction proceedings, sending nearly 40 members to a "Beyond the Bridge" event that filled Clowes Hall, raising another 40-person delegation to join hundreds more to press for Indy Action Coalition housing efforts, multiple educational sessions on the local homelessness crisis, and on and on — Streets to Home Indy was made for us. In fact, when local governmental, business, and charitable leaders met and forged the phase-one structure, we were not only at the table; it was our table, in the Northminster board room.

Under the Streets to Home Indy funding plan for \$8.1 million, the City of Indianapolis pledged \$2.7 million; the corporate community, another \$2.7 million; and not-for-profit funders, a third \$2.7 million, including \$270,000 from churches and other religious entities. That's where Northminster's M25C stepped in. In addition to soliciting personal contributions from our church membership, the M25C committed a separate \$25,000 from its Hubbard estate funds to help launch this vital initiative.

TWENTY-FIVE thousand dollars. For Matthew TWENTY-FIVE.

That thousand-fold relationship may not constitute a proper mathematical ratio, but it represents an important act of faith leadership for Northminster. Truly moving our faith and our community forward. And a powerful reminder of our commitment to the Matthew 25 cause. ✦



HAPPENINGS



Rebekah Ryan, Collections Manager at The Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, offered a behind-the-scenes tour as one of the items to be purchased at this year's Italian Night silent auction, to benefit Northminster Youth programs. Tony and Jennifer Dzwonar purchased the tour and Tony's cousins from Lafayette joined them for a fascinating look at the collections. Rebekah generously shared her expertise and guided the group through beaded purses, woven rugs, paintings, sculptures, clothing, and artifacts — new and old. Right here in Central Indiana, we are surrounded by rich Indigenous culture of both the past and present, yet most of us are unaware. ✦

THEOLOGY ON TAP



Offered monthly in June, July and August, Theology On Tap is an opportunity to casually hang out with the pastors and other Northminster friends. This year, we found Binkley's to be an amenable location and about 15 people joined each month for conversation and fellowship between bites and sips. The Pacers and Fever might have smoothly made their way into the theological discussions, too. ✦

My Knee Replacement & Indy Action Coalition

As I was approaching my 77th birthday, I visited my doctor to see what more was being added to the list of “you are now old” medications and protocols. It’s because I’m not alone in this that I’m willing to share a few things.

Some of my health issues are from mistakes I’ve made. Some things I inherited from the last generation. Some issues arose from climate change. Probably most of my health issues have arisen because I’ve ignored them.

Looking at my health portal and all the potential for disaster is anxiety producing. (I blame anxiety on the previous generation.) I could look at the whole world and all the problems and decide the only solution is to order a chocolate milkshake at 10 o’clock at night, have it delivered to my door, and then blame the Door Dash driver for the rise in my glucose. But blaming is a fool’s errand. And ignoring is worse — the knee pain, the asthma, the lump on my neck. I can ignore them. I can blame someone or something else. Or I can advocate for my own health.

I’ve learned a great deal about advocacy in this congregation. One Sunday morning several months ago, 25 Northminster members heard from Josh Riddick, a professional who organizes local groups to “align and share in launching public action.” The focus of the gathering was to define what “home” means to us, and to discuss why if “home” isn’t sweet to some of us, it really isn’t so sweet to any of us. We listened and then he guided, and challenged us, to take that next step.

A few weeks later, almost 40 members of Northminster, along with many other congregations, agreed to become the Indy Action Coalition.

“Several of us had been studying the issues in the community but struggled



On May 29, more than 30 Northminster friends gathered at Light of the World Christian Church to support Indy Action Coalition.

to find ways to actually effect change in this environment,” said Jennifer Shivers. “The process outlined by the Indy Action Coalition resonated with several of us.”

Josh pulls people together from all corners of our city and confirms our common goals. He teaches us how to literally stand with each other.

The community-driven advocacy process includes:

- **Listening:** Holding sessions to hear and prioritize the issues important to the community.
- **Research:** Understanding the decision makers, budget and other factors that enable and constrain options from moving forward.
- **Mobilization:** Organizing people to share our community needs with those elected officials and others in positions to make decisions.
- **Action:** A public event designed to share the demands of the people and to show the number of individuals committed to making a change.

In May at the Keep Indy Home event, Indy Action Coalition, Black Church Coalition, and VALIDUS were a show of force asking for action from our local and state legislators on funding gun-violence reduction, investing in third-party leasing

and rent assistance, and continued funding of clinician-led crisis responses. We hoped for 500 people and 600 showed up.

Susan Holewinski noted that the “Indy Action Coalition addresses ‘dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty’, which are two points in the Matthew 25 program. It also builds ‘congregational vitality’ because members of NPC are passionate about homelessness, hunger, and immigration issues in our community.”

The community-driven advocacy process (building the base of community members to voice opinions) is not so different from going to your doctor. We hear the stories of the government’s failures. We learn what CAN make a difference, and we learn WHO is not agreeing to make that difference. We stand together and confront the issues. You cannot ignore the pain in your knee, and you cannot ignore 600 of us.

Being a bit of a pain myself can improve the health and well-being of our community, help us stay ahead of infectious policies, or repair the ones we already have. And I’m keeping very good company at Northminster.

Next, I’m advocating for a new knee. So I can march. ❖

Look for these organizations online: *Live Free Indiana, Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance, Streets to Home Indy*

Advocacy Is Not a Bad Word

Oxford Dictionary defines **advocacy** “as any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others.”

According to Wikipedia: “**Advocacy** is an activity by an individual or group that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social institutions. Advocacy includes activities and publications to influence public policy, laws and budgets by using facts, their relationships, the media, and messaging to educate government officials and the public. Advocacy can include many activities that a person or organization undertakes, including media campaigns, public speaking, commissioning, and publishing research.”

Cohen, de la Vega, and Watson (Kumerian Press 2001) state that for them, advocacy represents the series of actions taken and issues highlighted to change the “what is” into a “what should be,” considering that this “what should be” is a more decent and more just society. Advocacy actions may:

- Question the way policy is administered.
- Participate in the agenda-setting as they raise significant issues.

- Target political systems “because those systems are not responding to people’s needs.”

- Be inclusive and engaging.
- Propose policy solutions.

It was in this spirit that Associate Pastor Karen Herbst-Kim and I joined 20+ members of the Bread for the World Indiana Chapter, in our nation’s capital in early June, to attend the annual Summit. It was also the 50th (Golden) Anniversary of the foundation of BFTW. For three days and nights, we participated in workshops, listened to speakers, and visited the offices of our Congressional legislators — Sen. Young, Sen. Banks, and Rep. Carson — to affirm our stand of nourishment for everyone in our communities, states, nations, and indeed, the planet. Not just food to survive, but healthy, abundant sustenance for ALL.

The atmosphere was charged with cautious optimism, and I felt hope around each corner, in nearly every office, and in almost all conversations. At the celebration dinner banquet, Hoosiers’ own David Miner, founder of the Indiana BFTW chapter, was recognized for his dedication and work and received the Rev. Arthur Simon Legacy Award.



Top: One of many inspirational presentations during the BFTW Summit. Bottom: Bailey Schwartz, State Organizer for Indiana Bread for the World (left), Rev. Karen Herbst-Kim (center) and Mission Team member and BFTW volunteer delegate Carrie Savage Zimmerman (right) at the Summit in D.C.

A new generation of advocates were also acknowledged, including Purdue University student Mya Bell, with the Bread Rising Award.

Upon returning to Indiana, however, federal agendas and current administration policies took precedence. About one month later, HR 1 was passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law by the President. This included defunding of the SNAP program, Medicaid cutbacks, and other budget changes and eliminations. Some programs are being transferred to other departments to be supervised. Other projects, such as WIC modernization, will hopefully be resurrected in another form. As always, BFTW members remain steadfast in our commitment to advocate for those human beings who are most hungry and vulnerable in the world—just as Christ did. The greater the resistance, the greater the persistence in championing what is right and good.

We continue to have conversations on an ongoing basis. With the threat

Continued on page 9



25 BFTW delegates from Indiana visited with U.S. Senator Todd Young’s staff at his Washington D.C. office during Advocacy Summit 2025 to push for his official support of federal funding of programs to assist hungry Hoosiers.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

On Sunday, June 1, 2025, we enjoyed worship outside in (beautifully and mostly) shaded Ralston Commons. This was our second worship service since the west side of the church property was refurbished and we plan to make it an offering at least twice each summer, provided the weather cooperates. Another outdoor service will take place in August, along with a neighborhood picnic to follow. ✦





Advocacy Is Not a Bad Word

Continued from page 7

of hunger, as well as housing, clothing, education, and employment, a constant stranger knocking at the door, perhaps a permanent letter-writing area can be established at Northminster to address such concerns. Letters of Offering (and postcards, emails, phone calls, etc.) are necessary as a regular channel of communication to tell our leaders we want them to be vigilant in defending the basic rights of those less able to protect themselves.

Who knows? In some future of God's perfect universe, and with our efforts as stewards, there will perhaps be a world of abundance for everyone — a heaven here on earth. ✨



Indiana BFTW chapter volunteers met with 9th District U.S. Representative André Carson during the 50th Advocacy Summit to discuss his continued support for hunger programs.

- Answers to the puzzle on page 15:
1. YES: Luke 2:14
 2. NO: The Book of Common Prayer
 3. NO: Benjamin Franklin
 4. YES: Isaiah 40:28
 5. YES: Psalms 118:24
 6. NO: *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis
 7. NO: Marcus Tullius Cicero
 8. YES: Matthew 5:5
 9. YES: John 8:11
 10. NO: The Book of Common Prayer
 11. NO: Unknown (often inaccurately attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo)
 12. YES: Psalms 91:4

Two Musicians Move Their *Faith Forward*

“Singing is an essential element of worship.”

If you were fortunate enough to be at one of the Summer Fun Wednesday nights in June, you would have seen excited boys and girls seated, waiting for the opening music activities, a piano and a screen with pictures and song lyrics from the country in the night’s focus, and Elisabeth Kleinsmith Russ, their music director, teaching them songs, giving them tools to communicate through music, and talking to them like little adults.

You might be familiar with Elisabeth as a section leader in Northminster’s Chancel Choir and as a member of the Chamber Ensemble. But her music journey, from childhood to the present, is unique.

Her grandparents emigrated to Detroit from Scotland. They were members of the Free Church of Scotland, in which Elisabeth and her siblings were baptized. She grew up in Goshen, IN, where many of her friends were Mennonites. They harmonized a great deal, which helped her understand how voices work together in choir. She and her siblings were introduced to the piano at age 5, all studying it until age 18 - “and we hated it!”



Elisabeth Kleinsmith Russ at a piano recital as a child and as a singer today.

They also had to attend worship and stay for both the Gaelic and English services. She says the Psalm singing of that church really spoke to her.

Elisabeth was in the high school advanced choir and performed in four spring musicals. Her junior year, she auditioned for and made the Honors Performance Series, getting to perform in the choir with orchestra in Carnegie Hall. She was selected for the quartet in that concert and sang the alto solo in a Mozart “Vespers” (evening prayers). That,

she says, was her “aha” moment that she wanted to study music in college.

Being a bit shy, Elisabeth preferred a smaller school, so she chose University of Indianapolis. She said one of her professors there, Paul Krasnovsky, really fostered her love of choral music. He taught her sight-singing, and she was able to learn about world music — all styles, sacred and secular.

In graduate school at The University of Texas, she found herself struggling a bit with her beliefs and who she was. It was then that she was introduced to Taize worship - a style of sung worship where a very short piece is sung multiple times, followed by contemplative silence (about 10 minutes). She realized that singing and making communal music is a way to worship together, and that by studying music she could learn how to express her faith through a musical connection.

When she learned that Summer Fun would be focusing on a different country each week, Elisabeth began to research songs from each country. Dance and communal music making is important in each of the countries. For example, in Ghana the “call and response” style of singing is very important; in Cuba the



conga is typically done. The youngsters loved participating in the “conga line”! And, it was lovely to hear them singing in Spanish the Mexican song they learned — “Dios Es Mi Amigo” (“Christ Is My Best Friend”)!

If you are a fan of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, you might recognize Carol Frohlich seated in the pews on Sunday and say, “I know her — she was an ISO violinist for years!!” And you would be right — but she’s a lot more than that. She’s been a deacon, a Stephen Minister, and on mission trips to Africa.

Carol was born in Detroit into a

musical family — her father, Ken Jewell, was a public school music director. He taught his high school students solfège — a system used in music education to teach sight-singing and ear training. He also taught solfège to his daughters. Carol sang in her father’s Lutheran church choir through high school, and in his choir at Interlochen when he taught there in summers.

Carol began playing the violin at age 9. She played through high school, attending Cass Technical High School where she focused on music. She then attended the University of Michigan, where she planned to follow in her father’s footsteps by majoring in choral music. However, one of her professors persuaded her to focus on violin, and after her five years at the University of Michigan, she got an opportunity to play professionally with the Evansville Symphony, and she grabbed it! She spent two seasons there as the principal second violin, also playing in their outstanding string quartet and private teaching children.

After two years, Carol decided to get her master’s and moved to Indiana University. Upon graduating, she learned of openings in the Indianapolis Symphony

Orchestra and immediately auditioned, winning a chair in the violin section, where she remained for 38 years. She met her husband, also an ISO member, there.

Carol says that singing oratorios, cantatas and Bach chorales gave her the emotional context to understand passages from the Bible, enriching her understanding of the message of the gospel. When she was growing up she had to wear her best dress and shoes to church; now she wears her sneakers. She says it means a great deal to her that Northminster has a diverse congregation. In 2013, she joined a group of 20 from Northminster who went to Kenya with Rev. Teri Thomas. One day at worship in Kenya, one of the pastors invited them to say something to the congregation. Carol shared her confirmation verse she received in catechism: “I am the Vine; you are the branches.” The bilingual young pastor translated the verse in Swahili, moving Carol to tears. “It really hit me that the gospel is truly global.”

Through serving on the Umoja Project board, that position, serving in the Westminster food pantry, as a Stephen Minister, and in other ministries, Carol is always moving her faith forward. ❖

Carol Frohlich teaching violin to children and hiking in retirement.



Youth-FULL Summer Moves Our *Faith Forward*

This summer, Northminster youth, who were so well supported by our congregation at their Italian Night fundraiser back in February, had the opportunity to attend four unique conferences.

- The **Montreat Youth Conference** and the **Montreat Music and Worship Conference** both took place at Montreat Conference Center near Black Mountain, NC.
- The **Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference** took place at Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA.
- **Presbyterian Youth Triennium**, an every-three-year, national youth gathering of the PCUSA took place in Louisville, KY for the first time since the pandemic!

Each conference had a theme that was explored through various approaches such as worship, keynotes, music, choirs, energizers, recreation, Bible study, workshops, and small groups. For some of these trips, we traveled with youth from other congregations in our city and Presbytery, and then met even more people from the greater Church, showing our youth the larger tradition of which Northminster is a part. We enjoyed seeing youth in leadership roles throughout the conferences, making clear to both youth and adults that youth are not only the future of the church, but the here and now.

Enjoy these reflections from NPC youth and conference attendees. ✦



Montreat is one of my favorite places, whether it's for the Youth Conference or the Music and Worship Conference. The connections I've made there, especially at the Music and Worship Conference, have stayed with me long after the week is over. Even though we only see each other once a year, I've built lasting relationships with people I continue to stay in touch with throughout the year. The sense of community at Montreat is one of its greatest joys, but the beauty of walking around Lake Susan and exploring the campus is just as incredible. I've had the privilege of meeting many talented musicians whose passion and skills continue to inspire me. As long as I'm able, I'll make it a point to return every summer to the Worship and Music Conference.

—Ryan Kim, Junior at Herron High School



I did like Montreat. And I did like the theme of "Light My Path", it has given me faith and strength. And my small group was so funny! 😄 The food was so good. And I like the keynote from my small group, it has comforted me. With the worship 🙌 that was my favorite part of all time — it was great!

—Assa Byaombe
Junior at North Central High School



"Massanetta is a place where everyone is accepted. The theme during our week at Massanetta was holy love, wholly loved. This message showed that everyone is loved by God and everyone is loved in every aspect by Him. Massanetta embodied this theme by making their facilities accessible to everyone. Whether you are gluten-free or struggling with your identity, Massanetta will welcome you with open arms."

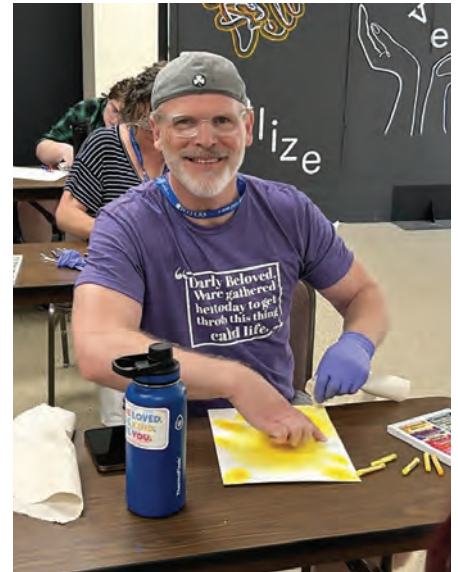
—Ben Ronco
8th grader at Creekside Middle School



Faith Forward Through Art



Art in a variety of forms is front and center at the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. Designs are created by artists at churches throughout the U.S. and brought to Montreat to enhance worship. Much of the artwork is created during workshops at the Worship and Music Conference. For many, it is their first time creating art that enhances worship.



When NPC members hear the phrase “Montreat Worship & Music Conference,” they usually focus on the singing, playing, and theological learning. But the conference also provides classes in art, and NPC has a long history of incorporating that learning into our worship experience.

The conference hosts liturgical artists that work in paint, fabric, dyeing, stamping, paper cutting, oil pastels, and other media, and those artists provide art for the main worship space. The artists also lead classes focused on their media and often provide specific suggestions for

how to use the finished results in our own churches. This summer, Lisa Longo, Brian Shivers, and I took the class that used oil pastels to illustrate the worship themes. Our work was then included in the worship space to expand the worship experience.

The classes are very interactive, and we were able to share our experiences with other churches. Some churches are semi-regular “art nights,” some have one or two people that do most of the art, while others are still getting started in the space. We shared some of the projects that NPC has done based on Montreat, such as

the vividly dyed silks used at Pentecost, the beautiful paper cuttings hung during Advent, and the hand-print graphics used in chancel hangings. We also shared sources of information from the internet, and our recently established Worship Arts Committee that keeps art blooming at NPC.

I have greatly enjoyed the classes I have taken at Montreat. Not only did I learn new ways to visualize God’s creations, but I also experienced the collaborative and meditative aspects of art as a group project. I can’t wait to see what next year will bring! ♦



Circle 3 Recharged

By Maureen Purcell, member since 1986



Historically Circles were created under the PWCN (Presbyterian Women in the Congregation of Northminster) and were divided according to age group and interest. One couples' group called themselves the Boomers (this is a hint as to the age-group) and most of the women Boomers were in Circle 3. As retirement happened for many and the daytime opened up, Circle 3 recharged and reformed on Thursday mornings.

According to Sally Gray, the group numbers about 20 and includes many who also do book studies with Striders, a popular Christ Care Group that meets twice a month for study, prayer, and a good walk in various neighborhoods and parks. Circle 3 has relaxed its study time and moved into acts they call Do-In-A-Day.

At the beginning of each season, the members contribute \$25 which is meant to be given away. For example, a donation was made to a recent immigrant family in order that they might buy Christmas presents for each other. A donation of time may be given to clean out a supply closet for Family Promise or the craft rooms at Northminster, to sorting and repackaging diapers at the Diaper Bank, and/or to preparing art kits for Spring Break activities of Arts for Learning.

There is no chairperson in charge of the Circle and the member who discovers a project that can be accomplished in a day is the one who organizes the event. They are always on the look-out for new Do-In-A-Day projects so if you have an idea, contact Sally Gray, Dolly Craft or Susie Scott.

In addition, the group prepares and serves one Wednesday night meal a month enjoyed by so many of our young families and others attending Wednesday programs.

Circle 3 welcomes new members/attendees any time as they look for ways to be helpful, living lives that moves their *Faith Forward* with Generosity. ✦

Is That in the Bible?

Here is a list of statements and quotations. Some are in the Bible and some are not. Can you tell the difference?

Answers on page 9.



Is it in the Bible?

	YES	NO
1. Peace on earth and goodwill to all people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Give to all nations: unity, peace and concord.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. God helps those who help themselves.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Man proposes, but God disposes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Friends share the joy and divide the sorrow.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Go your way and do not sin again.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; and we have done those things we ought not to have done.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. He who sings prays twice.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. He will cover you with his pinions and under his wings you will find refuge.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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Nunda (left) and Francois celebrate their new citizenship.

Helene (with flowers) is surrounded by family and friends at UIndy commencement.

The Lutumika Family Moves Forward in Faith

It is with great joy that we celebrate with the Lutumika family as Nunda and Francois became U.S. Citizens, and Helene graduated from University of Indianapolis with a bachelor's degree in health sciences. What blessings they have been to Northminster and to all who've known them since coming to the U.S. just seven years ago. Congratulations!



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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