

This month at Northminster

July 2020



A Message from Pastor Ruth

I hope this July newsletter finds you healthy and staying safe. A lot has been happening in our community and the world, and sometimes it's difficult to know what to focus on and how God is in the midst of it all and in our lives right now.

These are extraordinary times and how we react and engage as the church will determine our life as a congregation going forward. Trying to figure that out will take planning, patience, care and caution. Because as I read in an email, "we are flying a plane and building it at the same time."

Here are some decisions the Session has made on your behalf:

1. We will begin in person worship in the sanctuary on August 9. For now, we will have one worship service only at 11 am.
2. Church teams, committees, and small groups can start meeting in the church building beginning July 6. The groups are required to practice physical/social distancing, wear masks, and make a reservation with the church office for room usage, set up and clean up. The building itself will remain locked during the day to maintain safety for all.
3. Non-church affiliated groups will be considered for in person meetings beginning August 10.
4. The church staff began working in the building again on staggered shifts beginning June 22.

We are excited about opening up the church building again and seeing people in person. But in the interest of safety and caution – and because we care about our neighbors and others – we are requiring certain safety measures when you are in the building.

Worship participants will be required to wear masks, come into and exit the building through the Gathering Place, practice physical distancing (certain pews will



be roped off) and use hand sanitizer. Bulletins will be found on the pews and offering collected upon exiting the sanctuary. Specific instructions will be posted around the building and given during worship. If you are over 65, for your safety and the safety of others, you are encouraged to continue to worship at home through our livestream on the website.

If you come into the building during the week for a meeting or to volunteer, you will need to make an appointment as the building will be locked and we will have limited staff on the premises. Masks must be worn, and physical/social distancing practiced.

You will find hand sanitizer as you enter the Gathering Place door and all around the building. Wear your own mask or one will be given to you as you enter the building. Wearing masks protects both you and your neighbor and is a way for us to practice the love of Christ for all in our midst.

I do have one other concern as your pastor. Many of us are feeling isolated from others. Perhaps you are
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**For more information about these and other events and classes,
go to www.northminster-indy.org and click on Events.**



Opportunities for Learning and Conversation

We are living in unprecedented times. Even as we continue to practice social distancing, we are being called and challenged to confront the reality of the world around us. Jesus message to us is clear and it is direct ... "you will be my witnesses..." Friends, the gospel really gives us no choice! Let us work together to prepare ourselves for conversation, for advocacy, and for action that can promote change.

Sunday, June 28, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Discussion of the film JUST MERCY - free for the month of June of Amazon Prime, YouTube, and Google Play. **Please watch the film prior to the discussion.** It's the story of Bryan Stevenson who, after graduating from Harvard, heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly accused or those not afforded proper representation in legal cases. One of his first cases is that of Walter McMillan, who is sentenced to die in 1987 for the murder of an 18 year old girl, despite evidence proving his innocence. Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Institute, and a clinical professor at New York University School of Law.

Sunday, July 19- 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

OR Wednesday, July 22 - 7 - 8 p.m.

Discussion of the novel Strangers at the Feast by Jennifer Vanderbes. 2010: Scribner, an imprint of Simon and Shuster, Inc. Available used from Amazon.com at reasonable prices and probably also from the public library.

From the back cover of the book: "Training her sights on the intimate workings of a single suburban 'every

family,' Vanderbes manages to invoke the whole history of a continent, while simultaneously engaging some of the thorniest issues of our time. This is a book that dares to ask: What went wrong, and right, in America? It's more than a great novel. It's an important one!"

These conversations will be facilitated by Parish Associate Carol McDonald and will take place using Zoom.

To join these meetings, go to <https://bit.ly/RaceDiscussionsNPC> and click on the "Meeting Room Link" button. Meeting Room Password: iheartnpc

For more discussion dates and information, go to <https://bit.ly/RaceDiscussionsNPC>

Family Promise / IHN

Northminster continues to support Family Promise/IHN, even when we cannot welcome families into our church building. Thank you to all who supported the #NightWithoutABed campaign in May. Family Promise raised over \$112,500 to rent up to ten apartments as temporary housing for homeless families. Since then, Northminster has partnered with the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and Alpha Chi Omega alumnae of Butler University to collect household items to furnish one of these apartments. All items have been collected and we expect to deliver them to an apartment by July 1. During this difficult time of isolation and financial strain, Northminster continues our mission to help the most needy.

For more information go to www.northminster-indy.org

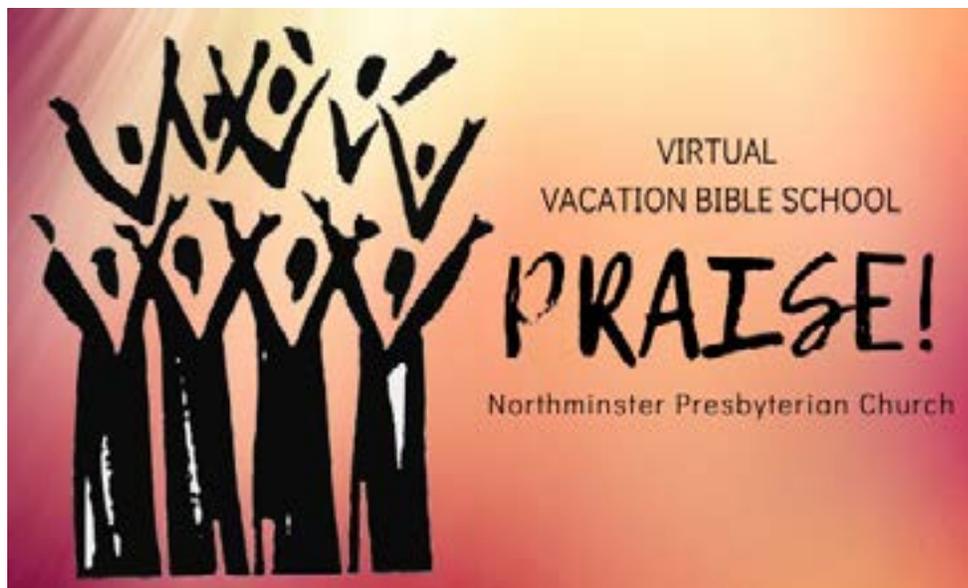
Northminster is offering Virtual Vacation Bible School this summer!

The theme is PRAISE! and we'll be offering 5 days of awesome content including stories, sing-along songs, crafts, scripture, and more!

Each day will focus on a Psalm of praise and explore one of the following questions:

- What is praise?
- Who do we praise?
- When do we praise?
- How do we praise?
- Why do we praise?

Daily content will include an introductory video, scripture reading and reflection, sing-along songs, a children's story, a craft, and daily prayer.



Our online content will be accompanied by an individual kit for each child registered. Kits will include all materials needed and can be picked up (curbside) at the church on July 8th. Kits can be mailed if needed. Once you receive your kit, Virtual VBS can be done anytime, anywhere, and any week that is convenient for your family!

Whether you are registering your own children, your grandchildren, or other family and friends - **register by July 3, 2020**. Register online at: <https://bit.ly/VirtualVBSnpc> or complete the enclosed paper form.

God Bless - Northminster's Christian Education Team

Questions?

Contact Heather Banks (mrsbanks29@gmail.com) or Melissa Hopkins (mhopkins@northminster-indy.org)

Senior Ministries

Dementia Friends Indiana Sessions (DFI) are a brief, but an impactful way of learning about dementia. The session provides participants an understanding and appreciation of the perspective of someone with living with dementia. For details, go to <https://www.dementiafriendsindiana.org/events-calendar/>

On June 30th, CICOA is offering a virtual webinar through our Envision Lecture Series on Surviving COVID-19: Long-Term Cognitive and Mental Health Effects on Patients and Their Caregivers. The presenter will be Dr. Sophia Wang. For more information, go to <https://cicoa.org/event/envision-lecture-caregiving-covid19/>

If you have questions about these or other Senior Ministries topics, contact Denise Harrington: dharrington@northminster-indy.org



Summer Worship

By Carol McDonald, Parish Associate

Associate Pastor, Ruth Moore, Director of Music Ministries, John Wright, and Parish Associate, Carol McDonald, met on Wednesday, June 10, to ponder the possibilities for our worship life as a congregation during this summer of continued social distancing as well as these days of national and international unrest. Believing we need a balance between comfort and challenge, we selected 12 hymns from Glory to God which, along with appropriate Scripture texts, will focus our community's Sunday morning worship. We look forward to exploring together the stories and biblical messages of these timely hymns:

“When Peace Like a River” (“It Is Well with My Soul”) #840 Philippians 4: 4-9

“God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me” - #543 Jude: 24-25

“God of Grace and God of Glory” - #307 Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7

“In God Alone” - #814 Ephesians 2: 11-22

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant” - #727 Matthew 25: 34-46

“God Is Calling through the Whisper” - #410 I Kings 19: 11-13; Romans 8: 26-27

“For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table” - #769 Galatians 3: 26-28

“God Is Here!” - #409 II Thessalonians 2: 15

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” - #792 Jeremiah 8: 18-22

“There Is a Longing in Our Hearts” - #470 Psalm 86

“I Will Come to You” - #177 Isaiah 43: 1-7

“Together We Serve” - #767 Ephesians 4: 11-16

Join us as we sing these hymns and ponder their messages to us in this season. Let us praise God together!

Message from Pastor Ruth

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feeling disconnected from your church community and friends. It's great to worship together online, but what about sharing a meal together or a donut, or a cup of coffee and conversation? Right now we have to make those connections remotely. And we will have to do that with intention. So if you are part of a social/spiritual group at Northminster please consider getting in touch with your participants either by phone or through an online platform like Zoom. Perhaps you could meet outside somewhere and physically distance for safety. Take the initiative. Reach out. Stay connected. You could be the face of Christ that person is looking for.

Remember, the church is not a building. It is you and how you share Christ's love in these difficult and challenging times. And I see you all doing that in so many ways. Thank you!

Northminster Presbyterian Church

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www.northminster-indy.org