

*This month at*  
**Northminster**

October 2020



# **Ice Cream Social & Bible Presentations – October 4th**

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**Walk up or drive up from 4 - 5:30 pm for an ice cream treat on  
Sunday, October 4th!**

**In addition, we will have a special presentation by Christian Education:  
Northminster 3rd Graders will receive their Bibles.**

**Come and park your car, bring your chairs and a pop up if it is hot, wear your mask,  
practice social distancing, and see Northminster friends. It will also be a time to  
meet-and-greet with Pastor Dave.**

**We hope to have Bingo and some other games.**

**Reserve your spot on the Events page of our website, or go to <http://bit.ly/Oct4Social>  
or call the church office at 317-251-9489 by October 2nd at Noon.**



**For more information about these and other events and classes,  
go to [www.northminster-indy.org](http://www.northminster-indy.org) and click on Events.**

## Message from Dave Smazik

I am grateful to be drafting this note while actually sitting in the office at Northminster! I have appreciated the warm welcome and look forward to additional opportunities to meet the members of NPC over the next couple months. As the last six months have reminded us, our usual ways of doing things will be happening in uncharted territory. I am aware of and want to extend my thanks for all your ongoing efforts to keep Northminster and its missions and ministries strong during these unusual times.

This fall I will begin by working with groups focused on the traditional fall efforts of stewardship and nominating. Working with the leadership, I will also begin to create a roadmap for this transitional time in the life of NPC. The apostle Paul reminds us, having 'packed the essentials' for our journey together in uncharted territory, to be confident that the One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.

In the grace of God-with-us,  
Dave



## Thank You from Pastor Ruth

Dear Members and Friends of Northminster,  
How can I thank you for all the cards, care packages, and food that you have sent our way since my heart "incident" on August 11th? I am not used to feeling puny, weak and having to take it easy, but my body seems to require that right now. So your encouragement and support of me has really helped me get through these last 7 weeks of recovery.

My healing is going more slowly than I would like, but I am doing PT, walking around my neighborhood and working on my nutrition and diet – yuck! I appreciate your patience with me and ask you to grant me a little more time to recover from the stress of the last few months. 2020 has really been a challenge hasn't it?

You all remain in my daily prayers and I appreciate all your prayers for me. I could not do this without your support, and I am grateful.

Much love, Ruth

## Thank You from Carol McDonald

You've all heard me say many times I do not consider myself an every-Sunday preacher. What a surprise to discover, on August 16 that I'd be preaching for at least the next 4 consecutive Sundays. Friends, thank you for all your kind and gracious support!

In this season of isolation and loneliness, it has been a gift to worship with you each Sunday and a joy once again to spend some time being part of Northminster's everyday life and ministry. I pray daily for Ruth's healing and recovery and give thanks to God every day for this community of faith that gives meaning and purpose to all of our lives. Thank you for being willing to "run together!"

*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. - Philippians 1:6*



## Day of Caring – October 11

It's that time of year again, time to roll up our sleeves and serve our church, our neighbors, our community. Broad Ripple Village Association and Northminster Building & Grounds Team will once again be outdoor worksites for our day of community service. Day of Caring will be held on Sunday, October 11, in the afternoon, and may also include Friday and Saturday workdays as well.

Our fine DOC committee—Nancy Flammé, Debbie Grush, and Sherri Pankratz — continue working to include other organizations. The committee is also putting together some projects that can be performed by some small groups or families at home. There will be something for everyone!

Look for sign-up online on the Events page of our website. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas for projects or organizations who could benefit from our service, contact Nancy: [nancyflamme21@gmail.com](mailto:nancyflamme21@gmail.com) or (317) 847-6692.



*Above: Day of Caring 2019 - weeding at Dayspring.*

## Work Days - October 9 & 10

Building & Grounds Team is sponsoring our annual Fall Work Days - COVID19 Style! Dates are **Friday, October 9 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and Saturday, October 10, also at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.** (Sorry, no lunch this year.) Please join us to help us paint, clean up, and fix up various projects at church. For a list of chores and sign up details go to <http://bit.ly/WorkDays2020> or call 317-251-9489 to let us know when you are available to help.



# Finding Hope in COVID

by Denise Harrington, Senior Ministries Coordinator

Over the last 6 months we have experienced many adjustments and changes to our everyday lives. And most of it has been centered around being alone and isolation from family, friends, and our social activities.

At first, it didn't seem this would last for long. I don't know how you felt when you heard the stay-at-home order announced, but I felt a little relief. Now, I thought, maybe I won't be so tired and I can get some rest.

I didn't have get up as early since I didn't have to travel to work. I just had to walk to the other room. The biggest challenge was figuring out all of the virtual meeting applications, keeping just my head in the screen because I was in my pajamas, and finding the mute button. It was a different type of world.

At the same time, my brother was in the hospital waiting for a heart transplant. Then a call out the blue from my sister that my brother-law had been admitted to ICU and she was told to quarantine for two weeks! Quarantine? What did that mean? The next call was that my brother-in-law was now on a ventilator. What in the world is going on? Now COVID-19 is not just on the news, it is in my family. It is scary and prayer without ceasing is in order. 1 Thessalonian 5:17

At this point, my days are filled with trying to navigate working from home daily and virtual meetings while receiving text updates on my two brothers. Each week we are learning of people we know dying from this horrible virus. By the third week I am drained and feeling alone. How do I cope? Spending time in the Bible and prayer helped me keep my sanity. My Lent study was about the attributes of God. I needed the reassurance of God's Faithful covenant.

I worried about my brothers being alone in the hospital without family being present. How could we encourage them and help them return to full health if we couldn't see them? I prayed for angels to be at their side. I prayed they would regain their strength and feel our prayers. I felt this was the best I could do considering the circumstances. I had to have hope. Then I read ***Psalm 33:10-22***:



10 The LORD frustrates the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes.

11 But the LORD's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken.

12 What joy for the nation whose God is the LORD, whose people he has chosen as his inheritance.

13 The LORD looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race.

14 From his throne he observes all who live on the earth.

15 He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do.

16 The best-equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior.

17 Don't count on your warhorse to give you victory—for all its strength, it cannot save you.

18 But the LORD watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love.

19 He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine.

20 We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help and our shield.

21 In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

22 Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone.

My summary thoughts were and still are ...My hope during COVID-19 is in God the ruler over all the inhabitants of the earth and He will restore us. His love is unfailing. I am grateful God has restored the health of my brothers. And now, 6 months later, my hope is in God alone.

**Northminster Presbyterian Church**

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**[www.northminster-indy.org](http://www.northminster-indy.org)**



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## Butterbraids are back ... YUM!

The Deacons are bringing back the popular and delicious Butter Braids pastries & cookie dough...even during a pandemic! Don't miss this "once a year" opportunity to purchase these special treats. This is one of two annual fundraisers that capitalizes the Deacons' Fund. In turn, this fund supports many programs, such as Communion service & flower delivery to NPC's homebound members, Clothe-a-Child, and Washington Township Schools "Back to School Extravaganza".

### 4 Ways to Place Your Order

1) Complete the order form included in this issue of This Month at Northminster and mail it to the church office, along with a check payable to Northminster Presbyterian Church, with "butter braids" in the memo line.

2) Order at: <http://bit.ly/2020ButterbraidsNPC>

3) Click the link in our weekly emails.

4) Email or call Donna Schmahl to place your order at [dlschmahl@gmail.com](mailto:dlschmahl@gmail.com) or 317-691-0721.

**Deadline for all orders placed is Sunday, October 18th.**

Butter Braid **delivery date is Wednesday, October 28th** from 4-7PM. We will offer "curb-side pick up" outside of the Gathering Place doors.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Schmahl at [dlschmahl@gmail.com](mailto:dlschmahl@gmail.com) or 317-691-0721.

## Thank You from Dayspring Center

Recently, the Dayspring Center posted this photo on social media with the following caption:

"Thankful for church partners like Northminster Presbyterian Church that continue to support local missions, like Dayspring Center, despite the challenges many churches are facing due to the virus. You are a blessing to more than 160 homeless families, including 500 children."

#homelessnothopeless #dogood #INthistogether

