Easter Sunday
worship opportunities
- page 2

For more information about these and other events and classes, go to www.northminster-indy.org and click on Events.
Our Vantage Point  - by Rev Dave Smazik

The empty tomb. That is the place from which we can gain perspective and clarity for our lives. No other event in the annals of humankind has, does or will impact us in the same way. The wilderness experiences of Lent and the past year are ebbing and we look to the risen Messiah for hope as did the prophet, Isaiah: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

God’s unconditional love and grace, set ablaze in a risen Christ, divinely impacts our lives. From the vantage point of the resurrection, where heaven and earth meet, we can recognize God’s provisions in our past darkness. It is the pivotal event that frees us to acknowledge Christ in our present moment and affirms our hope that the light of Christ’s presence will enfold us no matter what we encounter around the next bend. The communion in which we have been invited to live will be an experience for the ages. Our perspective on what lies ahead will be clarified through the One who is and will be our resurrection and life.

“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” Mark 16:6-7

So we go from the empty tomb - just like the disciples. Christ, who has been and is with us, has gone on ahead.

Easter Sunday Worship Opportunities

New Day Service at Broad Ripple Park
Bring your friends and family to a casual celebration of the risen Lord at Broad Ripple Park! Help us welcome this New Day together on Sunday, April 4th, at 9:00 am, in Shelter 1 for outdoor worship and to reconnect with our Northminster family.

Bring a mask and a chair, and bump elbows with Nancy Fortenberry, our new Director of Youth and Family Ministries.

Registration is required for this in-person service by March 31st. Register on the Events page of our website or call the church office at 317-251-9489. (If you are experiencing any covid-like symptoms, are immunocompromised or have an underlying medical condition, we encourage you to join us for our online service instead.)

Livestreaming Celebration
For those unable to gather, please note that a prerecorded celebration service with traditional Easter music (Brass Ensemble) will be available online that morning.
Stewardship Update

As we officially close our Stewardship campaign for 2021, we want to take this opportunity to share the results. The good news is, even though this was an extremely difficult year in which to feel connected with the church and each other, our community continued to be committed to Northminster’s mission. The total pledged amount for 2021 was $716,605. During the stewardship campaign, we asked you to take the time to reflect on your pledge and evaluate what tithing means to you. We knew this was a tall order but crucial given the year we all had. Even with all the financial hardships and uncertainties brought on by COVID-19, 35% of households were able to increase their pledge from 2020 to 2021 (an average increase of almost $835 for those households).

While we have a lot of reasons to celebrate, we also need to be transparent. Our total pledges were $63,395 short of the approved 2021 budget of $780,000. The overall number of pledging households decreased from 178 to 156. Total pledge dollars decreased by $52,490 (from $769,095 to $716,605). It would be easy to write off the decrease in the number of household pledges as an impact of COVID-19, but that is not the case. Like the national trend, Northminster is not attracting new members at the same rate that older members are moving away or passing away. For the households that provided reasons for discontinuing their pledge: 5 passed away, 4 were severely impacted financially by COVID-19, 4 did not pledge due to declining health, and 3 moved away. As a church, we are committed to facing these challenges head on, with the assistance of Pastor Ruth’s Young Adult grant and the consultant work of Aimee Laramore.

Although a stewardship team usually focuses on pledges, we also want to recognize the members and nonmembers who contribute to the church without pledging. In 2020, non-pledge contributions were almost $100,000.

In closing, we would like to thank all members and non-members for your support of Northminister’s mission. We look forward to reconnecting in person later this year. Our church family would not be the same without each of you sharing your gifts, both monetary and non-monetary.

Building & Grounds Team Reminders to the Congregation

Spring Work Days
Friday, April 30, from 9-noon and Saturday, May 1, from 9 to noon. People should mark their calendars. Sign up times and projects will be available right after Easter.

Window of Opportunity Fundraiser
"A Window of Opportunity" fund raising project will start right after Easter. Northminster is replacing 50 of its oldest windows. All of them are original to when the building was built. Each window is $300 and we have 50 of them "for sale"! You will be able to choose which window(s) you would like to "buy" by going to the Events page of our Northminster website. You will be able to make your purchase/donation online - or call the office to reserve a window and write a check.

Windows that you will be able to “purchase” are:
6 windows - Music area including John Wright's office, rehearsal room, robe room and music storage room
9 windows - Preschool and director's office
3 windows - Pastor offices
5 windows - office staff area
1 window - Library
16 windows - Sunday school rooms – second floor
6 windows - Knox Room – second floor
4 windows – Other areas: storage room next to Knox Room, Conference Room and the East Stairwell (2 windows)

Watch for details coming soon!
Northminster Reads  – April & May

On **Sunday, April 18, at 5:30 p.m.** we will continue our discussion of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. This amazing book continues to open our eyes to the reality of the caste system that still governs us and convinces us why that system must be eliminated from our culture. The focus for April 18 will be Parts Four - Seven. Discussion facilitators for April are Jennifer Dzwonar, Mary Beth Riner, and Carol McDonald. *(See Zoom login details, at right.)*

On **Sunday, May 16, at 5:30 p.m.** we will discuss *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own* by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. "We live, according to Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., in the after times - when the promise of Black Lives Matter and the attempt to achieve a new America have been challenged by a disruptive Presidency that represents yet another failure of America to face the lies it tells itself about race. Glaude reminds us, through dialogue with the work of writer James Baldwin, that we've been here before. This book is Glaude's endeavor to bear witness to the difficult truth of race in America today. It is at once a searing exploration that lays bare the tangled web of race, trauma, and memory, and a powerful interrogation of what we all must ask of ourselves in order to all forth a new America."

Join Parish Associate Carol McDonald for these Zoom meetings:

(Class begins at 5:30 pm)


Meeting ID: 756 536 8661  Passcode: 410957

Or dial any of these numbers to join by phone (no long distance charges):

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 756 536 8661 Passcode: 410957

**Looking Ahead ... In June and July, we will read Novels!**

**Sunday, June 13 -- What's Mine and Yours** by Naima Coster -- a novel about the integration of a public high school -- the March, 2021, selection of the Jenna Reads Today Show Book Club!

**Sunday, July 11 -- Concrete Rose** by Angie Thomas. In this searing and poignant exploration of Black boyhood and manhood, the author of *The Hate U Give* takes us back to Garden Heights 17 years before the events of *The Hate U Give.*

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**What Do Deacons Do?**

The Deacons have been busy this winter making phone calls to older and more vulnerable members. If you would like to be added to this check up list please inform Associate Pastor Ruth Moore. The Deacons have also provided Visa gift cards to two members who can’t drive so they can use Uber to attend doctor appointments. They continue to collect non-perishable food items in the blue food barrels and are taking the food down to our mission partner, Westminster Neighborhood Services. And last but not least, the Deacons are finishing up their Spring Plant Sale this month. Orders are due by April 2nd and pick up day is April 30th. (Check our website for details.) Please help the Deacons raise funds for their ministry and mission.

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**Thank You**

Dear Northminster Friends,

We are grateful for all the cards, phone calls, and emails we have received from you during the past few weeks.

They and your prayers and support give us the strength to endure during this ongoing battle, knowing God is with us always. All prayers throughout this time will be appreciated. It is nice to be remembered by so many.

Blessings to you,

*Troy and Nancy Hill*