This month at Northminster

May 2021

Come and Welcome Nancy Fortenberry, our new Director of Youth and Family Ministries!

This Meet-n-Greet will be outside on Sunday, May 2nd.
4:00 - 5:30 pm - everyone invited
5:30 - 6:00 pm - youth 6th - 12th grade

Join us for pizza, refreshments and fellowship!
(We’ll wear masks and observe social distancing.)


For more information about these and other events and classes, go to www.northminster-indy.org and click on Events.
Northminster Town Hall Meetings - May and June 2021

NPC is looking to the future and your input is needed!

All NPC members are invited to attend one of a series of Town Hall Meetings which will be held this spring. Opportunities will be provided for members who gather to share their thoughts as the congregation initiates setting its vision for the future. The meetings will be moderated by Rev. Dave Smazik, Interim Pastor, and Rev. Carol McDonald, Parish Associate.

The agenda will be the same for all meeting options and will include:
- Sharing reflections on the summary report from Aimee Laramore, church consultant.
- Discussion of the foundational values of Northminster.
- An overview of the Pastor/Head of Staff search process.

Please choose one of the dates/times below and register for that meeting on the Events page of our website, by using the link in our Friday emails, or by calling the church office, 317-251-9489.

- Wednesday, May 12, 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary
- Sunday, May 16th, 10:00 am in the sanctuary
- Sunday, May 16th, 1:00 pm via ZOOM
- Sunday, June 6th, 10:00 am in the sanctuary

Pentecost Sunday – May 23rd

“When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.” - PCUSA

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, your congregation participates in helping our children, youth and young adults grow up to proclaim with the Psalmist, "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."

40% of the Pentecost offering can be used by individual congregations to make an impact in the lives of young people within our own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Visit the PCUSA website to read additional stories of the impact of Pentecost contributions: https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost

Right now, with the novel coronavirus pandemic impacting the lives of our young people, this special offering has never been more relevant. Brooke’s Place, a counseling center for children who have experienced trauma in one way or another, to receive these special gifts in 2021.

While you can contribute to this special offering any time throughout the year, the official collection date is Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021. Wear something red to Early Service or Virtual Service. And celebrate Pentecost by either mailing your offering in the Special Offering envelope to the church office or by giving online via Shelby Giving on the church website. Blessings for your generosity!
Remarks from Ruth

We are smack in the middle of what the church calls the Easter season or Eastertide, the fifty days of celebration between the Resurrection of the Lord and the Day of Pentecost on May 23rd. The seven weeks of the Easter season make up a “week of weeks” (seven times seven): a symbol in time of the fullness and abundance of God’s grace. In ancient practice, fasting and kneeling were forbidden during the weeks of Easter. In this most joyful season, we celebrate the great mystery of our faith – that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

So what are you going to do this month to celebrate and share the joy of Christ’s resurrection? Well, I am going to be working in my garden to help bring to life some shrubs, planters and pots with growing flowers and herbs. The colors and beauty of spring lift my spirits after this long winter and season of pandemic. I hope to spend time outdoors with my family and friends and gather for meals and long overdue conversations. I am also going to be recovering from another surgery and hope this one is my last for a while! May is a busy month for Indianapolis and for our calendars, but as we gather – safely and cautiously! – I hope you can take the time to see and enjoy the new life in God’s creation and share the good news of Christ’s resurrection power with others. Spring has become my favorite time of year with its promise and hope – something we have longed for, haven’t we?

May (see how that word is both a month and a hope?) this month be one of renewal, hope, healing, new opportunities, and a time to celebrate. God is good. We are blessed. Go and be a blessing to others. Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

After a Pandemic Winter, Share the Renewal of Spring

By Denise Jones Harrington

Christians recently celebrated Easter and reflected on the resurrection of Christ. Regardless of one’s faith tradition, spring itself is celebrated by many as a season of resurrection and renewal of life. The browns of fall and winter give way to vibrant greens, yellows and pinks. We awaken each morning to the sun’s bright rays and the sound of birds chirping. The days grow longer. Flower buds are sprouting, and trees are blooming. The earth is coming alive!

After a year of being weighed down with the COVID-19 pandemic, the rollout of vaccines this spring brings its own season of resurrection and renewal. People are emerging from the shelter and relative isolation of their homes seeking social and spiritual connections with others once again. The desire to connect and thirst for community has never been greater. The door is opening to feel comfortable once again in small social gatherings with family and friends. Grandparents who haven’t seen their children or grandchildren in a year now can see them face to face after being vaccinated. Many congregations are moving to in-person worship again.

Spring represents new beginnings. How is your faith community breathing new life into others? Now, is the time to check in again with your senior members. Do they need yardwork done, gutters cleaned, windows washed? They would be happy to reconnect and know their community is mindful of them.
Northminster Reads

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.

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. Sunday, July 11 -- Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas.

Mission Team Updates

Above: John and Brenda Reed presented NPC March Mission check to Wheeler Mission Donor Specialist Adam Beretta

Above: Victor Perkins presented NPC April Mission check to Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana.

Chief Philanthropy Officer Gail Lowry: “We are able to provide about 5 meals for every $1 so the gift you shared translates to 15,000 meals. That’s a tremendous fundamental impact to our neighbors. Also included was the following note from a Gleaners client:

Message from a grateful Hoosier: “I started coming after my breast cancer treatment left me with no money to buy healthy food. I was a few hundred dollars over income to qualify for SNAP and it didn't matter that the extra money they thought I had was spent on medication, car insurance, home maintenance and gas money for the friend who came to help around my house. Your fresh foods made a difference in my health and care. Thank you.”

Peace & Global Witness Offering

NPC’s portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering directed toward backpacks for North Central HS students in need (Fall 2020) was $300!

Thank You from Call-A-Member Campaign Committee

Thank you to the 45 members who called other Northminster members to say Hello and check in. Many positive comments were received!
- Congregational Life Team