

AUGUST, 2021 NEWSLETTER

“Hope Does Not Disappoint Us”

- Romans 5:1-5



From the Minister...

As the days of summer become shorter, our thoughts are turning to the fall. This time in the life of the world has taught us that nothing is permanent and fixed except for God's love. In that spirit, we're making plans for our fall events and activities, in the knowledge that adaptations and variations may be necessary. The leadership of North Church is striving to find the balance between being able to do things together and maintaining safety for everyone.

Meanwhile, it's been wonderful to preach in front of a live congregation again, and to gather for coffee hour after Sunday worship. We need volunteer coffee hour hosts to sign up via the sign-up genius link you've been emailed; if you can't make that work, call the office. Coffee hour procedures have been streamlined for both safety and ease for volunteers, and it's a great way to see everyone.

After over a year of "home-grown" video worship, I'm pleased that we will be expanding our capacity for high quality live streaming of our in-person services! Thanks for your patience with our glitches and a/v quality issues as we await the upgrades; you can read more about this in our Moderator's notes.

Now that we are back to Sanctuary worship, I'm looking to expand the list of lay readers and schedule folks in advance; if you would like to be one of our readers, please let me know at ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com. You'll receive the order of service with your parts.

Even as we plan for the coming months, I wish you some summer R&R this month, and I look forward to seeing you in church!

Faithfully,

Rev. Mary E. Biedron

Moderator's Notes...



Summer is zooming by – hard to believe that, as I write this, July is almost over.

We are back to worship in person in our beautiful sanctuary (with some safety precautions still in place). Our live streaming on Facebook will continue, so you can attend Sunday worship while you are traveling, or if you just have that odd Sunday where you prefer to stay home in your PJ's.

During the summer we have soloists and organ during worship. Coffee hour following worship is in the Plymouth / Bradford room. Looking ahead, we hope to return to our normal procedures in the fall, with the Choir rejoining us and a return to Fellowship Hall – pandemic situation permitting, of course.

Last month I conducted an informal poll of the Congregation on live streaming worship. The replies were unanimous in favor of continuing to do so. We are planning to make updates to the audio / visual equipment in our sanctuary to support this, even as we continue to have in person worship. The worship services are available live on Facebook at 10:30 on Sunday morning; they are also available later on YouTube and the new Church website.

We held our annual program meeting on June 27 via Zoom. It went smoothly – thanks to all the Boards, officers, and delegates for their reports, and thanks to all of you who attended. We elected new Board members and officers – thanks to all those who have volunteered to serve this program year.

The Church continues to operate under our new Ministry Board structure. As we do so, we are operating under our old bylaws, with various sections that no longer apply suspended by Executive Council. Next year we will bring new bylaws to the Congregation for approval, bylaws that reflect our current structure and operations.

Executive Council Notes

Executive Council met on June 26 and considered the following:

- **Assets & Resources and Treasurer:** We are in the process of applying for forgiveness of the Church's second PPP loan. The first loan has been forgiven and is so reflected on the Church's books.
- **Diaconate:** Diaconate continues to keep in touch with our shut-ins. The Board conducted its annual review of our member list and will submit recommended changes to Executive Council for approval.
- **Education:** Summer Sunday School continues via Zoom and is going well.
- **Fellowship:** The June 20 ice cream social went well. Mascot's held a retirement party for **Tim Sirovy, Margaret Plummer, and Susie and Danny Hawkins** which, despite the threatening, cloudy weather, was great fun. If you have suggestions for social events, please let them know!



- **Missions:** Our Missions Board continues to support Crossroads in Detroit. They are considering speakers for our next missions' month. There may be future opportunities to help at Camp Restore Detroit, keep an eye on the Church newsletter
- **Worship:** We are back to in person worship – the Board is looking ahead to the next steps in our reopening process.
- **Moderator: Danny Hawkins** retired as our Business and Program Manager in July (thank you Danny for all your work). As part of his transition, the Church has contracted **LMR & Associates** (Livonia) to keep the Church's books and **Paychex** to process Church payroll. Thus far this is working out well, although there are still some transition issues to finalize. Council approved an adjustment to staff wages as some of Danny's tasks have been assumed by the remaining staff.
- **New Business:**
 - Sanctuary A/V update. Council approved an expenditure to update the audio/visual equipment in our sanctuary. This will support improved live streaming and is necessary to be able to do so when the Choir returns. This equipment may also offer other uses, such as live streaming concerts or speaker series in the sanctuary.
 - Church roof. Our roof is the building's original and is showing its age. During storms in July we experienced a leak in the sanctuary area. Fortunately, it was discovered early and has been repaired. Office staff is working on collecting quotes for a roof replacement, possibly next year.

May we all look forward to a future with hope.

"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance." (Song of Solomon 2:12-13)

Kevin Gromley

AUGUST MEETINGS

Missions Ministry Board – Sunday, August 8, at 11:30 a.m.

Education Ministry Board - Monday, August 9, at 7 p.m.

Diaconate Ministry Board – Tuesday, August 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Worship Ministry Board - Sunday, August 15, at 11:30

Fellowship Ministry Board – Tuesday, August 17, at 7 p.m.

Assets & Resources Ministry Board - Wednesday, August 18, at 7 p.m.

Executive Council – Monday, August 23, at 7 p.m.

NORTH CHURCH ARTICLES AND ACTIVITIES



AUGUST COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need two volunteers to help out each Sunday at Coffee Hour. Please see the link to the sign up below for more information, and to sign up. Articles and signup genius links will be sent out monthly. If you have any questions, please contact **Janice Thornton**, Facilities Coordinator, at ncc.churchoffice.janice@gmail.com or Cell - 248-535-5806.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4eaead2dabfd0-coffee>

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

A group of North Church Men meet every other Tuesday for breakfast at Moe's on Ten, at 9:00 a.m. They will be meeting on **Tuesday, August 10 and 24**. If you would like to join them, please contact **Steve Lange** at stephenlange@me.com.

BOOK GROUP

Going forward, we will be in person in the church library AND live on zoom (a hybrid experience!) so watch the planner for zoom contact info if you are out of town or prefer to stay remote.

Wednesday, August 18th @ 1 PM. - "The Unbreakable Child" by Kim Michelle Richardson. This is a beautifully told story about strength and an enduring faith that can lead but one place: to forgiveness. Grim yet ultimately inspiring, this harrowing biography catalogues years of institutional abuse that took place in the Saint Thomas—Saint Vincent Orphan Asylum, a Catholic orphanage in Anchorage, Kentucky.

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GOLF OUTING

Please join us for the North Church fall Golf Outing at Farmington Hills Golf Club beginning at **3:30 p.m. on the afternoon of September 12th**. We will play a nine-hole scramble (beginners welcome) followed by dinner at the Greek Island Bar & Grill at the golf course. Non-golfers are welcome to join us for dinner. The cost for golf will be \$26 and is payable at the golf course. Dinner is a la carte. A signup sheet will be outside Fellowship Hall or you may contact Fellowship Ministry Board Activity Team to sign up.

MISSION BENEVOLENCES for the month of August

Habitat for Humanity (National Office), Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Michigan Conference of Congregational Christian Churches, South Oakland Shelter