

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OCTOBER, 2021 NEWSLETTER

“GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS”

- Mark 16:15



From the Minister...

WE NEED YOU....

To help us to tell the good news by supporting our church financially. October 17th is the start of our 2021 Stewardship program, where we ask you, our members and friends, to make a pledge of support so that we know what our resources are as we go into the 2022 Fiscal Year. We couldn't hold regular in person and online worship services, keep up our building that is used by the community as well as by our church, or go out in service to our community and our world without your support. In the coming month, you'll be hearing more about what North Church and its ministries mean to your fellow church members, in addition to the mission highlights we've shared in September. Please pray for North Church, and examine your ability to contribute, as we plan for the year ahead.

We also need YOU—to volunteer for our various events, missions, and activities. Signup sheets from the Ministry Boards are in the Narthex every week, and you can also sign up for many things by using signup genius. See the stories in this Newsletter and consider how YOU could help send cards to shut-ins, gather food for Lighthouse, assist with Trunk or Treat and other all-church parking lot events, go out on mission projects, act as a Lay Reader, and more!

There are jobs for all ages, and all kinds of skill levels; come and find your place of service and **discover all over again how much enjoyment and fulfillment comes from working side by side to care for one another and our world.**

Faithfully,

Rev. Mary E. Biedron

Moderator's Notes...



As I write this it is the last few days of September. After several days of rain we are enjoying some lovely, sunny early fall days. The air is crisp and the trees are beginning to change. It is a lovely time of year in Michigan.

As we head into fall, one of the questions I've been asked is, "When will we return to coffee hour and other, normal Church activities?" I discussed this with our Reopening Task Team and with Executive Council. Unfortunately, the pandemic numbers in Michigan are not good – cases, hospitalizations, and (sadly) deaths have increased from their June / July lows. The Task Team recommended that we look to resume coffee hour when the test positivity rate falls below 5% (it is currently 7.8%, possibly starting to decline). So, for the time being, we will continue socially distanced worship, no coffee hour, but gathering outside after worship as you wish. Sunday School will continue to be virtual through the fall, which monthly in person, outdoor gatherings.

While we are not yet resuming indoor social and other Church activities, plans are under way for several outdoor fall activities. These are discussed below, in my Executive Council summary. The Education and Fellowship Ministry Boards are looking for **volunteers** to help organize and execute these events. Please see the sign-up sheets in the narthex, call the Church office, or contact **Michelle Sibley** or **Tim Sirovy** if you are interested in helping.

Rally Sunday was a success and a lot of fun – a big thank you to everyone who helped with this event.

Several exciting things are in the works for North Church. As reported, we will be upgrading the audio / visual equipment in our sanctuary. This will improve our ability to live stream worship and will alleviate the need for **Rev. Biedron** to juggle cameras and microphones as she is leading worship. It will also offer new possibilities for streaming future programs and events in our sanctuary. In addition, we are also in process of replacing our somewhat dilapidated sign on Twelve Mile Road with a new, electronic sign. This will make the Church's presence much more visible to passing traffic, and of course will allow us to display up-to-date messages. Both these changes will, I think, help move North Church into the future and (hopefully) help us attract new friends and members.

As I noted in my last message, in our August meeting Council also approved Church priorities for the coming year. Those priorities are:

- Complete the transition that followed Danny's retirement to our new accounting / payroll / program model (still a work in progress)
- Continue to work on developing our new Ministry Board structure, improve the ability of the Boards to solicit volunteers and form activity teams
- Finalize new bylaws (reflecting our new structure) and submit to the Congregation for approval
- Complete the transition to hybrid worship (in person plus live streamed) with improved AV equipment
- Increase the number of attendees at Sunday worship and children in Sunday School

Executive Council Notes



Executive Council met on September 27 and considered the following:

- **Assets & Resources and Treasurer:** Our second PPP loan was approved, the effect of the forgiveness will appear in our next financial report (kudos to everyone who made this happen). The transition to utilizing an outside firm for the Church's accounting and bookkeeping continues. There were some outside water issues around the Church with the recent heavy rains; Church office staff is addressing them. We will need a new roof for our building, probably next year. Assets & Resources is considering ways to raise funds for this.
- **Diaconate:** The Diaconate has started a new program, "Pilgrim Postal Pals." It is a way to reach out to members / friends who we have not seen in a while, or who may need a friendly word. To participate, pick up one of the addressed envelopes in the narthex after worship, sign the enclosed card (with a note if you wish), and drop it in the mail. Diaconate also continues to keep in touch with our shut-ins. Fox Run has changed their shuttle policy, making it impractical for our resident members and friends. The Diaconate has arranged for volunteers to provide rides for our Fox Run attendees. If you would like to **volunteer** for Fox Run Sunday driving, please contact **Sandy Greer**.
- **Education:** The Education Ministry Board is planning two outdoor "trunk or treat" events for October. One will be October 9 with the Farmington Hills Police Department, in conjunction with the Faith and Blue interfaith organization. The second "trunk or treat" will be at North Church on October 31 (pray for no rain 😊). Education is also planning an adult education Bible study series in conjunction with our Senior Minister. The Board is looking for help with these events and activities; to **volunteer**, see the sign-up sheets in the narthex or contact **Michelle Sibley**.
- **Fellowship:** Fellowship is coordinating with the Education Board on the October events. In addition, they are planning a 'fowling' social event at the Hawk (you'll need to look it up) and a euchre evening in November.
- **Missions:** Our Missions Board secured several speakers for our current missions' month. They have arranged a joint workday at Camp Restore Detroit, teaming with Meadowbrook Congregational Church, on October 2. Contact the Church office if you are interested in joining us (the plan is to help with outdoor cleanup and gardening work).
- **Worship:** The Worship Board is looking ahead to Thanksgiving and Advent. They are coordinating with **Laurie Meeker** on music for our holiday worship. Christmas Eve will be a hybrid worship session (in person and live streamed), with the option of lighting candles at home. October 3 will be Sunday communion.
- **New Business:**
 - Once we have the new audio / visual system installed in our sanctuary, we will need someone to run it. Church staff is looking to hire a contractor. The position description will be presented at the next Council meeting.
 - Council discussed the future of the wish list and potential capital campaigns.
 - Council meetings will continue via Zoom for the time being.

The pandemic continues to test our patience and resolve; may we continue to live and endure with faith and hope.



“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”
(1 John 3:18)

Kevin Gromley

OCTOBER MEETINGS

Women’s Fellowship – Wednesday, October 6, at 12:30 p.m., Plymouth Room

Education Ministry Board - Monday, October 11, at 7 p.m.

Diaconate Ministry Board – Tuesday, October 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Assets & Resources Ministry Board - Wednesday, October 13, at 7 p.m.

Missions Ministry Board – Wednesday, October 13, at 7 p.m.

Worship Ministry Board - Sunday, October 17, at 11:30 (in person with a Zoom option.)

Fellowship Ministry Board – Tuesday, October 19, at 7 p.m.

Executive Council – Monday, November 1, at 7 p.m.

NORTH CHURCH ARTICLES AND ACTIVITIES

DIACONATE MINISTRY BOARD

COMMUNION

We will celebrate Communion on **Sunday, October 3rd in worship.**

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Classes will be held at First Congregational Church in Royal Oak on **Sunday, October 3, 17, and November 7, 14.** We will leave after church and drive together.

PILGRIM POSTAL PALS

Each month the Diaconate will be spotlighting one of our members or friends that may be celebrating an occasion or may need a little boost. There will be 20 stamped and addressed cards available on the Circle of Care table. Take a card, add a note and your name and drop it in the mail within a week of selecting a card.

Our first recipient will be **Amanda Turner** who will be getting married on October 9, 2021.

Please make Amanda’s special day even more special by picking up a card from the Narthex on **Sunday, October 3rd.**

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN FOR 2022

“Go and Proclaim the Good News” - Mark 16:15



During the past year or so, North Church staff, boards, and members learned a lot about maintaining connections in a challenging time. We gathered for online services and parking lot activities. We lit Christmas Eve candles at home but were still together. We continued our support of missions and of each other.

North Church is now able to offer in-person Sunday worship services while still using modern technology to reach out to those at home or out of town. This important online presence will continue in the future, with plans for a more professional audio-visual system and even an electronic sign at our Twelve Mile entrance.

The Stewardship Team will be hosting **Moments for Stewardship during worship services on October 17, 24, and 31**. These presentations will provide some background and inspiration about how supporting North Church can positively affect our congregation and our community. We will each have the opportunity to reflect on the role of North Church in our lives as we look forward to **Commitment Sunday on November 7**, when we will pledge our support for 2022.

Please plan to join us in person or online!

North Congregational Church Stewardship Team

EDUCATION and FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY BOARDS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

I am excited to say that we will be doing a once a month in person Sunday School class that is mindful of all CDC and local COVID 19 precautions, and coordinates with the Fellowship Board activities: such as Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc. Please reach out to me if you have any questions, or concerns. **Michelle Sibley**, Education Board Chairperson. 248-890-1481.

UPCOMING EVENTS: See the flyers and sign up sheets on the table in the narthex..

Friday, October 8 at 6 p.m. at North Church

Decorating the Verdun's car – Volunteers needed

Saturday, October 9, 4-6 p.m.

Farmington Hills Police Department Faith & Blue Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 31

UNICEF/Trunk or Treat, following Sunday Worship Service

MISSIONS MINISTRY BOARD



MISSIONS MONTH

On October 3rd, we will hear from the North Church Camp Restore Volunteers. Camp Restore is a mission service camp in the 9th precinct of Detroit which partners with the local community to achieve projects which bring hope. Camp Restore Detroit is an outgrowth of Camp Restore New Orleans which began during relief efforts after hurricane Katrina.

On October 10th, Anil Kumar, Officer and Paster of the Salvation Army of Farmington The Salvation Army provides a variety of programs year-round which help communities thrive.

MISSION BENEVOLENCES *for the month of October*

F/FH Community Foundation for Youth and Families, Congregational Library

WORSHIP MINISTRY BOARD

LAY READERS

Lay readers are needed, and we'd love to have ***you!*** The lay reader's responsibilities include speaking from the pulpit (and being recorded/viewed during the live streaming and Facebook recording) twice in the service: during the Invocation, and Lord's Prayer (leading the congregation, unison reading) and that day's scripture reading. Materials are sent to you a few days prior for your review and printed for you on the day of service.

If you are willing to be a lay reader, choose a date that works for you on the sheet located in the Narthex, or you can sign up online via the SignUp Genius link. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4eaead2dabfd0-layreaders>

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY BOARD

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, October 5th and 19th**. If you would like to join them, please contact **Steve Lange** at stephenlange@me.com.

BOOK GROUP - Hybrid (in person and zoom) meeting Wednesday, October 20, at 1:00 PM

Our October book is this year's "Michigan Reads" selection, highlighting events in our state's history: The Women of the Copper Country by the gifted author Mary Doria Russell. Set on the Keweenaw Peninsula in the copper mining community of Calumet, Michigan, this historical

novel follows a brave miner's wife who overcomes economic and social obstacles to protest unsafe and unfair mining practices in the early 20th century and spearhead a new labor union.



Come join in the discussion, either in person in the Conference Room, or on zoom! RSVP to **Rev. Biedron** at ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com for the zoom link.

FRIDAY NIGHT FOWLING

Attention *All Adventurous Friends over 21 who like to have fun.* You are invited to join us at the Hawk (the old Harrison High School), on **Friday, October 29**, from **8 – 10 p.m.** Pre-Game (dinner) at Craft Brew City at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up at the table in the Narthex. The cost is \$5.00 per person.

2021-2022 DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please Add: Marion Stowell, 35675 Lone Pine Lane, Farmington Hills, MI 48335
(248) 471-2195 Email: StowellM@att.net

Brinton Butler – REMOVE his home phone number: 248-360-2532

Sara Lange - ADD her cell phone: 248-231-0735

Ken Congdon died September 14, 2021

Dorothy Congdon has moved to The Avalon (formerly First & Main), 100 W. Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Township, MI 48302.