

# Northminster Newsletter *Renew Your Spirit* September 2022

*525,600 Minutes. That's how many minutes are in a non-leap year and how many minutes I've had the pleasure to serve as Transitional Pastor at Northminster. What an amazing year it has been! We started with re-learning how to be together in a new age of disease and uncertainty. Last September we held our first in-person worship service since March 1st, 2020 while also creating sustainable worship over Zoom. We average 30 people joining us over Zoom each week, 25-35 joining us in the sanctuary, and 5-10 who view our service on their own time via YouTube. Prior to the pandemic, we averaged 60-70 people in worship per week, so while we have had some folks leave or pass away over the past three years, others have made Northminster their spiritual home and overall our worship numbers have remained consistent.*

*While Zoom has been a lifeline for many on Sunday, there are many folks who have worked hard to bring life back into our sanctuary. From flowers, to coffee hour, to our musically gifted congregation, to the folks dedicated to driving carpools that bring members who can no longer drive but want to worship in person at the church each week, your commitment to this worshiping community inspires me every day.*

*Additionally, the Session has done a tremendous job of listening, learning, and researching who Northminster is now as a worshiping community and where God is calling us next. This fall, you all vote to create the Pastoral Nominating Committee who will do the important work of prayerfully discerning who God is calling to be your next pastor.*

*I know that times of transition can also be times of anxiety, so I want to highlight a few things as evidence that God is still actively moving in and through this community, even while in transition:*

- 1) Four children were baptized and a new member joined us.*
- 2) More than 20 people have embraced art as a spiritual practice, creating beautiful pieces to decorate our sanctuary.*
- 3) There are new banners adorning our sanctuary for Eastertide, Pentecost, and in memory of member Dennis Pickell.*
- 4) You wrote cards, made phone calls, and gathered in prayer around the families who lost loved ones this year.*
- 5) You contributed money and resources to provide Friendship Bags for the Shelter, those who can no longer attend regular worship, and not-forgotten friends.*
- 6) You wished fond farewell to two staff and welcomed two in.*

7) You attended bible studies, Theology on Tap, prayer services, book groups, and in-home gatherings that nourished your spiritual formation and strengthened your community.

I've shared with many of you my deeply-held belief that while a church's pastor is their teacher and support, the church is *NOT* its pastor. The church is all of you. The community you build together is what will nurture and sustain your faith, whatever joys and tribulations life brings your way. It is each of you, living out your faith each day, that brings glory to God and inspires others to join you. Not a program, not a musical group, and not a single person standing in the pulpit makes Northminster. It is you.

I am blessed and honored to walk this journey with you for a while longer as your new pastor is revealed. Whomever that is, they will have the joy of shepherding a loving, supportive, and faithful community. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

Jeny

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### FALL MEANS NEW BEGINNINGS!

**Choir  
Practice**

**resumes on**

**Thursday September 8,  
7:30-9:00 pm**



Youth Ministry  
and Community  
Dinners will be  
starting again in  
the Fall. If you or  
your family are

interested in helping out with  
Sunday School and/or our monthly  
Wednesday community dinners,  
please contact our new Director of  
Ministry, Adelia Nunn, at  
[adelia.nunn@northminsterpres.org](mailto:adelia.nunn@northminsterpres.org)



## Northminster Cooks, Part 1:

The church archives contain a variety of treasures accumulated during the 133 years since the founding of Northminster. I recently uncovered the church cookbooks from 1947, 1949, 1963, and 1987. In the 1947 edition I found the chocolate sauce recipe my family has used since that date.

This led me to ask current members for the recipes of food we have savored at church gatherings or have talked about in conversation. Below you will find the divine **Divinity** recipe from **Pat French**. She made 90 packages of these to deliver in one of 2020 Friendship bags! Over the years she has brought this candy to many church events or has been known to hand you a package at church.

**Anna Ure** has been telling me about her **Scotch Shortbread** recipe which she has been making for over sixty years. Note that the cookbook was published in 1932. And here I thought Rice Flour was a new gourmet ingredient!

Yes, these recipes could have been reformatted as a new document, but I find the original recipe has an added value for meaningful context!

Enjoy and please share at coffee hour. Jan Olson {Editor's note: Couldn't get original recipes in so look for them at church! Sorry Jan! Recipes below.}

### SHORTBREAD AND BISCUITS

#### 485. Scotch Shortbread

4 oz flour                      2 oz rice flour                      4 oz butter                      2 oz castor sugar

Sieve the flour, rice flour, and sugar into a basin; add the butter, and work all together with the hand until of the consistency of short crust. Form into a round cake either with the hand on a pastry board or in a shortbread mould. Place the cake on a greased and papered tin, prick it well and bake in a good steady oven till beginning to colour; then moderate the heat, and allow it to crisp off slowly for about one hour.

The Edinburgh Book of Plain Cookery Recipes, 1932

### Divinity

3 c sugar      1/8 t salt      1/2 c lt. corn syrup      1 t vanilla      2/7 c H2O      1 c nuts      2 egg whites

Cook Karo sugar and H2O to 245 degrees (lt. crack stage)

Mix egg whites and salt till stiff peaks (electric mixer)

Gradually pour hot syrup into egg whites while continuing to beat. Add vanilla and nuts and continue to beat till it loses its gloss. (I beat it awhile before adding nuts and vanilla.)

When it is firm enough to stand by itself, drop by teaspoon on wax paper. Let dry.

*Bon Appetit!*



## Flower Arranging Class- a Big Success!

Many thanks to Ann Kurtz, flower arranger & teacher par



excellence. Nineteen Northminster members & friends gathered for a morning of creativity and self-care, making beautiful small arrangements for ourselves and to share.

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## Treasurer's Report by Rebecca Rufin

In January, Northminster held its annual congregational meeting, where I presented the budget proposed for our 2022 General Operating fund (also known as the Local Mission Fund). At that time, I pointed out that although we are in a relatively strong financial position, we are still faced with considerable financial challenges as we embark into full operational mode after the partial closure caused by the COVID pandemic. Not only have we committed to full staffing (due to parental demands, Pastor Dani worked half-time during the pandemic), but we are also faced with congregational attrition and increased expenses. The Session decided our remaining congregation cannot be reasonably expected to increase giving to make up for all these changes, so the Operating budget was established with a budget deficit projection of about \$57,000. This deficit will be covered by allowing the balance in our checking account and other investments to drop accordingly. When I delivered this news to the congregation, I promised to provide budget status updates and insights periodically during the year in our Newsletter, and this is the second of those updates.

The General Operations financial status is summarized in Table 1 below. With over 7 months of the year now complete, income and expenses should be at about 60% of the annual budget, and indeed that is pretty much the case overall. There is currently a net deficit of \$20,574 - about 36% of what we anticipated for the year - so in that regard we are doing significantly better than predicted. We hope to see that trend continue!

**TABLE 1**

Budget Line Item	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	% of Budget
<b>Revenue</b>			
Building Usage	\$10,053	\$12,000	83.78%
In-kind Contributions	\$703	\$1,000	70.28%
Interest & Dividends	\$1,976	\$2,500	79.06%
Local Mission Offering	\$104,855	\$171,739	61.05%
Loose Offering	\$105	\$100	105.00%
Manse Rent	\$17,750	\$30,500	58.20%
Other Inc	\$2,413	\$1,000	241.27%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$137,855</b>	<b>\$218,839</b>	<b>62.99%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Building & Grounds	\$18,814	\$38,658	48.67%
Church Administration Expenses	\$14,825	\$28,527	51.97%
Church Local Mission/Ministries	\$740	\$2,875	25.74%
Connections & Membership Development	\$1,820	\$2,300	79.15%
Payroll	\$77,221	\$137,309	56.24%
Payroll Expenses	\$24,0303	\$37,088	64.79%
Utilities - Church	\$18,757	\$25,737	72.88%
Utilities - Manse	\$2,221	\$3,612	61.50%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$158,429</b>	<b>\$276,106</b>	<b>57.38%</b>
<b>Net Revenue (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$(20,574)</b>	<b>\$(57,267)</b>	<b>35.93%</b>

The General Operations Fund is only one piece of our overall financial structure, albeit a big piece. We also have various funds that contain monies earmarked for specific purposes inside and outside of our church, such as Deacons Fund, various Mission funds, Bequests, Major Maintenance, tax obligations, and others. People contribute to these funds over and above General Operations. Table 2 provides a simplified view of those income streams. Note that Table 2 should not be confused with the General Operations Fund or its budget; rather, the General Fund income is simply a partial subset of the information presented in Table 2. A more elaborate version of this table was provided with the May Newsletter, showing prior year statistics intended to illustrate the impact that membership attrition was having on our giving. That table showed that the number of giving units/families in our congregation had dwindled from 75 in 2020 to 48 in 2022 (through May). I'm happy to report that since that time, another 12 giving units have contributed to our church, increasing that number to 60. While we still see the impact of attrition, it is substantially less than my last report. Also, we are achieving our 10% tithing goal for gifts directed "beyond our walls".

**Table 2**

<u>Gifts from Members &amp; Friends</u>	<u>Amount &amp; Number Giving as of 8/10/22</u>					
	<i>Pledged</i>		<i>Unpledged</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.
<b>Direct Support to Church</b>						
General Fund	\$76,225.00	26	\$28,630	34	\$104,855	60
Loose Offering			\$243	NA	\$243	NA
Major Maintenance Fund	\$700	1			\$700	1
In-kind Contributions (Donated items)			\$703	5	\$703	5
<b>TOTAL, Direct Church Support</b>	<b>\$76,925.00</b>		<b>\$29,575.81</b>		<b>\$106,501</b>	
<b>Giving &amp; Beyond Our Walls</b>						
Coastland Commons	\$200	1	\$1,235	4	\$1,435	5
Deacons Fund	\$1,010	4	\$4,753	14	\$5,763	18
Fund - Share/Wheel Shelter			\$300	1	\$300	1
<b>Presbyterian Outreach</b>						

Unspecified			\$1,400	1	\$1,400	1
One Great Hour of Sharing			\$2,095	15	\$2,095	15
Pentecost	\$100	1	\$1,250	8	\$1,350	9
Christmas Joy	\$100	1	\$120	2	\$220	3
<b>TOTAL, Beyond Our Walls</b>	\$1,410		\$11,153		\$12,563	
<b>TOTAL GIFTS FROM MEMBERS &amp; FRIENDS</b>	<b>\$78,335.00</b>		<b>\$40,728.81</b>		<b>\$119,064</b>	

## Library update:

New titles in the church library include powerful memoirs, a classic Anne Lamott recommended by Elliot, and titles recommended by Jeny, Zac and Beth. Check something out this Sunday!

- Brennan-Jobs, Lisa. Small fry, 2018
- Buechner, Frederick. Son of laughter, 1994
- Doyle, Brian. One long river of song: Notes on wonder, 2019
- Fadiman, Anne. The spirit catches you and you fall down (a Hmong child, her American doctors, and the collision of two cultures), 1997/2012
- Lamott, Anne. Bird by bird, 1994
- O'Donohue, John. To bless the space between us: a book of blessings, 2008.
- Rohr, Richard. Falling upward: a spirituality for the two halves of life, 2011




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## Deacons Corner

The Deacons of Northminster Presbyterian Church are charged to serve as the “caring arm of the church.” During the first half of 2022 your Deacons have continued to meet, call, and send cards to our beloved Northminster family and to provide what support we can. If you want or need our support, please let one of us know. As one part of that, the Deacons have the privilege and responsibility of allocating the donations that are specifically earmarked for the “Deacon’s Fund.”

On July 10, 2022, we met in Jeny’s Office and via zoom.

- We discussed and approved distribution of Deacon funds. Thanks to your generosity we had a fund balance of \$6,346.75 as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. We agreed to distribute most of this to the groups we have prioritized in the past. These include:
  - The **Ballard Food Bank**, which feeds the hungry (\$2,000)
  - The **Mental Health Chaplaincy**, which pastors the mentally ill homeless (\$1,000)

- o **Northgate Elementary School**, which serves a large percentage of immigrants, students of color and homeless (\$1,500) and
- o **Alimentando Al Pueblo**, which provides culturally appropriate food to hungry Latinx neighbors in the Burien area (\$1,000).
- We also discussed the number of deacons, terms, and job interests. We will continue to discuss how we want to focus at our September meeting. In the meantime, we agreed to propose to Session that the church by-laws be amended to reflect a board of deacons voted on by the congregation with no minimum number.
- Finally, we discussed possible deacon coordination with outreach committee work, global and local partnerships and helping with birthday card writing.

We plan to meet more regularly in the coming months. We will meet every other month on the third Sunday of the month at 5:00 p.m. *The next meeting will be Sunday 9/18 at 5:00 p.m.*

We are glad to **welcome Lisa Snow Lady as a new Deacon** in our ministry of care.

We thank you again for your generosity.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Tennant

## *GET TO KNOW OUR NEW STAFF: DR. CHEN LIANG AND ADELIA NUNN*



Hailed as "playing with one of the most dramatic classical music expressions", Chinese born accompanist **Dr. Chen Liang** is becoming an active figure on stages in both China and the United States. As a soloist and a chamber musician, Chen gives numerous recitals every year in China and America, passing his musical inspirations to thousands of audiences. As a frequent concerto soloist, Chen has played with Chong Qing Philharmonic in China, the Greece Symphony Orchestra in New York and Lynn Philharmonic in Florida.

Chen is the winner of the 5th Manhattan International Music Competition in New York City, the 3rd Lira International Piano competition in St. Petersburg, Russia, the Big Arts Classical Music Scholarship Competition and the Lynn Concerto Competition in Florida. He also won top prizes in many other competitions including "Imola" International Piano Festival and Competition in Italy, Piano Texas Music Festival Concerto Competition and the Chautauqua Music Festival Piano Competition.

Currently on the Piano Faculty at the Chopin Academy of Music in Issaquah, Chen was also a former Piano Faculty at Eastman Community Music School in New York (the former Eastman School of Music Prep School) and Adjunct Lecturer at State University of New York at Geneseo (SUNY Geneseo), Chen is a passionate educator and music scholar. He frequently gives



master-classes and lectures in both China and the United States, and is a frequent presenter at the MTNA CMS national conferences. Chen has also worked as an Assistant Instructor for class piano at both Eastman School of Music and University of Rochester. Back in China, Chen co-founded the "Beyond the Clouds" summer piano festival in Chengdu and has served as the Artistic Director since 2018. Chen has a huge passion and specialty in teaching pre-college teenagers, from pure beginners to international competition winners.

Chen received his Bachelor's degree in piano performance from both Sichuan Conservatory of Music in China and Lynn University Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton, FL. He earned his MM (Master of Music) and MA (Doctor of Musical Arts) in Piano Performance and Literature from Eastman School of Music, under the tutelage of Ms. Natalya Antonova, with a music theory minor field and Advanced Teaching Certificate.

**Adelia Nunn** is a recent seminary graduate with hands-on experience in the United Methodist, USA Presbyterian, and Episcopalian church traditions. Adelia began her ministry journey in the Puget Sound at a small United Methodist Church where she had the opportunity to lead worship and Bible studies, sing in the choir, and participate in community service activities. She also interned with Pastor Daniel Miranda at Auburn First United Methodist Church. While living in Los Angeles for college, she led the music at a Presbyterian church. Most recently, she earned her Master of Arts in Ministry at General Theological Seminary in New York City. Throughout all her academic pursuits Adelia has worked with children and young adults as a theatre camp counselor and tutor.

Adelia lives in Tacoma with her partner, Walter, and her Australian Cattle Dog named Lily. Outside of work, Adelia loves to sing, hike, and fish. If you have any musical theatre or nature recommendations, she'd love to hear them!

Adelia is excited to get to know everyone at Northminster Presbyterian. She grew up in the Northwest and can't wait to become part of this community! If you would like to set up a time to get to know Adelia, please feel free to reach out to her through email.



THE NPC NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY. PLEASE SEND ANY SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS AND ARTICLES TO [STACYEK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:stacyek@gmail.com).

**THANKS FOR READING!**



### Northminster Staff

Rev. Jeny Carlson  
*Transitional Pastor*

Adelia Nunn  
*Director of Ministry*

Miriam Anderson  
*Music Director*

Chen Liang  
*Accompanist*

### Elders

Carol Charles, Clerk  
Jonathan Bowdler  
Saskia DeVries  
Dana Hammer  
Martín Jiménez  
Fred Kern  
Stacy Kern  
Jim Lady  
Bronwen Matthews  
Becky Rufin  
Trisha Wirta

Dearly beloved Congregation and Community,

Greetings from the Northminster Session. I hope you've had a fun and relaxing summer.

With input from the congregation, Northminster Session has completed our months-long discernment process to help us plan for the future of Northminster church and to prepare us for our new pastor search. To this end, the Session has approved the formation of a Pastor Nominating committee (PNC).

In the next month, following guidance from Seattle Presbytery, we will be putting together a committee of five to seven people who reflect our membership. Committee members are not required to be members of NPC but can be regular attendees or friends of the church.

The PNC will draft a Ministry Information Form, (MIF) that describes our church – our mission and challenges. The MIF will be brought to Session for approval and then sent to Presbytery for posting for potential candidates to review.

With oversight from Seattle Presbytery, the PNC will use a structured process combined with an openness to listen to where God is calling us, to discover and evaluate candidates.

As we embark on what may be a year-long journey, please hold the committee in your thoughts and prayers. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact:  
[search@northminsterpres.org](mailto:search@northminsterpres.org)

Bronwen Matthews  
Pastor Nominating Committee Chair