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# NORTHMINSTER NEWS

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## Renew Your Spirit

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## With a Spring in our Step!

The crocuses are blooming, the days are getting longer, and activity is buzzing all around the church! The preschool is holding tours for prospective fall students, AA is expanding their meetings, Apollo Youth Basketball keeps our gym busy every afternoon, and our Share Shelter tells me constantly how grateful they are we opened our doors to them. One of the blessings of working at the church everyday (well, Sunday through Thursday) is getting to interact with the folks who also share and care about this sacred space. This is a ministry all its own because this congregation was given this building and land to be a witness to the love and mercy of Jesus. These groups, one of which we plan to highlight in each newsletter, are able to have positive impacts in our community

because they can also call this place home.

As we slowly and carefully come further out from the weight of a global pandemic, our building is also re-awakening and our staff and session are continually looking for ways that our church can be of service and blessing to our neighborhood, our city, and beyond. The Session Discernment Team is hosting listening groups in March and April to hear feedback, ideas, hopes, and dreams for all the ways you'd like to see NPC grow in service and discipleship, so please consider attending one and sharing your thoughts with us!

Happy Spring!

Rev. Jeny Carlson

## Membership Class March 13 & 27!

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Have you ever wondered what it means to say you're a member of Northminster? Are you wanting to have a vote in our congregational future? Has someone asked you what makes a Presbyterian Church different from another kind of church and felt like you didn't have an answer?

Pastor Jeny will be teaching a Membership Class March 13 & 27 following Worship for all who are interested in becoming member or would simply like to better understand our church, our denomination, and why we do things the way we do them.

All are welcome to attend. Please let Pastor Jeny know if you are interested so we can ensure we have enough copies of things for you.

## Formation Corner

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Currently, we offer two vital faith formation programs: Theology on Tap and Bible Study.

**Bible Study** Looking for a way to dive deeper into the Word? What is exciting about this bible study is we are following the lectionary, which means everyone gets a "sneak peak" at the scriptures we will be discussing the following Sunday.

**Theology on Tap** meets on the first and third Wednesdays via Zoom at 7:00pm. In March and April, we will be exploring the barriers we encounter in our everyday lives and the different steps we take to over come them.

## Choir Update

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Choir is coming back! We hope to resume weekly choir rehearsals end of March so our choir can sing for us on Good Friday and Easter! Choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. If you are interested in participating in the choir, please contact our Music Director, Miriam Anderson at [miriam.anderson@northminsterpres.org](mailto:miriam.anderson@northminsterpres.org) or check in with her after worship on Sundays.

# A Letter from the Session Discernment Team

Dearly beloved Congregation,

Greetings from the Session Discernment Team and hope and prayers for your mid-winter activities and uplifted spirits.

As we mentioned at the congregational meeting on Jan 30th, the NPC Session is a few months into a year-long discernment process that is for the renewal of our communal spiritual life, preparation for a Pastor Nominating Committee, and a desire to engage the questions of what our post-pandemic existence will look like.

We are inviting you to engage our discernment process by responding to the following prompts that the session has already used to interact with the big question of what God is doing in and around our church.

- What motivates you to be a part of the NPC community? What keeps you here?
- Describe your vision of what NPC will be like in the next few years. What is happening in 2025 that is new/changed/better?
- What is a small change that NPC could make in the next 3 years to realize this vision?
- What is a BIG change that NPC could make in the next 3 years to realize this vision?

In order to get the most feedback and to give folks time to consider prayerfully what they envision Northminster becoming, we will be accepting written feedback via email ([kdhammer@comcast.net](mailto:kdhammer@comcast.net)) or letters to the church office (attention Session Discernment Team) the entire month of February. In addition, we will offer the following elder-facilitated times of listening and discussion:

**Zoom: March 9, and April 5th, 6:00pm-7:30pm** (Use the same Zoom link as for Sunday Worship)

**In-person: March 6th, and April 3rd at 4:00pm in the church library**

Further along in our process, we will convene some community listening sessions to receive input from our neighbors about what they like about our presence and what they would dream we could be and do in partnership with them. For now we will keep this conversation internal to create some safe space for our church family to discuss both our new and pandemic-deferred dreams for our presence in and outreach to the community. Look forward to more opportunities to engage in the Spring and Summer when we are doing more in-person activities and will share the vision that is forming and celebrate together what the Spirit is communicating.

Discernment Committee Team: Martín Jiménez, Dana Hammer, Jonna Reeder

# Northminster Aides Bringing Music History Back to Life! - Antonio Rufin

Northminster Presbyterian Church has always had a special love of music, and we are fortunate to have outstanding musicians among us who lead and inspire us when we worship, or simply when we gather in community. We proudly celebrate many musical styles, from classical to contemporary, from solo voices or instruments to more elaborate band, orchestral or choral works, and musical traditions from around the world.

As many of you already know, one unique and personal musical connection we happen to have at Northminster is with a 19<sup>th</sup> century Spanish composer, educator, and musicologist, Hilarión Eslava, whose compositions Becky and Antonio Rufin have been working hard to recover and freely share with others. The interest in this composer is motivated in part by a familial tie to Antonio (who is likely the composer's great-great-grandson), but above all, by the beauty and the quality of an extraordinary musical legacy that for the most part has lain forgotten in dusty archives and libraries in Spain and elsewhere since his death 144 years ago.

Northminster has previously premiered a few of Eslava's works –probable firsts in this country: two short pieces dedicated to the Virgin Mary and a piano solo composition. This coming Lent we will have new opportunities to hear more of his music, all of it laboriously digitally edited and transcribed into modern notation by Becky. During Eslava's lifetime, Lent and Easter were times in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church in Spain that were particularly infused with music and with rich traditions, some of which still endure today. Performances of his most famous composition, the "Miserere a ocho voces y gran orquesta" (a musical rendition of Psalm 51 in Latin for large choir and orchestra) have been an annual Holy Week tradition in Sevilla and in other parts of Andalucía for almost 190 years.

Hilarión Eslava was born in 1807 in the village of Burlada, in Navarra, northern Spain. Of humble family origins, his first musical training was as a boy chorister at the Cathedral of Pamplona, Navarra. During these early years, he also became an accomplished organist. At age 21 he won a competition for the post of *maestro de capilla* (chapel master) at the Cathedral of El Burgo de Osma in the province of Soria, in Castilla. Four years later, in 1832, he earned the same position at the more prestigious Cathedral of Sevilla, where he stayed for the next 12 years. In 1833 he received his holy orders. Eslava's work as a composer began to flourish during his years in Sevilla, including three operas that were premiered to broad and enthusiastic popular acclaim (and to some distress by his ecclesiastical superiors). In 1844 he moved to Madrid to take the post of Master of the Royal Chapel under Queen Isabel II of Spain. In 1854, Eslava joined the Royal Conservatory of Music of Madrid, first as a Professor of Composition, and in 1866, additionally as Director of the Music Section. For him, the Madrid years were a period of great creativity, educational activity, and research, the latter exemplified by the publication of groundbreaking musicological studies like the 10-volume "Lira Sacro-Hispana" and the "Museo Orgánico Español". As an educator, he was best known for his "Método de Solfeo" (a widely used solfège method) and treatises on harmony, composition, melody and musical discourse, instrumentation, and counterpoint and fugue. With the revolution of 1868, which toppled the monarchy, Hilarión lost his posts at the Royal Chapel and at the Conservatory. After the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty to the Spanish throne in 1874, Eslava regained his position at the Royal Chapel, but by then, badly ailing, he lived in semi-retirement, until his death in Madrid in 1878. He is buried in his native Burlada. By Antonio and Becky's reckoning, Hilarión Eslava composed almost 400 works, the majority consisting of sacred music, from a cappella choral motets to grand works for voices and orchestra.

For more details about Hilarión Eslava and his music, you can visit <https://hilarioneslava.org>.

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# Library News

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***Northminster Reads!*** is an exciting new section/display on the shelves by the coffee table in the church library. There you will find recent titles and favorite fiction donated by church members. Easy check out! Please contact Jan Olson if you have recent publications to donate.

## Special Events for Lent

Ash Wednesday Service: 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Palm Sunday Movie Night: 6:00pm, Library, Join us to watch Jesus Christ Superstar

Maundy Thursday Service: 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Good Friday Service: 7:00pm, Sanctuary

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# Deacon's Corner

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Your Deacons met with Pastor Jeny on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2022 via Zoom. We shared updates, adopted our 2022 fund distribution plan, and discussed how best to support you, our friends and congregation, and our community in the months ahead.

## Planned 2022 Distribution of the Deacon's Fund

The Deacons of Northminster Presbyterian Church are charged to serve as the "caring arm of the church". 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."

We reviewed and discussed the proposed distribution plan for 2022. We plan continue to prioritize feeding the hungry, supporting the students and families of Northgate Elementary School and providing support to mentally ill homeless neighbors. The 2022 Distribution Plan includes also includes specific funding for Friendship Group and other outreach.

In 2022, the Deacons plan to make disbursements as follows:

- Ballard Food Bank: \$2,000
- Alimentando El Pueblo \$1,000
- Northgate Elementary School \$1,500
- Mental Health Chaplaincy \$1,500
- Fellowship Group/Outreach \$200
- Upper Room subscription \$200
- Office/administrative expenses \$100

The Deacons plan to retain a fund balance of \$500 - \$1000 and will use this as a buffer and to address unexpected needs. This plan will be updated and modified depending on the amount of donations the Deacon fund receives.

## Deacons Caring and Outreach Ministries

- **Phone Ministry.** The phone ministry involves regular calls to church members who are living alone and/or who are otherwise isolated. This is carried out by Deacons and caring others.
- **Friendship Group/Outreach Projects.** The Deacons are providing funding and logistical support to several outreach projects including the recent Valentines Day mailing organized by Jan Olson.

We welcome your financial support and your participation in these activities. Thank you for your generosity.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Tennant, Moderator on behalf of:

Nancy Ingle, Julia Miller, Beth Schmidt, Dawn Thornhill, and myself.

# Who Shares our Space?

Community Outreach Elder, Dana Hammer recently connected with our SHARE Shelter guests to find out more about their program and how they utilize our shared space.

## 1. How many SHARE/WHEEL shelters is there in Seattle?

There are seven self-managed SHARE indoor shelters and two SHARE/WHEEL Tent Cities (one in Seattle, one in East King County). SHARE also facilitates a Storage Locker Program and a Hygiene Center and a Housing-for-Work Program. Our partners at WHEEL operate two low-barrier women's shelters in Seattle.

## 2. Are they usually in churches or are there other facilities used?

Most are in churches. The SHARE/WHEEL Bunkhouse in south Seattle is the largest of our indoor shelter that is not a church.

## 3. How many shelter guests are typically housed among all SHARE/WHEEL shelters?

SHAREs self-managed indoor shelter capacity is currently 92 people.

## 4. Does SHARE/WHEEL have a typical guest, or are there many ages, backgrounds, etc.?

SHARE shelters don't have a typical guest; there are many different ages and diverse backgrounds.



## 5. How long has the shelter been housed at North minister (NPC)?

The shelter at NPC was opened in mid-December of 2019 for a total of 27 months.

## 6. Are the NPC shelter guest "typical" guest or are they a unique group?

The NPC shelter guests are typical guests with a lot of diverse backgrounds.

## 7. What are the current hours at NPC?

The current hours are Mon – Friday 4 pm – 7am/  
Saturday & Sunday are 24hrs



**8. What do guest like most about being sheltered at NPC/What do they appreciate most about our facilities?**

Most guests like it because it is clean, safe, warm and quiet.

**9. What other thoughts would they like to share with our NPC community?**

As a Group we would like to thank NPC leadership for allowing this SHARE Group to integrate with the other Activities going on in the church.

More information: SHARE (Seattle Housing and Resource Effort) [Website](#) or on on Facebook, or (206) 448-7889

# Bequest from Dennis Pickell

Long-time member Dennis Pickell passed away last fall and left a generous bequest to Northminster. In celebration of Dennis and his dedication to art and beauty of the church, a team has gathered to research a fitting memorial for him. We hope to have this established by summer and look forward to having a dedication of the memorial and celebration of his treasured place in our community at that time.





