



**Proclaiming God's Grace,
Creating Community,
Serving our Neighbors**

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Ann Wightman—Clerk of
Session

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Sheila Striegl

Dawn Thornhill

David Voyles

Northminster News

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Letter from the Pastor

Dear Northminster Family,

One of our great spiritual practices of the Christian year is to let Lent be. Just leave it alone. Let it be there, with all of its discomfort, all of its reflection, all of its lament. We tend to want to rush to Easter, when we can tie all the loose ends together. But Lent demands that we remain in the place of discomfort for longer than we would like. As hard as it is, we are invited to remain there.

March stretches before us with a full season of Lent, and Holy Week on the very back end. By the time the clock strikes midnight after March 31st, we will be in early hours of Easter morning. It is our last month of the practice where we openly call attention to the suffering and the pain in our faith. Strangely, even though the light is growing, we can find Lent to be a dark time. The pain and hardship, the relentless suffering looms before us as a question that no one can answer.

It is good to have this kind of practice built in the fabric of our faith. It gives us the space to notice the shadows in our lives and in the world. We are finally given permission not to have it all together, not to be happy all the time, not to say to each person “have a nice day!” Lent allows us to make space for the darkness. Together, we notice that it is there. Together, we notice that it has taken its toll on us and on the world. Together, we see it wait for its end.

While there is always much going on in the life of our church - community night, Sunday classes, Wednesday Night opportunities, art installations, confirmation, Bible Study, and other event - we still hold on to the priority that the business of the church is not the most important thing. That in fact, the most important thing is our relationship with God. Events, community, relationships can help to support and strengthen our relationship with God, but they cannot replace this relationship. Lent, like the rest of the Christian year, is an opportunity to pay attention to one aspect of our relationship with God in a unique and particular way. Let us allow this to guide the way forward into the rest of our events and celebrations.

Warmly,
Dani

News Editor

Ally Pexa

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“look for us on facebook!”

Pastoral Care for the Laity of Small Congregations

March 4th, 9:15-10:15am

We all want to care for each other. But how do we do that faithfully in a world where home visits are rarely practiced? How long should we visit? What words do we say? Come for this orientation to how to begin offering care to each other.

Taught by Jeny Carlson

Wednesday Bible Study Continues

The Parables of Jesus: A Small Group Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10 am

Come to the Library on Wednesday morning for an opportunity to consider the parables of Jesus. This is a small group format where all perspectives are welcome. Facilitated by Pastor Dani, this conversation is a great way to start the day. End time is 11 am. Bring your Bible or use one from the Library.

Wednesday Night Open Sanctuary

The sanctuary will be open on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm for reflection, prayer, and silence during the season of Lent.

The Method of Centering Prayer

Follow up session on March 24th, 10am-12pm

Damn Yankees at Ballard High



Come see Justus and Scout Brown in the spring production of *Damn Yankees* at BHS! Get your tickets at showtix4u.com

March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24

Curtain at 7:30pm

Holy Week Schedule

March 25th Palm Sunday : Palm Processional and Bell Choir leads in Worship

March 29th Maundy Thursday: Meal and Service 6:30pm

March 30th Good Friday: 7:00pm Tenebrae Service (readings and music)

April 1st: Easter Sunday 10:30am Service of Celebration

Field Trip Opportunities

One of the highlights of confirmation last year was the various field trips which allowed for interfaith dialogue and a deeper exploration of our own faith. This year, the confirmation field trips are open to anyone interested in joining. Below you will find an outline of our upcoming field trips. RSVP to Ally at ally.pexa@northminsterpres.org if you are interested in joining

3/11 St. James Cathedral at 9am

3/18 Wing Luke Museum after worship- "Year of Remembrance" Exhibit

3/25 Idriss Mosque after worship

4/6 Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue at 6pm

4/22 UW after worship

Washington Wild is hiring for the full-time position of Associate Director of Development

We know and support this effective environmental organization. Washington Wild, founded in 1979, has played an invaluable role in permanently protecting nearly three million acres of Wilderness throughout Washington State. Perhaps you might know somebody who is interested and has experience in fundraising? Let Trisha and I know if we can help. More at <https://wawild.org/job-announcement/>

Bret and Trisha

A Note from Ann

Our friend Chuot Mutthiang is back from Addis Ababa, and stopped by February 4 to see us. He had a great visit there with his family, which he hopes to bring to the United States in the near future. He shared photos with us, of his mother, his very beautiful wife Tivisa, and his young son Turol, who will be three in May. Chuot is very up on immigration regulations, plans to bring his family to the US, is an American citizen; however, the process of vetting incoming family members is currently a very slow, tedious process.

Chuot is hoping to end up living in Seattle again, and will be looking for work here that will make better use of his various degrees. I'm sure he could use our prayers at this time.

Ann Wightman

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN MARCH

March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
Micah 5:1-9	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Psalm 51:1-12	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 9:30-37	Mark 10:17-31	Mark 10:32-45	Mark 11:1-11

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a village church in the city

7706 25th Avenue NW

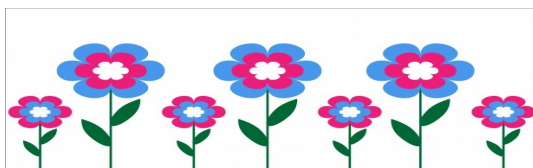
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Please notify us with corrections if needed, or if you wish to stop receiving the Northminster News.

Garden Corner



February's flowers were a wonderful combination of Rhododendrons from Shirley McCarter's garden and the church garden. It was a wonderful explosion of pink. With the starting of Lent the colorful flowers have been replaced with bare twigs which came from Myla Belston's apple trees. The bare twigs are already leafing out and will soon show some flowers a sure promise of the coming promise of Easter.

You can't miss the change taking place on the south side of the church. We hope that the new surface treatment will be attractive and provide a usable outside space for the nursery school and for our congregation. Planting will have to wait for a little warmer weather. We will be moving plants around and adding some new plants. If you are dividing plants in your garden you might think of us. Maybe we will have a home for your plant in our garden

Sheila Striegl