



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

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Northminster News

Volume LIX, No. 11

November 2018

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Northminster Family,

November brings a full table to Northminster. We have much to be thankful for! Our newsletter is full of all the good things that are developing within our community. We are grateful to welcome Jeny Carlson to our staff as an Associate Pastor. Northminster has a strong heritage of Associates who have left their legacy of leadership. I have heard many stories of the impact of former Associates like Ethel Kay Livingston, Harold Lang, and of course, Karen Breckenridge. What a blessing it is for Jeny to join in this line of leaders and friends.

We continue to celebrate the harvest of our Stewardship Season. As pledge forms come in and giving opportunities abound, we all bring our individual gifts around the table. Believing that something is better than nothing, we all can offer our resources to the mission of Northminster. As we do this, we all will see the fruit of this investment towards growth. I know that I am looking forward to the next few months as we continue to see this unfold.

The challenges of our last few weeks of October have taught me a few things about what it means to be part of the family of God. I have learned that God's family is resilient. Challenges are not the exception in the life of faith, they are the norm. Our road is not a well worn trail, but an expedition into new places supported by the lessons and stories of those that have gone before us. Resiliency is essential in the face of challenge, and we have the markers of a resilient people!

I have also learned that God's family is generous. Generosity extends in all directions, from resources to behavior to service. In the face of challenge, God's family offers grace, understanding, and forgiveness while assuming the best of one another. Generosity, like resiliency, is essential in the face of challenge, and we have the markers of a generous people!

So as we move through November, I encourage each of us to continue to live into these characteristics. As God's family, we are resilient and generous. Each challenge gives us a new opportunity to exercise these values. We can never have too many opportunities, because there is an infinite number of ways to become generous and resilient.

Let us remember that when Jesus fed the four thousand, the first thought was that there would not be in enough for the crowd. By the end of the story, the disciples have not only seen everyone fed, but according to Mark's reading in chapter 8, there were seven basketfuls left over! Resiliency begets resiliency. And generosity begets generosity, with even seven basketfuls left over!

November brings a full table indeed. May you taste and see that the Lord is good, his love endures forever.

Warmly,

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www.northminsterpres.org

Welcome Pastor Jeny!

In September, the Northminster session voted unanimously to call Jeny Carlson as a Temporary Associate Pastor for Formation and Outreach. Jeny has been a part of our congregation for a few years and has been certified for ordained call since March of 2017. She will be formally examined by the Seattle Presbytery in January and ordained shortly after that. Her call is a bi-vocational temporary call which means she must have employment elsewhere and her position is approved for one year, and re-evaluated every year by the session. Jeny's role at NPC will include all communications, as well as providing direction to our Formation and Outreach events and programs.



Jeny comes to NPC with a background as a science teacher, ministry work with youth and young adults, and hospice chaplaincy. Currently, Jeny works for Adult Protective Services when not serving at Northminster. She has a passion for how people develop spiritually over the course of their entire lifetime, believing that our faith formation does not stop when we graduate high school or college, but is constantly being challenged and deepened as we move through the normal events of daily living.

Along with her family (husband Lars and children, Annika (16), Erika (14), and Gunnar (12)), Jeny has a love of Star Wars and Marvel comics/movies. Her favorite superhero is Captain America and she will talk endlessly about the perfection of *The Black Panther* movie if you let her. Among her varied talents, she is an avid knitter, a USA Swimming Official, and a pop-culture fanatic. She brings a commitment to lived community, progressive theology, and social justice.



Jeny and Zac share the Christian Ed office, so please stop by and say hello or contact Jeny at jeny.carlson@northminsterpres.org

Faith Formation

By Jeny Carlson

“The meaning of life is to be in relationship to God. To deny or simply forget about God makes us like spiritual sleep walkers in life. Our very need for God is a source of grace because God is drawn to our yearning for meaning and belief.”

- Jerry Doherty, *A Celtic Model of Ministry*

What is Faith Formation? In the most simplistic terms, it's the process by which our faith develops across our lifetimes. With young people, this has often meant learning certain prayers or scripture verses, and hearing stories or songs that attempt to give kids a way of understanding concepts like grace, sin, redemption, and resurrection. All those very concrete skills and parables are ways of entering into relationship with God.

Maintaining that relationship, nurturing it, challenging it, growing in it, is the work of our entire lives and the basis of our spiritual growth. God continues to meet us exactly where we are, ready to dive deep into the concerns, fears, hopes, and joys of our hearts.

In the coming weeks and months, I hope to provide space here, and through classes and workshops, to cultivate various ways we can further our faith formation. The regular practices of prayer, scripture study, and worship are the foundation upon which we build, and we also must be willing to take some risks as we explore who God is and how God has revealed the Truth of love, peace, and justice to the world.

There will be an Adult Formation class in December and if there are particular topics, practices, or questions that you wish to explore, please email me or stop me after worship and let me know what is on your heart!

Singing w/ Zac

Sundays, 10:00am in the Whale Room

Want to learn new songs or get a chance to practice the hymns before church? Join Zac and our kids for this 20-minute sing-along every week!



Christmas Pageant

Dec. 9, 10:30am in Sanctuary

Children and Youth are invited to participate in this fun annual tradition here at NPC! Zac will be leading our young worship assistants in relating the story of Jesus' birth. Please let Zac know by Nov. 11th if you are interested in participating. Zac.calvo@gmail.com

Rehearsal Schedule:

Nov. 18, 12:00pm

Nov. 28, 7:00pm

Dec. 2, 12:00pm

Dec. 5: 7:00pm



All-Church Neighborhood Clean-up Day

November 11, 2:00-5:00PM

Every room of our house needs a little extra care on occasion. At Northminster, we think of our neighborhood as a giant living room in our city—The Loyal Heights Living Room. On this Sunday afternoon, in honor of those who served our country, we will come together to serve our neighborhood. Tasks range from light gardening, to yard clean-up, to sidewalk sweeping, to tending to our own building. All ages and stages are welcome to come together and serve. Snacks and smiles welcome!

Please Sign-up for where you are able to help through our [Sign-up Genius Link](#) or by emailing Pastor Jeny at jeny.carlson@northminsterpres.org



Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing! Psalm 100:1-2 (ESV)



Your prayer invitation for the month of November is to ask God that our staff, elders, deacons and volunteers (that's nearly all of us) would be able to serve with joy! No dreary, dutiful drudgery – instead that we can build up the Body of Christ at Northminster and beyond with the gifts of the Spirit that make each of us unique. *Another path for this season is to meditatively pray through each of the five verses of this Psalm of Thanksgiving.* See Jonna Reeder if you want more ideas for conversations with our heavenly Abba.

Alternative Christmas Faire

We're already announced PalCraft (Palestine) and Mennonite Missions (South Africa) as partners that will offer you opportunities to give twice! First your gift goes to those working for peace, justice and wholeness in our world; second, you'll have a card or certificate to put inside a holiday card or even under the Xmas tree creatively wrapped.

Two additional possibilities to bless our global neighbors: support secondary education for students in Rwanda (more details during November 25th worship) via Presbyterian World Mission, or elementary and middle school students in Central Asia (including an all-female math group) via Frontier Fellowship.

Make sure that you can attend one of the Faires – Sundays, December 9 and 16 – with the hope to have a miniature faire open on Wednesday, December 12 at the Friendship luncheon. See Trisha Wirta or Jonna Reeder to learn more. (Checks or cash accepted at any faire, but credit cards only on Sundays, technology permitting.)



Alternative Christmas Faire Committee,

Jonna Reeder and Dana Hammer

Stewardship News: Freedom Riders Exhibit

We are coming to the end of our budget year and we are running behind in our annual income. As we all consider our stewardship and charitable giving, let's consider three things.

- 1) Donations in 2018 will help meet our current year expenses and keep us from needing to draw from reserves.
- 2) Estate planning gifts can cement our long-term support and help Northminster after we're gone.
- 3) Pledges and gifts in 2019 will help Northminster grow and evolve to meet the needs of our congregation and the ever-changing world.

Ingraham High School is hosting a national traveling exhibition that tells the powerful, harrowing, and inspirational civil rights story of six months in 1961 that changed America forever.

Jeny and Zac invite all our High School Youth and Young Adults on Wednesday, November 14th, 6:30-8:30pm at the Ingraham High School Library.



LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 4 All-Saints Sunday	November 11 Veteran's Sunday	November 18	November 25 Christ the King Sunday
Mark 7: 31-37	Mark 8:1-10	Mark 8:14-26	Mark 8:27-37

October 2018 Treasurer's Report

At this point in the year, Income, which includes giving to the general fund, rent from the manse, and building use fees, is running behind where we predicted we'd be at this point in the year. General fund giving by the congregation, which makes up the majority of our income, has been generous this year. And, as is often the case, giving has slowed over the summer and is the primary driver for the deficit we see in this report.

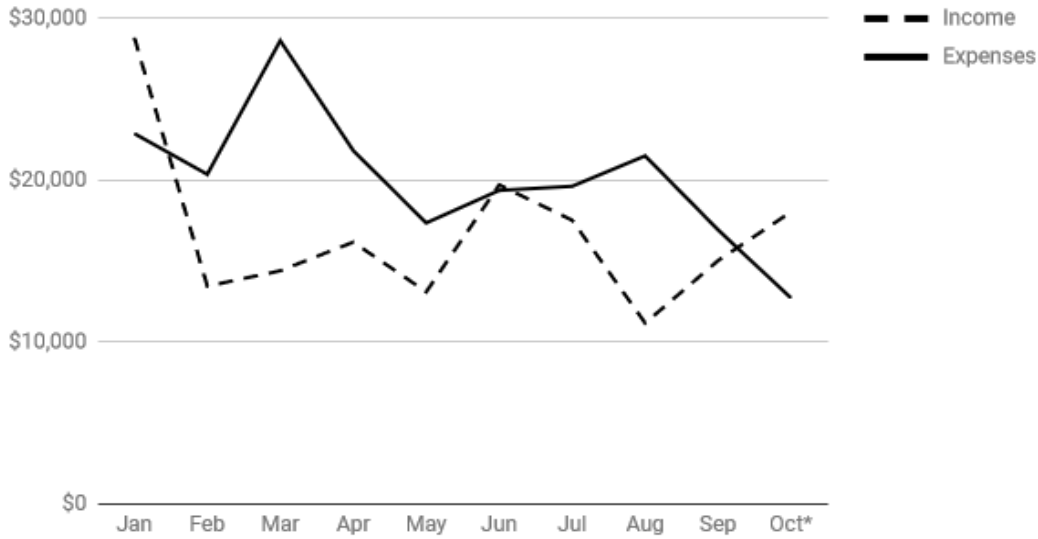
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On the Expense side, we are slightly under the budget we projected for this point in the year. This is because we have incurred fewer major maintenance expenses this year than we budgeted for and our payroll is a little under budget for the year due to staffing transitions.

	1/1/2018- 10/27/2018*		2018 Budget	2018 Budget
	Actuals		Through October	
TOTAL INCOME	\$167,573		\$216,194	\$259,433
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$201,313		\$216,194	\$259,433
OVERALL TOTAL	-\$33,740		\$0	\$0

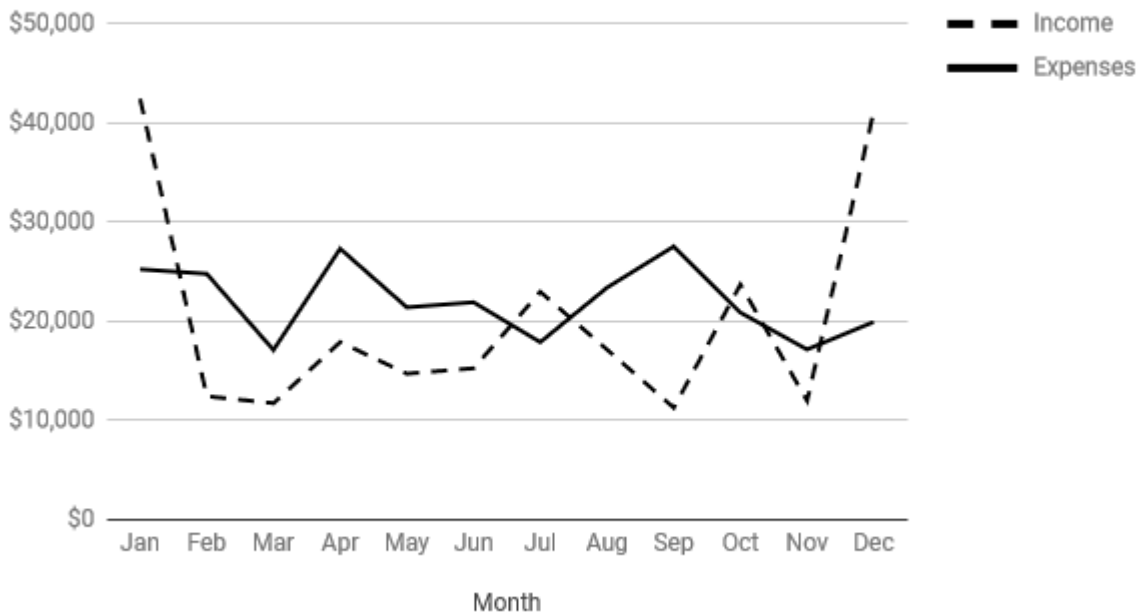
*October numbers are partial

Income & Expenses 2018



Here is another view of Northminster income and expenses through the year, showing how income and expenses flow on a monthly basis in 2018 (and 2017 for comparison):

Income and Expenses 2017



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a village church in the city

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Looking Ahead

Saturday November 3

Centering Prayer Workshop

Wednesday November 7

Chili Cook Off

Wednesday November 14

Freedom Riders Exhibit

Thursday November 15

Sacred Ordinary Things Reception

Wednesday November 28

Mid-Century Dinners

Wednesday December 5

Mocktails and Cheese

Sunday December 9 and 16

Christmas Pageant (9th only)

Christmas Faire

Northminster Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dani Forbess

Assoc. Pastor of Formation and Outreach

Jeny Carlson

Director of Community & Youth Engagement

Zac Calvo

Organist

Eric Johnson

Choir Director

Miriam Anderson

Office Manager

Charlie Oak