



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

**Pastor**

Rev. Dani Forbess

**Organist**

Eric Johnson

**Christian Ed Lead**

Zac Calvo

**Choir Director**

Miriam Anderson

**Office Manager**

Charlie Delavan

**Board of Elders**

Lars Carlson

Saskia DeVries

Dana Hammer

Stacy Kern

Jan Olson

Antonio Rufin

Rod Schmidt

Rachel Van Noord

Ann Wightman

Trisha Wirta

**Board of Deacons**

Caroline Alben

Delaney Hammer

Lisa Horowitz

Nancy Ingle

Jennifer Jensen

Bronwen Matthews

Julia Miller

Robert Porter

Beth Schmidt

Liz Tennant

Dawn Thornhill

Jeremy Rice

**News Editor**

Charlie Delavan

# Northminster News

Volume LIX, No. 10

October 2018

## *Letter from the Pastor*

**Dear Northminster Family,**

What is the common good? Is it the very essence, in fact, the very same thing as the gospel? Or is it independent of the gospel, a mere mirage of optimistic liberalism?

These are questions that I have been asking over the last few months, but I came to them by accident through the Strategic Planning Team. In January, session engaged a Strategic Planning Team to take a good, hard look at the next ten to twenty years of church life. As the team listened to different people throughout the community ranging from public school teachers, to those who serve local seniors, to business owners, to young adults and folks of other faiths, one value emerged. We all shared a desire to support and cultivate the common good. In fact, we shared a desire not just to practice it, but to talk about it together and find new ways to work towards it. In fact, what we discovered was that if we brought people together to talk about the common good, folks naturally started talking about a common mission. Business owners talked about the complications of drug houses in the area, and how the community could help. Senior Center directors talked about the grief and challenge of providing meals for unhoused seniors, and how important it was to raise up volunteers. School workers talked about the need for support across neighborhoods in order to best serve the community. Folks of other faiths and those outside of the church talked about the importance of community and the various ways that people are able to meet that need outside of the church.

As I heard these emerging stories, I was struck by the fact that the church has not often situated itself to listen to the culture. Instead it has often flipped the tables expecting the culture to do the listening while the church does the talking. But to what end? This approach has not resulted in more people in pews on Sunday morning. In fact, what we have seen is that the culture has grown tired of listening. The church has become at times shrill and even forceful in its message. The tragedy that has evolved from this is that the conversation that centers on the common good has been lost. But there it lies, deep within our roots, waiting to be unearthed.

The revival of the common good is the missing piece that is so desperately needed for our future. This piece of our Christian tradition offers us the way to enter into secular politics respectfully, it provides the way into interfaith dialogue without descending into a bland tolerance. The revival of the common good seeks not to coerce others into believing, but it seeks to offer the grace of the gospel as the ground on which these very hard cultural conversations can find a place to land. The common good asserts that while we may not share the same world view, we sure do want the same thing for the world. Most powerfully, the common good creates an avenue of healing for those that have either suffered injury or have been injurious to others. It does not accept all choices as relative, but instead sees the world as created by a good God for good things. It does not remain in denial about bad things, but sees reconciliation as real and possible as a true form of healing.

In short, the grace of the gospel provides the map of the common good, and as people of the gospel, this should give us a reason to celebrate. We have good news to share. Our evangelism is not what we thought it was. We do not invite others to be Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, or non-denominational. We invite people to listen to the world and to notice where the common good is at work. We encourage partnerships to develop out of this, not shying away from those that are different. We believe that God made the world, and this means that God made all of those in it: every single one. So what does this mean for Northminster? You will see and hear much in the coming months about "neighborhood," "community," "partnership," and "engagement." Why are we doing so much in the schools, you might ask? Why are we sending our staff members to work in the surrounding community? Don't we want to bring people into church? Yes! But more importantly, we want to shine the light of the gospel both in our community and where it is most needed. We want to share the love of God with a world that has become deaf to the Sunday morning hour, and we want people to discover the wonder of worship. This is the secret to stewardship. In stewardship we commit to the financial health of the church because we believe the church has a gift to offer the world. We do! It is the joy of the common good!

Warmly,  
Dani

Northminster Presbyterian Church • 7706 25th Ave. NW • Seattle, WA 98117 •  
206-783-3402

[www.northminsterpres.org](http://www.northminsterpres.org)

"look for us on facebook!"

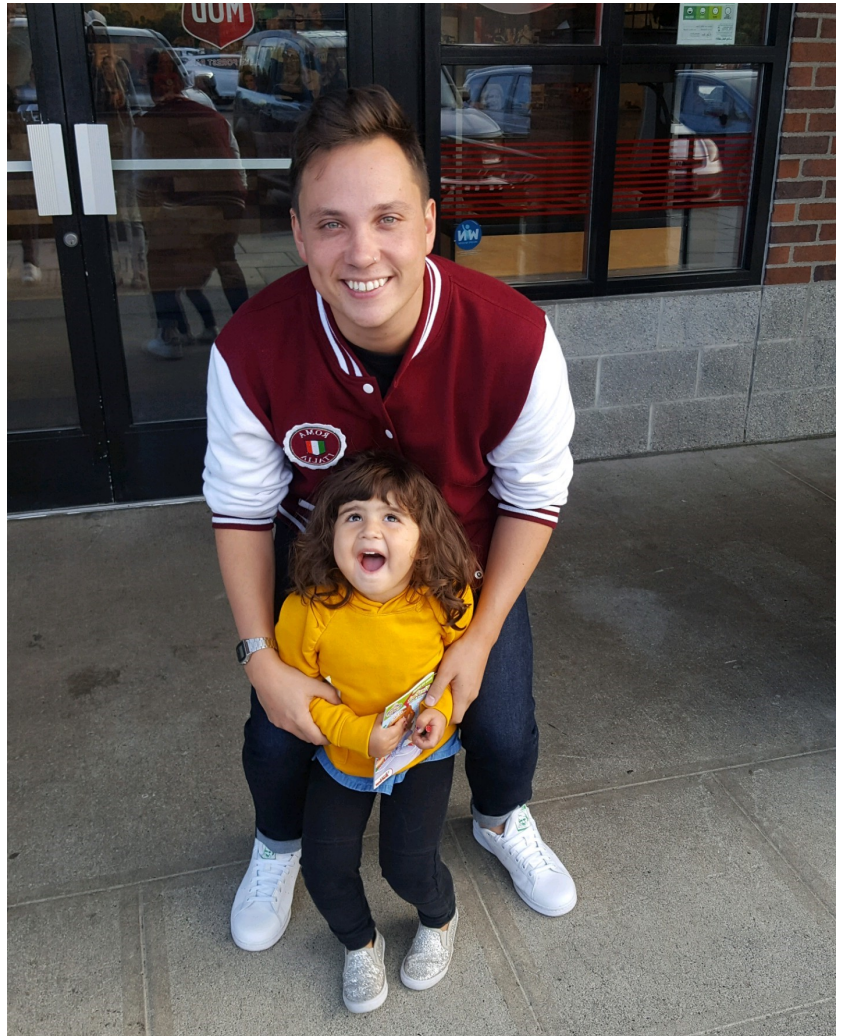
## A Letter from Zac Calvo

Hello dear friends at Northminster,

I am really looking forward to reconnecting with all of you as I begin my work this month. Since the time I spent with you in the summer of 2016 as a pastoral intern, I have completed my studies at Princeton Theological Seminary and graduated with a Masters of Divinity this past May. In addition to my studies for the last two years at PTS, I served at Pennington Presbyterian Church in New Jersey as a general ministry intern leading worship, preaching, teaching Sunday School, and helping run their middle school ministry. My third and final year I had the tremendous privilege of working as a chaplain intern at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, a state-run institution also in New Jersey. As I reflect back on the last year, it was one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of my seminary career. I learned so much about how to care for myself and for others as I encountered situations that completely threw me out of my depth. I am so grateful for the awareness that I gained as I learned more about mental health issues during my chaplaincy work there.

I am happy to join NPC staff as the Director of Youth and Community Engagement, to get to know the youth in a new way, and to vision with you about the shared values for our community. My hope in the next coming weeks is that we will be able to find a time to meet with youth and their families to get to know each other better and to talk about our hopes for the program. If you are interested, please send me an email at [zac.calvo@gmail.com](mailto:zac.calvo@gmail.com) so we can set up a Doodle poll and figure out a good time for all of us to get together.

All the best,  
Zac



After two years of construction, Loyal Heights Elementary opened its doors with a ribbon cutting ceremony the day before school began. Ann Ringstad and Jan Olson were two of the Loyal Heights alumni that were chosen to cut the ribbon. In the neighborhood celebration that followed, Dana Hammer, Nancy Ingle (not pictured), and Myla Belston hosted a cookie decorating table while Tom Haff played the wash tub for interested students.

Dana rocked the Northminster t-shirt throughout the week as she worked safety patrol in the morning helping the streets stay safe.



## Praying the church into the future

*This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms,  
Thy kingdom come on earth Thy will be done:  
Let Christ be lifted up 'til all [men] serve Him and hearts united learn to live as one:  
O, hear my prayer, Thou God of all the nations,  
Myself I give Thee – let Thy will be done.  
- Text by Georgia Harkness*

Might each of consider making a commitment to prayer in the coming weeks? Select a hymn and meditatively pray the verses during the week, use a psalm of thanksgiving to express gratitude (Ps. 100, 107 and 118), or try one of the suggestions below:

As a sign of hope: pray for the future of the church, specifically Northminster: that we will be able to have spiritual community 5, 10, 15, 20 years from now...ask that God would give us wisdom as stewards of worship, Word, mission and community.

As a practice of lament and reconciliation: pray sections or all of the prayer of confession from Sunday during the week – for yourself, for Northminster/Christians, for American society, for suffering people and those who oppress others...

See Jonna Reeder if you are interested in more suggestions for prayer.

### Stewardship Month is Here!

Every October we talk about Budgets, Giving and the needs of Northminster. Obviously, we have to pay the folks who work here, pay to keep the lights on and the bathrooms clean. We get lots of volunteer help to keep things going too, like from our Deacons who set up for communion and the cooks who make our Community Night dinner. A lot goes into this place so that a lot of joy, peace and love can go out of this place. Stewardship is one part of all that. We'll be talking on Sundays about why your pledge for 2019 helps us plan our budget and yours. You'll also hear an overview of all the asks we plan for the year.

If you have any questions or concerns about Stewardship or anything financial, please contact the Budget, Finance and Memorials Committee by email to [fin-sec@northminsterpres.org](mailto:fin-sec@northminsterpres.org), or in person with Rachel Van Noord, Stacy Kern, Rod Schmidt or Ann Wightman or by phone.

The best part of our Stewardship time is that we have a luncheon on 10/28 after church. Please mark that on your calendar. Our meals together are always special! It's a little awkward to talk about our budget and your giving, but it's important that, like any family, we have a little talk once a year or so!

### New Ideas for the Alternative Christmas Faire

This year, we would like to focus on international groups with whom we have a connection or a history. Over the next couple of months, we will be sharing information about these groups during Worship and in the newsletter.

We will continue to work with our long-time friends at Pal Craftaid, an organization that helps fund programs for the aged, deaf, and children and families in Palestine by supporting Palestinian artisans. We will also continue to work with Mennonite Mission and Kathryn, Dan, and Oscar. We will also be learning more about Presbyterian World Mission and Frontier Fellowship.

The dates of the Faire are December 9th and December 16th . On the 16th , we will invite our neighbors to join us for a bake sale and for shopping for meaningful gifts.

Volunteers are needed to bake, set-up and cashier. Please contact a committee member with questions or offers of help.

Trisha Wirta, on behalf of the Alternative Christmas Fair Committee (Jonna Reeder and Dana Hammer)

## Garden Corner:

Sanctuary flowers for September provided by Nancy Ingle, Lisa Lady, and Shelia Striegl.

We are still providing small flower arrangements to take to friends and neighbors that are in need of some support. Our supplies of jars is running low, if you have jars to donate, please bring them in and put them in the closet off of the narthex.

## Theology on Tap

“The People’s Seminary” has now become Theology on Tap, a group for young adults and their friends who wonder how to talk about God in our current times.

Join us October 10th, 7-9pm at Locust Cider Ballard Tap-room

### **October 28th Stewardship Luncheon**

**We'll have a lovely luncheon after church to chat more about all things giving and what that means for our congregation and our ministry to our neighbors.**

**We'll need a little help with the lunch—look for a sign-up sheet in the library!**

### LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 7	October 14	October 21	October 28
Mark 6:30-44	Mark 6:45-52	Mark 7:1-23	Mark 7:24-30

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*a village church in the city*

7706 25th Avenue NW

Seattle WA 98117

206.783.3402

***RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED***

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

**Looking Ahead**

**Wednesday October 10 and 17**

Theology on Tap

**Sunday October 21**

Monthly Brunch Group

**Wednesday October 24**

Friendship Group

**Sunday October 28**

Stewardship Luncheon

**Wednesday October 31**

Celebrate Sweetness

**Sunday November 11**

All Church Neighborhood Work Day