



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

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# Northminster News

Volume LX, No. 04

April 2019

## ***Letter from the Pastor***

Dear Northminster Community,

In line with our previous themes, I'm inviting us this month to consider how Holy Week can have a 21st Century Approach.

Every year it comes almost too soon. The long preparation of Lent gives way to Holy Week where the drama unfolds. It does not take belief in a certain creed to find oneself in Holy Week. The saga of betrayal, jealousy, friendship, loss, grief, death, surprise, and disbelief - these experiences are found in every human story. As we come to this Holy Week, perhaps we can make space in our lives for all of the emotions and experiences that we find.

Do we doubt the existence of God? That too, is part of Holy Week. Do we find ourselves with emotional distance from once close friends or relatives? That too, is part of Holy Week. Do we find ourselves anxious about the future? That too, is a part of Holy Week.

By diminishing Holy Week to the celebration of Easter, we cut off the complexity of human emotions and experiences that are found in the other six days of the week. While our schedules might only allow for the corporate celebration of Easter, there are ways that we can remember the rest of the week, even within the space of our commutes and daily house chores.

Perhaps Maundy Thursday allows space for a five minute personal reflection on the loss of friendship and the grief of being misunderstood. Perhaps Good Friday allows the space for a five minute personal reflection on the experience of mistrusting the universe, giving in to the idea that in fact it is all random with no meaning or purpose. These wild and unsettling experiences are found within the drama of Holy Week. When we lose track of them, we tend to give in to the thought that our faith only provides the grounds for a saccharine perspective. This is not the case. The Christian story offers a deep wealth of complex human experience, and validates these experiences within the very heart of God's story.

In Holy Week we see that God does not shy away from our human experience, but takes it into God's very heart and being.

With Easter comes a proclamation, not of certainty, but of surprise. It opens up a tentative space of hope. The Scriptural story of Easter offers us not ruthless assurance, but the whispering of a story that is almost too good to be true. This delicate and holy space is where we begin to find the ground of our faith. The promise of the resurrection is just that, a promise. We see bits and pieces. We hear stories from others that confirm the reality. And in the interim, we lean into the promise.

As we move through the rest of Lent and into this month, I will be leaning into the promise. I wonder if you will be too?

Warmly,

## An Important Letter from our Treasurer

Dear Session and Congregation of Northminster Presbyterian Church:

It has been a privilege to serve as Treasurer for the last three years, and, while I have enjoyed being a part of the church community in this way, I want to let you know that my work schedule and family commitments have become such that I am not able to continue to volunteer in this capacity. I plan to resign in June 2019, when my term on Session is complete.

As Treasurer, I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the financial life of Northminster, most recently working with Budget, Finance, and Memorials, Dani, and the office to bring additional efficiencies the church's finances through an accounting software transition and by shifting bookkeeping responsibilities to the office manager.

Looking ahead, I expect to work closely with Budget, Finance, and Memorials and Personnel to create a transition plan that ensures continuity as we welcome a new person into this role.

Sincerely,

Rachel Van Noord

March 26, 2019

## Holy Week Services and Events

Palm Sunday, April 14th, 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday Dinner Service, April 18th, 6:15 pm

Good Friday Service, April 19th, 7:00 pm

Pancake Breakfast , Easter Morning, 9:00 am

Easter Service, April 21st, 10:30 am



# Theology on Tap!

April 10th & 17th, 7pm [Brother Barrel Pub](#)

A gathering of adults ready to dive deeper into theology and what it means to practice faith in our post-modern age. We will cover a range of topics from theodicy, ethics, and how we understand our identity as followers of Jesus. Because we meet in a pub, you must be over 21.



## Calling all Children's Corner Volunteers, Sunday School Assistants and Parents at NPC

We really need to hear from you at one of our up-coming meetings in May:

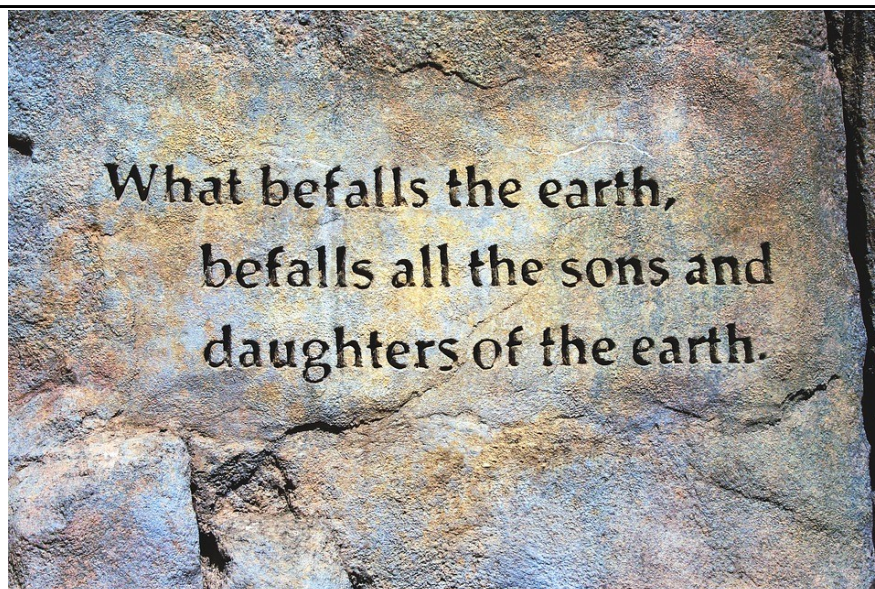
**Wednesday, May 1st** after the Community Night meal (meeting will begin at 6:45pm in the Fellowship Hall)

**Sunday, May 5th** 12:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

We would love to hear your suggestions for Children's Corner, use of the balcony for children and families, summer children's curriculum, Creative Camp, and youth group. The CE staff and Committee would love your input as we move forward with ideas and vision for programs for children and youth at NPC.

We look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions. If you cannot make one of these meetings, perhaps we can arrange another time to discuss our programs together. Please contact Trisha Wirta, CE Elder, at [trishaw@comcast.net](mailto:trishaw@comcast.net)

Trisha Wirta, CE Elder





# What is a New Worshipping Community?

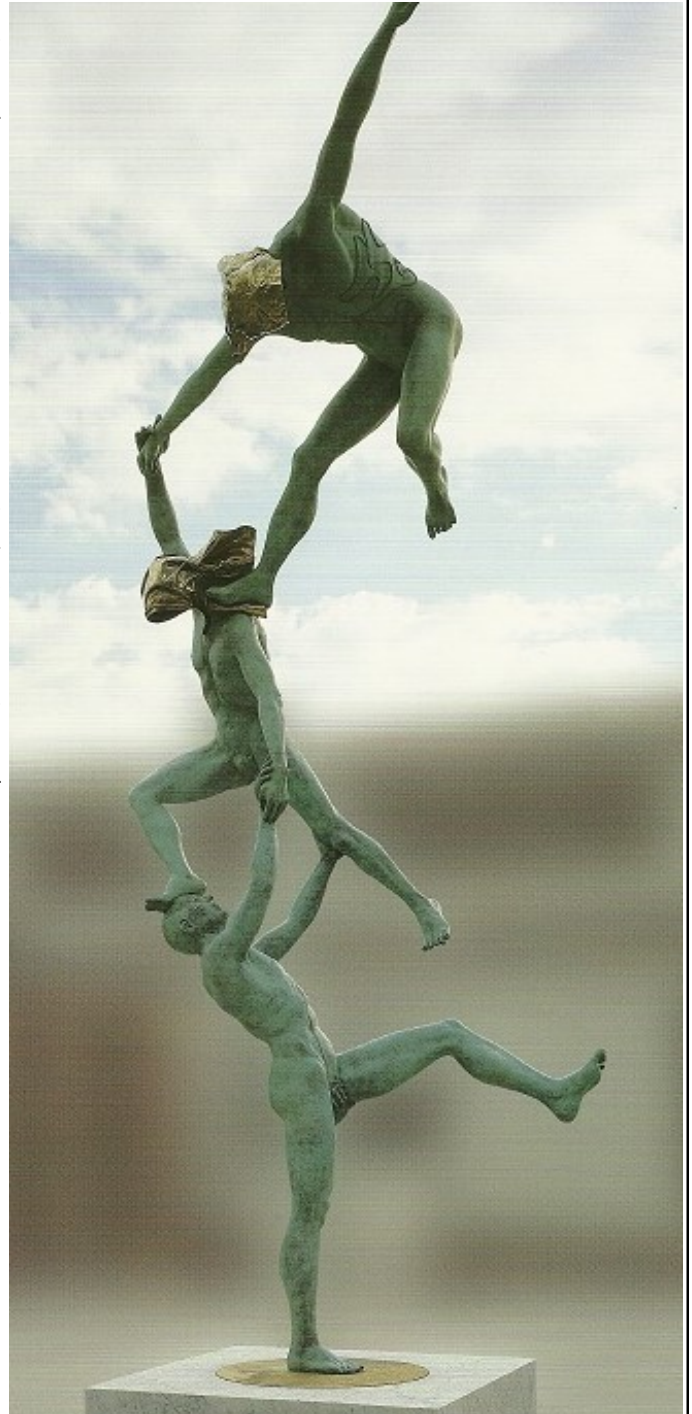
~ Rev. Zac Calvo

So, with a bit of history and background of the 1001 New Worshipping Communities movement from the last two newsletters, I wanted to offer a concluding perspective on the mission and vision of Coastland Commons.

A value that has emerged for us is that of embodiment; or, another way to capture embodiment is to use a term that may be familiar in the context of the church and theology: *incarnation*. Since many of us feel at home in theological or biblical language, using Jesus and the concept of the incarnation (God becoming human) is an excellent way to capture how we experience the world: in our *bodies*. The personhood of Jesus teaches us that our bodies matter, and that they do not exist on the margins or in the periphery. The formation of the early Christian church was very concerned with the idea of *embodiment*. In fact, the Christological controversies of the councils (like Nicea or Chalcedon) were in part trying to clarify this very issue. Did it matter that Jesus had a body? Did it matter that Jesus felt pain? Joy? Human pleasure?

I use this as an example to illustrate that Coastland Commons seeks to create spaces where bodies are welcome and affirmed in their fullness. Because of the example of the incarnation, we are moved and called to see our bodies as beautiful things. Christian theology is not at odds with the body; it has been contemplating the body for a long, long time. We see this as a huge opportunity in the life of both the institutional church and in new forms of spirituality that arise from this centuries-old wondering.

For us, this means celebrating the bodies of LGBTQIA+ people as holy in all their glamor and beauty. It means that we strive to keep from commodifying people of color or tokenize their bodies like much of white Christianity has done throughout its sordid history. It means that we love our Jewish, Muslim and interfaith neighbors not in order to change them but to be inspired by their devotion, and similarly devote ourselves to bettering the world through our own understanding of hospitality. I believe that this is not solely the work of Coastland Commons, but also something that we can engage at Northminster as we work to learn about each other and the communities we touch.



# Community Dinners!

Please join us for this fabulous time of connection in our community!

## Community Dinner: April Fools Game Night!

April 3, 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Instead of food, bring your favorite game to share! We will have games for all ages and stages, prizes and pizza!

## Community Dinner: Alphabet Dinner

April 24, 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

C is for Cookie! And also couscous, Caesar salad, cranberry sauce, and chicken alfredo! Bring a dish that matches the first letter of your last name.

## Community Dinner: Springtime in Paris

May 1, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Dust off your mom's Julia Child cookbooks and bring a dish with a little French flair!

## Community Dinner: Now Showing!

May 29, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Want to try some Pumpkin Pasties or Turkish Delight? How about Schwarma or Fried Green Tomatoes? Bring a dish inspired by your favorite book or movie!

## Community Dinner: Family Favorites

June 5, 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

We end our year of Community Nights by coming together with your family's favorite dish. We will share our summer plans and take up ideas for themes for next year!

## Library Corner

The responses to the survey have inspired us! Watch the display shelves for new books throughout the month of April. New titles for the collection include Vance/ *Hillbilly Elegy*, Alford/ *How to Live: A Search for Wisdom from Old People*, and Endo/ *Silence*. There will also be a number of new children's books.

## FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

We have a new flower chart located in the reception room on the counter where the library books are displayed. If you would like to donate flowers for the sanctuary you can sign up on this chart the week before you want to donate this will give time to register your name in Sunday's bulletin. You may provide your own flowers and do your own arrangement or donate flowers from your garden or provide money to buy flowers and have either Nancy Ingle or Sheila Striegl arrange them. If you have questions about vases or other arrangement needs just call Sheila.

## Exploring Our Faith: An Intergenerational Journey

We are excited to announce an all-ages growth and discipleship class for everyone here at Northminster! The goal of “Exploring Our Faith: An Intergenerational Journey” is to examine our Christian faith, as well as our Presbyterian roots in the Reformed tradition, in a gathering of kids, youth and adults over seven weeks. It will be a mixture of interactive small-group discussions here on site, as well as field trips that we are calling “deep dive” opportunities. Our intention is to foster relationship across ages and generations, to create a space to explore and wonder about our faith, and to provide opportunities to engage with other faith communities.

In addition, we are including an option for anyone who wants to become a member at Northminster at the conclusion of our time together. However, this is not exclusively a membership class; we hope that anyone regardless of membership, involvement or age will feel free to join us in getting to know each other better and exploring our faith. All are welcome!

We have seven different offerings over the course of this class:

~Three small-group conversations around different topics that will be held here at **Northminster from 12:30 - 2:00pm**.

~Three “**deep dive**” opportunities that will take us off-site to experience different faith communities and expressions.

Our vision for participation, if you are interested in joining us, is that you would be able to commit to our first conversation on **March 10th and concluding conversation on April 28th**, and commit to a minimum of 3 other offerings, ***one of which must be a “deep dive.”*** The schedule for these conversations and “deep dives” with brief descriptions are below:

**“What Does It Mean to Be Reformed?”** Small Group Conversation on **Sunday, March 10th, from 12:30pm - 2:00pm at Northminster**. We will explore what it means to be part of the Reformed tradition, as well as reflecting on what it means for us to say “reformed and always reforming.”

**Deep Dive Opportunity 1:** Shabbat Service at Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue (1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle, WA), **Friday, March 15th at 7:30pm**. We will join Bet Alef for their Purim festival, which will be portrayed in the style of the musical Hamilton (***dates and times for deep dive opportunities subject to change***).

**Deep Dive Opportunity 2:** Daily Prayer at Idriss Mosque (1420 Northeast Northgate Way, Seattle, WA 98125), **Sunday, March 24th at 12:00pm**. We will continue to cultivate our relationships with our Muslim friends at Idriss Mosque by visiting their daily prayer (***dates and times for deep dive opportunities subject to change***).

**Deep Dive Opportunity 3: “Tschabalala Self”** Art Exhibit at the Frye Art Museum (704 Terry Avenue Seattle, WA 98104), **Sunday, March 31st, from 12:30pm - 2:30pm**. The Frye Museum website describes the exhibit as examining “the intersectionality of race, gender, and sexuality, focusing particularly on the iconographic significance of the black female body in contemporary culture” (***dates and times for deep dive opportunities subject to change***).

**“How Do We Engage the Bible?”** Small Group Conversation on **Sunday, April 7th, from 12:30pm - 2:00pm** at Northminster. We will discuss our own personal interactions with the Bible and learn together as we engage both the generative and troubling aspects of scripture.

**“Getting at What We Understand About God”** Group Sharing Time on **Sunday, April 28th at 12:30pm - 2:00pm** at Northminster. We will take some time to hear from one another about what we learned throughout the course of our exploration and to begin articulating what we understand about God.

**To register, fill out the information available in the Narthex or contact Pastor Jeny, Zac, or the office.**

## Outreach Guidance Team Update!

The outreach guidance team (OGT) has identified Wednesday night April 3 as "April Fool's Game Night!" Dinner will be provided 6-645pm, then let the games begin! Bring your favorite game, or join in on one already planned or available at the church. All ages welcome! Neighbors and friends will also be invited to partake.

The OGT will also help to plan a "spring cleaning" of the church on May 19th and a community and congregation "service day," similar to the November 2018 event, planned for sometime this summer.

Contact Dana Hammer ([kdhammer@comcast.net](mailto:kdhammer@comcast.net)) with questions and ideas!

## Prayer Thought for Lent ~ Jonna Reeder

"The reality is, my prayers don't change God. But, I am convinced prayer changes me. Praying boldly boots me out of that stale place of religious habit into authentic connection with God Himself." - Lysa TerKeurst

## Save the date: Spring Friendship Luncheon

Wednesday, 15 May 2019 @ 11:30

Join us to celebrate the first anniversary of the Friendship lunches Little did we know when we had the first lunch in May of 2018 that they would become such a success! It has been a time of fellowship, renewed and new friendships, and a new community of caring within Northminster. And the wonderful work crew has enjoyed the energy, laughter, and bonding.

This coming May, delicious food will be provided by Becky, Leslie, and Szu-Yu. Will it be lasagna or a hearty soup? Let us know your vote!

Contact Jan Olson or Beth Schmidt with questions.



## LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN APRIL

<b>April 7 Lent 5</b>	<b>April 14 Palm Sunday</b>	<b>April 21 Easter</b>	<b>April 28 Eastertide 1</b>
Isaiah 43:16-21 John 12:1-8	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29 Luke 19:28-40	Isaiah 65:17-25 Luke 24:1-12	Psalms 118:14-29 John 20:19-31

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*a village church in the city*

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Seattle WA 98117

206.783.3402

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

**Looking Ahead**

**Community Dinners**

First and Last Wednesdays 6pm

**Theology on Tap**

Second and Third Wednesdays, 7pm  
at Brother Barrel Pub

**Holy Week Services**

Palm Sunday, April 14, 10:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 18, 6:15pm

Good Friday, April 19, 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 21, 10:30am

**Pancake Breakfast**

Easter Morning, 9:00am

**Northminster Staff**

**Senior Pastor**

Rev. Dani Forbess

**Associate Pastor**

**of Formation and Outreach**

Rev. Jeny Carlson

**Director of Community  
& Youth Engagement**

Rev. Zac Calvo

**Organist**

Eric Johnson

**Music Director**

Miriam Anderson

**Office Manager**

Charlie Delavan