



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

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Northminster News

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February 2019

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Northminster Community,

As we continue to follow the theme of the 21st Century Christian this month, I'd like to notice some of the ways faith has remained the same between the centuries

A 21st Century Christian offers service to the community of faith.

This piece hasn't changed. In fact, it has only expanded. Where the early part of the last century had service arranged according to gender and other social constructs, this century has included service, but we have invited more people to participate. We have Sunday School teachers who are men. We have elders who are women - including positions like the Clerk of Session and the Treasurer. We don't always divide along gender lines, but we celebrate the legacy of the Presbyterian Women's Association by supporting mission through the whole church. The work that it takes to grow and sustain the congregation has not changed from one century to another. Nor has the Christian commitment to service.

I was so grateful to see the fruit of this labor as we came together for our annual meeting. It was so clear that many people had worked together for tireless hours to bring the meeting to pass. What a clear marker of health for the congregation, but also a sign that points to the deeper roots of a vibrant faith.

A 21st Century Christian has a deep appreciation for the sacred text.

This is another piece that hasn't changed. The class that was held over the course of Sunday morning breakfast looked closely at our relationship with the Bible. Through making space for our questions and doubts, we found that we still consider ourselves people of the book! Perhaps naming the questions and doubts made space for a more intimate relationship with Scripture than we had before. The timeless wisdom of the text, the ways in which it pulls us out of ourselves, the ways in which it reminds us of the goodness of God, the ways in which it speaks to diverse communities in different ways - these were great strengths that we found within our sacred text. We came to the text with hard 21st century questions, and it remained steadfast!

A 21st Century Christian is committed to the community.

Look back one hundred years, and you will find areas where the church led the way in social change. Many hospitals and schools were started by Christians in their desire to serve the world. While this is not happening in the same way, it is still happening. People of faith are being challenged to find ways to put their faith to work within the world. From policy work to one on one tutoring, the work of the Christian still finds its home within the "other six days." Perhaps the public sphere remains both the hardest and the most important landscape for the person of faith.

A 21st Century Christian looks for life-giving and vibrant worship.

In worship, we bring all of these other pieces together. This month, as we walk through Black History month, we'll continue to notice the intersection of past, present, and our future hopes.

There are many, many more qualities of a 21st century Christian. But this month I remain grateful for our connection with the past.

Warmly,



February is Black History Month

Organ Music by African-American Composers

Eric Johnson

In the year 2000, Mickey Terry Thomas, PhD, a faculty member at Howard University, began to publish his research on classical music for organ by African-American composers in the indispensable 8 volume African-American Organ Music Anthology, a joint publishing venture of the American Guild of Organists and the Schirmer publishing house. He wrote, "Because of the historical stereotyping of African-Americans in society and the general lack of interest by music publishers, performers and the public, most of this music had remained only in manuscript form. The advent of the Black Nationalist movement, resulting in greater emphasis being placed on Black contributions to the arts, has resulted in efforts to solve this problem,"

Human culture is being enlivened and enriched by Dr Terry's efforts to bring these works to light, many of which are now widely played. During Black History Month we will hear many of the works from these volumes as well as pieces rooted in the gospel tradition and in spirituals.



February prayer focus: Africa

These three organizations were featured in our Alternative Gift Faire in December. Our discipleship isn't limited to funds, but includes our time and our prayers. For all of these groups, please pray that God would provide funds, protection, and plenty of the Holy Spirit.

*South Africa (Mennonite Mission Network) – Pray that God would bless the conflict-resolution work of Dan & Kathryn Smith Derksen and their South African partners. Pray also for financial support to enable the Smith Derksen boys to attend the Mennonite Youth Convention in Kansas City this summer.

*Presbyterian World Mission and the Presbyterian Church of Rwanda – that more children would be able to continue their studies in middle school and high school (not dropping out due to lack of finances). Specifically, for Kay Day, who serves in Rwanda as a college instructor, she often has 200 students in one class learning English and is challenged to give individual attention!

*Frontier Fellowship: one of this organization's partners, a Synod, is sending a team to try to mediate an on-going conflict between two ethnic groups that has resulted in more than 20 killings in the last year.

Pray: “Blessed are the peacemakers!”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast

Several folks from Northminster attended the annual Prayer Breakfast in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. This event, started seven years ago by Presbyterian Pastor Rev. Allen Belton, is a morning of prayer, encouragement, and praise to community leaders and groups that are living out Dr. King's legacy of racial justice and reconciliation.

Attendees from Northminster included Rev. Zac Calvo, Rev. Jeny Carlson, Rev. Dani Forbess, Jonna Reeder, Antonio Rufin, Liz Tennant, and Dawn Thornhill.



What is a New Worshipping Community?

~ Rev. Zac Calvo

Chances are if you have been coming to church in the last few months, you've heard Dani or I talk about 1001 New Worshipping Communities, so I wanted to take up some space and offer some history and clarity on what exactly that is. I am always chuckling at the PC(USA) and our identity as Presbyterians, because we love to make ourselves a lot of acronyms and code words for what we do. I spend a lot of time trying to sort through and understand them myself! This might have caught your attention recently as I prepared for my ordination to Coastland Commons, which is part of the 1001 New Worshipping Communities of the PC (USA).

So what exactly is a New Worshipping Community, anyway? New Worshipping Communities, (you might also see or hear it referred to as NWC or 1001) is an initiative of the PC(USA) that began in June of 2012 at General Assembly. The goal was to start 1001 new PC(USA) churches in ten years, with funding from the Presbyterian Mission Agency which is a part of the national office. The vision for these communities was to offer alternatives to traditional models of doing church, with the objective of creating new forms of experiencing faith in community, as well as invigorating the church as a whole. The PC(USA) explains that NWC's seek to "make and form disciples of Jesus Christ" and to "take on varied forms of church in our changing culture."

Something that I appreciate about 1001 is that it is a really diverse model. Some may take a more "traditional form," meeting on Sundays and having similar liturgies to what we practice here at Northminster. Others are experimenting in different types of communities, like Beacon in Philadelphia which I had the opportunity to visit when I was in New Jersey for seminary. Beacon is located in an inner city Philly neighborhood that is both low-income and rapidly gentrifying, so you might be able to imagine the challenges and creative opportunities present in that community as Beacon seeks to engage it. Coastland Commons, the New Worship Community that I was ordained into, meets on every third Monday of the month, where we gather at Dani's home for a meal and theological conversation. Understanding the varied forms of NWC's has been really helpful for me as I continue to learn about what they are and how they function.

If you have any more questions, feel free to approach me during coffee hour, or send me an email and I would be happy to explain more. If you would like to explore Coastland Commons, our next gathering is February 11th at 6:00pm at The Forbess Residence.

I will take some time in the next newsletter to offer some more thoughts on what we can learn from NWC's, as well as how they can learn from our more institutional forms of church.

Community Dinners!

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

Community Dinner: Tailgates and Souper Bowls

January 30, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Appetizers for dinner! Bring potato skins, artichoke dip, veggie trays, mozzarella sticks, or pita & hummus...and your favorite soups and bread.

Community Dinner: Let's Get Saucy!

February 6, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your mom's best sauce, be it marinara, cheese, alfredo, garlic, tahini...we will have pasta (including gluten free) to pour it over. Salad and bread also welcome!

Community Dinner: Breakfast for Dinner!

February 27, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Celebrate National Strawberry Day with pancakes, waffles, and crepes. Bring berries, whipped cream, syrups, hash browns, eggs, and juice and we will honor Fat Tuesday a week early!

Community Dinner: Taters And Ashes

March 6, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

We will have a short dinner of baked potatoes and all the fixings before our Ash Wednesday Service

Community Dinner: One Pot Wonders

March 27, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Can you get all the food groups in one pot? Time to break out your paella, gumbos, and rice dishes for your crock or insta pots and bring your favorites to share.



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.

Deacon's Corner

An important part of the Deacon's ministry is to partner with Pastor Dani and members of the Northminster family to serve church members who need assistance.

We work to serve church members in need by visiting homebound members and extending friendship through cards, bringing flowers, bringing or sending Upper Room prayer devotionals, making phone calls and occasionally by providing meals and/or communion. We coordinate with other caring and compassionate church members to bring church members who can't drive to church and to help out at memorial services.

We are working to set up systems to help us to better track and respond to people in the church community who require assistance. Our goal is to strengthen our Community of Caring at Northminster by more actively monitoring needs, by improving communications, and organizing response and follow up care when needed.

*Bronwen Matthews coordinates our visitation ministry. She has developed a centralized list of people who need visiting and support. We are continuing to refine this so that it will be helpful in tracking who has been visited/contacted and who is in need of contact.

*We are working to clarify roles and improve communications and response to immediate challenges that require urgent attention, such as a fall, stroke or death. We are firming up the details and assignments with the expectation that a deacon will make a phone call to help ascertain needs, create an e-mail list or other signup to help the church community respond, and providing follow up contact.

*Promote a Community of Caring where the congregation provides support to people in a caring way. This means being attentive to people that have on-going needs and offering to help on a somewhat regular basis. It may mean providing rides to church, phoning, sending cards, or making visits on a regular basis.

Responding to the many internal needs we see is a job that involves the whole Northminster family. If you would like to be a pair of helping hands or if you want some help, please let Bronwen or me know. Also, please share your thoughts about ways that we can take better care of each other. You can reach me (Liz) at (206) 782-5004.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Tennant, Moderator of Deacons

February Fellowship Lunch

February 13, 11:30 am

The Friendship Luncheon group meets on Wednesday, February 13 at 11:30. Miriam will provide special music! A note of special thanks to all who have helped with the luncheons: Beth, Leslie, Dani, Trisha, Tyson and her crew, Mary Linda, Lisa, Jonna, Lucie, Nancy, Sheila, and Antonio. Suggested donation, \$5.



Theology on Tap!

February 13th & 20th, 7pm [Brother Barrel Pub](#)

A gathering of young 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.



High School Youth Event

February 10th, 12:30-2:30pm, Grades 8-12

The High School youth and Zac will be screening the film, *Love, Simon* with discussion time after. Please contact Zac if you have any questions.

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
Luke 4:21-30	Luke 5:1-11	Luke 6:17-26	Luke 6:27-38

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a village church in the city

7706 25th Avenue NW

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

Wednesdays in February

Bible Study

Wednesday, February 6

Community Dinner: Let's Get Saucy

Sunday, February 10

High School Youth Event

Wednesday, February 13

Friendship Lunch

Theology on Tap

Wednesday, February 20

Theology on Tap

Wednesday, February 27

Community Dinner: Breakfast for
Dinner

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

Choir Director

Miriam Anderson