



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

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# Northminster News

Volume LX, No. 05

May 2019

***Letter from the Pastor***

Dear Northminster Community,

The season of Eastertide is filled with change. We are reminded that the resurrection leads us into something new. In each meeting after the resurrection, the disciples are surprised about Jesus - sometimes not even recognizing him at all. They often leave the meeting with a call to begin again.

At Northminster, our session has been hard at work discerning in two major ways. The first question at hand was: Should Northminster become a partnering congregation with a PC USA New Worshipping Community? Our leader of Youth and Community Engagement, Rev. Zac Calvo, serves as an ordained pastor for a local New Worshipping Community called Coastland Commons. While Coastland Commons and Northminster can easily remain two separate entities, the session wondered if there might be a way to develop an intentional friendship. The New Worshipping Community will be fully funded by the PC USA grant system. But there are many other ways for us to put our heads together!

The 1001 New Worshipping Communities (NWC) movement has a strong tide stretching across the PC USA. One of the markers of a successful NWC is finding a partner congregation. It sets the NWC in the context of its history. While experimenting with new ways of "doing church," it offers the NWC a way of recognizing the strengths of the institution. Likewise, the relationship also benefits the long-standing congregation. As the congregation wonders about how to connect with those who have left the church, or those who no longer see the benefit of the church - the NWC can offer some insights about the most effective ways of change.

After two months of discernment, the session voted to become a partner congregation with Coastland Commons. We look forward to where this journey might take us!

The second act of discernment dealt with reaching into the history of Northminster, and re-invigorating our social commitment in the issues of housing and homelessness. When we closed our BEHM shelter over a year ago, our congregation experienced grief in the loss of this focus and mission. Though we tried in various ways to salvage this important work, we realized that we were not able to do this on our own.

Late last year, we were approached by SHARE/WHEEL. Would we consider offering our site as a shelter? The shelter that lived for over twenty years at Trinity United Methodist now needed another home. Would we consider becoming a site? As you could imagine, this initiated lengthy and great discussions, site visits, conversations with coordinators, and explorations with other churches that are currently hosting.

After three months of discernment, the session voted to become a shelter for SHARE/WHEEL. The shelter will not begin until August at the soonest, so we have a good deal of time to help answer questions, share the vision, and offer the strongest communication platform that we can! Again, we look forward to where this journey will take us!

Eastertide offers us space and reflection for newness. It is most apt that these new ventures are coming across our path now. They are unexpected. They are surprising. Perhaps this is part of how the Spirit of God is blowing through our community.

Warmly,

## Sock Drive Success!!!

Thanks to all who brought socks for the Deacon sock drive during Lent. 72 pairs of socks were delivered to an appreciative staff at Operation Nightwatch, as part of their "Sock It to Homelessness" program. Their clients will enjoy the warm, dry footwear.

Operation Nightwatch is based in downtown Seattle and is one of three organizations regularly supported by Northminster through the Deacons.



## Community Dinners!

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

### **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!

## 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. You may provide your own flowers and do your own arrangement, 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.



## Theology on Tap!

May 8th and 22nd, 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 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)



## Easter Breakfast Thank-you!

Trisha Wirta, Christian Ed. Elder

It was so great to see our older children teaching our younger children how to cook pancakes on the griddle, just like a big happy church family looks! Thank you for joining us at breakfast on Easter morning, and thank you to all of you who helped make it happen – the Carlson family, the Forbess family, the Hammer family, the Van Noord-Peterson family, the Wu family, the Wagoner family, Jan Olson, Carol Charles, Signa Treat, Phyllis Kintrea, Bret Wirta and Pastors Jeny and Zac.

**Contributions will help fund summer programs for children and youth, and especially Creative Camp,** It was indeed a joyous day to gather together and share a meal to celebrate Jesus in our lives.

## Coastland Commons Update

Dear Northminster Community,

I am writing to tell you about something that emerged from our last session meeting on April 23rd. After about four months of conversation, the session of Northminster voted unanimously to be a partner congregation of Coastland Commons, the New Worshipping Community that I was ordained to in January. I am thrilled by this for a lot of reasons, but one of the reasons that this is good news for me personally is that it brings two things closer together that I care about very much! There are a lot of possibilities for this partnership. One of Coastland Commons' theological values is that we believe every person has the capacity and ability to be creative in whatever way they choose to engage art, music, or any other form. What this means for our partnership is that we will have the opportunity to be creative together if we so choose! More on that in the coming months.

I also want to speak briefly on what this partnership means for Northminster in a practical sense. Pastor Dani brought up the conversation early this year at Session, and we began the discernment process to clarify what a partnership could look like. I was very happy to submit to the discernment of Session, because a true partnership listens to many different voices to decide what is best for everyone. As we talked, we decided to move forward together and Session requested that I provide a proposal for what that partnership could be. I met with Session three times, as well as with Budget and Finance, to continue to seek guidance on how this might be possible and ask for feedback.

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Essentially, this partnership has three components that Session voted to approve:

- 1.) Coastland Commons and Northminster will have the potential to partner together for future events and services! This means we can work together as a congregation with Session to decide what that might look like in the future. Coastland Commons wants to be a source of life for Northminster, and I also fully believe that Northminster can be a source of life and energy for Coastland Commons.
- 2.) The Session has approved quarterly Coastland Commons worship services and events in its sanctuary. Of course, all are welcome for these events and services, and they won't conflict with any Northminster services or events.
- 3.) Northminster becomes what is called a *fiscal sponsor* to Coastland Commons. What this means is that Northminster houses the grant funding that Coastland Commons receives from the PC(USA). What this does *not* mean is that Northminster is financially supporting Coastland Commons. Coastland Commons is almost entirely funded by grants from the denomination, and we are working to be fully sustainable in the next two and a half to three years!

Please feel to reach out with any questions or comments via email at [zac.calvo@gmail.com](mailto:zac.calvo@gmail.com)



## Garden Corner by Sheila Striegl

Spring flowers are on the way in the garden and we will soon be to the watering season. This year we will need a few extra people to help with the watering since I will be out of commission for a few weeks after May 15. If you think you can help in this way please call Signa Treat as she will be coordinating the watering schedule.

Also if you have ever wanted to do flowers for Sunday this might be a great time to sign up. Nancy Ingle, who is in charge of flowers can answer any questions you may have.

We have a few surplus plants from the garden that need a new home and for a small donation they could be yours.

2 Gold Pillar Barberry  
Starts of Black Mondo Grass  
3 Mexican Feather Grass

If any of these plants would add to your garden give Signa Treat or Sheila Striegl a call.

## Stewardship Update,

Stacy Kern, Stewardship Elder

### PENTECOST MAINTENANCE OFFERING

I love being part of Northminster. As your Stewardship Chair I want to thank you for making my job pretty easy. I let you know about our special giving opportunities and ya'll support it. Here's an update on the One Great Hour of Sharing. As of 4/27/19 all of you lovely NPC folk have given \$990 to this Special Offering that supports hunger and poverty relief projects around the country. One quarter of this offering stays here and is donated by our church!

*The next Special Offering takes place on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th.* This is when we take a special collection for the maintenance and upkeep of our church building. This year the Buildings and Grounds committee decided the offering will go to install new carpet in the long hallway near the office, tower room and bell choir and around to the side of the sanctuary. We'll also carpet other spaces like the office and tower room as we can afford. If you haven't walked this hallway for awhile you may not have noticed the wrinkles and bulges in the carpet. It's an eyesore! And, definitely in need of replacement. The plan is to install carpet squares that can be changed out if it gets stained. There'll be envelopes in the pews for this opportunity the end of May and early June. Please consider making a gift towards this improvement to our building.

## PRAYER CORNER

May 6-June 4 is the month of Ramadan. There are excellent materials available on-line and in print. Consider praying for at least one of these days—or take a 30-day prayer challenge! Pray a blessing for our Muslim sisters and brothers and to protect their physical health as many will fast for the long days of early summer.

## CHURCH SPRING CLEAN May 19!

Dana Hammer, Outreach Elder

It's that time of year to show our buildings and spaces some \*love\* and do some cleaning and organizing. Join us the afternoon of SUNDAY MAY 19 for a light lunch after church then some good old-fashioned cleaning!

Contact Dana Hammer at [kdhammer@comcast.net](mailto:kdhammer@comcast.net) if you would like to participate.



## **Deacons Corner**

**Liz Tennant, Moderator**

The Deacons of Northminster Presbyterian Church are charged to serve as the “caring arm of the church”. As one part of that, the Deacons have the privilege and responsibility of allocating donations that are specifically earmarked for the “Deacon’s Fund.”

Over the past several months the Deacons have developed criteria for distributing the Deacons funds. At our March meeting we adopted a framework for making financial distributions and also our plan for distributions in 2019.

### **The Framework**

The adopted framework establishes an approach and criteria for distributing funds from the Deacon Fund. This includes developing an annual financial plan to distribute available Deacon Fund monies to three focus areas while maintaining flexibility to address emerging needs and retaining a fund reserve of \$500 -\$1000.

Criteria that the Deacons will take into consideration in allocating funds include:

Local area organization that ministers to the hungry, homeless, mentally ill, or at-risk kids.

Organization/ministry has non-profit status.

Our contribution significantly helps the organization

Our limited dollars will be used well (for direct support)

Consider level of support provided by others

Prefer organization/ministry that is registered with WA state

Prefer NPC and organization have or are developing connection and/or partnership.

Maintain ability to meet specific needs of Northminster members (e.g. transportation, other)

Funds will be distributed twice per year The Deacons will adopt an annual financial plan based on anticipated contributions and will make initial distributions in first quarter of each year. The second distribution will be made in the third to fourth quarter each year.

A fixed amount will be budgeted for three focus areas (\$2,000 per organization in 2019). This amount can be adjusted based on the balance in the Deacon Fund and as agreed to by the Deacons.

The Deacons fund will keep a reserve of \$500- \$1,000 to pay for the Upper Room and cover annual administrative and office costs estimated at about \$500.) During the semi-annual disbursement periods the Deacons will distribute the remaining funds based on recipient needs and Deacon priorities.

The Deacon’s treasurer is responsible for monitoring and recordkeeping related Deacon Fund disbursements.

### **2019 Distribution Plan for Deacons Funds**

In 2019, the Deacons plan to disburse \$2,000 to each of the following organizations:

Mental Health Chaplaincy

Northgate Alliance (Northgate Elementary)

Ballard Food Bank

These disbursements will be made in two installments of 1,000 each.

The Deacons plan to retain a fund balance of \$500 - \$1000 and will use this as a buffer and to pay for the Upper Room and administrative/office expenses (expected to total about \$500).

Additional disbursements will be made during the March 2019 Deacon’s meeting and during the second disbursement period in fall 2019.

## Deacon's Corner continued:

### Approved First Quarter Disbursements:

Amount available for disbursement: \$ 4,000

Agreed upon disbursements:

Mental Health Chaplaincy	\$1,200
Northgate Alliance (Northgate Elementary)	\$1,200
Ballard Food Bank	\$1,200
Budgeted to meet emerging needs	\$400

Thank you for your generous donations to the Deacons Fund. We will continue to use them to help our neighbors who are hungry, homeless, and/or mentally ill.

## 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!

## Visiting a Mosque with Exploring Our Faith Group A Reflection by Trisha Wirta

I really enjoyed visiting a local mosque in the Northgate area, Sheik Idriss Mosque, with our Exploring our Faith Group at Northminster. Pastor Zac organized the outing, and there were about 10 of us there to learn about the mosque and their worship practices and traditions.

We watched the men gather in lines, shoulder to shoulder, along with their sons of all ages, and bow down to God together. They bowed from the waist and then lowered themselves to the floor to bow down to God. They listened to a prayer and then joined in. I found the experience peaceful and worshipful.

Our host was welcoming, interesting and animated as he explained his traditions and answered our questions. He seemed pleased that we were there to learn more about his worshipping community.



## LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN MAY

<b>May 5 Eastertide 2</b>	<b>May 12 Easter 3/Mother's Day</b>	<b>May 19 Eastertide 4</b>	<b>May 26 Eastertide 5</b>
Psalm 30 John 21: 1-19	Psalm 23 John 10: 22-30	Psalm 148 John 13: 31-35	Psalm 67 John 14: 23-29

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**

**Community Dinners**

First and Last Wednesdays 6pm

**Theology on Tap**

Second and Third Wednesdays, 7pm

at Brother Barrel Pub

**Church Clean-Up Day**

May 19

**Youth Sunday**

June 9

**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