

NORTHMINSTER NEWS

A village church in the city

Welcome to our New Office Manager!

After a long search, we are grateful to welcome Judy Moi as our new Office Manager. Judy comes with a background in administration and has been looking to put her skills to work in this community. Judy is just getting up and running, but when she's orienting, she will be in the office one day a week, according to need.

Holy Week Services

This year we will be using the same practices as last year when it comes to Holy Week. All services are Zoom from Home.

3/28 Palm Sunday 10:30am

4/2 Good Friday 7:00pm

4/4 Easter Sunday Breakfast
9:00am

4/4 Easter Sunday Service
10:30am



Original Collage created by Lisa Snow Lady

Spring is Unfolding

The pandemic has taught us some hard lessons when it comes to seeing beauty in small things. In times of darkness, we've had to turn to the smallest halo of light so that we can see. Perhaps now with these senses heightened, we will come into spring ready to take in the beauty. As we see the blossoms unfurl in our neighborhood, let us celebrate with gratitude that the tide of winter is turning.

No doubt that with this gush of excitement, we will be anxious to gather together as a church. We can remember that the session of the church is responsible for the way in which the congregation gathers. The session of Northminster has appointed a ReOpening Process Committee that is still hard at work reviewing science and data that will determine the recommendation for reopening. In our tradition, I've learned to trust the process and the people. The work of gathering together is not taken lightly. There is much to attend to, including finding ways to meet our community that prefers to remain online. The spring is here, and with it, we

Formation Corner with Pastor Jeny

Happy Spring! This year spring feels like it is bringing more hope than normal and taking a moment to appreciate that is good for our spiritual and emotional health.

This Lent we've been reading the Lent in Plain Sight devotional by Jill Duffield and looking at different aspects of our relationship with God using a different object each week as a catalyst for discussion. During the two Theology on Tap meetings this month, we looked at each one, adding a social justice lens.

In April, our Theology on Tap meetings will examine redemption, reconciliation, and reparations as we explore what our theology of grace tells us about how to address issues of economic and racial disparities in our culture.

For May, we will get more personal and look into our theology of prayer and how having a variety of prayer practices supports our faith development and our personal spiritual health.

I wish everyone a wonderful Easter!

still await the word of gathering. Like everything else, it will come. *Warmly, Pastor Dani*

The Art of Sanctuary

Written by Lisa Snow Lady, found on ArtWay, an International Site on Faith and Art, originated in Holland.



These sacred spaces are common to all cultures: ancient and modern, throughout the ages, and around the globe. One has only to think of the beauty of the mediaeval cathedrals in France with their richly colored stained glass windows portraying the narrative of Christ's life for those who could not read or write, the frescos on the interior walls of the Byzantine churches, mosques, desert missions, or Celtic monasteries.

There are many references to Sanctuary in the Scriptures. Worshipping the one true God of Israel at the Holy Temple (Sanctuary), the place where heaven and earth collide, was one of the main themes in the Torah. Jesus himself refers to his body as the Living Temple (*John 2:19-21*). And we are told that as his people we have the Temple of the Holy Spirit within us (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*). Physical structures set aside for worship can serve as important reminders of this. Their primary purposes are: to point us to the Creator, to create a communal space to gather together, to provide a place of quiet reflection,

and to serve as a shelter to recharge before being sent out into the world.

As one of the fortunate ones during this time of Covid-19, I am able to continue making art in my home studio and carry on with life in this new strange version of “normal”, but what I miss most of all is the ability to worship physically in my small intergenerational, neighborhood Presbyterian church. While virtual church has been a way to keep connected during this time, for me it can't take the place of worshipping in a physical space. The music, quiet reflection, the passing of the peace, the partaking of the sacrament of communion at stations in the church, the after-service fellowship, the shared space are things that I sometimes took for granted and now dearly miss.

April 2021 Northminster Stewardship Focus



Northminster Presbyterian was recognized at the February 2021 Presbytery meeting for its regular contributions to the special offerings of our denomination (PCUSA) in 2020. Your session is grateful to those who donated. In 2020, clean, safe, and accessible water was a major focus with projects implemented in Detroit, in Bolivia, and in South Sudan. Through mid-April there is an opportunity to participate in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). This offering focuses on tangible ways to show God's care for the world - repairing what is broken, planting seeds for others to nurture for their food, and responding to assist with disaster recovery. The 2021 theme verse is Isaiah 58:12 that stresses God's actions and our participation in repairing breaches in our world. Donations can be given via our website (select "One Great Hour of Sharing") or by putting "OGHS" in the memo line of a check mailed to the church office.

Friendship Group Outreach Activities:

-In February, a small team wrote some 50 cards to the Friendship group and other church friends. A highlight of the mailing was the Bible verse card created by Becky Rufin. A heart puzzle was also part of the package.

-Easter: a team of 15 people has been working for weeks on a special surprise for the Friendship Group. There is even a Martha Stewart moment! Anticipate!!

Deacons Beth Schmidt, Liz Tennant, Jennifer Jensen, Nancy Ingle, and Bronwen Matthews have been an integral part of this outreach work for the Friendship Group. *Submitted by Jan Olson.*

A Message from our Re-Opening Process Team:

The reopening committee is encouraged by ongoing vaccination efforts. As of 3/13/21, 12% of King County residents are fully vaccinated. This rate continues to grow, and will likely accelerate as more vaccines and supplies become available. Currently, the committee is examining COVID transmission rates and building use safety. We will continue to regularly recommend steps to Session toward reopening the building and creating other opportunities for safe community gathering and worship. At this time, we do not have any news as to a firm reopening date for Sunday morning worship. Rather we encourage ongoing and mutual community care where small gatherings of families and individuals can be done safely. We will work with Session to identify additional activities and options for small gatherings during the Spring and Summer.

Small Groups Launching Soon!!

The Outreach Team is planning to offer guidelines for small groups to gather in the coming weeks. Working alongside the Re-Opening Process Team, the guidelines will be in accordance with local safety protocols. Be on the look out in upcoming communications, as this is a brand new development!

An Update From SHARE/WHEEL:

After a long effort to push the City create/support additional women's shelter capacity, WHEEL was invited by the City of Seattle and Seattle First Presbyterian Church to operate a large (60 beds!) new low-barrier (staffed) women's shelter at Seattle First Presbyterian! We (SHARE/WHEEL) opened with less than a week's notice on February 12th, the first day of the snowstorm.

Northminster celebrates this news from SHARE/WHEEL! We are grateful that our shelter has remained open 24 hours a day during the course of the pandemic, and will continue to remain open until further notice.

Deacons Corner with Liz Tennant, Moderator

Your Deacons met with Pastor Dani on February 28th, 2021 via Zoom. We shared updates, adopted our 2021 fund distribution plan, and discussed how best to support you, our friends and congregation, and our community in the months ahead.

Planned 2021 Distribution of the Deacon's Fund

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 the donations that are specifically earmarked for the “Deacon's Fund”.

The Deacons reviewed and discussed the proposed 2021 contributions in light of issues and concerns raised about the well-being of our church community and in particular the well-being of our youth.

The Deacons plan to continue to prioritize feeding the hungry, supporting the students and families of Northgate Elementary School and providing support to mentally ill homeless neighbors. The 2021 Distribution Plan includes also includes specific funding for Friendship Group and other outreach.

In 2021, the Deacons plan to make disbursements as follows:

•Ballard Food Bank:	\$2,000
•Alimentando El Pueblo	\$1,000
•Northgate Elementary School	\$1,500
•Mental Health Chaplaincy	\$1,500
•Fellowship Group/Outreach	\$400
•Upper Room subscription	\$200
•Office/administrative expenses	\$100

The Deacons plan to retain a fund balance of \$500 - \$1000 and will use this as a buffer and to address unexpected needs. This plan will be updated and modified if donations exceed \$6,700.

Deacons Caring and Outreach Ministries

•**Phone Ministry.** The phone ministry involves regular calls to church members who are living alone and/or who are otherwise isolated. Bronwen was thanked for her contributions to this project. Julia Miller and Jen Jensen graciously agreed to help with the project going forward.

•**Friendship Group/Outreach Projects.** The Deacons are providing funding and logistical support to several outreach projects. For details see Jan Olson's summary of Friendship Group Outreach activities.

Thank you for your generosity.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Tennant, Moderator on behalf of:

Caroline Alben, Nancy Ingle, Jen Jensen, Bronwen Matthews, Julia Miller, Bob Porter, Jeremy Rice, Beth Schmidt, Dawn Thornhill, Kim Wagoner, and myself.

Outreach in Motion: Reaching Out Through Phone Calls

This article is taken from the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Colorado. It was submitted by Elder Dana Hammer. Many members of Northminster have been a part of this program, thanks to Dana and her team.

Pivot might be the word of the past year. With COVID-19 continuing into fall of 2020, the CU Pharmacy PharmD program needed to develop a new plan to fit its service-learning curriculum. Previously fulfilled by an elementary school education program, with K-12 schools in limbo, the department got creative – and fulfilled an un-met community mental health need for isolated older adults.

After reading an article in the CU Anschutz newsroom about a new multidisciplinary geriatric program on campus, Dr. Dana Hammer, Senior Instructor of Clinical Pharmacy, and Patricia Meyer, Sr. Student Services Specialist for Experiential Programs, reached out to the Division of Geriatric Medicine and its UCHealth Seniors Clinic to brainstorm unique ways for CU Pharmacy students to get involved.

“When I read the article, I reached out to one of our faculty, Dr. Scott Pearson, [who also works with the Division of Geriatrics] to ask if we might be able to connect our first-year students with socially-isolated older adults to make regular social phone calls with them,” Hammer said. “Scott connected us to the right folks, including faculty members in the School of Medicine and the College of Nursing, and now we have this awesome program.

The Connecting Older Adults to Students through Interprofessional Telecare (COAST-IT) program connects first-year pharmacy students to older adults in supportive and independent living with the goal of developing relationships, allowing the students to practice their communication skills, and breaking the cycle of isolation for older adults increasingly spending their days physically distanced from the outside world during a pandemic.

The partners connect via telephone a minimum of twice a month. Students are given a manual and loose script to guide the conversation, along with what to do in case any medical questions or ‘red flag’ comments arise during their social time.

With one fall semester complete, Spring semester halfway though, and a year of the pandemic under their belt, the program has seen its share of challenges and changes.

“We originally included long-term care and assisted living residents, and realized we had some communication barriers with that,” Meyer said. “Sometimes using the telephone was hard for the older adults.”

Through trial and error, the program landed on its current partnerships, which are thriving. One senior housing community manager reported that her residents were honored to be a part of COAST-IT.

“Thank you ever so much for following through on this,” she wrote. “[The residents] are thrilled to have [the students] call.”

With so many CU entities jumping on board, what started as a pivot plan is now a new campus-wide initiative. Fitting, as so many students in the coming years will be working with older adults and an aging population; honing their communication skills is extremely important to become better clinicians.

“As we see more of the population age, this kind of experience is especially important to all of our students on campus,” said Jodi Waterhouse, Program Manager for CU Anschutz The Multidisciplinary Center on Aging. “This program is offering an important piece of training for our students to prepare them for real-life practice.