

NORTHMINSTER NEWS

A village church in the city

Preparing to welcome our New Pastor!

Rev. Jeny Carlson has been serving as Temporary Associate Pastor of Formation at Northminster for the past two years and previously in various other ministries across this church community since 2015. Please join us in congratulating Rev. Jeny on this important milestone in her life and in our church family, and in prayer for her ministry and for our church.

In her new role, Rev. Jeny will guide our church through the reopening process and other important upcoming events in our church life, as well as on a formal search process for a permanent pastor that will begin in late 2022. Rev. Jeny will begin in this appointed role full time on September 9, 2021.



Original Collage created by Lisa Snow Lady

Welcoming Change

When I grow weary of change, I remember that some of the most beautiful things in the world exist because of the powerful forces that press in on them. The Grand Canyon - carved by glaciers - , the 14,000 foot mountains of the Cascade range - created by unseen volcanic activity below the earth's surface - and even the Puget Sound stays in balance through the push and pull of the tides. Perhaps part of the process includes learning how to accept that life, in all of its forms, is a process of change. The wonder of this is that it not only exists, but it is beautiful.

In this new season of change, we anticipate meeting again in the near future. We anticipate welcoming our new Transition Pastor. We anticipate coming together in a new way. In all of this we acknowledge that this new season will not be a return, but it will genuinely be a new chapter of Northminster's life. While we might wonder what it all will look like, we can anticipate this with an open spirit and an eye towards unexpected beauty.

Warmly, Pastor Dani

Small Groups are Meeting in Person!

- **Saturday June 19th, 2 - 3 p.m.** Liz Tennant and Jonna Reeder will host a faith-focused small group outside the church on the patio/garden corner. This will include a brief opportunity to listen music in the sanctuary.
- **Saturday June 26th, 10 - 11 a.m.** Carol Charles will host a faith-focused small group on her patio, 349 N. 102nd, Seattle, WA 98133.

If you are interested in attending, please call Liz (206-782-5004) or Carol (206-300-3536) or sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0948a4a72ea75-npcgroup>

Formation Corner with Pastor Jeny

As we shift into summer, our formation programs are facing a need to evaluate how to both come back for those that have been on hiatus during COVID (such as Wednesday Morning Bible Study) and those that have continued over ZOOM (such as Theology on Tap). I am taking feedback and ideas for ways, old and new, that you would like to experience formation as we move back into in-person and hybrid gatherings in the fall.

One piece of feedback I have received has been around what is Theology on Tap, who is welcome to attend, and how does it fit into our spiritual formation?

Theology on Tap is a bi-weekly gathering where we explore issues of theology through the lens of popular culture. Sometimes, we may take a current social issue and examine it using the language and lens of our faith. Another time, we may discuss a currently popular book, movie, or show that is speaking to a particular aspect of our faith formation. We have also taken deep-dives into an aspect of our faith life, such as prayer, and used diverse media to help us better connect with that practice.

Why do we take this approach? The main reason is the simplest and yet one we often ignore; we live in the popular world. And that world is rich, diverse, and is pushing us to engage with it. At one time in my formation, I was taught I should only listen to Christian artists and read Christian books. It will likely surprise no one that I rebelled against that idea because I craved to see

the world as it is and not as my Youth Director wanted me to see it. The undeniable truth of my own education and spiritual life has been that when I have taken the time to explore and understand the experiences of others, I actually am able to more fully understand and appreciate my own views and faith practices. Every one of us is out in the world. You will encounter issues and topics that may challenge, support, encourage, or upend your understandings and we grow most fully when we engage with those things, rather than ignore them.

As for who is welcome at Theology on Tap, the answer has always been and will always be: everyone. What I have also shared though, is that the issues and examples I use are likely to be more relatable by young adults, but as some of you have found, you don't need to be a young adult to get a lot out of participating in Theology on Tap. If you are not sure if Theology on Tap is something you'd be into, please connect with Caroline Alben, Carol Charles, Jonna Reeder, Jan Olson, or myself and we'd be happy to talk about it with you.



Photo added by Michel Beckers

2Lt Neil H Hampton

BIRTH 22 Aug 1921
Seattle, King County, Washington, USA

DEATH 2 Nov 1944 (aged 23)
Erkrath, Kreis Mettmann, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

BURIAL Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial
Margraten, Eijsden-Margraten Municipality, Limburg, Netherlands

A Visit of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

A few months ago, my wife and I stopped by the Church to visit the Hampton Memorial Tower.

Jan Olson and a few others were working in the garden by the tower. They seemed interested in more history about the tower being named after my father, Neil Herbert Hampton. My name is Neil Gerry Hampton, son of Neil and Priscilla Hampton.

The attached church bulletin describes how and when the tower was built. Here is a few more details.

Wallace and Elisabeth Hampton had three sons – Neil, Wallace and Donald. My grandfather was a Seattle Fireman at the time. Neil and my mother, Priscilla Dawn Smith met at Ballard High School and starting dating. After graduation, Neil attended the University of Washington. Enclosed is a picture of my father and mother on their wedding day.

When World War II started, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corp and advanced to 2nd Lieutenant as a bombardier on a B17 Bomber.



Because of the war, life moved fast and was hard for them to manage. Both sets of my grandparents paid for my mother to fly to Florida to spend time before he shipped over to Europe. Nine months later, I was born at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle the same day he was shot down and killed in Germany, along with the whole crew. Two of the crew survived and were prisoners of war.



June -August 2021

We continued to live in the Seattle. I met my wife at Queen Anne High School when we were 15. We have been married for 57 years and raised two sons. We have been blessed with grandchildren and a fulfilling life.

The attached photo of my oldest son and I were able to visit his gravesite in Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten. The cemetery is planted with American trees and each cross is maintained by a resident.



Added by Fred

Neil H Hampton was born in 1921 in Washington, his father, Wallace, was 27 and his mother, Elizebeth, was 26. He married Priscilla Dawn Smith on July 25, 1943, in Seattle, Washington. He died on November 2, 1944, in Germany at the age of 23, and was buried in Margraten, Limburg, Netherlands.

Thank you for maintaining the Hampton Tower so his legacy lives on.

Neil Gerry Hampton

(Now Gary Hampton Gray when mother remarried.)

The Story of Northminster's Hampton Bell Tower

By: Liz Tennant

Northminster Presbyterian Church built Hampton Bell Tower in memory of Lt. Neil Herbert Hampton. Neil Hampton was born August 21, 1921. He grew up in the Ballard Presbyterian Church, now called Northminster. His father was an elder and his mother was a faithful member of the church. Neil enlisted in the Army-Air Force and became a Navigator- Bombardier. On November 2, 1944 he was killed while on a mission over Germany. He was 23 years old.





A few months after Neil's death his parents came to the pastor and asked him to suggest a memorial for their son. The old Ballard church bell was mounted on two planks in the church yard. The pastor suggested that they build a bell tower. The parents were glad to contribute money for it. However, construction could not begin for two years due to wartime restrictions.

During these years the Sunday School was growing from 108 each Sunday morning to 300 children and youth. Northminster's congregation used this as an opportunity to transform the church by adding to the Hampton's gift to build an education unit, church parlor and pastor's study. Plans were drawn up by architect Rolland D. Lamping and work began on the project on September 1, 1947. When it was completed, the church looked like a new building.

On Memorial Day, May 30, 1948, the tower plaque was unveiled and the bell tower was dedicated to the memory of Neil Herbert Hampton. A memorial service was held and the church bell was tolled 23 times, once for each year of his life. The Bell Tower and

Education unit remain as a helpful and fitting tribute to his life.

An Update About SHARE/WHEEL:

As our building moves towards opening to other groups, SHARE/WHEEL is transitioning to night time use only. The transition will take place through the summer, beginning on June 14th, when the hours of the shelter will be from 5pm - 9am daily. This transition plan will be re-evaluated in September when we hope to resume a full re-opening of the facility.

A Message from our Re-Opening Process Team:

On May 25th, 2021, Northminster session approved the re-opening committee's recommendations for a staged re-opening plan for in-person worship. Discerning with staff and the relevant session committees, they have determined that we will continue to host Sunday morning worship on Zoom through the summer and into the fall. Since the state has planned a target date of full re-opening by June 30th, the committee will review the state guidelines and make a recommendation to session based on the criteria of the state at that time. We are tentatively planning on a return to in-person Sunday worship no earlier than September. This plan includes a hybrid model that we are developing to live broadcast in-person worship

from the sanctuary once we are back in person full time on Sunday mornings for folks that wish to remain on Zoom.

In the meantime, we are planning to hold an in-person Sunday evening Vespers service in the sanctuary once a month through the summer, one on July 18th at 7:00 PM, and another on August 15th at 7:00 PM.

These services will be a half hour of scripture readings, music, and contemplative prayer, following all of the current state guidelines for capacity limits, masking, and distancing. We are currently working on an effective reservation system and other protocols to keep these services in compliance with COVID-19 regulations, so be on the look out for more information on those specifics in the lead up to our first Vespers service in July.

We, like all of you, have been doing our best to be patient, diligent, and honoring of the Imago Dei in every person as we have considered the safety and well-being of Northminster and the larger community. In the coming days and weeks we will be sending out further communication with specific details about health and safety protocols we are implementing on the church campus to once again be in physical community. We hope that as you sign up/RSVP to events, mask-up, sanitize hands, wait for a turn at the bathroom, etc. that you will join us in understanding that these are only temporary measures to help us come through this pandemic together. We also hope you embrace these with a generous spirit and continue to look for ways to serve one another in the spirit of Christ.

Deacons Corner with Liz Tennant, Moderator

During the past couple of months, the Deacons have been working as best we can to manifest God's love and compassion in the world. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to make our usual way of doing things difficult, we have continued to support worship and to minister to the needs of our church members and the larger community.

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".

In February the Deacons met by Zoom with Pastor Dani and adopted the 2021 distribution plan for the Deacons Fund. 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. The Deacons plan to retain a fund balance of \$500 - \$1000 and will use this as a buffer and to address unexpected needs.

Thanks to your generosity, contributions are on pace. When the Deacons meet via Zoom on June 13th, we expect to be able to disburse about \$4,000 to help our neighbors in need.

Deacons Caring and Outreach Ministries

•**Phone Ministry.** The phone ministry involves regular calls to 30 church members who are living alone and/or who are otherwise isolated. This ministry is supported by a team of caring NPC member including both Deacons and non-Deacons.

•**Friendship Group/Outreach Projects.** The Deacons are providing funding and logistical support to several outreach projects. The 2021 Deacon's budget includes \$400 for outreach activities including:

- Valentines' cards primarily to "The Friendship Group." (February)
- In-person delivery of goodie bags for Easter (April) and
- In person delivery of goodie bags for our children and youth (end of April).

Particular thanks are due to Jan Olson, Beth Schmidt, and Carol Charles for coordinating these efforts.

Lead Intercessory Prayer During Worship & Helping Hands

•Deacons have continued to lead intercessory prayers via zoom during worship services. Several Deacons also serve as worship assistant from time to time.

•We also help out as needed to maintain the church garden, pick up pastries for the homeless shelter, and host small group gatherings.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Tennant, Moderator