



Northminster Presbyterian Church

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2023

Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 28: Session Meeting
- Mar. 1: Mosaic, Zoom, 7pm
- Mar. 8: Community Dinner & Game Night, 6:30pm
- Mar. 15: Mosaic, Zoom, 7pm
- Mar. 19: NPC Movie Night, Sanctuary, 6pm
- Mar. 22: Mosaic, Library, 7pm
- Mar. 26: Spring Church Clean Up
- Apr. 2: Palm Sunday Service, 10:30
- Apr. 6: Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm
- Apr. 7: Good Friday Service, 7pm
- Apr. 9: Easter Sunday, 10:30am
- Apr. 22: Earth Day Planting
- May 13: Recycling Project with Our Redeemer, 10am – 2pm.

A Letter from Pastor Jeny

As we enter the season of Lent this year, I'm captivated by the complexity and nuance of living in the in-between space. We are on the cusp of spring with some days being full of sunshine, yet winter wind and cold temperatures still envelop us. Some plants, inspired by the increasing sunshine begin to bloom while most of the trees have yet to grow their new leaves. We feel a continued sense of emersion from a years-long pandemic, yet we keep having spikes of illness. Our PNC is about to publish its Ministry Information Form, the final step before moving into the process of interviewing and selecting your new pastor. Everywhere we look, we can see examples of the now and not yet.

This is why this time of year is actually perfect for the reflections of Lent. Where we both contemplate our own finitude as well as our on-going relationship with God. The point of Lent is not meant to be morose, rather to take a deep-dive into our own humanity and explore all the aspects of what it means to live as child of God, including the moment our souls will return to our Creator, full of stories to share with heaven.

Lent is also a time for us reflect on where we feel most separated from God or to examine where we are creating barriers to the relationship. Folks often speak of Lent as the time of giving up something, but the truest practices are meant to bring us closer to the Divine Voice, so that we may better know it's sound. For you, that may mean taking on instead of giving up. Perhaps taking on regular prayer or meditative practices? Attending bible study or Mosaic for the first time? Focusing on a theological idea that you have always struggled with and reading various authors on the point? All are ways for you to center yourself on God for a few weeks and see where you are on your faith journey when we open our eyes to the beautiful sunrise of Easter morning.

I pray you will find inspiration, wisdom, and above all, love on your journey this Lent.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Jeny

Earth Month Initiatives

Genesis 2:15 “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.”

One of the ways we can practice our faith is to show our love and respect for the planet! Join us for several events this spring to practice environmental stewardship:

March 26: Dress casually for worship and join us after coffee hour to do a spring cleaning of the church to get ready for Holy Week!

April 12: Community Night dinner - “Foods inspired by a favorite book,” and kick off NPC’s “Earth Month” from April 12-May 13! We’ll share ideas about living sustainably, and learn more from a local expert, and hear about a fun earth month challenge!

April 22: EARTH DAY! Join us at the sanctuary to do some planting

May 13: Help our friends at Our Redeemer’s Church on 85th St and 24th Ave NW as they receive items to be recycled from folks in the neighborhood. More information and sign ups to come!

Watch the What’s Happening, listen for announcements during Sunday worship, or contact [Dana Hammer](#) for more information.

Community Earth Stewardship Opportunity

Do you appreciate Golden Gardens Park? Ever wonder how you could help to preserve this treasured place?

Green Seattle Partnerships is an organization that partners with the city and community groups to restore and actively maintain our forested parklands.

On April 15, from 9 - Noon, volunteers will meet at Golden Gardens to remove ivy or blackberry and plant native plants. The group leader provides direction and tools. No experience is necessary. There are tasks for all skill levels. Note, this particular event is for age 18 and over.

Please see the website at GreenSeattle.org, or contact Carol Charles with questions.

To register: <https://seattle.greencitypartnerships.org/event/21971/>

These events fill quickly! It would be great to have representation from NPC as part of our Earth Stewardship activities.

Nature Therapy, anyone?

The Garden Team would welcome a few more volunteers to help occasionally or on a regular basis. We keep the border on the south side of the church beautiful by pulling weeds, raking up leaves, and in the dry months, turning on the soaker hoses and hand watering the pots.

Neighborhood walkers often comment on the beauty of our garden.

Your help would be much appreciated. Contact Liz Tennant or Bronwen Matthews to volunteer.

Bring Your Game Face for Winter Game Night!

Immediately following the March 8th Community Night Dinner, we will host an informal game night. Feel free to bring your favorite game, or we'll have plenty to share! No experience needed, just a willingness to connect and have fun. Contact [Dana Hammer](#) for more information.

“Beyond our Walls” Update for Spring 2023

A team of Northminster folks who are globally curious and community engaged – Dawn, Szu-Yu, Liz, Jonna, Antonio and Adelia - are working to find positive ways for Northminster to engage “Beyond our Walls” particularly in global partnerships. (Two deacons – Dawn & Liz - are on the team so we can be aware of the deacons’ liaison and advocacy work with local organizations.) **Our theme for “Beyond our Walls” for the first part of 2023 is Crisis Response.** From bequest funds already set aside by session for assisting others we are responding to the earthquakes that have caused death, injury, trauma and destruction in Syria and Turkey. We are giving \$2,500 (plus designated gifts from the congregation given in February) for earthquake recovery via Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the crisis response and recovery entity of our denomination, Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA).

[One Great Hour of Sharing offering that we collect during Holy Week funds the “core” work of PDA along with two other PCUSA programs.] In addition, we are giving \$1,500 (from funds allocated to global efforts) to a trusted organization responding to a second very difficult winter in Afghanistan.

We encourage Northminster to be in **prayer** for the people of Turkey and Syria, especially for the congregations in the Synod that includes Syria. Aid and recovery resources continue to be more limited in reaching village and towns in Syria which was in great need before the quake.

Looking ahead, for summer 2023 our “Beyond our Walls” theme will be children, youth, and education and connecting us with Presbyterians in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This will link with the youth emphasis for the Pentecost Offering and Northminster’s designation of 40% of that offering. For fall 2023, Antonio is exploring connections for peacemaking and justice alongside PCUSA partners in Central America for the season of Peace and Global Witness.

Adelia’s Farewell

Dear Northminster Community,

It has been such a joy to serve at NPC the last 8 months. I am truly sad to leave after only just getting to know you. However, my work here has inspired me to pursue ordination which requires working within my denomination. My last day here will be March 12th, but I hope to stay connected to each of you. I feel grateful for every part of my time here. I am sorry to go, but I know NPC will do great things with or without me. If I don't get a chance to say goodbye to you in person, please reach out.

With love,

Adelia Nunn

2023 Lent Collection Drive for Most Needed Items for the Ballard Food Bank

Each month The Ballard Food Bank serves over 6,000 of our hungry neighbors from throughout King County. During Lent the Deacons are sponsoring a collection drive for personal care and baby products that are among the BFB's most needed items. These include:

Baby Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baby food• Baby formula• Diapers (sizes 1 – 6)
Personal Care Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bar Soap/Body wash• Conditioner• Cough Drops• Deodorant• Dish Soap• Laundry pods• Lotion• Razors• Shampoo

Please leave your contribution(s) in the marked bin(s) in the Narthex, between Sunday February 26th and Sunday March 26th.

If you would rather make an on-line donation, please select “Deacons fund”, enter the amount, and add a note that this is for the Ballard Food Bank drive. You can also write a check and add a note that you want it to go to the Deacon drive for the Ballard Food Bank.

Thank you for your generosity.



Friendship Group and Ministry:

A spring luncheon is in the works! Tentative dates are either Saturday, June 10 or 17. We will keep you updated. Think great company, favorite salad, gourmet dessert, favorite flower arrangement, and entertainment!

Our 2022 Christmas outreach project was especially rewarding. We delivered 35 bags and flower arrangements. Bonus bags were created for our Shelter residents. They included a hand-knitted scarf, homemade blueberry jam, peanut butter & crackers, and homemade goodies. These pictures capture the spirit of the work.



New in the church library: Numerous new (to NM) titles will soon be added to the collection.

This picture represents some of the best:



Zackheim, Victoria (ed.) ***Faith: noun: essays from believers, agnostics, and atheists.*** (2015)

Rohr, Richard. ***The Universal Christ: how a forgotten reality can change everything we, hope for, and believe.*** (2021)
Highly recommended (and donated) by Liz Tennant.

Woo, Ilyon. ***Master slave husband wife: an epic journey from slavery to freedom.*** (2023)

“ Together, Ellen and William Craft pulled off one of the most dramatic escapes in American history by performing, in broad daylight, as master and slave. But their story did not end there. By the time the American Civil War began, the Crafts had international reputations. And as Ilyon Woo makes clear in her excellent new book, “Master Slave Husband Wife,” the couple also played no small part in the sequence of events that led to the Civil War and the abolition of slavery.”

Book review: (*New York Times*, January 15, 2023)

Pastor Nominating Committee Status Report

What we've done: The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting weekly since January 4th. Our first step has been to complete an 8-page Ministry Information Form (MIF) which provides a narrative picture of the mission and ministry of the congregation of Northminster and its sense of call, as well as what we're ideally looking for in a pastor. We prayerfully made use of both the previous 2014 MIF and the 2020 Discernment Overview. Other information on the form includes membership, worship and Christian Education participation numbers. It also establishes an effective salary range.

Where we're at now: The MIF will be reviewed by Session on February 28th.

Next steps: The completed MIF form will be submitted to Presbytery where it will be posted on the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection (CLC). This system will match pastoral candidates seeking new calls based on position type, experience level, salary, language, geographical choice and leadership competencies. For each potential match, the PNC will receive a Personal Information Form (PIF), which is like a resume.

It is important to us to keep you informed about where we are in the process. We will be posting updates on the Northminster website as we have new information to share along with quarterly updates via this newsletter. You are also welcome to contact Bronwen Matthews or Eliana Maxim if you have additional questions.

We ask for your continued prayers for God's guidance as we navigate the PNC process.

Respectfully submitted,
Bronwen Matthews, PNC Moderator
Katie Tynan, PNC Scribe