

NORTHMINSTER NEWS

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - SEATTLE



SEASON'S BLESSINGS

by Rev. Jeny Carlson

May the joy and peace of the season be with you! This is my first Advent and Christmas as your pastor and I am incredibly excited to take this journey of hope and waiting with you. Christmas became tied to this season because as the days grew short in Northern Europe, the message of a Light that shined in the Darkness was one that resonated to a people whose night grew to 10 or 12 hours every day until the winter solstice. I often wonder about those ancient Celts, who believed that celebrating and honoring the light was needed to bring the light back to them. What conviction and desperation they must have felt.

In our current times, we can also feel a sense of conviction and desperation around what we, or our neighbors are doing or not doing to return the world to a place where we are comfortable. The lesson of Christmas, however, is that the promise of the Light exists in the gentleness of a new baby born in a very uncomfortable time and place. One who came to teach us all how to love with our whole hearts. It is a promise we renew within ourselves and our community every Sunday. Our faith urges us to be practitioners of peace, justice, hope, and above all, love in our families, friendships, and our communities.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and have a blessed 2022!

DATES TO KNOW

ADVENT BEGINS

11/28

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

12/24 7:00PM



NANCY'S FLOWERS

Many of you enjoy the beautiful flowers by Nancy Ingle that decorate our sanctuary every week. This year, Halloween was on a Sunday and we encouraged people to attend in costume. Nancy came as a spider waiting on her web, created by the flower-designer herself. We are so thankful to you, Nancy, for all the hard work you put in each week to keep our worship space connected to the beauty of creation through your flowers.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

by Jonna Reeder

During the Advent season, we celebrate past, current, and future servants of the church! The Christmas Joy Offering covers extraordinary financial needs for former and current pastors and other staff of PCUSA and its congregations. Gifts to Xmas Joy also support a diverse group of students, many from challenging circumstances, in finishing high school successfully or attending college. These young adults are the future of the church and a good investment of our treasures that honors God by caring for youthful neighbors.

See this link for a story about one young woman who received a scholarship to finish high school:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/resource/reaching-stars/>

You can participate in giving via Northminster - Put "Xmas Joy" in the memo of your check, or select "Christmas Joy" when donating online.

SESSION DISCERNMENT PROCESS BEGINNING



by Dana Hammer

As we welcome three new elders to session, we are working through a year long process during this time of transition (eg, church re-opening, outgoing/incoming pastoral leadership and staffing, new session members, etc). We are holding several mini-retreats throughout the fall, winter and spring outside of our regular monthly meetings so that we can dream and brainstorm to position ourselves for the next few years and lay the groundwork for pastoral leadership. We are using a process called Appreciative Inquiry which focuses on an organization's strengths, values and positivity. We are also listening carefully to see where the Spirit is guiding us! We will include the congregation in some of our conversations beginning in 2022, so begin dreaming about your visions for Northminster's future!

NEW LIBRARY OFFERINGS

by Jan Olson

Check out the display area for the numerous new titles added to the collection. We have also implemented an area for our version of choice picks/easy check-out + new titles in the free book exchange book shelf!!

Celebration of Discipline; the path to spiritual growth/ Foster

Celtic Daily Prayer Prayers and readings from the Northumbria Community, 2002

Jeny has shared wonderful readings from this title.

Common Sense 101; Lessons from G.K. Chesterton / Dale Ahlquist, 2006

Dusk Night Dawn/ Anne Lamott, 2021

"Lamont shows us the intimate and individual ways we can adopt to move through life's dark places and toward the light of hope that still burns for all of us."

God and the Gay Christian/ Matthew Vines, 2014

Recommended by Rev. Dan Hammer, who spoke at one of our Wed night dinners

Journey to the Common Good/ Brueggemann

Presbyterian Beliefs (rev. ed)/ Donald K. McKim, John Knox Press, 2017

What's the Least I can Believe and Still be a Christian; the guide to what matters most/ Thiele

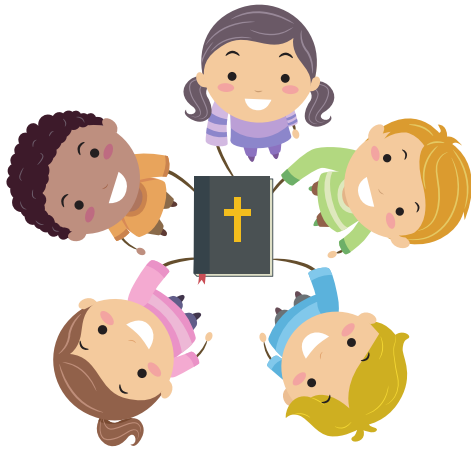
FRIENDSHIP GROUP OFFERINGS

by Jan Olson

Outreach from Friendship group, Deacons and helping members
Our Christmas project is in the works - stay tuned.



Our Easter project was a source of joy. Lisa Lady's collage of the Bell Tower was sent to 60 people. 62 mini bouquets were prepared and over 40 home deliveries were made along with special bags for the ShareWheel shelter. It was a sweet team effort with : Beth, Leslie, Nancy, Gary, Becky, Katie, Dana, Karina, Liz, Jennifer, Carol, Bronwen, Jonna, Harold/ Jean, Ann Kurtz, Judy, Jan, Zac, and Dani



MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

We have re-launched weekly Bible study! We now gather on Monday Mornings in the Library at 10:00 AM. Each week we explore the scriptures that will be preached the following Sunday, led by either Pastor Zac or Pastor Jeny.

Due to upcoming holidays, these are the Mondays we will **NOT** meet in 2021-2022:

12/20 12/27 1/3 1/17 2/21 4/11 4/18 5/30

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap is once again meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 PM over Zoom!

Have you ever wondered if Theology on Tap was something you would want to be a part of? Read this testimonial from ToT regular, Carol Charles:

Perhaps like you, I thought Theology on Tap was for our younger members, with discussions of music or films of generations following mine. But I tried it, came back for more, and invite you to do the same.

Jeny puts together a creative program for thoughtful conversation, with the purpose of finding meaning and God's presence in our American culture. In November, we read together poems by Mary Oliver, Maya Angelou, and other poets. What did the poems mean to us? How might they be interpreted through another perspective? Could we see the presence of the divine in the words and images?

Other months we've reviewed clips from current TV shows or films, looking for a deeper meaning. We've examined social justice issues.

The practice of looking for meaning has made me a more careful listener and observer of everyday life around me. And a bonus is that now I can relate (a bit) to younger relatives when they mention a popular show!

Watch for the link in the weekly What's Happening email, and call or Zoom in.

GARDEN UPDATE

by Bronwen Matthews, Lisa Snow Lady, Signa Treat, and Liz Tennant

During 2021, a small team of volunteers has been working to maintain our beautiful church garden. We have been doing this to honor the memory and work of our beloved Sheila Streigl, gardener extraordinaire, and also to bring joy to our friends and neighbors. Over the past year, we've raked, weeded, watered and pruned. In early Fall, we had a couple of work parties to have the garden looking good for the church's September 12th reopening.

Keep your eyes open for the new garden bench that is being installed in the church garden. Many thanks to Lars and Erika Carlson for their help in ordering and installing it. Pastor Jeny reports that the preschool children were very excited to see it being installed. We will have a dedication of the bench in Sheila's honor on December 12th at noon, following worship.

We invite anyone interested to join our team. It is joyful and rewarding work and a nice way to meet neighbors walking by.

