

February 2026

Volume 71, Issue 2

Northminster News

The Northminster News shares information about programs and activities of interest, as well as news and milestone events in the lives of our church and larger community.

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Ministry Focus in the
Pastor's Message

Community
Connections
Updates:

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- Fellowship Events
- Shared Events with other communities

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Tell me something good
Lent 2026
Schedule

Northminster
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday
Hosted by First Pres Troy
February 18 at 6 pm with Soup Dinner

Lent 1
February 22 at 11 a.m.

Lent 2
March 1 at 11 a.m.

Lent 3
March 8 at 11 a.m.
Pastor Chris's Last Sunday

Lent 4
March 15 at 11 a.m.

Lent 5
March 22 at 11 a.m.

Palm Sunday
Combined Service with CCB
March 29 at 10 a.m.

Good Friday
Hosted by Central Woodward
April 3 Time TBD

Easter Sunday
Combined Service with CCB
April 5 at 10 a.m.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

February 22, 2026, after worship

Please join us for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation after worship on February 22, when we will review the annual activity, financial status and future plans of Northminster.

All members, please plan to attend in person or online.

Pastor's Message

Dear Northminster,

At the beginning of January, the leadership of the congregation met for leadership training. While the morning was spent discussing matters that concerned the Session and Deacons, the afternoon was spent planning out the year ahead with leaders from the various committees. To accomplish this goal, we hung a series of 5 poster-sized sticky notes on the walls labeled: Reoccurring, Jan-Feb-March, April-May-June, July-Aug-Sep, & Oct-Nov-Dec. Each of these large sticky-notes were then divided down the middle vertically with the sides labeled, "Have to do" and "Want to do." From there, we recorded all the things that the church has to do to stay afloat and when it needs to be done. Next we recorded the things we like to do but are not essential for our survival.

After we recorded all that we are already doing, we stood back and looked at the flow of the year and discussed when we had too much going on and how we could rearrange some of these items to better spread out the work. After establishing a flow of work for 2026, the fun part came next: *planning new events/programs based on the ministry focus we chose in 2025.*

Here is what I wrote in the 2026 Leadership Training packet:

"It is now time to begin making plans for this next year as to which steps we want to take in order to make our focus part of our ministry. We will not build a vibrant ministry in one year. We should plan to take baby steps and build a ministry at a sustainable pace for our congregation. I recommend that we begin by trying to do THREE things from the idea list from the Choosing a Focus presentation that is included on the next page.

Pastor Chris's Recommendation: 1) An educational event for our congregation 2) An event during PRIDE month & 3) An event that is a worship service."

With that guidance and using our 2026 outline for the year, the leadership team has laid out this plan for the year ahead.

March 2026: Educational Event

Before we can effectively reach out to this community, the Northminster Community needs to better understand the terminology, the struggles, and the ongoing needs of the LGBTQIA+ community. Rather than assuming we know best, we would like to arrange a workshop or seminar in March open to the Northminster Community and the wider community to learn about the LGBTQIA+ Community.

June 2026: Pride

While Pride festivals and parades offer great opportunities to meet folks with targeted outreach, most folks in the Northminster Community have never been to a Pride Festival. The leadership felt that this first year was best spent observing these events first-hand rather than signing up for a booth and scheduling volunteers to be there during the festivals.

However, sending our members to



Pride festivals comes with homework; members who attend will have to report back as to what they saw, who they talked to, what kinds of booths were effective, and what was not effective for outreach. This will create the foundation for planning our participating at the 2027 Pride events.

Fall 2026: Worship Service

One of the cornerstones of a worshiping congregation is creating community through the participating in communal rituals designed to help people process complex emotions.

While many other organizations can gather people together, provide educational events, organize volunteer efforts, and host fun activities, few other organizations are set up to give people the space to honor those complex emotions and move through them through carefully crafted rituals meant to mark the occasion.

There are a series of important dates for the LGBTQIA+ Community that a worship service can be built around. The leaders at the retreat chose one such event to begin planning. However, after talking with a few folks from the LGBTQIA+ community about our idea, they encouraged us to reconsider and choose a different topic/event to build a service around. Details will be shared when more has been decided.

Like I said above, we will not create a vibrant ministry in one year's time. The goal in this plan is to space out the work so that it is sustainable for the people and volunteers that we have while maintaining momentum. These efforts will be overseen by the Session while aspects of each event will be organized by the committees we already have.

I was asked during our January training why we are not creating a specialized committee to oversee this work. The answer is simple: our Ministry Focus is meant to be a ministry initiative that the entire congregation participates in. In my experience, when a specialized committee is created to do a ministry, it becomes a ministry of one or two people on behalf of the entire congregation. For this to be an effective form of outreach to the entire community (think: in order to bring the Good News of Jesus and God's love to the wider community) this needs to be a group effort. Each person will play their own role. I am confident that our new structure is more than capable in handling the work we have ahead of us.

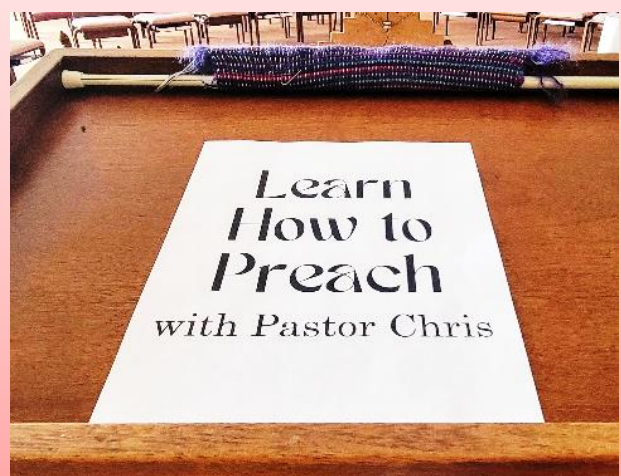
Blessings,
Pastor Chris

Preaching Workshop Reminder

Join Pastor Chris in February for a three-part workshop where you'll learn her process for crafting a sermon.

- Sunday, Feb. 8, 15, & 22
at 9:00 a.m. before worship or
at 12:15 p.m., after worship
- Wed. Feb. 11, 18 & 25
at 10:00 on Zoom

Each class will be one hour.
Minimum four participants needed per class



Education (continued)

Grace in Aging will meet on February 19 (the third Thursday) of the month at 10 am online via Zoom and will continue through the winter. The book is *The Well-Lived Life: A 102 Year Old Doctor's Six Secrets to Health and Happiness at Every Age* by Gladys McGarey, M.D.

Outreach

Jenn Browne and Jim Hoogstra will reach out to someone from Affirmations regarding having someone from their organization come to Northminster to speak one Sunday.

CCB will be invited to participate in the Toilet Paper drive running from February 15 – March 29. See item above under Mission.

CCB has a couple of projects that they are inviting Northminster members to join their congregation in:

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 8, CCB and Northminster members will be collecting cans of soup for the “**Souper Bowl of Caring**” national campaign. Please bring your soup to church on that day. Our goal is 350 cans of soup! All soup donations will be delivered to Lighthouse.



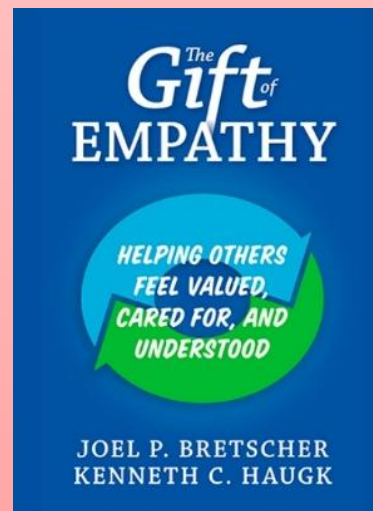
Spring Adult Education Session at CCB will focus on the book, *The Gift of Empathy: Helping others feel valued, cared for, and understood*, by Joel P. Bretscher and Kenneth C. Haug, Ph.D.

Imagine a world where everyone's go-to way of relating is empathy. Our upcoming group study of Stephen Ministries' book *The Gift of Empathy* aims to make that a reality for our church and community, equipping participants to relate in ways that make a difference in the lives of those around them.

There will be Wednesday morning in person classes at 10:00 am -11:30 am in the Arlund Room at CCB, 1000 Cranbrook Rd, Bloomfield Hills on February 25, March 4, 11, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29.

Stephen Ministers Chris Mead and Cindy Hill will lead the study. The **book price is \$14.95**. We will place an order for books to arrive in advance. To order a book, contact Cindy Hill at cychil@aol.com no later than Sunday, February 8, 2026.

There will be an All Church Book Read discussion of the book on Thursday, April 30, 2025 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent a week in advance.

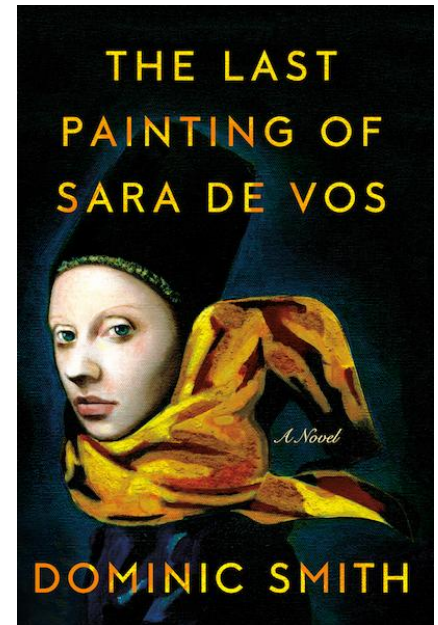


Northminster Book Group

Our January book choice focused on a 20th century woman, Majorie Post; *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos* by Dominic Smith, our choice for February, focuses on 3 characters, Sara in 1637 Amsterdam; Marty in the 1950s, and Ellie in the art world of Australia in the 2000s. The painting is part of all three, with an impact on each.

The author tells the story of how Sara creates the painting *At the Edge of a Wood* in a time when women were not accepted as artists. He then tells the story of Ellie and how she creates a forgery of the painting, angry that her sex impedes her desire to be an artist. In 2000 she is a success, about to publish a book on female artists of the Dutch Golden Age and is curating a museum show on the same topic.

We invite all of you to read the book and join us in a discussion on February 9, Monday, at 1:00 pm on Zoom.



Sharing Dinners



January Sharing Dinners at Maggiano's

Pictured (from L to R): Sue Fish, Maria Munoz, Becky & Garry Pocisk, Ken & Bea Smitts, Jen Browne, and Clay Dobrovolec.

Not pictured: Karen Joy, and Ruth & Joe Turner

The next **Sharing Dinners** will be on Saturday, February 14. Sign up to attend by Feb 8. Look for sign-up sheets in hall or by the attendance sheet on Sunday. For more information, email coordinators Karen Joy (kjoy37@yahoo.com) or Cyndi Peltonen (cyndi.peltonen@gmail.com).

Church Officers for 2026

On January 8th 2026, the Session had their regularly scheduled meeting and elected 2026's Church Officers. Below are the Elected Officers of Northminster:

Moderator of Session: Chris Hallam
 Clerk: Sarah Writght
 Treasurer: Joe Turner
 President of Corporation: Doug Riddering



Session

The next meeting of the Session will be on February 5 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to sit in; please submit any items for consideration to a Session member ahead of the meetings for consideration.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11am - Worship	2	3 10am - Bible Study - Zoom	4 5:30pm - Baby Basics 7pm - Bells rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Tai Chi @ Ark 8pm - Choir rehearsal @	5 7pm - Session Mtg @	6	7 11am - Pastor Chris's
8 9:30am - Preaching 11am - Worship 12:15pm - Preaching	9 1pm - Book Group @ 7pm - Stitch & Bitch	10 10am - Bible Study - Zoom	11 10am - Preaching 7pm - Bells rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Tai Chi @ Ark 8pm - Choir rehearsal @	12 12pm - Deacons' Mtg	13	14 Sharing Dinners
15 9:30am - Preaching 11am - Worship 12:15pm - Preaching	16	17 10am - Bible Study - Zoom 12:30pm - Men's Lunch @	18 10am - PEO meeting @ 10am - Preaching 5:30pm - Baby Basics 7pm - Bells rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Tai Chi @ Ark 8pm - Choir rehearsal @	19 10am - Grace In Aging 7pm - All-Committee	20	21
22 9:30am - Preaching 11am - Worship 12:15pm - Annual	23 12pm - Women's Lunch @ 7pm - Stitch & Bitch @	24 10am - Bible Study - Zoom	25 10am - Preaching 7pm - Bells rehearsal @ 7:30pm - Tai Chi @ Ark 8pm - Choir rehearsal @	26	27 Newsletter Info Due	28

**Northminster
Presbyterian Church**

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Our Facebook page is
*Northminster Presbyterian
Church – Troy*

and our private friends group is
Northminster Troy

PASTOR:
Rev. Chris Hallam

MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Dr. Brandon Ulrich



About Our Church...

Our core purpose is to love God and our neighbors as we seek to understand, respect and celebrate our differences.

In recognizing Christ's calling to treat others as

we desire to be treated, Northminster Presbyterian Church welcomes all people, regardless of sexual orientation, color, gender, religion, age, politics, social or economic class, ethnicity, nationality or disability.

We value all members of the community. We consciously strive to create an environment of mutual respect, hospitality and warmth in which none are strangers and all truly flourish.

Northminster

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3633 W. Big Beaver Road
Troy, MI 48084

Newsletter for February 2026

