

August 2022

Volume 67, Issue 8

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.

Borchardt Grant Awardees 2022

In this Issue:

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- International Day of Peace
- September Matthew 25 Book Group
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- Rituals and Growing Older



The first installment of the Borchardt Grant was presented to Precious on June 26. Precious graduated from Canton High School where she was captain of the girls' varsity basketball team and also on the varsity track team. Precious also has sung as a member of the Detroit Youth Choir. She will be attending Wayne State in the fall.

Borchardt Grants were also awarded to Mackenzie who graduated from Trenton High School and will be attending Eastern

Michigan and Sean Luke who graduated from Plymouth Christian Academy and will be attending Western Michigan.

Borchardt Grants are awarded each year by Northminster to graduating youth in foster care to continue their education in any way (college or career education) based on annual disbursements available from the Judith Borchardt Memorial Fund.

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**Northminster Cinema:
Faith and Film
August 26 2022
at 8:30 pm**

Join us to watch a film (to be announced) in our Sanctuary in August!

Pastor's Message

Dear Northminster,

Anyone who has spent time in hot and humid climates know the utter joy of the siesta. A siesta is specifically the Spanish word for the mid-day nap taken in the early afternoon after the midday meal. While many of us enjoy a good siesta on a summer Sunday afternoon, this midday break becomes necessary to avoid heat exhaustion. I remembered this fact during my recent vacation down to New Orleans this past July. While I fully admit that July may not be the ideal time of year to visit a city built on a bayou in the Gulf of Mexico, it did make it so that the crowds were smaller and Logan and I were able to stroll the mostly empty streets without much hassle. I remember one afternoon in particular: it was 2:30-3ish and the streets of the French Quarter were nearly empty. We were looking for a café to take refuge in, grab a snack and some cold water to hydrate and cool off. We were seated by the window and I was amazed at how still things were. We were trying to see as much as we could and were trying to power through the heat of the day. In comparison to our activity, my brain was racing through the reasons why there would be so few people out and about like us, especially compared to the night before when we went to dinner in the same area. It was then that it occurred to me: it was siesta time.

August has a habit of being the siesta of the year. In June and July, we are often excited about the vacations and trips we have planned. We bop in and out of town, make plans to see friends and families, and by August we need to take a stay-cation to reset from our vacations. So after a full year (starting in fall of 2021) of transitioning our lives from online to in person or hybrid, we deserve a good siesta where we allow ourselves to rest from obligations. That is why I don't have many updates for you all this month.

Our final Summer Social event is
Northminster Cinema Faith and Film Movie Night
On August 26th at 8:30 in the Sanctuary (Note new date!)

And our summer sermon series, *Tending the Vineyard*, will be wrapping up on August 28th. At its conclusion, we will be putting together a list of ways that we will be able to engage with our Matthew 25 pledge to work toward [eradicating systemic poverty](#).

But in this siesta time of year, I hope you are able to rest. I will be using this time to plan out the fall so that when we come together again, rested and ready for action, we can hit the ground running (and not faint in this heat!).

*Blessings,
Pastor Chris*





Troy-area Interfaith Group

International Day of Peace

The next TIG event is the International Day of Peace commemoration on Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00p.m. at Beacon Unitarian Universalist Church.

It is shaping up to be a really innovative and unique program and we're excited about it! Put it on your calendar and plan to meet us there. A flyer will be sent out mid-Aug.

Cereal for Summer

In the Cereal for Summer campaign (to be given to the Detroit Presbytery and to the Morse Summer Nights program here in Troy), we're just past the halfway mark.

So far there are 100 boxes we've already delivered, and we will continue to collect them through the end of August. Thank you for being so generous to those whose need is so great!



Church, Society & Mission

Baby Basics

The Board is soliciting enrollment into the program from any families living or working in Troy or Clawson



who meet monetary guidelines and who have at least one member who is working outside the home. If you know of someone who might meet those qualifications, have them call the church office and leave a VM message. We are also letting the parents at Morse Elementary participating in the Summer Nights program know of spaces available.

If you wish to donate diapers (program still mostly needs size 5 and 6), be sure to leave a note stating who they are from, so we know to whom we owe thanks.





After our summer hiatus, the Afternoon Book Group will begin meeting again in September. We meet virtually on Zoom to accommodate our out-of-the-area members. We meet at 2:00pm on the second Thursday of the month. We welcome new members; if you want to try being part of a monthly book reading group or are looking for a new group, please contact Bea Smits 248-709-2065.

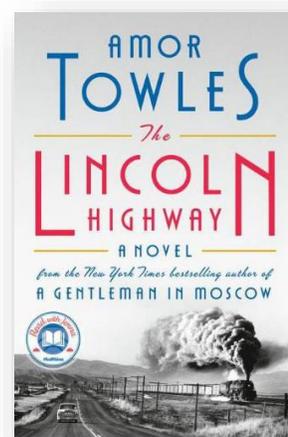
Our first Fall meeting is September 8, when we will be

discussing Amor Towles' *The Lincoln Highway*. Julie Sigler will be leading the discussion.

Amor Towles also wrote *A Gentleman in Moscow*, a book that I know many of you have read and enjoyed. This is his most recent book, published in 2021. It's a long book, 576 pages, so be sure you allow enough reading time! The Lincoln Highway is the first road across the United States, New York City to San Francisco, named after Pres. Lincoln and today called I-80.

The book is set in 1954, and begins in Nebraska where one of the characters is being released from a penal work farm and driven home. He plans to pick up his young

brother and drive to San Francisco to try to find their runaway mother. Two fellow inmates escape, steal Emmett's car and take off for New York City. The story evolves as Emmett tries to find these men and get his car back. These four boys alternate as the speakers in the book.



Afternoon Book Group Reading List

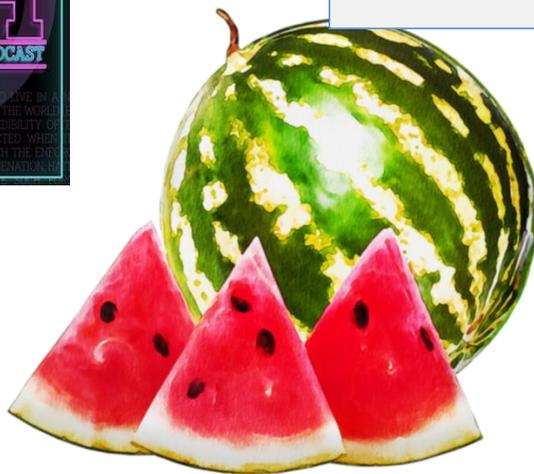
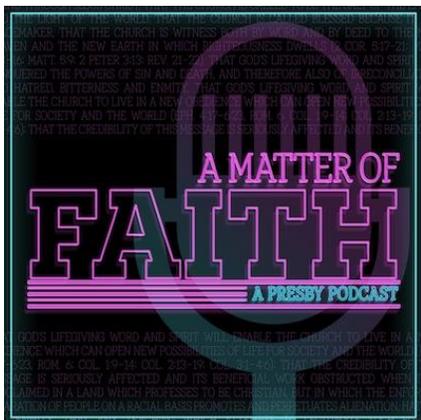
Meet Date	Title	Author	Chosen by
Sept. 8	<i>The Lincoln Highway</i>	Amor Towles	Julie Sigler
Oct. 13	<i>How Beautiful We Were</i>	Imbola Mbue	Chris Riddering
Nov. 10	<i>The Sentence</i>	Louise Erdrich	Bobbie Maki
Dec. 8	<i>West With Giraffes</i>	Lynda Rutledge	Bea Smits
Jan. 12	<i>Less</i>	Andrew Sean Greer	Debbie Cizmas
Feb. 9	<i>Will in the World: How Shakespeare became Shakespeare</i>	Stephen Greenblatt	Sue Fish
Mar. 9	<i>French Braid</i>	Ann Tyler	Jennifer Browne
Apr. 14	<i>Everything I Never Told You</i>	Celeste Ng	Group

Podcast on Peace and Justice

A Matter of Faith is a podcast collaboration between the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and *Unbound, the Interactive Journal on Christian Justice*.

In each episode, hosts Simon Doong and Lee Catoe give thoughtful responses to questions submitted by listeners on issues of faith, social justice and church life. The podcast also highlights relevant policies, resources and guests from around the PC(USA). All Presbyterians, from congregation members to mid council leaders, and PC(USA) staff are encouraged to write in a question for the hosts to discuss at faithpodcast@pcusa.org.

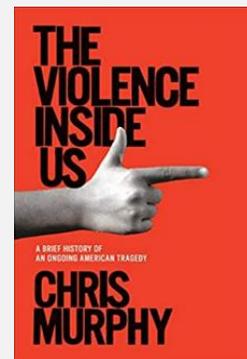
If a question matters to you, it matters to us, and it just might be... a Matter of Faith. Catch the podcast each week and subscribe on your podcast platform of choice! If you prefer to access the podcast on the web, you can do so at amatteroffaith.buzzsprout.com.



Session did not meet in July. They meet next on August 4 at 7:00p.m.

Matthew 25 Book Group

Beginning in mid-September., our Wednesday morning **Matthew 25 Book Study** will be taking on the topic of **Gun Violence in the United States**.



This year in this country, we have already experienced too many violent mass shootings. To understand this problem, the history, and the politics involved, we will be reading Senator Chris Murphy's book, *The Violence Inside Us*. This book tells of his personal transformation in the wake of a mass shooting in his area.

Rituals Honor the Richness of Growing Older

By Tracy Mehr-Muska | *Presbyterians Today*

In his book “Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life,” Richard Rohr acknowledges that “many, if not most, people and institutions remain stymied in the preoccupations of the first half of life.” Given that the 2022 PC(USA) membership statistics show that a majority of those sitting in pews are 56 and older, churches have both the obligation — and opportunity — to address the needs of those in the second half of life.

One powerful tool that the church can use is ritual. Ritual can be any activity that acknowledges and honors the joys, losses and hopes related to transitional moments. Developing rituals for people in mid and later life can help destigmatize aging, combat the epidemic of loneliness among older adults and deepen a sense of community connection. The following are some examples of what can be ritualized to honor the complexities and richness of aging.

Ritual for retirement — There are many expectations and hopes related to retirement, and a meaningful ritual can acknowledge and normalize the many different - and sometimes conflicting - feelings people might be experiencing. A ritual of this type might include honoring the grief related to saying goodbye to one’s

identity tied to vocation, recognizing the anxiety related to the impending lack of routine, and inviting an exploration of one’s purpose and passions.

Ritual for downsizing — Downsizing to a more supportive living situation is also rife with mixed feelings. Even when these types of transitions are desired, there is a great deal of grief associated with changing one’s place of residence. There could be a blessing held at the former home that would invite the sharing of stories and memories. Similarly, a blessing could be done at the individual’s new residence.

Ritual for new love — Adults in mid and later life may find themselves in romantic relationships that they did not anticipate. There are occasions when marriage may not be an option because of family dynamics or one’s emotional sense of responsibility to a former partner. In these

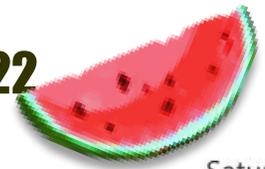
instances, a blessing could be done that acknowledges the joy of new love discovered, honors the families and former partners of everyone, and invites the couple to live into the next chapter with intention, integrity and joy.

Other rituals — Additional rituals that can help people feel seen, loved and supported include rituals related to experiencing menopause, paying off one’s mortgage and even giving up one’s driving privileges.

The church can play an important role in acknowledging the reality that change in the second half of life can be challenging. Ritual is an important means to create meaningful connection, hope and healing during times of transition for people — at any stage of life.

Tracy Mehr-Muska is the minister of mid and later life at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, Connecticut.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:30a Worship	8/1	2	3 10a Matthew 25 Book Study - 10:30a 6p Baby Basics distribution 7:30p Tai Chi	4 7p Session Mtg	5	6
7 10:30a Worship w Communion	8 7p Deacons' Mtg	9 10a Bible Study - Zoom 7p Bldg & Grounds Mtg	10 10a Matthew 25 Book Study - 10:30a 7:30p Tai Chi	11	12	13
14 10:30a Worship	15 6:30p Baby Basics Board	16 10a Bible Study - Zoom 12:30p Men's Lunch	17 10a Matthew 25 Book Study - 10:30a 6p Baby Basics distribution 7:30p Tai Chi	18	19	20
21 Newsletter Info Due 10:30a Worship	22 12p Women's lunch	23 10a Bible Study - Zoom	24 10a Matthew 25 Book Study - 10:30a 7:30p Tai Chi	25	26 8:30p Faith & Film	27
28 Cereal for Summer ENDS 10:30a Worship	29	30 10a Bible Study - Zoom	31 10a Matthew 25 Book Study - 10:30a 7:30p Tai Chi	9/1 7p Session Mtg	2	3

**Northminster
Presbyterian Church**

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office@troynorthminster.com

Our Facebook page is
*Northminster Presbyterian
Church – Troy*

and our private friends group is
Northminster Troy

PASTOR:
Rev. Chris Hallam

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:
Suzanne Joy

MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Dr. Brandon Ulrich



**Northminster Putt-Putt
Golfing Championship**

We have a winner! Clay Dobrovolec got to take home the Putt-Putt Championship trophy – for this year. Weather cooperated and we had a good time testing our putting skills. We’ll see who claims the trophy next summer!

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 August 2022

