

June 2022

Volume 67, Issue 6

# 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.*

## Summer Fun Schedule

### Northminster Board Game Night

June 24, 2022 from 6 to 9 pm

at Northminster Presbyterian Church in the Ark.

Are friendships forged in the fire of trying to prevent someone from declaring "UNO!" or are they put to the test as your family member blocks your settlement in Catan? Only time will tell as we gather for a light-hearted night of games and revelry! Bring your favorite board games and invite your friends to join in the competition. Tables will be set up for both board games and card games.

*\*\*If you are interested in playing Euchre or Bridge, contact Pastor Chris and she will help you set up a bracket for teams to play\*\**

### Northminster Putt-Putt Golfing Championship

July 23, 2022 at 1 pm

at Royal Oak Golf Center: 3500 Edgar Avenue, Royal Oak, MI 48073

Are you an expert golfer and want to show off your skills in mini-golf? Just looking for something to do on a Saturday afternoon? Join us at the Royal Oak Golf Center for the first ever Northminster Putt-putt Golfing Championship! The winner with the best score will take home the one-of-a-kind Northminster Putt-Putt Master's Trophy. Invite a friend! All are invited! Adults: \$8.50 Seniors: \$6

### Northminster Cinema: Faith and Film

August 19 2022, at 8:30 pm

at Northminster Presbyterian Church in the Sanctuary

Movies have the ability to bring stories of our imagination onto the screen where we can share in their beauty together. Since the dawn of our human existence, we have gathered together in order to share in the telling of stories, stories that sharpened our understanding of ourselves and the world around us. Even today, our worship services center around telling the story of God and relating it to our own story. So join us as we gather for a fun night where we can share in a story together! Bring a friend and your favorite movie snack!

Film TBD: Join our [TroyNorthminster Group on Facebook](#) or visit our hallway bulletin board to vote on what movie YOU want to watch together.

#### In this Issue:

- Summer at Northminster
- Cereal for Summer is Back!
- Borchardt Grant Awardees
- Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy

#### Index:

Pastor's Message	2
Church, Society & Mission	3
Session	6
Book Group	6
Parent Forum	6
Calendar	7

## Pastor's Message

Last year, we spent the summer discussing the [PCUSA's Matthew 25 Initiative](#) that the Session voted to join in December of 2020. At the end of the summer, we voted as a congregation about which of the three focuses we wanted to concentrate on. At the end of the summer, it had been decided:

We would be a Matthew 25 Congregation focusing on [Eradicating Systemic Poverty](#).



Great! Wonderful! Splendid! ... but how exactly do we do that?

This summer, we are returning to our commitment to being a Matthew 25 congregation, but we are going to narrow our focus this time. We won't be talking about every aspect of poverty in the United States, and we won't cover the categories brought up in the Matthew 25 parable either. We covered all of that extensively last year. ([Click here](#) for the playlist of all the Matthew 25 Worship services). Instead, we are going to be focusing on our immediate community and what systemic poverty looks like in Troy, Michigan, the roughly ten neighboring communities that our friends and members live in, and the greater metro Detroit area. We want to take a look at who we are, who our neighbors are, what is the history that we are a part of, and what might action and change look like for us today.

As we saw last year, the needs of our current society are great and deeply interconnected. It seemed like each topic we discussed was interwoven with the next to the point where it began to look like a tangled knot of issues. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by all of the needs and disheartened by not knowing where to start. That is why this year we are zooming in to look specifically at our immediate community and where and in what ways are we seeing our neighbors struggle with systemic poverty. By the end of this series, we hope to have answers on concrete ways we might act to affect real change.

But while we are having these important but heavy conversations on Sunday mornings, we are also setting aside time specifically to spend time and have fun together. The summer is a time when many of our obligations drop off and our calendars fill with just-for-fun activities instead of meetings and duties. In the rest of the newsletter, I encourage you all to take a look at the just-for-the-fun-of-it activities that we are planning and join in the ones that work for you. If something sounds like fun and you are able to come, I hope to see you there! And invite a friend to come, too!

So, as the Michigan summer begins, I hope you take time as the summer begins to rest and enjoy the beauty of the Michigan summer - and I will see you all in person and online!

*Blessings,  
Pastor Chris*





## Troy-area Interfaith Group

### National Day of Prayer Booklet

TIG's offering of a special prayer booklet for the National Day of Prayer was mailed just after midnight on May 5th and was well-received.

### Race Amity Forum

The next program, which is the last one until Fall, is a panel presentation from the founding members of the **Race Amity Forum Detroit Metro** on June 6 at 7p.m. [on Zoom](#). Meeting ID: 875 9679 2311, password: 164567



## Refugee Collection

Our drive was very successful and Ruth & Joe Turner delivered the items to Humble Design this week. The items included dishes, pan sets, various kitchen utensils, pillows, mattress covers, sheets, towel sets, toasters and more! The volunteer who helped us unload, said that the collection was very generous and the people receiving them would be very grateful. Thank you all!



## Church, Society & Mission

## Baby Basics Book Drive

The Baby Basics distribution center has been permanently moved to the old nursery and this not only gives Baby Basics lots more room, but after the Summer Discovery Corner Program ends, we'll again have a neat lounge! The old toys in the nursery were sorted -- a few were pretty shabby and they were put in the garbage -- but many were in good shape. Discovery Corner took some, others went to the Salvation Army and the rest will be offered to the parents in the program at our June 1<sup>st</sup> distribution.



Also that day, we will be passing out Buckets for Summer, which will hold books, crayons, chalk, and bubbles for each baby and their siblings.

## Cereal for Summer

We will collect Cereal for Summer again this year, to be given to the Detroit Presbytery and Morse Summer Nights programs. We have collected so many boxes the last few summers that it was hard to count them all!



The dates for the Cereal Drive are June 12 – Aug. 28. Look for the collection bins near the Sanctuary entrance.

[ CS&M continued on page 4 ]

## 2022 Borchardt Grants

The Committee met and reviewed the applications for the high school graduates going to college in this next academic year from Sept.2022 through June 2023. We recommended and Session approved to give the grants to: Precious Floraday, Seanluke Bender, and

Mackenzie Drake. \$600 will be presented to each student in June and \$600 in December. Our congratulations go to each of these deserving young adults!

Also, this year's Pentecost Offering congregational reserve (40% of the total

collected) will go toward the Borchardt Memorial Grant Fund. The remainder of the Special Offering (60%) goes to the PCUSA Mission Agency for programs benefitting children and young adults, especially youth at risk.

## Presbyterian Justice & Peace

*Carl Horton Interim, Coordinator  
The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP)*

We are living in a time of significant and somewhat unique, though not unprecedented, social upheaval. Nationally and globally, we are in the midst of challenging and tumultuous events that are exposing massive economic disparities, the deterioration of democracies, the advance of authoritarianism, the erosion of human rights and the intensification of climate change. In ages past, the church has spoken into the storms and struggles of the day, grounding its voice in the biblical and reformed tradition, drawing upon our confessions and past witness, and seeking to be attentive to the movement of the Spirit. Today, as has been done by our Presbyterian forebearers, we continue to lift our voice as we seek to speak faithfully, powerfully and prophetically to the world

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) assists the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by providing careful studies of pressing moral challenges, media for discussion and discernment of Christian responsibilities, and policy recommendations for faithful action. At this year's General Assembly meeting, the committee is bringing



*Photo by Katie Willis Rhodes*

11 reports addressing a variety of topics. In addition, ACSWP will be providing guidance to the 225th General Assembly on a number of policy issues related to the overtures and reports that are under consideration.

As we move into God's future for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), ACSWP is prepared to do so in an expansive, imaginative, evolving and innovative way. We are committed to including a wide variety of expertise and experience, seeking wisdom from those on the margins of church and society, letting go of patterns and practices that contradict our values, and exploring new ways to present, deliver and interpret the policies of the church. The challenges may seem daunting, but the opportunities are abundant. This is the time for the church's voice to be heard.



## Stewardship & Finance

### Financial Summary

It has been requested that we periodically provide updates to the congregation throughout the year on the financial status. Through the year, we are always in search of suggestions and options for new sources of revenue and giving. As a committee, we are looking for ways to partner with some of the other committees to support outreach and neighborhood engagement. Please provide any suggestions you can think of.

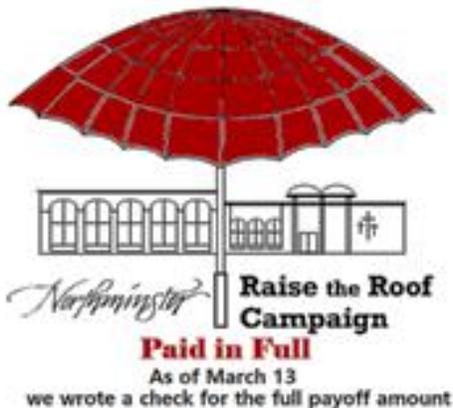
Last year we ended the year with a deficit of \$6,275 with total expenses of \$173,022 and revenue of \$166,747.

Though the end of April 2022, we are tracking as follows:

Revenue: \$67,118 which is about 39% of the planned 2022 budget of 170,600

Expenses: \$62,824 which is about 34% of the planned 2022 budget of \$183,902

Also, we successfully completed pay-off of the Roof Loan in mid-March, which removes a very large source of anxiety for the church.



## Session

Session met on May 5, 2022, and passed the following motions:

1. To participate in the Presbytery's Cereal for Summer collection, from June 12 through August 28.
2. To use Northminster's share of the Pentecost offering to help fund the Borchardt Memorial Grants.
3. To award \$1200 Borchardt Memorial Grants to Precious Floraday, Seanluke Bender, and Mackenzie Drake. \$600 will be presented to each student in June and \$600 in December..

Session will meet next on June 2 at 7:00p.m.

## The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II and the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett share their prophetic gifts during Thursday's 'Being Matthew 25'

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, shared a forward-looking and candid conversation that was aired on the PC(USA)

Two of the top leaders in the PC(USA) discussed the denomination's future, next month's General Assembly, and what it will take for Presbyterians to remain faithful to God's call. Their conversation was recorded in the Chapel at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

Nelson, who's in his second term as Stated Clerk, talked about all the sacrifices and investments that parents typically make for their children. "There's something in our love ethic that drives us to do that. I think we as a church have to learn how to love again," he said. "Not have big barns or the building of great temples ... Are we willing to give of ourselves and of the church, even at the risk of losing the church? I think that's the kind of love that's required."

"It's part of the inner transformation that happens when the human encounters the Holy," said Moffett, whose nomination for a second term will be taken up during the upcoming Assembly. "We've got to embrace spiritual disciplines as a way of life. It cannot be left up to the head. It has to be an encounter, an experience that moves people to take up the cross. Jesus was very clear!"

"What does it mean to follow Jesus?" she asked. "Jesus was not executed on a Roman cross because he merely prayed. His prayers led him down a path to encounter and engage the principalities and powers that would take away the hope of God's people ... He said, 'I'm going to give it all for the possibility that somebody will get it.'"

*'I think we as a church have to learn how to love again'*

"Jesus never shied away from controversy. He stood his ground. He never said, 'Oh, this is too much.'" Instead, Moffett said, Jesus said, "I'm seeing you devour your widows' houses. I'm seeing how your laws are exploiting people. He called it out, and he called it out in such a way not to condemn, but that the world could wake up to a new possibility ... God's kingdom or kin-dom."

Nelson talked about the work of repair that's needed within the PC(USA), the nation's largest Reformed denomination...

[Read remainder of the article by [clicking HERE](#)]



Watch their 41-minute conversation, hosted by the Rev. Dee Decker, acting senior director of communications for the PMA, by [clicking on the image above](#).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10am - Joint Worship	30	31	1 Pride Month begins 10am - Matthew 25 Book 6pm - Baby Basics 7:30pm - Tai Chi @ Ark	2 7pm - Session Mtg @ Zoom	3	4
5 Pentecost Special Offering 10:30am - Worship w	6 7pm - TIG June Meeting	7	8 10am - Matthew 25 Book 6:30pm - Presbytery of 7:30pm - Tai Chi @ Ark	9	10	11 Motor City Pride
12 Cereal for Summer 10:30am - Worship @ https:	13 7pm - Deacons' Mtg @	14 10am - Bible Study - Zoom 7pm - Bldg & Grounds Mtg	15 10am - Matthew 25 Book 6pm - Baby Basics 7:30pm - Tai Chi @ Ark	16 6:30pm - Stewardship Mtg 7pm - Grace in Aging	17	18
19 Cereal for Summer Newsletter Info Due 10:30am - Worship @ https:	20	21 10am - Bible Study - Zoom 12:30pm - Men's Lunch @	22 10am - Matthew 25 Book 7:30pm - Tai Chi @ Ark	23	24 6pm - Board Game Night!	25
26 Cereal for Summer 10:30am - Worship @ https:	27 12pm - Women's lunch @	28	29 10am - Matthew 25 Book 7:30pm - Tai Chi @ Ark	30	31	



**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

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR:  
Suzanne Joy

MUSIC DIRECTOR:  
Dr. Brandon Ulrich

**Mission co-workers on the U.S.-Mexico  
border in a ministry of hope**

In their call to transform the U.S.-Mexico border from a place of division, fear and death into a place of encounter, opportunity and hope, Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado-Escobar face a host of formidable challenges every day. Your generous support and loving prayers enable them to compassionately minister to our siblings in Christ on the border as they boldly stand up to racism, oppression and injustice of every kind. Your gifts empower them — and all our mission co-workers in more than 80 countries around the world — to build God’s kin-dom. Give at [this LINK](#). The PCUSA continues to provide support to refugees in various parts of the world, including Ukraine.

**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.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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