

# NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH APRIL, 2022 NEWSLETTER

**“GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS”**

**- Mark 16:15**



## From the Minister...

**LENT AND EASTER** - Throughout the liturgical season of Lent, we've been reading about the last days of Jesus in the gospel of John. This part of the story, usually compressed into a few sentences and services during Holy Week, discloses so much about Jesus' identity...and our own. In addition to Sunday worship at 10:30 (in person AND online!) I've been offering Wednesday Inspirations using the Psalms at 3 PM on Facebook Live, and a four-part series on Reading the Bible – Symbols and Metaphors in the Book of John is available Tuesdays at 6 PM on Facebook Live or in the videos section on the North Congregational Church Facebook page as well as on our YouTube page, North Church Communications.



For **PALM SUNDAY** (April 10) **AND EASTER** (April 17) we will be both online and in person, with **SPECIAL MUSIC** from our soloists and a quartet of our section leaders. **MAUNDY THURSDAY**, April 14 at 7 pm will also be a hybrid communion service; on **GOOD FRIDAY**, April 15, we will be online only, on the Facebook Page and YouTube at 7 pm. Plan to join us for these special days!

**LIFE OF THE CHURCH** – It's been so wonderful to see more and more people each week, as we have returned to in-person worship, Sunday School, and Coffee Hour each week. Our livestream of the worship services will continue, and after the live presentation recordings are available on Facebook and our YouTube channel.

**SHARE YOURSELF WITH OUR CHURCH!** In our Moderator's article you'll see things that are happening in and around the church, as well as our need for people to serve on Ministry Boards in Education (classes and programs for children, youth, and adults) and Missions (benevolences and in-person mission projects). These ministries are at the heart of what it is to be a gathered congregation, and I urge you to remember that in a Congregational Church, every member (and friend too!) has an important role in guiding and enacting the mission of the church. We'll be sharing more on this thought as our May 22 Annual Program Meeting draws near, and I look forward to the many new things we can accomplish in the name of God, as we come back together in person!

Faithfully,

*Rev. Mary E. Biedron*

## Moderator's Notes...



It has been such a pleasure to be back in our sanctuary for worship and seeing each other in person. We need to keep an eye on the pandemic, but for now we plan for this to continue. During worship masks are optional, but please wear them for singing.

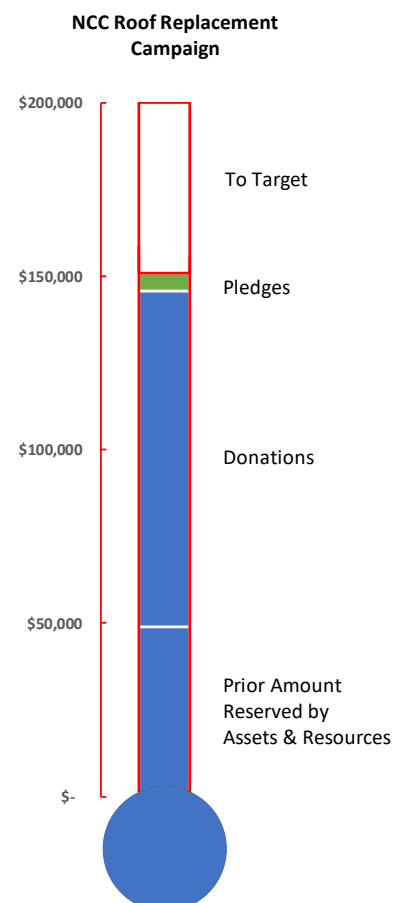
Kudos to everyone who helped with the chili lunch and cook-off this past Sunday. It was a wonderful event, well attended. Given how well this worked we will move coffee hour back to Fellowship Hall. Seating will be six per table so people have an opportunity to spread out.

Our new electronic sign on Twelve Mile is operational, I hope you agree that it looks great. We are still learning what works best in terms of messages and screen backgrounds. If you have any suggestions, please let **Janice Thornton** or me know.

Our new A/V system continues to work well. We have added lighting in the sanctuary to improve the quality of the video. If you have suggestions or requests for our virtual services, Sunday worship or Wednesday inspiration, please share them with **Rev. Biedron**, our Worship Ministry Board, or me.

Our capital campaign to raise funds for a new roof continues. Our goal is \$200,000 and, with contributions, pledges, and the amount already reserved by our Assets & Resources Ministry Board, we stand at over \$150,000. We still need \$50,000 to meet our goal, so please consider donating if you can. You can contribute on our website or by mailing a check to the Church office. You can also arrange to donate on a monthly basis versus all at once – contact our **Treasurer, Nancy Scott**. Our Assets & Resources Ministry Board has selected a contractor for the work; the new roof will cost around \$225,000. We hope to raise at least \$200,000 of that through our campaign and cover the remainder from the Church's endowment.

Looking ahead, we will have our annual **Program Meeting on May 22** (mark your calendars). At that time we will vote on new officers and Ministry Board members. Our nominating committee has been hard at work. There are four positions left to fill, 2 on our Education Ministry Board and 2 on our Missions Ministry Board.



Our Education Board plans and organizes the Church's education activities. This includes Sunday School, of course, but also youth programs, adult education, summer activities for our children, and so forth.

Our Missions Board plans and organizes the Church's mission and benevolence activities. This includes determining our benevolence budget and distributions, planning mission trips, and other humanitarian activities.

As with all our Boards, Education and Missions are focused on planning and organization – you do not need to be a Sunday School teacher or mission volunteer to serve on either Board.

These two Boards are central to North Church's mission: "worshiping God and serving humanity." **If you are interested in either Board, please contact Michelle Sibley or Lori Rhode.**

### **Executive Council Notes**

Executive Council met on March 28 and considered the following:

- **Assets & Resources and Treasurer:** The Board approved a contract to repair damage to the building's chimney (normal wear). The Board is in final negotiations with the selected contractor for the roof replacement; we hope to get that work done in April or May.
- **Diaconate:** The Diaconate continues to stay in touch with our shut-ins via calls and cards, plans are in place to deliver Easter flowers to them. Lent / Easter cards are being sent to members and friends. The Diaconate will begin arranging rides again for our Fox Run attendees. **If you can offer an occasional Sunday ride to / from Fox Run, please let Sandy Greer know.**
- **Education:** Sunday School is back in person during worship and going well. A Lenten Bible study series with our Senior Minister is under way via Facebook. Plans are under way for an Easter egg scavenger hunt on Easter Sunday.
- **Fellowship:** The chili cook-off was a wonderful event. The Board is planning for extra treats during coffee / fellowship hour on Easter Sunday.
- **Missions:** The Missions Ministry Board has been in touch with Camp Restore Detroit to plan a spring mission activity, likely involving outdoor planting and gardening. The Farmington / Farmington Hills CROP walk will be Sunday, May 1; some of the funds raised will go to combating hunger in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.
- **Worship:** Plans are in place for Lent and Easter. The Board and **Laurie Meeker** have arranged special music for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services.
- **New and Other Business:**

- Executive Council discussed the Church structure and the possibility of combining Ministry Boards. Council elected to continue with our current structure and redouble efforts to fill open Board positions.
- Council confirmed the move of coffee hour to Fellowship Hall.

**I look forward to seeing all of you at our May 22 Annual Program Meeting after worship.**

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (1 Peter 4:10)

*Kevin Gromley*

### ***APRIL MEETINGS***

Education Ministry Board – Monday, April 11, at 7 p.m.  
 Diaconate Ministry Board – Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m.  
 Missions Ministry Board – Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.  
 Asset & Resources Ministry Board – Monday, April 18, at 7 p.m.  
 Fellowship Ministry Board – Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m.  
 Worship Ministry Board – Sunday, April 24 at 11:30 a.m. (Hybrid)  
 Executive Council – Monday, April 25, at 7 p.m.



## **NORTH CHURCH ARTICLES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **WORSHIP MINISTRY BOARD**

#### **COMMUNION**

We will celebrate Communion on **Thursday, April 14**, during the Maundy Thursday Service, at 7 p.m.

#### **EASTER FLOWERS**

On **Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**, our Sanctuary will be filled with flowering spring plants. If you would like to donate spring flowers, please fill out an order form and attach your check, You may drop it off in the office or one of the offering plates in the Narthex. Order forms may be found on the Sign-up table. **The deadline for orders is Monday, April 4, 2022.**

**HOLY WEEK** – Services are in person and online, with the exception of Good Friday.



**PALM SUNDAY – April 10 at 10:30 a.m.**  
**WEDNESDAY INSPIRATION – April 13 at 3 p.m.**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY, COMMUNION – April 14 at 7 p.m.**  
**GOOD FRIDAY – April 15 at 7 p.m. on Zoom**  
**EASTER SUNDAY – April 17, at 10:30 a.m.**

### **MISSIONS MINISTRY BOARD**

#### **MISSION BENEVOLENCES *for the month of April***

NACCC Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies, Center for Congregational Leadership, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, Congregational Church Development, Missionary Society Administration, Hurting Churches Fund

### **FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY BOARD**



#### **MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB**

A group of North Church Men meet every other Tuesday for breakfast at Moe's on Ten, at 9:00 a.m. They will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 5th and 19th**. If you would like to join them, please contact **Steve Lange** at [stephenlange@me.com](mailto:stephenlange@me.com).

#### **BOOK GROUP**

**Wednesday, April 20, 1:00 PM, in person AND online**

Our Book Group continues with hybrid meetings; to receive the zoom code see your weekly planner or contact [ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com](mailto:ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com)

In April, we'll be discussing This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger (available in all formats). We've enjoyed his other books, and this one is well reviewed.



From the Amazon page: 'This Tender Land' takes place during the Great Depression. Four boys at Lincoln School, a school where Native American children are forcibly sent to be educated, run away. Giving away the reasons would spoil the story as would mentioning the resolution to the mystery of how two Irish boys ended up at this particular school. This book should become a modern-day classic. The desire for a home with a family, and questions about God and faith that are woven into this great story provides depth.

## ***DIACONATE MINISTRY BOARD***

### **THE DIACONATE IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

This month we are still in need of one or two people to help deliver Easter flowers and a card. A short visit would also be wonderful! Deliveries need to be made between Palm Sunday (April 10) and Easter (April 17). If you are unable to pick up the flowers at church on April 10, please contact the Church Office to arrange for your pick-up.

We can also use a few additional drivers to provide rides to church for our Fox Run ladies. The more volunteers we have, the fewer times you would be assigned to drive. You do not need to be available every Sunday! Requirements are a vehicle that has room for two walkers and the ability to assist passengers and maneuver walkers in and out of your vehicle.

Sign-up sheets are available for these and several other volunteer opportunities on the Circle of Care table. Thank you for supporting these important activities!

## **EDUCATION MINISTRY BOARD**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER ACTIVITIES**



We are happy to be back in Sunday School and plan to offer fun activities, crafts, and treats. Come join us and make the more the merrier. We will meet in the Children's Choir room to seeing all our friends and meeting some new ones!



## ***CROP HUNGER WALK***

**Sunday, May 1, 2022, 1-3 PM**

at Oakland Community College (Farmington Road entrance)

This year's CROP Hunger walk will feature in-person walking opportunities and online fundraising and donations. Last year, our Farmington/Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield Walk raised nearly \$60,000; we're hoping for another banner year to help meet the needs of hungry people in our community and around the world. 25% of what is raised is divided among our local partners: CARES, Neighborhood House, Salvation Army Farmington Branch, Yad Ezra



Kosher Food Pantry, and Zaman International's Halal food pantry. Internationally, funds from this walk will be directed by our parent organization, Church World Service, to relieve the hunger crisis in and around Ukraine.

**HOW TO JOIN:** Go to our Walk page and sign up! The page will guide you to put info and fundraising requests on Facebook and other social media, as well as creating emails to family and friends.

**HOW TO DONATE:** Go to our Walk page and choose either the whole North Congregational Church Team, or an individual! Online donations are quick and secure. If you'd like to contribute cash or checks, please contact Walk coordinator **Rev. Mimi Biedron** at [ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com](mailto:ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com)

**IT ALL STARTS HERE:**

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/north-congregational-church-farmington-hills-mi>

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP! EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS. We raise Walk expenses separately, so every dollar raised goes to hunger relief!