

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

JUNE, 2022 NEWSLETTER

“GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS”

- Mark 16:15



From the Minister...

As I write this, we are still processing the horror of the school shooting in Uvalde, TX, and discerning how to respond in meaningful ways. As I said in my May 25 reflection on Facebook, it's a complex problem that requires approaches that address gun safety and accessibility, individual and community mental health standards, and a different kind of preparedness than has been used thus far. I sincerely hope that we can maintain the outrage and the energy to begin to work towards these changes, for the sake of the children and for all of us. As we celebrate the North Church youth graduating from high school, and the accomplishments of our Sunday School students, it's our prayer—and our commitment – to make the world safe for all God's children.

Meanwhile, despite the challenges in the nightly news and the ongoing pandemic, life at North Church continues! Our Moderator has written an excellent article on the many things going on; I add my thanks to everyone whose work and attendance made our very first in-person and online hybrid Annual Program Meeting possible.

We are still looking for people to fill several roles, some elected and some voluntary. When a person joins this church, they promise to support the church with their donations and their presence. So much of what makes North Church special depends on our volunteers. On June 5, we will recognize those who've taught Sunday School, as well as those who are serving on boards and committees. In addition, we'll be installing our newly-elected board members and officers and sharing communion—and then finishing off with a fun ice cream social! It'll be a great day for folks to come in person, as possible.

WEAR SOMETHING **RED** ON JUNE 5, as we celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to form the apostles and disciples of Jesus into Christ's Church for the sake of the world.

Worship won't end with Pentecost Sunday however! I've scheduled a summer series on the Ten Commandments, framing the "thou shalt nots" as positive statements that can guide us in the life of faith. I hope you'll join us in person or online every Sunday; we'll be more casual and relaxed but no less faithful in the summertime!

Wishing you all many blessings,

Rev. Mary E. Biedron

Moderator's Notes...



I write this on the eve of Memorial Day weekend, the traditional summer kick-off. I hope you all safely enjoy the holiday, sharing time with family and friends.

We are all saddened and shocked by the violence in Buffalo and Uvalde. Please pray for the killed, the wounded, and their bereaved loved ones. If you have not already, I encourage you to watch **Rev. Biedron's** May 25 reflection on Facebook.

We continue to be back in our sanctuary for worship and Fellowship Hall for coffee hour. We need to stay vigilant regarding the pandemic, however – positive test rates, cases, and hospitalizations are still high in Michigan. If you have symptoms or have recently tested positive, please join us online. During worship masks are optional, but please wear them for singing.

Our Annual Program Meeting after worship last Sunday was a success. A BIG thank you to:

- Everyone who helped organize and conduct the meeting
- Our Church staff who prepared meeting materials
- The Nominating Committee and Executive Council
- All of our volunteers for officer, Ministry Board, and delegate positions
- Rev. Biedron
- All Members who attended, ensuring we had a quorum

At the Program Meeting we approved new Church bylaws, which formalize our new Ministry Board organization structure. This is a big step forward in the life of the Church – thanks to the Structure & Governance Task Team and everyone who contributed to the new bylaws.

The Members also elected new officers, Board members, and delegates at the Program Meeting. We still have one open position, on the Education Ministry Board. Executive Council will address filling this. If you are interested, please let me know (gromk@aol.com).

Our Program Meeting was a hybrid format, most in person but a dozen or so on Zoom. We may use this format in the future. I welcome any observations you have on your experience in the meeting and any suggestions for improvements.

Work has begun on a new roof for our building. This should be completed in June. Our capital campaign for the roof raised 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, mailing a check to the Church office, or leaving a check with your Sunday offering. You can also arrange to donate on a monthly basis versus all at once – contact our **Treasurer, Danny Hawkins**.

As we have just elected new Boards, there is no Executive Council meeting in May. The next Council meeting will be July 18. My profound thanks to all the members of the outgoing Council.

On **Sunday, June 5** at **4:00 pm** **Renaissance Voices** will be performing a choral concert in our sanctuary. They have a lovely sound, I believe you will enjoy it if you can attend (and I am totally unbiased).



For our collective loss:

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” (Psalm 147:3)

For Memorial Day:

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13)

Kevin Gromley

JUNE MEETINGS

Diaconate Ministry Board – Sunday, June 5, at 11:30 a.m. (Brief meeting)

Missions Ministry Board – Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m.

Education Ministry Board – Monday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Asset & Resources Ministry Board – Monday, June 20, at 7 p.m.



NORTH CHURCH ARTICLES AND ACTIVITIES

A LETTER FROM MARK PHELPS, M.A., L.M.F.T.,

Mark is the Executive Director of Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeastern Michigan. We are a partner church with two offices that before the pandemic were busy 6 days a week, morning to evening; additionally they are one of our benevolences. Mark has sent the following request:

Dear friends,

As I sit here watching the news of 14 elementary school children and a teacher killed, my heart keeps sinking lower. Tears are just beneath the surface of my shock. Pain and rage are not far behind. I think of my 4 grandchildren. I think of the children in my neighborhood.

Please forgive me for this: I have to take the risk of “poor taste,” and ask for your help. Please.

Each time there’s been a school shooting in America -without exception- Samaritan Counseling Center has received more calls for service than we can handle. I *know* that’s going to happen again. The vast majority of those calls come from people in our community who are under-privileged, typically they are uninsured or underinsured. When that happens, our **Client Assistance Fund (CAF)** takes a big hit.

In case you're unaware, SCC's Client Assistance Fund is mandated to attend to the counseling needs of precisely the people I've just mentioned. That's what it's for, and we're honored to be entrusted with the donations given to the CAF. Last year, the CAF helped 195 cases (people, children, families, couples)!

I'm certain that starting tomorrow, SCC's phones will begin ringing with few pauses. Anything you can do to help us answer those cries for help will most certainly be received with gratitude and relief.

Donations can be made on our website: sccmich.org. The annual Golf Outing that replenishes the CAF is **Friday, June 10**. Information about that is at sccgolf.org.

Thank you for taking the time to read this special plea.

Life and peace to you and yours,

Mark Phelps, M.A., L.M.F.T.
Executive Director,
Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeastern Michigan
29887 West Eleven Mile Road,
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
248-474-4701
sccmich.org

MINISTRY BOARD MEMBER NEEDED!

We are in need of one more member on the Education/Communications Ministry Board. The person we're looking for will help the Communications committee choose and put up social media posts, work with the website person to include and update content, and imagine ways of creating outreach through new media opportunities. Right now the church has a website (with a person hired to maintain it), Instagram account, Facebook Page, and YouTube channel...where can you help us branch out?

Questions? Interested in volunteering? Talk to **Kevin Gromley** or **Mimi Biedron**.

WORSHIP MINISTRY BOARD

COMMUNION

We will celebrate Communion on **Pentecost Sunday, June 5th** during worship.

MISSIONS MINISTRY BOARD



MISSION BENEVOLENCES *for the month of June*

Common Ground Sanctuary, Farmington YMCA, Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Michigan, Cass Community Social Services, Days for Girls

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY BOARD

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The NCC Ice Cream Social will be **Sunday, June 5th** following worship. Individual ice cream treats will be available. Looking forward to seeing you then! Thanks!

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 this month on **Tuesday, June 14 and 28**. If you would like to join them, please contact **Steve Lange** at stephenlange@me.com.

BOOK GROUP

On **June 15th at 1 pm** our Book Group will gather in a hybrid online and in-person meeting to discuss the novel Pachinko by Min Jin Lee. This National Book Award Finalist is set in Korea and Japan in the early 1900's. Pachinko is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters--strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis--survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history.

Come join the conversation! If you haven't taken part in the group before, it's a great time to start. To get the zoom code, email **Rev. Biedron** at ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship is hosting a drive to support CARES, a wonderful organization meeting the needs of local families. Not only does CARES sponsor a food pantry, but in the front of their building is CARES Market. The market is open to everyone, and patrons can use their Bridge card, debit, credit, or cash. All proceeds go to supporting the food pantry. During 2020, CARES provided support to 5,125 families and 10,366 individuals. If you are interested in more

information, look at their website, it is amazing what a community partnership can accomplish!
(<https://caresfh.org>)

Donations can be dropped off on the cart in the Link (Door 2) before or after church on June 5 and 12. If you would like to drop them off in the Link during the week at another time, contact the office to make sure someone will be there. Here are the items CARES is requesting:



- Canned tuna or chicken
- Canned soup
- Canned spaghetti, ravioli, etc.
- Snacks – granola bars, breakfast bars, cheese and cracker packets, etc.
- Personal care items – shampoo, lotion, feminine hygiene products, etc.
- Toilet paper – 4 roll packages or individually wrapped, please!

Thank you for your generosity!

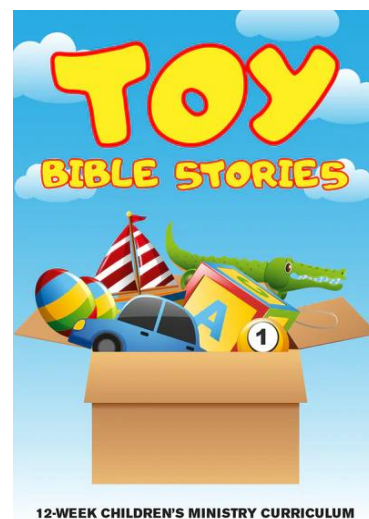
DIACONATE MINISTRY BOARD

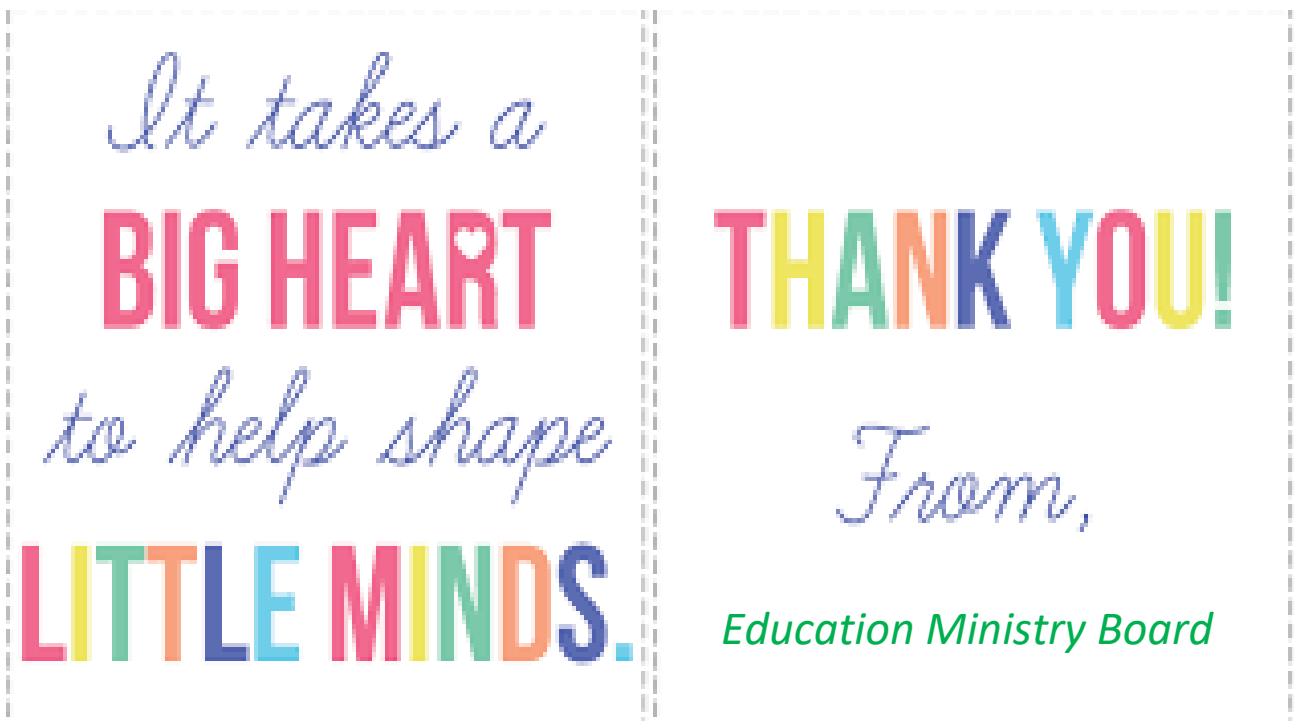
LINK TO CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE RECORDING FOR JEREMY MAURER
Below is the link to the memorial service held on May 22nd for Jeremy Maurer. Due to the size of the file, Emily was not able to host it on Google Drive as she had originally planned. It is an unlisted video on YouTube, which means that only people who have the link can view it; it is not visible to everyone. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQq4b27MAtQ>.

EDUCATION MINISTRY BOARD

Summer Sunday School
June 18th to August 28th

Each week will have toy theme. We look forward to seeing all our Sunday School friends and meeting some new ones. Bring your friends to share in this fun time and learn more about God.





Help us Celebrate all our volunteers June 5th

NORTH CHURCH GRADUATES!

Congratulations to Rachel Bowden, Madison Helmick, Katie Jensen, Sophie Lichtenberg, Jack Ruckhaber and Emma Szabo, our 2022 Graduates.

Rachel Bowden - Rachel will graduate from Franklin High School in Livonia. She will be attending Adrian College plans to major in chemistry. In July, she'll be working at Lions Bear Lake Camp, in Lapeer, as a counselor for children and teens who are deaf and hard of hearing and visually impaired, for two weeks. This is a camp that Rachel has attended since she was 11 years old.

Madison Helmick – Madison will graduate from Wylie E. Groves High School with High Honors (the highest honors offered). She is going to the University of Illinois at Chicago this fall, majoring in Chemistry with a Pre-Med concentration. She earned an Athletic Scholarship in swimming and an Academic scholarship. Currently, she is a swim coach at Forest Lake Country Club for the summer.

Katie Jensen – Katie will graduate from Royal Oak High School, and will attend Michigan State University in the fall.

Jake Ruckhaber – Jake will graduate from Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep, and will attend Michigan State University in the fall.

Emma Szabo – Emma will graduate from Stevenson High School in Livonia, and will attend the College for Creative Studies – Illustration, and a Teaching certificate.