

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH JANUARY, 2023 NEWSLETTER

“GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS”

- Mark 16:15



From the Minister...

Thank you everyone, for a beautiful Advent/Christmas season! If you missed any of the special service features, such as the DIY Christmas Pageant on December 11, Blue Christmas on December 18, or the Christmas Eve service, you can find them and much more on the church's Facebook page, or on our YouTube channel, North Church Communications where there is a library of our videos: (<https://www.youtube.com/@NorthCongregationalChurch/featured>) Links to both are also on our website, northcongregationalchurch.org, scroll to the end of the home page and click the icons.

As we move into the new year, we'll be thinking of how we can take that Christmas energy and apply it to our ministries of worship and service. Soon our Nomination Committee will be posting openings for volunteers to form our Ministry Boards – this is a planning and oversight role, where ideas are put into action and volunteers to do the work are recruited. We need the creative energy and a modest time commitment of all of our folks for our church to do the work to which God has called us! So I hope you'll bring a willing heart to the conversation if you are contacted.

I'll be away on grandma duty from January 4 – 19; **Rev. Carrie Orlando** will be preaching in my absence, so please give her a big North Church welcome! **Rev. Charles Packer** will offer any needed pastoral care in my absence. Coffee hour will be moving to the Plymouth/Bradford room for January and February (warmer! Cozier!). I'll be back January 22, but we will welcome a guest speaker, **Rev. Chris Kurtz**, as he comes to our “neutral pulpit” to preach a candidating sermon for one of our Congregational Churches.

Our ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING will follow worship on that day, so be sure to come; it will also be offered on zoom.

The holiday is over – now the work of Christmas begins, as we feed, house, care for and pray for all of God's children!

Happy New Year!

Faithfully,

Rev. Mary E. Biedron

Moderator's Notes...



I hope you all had a Merry Christmas, best wishes to all for a Happy New Year.

North Church enjoyed a lovely Christmas Eve service – thanks to all who participated. It was wonderful to see some of the children of the Church participating in the service. If you missed it, you can catch it on the Church website or Facebook page.

Rev. Biedron held a ‘Blue Christmas’ worship and reflection on December 18. It was meaningful and appreciated by those who attended.

Our mitten tree and giant stocking are filled with hats, gloves, and socks. Thanks to everyone who donated, and to Women’s Fellowship for organizing. The clothing items will be donated to people in need.

Estimates of Giving (Pledges) can still be turned in by completing the short form on the church website or by contacting **Danny Hawkins** at ncc.churchtreasurer@gmail.com. Pledge confirmations and 2022 tax statements will be sent out in early 2023. If you have set up recurring online donations and need to change your amount for the coming year, you can do so by logging in to your account. Contact Danny if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

Looking ahead, we plan to have our annual business meeting on **January 22, 2023**. At this meeting we will review the proposed budget with the Congregation and ask members to vote on it. We will also have a minor bylaws change to consider. This will be a hybrid meeting, so those who cannot attend in person can join us via Zoom. We require a quorum, so mark your calendars!

Executive Council Notes

Executive Council met on December 10 and considered the following:

- Council reviewed and approved the revised budget presented by Assets & Resources for 2023. Final approval will be voted on by the members at our January annual business meeting.
- Worship on January 1 will be on-line, only. Attendees will be able to participate in communion.
- Council reviewed the agenda for the January 22 business meeting.

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6, NKJV)

Kevin Gromley

JANUARY MEETINGS

Worship Ministry Board – NO January meeting

Diaconate Ministry Board – Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m. – Zoom only

Assets & Resources Ministry Board – Monday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Ministry Board – Tuesday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Missions Ministry Board – Wednesday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Council – Monday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m.



NORTH CHURCH ARTICLES AND ACTIVITIES

CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The annual Business Meeting of North Congregational Church will be held on **Sunday, January 22, 2023**, as ordered by the Executive Council, to transact business as specified in this Call or authorized by the Bylaws. At this meeting, the Treasurer will provide the annual financial report for the past year; the Assets & Resources Ministry Board will present the proposed annual Operating Budget for the current year to the membership for their consideration and approval; Executive Council and other Ministry Boards may present other items for the Congregation's consideration, Voting on a Change to the Flower Fund, and voting on the Adoption of Proposed Bylaw Change.

The meeting will be held in person and via 'Zoom' -- everyone will be able to attend via the internet or via phone dial-in (Facebook not necessary).

We will need a quorum, so please plan to attend this important meeting (after Sunday Worship) at **11:30 a.m.**

Judy Campbell, Clerk

INCORPORATING CHARITABLE GIVING INTO YOUR ESTATE PLAN (Summary of Kiplinger magazine article from March 2, 2020)

Charitable giving may have significant tax implications that can lower your estate taxes at your death. Advance planning can help ensure that you achieve the most tax savings available while meeting your charitable goals.

Here are five ways to structure your charitable giving into your estate plan:



Give Appreciated Stock

Consider giving appreciated stock to a charity during your life. If you give the stock to charity, you will receive a charitable income tax deduction equal to the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift and will avoid capital gains taxes.

Charitable Rollover

Individuals who are over 70½ may donate up to \$100,000 per year to charities directly from their IRA as a Qualified Charitable Distribution. This will count towards any required minimum distribution an account holder must take from the IRA. This can be a good strategy for individuals who do not “need” the distribution to cover living expenses.

Bequest in Your Will or Revocable Trust

A very simple and direct way to benefit charity at your death is to leave a bequest in your will or revocable trust. The gift can be for a charity’s “general purpose,” meaning the charity can use the funds as it sees fit, or for a specific purpose that you detail. Charitable bequests are eligible for the estate tax deduction and will reduce estate taxes.

Name a Charity as the Beneficiary of Your Retirement Account

It is relatively simple to name the charity as a beneficiary of all or a percentage of your non-Roth retirement accounts (IRA, 401(k), 403(b), etc.). Because the charity is tax-exempt, after your death it can withdraw the assets from the retirement account without having to pay income taxes on the withdrawal.

Consider a Charitable Remainder Trust

You can benefit a charity and a family member by creating a charitable remainder trust (CRT) and naming the CRT as the beneficiary of your IRA. A CRT is a split interest trust where an individual you choose will receive annual payments from the CRT for a period of time. When the individual’s interest in the CRT terminates, the remaining amount is distributed to charities of your choosing. Due to the many rules surrounding the creation and operation of a CRT, an attorney is essential to create it properly.

As you can see, there are many ways to benefit charities, either during your life or at your death. Which way you choose can have different tax implications. Taking into account taxes with your charitable giving can ultimately increase the amount received by not only the charity, but your loved ones as well.

DIACONATE MINISTRY BOARD

PILGRIM POSTAL PALS

Our January recipient is **Rachel Rogers**. Rachel was Dave Emery’s long-time caregiver. Cards will be available on January 8 and 15. There will be 20 cards that are addressed and stamped and all you need to do is pick up a card, add a personal note and drop it in the mail. *If*

you don't think Rachel will know who you are, please add "North Church" into you note. I know Rachel will appreciate knowing we are thinking about her!

WORSHIP MINISTRY BOARD



WORSHIP ON JANUARY 1st will be virtual only. Communion will be celebrated wherever you are viewing the service.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY - MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023

Join us for a full day of celebrating the life and legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior. All of the day's event will take place in person at Farmington Community Library's Farmington Hills location.

10:00 AM | Sign-Making - Planning to join us for the Legacy March at 11:00 AM? Come early and make a sign for the march with us. Posters, sign handles, and markers will be provided. Find us on the main floor, near the entrance.

11:00 AM | Legacy March - A tradition dating back over 20 years, the Dr. King Legacy March is a favorite activity of families in the community. With our signs and posters, we will walk down the sidewalk along 12 Mile Rd. Please wear appropriate clothing for cold temperatures and icy sidewalks.

In partnership with the [Multicultural/Multiracial Council of Farmington/Farmington Hills](#).

12:00 PM | Farmington IDEA Panel Discussion - Listen to an enlightening conversation around race and racism with local students. Farmington IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Acceptance), student clubs offered throughout Farmington and Farmington Hills schools, will be our panelists for the discussion. Moderated by Greg Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, this panel will center youth voices on the legacy of Dr. King and what they want their future to reflect. This discussion will also be livestreamed on the Library's [YouTube Channel](#).

2:00 PM | Live Performance - Dr. King: the Movement of Freedom - Join us for an interactive presentation about the legacy of Rev. Dr. King. Anthony Lucas, Detroit Association of Black Storytellers member, will share facts about Dr. King and his ministry, speeches, and the importance of marching. Ernestine Worford, a vocalist often heard performing at The Henry Ford, will join Mr. Lucas for an unforgettable show.

3:30 PM | FPS Dance Company Presents MLK Day - FCL proudly presents the students of the Farmington Public School's Dance Company, led by Toi Banks. High schoolers from North Farmington and Farmington High School will capture the spirit of the day with a contemporary performance that you won't want to miss.

6:30 PM | Student Community Challenge Showcase & Award Ceremony - View the artwork students entered in our inaugural MLK Day Student Community Challenge. Students will be

available to answer questions about their work. The winners will be announced and awarded prizes at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served. In partnership with [Community Equity Organization](#).



Students interested in submitting work for the Community Challenge should go to <https://www.farmlib.org/mlk-student-challenge/>

MISSIONS MINISTRY BOARD

MISSION BENEVOLENCES *for the month of January*

NACCC Shared Ministries, Minister's Discretionary Fund

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Thank you to everyone who participated in the reverse Advent calendar. All items will be delivered to a food pantry on January 3rd.

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, January 10th** and **24th**. If you would like to join them, please contact **Steve Lange** at stephenlange@me.com.

CONCERTS AT THE HAWK

Join some NCC members at a series of concerts held at **The Hawk** - Farmington Hills' community center located at the former Harrison High School. Please let **Tim Sirovy** know if you would like to join the dinner crowd. Tickets are available from The Hawk. The link to purchase any of the concert series tickets at The Hawk is bit.ly/hawktickets. Tickets to the concerts range from \$15-\$25.

The following concerts are part of the Cultural Arts Concert Series and we would like to make these a fun fellowship group outing for whoever can attend.

January 7th - Flick & Warren - acoustic artist playing violin, cello, guitar, banjo and nyckelharpa. Folk, bluegrass and jazz are all part of their repertoire.

March 11th - Steve Taylor - singer-songwriter is a local favorite with acoustic originals and familiar covers. Come sing along.



May 18th - Eat It Up Trio - "Possibly the most pleasurable music three humans can safely perform". Versatile repertoire spanning traditional jazz to modern R&B, classic rock to bebop, and everything in between.

The Fellowship Board is looking forward to seeing some familiar NCC faces at these events. We are looking forward to supporting these community events and enjoying some great musical talents.

BOOK GROUP – JANUARY 25TH – 1 PM - Live and on zoom

We meet a week later than usual, on January 25, to discuss Black Cake, a novel by Charmaine Wilkerson. From the Amazon review: *Black Cake* follows the story of estranged grown siblings who come together after the death of their mother and discover a secret that upends everything they've ever known about their family. You will root for these flawed but relatable characters, as they travel from the Caribbean to London to California, in order to reckon with the past. It's a juicy and satisfying read of secrets and betrayals, race and class, the pain of expectations, the power of love, and yes, a family tradition of Black Cake.

In February we'll read The Light We Carry by Michelle Obama, and in March we'll enjoy a lighthearted read, The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman, the first in a series about four retirees in a British retirement community, who take up solving murders.

LIFE LINE SCREENING – January 27

Life Line is the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, and offers affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at North Congregational Church on Friday, January 27, 2023. A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered. (See flyers on the Information Table.) These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$139 and take 60-90 minutes to complete.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, text the word "circle" to 797979, or you can go online at <https://lisa.social/HSC>.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the ADOPT-A-FAMILY program for Christmas. Every tag was chosen from the bulletin board, which meant all the wishes would be fulfilled for the two families receiving the gifts.

The packages were delivered to Neighborhood House and then picked up by the parents. It was a pleasure for Women's Fellowship to organize this project, but we could not have done it without your generosity. THANK YOU.