

October 2020

Northfield Presbyterian Church

The Good News

The Pastor's Pen

At its September meeting the session acted to commit to the Matthew 25 Initiative of the Presbyterian Church USA. I'm excited to explore what this can mean for the Northfield Church and the ministry we can provide.

In the 25th chapter of Matthew, Jesus says, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then he says, "In as often as you did this for the least of these, you did it to me" (Matthew 25 verses 36,40). Being a Matthew 25 church focuses on a ministry to "the least of these," that is those who are downtrodden and deprived of the essentials for viable living.

One of the areas of focus, as described in the brochure, is Eradicating Systemic Poverty, and it emphasizes the church's role in supporting efforts to combat the structures which perpetuate poverty and exploitation of the poor.

In light of the recent consequences of COVID, this is relevant for our time as many people and families struggle because of lack of employment and opportunities to support themselves financially. For many people who have suffered generational and long-term poverty, their plight has worsened.

Another area of focus is Dismantling Structural Racism, which emphasizes the church's role in resisting prejudice and discrimination and "oppression of people of color." In light of the multiple incidents we've seen involving law enforcement and people of color over the course of the year, this also is relevant for our time. What does it mean to be racist? The Matthew 25 Initiative challenges churches to ask that question of themselves and urges them to act on how to prevent it.

We may wonder how we can make a difference in the face of these complicated and overwhelming issues, especially as we consider how deeply entrenched they are and have been for so long. The key is for us to have the discussions which are biblically based and explore how we can make a difference in the context of where we are at this time and in this place in our community and to move forward as faithfully as we can.

See you in church,

Pastor Peter

WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER:

OCTOBER 4: The sermon is "When God Says 'No'" and the text is Deuteronomy 34:1-8. Moses is allowed to see the Promised Land which God has set apart for his people, but Moses is not allowed to enter that land. What do we do when God says, "No." We will also be celebrating the sacrament of the Lord's Supper that day. As mentioned previously, communion is observed within strict sanitary guidelines and social distancing. The elements provided are in sanitary unit wafer and cup packages which are picked up at the entrance of the sanctuary.

OCTOBER 11: The sermon is, "Our Chief End" and the scripture text is Luke 5:27-32. In this encounter with Jesus, Levi the tax collector, follows Jesus. We are told, "he left everything and followed him."

OCTOBER 18: The sermon is "Separation Anxiety" and the scripture text is Romans 8:31-39. What kind of things cause us anxiety? Separation and disconnectedness are contributing factors.

OCTOBER 25: The sermon is "Building Up and Tearing Down" and the text is Philippians 2:1-5. The apostle Paul states, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility, regard each other as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

From the Session

The session met for its stated meeting on Monday, September 21. Some of the actions of session include:

1. Committing to the Matthew 25 Initiative of the Presbyterian Church USA, as recommended by the Mission and Evangelism Committee.
2. Establishing live-streaming of worship services through the church's website.
3. Approval of realignment of mission priorities to include Presbyterian mission.
4. Approval of promotion of the Peace and Global Witness special offering to be received in October.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

We will be receiving the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering on Sunday, October 11. This offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING OCTOBER 7

The pastor will be leading an in person Adult Bible Study beginning on

Wednesday, October 7 at 1:00 p.m. We will meet, at least for now, in the Family Living Area. We will be observing the precautions for COVID just as we have been for our in-person Sunday Worship. The Family Living Area is large and comfortable enough to be able to observe social distancing, and we ask that you bring the appropriate face covering. Sanitizer containers are readily available as well.

The study will be on the Old Testament Book of Jonah and will focus on the major themes of the Call of God, the Presence of the Lord, God's View of "Outsiders," God's Grace, and God's Sovereignty. What do these themes have to say to us today?

SYMPATHY: We extend our sympathy to the family of Earl Foote in their time of loss. Earl died on September 24 after an extended illness. May the God of comfort sustain them in this difficult time.



CHURCH WORK DAY October 10 9:00 a.m.

Help is needed to install the new kitchen cabinets, and restroom fixtures in the Fellowship Hall after the most recent flood damage. We will also need assistance in putting the contents of the cabinets away (dishes, flatware and serving utensils) and getting the kitchen back to a useable state. All help is welcomed!

PANTRY ITEMS CONTINUE TO BE COLLECTED



The Women's Association will continue to collect food items for the Macedonia Emergency Assistance Center.

They need dry, boxed nonperishable food items such as: Spaghetti noodles and all other types of pasta either in a box or bags as well as rice, instant potatoes, cereal, hamburger or tuna helper, etc.

There is a container in the narthex where church families can drop off their donations on Sundays or any other day they are in the building.

Thank You!

Socially-Distanced Chime Choir

Rehearsals begin October 8 for the Chime Choir. For All Saints Sunday in November.

There is also an opportunity to play chimes for Christmas!

Rehearsals begin 11/19. You MUST be able to attend all four rehearsals -Thursday November 19, December 3, 10 and 17 from 7:30 - 8:15pm and be able to play on Sunday, December 20.

Masks must be worn correctly and at all times so that all of our members are safe. I'll bring the hand sanitizer and maybe some chocolate.

So that I can have your music and space ready for you, please email me at mjabdoo@att.net or call or text me at 330.606.5143 .

Looking forward to worshipping in chimes together!

October Birthdays

Fran Merriam	6-Oct.
Chris Fenn	15-Oct
Troy Fox	15-Oct
Judy Kovitch	20-Oct
Earl Kane	24-Oct
Ron Emch	25-Oct
Ed Mordas	27-Oct

Stewardship Report

Thank you for your continued support.
Reported as of August 31, 2020:

	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
INCOME:	\$ 15,760.	\$107,591.55
EXPENSES:	\$ 12,716.22	\$117,525.53

Special Fund Balance: \$2,590.94



October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8pm AA	2	3
4 COMMUNION World Communion Sunday 10:15 Worship 11:15 Worship Committee 12:00 VBC Worship 8pm AA	5	6	7 1pm Adult Bible Study	8 7pm Chimes 8pm AA	9	10 9am Work Day
11 10:15 Worship 11:30 Deacons 12:00 VBC Worship 8pm AA	12	13	14 1pm Adult Bible Study	15 7pm Chimes 8pm AA	16	17
18 10:15 Worship 12:00 VBC Worship 8pm AA	19 7 pm Session	20 10am Ministerium Meeting @ Macedonia Methodist Church 7pm Daycare Board	21 1pm Adult Bible Study	22 7pm Chimes 8pm AA	23	24
25 10:15 Worship 12:00 VBC Worship 8pm AA	26	27	28 1pm Adult Bible Study	29	30 5 - 6 pm Food Distribution	31

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