

Good Tidings

Northminster Presbyterian Church † Sarasota, FL

March 2021

WORSHIP SERVICES

Take place in the Sanctuary and on Facebook Live Sundays at 10:30 AM

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent
Blessed are the Meek
Matthew 5:5

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Blessed are the Merciful
Matthew 5:7

March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Blessed are the Pure in Heart and Blesse are Those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness.
Matthew 5:6,8

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday
Blessed are the Peacemakers
Matthew 5:9

BUILDING BRIDGES TOGETHER

Pastor Lyn Olson

To my new friends at Northminster, grace and peace be with you! I have been with you as your Transitional Pastor for a couple of weeks, and have appreciated the warm welcome you and the staff have given my husband Ron, and me. Thank you! On a personal note, Ron and I have been married for 35 years. We're parents of three and grandparents to 7, and have been privileged to watch our family grow up physically, spiritually, and professionally. We are "tree-hugging" vegans, so I've learned a new way of preparing plant-based meals, and we're staying healthier and more mindful of God's bounty.

We also love to travel, having completed 7 home exchanges all over the world. Daily walks round off some physical activities; participating in several Bible studies feed our souls.



I was called to Northminster Presbyterian Church because you are "in transition," as you said goodbye to Pastor Wally and Joyce, and long-time faithful servant, Isabel Oake. The root word for the verb, transition, in the Latin is *transio* – which means "to go across." So, in the coming year, we will "go across" from one place to another in the life of the church. This brings to mind a few questions we can explore together. First, just where are we now? Like MapQuest asks, "what is your current location?" And then what is our destination? To where are we crossing? Other questions come to mind when we consider the journey: Just what are we crossing over? What do we take for the journey, and what do we leave behind? What can we see clearly, and what is hidden from us as we go?

Well, in all this it occurs to me if we are going to "go across" to the future, we need some kind of bridge. A bridge is built to allow people to transition thoughtfully, carefully, safely. Imagine again, what could lie

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Building Bridges Together
(continued)



beneath a bridge? Darkness? Raging water, deep canyon, rocky cliffs? So then, what might be the pitfalls and dangers the congregation must cross over to the future? Fear? Worry? Grief? Technology challenges. Budget constraints. Culture shifts. Aging? Uncertainty? How do we navigate all that?

But look at it this way: Like you might stand on a viewing bridge overlooking the Grand Canyon, or some other breathtaking sight, a bridge can allow us to pause in safety, stand in awe of God's creation, and see the thrilling plans God has before you. Mission. Conversions. New members. Glorious worship expressions. And to feel the power and majesty of divine possibility.

God has provided Northminster a steady bridge...me! Well maybe I'm more of a bridge engineer, and we are all building the bridge together, in God's strength. I'm grateful God has called me "for such a time as this" in the life of this congregation! I am committed to offer the love and hope of Jesus Christ to you

through worship, preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and leadership, as we continue to transition together into your future. I have always been passionate about equipping the saints for the work of evangelism, mission, and service. I am also passionate for the next generations to come to know Jesus, and to find their value in God's sight. To reach new generations of believers, we shall have to build more new bridges, and dare to walk across them. But as God has always done in my life, God will show us the way across the divide. Together. And God goes with us.

This past year, under Covid restrictions, we might have had to stay put for a while. But soon we shall be ready to cross over in safety, joy and awe to what God has prepared for us. May the season of Lent be a time to reflect on the eternal Bridge that is Jesus; to strengthen your relationship with the One who has brought you this far, and Who is leading you on, for His glory and purpose.

Love,
Pastor Lyn

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT 2021

Lent is a time to first go deep in our longing for God, and to reflect on what is hindering our relationship with the Lord and with others. You are invited to read scripture every day as we journey with Jesus toward Resurrection Day. Over these 40 days, our Transitional Pastor Lyn Olson will offer short daily reflections each Monday through Friday on those daily readings, which will be on Facebook Live every morning at 10:00 am. <https://www.facebook.com/npcsarasota/>.



We invite you also to prepare for Sundays by reading one of the Beatitudes each week, on which we will focus each Sunday during Lent. They are autobiographical of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, and will guide us in growing deeper with God as we approach the cross together.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY 2021 Stewardship Campaign

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2021 will kick off in March, as we transition from Pastor Wally Johnson to Pastor Lyn Olson.

During the week of March 8, you will receive a letter with pledge card enclosed. Before you fill it out, we ask each of you to pray earnestly, and carefully consider what you can do to help Northminster Presbyterian Church fulfill its missions. A rewarding part of stewardship is giving back a small portion of the many gifts that God has so generously bestowed to us.

There are several ways to deliver your pledge card. You may mail your card directly to NPC, email it, drop it off at the office, or place it in the collection plate during Commitment Sunday, which is on March 21st.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the church office at 941-355-4729. Our mailing address is Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3131 61st St., Sarasota, FL 34243. Our email address is office@npcsarasota.org



"The dog ate our pledge card, but the veterinarian made him spit it out."

Meet Our New Admin, Dawnmarie Daniels-Carsky

Dawnmarie is a native Sarasotoan and is married to her college sweetheart Jerry Carsky, also a native Sarasotoan. She grew up surrounded by agriculture, including horses and cattle, and was active in FFA throughout school. Her work history has been diverse including management positions, customer service, software training, etc. She has worked in retail, construction, food industry, and the legal community.

Her parents brought her up to be independent and instilled a love of God and a belief that you are never too old to chase new dreams and set new goals. She has been a lifelong member of Bee Ridge Presbyterian and is active in the session, serves as clerk of session and treasurer, as well as the current chair of the community relations committee (their mission/outreach team). Faith is very important to her and she has a heart for mission.

On the outside of her left ankle, she has a tattoo of a bee, with the word courageous underneath it, to represent one of her favorite verses from the Bible, Joshua 1:9. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." The tattoo also represents a commitment to her faith as well as a nod toward Bee Ridge Presbyterian.

She enjoys cooking, hiking, almost all animals, swimming, golfing, and has started to mountain bike and plans to do her first race in the fall of this year. She loves to laugh and to get others to laugh. Dawnmarie is excited to find a home with Northminster Presbyterian.





Day 4 Hope

The Mission Committee, as a part of our community outreach, is once again looking to partner with Bee Ridge Presbyterian Church to support the Day 4 Hope. We began this relationship last year and, despite the challenges encountered with Covid-19, we had a very successful “Drive Thru” event.

For those who are unfamiliar, the Day 4 Hope is a back-to-school event that provides items such as backpacks filled with school supplies, food, and toiletries to children from families in need of support, in our local community. It’s an activity coordinated through the hope4communities organization. 2020 was the 12th annual summer for the Day 4 Hope with over 3,027 students being served at 18 local events at area churches.

Bee Ridge Presbyterian is spear-heading the event, however, we’re looking for a volunteer to attend pre-planning meetings to represent Northminster. These meetings are being conducted remotely via ZOOM. If you’re interested in taking on this role, please email me at jancsqr@yahoo.com. They’re looking to get a “jump start” on planning in order to stay ahead of the curve and improve efficiencies. The date for the event is expected to be August 7th and will once again be a DRIVE-THRU activity for the families.



As the event draws near we’ll be looking for some eager volunteers to assist with packing supplies into the backpacks, packing bags of food items that are donated, as well as assisting on the day of the event. Volunteers can choose to participate in any or all events. I participated in some of these events last year (packing backpacks and the drive-thru event) along with others from Northminster and it was a fun, well-organized event which only took a few hours of time.

Be assured that all events are conducted with Covid-19 precautions (masks and gloves are required and provided at the event if needed).

If you’re not able to volunteer but would like to make a free-will offering to the Mission fund to support the event, please mark your donation for “DAY 4HOPE”.

I hope you’ll consider this opportunity as it’s a great event that allows up to bless many families and bring smiles to the faces of the community children!!

Jan Cory

News from our Desoto Acres Neighbors

First Friday Food Trucks

DeSoto Acres Association is sponsoring "Food Truck Fridays" on the first Friday of each month from 5pm to 8pm. As of December, 2020 the event have found a permanent location in our parking lot, across 61st St. from the church.

Two food trucks each month offer their , and the offerings are different each month.

Desoto Acres Association envisions this event growing each month and adding in fun activities such as cornhole, live music, or a movie night on the lawn.

The congregation of NPC is invited to join the neighborhood residents for this event.

Blessing Box Food Collection

To show their appreciation for the use of our field, the Association is encouraging residents to contribute to NPC's Blessing Box. Already local families pull up to the box and fill it with food. On Food Truck Fridays, there will be a table designated for food contributions, which will donated to the church for the Blessing Box.

Food Trucks & Fun
for the neighborhood
& Northminster!
Plus food donations
for the Blessing Box!



How Do You Support NPC Missions?



Northminster regularly contributes to five non-profit, mission organizations. They are: Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry, Bible Mission USA, the Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk, Resurrection House, and Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC). If you would like to contribute specifically to one of these missions, you can write the name of the organization on your envelope or on the memo line of your check.

All mission offerings received, that are not designated to one of the above organizations, are deposited in the **General Mission Fund**, which is administered by the Mission Committee. The Committee has the discretion to use funds for special events, such as Day-4-Hope and Kids Against Hunger, and also makes periodic distributions to the five featured missions.

Flower Donations -Two Gifts in One!



Live floral arrangements in the Sanctuary on Sundays serve to remind us of the glory of God in creation and enhance the beauty of the worship setting. Oneco Florists Our creates beautiful arrangements which can be purchased by members and friends of the church. Flowers can commemorate a special date or honor a loved one and the dedication is projected on the walls, before the worship service.

Did you know that, after the worship service, the Deacons rearrange the donated flowers into small vases as gifts to cheer members who are homebound, in the hospital, or in a nursing home? You can provide flowers that will be appreciated by both those who come to church and those who cannot.



4 Sue Fewell	23 Vic Sewell
10 Ingrid Lippert	24 Mary Ann Colter
13 Ed Stiles	Laura Shephard
19 Carole Glidden	26 Bev Christie

Financial Update

Operating Fund

	Jan. 2021	Yr-to-date
Income	\$ 21,621.00	\$ 21,621.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 24,923.67</u>	<u>\$ 24,923.67</u>
Net Income	\$ -3,302.67	\$ -3,302.67

Operating Fund Balance

Iberia Bank	\$ 73,828.63
PILP Money Market	<u>\$ 23,045.33</u>
	\$ 96,873.96

Capital Campaign Fund Balance

PILP Building Fund \$6,254.04

Cornerstone Fund

Charles Schwab \$ 114,016.12

Bob Silver, Treasurer



From the Office

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30
Fri: 9:00 - 2:00

*Social distancing & mask-wearing
are practiced in the office.*

GOOD TIDINGS DEADLINE

Please submit all articles, reports, and announcements for the April newsletter by **Monday, March 15.**

SESSION REPORTS

Please send your Session Reports for the March 17 meeting to Sally Kirby and the office by **Wednesday, March 10.**

Dear Northminster Family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards and kindnesses. All of your support has been so comforting. You are the most loving people and I am blessed to be a part of our church. I have always thanked God for sending Tom and I to Northminster, but I am even more thankful at this time.

Debbie Latimer

Farewell



Fourteen years! I can't believe it's been that long since I started working here at NPC. During that time, there was rarely a day that I wasn't happy to come into the office. I have truly loved working here. Although I have worked alone in the office, I could not have done this job without the input of NPC's lay-leaders, committee chairs, and so many loyal volunteers.

I had meant to stay here a few more years before retiring, but things just fell into place to make our move to Texas at this time. Eric and I are excited to be near our daughter and to have our own home again. And, as soon as it is practical, I will be setting up tribal belly dance classes in our new home town.

Thank you all for the kind words and well-wishes expressed at my retirement celebration on Feb 21st. Robin and her mystery committee put together an overwhelming presentation and I couldn't have been more surprised by all the cards and gifts.

Thank you and I will miss you all.

Isabel Oake

Northminster Presbyterian Church "Called by Christ. Sent by Christ."

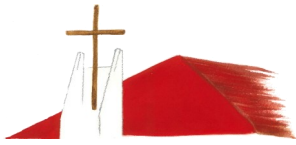
STAFF:

Rev. Lyn Olson, Transitional Pastor
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Sally Kirby, Clerk of Session
clerkofsession@npcsarasota.org
Edward L. Stiles, Jr., Music Director
music@npcsarasota.org
Gail Ofterdinger-Ledgister, Organist

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:30 a.m.
Also online on Facebook

OFFICE HOURS:
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Monday -Thursday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday

PHONE: 941-355-4729
WEBSITE: www.npcsarasota.com
E-MAIL: office@npcsarasota.org



The Church with the Red Roof
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