

April 2018



News & Views

A newsletter of Northminster Presbyterian Church



Easter and April Worship
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VISIT US ON SUNDAYS AT 9:00 OR 11:00 AM

WWW.NORTHMINSTER-INDY.ORG

Pastoral Ponderings

A few weeks ago my son sent me a copy of an email he'd written. He is the Principal of the Upper School at Breck Episcopal School in Minneapolis. He addressed the email to all the Upper School students. He agreed to let me share it with you. It helped me see part of our worship in a whole new way.

Dear Upper School Students - I hope you'll forgive the nighttime email. I don't do this often, and I hope you'll indulge me.

On Wednesday as a number of us were gathered at the Xcel Center to watch our girls' hockey team, I found that my attention was divided. Not long after the puck dropped in St. Paul, Orono schools went into lockdown after a couple of social media threats emerged. This news was breaking while we celebrated our victory. I was, of course, totally thrilled for our team, but if I'm being honest, my enthusiasm was tempered knowing that many in our community had peers (friends, fellow teachers, children) not too many miles west of where we were, worried for what might happen.

Thankfully, the situation in Orono resolved peacefully. That said, I'll admit to being a bit more shaken by the threat than I initially realized. The recent school shooting in Florida alarmed me, as I imagine it did for all of you, and as I know it did for your teachers and parents. And yet, the proximity of what happened in Orono touched me in a different

way. We tend to assume that these things happen far away from us, but the fact is, near or far, these events can affect us in real ways.

Parkland and Orono were both on my mind this morning as I arrived to school. I wondered whether I should address the US community before or after senior speeches, whether I should send a letter to your parents, or whether I should just let things go. But as I stood in the back of the chapel today listening to speeches one of our normal routines, something we do each and every week, struck me in a new way. This is what prompted me to write.

This morning, our local community and the entire nation were grappling with the natural questions that emerge in the aftermath of events such as what happened in Parkland and Orono, and yet, somehow, leaving speeches I was calm. I was calmed by the fact that every week we gather, we sit together as a community, and we greet each other.

Each week, after our seniors deliver their speeches (great job to Brendan, Sophie, Audrey, and Alex, by the way!) we always take a moment to greet each other with a sign of peace. To be honest, I'd never really thought much about this tradition until today. But given the context of recent events, I couldn't help but be grateful for our community and for this regular moment of connection. I had no

choice but to smile at the idea that we create time in our schedule, every week, to pause, and to say to each other, "peace."

There are many things that make Breck a special place. This is a list that could go on and on. Today, however, I was grateful for this one. I stood in the back of the chapel and watched all of you greet each other and share peace with one another. I couldn't help but think that our world could use a little more "sharing of the peace."

While we are certainly not immune to the ever-changing context of the world around us, I remain grateful to be part of a community like this one. I am proud to call Breck my second home, and the Upper School my second family.

We have a lot going on right now (as I'm sure you're all aware), but as our schedules fill with the inevitable rush of academics and extra-curricular demands, I hope you'll all take a few minutes to pause periodically, to reflect on who we are as a community, and to remember to share the peace with each other. It doesn't only have to happen in chapel, after all.

Thanks for your attention to a long letter.

*Warmly,
TT*

*That's my boy.
TT the elder*



April Worship

April worship will be one celebration after another as we celebrate the entire season of Easter (The seven Sundays from Easter to Pentecost). The resurrection was not simply about that one day. Don't miss a single week.

April 1st is Easter Sunday and of course April Fool's Day. Don't you imagine those who saw the empty tomb felt like it was an April Fool's joke? We will celebrate with music and brass and dance and prayer and the Word, and Communion will be served. If you want your regular seat, I suggest coming to the 9:00 service. It is usually not as crowded. If you are able to park on the street and walk, please do. We can

welcome our visitors by leaving them a place to park and letting them sit in our pew. Join us for the celebration.

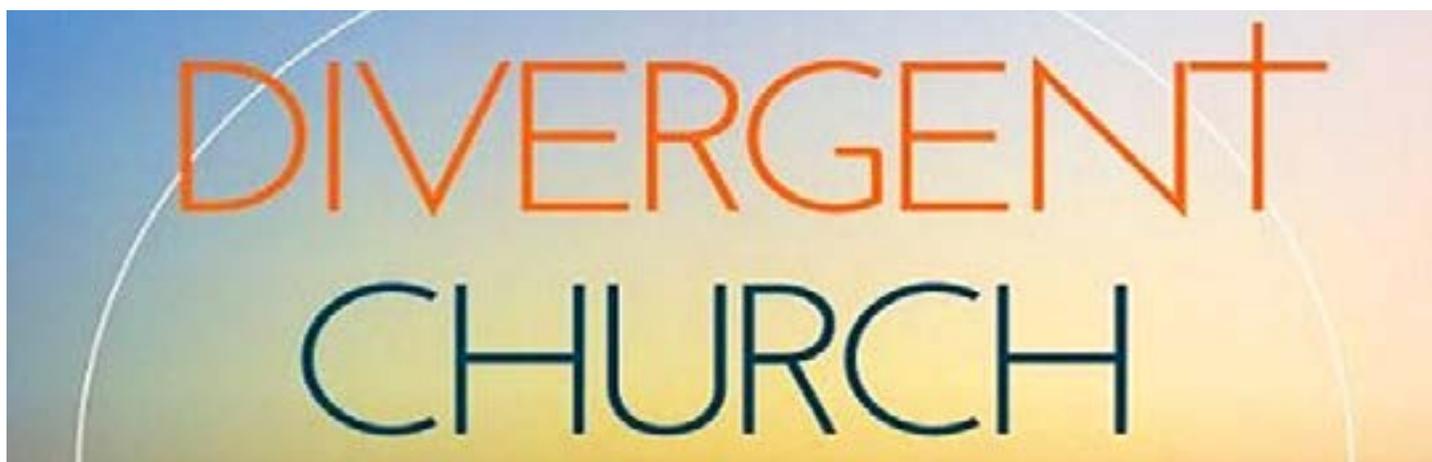
April 8th is the second Sunday of Easter and the story continues with John 20:19-31, picking up where we left off last week. We will be commissioning a new class of Stephen Ministers so be sure to come and thank them for the valuable ministry they offer. Marland will be preaching so we will have a new perspective on our lessons.

April 15th is the third Sunday of Easter. The Gospel of Luke has us eating with ghosts. At the 11:00 service we will recognize all

of our choirs, children, youth and adults. They will all take part in the service as we celebrate the gift of music that blesses us each week in our worship.

April 22nd, the fourth Sunday of Easter, will be Confirmation Sunday. Our class this year is small but mighty and they will be assisting in worship. Let's welcome them into the church family and celebrate this step of their faith journeys.

April 29th is the fifth Sunday of Easter. Our scriptures talk about loving, gardening, and baptizing. At 11:00 we will even celebrate the sacrament of baptism.



Special Opportunity

Divergent Church Book Discussion - April 3rd

The Session and the staff have been reading a book called Divergent Church. It was written by Tim Shapiro, the President of the Center for Congregations and his colleague Kara Faris. Tim spent some of his growing up years here at Northminster. The book's editor is one of our own, Rebecca Huehls.

Tim is coming to Northminster on Tuesday, April 3rd, during Team Night (7:00 pm). He will talk about the learnings from the book and facilitate some discussion. If you have read the book, bring your questions. If you have not read the book, come anyway, it will still be a great evening.

All the teams will meet together with Tim. Team members are encouraged to bring friends, family, strangers, anyone who is interested in the future of the church. This event is open to the entire congregation, so don't miss it.

**Financial Snapshot for the Period Ending: February 28, 2018
Northminster General Fund**

	Year to Date 2018 Actual	Year to Date 2018 Budget	Year to Date 2017 Actual
Operating Revenues	\$ 260,531	\$ 234,156	\$ 207,893
Operating Expenses	\$ (140,986)	\$ (182,587)	\$ (156,468)
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$ 119,545</u>	<u>\$ 51,569</u>	<u>\$ 51,424</u>

Notes:

Income is above budget due to the early receipt of gifts from some members and the March payment from the Foundation. Finance Committee expects income to fall in line with the budget as the year progresses.

Expenses are under budget due to open CE and Youth Director positions and the fact that teams are just starting their activities for the year. Finance Committee expects expenses to fall in line with the budget as the year progresses.

Church School in April

Christ is alive! Alleluia! We enter into a new season this month - the Season of Easter - which is 50 days long. Our Preschool and Church School continue its use of Seasons of the Spirit. The following prayer comes from our Preschool curriculum for April 1, 2018:

God of radical hope, you meet us in the garden of our daily lives. You help us to tend hearts that are broken, love that is lost, hope that needs resurrection. Give us an encounter that springs joy and shines love and light as we meet the Christ today. Amen.

April 1 - John 20:1-18

Our preschool will have the opportunity to celebrate the good news of Jesus' resurrection. How is Christ alive for you today?

April 8 - John 20:19-31

This week our church school class will hear, with Thomas and the disciples, Jesus' message of peace and affirmation. If Jesus appeared in your living room what questions would you like to ask him?

April 15 - Luke 24:36b-48

Our lesson this week gives us the opportunity to join the Easter community in experiencing the presence and invitation of Jesus. How do we offer grace to friends in times of need? How can our lives be a reflection of the relationship Jesus had with the disciples when he came back and had breakfast with them?

April 22 - John 10:11-18

In our church school class this

week the children will focus on learning about God's deep love and care from the metaphor of Jesus as a good shepherd. When and where do you hear the voice of the Good Shepherd? What are some ways we can show God's love to our family? To our friends? At school?

April 29 - John 15:1-8

Our church school class will discover that Jesus connects us together as the church. How do our lives reflect God's abiding love? How do we show that love of God to the world around us?

Offering of Letters For Such A Time As This

A catastrophic automobile accident, a disabled child with life-long medical needs, downsizing that leads to unemployment, a continuing medication that costs 3 figures per dosage, a 100-year flood that washes away the family home, an unexpected cut to Medicare, a mother with two minimum wage jobs who still lives under the poverty line. These events are financially devastating and can lead to food insecurity for family members, neighbors across the street, rural Hoosiers and thousands of others in these United States. No one is immune to unexpected, unplanned, unanticipated tragedy.

But we are not without recourse. Our government, which is us, is capable of helping victims in their time of need. In fact, God has issued this very mandate. “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,

I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” God is not unequivocal. As Christians, we are called to help others.

And so, for such a time as this, when our political leaders are indecisive and often seem indifferent or unaware to the challenges facing so many of us, we need to be God’s hands and feet. Join us on May 6 at 10 am or noon, to write letters to our legislators to urge them to maintain, if not increase, SNAP (food aid to children, the elderly, the disabled), WIC (for low income women and young children), and other programs for the most at risk members of our society. “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

- Facts On Hunger
- Indiana is one of the 10 hungriest states in the US
- In Indiana, 9 of every 10 meals for the hungry come from federal programs such as SNAP, WIC, and school lunches
- 40 million Americans live below the poverty line
- Hungry children have difficulty learning and face lifelong health problems
- Cuts in Medicare/Medicaid and health insurance have a direct affect on food security
- We can make a difference

In Indiana,
9 of every **10** meals
for the hungry come from
federal programs like

**SNAP, WIC, &
School Lunches.**



1 meal comes
from **Churches
& Charities.**

Senior Ministries

Presby Day in April

Thursday, April 12, at Irvington Presbyterian Church (55 Johnson Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219). Presentation by Kate Kunk from CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions. She will be talking about all things HEALTH! We will also be joined by Monica Woodsworth, RSVP Director with Catholic Charities. We'll begin at 10 am, with lunch at noon. RSVP at 317-356-7225.

3B Exercise

3B has moved to Calvin Hall on Every Monday & Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. Come join us at 3B for more of these bits of laughter! We are now doing lightweights, aerobic & strength training.

Exercise improves circulation and keeps the body healthy. Therefore, we do 3B!

Youth Fellowship

Youth Group meets on Sundays from 5:30 - 7:30 pm, at Northminster!

4/1 Easter Sunday – Youth Group will NOT meet.

4/8 & 4/15 - Youth Group meets 5:30 - 7:30 at NPC.

4/22 - High school student lunch 12:15 – 1:15 pm.
Youth Group from 5:30 - 7:30 at NPC.

4/29 - Middle School student lunch 12:15 – 1:15 pm.

We'll have 3B Training, for anyone interested in becoming an instructor, May 4-6, at Faith Presbyterian Church (8170 Hague Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46256.) Contact Denise Harrington with questions.

Caregiver's Support Group

All caregivers are welcome! You don't have to be a member of NPC to attend. Monday, April 2nd at 6:00 pm & Wednesday April 4th at 1:00 pm in the Conference Room next to the pastors offices. Contact Denise Harrington with questions.

Alzheimer's Support Groups for Caregivers

This support group continues to take place at Irvington Presbyterian (55 Johnson Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46219) on the 3rd Tuesday each month, in the parlor at 1:00 pm.



Check out the MIND Diet at <http://bit.ly/MINDdietONLINE>

Contact Denise

If you have questions about Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Caregiving, Rehabilitation Therapy, Estate Planning, Grief, Probate & Guardianship or need a referral for Elder Law, contact Denise Harrington at 317-509-7085 or dharrington@northminster-indy.org. Look for Denise at worship on the 3rd Sunday of each month.



Welcoming Homeless Families

On Easter Sunday, April 1, we will welcome four homeless families from IHN/ Family Promise to Northminster. They will be staying in the Sunday School rooms upstairs, enjoying meals in Calvin Hall, and playing games or creating artwork during the evening.

We have been caring hosts for homeless families for over 20 years

because we are a Sponsoring Congregation!

The mission statement of Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis is: "We are a network of congregations and community organizations responding to the crisis of children and their families who are homeless. We work to eliminate homelessness in Greater Indianapolis."

We always need volunteers when families are staying at Northminster. Contact Dolly Craft at (317) 502-2080 or Nancy Jarrell at (317) 840-9325 if you would like to help.

During our December Family Promise rotation, Jackie & Jessie Gritton played with homeless children.

Habitat For Humanity 2018

Spring has sprung, which means it's time to once again look forward to fellowship and contribution for Northminster's participation in a Habitat For Humanity build day. Our day of volunteer workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 28th, and generally is approximately 4-5 hours with lunch included. We get to work with and meet the future homeowner, engage with others in the community, and have some fun!

Each year, our assignment is different. This year, we will be install-

ing siding. Don't worry, there are always plenty of "experts" on hand to guide our hands! This is one of Pastor Ruth's favorite activities, so come join her and the Mission Team for a worthwhile activity.

We will be signing up in the Gathering Place on Sunday April 15th and 22nd. And feel free to sign up family and friends to join us. Contact Mission Team member, Bo Walker, with questions: walkerirr@msn.com or (317) 507-8453.



(previous Habitat for Humanity build group)



Race for the Cure

Join Northminster on April 28th for the annual Komen Race for the Cure. To register for our team, go to <http://bit.ly/NPCrace2018>. To donate to our team, click on one of our team members and make an online donation.

Race packets can be picked up in person on April 26 & 27, and race day. To have it mailed to you, designate that when registering, for \$10. You must be registered by April 15th.

Team members will be emailed additional information as race day gets closer. Come and enjoy the day with us for this great cause! Questions? Contact Debbie Grush at debbiemr@netzero.net

NorthStars

Join the NorthStars in Space

On **April 24**, the NorthStars will be visiting the Link Observatory in Martinsville to hear about the Next Steps in Space Exploration.

The church bus and carpools will depart the church at 9 am, arriving for a 10 am program:

“2018 is the beginning of a new era in human space exploration. NASA and commercial space companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin have plans to send humans back into space. This will fundamentally transform our world and pave the way for human expansion into the solar system.

There is no activity on Earth that matches the unique challenges of human space exploration. The first fifty years of space exploration have generated untold benefits for people around the world, the next 50 years will fundamentally change who we are.”

Afterwards, we will stop for lunch at Gray’s Cafeteria, arriving back at church by 2 pm.

Cost for the program is \$10 (bus riders pay an additional \$5 for gas, etc.).

Look for sign-ups in the Gathering Place beginning April 1, or contact Dolly & Don Craft at 317-502-2080, dollybike317@gmail.com or Troy & Nancy Hill at 317-564-8002, troy_hill@sbcglobal.net, to reserve your place. All are welcome!



Tiffany Windows Tour – Richmond, Indiana

Wednesday, **May 9**, leave from Northminster, gathering at 8:30. The first 10 to register for the bus will ride with Doug Sherow driving; others may set up carpools as they arrive. (Directions will be given.) A docent will tell about the windows at the churches.

We will arrive at 10:30 at First Presbyterian. After that we’ll walk a block or two to St. Paul’s

Episcopal, and at 12:30, ride to Old Richmond Inn for lunch. If time permits we will visit the Richmond Library for another stained glass window. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Call Ron Calkins, 317-201-3577 to say you will go along; also call Ron for any questions. We need an estimate of the number of eaters for lunch. We will be back by 3:30 or so. Bus riders will be asked to contribute \$5 each for expenses of the bus.



Music Ministry Sunday

Sunday, April 15, 11:00 am

All choirs will participate in the 11:00 am service on Sunday, April 15, during this annual Music Ministry day. We are appreciative of the hours each singer spends in rehearsal each week and for the beauty, vitality and dignity they add to worship. We also appreciate

the transportation and support choir parents provide. Northminster's choir program provides opportunities for musical learning, spiritual growth, liturgical training and fellowship. Join us for this service, as we praise the Triune God through prayers, spoken word, and music.



Adult "Middlers" Dinner

April 28, 6:00 pm

Join your mid 40's – early 60's peers for dinner and fun at the home of Adam and Andrea Newsom (5924 E. Fall Creek Parkway N. Dr.). Adam and Andrea have only been members for a little over a year and are already opening their home to become more active

and acquainted with Northminster folks! The main course will be provided, but please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share, as well as any biblically approved fermented libations. RSVP to Andrea at andreabrandesnewsom@hotmail.com.

What Do Deacons Do?

The Deacons are planning their end of the year Honor's Banquet for children who made the Honor Role this year at School 55. Your contributions to the Deacon's Plant and Flower sale helped make this possible. Thank you! Plant pick up is May 4th.

Next year, School 55 will be a Butler Lab charter school, so our relationship with the school and its administration may change. We will keep you informed.



Fourth Sunday Adult Education

The fourth Sunday Painting the Stars video series and discussion begins again on **April 22nd** in the Board Room at 10 am.

This video series is about science, religion and our evolving faith. The topic on the 22nd is specifically about what evolving faith looks like.

Please join us, no previous attendance is required.



Montreat Conference on Worship & Music Spaces Available - June 24 - 29, 2018

Many Northminster adults, children and youth have attended this multi-generational conference over the years. It is a six day conference that involves choir, art, photography, handbells, drama, inspiring worship, drumming, dance, fun and games, playing in the great outdoors and fellowship with fellow Northminster folks and new friends.

Additionally, specific for adults, are sessions involving worship planning, vocal instruction, Bible study, congregational song and the arts in worship.

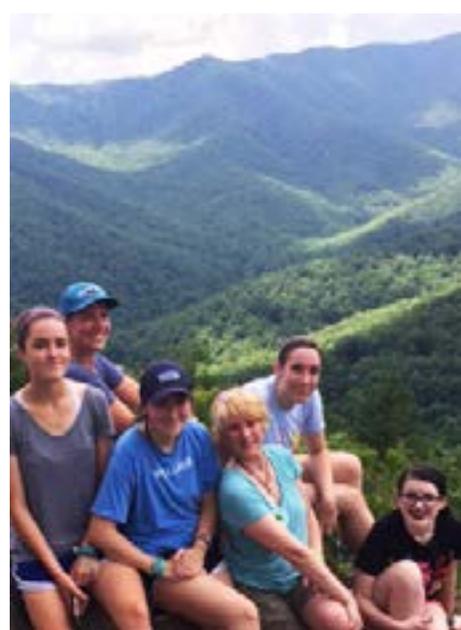
We also find time for relaxing on the porch, great dinners, conversation, hiking, reading and napping. You do NOT need to be a singer or member of a choir to appreciate all that Montreat offers!

Northminster Presbyterian Church graciously covers our housing and food costs.

We stay and cook/eat in two large houses on the grounds. All you need to pay for is the registration cost of the conference, which is \$421 for adults and \$280 for children/youth.

See www.montreat.org/music2/ for more details.

As of now we still have openings in our housing. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact John Wright, Director of Music Ministries (317-251-9489 or johnwright@nortminster-indy.org).



April 2018 Birthdays

Lorrie Klain	4/1	Suzy Steger	4/19	Juanita Cox	4/25
Robert Bork	4/2	Richard Campbell Jr	4/20	Neil Moehring	4/25
Helen McNeil	4/3	Katharine Ruegger	4/20	Lauren Lancaster	4/27
Kathleen Schick	4/3	Juliet Hardesty	4/21	Steven Boller	4/28
Ashleigh Rexford	4/4	Karalea Jasiak	4/21	Steven McNeil	4/28
Meredith Stevens	4/4	Jessica Rasmussen	4/21	Max Ruegger	4/28
Mary Holland	4/6	Netta Mae Browne	4/22	Pamela Young	4/28
John P. Whiteman	4/8	Marilyn Davis	4/22	Mike Runge	4/29
David Scott	4/10	Maureen Cornelius	4/23	David Crook	4/30
Quinn Bensi	4/11	John Moore	4/24	Laura Stitle	4/30
Robert Bowers	4/13				
James Clark	4/13				
Judy Reasoner	4/13				
Pattie Weyreter	4/13				
Anita Hicks	4/14				
Robert D. Mart	4/14				
Jacqueline Wilson	4/14				
Joshua Hill	4/17				
Mildred Bagley	4/18				
Cheryl Jacklin	4/18				
Donna Schmahl	4/18				
Nancy Wynne	4/18				
John Eyler	4/19				
Alicia Noneman	4/19				
Michael Shebek	4/19				

April Calendar Highlights

4/1	9 & 11AM	Easter Sunday Worship
4/2	All day	Building Closed
4/3	7:00 PM	Divergent Church Book Discussion/Tim Shapiro
4/3	7:00 PM	Team Meeting Night
4/5	7:00 PM	Circle 3(Sarah Circle)
4/7	1:00 PM	City Tour - Mission Team
4/8	10:00 AM	Confirmation Class - students & mentors
4/10	4:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
4/10	6:00 PM	Deacons Meeting
4/10	7:00 PM	Personnel Committee
4/13	7:00 PM	Sound & Spirit concert - Volume Five
4/17	7:00 PM	Session Meeting
4/22	9 & 11AM	Confirmation Sunday
4/22	10:00 AM	Adult Education - Painting the Stars
4/22	12:15 PM	High School Student Lunch
4/23	1:00 PM	Ministerial Support Committee
4/24	9:00 AM	NorthStars - Link Observatory
4/28	9:30 AM	Fran MacAllister Visitation
4/28	11:30 AM	Fran MacAllister Service
4/29	12:15 PM	Middle School Student Lunch



Sound & Spirit presents: Volume 5

The professional bluegrass band Volume 5 will be in concert at **7:00 pm, Friday, April 13th** in the church sanctuary as part of the *Sound & Spirit* arts series. The five man band won two categories in September's annual IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Association) awards: Emerging Artist of the Year and Song of the Year for "I Am a Drifter."

Earlier this year, Volume Five released the album "Milestones," of which the single "Now That's a Song" reached No. 1 on the Bluegrass Today Top 20 Chart. Their previous album, "Drifter," received rave reviews, and made Billboard's Top 5 Best-Selling Bluegrass Albums chart, with two singles reaching No. 1.

If you love bluegrass or if you are curious about the art form, Volume 5 is certain to amaze and move you. As with all *Sound & Spirit* events, this concert is **free** and child care is provided.



Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1660 Kessler Boulevard, East Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46220-2799

www.northminster-indy.org

317-251-9489