

May 2018



# News & Views

A newsletter of Northminster Presbyterian Church



**Nunda's  
Journey**  
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VISIT US ON SUNDAYS AT 9:00 OR 11:00 AM

[WWW.NORTHMINSTER-INDY.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHMINSTER-INDY.ORG)

## Nunda's Journey - by Nunda Lutumika

My family and I are happy to be here today, as it has been a long story. I lived as a refugee for more than 18 years, and spent a year-and-a-half in the refugee camp in Tanzania, Lugufu, before I returned to our village. As insecurity was always present, I then fled to Burundi (Bujumbura) when I was 16 years old without knowing where I was or where I was going.

After a favor from God, I was scheduled for resettlement in the United States, specifically in Texas, with a specific address and even a telephone number. I was very happy to start a new life. Texas is a state filled with refugees coming from many African nations — the DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, and Zambia, to name a few. I was very happy to learn that other refugees had preceded me in Texas.

Then, a month before my flight, while checking my status on the Internet, I found out the program had changed. My family and I had been reassigned to Indianapolis. We were not totally happy. Indiana is not very famous in Africa. One individual said, "You do not have a chance. You are going to a state where you will not have brothers and sisters!"

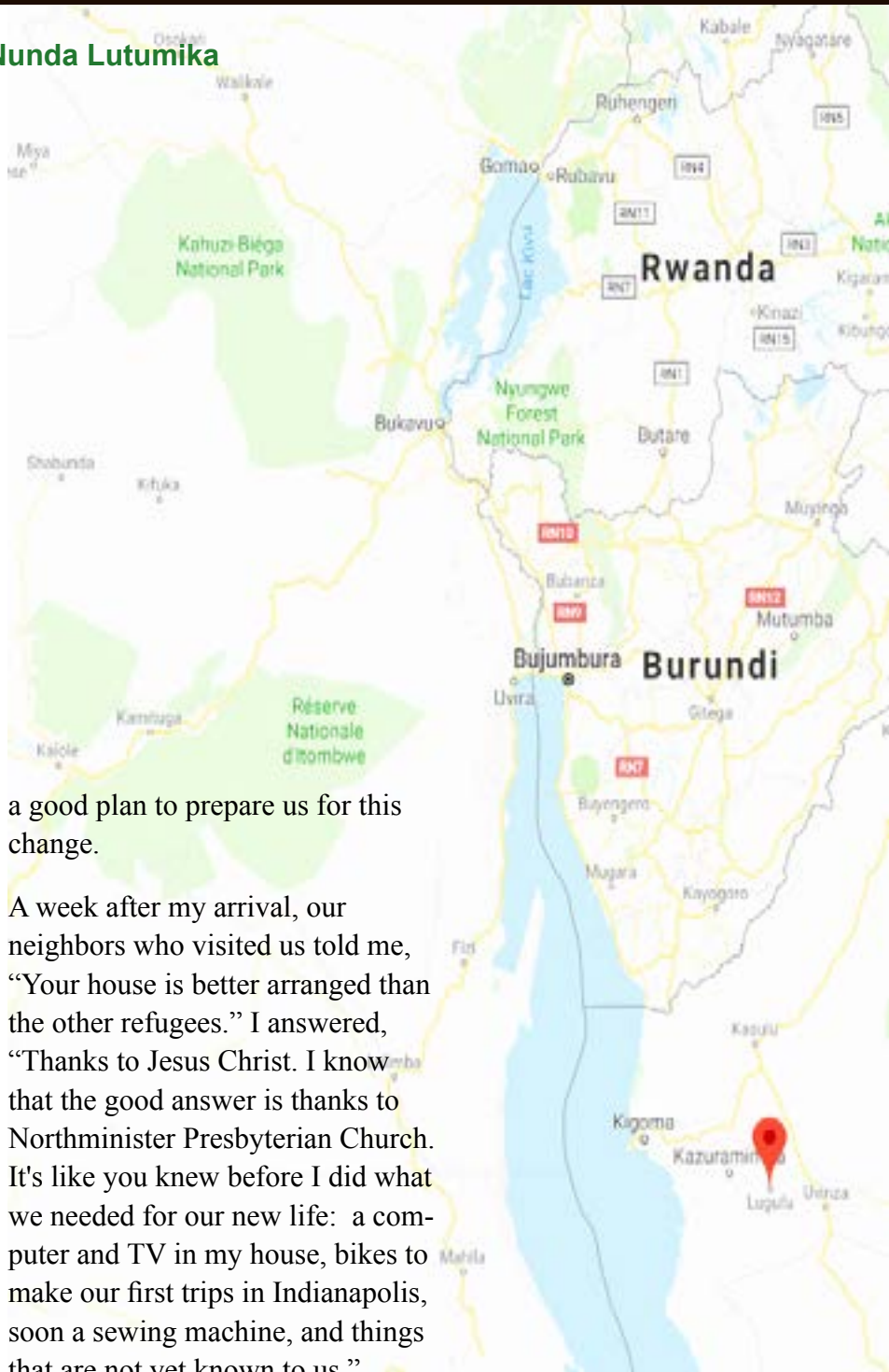
However, the voice of God is not that of men. I did not know if God had already supplied program brothers in Christ for my family in Indianapolis. Despite the fact that we were starting back at the beginning, I had faith that God had

a good plan to prepare us for this change.

A week after my arrival, our neighbors who visited us told me, "Your house is better arranged than the other refugees." I answered, "Thanks to Jesus Christ. I know that the good answer is thanks to Northminister Presbyterian Church. It's like you knew before I did what we needed for our new life: a computer and TV in my house, bikes to make our first trips in Indianapolis, soon a sewing machine, and things that are not yet known to us."

I thank all those who support me morally, materially and financially. I asked our supporters to not become discouraged because I had to start back at the beginning. I knew God had prepared a good way in my life through Northminister Presbyterian Church. God bless you.

*(Nunda Lutumika, a writer, will be authoring a continuing series of occasional observations on his and his family's introduction to, and acclimation of, their new home in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.)*



## Pastoral Ponderings - by Teri Thomas

The rumors are true, your pastor has moved to the old folks home. Well anyway, that is true, more or less. I have moved to Hoosier Village Retirement Community. I am not retired and we all know I am not old, so why did I do such a thing?

I have moved 23 times in my life and I am tired of it. I needed to move out of the apartment because of noise and mice. I decided to move only one more time and then to stay until I die. Hoosier Village fit the bill. It is a continuous care community. So now I am living in a duplex next to my dearest friends, Jill and Jay Hudson. It is independent living but the community takes care of everything from light bulbs to landscaping. Since it was new construction I was able to choose paint colors, floor coverings, fixtures, cabinets, counter tops, tile, grout, etc. I love the

space and am very comfortable.

I wanted to have space to entertain and to cook again. I also wanted dirt for flowers and a garden for vegetables. I have a pond behind me and woods behind the pond. I sit on my sun porch in the morning and watch the deer, the ducks, the birds, and whatever other beings are out and about. I can walk to the pool, the gym, and the restaurant. Tonight I am too tired to cook and haven't been to the grocery, so I will go to the restaurant and get catfish and grits. Yummy.

Moving made my life much simpler and less complicated. But more than that, it took care of the rest of the important decisions that will need to be made one day. If the time ever comes when I cannot live alone they will move me to assisted living or memory care. When I fall and break my hip I can



go into rehab there. If anything ever happens, the Village and my son know exactly what I want. No one has to make difficult decisions for me.

So why did I move to the old folks home? I love the space. I love the location. I love the green space and my pond. I love the quiet. I love the security of knowing everything is taken care of. I may be the youngest resident but that doesn't bother me at all. It is like living with 50 sets of grandparents and they make me feel so very young!



## May Worship

**Sunday, May 6th** we will celebrate communion at both services. We continue through the Easter Season and focus today on Jesus' farewell discourse.

**May 13th** is the 7th Sunday of Easter. Jesus' farewell discourse continues through the Gospel of John and this week the focus is prayer. What does Jesus ask when he prays for us? Bring your mom to church today.

**Sunday, May 20th** is the **Day of Pentecost**. Today is about the church, the Spirit, flames, wind and more. Wear **red** and join in the celebration. We will honor graduates, recognize teachers, and present the Teri Thomas Scholarship funded by the Schmidt family. The Spirit of hope is among us. Let us celebrate and rejoice.

**Sunday, May 27th** is Trinity Sunday. This will be Marland's last Sunday with us and he will be preaching. Drop in before the Race.



## Pentecost Offering - May 20

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we collect a special offering from the congregation to help support and guide the Christian formation of our young people - building a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Your gift (envelopes in your offering box and in the pews) will support the Young Adult Volunteer Program, ministries with youth (including the Youth Triennium) and programs for youth at risk. Northminster will retain 40 percent of the offerings collected to develop and support programs for young people in our church and community. Please give generously!

## What Do Deacons Do?

If you ordered plants from the Deacons, they will be available for pick up on Friday, May 4, in the south parking lot, 10 am – 6 pm. If you cannot pick them up that day they can be held for you until Sunday, May 6. Thank you for your purchases! They help the Deacons do their outreach and care throughout the year.

The Deacons will be holding their annual dinner and awards ceremony for honor roll students and their parent at the end of May. We are so grateful to partner with the wonderful teachers, students and parents at School 55 and are proud to celebrate the students' accomplishments.

**Financial Snapshot for the Period Ending: March 31, 2018**  
Northminster General Fund

	Year to Date 2018 Actual	Year to Date 2018 Budget	Year to Date 2017 Actual
Operating Revenues	\$ 322,552	\$ 313,382	\$ 279,890
Operating Expenses	\$ (244,029)	\$ (281,107)	\$ (263,209)
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$ 78,522</u>	<u>\$ 32,275</u>	<u>\$ 16,681</u>

### Notes:

Income is 2.9% over budget but we expect to end the year at budget.

Expenses are 13% 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 team expenses to fall in line with the budget as the year progresses.

## Welcome to Maureen Wilson

Maureen Wilson has been serving as the Acting Director of Youth Ministry and Kids Club. She has recently accepted Northminster's offer to become our new Director of Education and Youth Ministries.

Maureen grew up in Indianapolis, near Holiday Park with her parents and family dogs. She went to Brebeuf for high school, and college at Xavier University in Ohio where she majored in Theology and minored in Peace Studies.

After college she served as a Young Adult Volunteer for a year in Belfast, Northern Ireland, working in nonviolent conflict resolution with youth and children. She received her Master's in Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago in 2013.

After graduation she moved back to Indiana to serve as Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Irvington Presbyterian Church,



where she was ordained in 2017. In her free time Maureen enjoys sitting on her front porch in Irvington, trying to convince her cat to get a job, and re-watching episodes

of *The West Wing* on Netflix. She is excited to be joining the mission and ministries of Northminster Presbyterian Church!

## New Northminster Church Members

Please welcome our two newest members. **Kelly Deis** (*left photo*) is an English teacher at Carmel High School. She and her husband Brain have a little boy named Warren.

**David Crook** (*right photo*) is an anesthesiologist. David and his wife Susan were married at Northminster, and they are the parents of Sarah, Julie and Alexander. Dale and Linda Theobald are his in-laws.



## Goodbye and Thank You

Two staff members will be leaving us at the end of May - Cheryl Plunkett and Marland Pittman. We hope you get a chance to say thank you to them for their service to this congregation and wish them well in what comes next. We will recognize their service among us with a reception at 10 am on May 20th.



**Cheryl Plunkett** has been the Acting Christian Education Director since September. She has worked on a temporary part-time basis – but with full time energy – making sure Church School happens for our children and that the teachers have their supplies and curriculum. We knew Cheryl would be here for a short time, but we will miss her smile, her competence, her calmness and her way with our children and teachers. Thank you Cheryl for all you have done for us. We are glad you will not be leaving Northminster, but continue to participate as a member.

Cheryl has enjoyed working with the children and getting to know them. She has been surprised and pleased by the willingness of the congregation to step up and help her, and she has been grateful to

all the teachers and parents for their dedication to the children's program. She and her family plan some travel this summer.



**Marland Pittman** has been our seminary intern for the 2017-2018 school year. He has tried his hand at just about everything a pastor does: preaching, teaching, pastoral care, leading worship, participating in staff meetings and still keeping up with his full time seminary classes and work load. Marland has brought us his great sense of humor, his humility, his developing preaching skills, and a different eye and voice for us to consider.

Marland has enjoyed preaching, he has been reminded that Bible Study is less about the text and more about community, and he has enjoyed learning about his own pastoral identity this year. He has been surprised by how difficult it has been to figure out what is important to the church, and what is important to him and his family, along with his school obligations. Marland will be taking classes this summer and plans to graduate from Christian Theological Seminary in May of 2019.

## Senior Ministries

### Caregiver Support Group

Are you caring for a loved one or friend? Come and talk to others in similar situations. All caregivers are welcome! You don't have to be a member of NPC. Join us on Monday, May 7th at 6:00 pm, or Wednesday, May 2nd at 1:00 pm, in the Conference room next to Ruth's office.

### 3B Exercise

If you are of legal age and want to move your body while having fun, join us in Calvin Hall on Mondays and Thursdays at 1:30 pm. We do light weights, aerobic and strength training. Exercise improves circulation and keeps the body healthy. Therefore, we do 3B!

### XYZ Club

Everyone is invited to join the XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) Club! They usually meet on the 4th Thursday of the month in the lower level of Broad Ripple United Methodist Church, (6185 N. Guilford Ave.) at Noon. They enjoy lunch together and then play Bunco, finishing up around 2 pm.

### 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.

## Youth Group in May

**5/6** Youth Group will not meet

**5/11** Youth Group movie night.

Time is TBD.

**5/13** Mother's Day – Youth Group will not meet.

**5/20** Youth Group meets 5:30 - 7:30 at Northminster.

**5/27** Memorial Day Weekend – Youth Group will not meet.

## Church School in May

Our Season of Easter continues this month. We will celebrate Pentecost on May 20th. Be sure to wear your red! Our Preschool and Church School use the curriculum of Seasons of the Spirit. The following prayer comes from our Preschool curriculum for May 6, 2018. "Loving God, open our hearts to love more freely and more fully. Abide in our hearts. Flow into our lives with wonder and joy. Help us to offer ourselves generously, as we learn how to be a friend and show the gifts of true friendship. Amen."

May 6, 2018 - Focus Scripture: John 15:9–17: Our preschool will imagine God's love encircling everyone, helping us to be friends. What does it mean to you that Jesus calls you friend? How do such friends support one another as the community that is the body of Christ?

May 13, 2018 - Focus Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26: This week our church school class will explore prayer and leadership with the early Christian community.

### Graduate Sunday

In worship on Sunday, May 20, we will be recognizing our college and high school graduates. If you or a member of your family is graduating and would like to be included in this service, please contact Maureen Wilson via e-mail at [mwilson@northminster-indy.org](mailto:mwilson@northminster-indy.org).

What are some ways that children can be leaders in our church?

May 20, 2018 - Focus Scripture: Acts 2:1-21: Our lesson this week celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. What is God's Spirit helping our church to do?



*(2016 Preschool, Pentecost hat)*

May 27, 2018 - Focus Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8: Our church school classes will experience God's awesome presence and call through Isaiah's story. Where do you think people experience God today?

## IHN / Family Promise

Once again, Northminster members filled the Driving, Activity, Meal Preparation and Overnight schedule as we welcomed four families during the week of April 1-8. We had 9 children under the age of 7 and their respective mothers!

To continue our support of Family Promise/IHN, please consider supporting Walking for Dreams, a Family & Pet Walk on Sunday, May 20, beginning at Buggs Temple in downtown Indianapolis. Registration is at 1 pm, with a casual stroll along the canal beginning at 2 pm. Walking for Dreams supports over 20 Indianapolis-area non-profit organizations, including Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis.

You can walk, walk and donate, or just donate. Our team is the Northminster Striders. Join at [walkingfordreams.org](http://walkingfordreams.org) and click "register now."

Look for IHN Coordinators in the Gathering Place beginning April 29, to help you register to walk or take your donations. If you have questions, contact Dolly Craft at 317-502-2080 or [dollybike317@gmail.com](mailto:dollybike317@gmail.com).

## Mission Team News

**Saturday, July 28th**

### Back to School Extravaganza

Clothing pickup will commence in late May/early June. Washing and sorting can begin as soon as clothing drop-offs start.

**Sunday, September 16th**

### Day of Caring

Organization signups will begin in August; watch News & Views for details.

**Second Tuesday at Second Pres**

That's Northminster Day. We are looking for a few new volunteers. This requires only a few hours (11:30am – 3pm), and everyone is trained. The more, the merrier! Also, plastic and paper bags continue to be collected and can be placed in the labeled wire basket across from the Church Office.

John Reed is the man with the Pantry Food Plan: (317-257-8784 or [bjjkreed@comcast.com](mailto:bjjkreed@comcast.com)).



*Pastor Ruth delivers the PCUSA Peacemaking Offering check to the Indy Ten Point Coalition to help with their ministry of reducing violence.*

## Heifer International Donation from the Church School

On February 18, all children attending the 9am and 11am Church School had the opportunity to learn about Heifer International. They learned that their gifts to the milk pail during Children's Time, a memorial gift, and several individual gifts such as the quarter tube and various checks given by adults contributed to the gift amount.

Mrs. Plunkett then gave each child the chance to choose the donation they wished from a list of animals,

plants and essential items. Here are the results: 2 flocks of chicks, 2 sets of honeybees, 1 biogas stove, 1 set of tree seedlings, 4 sets of 3 rabbits, 1 goat, 1 sheep, 1 llama/alpaca, 2 water buffalo and 1 heifer.

The total gift was \$1,840! What a huge gift to people in need around the world. Northminster received a Thank You letter from Pierre U. Ferrari, President and CEO of Heifer International for our generous

gift. Thanks to everyone for such a wonderful donation!





## Curious Conversations

### Sundays, June 3 and 10

What are Curious Conversations? They are a time for people new to the congregation to have conversations about faith, the ministry and mission of Northminster Church, and to discuss how you can get involved in the life of this congregation. May is a busy month for most people, so this is a heads up about 2 different opportunities to get in on the conversations.

Join us on Sundays, June 3 and June 10, at 10 am in the Conference Room, for two one-hour conversations. June 3 is a time to get to meet other new people, to

discuss our faith as Christians in the 21st Century, and to learn what it means to be a Presbyterian. June 10 will be a sharing about the ministry and mission of Northminster. You are encouraged to attend both sessions.

If Sunday mornings are difficult for you, we will also offer Curious Conversations at 12:15 pm on Sunday, June 3, in the Conference Room. We will discuss everything mentioned above and be done by 2:15 or so. Lunch will be provided as well as childcare for those who need it.

Please RSVP to Associate Pastor Ruth Moore so she can have materials, food and childcare available: [ruthmoore@northminster-indy.org](mailto:ruthmoore@northminster-indy.org) or 317-251-9489 ext. 14.

Curious Conversations are not new member classes. They are a chance to learn more about NPC and get to know other people in the church. But, opportunities to “officially” join the church will be discussed. If you have questions or want to speak to Ruth individually, please contact her.



## What in God's Name are You Doing?

This summer we would like to include you in the worship service. So many of you do so many wonderful things outside of the church that serve others or help our community. We want to hear about that.

What are you doing as a volunteer, where do you see your faith at work in the world, where do you share the love and friendship that you find in church with others? Can you briefly tell us where your work is bearing good fruit or where

you are hoping to make a difference? Please contact Pastor Teri ([terithomas@northminster-indy.org](mailto:terithomas@northminster-indy.org)) if you are interested in more details.

*(Below: NPC members at Gleaners)*



## Birthdays in May

Thomas Stayton	5/1	Todd Ellington	5/14	Bill Dugan	5/20
Eric Mokube	5/2	Mary F. Smith	5/14	Clarice Stegall	5/20
William Sibley	5/2	Dave Skeels	5/15	Nancy Diehl	5/21
Sara Williams	5/2	Jane Fleming	5/16	Kent Damisch	5/22
Patricia Rodenbeck	5/8	Grace Drennan	5/17	Cathy Robinson	5/23
Marilyn Wharam	5/9	Rodney Mail	5/17	Teri Thomas	5/23
Barbara Sloop	5/10	William Boris	5/18	Rick Melton	5/25
Krista Wright	5/11	Sue Gleason	5/19	Mark Larew	5/27
Phillip Bristow	5/12	Mary E Mitchell	5/19	Carrie Savage-Zimmerman	5/27
Jonathan Klinginsmith	5/13	Anne Weinheimer	5/19	Evan Schlabach	5/27
David Neitzel	5/13	Richard L White	5/19	Myron Austin	5/29
Robert Scott Walker	5/13	Virginia Barnes	5/20	Stephanie Voll	5/31
Catherine Brown	5/14				

## May Calendar Highlights

5/1	7:00 PM	Team Meeting Night
5/4	7:00 AM	Spring Plant Sale Pick-Up
5/6	10:00 AM	Offering of Letters
	10:00 AM	Honoring the Legacy of Martin Luther and Martin Luther King Jr.
	12:00 PM	Offering of Letters
5/8	5:00 AM	NPC is a precinct voting site
	4:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
	7:00 PM	Deacons Meeting
5/9	9:00 AM	NorthStars - Richmond Trip
5/11	5:00 PM	Youth Fellowship - Movie Night
5/12	10:00 AM	Sue Decker Service
	11:00 AM	Sue Decker Calling
5/14	6:00PM	Stephen Ministers
5/15	7:00 PM	Session Meeting
5/16	6:15 PM	Parents With a Passion - last meeting
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir - last rehearsal
5/18	7:00 PM	Sound & Spirit Concert - Tannahill Weavers
5/20	10:00 AM	Graduate Recognition & Reception for Marland Pittman and Cheryl Plunkett
	12:00 PM	New Member Brunch
5/22	6:00 PM	Circle 3 - Sarah Circle
5/27	10:00 AM	4th Sunday Adult Education
5/28	10:30 AM	Stephen Ministers Leaders
	1:00 PM	Ministerial Support Committee
5/30	6:00 PM	School 55 Honors Banquet

## Reception for Cheryl Plunkett and Marland Pittman

**Sunday, May 20 at 10:00 am**

Stay late or come early so you can join us at 10:00 am in the Gathering Place. We will be saying “thank you” and “goodbye” to Marland Pittman and Cheryl Plunkett. We will also celebrate our grads. Plan to join us!



## Deacons Spring Plant Sale Pickup

Friday, May 4, in the parking lot, 10 am – 6 pm.

## NorthStars Trip - May 9 Richmond's Tiffany Windows

Wednesday, May 9, leave from Northminster, gathering at 8:30. First ten to register for the bus will ride with Doug Sherow driving; others may set up carpools as they arrive. (Directions will be given.) Arrive at 10:30 at First Presbyterian. We will walk a block or two to St. Paul's Episcopal, and ride to Old Richmond Inn for lunch. Wear comfortable shoes.

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

## Honoring the Legacy of Martin Luther and Martin Luther King Jr.

The Reformation and Civil Rights Movement have indelibly shaped Protestant theology and its public witness.

Join our Seminary Intern, Marland Pittman, on Sunday, May 6, at 10 am, as he offers a brief presentation on some of what he learned from his trips and discussions.



## The Tannahill Weavers in Concert

Friday, May 18, 7 pm

The award-winning Scottish band, the Tannahill Weavers, will be in concert at Northminster Presbyterian Church 7:00, Friday, May 18, as part of the church's *Sound & Spirit* series. The band makes a rare stop in Indianapolis as part of their 50th anniversary tour. Throughout the years, the Tannahill Weavers have been trailblazers for Scottish music, and their tight harmonies and inventive arrangements have won them fans from beyond the folk and Celtic music scenes. Since their first visit to the United States

in 1981, the band's unique combination of traditional melodies on pipes, flute and fiddle, driving rhythms on guitar and bouzouki, and powerful three and four part vocal harmonies have taken the musical community by storm. As Garrison Keillor, the former host of "Prairie Home Companion" remarked, "These guys are a bunch of heroes every time they go on tour in the States."

All are welcome to hear this incredible band as they bring Celtic

music from Scotland to Indiana. From reflective ballads to foot stomping reels and jigs, the variety and range of the material the Tannahill Weavers perform is matched only by their enthusiasm and lively Celtic spirits. As with all *Sound & Spirit* events, the concert is free and child care is provided.



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

[www.northminster-indy.org](http://www.northminster-indy.org)

317-251-9489