

# NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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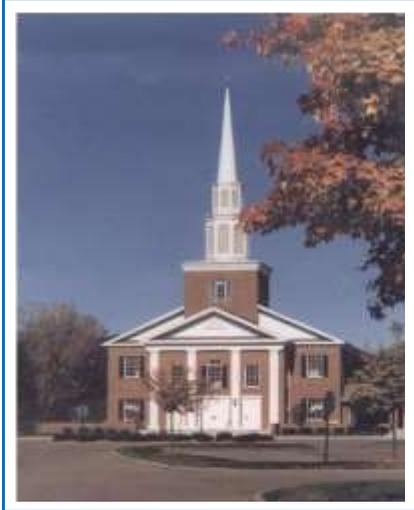
*North  
Congregational  
Church*



*June, 2019  
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*“God is Love: Pass It On!”*



*We are gathered for worship of God and service to humanity.*

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**CROP WALK THANKS!**

Our 2019 Farmington/Farmington Hills/West Bloomfield CROP Hunger Walk was a big success, a beautiful day, and an important fundraiser for hunger relief around the world, in our country, and in our community via local partners CARES of Farmington Hills, Neighborhood House, the Salvation Army, and Yad Ezra Kosher Food Pantry.

As of Walk Day plus two weeks, 191 Walkers plus about 25 support volunteers raised over \$29,000, with more coming in every day. Our North Church CROP Walk team of 9 people has brought in \$2,180.00.

THERE’S STILL TIME TO DONATE! Stop by the CROP Table in Fellowship Hall by June 9, or make an online donation at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/farmingtonmi/Team/View/92051/North-CongregationalChurch>

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## *From the Minister...*

June is busting out all over—with activities and events as we wind down the 2-18-19 program year!

On **Sunday June 2**, we'll celebrate COMMUNION, as well as INSTALLATION of our new officers, board and committee members, and welcoming two CONFIRMATION students into the Covenant of North Church!

**Sunday, June 9 is PENTECOST**, often called “the birthday of the Church,” as we recall and reflect on the arrival of the Holy Spirit in wind and flame to empower Jesus’ disciples to go into all the world. WEAR RED to help us celebrate! It’s also the day we will RECOGNIZE THE WORK OF SO MANY VOLUNTEERS over the past year. After worship, everyone is invited to enjoy treats and fun at the ICE CREAM SOCIAL during Coffee Hour!

After that, it’s not time to take a vacation from church, though we will have a more relaxed approach with multi-grade Sunday School and simpler worship with soloists instead of a full choir. In the next several months, IMPORTANT WORK WILL BEGIN ON GOVERNANCE AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR NORTH CHURCH. We’ll be exploring questions that include: Where is God calling us? How can we make ministry opportunities more available for more people? How can we focus primarily on ministry instead of ‘running the church’? What can we do and be in this community beyond worship and programs in the church building? And, how can we go into new places and meet new people to invite into shared ministry with North Church? **Moderator Kevin Gromley** is convening work groups, and if you are interested or have questions, he’ll be happy to talk with you after July 1st.

All this year we’ve been exploring a theme that I hope will become part of your faith journey ever more: GOD IS LOVE! PASS IT ON!

*Rev. Mary E. Biedron*



## *Moderator's Notes...*

At our recent Annual Meeting we approved the slate from the Nominating Committee, which included yours truly as Moderator. So now I am no longer ‘interim’. Thank you for that approval, I will do my best for our Church and our Congregation.

We had our first meeting of this program year’s Executive Council on the Monday after the Annual Meeting. It is a wonderful group, I look forward to working with them.

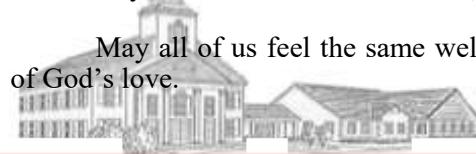
There are two major initiatives I hope to undertake with Council this year. The first, already underway, is to look at our Church’s structure and governance. We have a smaller Congregation than we did 50 or so years ago, yet we have the same number of Boards and Committees, in some cases with the same requirements for numbers of members. Executive Council has formed a task team comprised of Church members (some on Council, some not). This team will look at the number and composition of our various Boards, as well as the way we make decisions. The team’s objective is to make recommendations to Council by the fall and, pending Council’s approval, present to the Congregation for consideration at our January meeting. The intent is to streamline both our structure and decision-making, so that we can better focus on our ministry and serving God’s will.

The second initiative, to begin later this year, is to look at our Church’s future. We are currently in a sound financial condition. As our membership has declined, however, from a financial perspective we have become more dependent upon our generous endowment funds. I envision something of a reprise of our last long range planning committee, exploring options around increasing membership and securing our fiscal future. We have a wonderful, engaged, welcoming Church and all of us want to see her continue as a viable, sustaining organization.

I will share something from our last Council meeting. Several of you met Jim and Christine Gooding. They were visitors from England who were with us several Sundays, including Easter. Back home now, they sent us a letter and some photos of their church, which we shared in Council (I’ll post a copy outside Fellowship Hall). They told us that, while they were in the U.S., they were looking for a church to attend. They tried another in the area, but noted that no one spoke with them. They then came to North Church, and felt welcomed as family.

May all of us feel the same welcome in our Church, and the same embrace of God’s love.

*Kevin Gromley*



## In Worship on SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND

**COMMUNION...** will be celebrated during Worship.



**CONFIRMATION...** we will be welcoming our Confirmands into the covenant of North Church on **Sunday, June 2nd** in Worship.



**INSTALLATION...** of newly elected Officers, Board and Committee Members, and Delegates to state and national associations of which we are a part.

## COFFEE HOUR...



will held each Sunday in the **PLYMOUTH/BRADFORD ROOM**, beginning **June 16th through September 1st**. Sign up sheets, circle of care cards and informational materials and brochures may be found on the tables just outside the Plymouth Room.

## YOUTH UNITED

We have joined a group of congregations in an interfaith youth mission effort – Youth United. Youth United is working on several projects to assist CARES in creating a community garden and attractive reflective spaces on its Farmington Hills campus. There will be opportunities throughout the year, but the main focus will be during a **Summer Camp** for middle and high school students the week of **July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Look for an e-mail with information or contact **Danny Hawkins** if you are interested in assisting.



## GRADUATION TIME IS HERE!



May and June are graduation months for high school, college, and graduate students! Help us celebrate this milestone in the lives of our North Church members and friends. Please e-mail your graduate's information and bring in a photo for us to display!

### HIGH SCHOOL

#### **Claire Hornburg,**

Claire goes to Birmingham Groves High School, and will be going to New York University (NYU) in the fall.

#### **Thomas Lichtenberg**

Harrison High School, and will be attending Kalamazoo College in the fall.

#### **Julianne Noye,**

North Farmington High School, and will be attending Michigan State University in the fall, studying Political Science.

#### **Brandon Webster,**

Farmington High School, and will be attending Northern Virginia Community College to transfer to Gallaudet University to pursue a Bachelors in Interpreting.

## RENAISSANCE VOICES CONCERT

**Sunday, June 9, 4:00 p.m.**



**Renaissance Voices**, a 20-voice women's ensemble directed by G. Kevin Dewey, at favorite selections from the group's tour to France and Switzerland twenty years ago.

Renaissance Voices will perform *Stars* (Erik Esenvalds, for voices and water-tuned glasses), *Ave Maris Stella* (Frank La Rocca), *Wonderous Love* (Paul Christiansen), *More I Cannot Wish You* (Phil Mattson arrangement), and works by Lela Anderson, Felice Anerio, Craig Courtney, Thomas Morley, J. David Moore, and Kirby Shaw.

The women of Renaissance Voices enjoy performing the finest in treble choral literature. The group, based at Henry Ford College in Dearborn, has taken four overseas concert tours and released three CDs, all recorded at North Church.

Tickets at the door are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. North Church members may purchase tickets in advance for \$10 (please contact **Nancy Scott**).

## June Activities



### MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

A group of North Church men meet for breakfast at **Moe's on Ten Mile** (just west of Haggerty) every other Tuesday morning at **9:00 a.m.** If you are interested in a little lively conversation with your breakfast, please contact **Steve Lange** at [stephenlange@me.com](mailto:stephenlange@me.com). He will add you to their e-mail list so you can get updates on their schedule.

### FLICK CHICKS Thursday, June 6

The first Thursday of the month we meet for a movie at the Regal Crown Theater near 14 Mile and Haggerty, and we follow the movie with dinner at Applebee's. On Sunday, June 2nd we will select the movie during Coffee Hour and will see it on **Thursday, June 6th**. Please speak to **Carol Turner** if you would like to be added to the e-mail list.

### PLARN GROUP

Join us on **June 19th at 2:15 p.m.** in Room 3 to help with our mission of making mats for the homeless to sleep on. Come and join the fun!

### WEDNESDAY LADIES' LUNCH GROUP

Join us each Wednesday for lunch at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are needed, all women of the church are welcome!

June 05: El Mariachi  
June 12: Ruby Tuesday  
June 19: Olive Garden  
June 26: Scrambler Marie's

### BOOK GROUP

Our **June 19<sup>th</sup>** book will be This is How it Always Is, by Laurie Frankel.

The New York Times calls this novel "a **beguiling tale of a sprawling, loving, ever-changing, unconventional, and yet completely typical modern family as they make their way through a world with no easy answers and no magic "solutions."** Issues engaged by this book include love, loss, gender identity, and how a family finds new ways to be together and relate to one another.

All are welcome! Bring your thoughts and your questions to the conversation!

## APPRECIATION SUNDAY

June 9, 2019

Music, Education and Leadership



As we celebrate the last day of regular Sunday School and the close of the year for the Chancel Choir, Teen Bells and the Chancel Bells, we'll have a time of celebration and appreciation for the work of so many dedicated volunteers during the morning worship service. We will also express gratitude for those who go to meetings, teach Sunday School and Summer Sunday School, work on the church grounds, organize mission trips, serve as lay readers, acolytes, and offer hospitality at church meals and services.



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Enjoy Guernsey ice cream and a variety of toppings at the annual end-of-the-program year celebration, put together by the Board of Christian Fellowship and Education! Come to Coffee Hour and share in this fun annual tradition on **Sunday, June 9th**.

## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, June 16 - August 25

We'll be having a **One Room Sunday School** again this summer, for children presently in **Preschool through Grade 6**. Lesson materials will include age appropriate activities for the youngest to the oldest students, Bring your children for these more relaxed summer Sundays! Infant and Toddler care will be available every week. **We will not have class Sunday, September 1st**, due to Labor Day Weekend.



**SAMARITAN COUNSELING CENTER**  
of Southeastern Michigan

29887 West Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
Phone: 248 474-4701  
Website: [www.sccmich.org](http://www.sccmich.org)

**18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHARTY GOLF OUTING:**

SCC's Golf Outing raises money for our Client Assistance Fund, or CAF, which makes high-quality therapeutic care accessible for clients who would otherwise not be able to afford it. The CAF is solely funded by private contributors and SCC fundraising, and all monies raised from this Golf Outing are used in the Client Assistance Fund. This year's outing will be on **Friday, June 14, 2019, at Tanglewood Golf Course, 22805 Country Club Drive, South Lyon, MI 48178.** Please contact our main office at **248 - 474-4701** for more information.



**PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE WORKSHOP:**

This workshop, led by experienced leaders, provides opportunities for couples to identify and explore both strengths and areas of potential difficulties in their relationship. Couples will consider the complexity of marriage, recognize what each individual brings to this relationship, and clarify the expectations both have as they enter into this commitment.

**DATES:** June 22<sup>nd</sup> at First UMC of Northville  
September 21<sup>st</sup> at First UMC of Birmingham

**TIME:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

**FEE:** \$225 per couple. A \$125 deposit is required at registration

Please contact SCC's main office at 248 474-4701 or visit our website, [sccmich.org](http://sccmich.org), for further information. Private sessions can be arranged any time throughout the year for an additional \$50 fee.



**SAVE THE DATE**

for the

**ANNUAL WOMEN'S  
FELLOWSHIP DINNER**

**Monday, June 17th,**

All women are invited to share  
dinner with friends at,

**ANTONIO'S RESTAURANT**

37646 W. 12 Mile Road,  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331  
Telephone: 248-994-4000,

at **6:30 P.M.** There will be separate checks  
and we will order from the main menu.

It is necessary to sign up in order to  
give the restaurant a firm number of women attending.

Contact **Carol Turner** for further information, 248-714-9257.

## NORTH CHURCH WISH LIST PROGRAM

Suggestions for financial donations above and beyond pledge giving

What is the **Wish List** Program?

The Wish List Program was established to publicize and provide funding for special requests and long-term projects which benefit North Congregational Church. Wish List items are not covered by the yearly operating budget and are funded by non-pledge donations from Church members and friends.

How are items added to the **Wish List**?

Suggestions are accepted from members of the Church and also from Boards, Committees or other Organizations of the Church. Suggestions are compiled by the Board of Trustees and reviewed by Executive Council.

How are **Wish List** items funded?

Monetary donations may be made by submitting a check to the Business Manager or using the online donation form at the church website. Donations will be held for the requested purpose until used. Gifts may be treated anonymously if desired.

*Check the Members' Corner of the church website for updates!*

### WISH LIST – SPECIFIC ITEMS OR SERVICES

<u>Item or Project</u>	<u>Funds Needed</u>	<u>Status</u>
Picnic table with umbrella (courtyard)	\$1,500 (approx.)	
Permanent usher tags	TBD	
Speakerphone for conference calls	\$100-\$250	
Music program (soloists & instrumentalists)	Any amount welcome	
<i>Promotional mailing costs</i>	<i>\$150 per mailing</i>	<i>Funds for one mailing - thank you!</i>
<i>Replacement microphone</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>Complete – thank you!</i>

### WISH LIST – LONG TERM PLANNING

<u>Item</u>	<u>Funds Needed</u>	<u>Status</u>
Cash gifts to be placed in a restricted account for major building & grounds expenses	Any amount welcome	\$30,000 to date <i>(see note)</i>
Selected estimates:		
Future roof replacement	\$112,700 (total goal)	
Future sanctuary furnace replacement	\$45,000 (total goal)	

*Note: \$27,000 donation for roof or furnaces plus \$3,000 funded from 2019 operating budget.*

**If you would like to be a Lay Reader or Greeter on a Sunday morning, please let us know by signing up on the sheets provided outside of Fellowship Hall.**

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#### LAY READERS

June 2 - Susie Hawkins  
 June 9 - Karen Moore  
 June 16 - Jane Windell  
 June 23 - TBA  
 June 30 - TBA

#### GREETERS

**June 2**  
 Steve Plummer, Paula Paige  
**June 9**  
 Carol Turner  
**June 16**  
 Gene and Sandy Greer  
**June 23**  
 TBA  
**June 30**  
 Jane Windell

#### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

**June 2** - Pete Shand, Art Lanier  
**June 9** - Sandy Greer, Jack Cooper  
**June 16** - Steve Plummer, Donna Nordman  
**June 23** - Jane Windell, Lee Poesé  
**June 30** - Steve Lange, Greg Fernandes

### July Newsletter...

All articles are needed by the **15th of each month**, in order for everyone to receive their newsletter, whether electronically or through the mail, before the beginning of the upcoming month. Paper copies take a couple days to get to everyone, and we'd like to have those extra paper copies on the Visitor's Table early for pick up. I will be happy to add any articles that come in after the 15th to the Sunday bulletin announcements, and the weekly church planner. Thank you for your assistance!



### Diaconate Benevolences... for the month of June

*Cass Community Social Services, Common Ground Sanctuary,  
 Days for Girls, Farmington YMCA  
 Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Michigan*



# Calendar

(Current version of our calendar can be found on our web site: [northcongregationalchurch.org](http://northcongregationalchurch.org))



## June 2, 2019 - Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Confirmation, Sunday School  
Installation of newly elected Officers, Board Members and Delegates  
Lay Reader: Susie Hawkins

## June 4, 2019 - Tuesday

- 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast CLUB - Moe's on Ten
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Bell Rehearsal

## June 5, 2019 - Wednesday

- 11:30 a.m. Wednesday Ladies' Lunch Group - El Mariachi

## June 6, 2019 - Thursday

Flick Chicks - Movie at Regal Crown Theater - Dinner at Applebee's

## June 9, 2019 - Pentecost / Recognition Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Children's Message, Sunday School, High School Class,  
Lay Reader: Karen Moore
- 11:45 a.m. **Ice Cream Social - Fellowship Hall**  
Christian Fellowship and Education Meeting
- 4:00 p.m. Renaissance Voices Concert - Sanctuary

## June 12, 2019 - Wednesday

- 11:30 a.m. Wednesday Ladies' Lunch Group - Ruby Tuesday
- 7:30 p.m. Trustee Meeting - Room 3, Pilgrim Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Diaconate Meeting - Plymouth/Bradford Room



## June 16, 2019 - Sunday - Happy Father's Day!

- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Summer Sunday School  
Lay Reader: Jane Windell
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour - Plymouth/Bradford Room



## June 17, 2019 - Monday

- 6:30 p.m. Women's Fellowship Annual Dinner - Antonio's Restaurant, on 12 Mile and Halsted

## June 18, 2019 - Tuesday

- 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast CLUB - Moe's on Ten

## June 19, 2019 - Wednesday

- 11:30 a.m. Wednesday Ladies' Lunch Group - Olive Garden
- 1:00 p.m. Book Group - Library
- 2:15 p.m. Plarn Group - Room 3

## June 22-25, 2019 - Saturday - Tuesday

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches' Annual Meeting - Cleveland, Ohio

## June 23, 2019 - Sunday

- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Summer Sunday School  
Guest Speaker: TBA; Lay Reader: TBA
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour - Plymouth/Bradford Room

## June 26, 2019 - Wednesday

- 11:30 a.m. Wednesday Ladies' Lunch Group - Scrambler Marie's

## June 30, 2019 - Sunday

- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Summer Sunday School  
Lay Reader: TBA
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour - Plymouth/Bradford Room



*Board Orientation for new and continuing members will be held in early September, date and time to be announced.*