

## JULY, 2021 NEWSLETTER

### “Hope Does Not Disappoint Us”

- Romans 5:1-5

#### *From the Minister...*



**We're BACK!** And it's been wonderful already to see and connect with North Church members and friends! The services will continue to be available online, streaming live on July 4 & 25, and after worship is complete, as recordings on July 11 & 18. On those days I'll be away on vacation, and I'm grateful to North Church member **Greg Fernandes** and **Todd Lipa**, Director of CARES, for speaking in my absence, as well as to **Kevin Gromley** for recording and then posting the service.

**LAY READERS** will be in person now as well; if you'd like to be a reader, offering the invocation, Lord's Prayer and scripture, but were concerned about making videos, now's your chance! Email me at [ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com](mailto:ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com) and I'll get you on the list!

**SOME PRECAUTIONS STILL APPLY** – We will not be requiring masks at worship for those who've been vaccinated; those who wish to continue wearing masks because of concern for their own health and the health of others, or who are not vaccinated (as is the case for children), are free to do so. We will not pressure you one way or another! For anyone who has additional concern about being in a mixed masked/unmasked gathering, we will make the balcony a masks-only zone each week. Seating will continue to be every other pew so that we can sing without concern, the offering will continue to be a retiring offering, plates available in the Narthex (or you may contribute online at [NorthCongregationalChurch.org](http://NorthCongregationalChurch.org)), and we will have a simple one-page bulletin with the responsive parts and hymn words.

**COFFEE HOUR IS BACK TOO** - We are suspending the zoom coffee hour and inviting everyone who attends in person to gather in the Plymouth Room (as has been our custom for several years in the summer) for coffee, bottled water, and pre-wrapped snacks. Weather permitting, you are welcome to go out the doors onto the Courtyard Patio to socialize. There will be table seating as well. **WE NEED COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS**, two per week, to set out the paper cups, napkins, snacks, and to make the coffee. Go to the signup genius link at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4eaead2dabfd0-coffee> to volunteer!

**GUEST SPEAKERS ON JULY 11 AND 18** – I'll be away on those Sundays and am grateful to **Greg Fernandes who will speak on July 11** and **Todd Lipa, who will speak on the 18<sup>th</sup>**. As I've been both the preacher and the AV club, we will not be streaming live in my absence, but the service will be recorded and go up on Facebook and YouTube ASAP after worship. I hope you'll come hear what these speakers have to share!

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH – OR IN CHURCH, ONLINE!!**

*Rev. Mary E. Biedron*



## ***JULY MEETINGS***

Women's Fellowship Meeting – Wednesday, July 7th at 12:30 p.m.

Fellowship Ministry Board – Tentatively Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

***NOT MEETING IN JULY:*** Diaconate, Missions, Assets, Worship, Education

## ***NORTH CHURCH ARTICLES AND ACTIVITIES***

### ***COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

We need two volunteers to help out each Sunday at Coffee Hour. Please see the link to the sign up below for more information, and to sign up. (So far we have not had any people sign up.) Articles and sign up genius links will be sent out monthly. If you have any questions, please contact **Janice Thornton**, Facilities Coordinator at [ncc.churchoffice.janice@gmail.com](mailto:ncc.churchoffice.janice@gmail.com) or Cell - 248-535-5806.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4eaead2dabfd0-coffee>

### ***MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB***

A group of North Church Men meet every other Tuesday for breakfast at Moe's on Ten, at 9:00 a.m. They will be meeting on **July 13th** and **27th**. If you would like to join them, please contact **Steve Lange** at [stephenlange@me.com](mailto:stephenlange@me.com).

### ***WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP***

Our July meeting will be "Lunch in the Park" at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills. The park is located on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile Rd. The park is on the west side of Farmington Road. Enter the park and at the first stop sign, turn LEFT. Follow the road around, past the windmill. Parking lot is on the right side and we will probably be on the left side of the road.

**Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm.** Please bring a chair and your lunch.

Short meeting and time for fellowship. We welcome all women, members and friends of NCC.

If you have any questions, please call **Carol Turner** - 248-714-9257.



## MASCOTT'S Summer Event



**WHAT:** Tropical Themed Party (pull out those Hawaiian shirts or your favorite vacation garb:)

**WHEN:** **Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

**WHERE:** Sirovy's back yard=tropical paradise  
28490 Cumberland, Farmington Hills Michigan 48334

**WHY:** 4 of our current members, plus one friend of Mascott's, are retiring as of July 15<sup>th</sup>. That's right! **Susie & Danny Hawkins, Tim Sirovy, Margaret**

**Plummer and Robin Kremer** are all going on a permanent vacation!

\*All are welcome to attend!

\*Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

\*\*Your presence is the only present required\*\*

\*Any questions please email Karen Sirovy at [Karensirovy@gmail.com](mailto:Karensirovy@gmail.com) or call 248-505-8052

## ***BOOK GROUP***

Going forward, we will be in person in the church library AND live on zoom (a hybrid experience!) so watch the planner for zoom contact info if you are out of town or prefer to stay remote. Some nonfiction is slated for discussion in July and August:

**Wednesday, July 28th @ 1 PM.** - **“Untamed” by Glennon Doyle.** In “Untamed,” Doyle writes about the ways in which she was caged by internalized misogyny, religious doctrine and homophobia, an eating disorder that started in her early adolescence, alcoholism and what became a performative marriage.

**Wednesday, August 18th @ 1 PM.** - **“The Unbreakable Child” by Kim Michelle Richardson.** This is a beautifully told story about strength and an enduring faith that can lead but one place: to forgiveness. Grim yet ultimately inspiring, this harrowing biography catalogues years of institutional abuse that took place in the Saint Thomas—Saint Vincent Orphan Asylum, a Catholic orphanage in Anchorage, Kentucky.

## ***NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GOLF OUTING***

Please join us for the North Church fall Golf Outing at Farmington Hills Golf Club beginning at **3:30 p.m.** on the afternoon of **September 12th.** We will play a nine-hole scramble (beginners welcome) followed by dinner at the Greek Island Bar & Grill at the golf course. Non-golfers are welcome to join us for dinner. The cost for golf will be \$26 and is payable at the

golf course. Dinner is a la carte. A signup sheet will be outside Fellowship Hall or you may contact Fellowship Ministry Board Activity Team to sign up.

## ***DIACONATE BENEVOLENCES for the month of July***

Olivet College, Farmington/Farmington Hills Meals on Wheels

### ***A CROSSROADS THANK YOU...***



Dear Sara and Steve, Soup Team Members, and Friends at North Congregational Church,

I want to thank you for the wonderful messages and wishes from you, my dear friends at North Congregational! I received this beautiful gift with great joy. Thank you so very much. Please know that I have your gift with my Bible at the entrance to my room and I cherish each and every message.

I am also writing to thank you for all that you have done and for all that you have contributed to make our Crossroads Soup Kitchen a welcoming, nutritious, hospitable place. Also, I want to thank you for all that you contributed to ensure that the meals we serve are healthy, safe, delicious, and nutritious, even while we struggled with the pandemic during these past fourteen months.

Since 1977 Crossroads Soup Kitchen has served over a million nutritious meals to people in need. Your sponsorship and soup teams helped to make this important work happen.

Over the past many weeks and years, I have sincerely enjoyed working with you and I thank our Loving God for each of you and for your dedication to the mission of Crossroads.

Because it is time for me to leave this wonderful work, Monday, June 14 was my last day of working at Crossroads Soup Kitchen. Already I have moved from Detroit, to our IHM Sisters Senior Living Community in Monroe, Michigan.

My time at Crossroads has been blessing and grace. I am grateful beyond words for the opportunity to work with impoverished people, and to work with you and with your soup teams. Together we provided meals, help, and hope to the wonderful people who came to us in need.

**New Soup Kitchen Coordinator:** **Lucy Avery-Walk**, a talented and gifted Crossroads' Social Worker has been selected by Nicole, our Executive Director to coordinate the Crossroads Soup Kitchen. Lucy has been part of the Crossroads team during recent years. Now, with her new appointment, I believe she will do a wonderful job, also serving as Coordinator of Crossroads Soup Kitchen.

**Promise of Prayerful Support:** I hope and pray that you will continue to sponsor Sunday Soup Kitchens at Crossroads. For my part I will be joining you in prayer and sending good energy. Also, from this day into the far distant future If you or your family need prayerful support, please contact me. I will alert and seek the prayer of over 200 retired IHM sisters. These sisters are as close to our Loving God as anyone can get. So please call on us when you are in need of prayer...

Your sister and friend,

Sister Elizabeth Walters, IHM (Sister Liz)

610 W. Elm Ave. Monroe, Michigan, 48162-7909

Email: [ewalters@ihmsisters.org](mailto:ewalters@ihmsisters.org)