

# NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OCTOBER, 2022 NEWSLETTER

“The Greatest of These is Love”  
- 1 Corinthians 13:13



## *From the Minister...*

As the fall snap comes into the air and the cider mill is making donuts and cider, our thoughts turn to all kinds of fall events and activities in our faith and in the life of our church. **WORSHIP** – It’s been so great to have the choir back! While they sound wonderful on our live stream, it’s even better in person, I hope you’ll consider taking an hour of your Sunday mornings to come for 10:30 worship followed by coffee hour.

On **Sunday October 2, World Wide Communion Sunday**, we’ll celebrate Communion at the 10:30 worship service in person, live streamed, and alongside Christians in many traditions around the world. Our table is open to all; there are no requirements or restrictions as we celebrate God’s love for all humanity. If you join online, you will want to have a beverage and piece of bread of your choice ready.

### **HALLOWEEN/TRICK OR TREAT/ ALL SAINTS**

There are many observations this month. We will be having a couple of cars at the Farmington Hills Faith and Blue Trunk or Treat event on **October 9** at the Costick Center; see the flyer on the church website for more on that event, 3-6 PM.

Our own Trunk or Treat will be held after worship on **Sunday, October 30th** in the parking lot. Before the event, our Fellowship Ministry Board invites everyone to join in a free lunch – “strolling tacos” in Fellowship Hall, then out to the parking lot for an event where we will welcome our nearby neighbors as well as our own folks to join in the fun and treats. Watch for more in the planner, on the website, and on the church Facebook page. Costumes encouraged for young and old!

**HALLOWEEN and ALL SAINTS** – We’ll be celebrating and remembering on **October 30th** in the worship service, as we recall those church members, family members, and friends who’ve died in the past year and over the years. If you have someone you’d like remembered by name, please send that name to me at [ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com](mailto:ncc.seniorminister@gmail.com).

**MISSIONS AND STEWARDSHIP** – Our theme for this year, “The Greatest of These is Love” finds expression in the work of our Missions and Ministries in our community and around the world. Speakers have highlighted our benevolences, and a great group went to **CROSSROADS** on September 25th to serve lunch and share homemade cookies and hygiene kits put together by the congregation. Missions is not a one-month focus, however; our service to God’s people in God’s world is important year round! Check sign-ups for our next mission opportunities, and consider how you support care for the hungry, homeless, hopeless, homeless,

and refugees of the world.



...Which brings me to STEWARDSHIP – a time each fall when we recall what we are accomplishing in the name of Christ and what support each of us will give – both financial and by volunteering time and skills – to the world of the church. We will be sending out Estimate of Giving cards which will be gathered in on **Dedication Sunday, November 6th**, so start considering what you will share with North Church, and through our work together, what we can create in the world.

Faithfully,

*Rev. Mary E. Biedron*

### *Moderator's Notes...*

It seems that over this past week someone flipped the switch from summer to fall – cooler weather, more rain (needed!), and the trees starting to turn. This is one of my favorite seasons, with the colors and the crisp tang in the air. Nancy and I will be driving up to the UP for a few days to take advantage and see some of those colors.

We had a very successful Rally Sunday, thanks to the Fellowship Ministry Board and everyone else who helped organize it. It was wonderful to see so many friends back in Church and, of course, to have our marvelous choir back.

During our August Executive Council meeting we discussed the need to attract more families to North Church. A task team consisting of **Judy Campbell, Michelle Sibley, Karen Sirovy, and Kevin Gromley**, brainstormed several ideas which were presented to Council. One of those was to continue our 'Trunk or Treat' event, inviting families from the neighborhood. Council agreed, we are targeting October 30 after Church, with lunch and the 'Treating' event – plan to join us (costumes optional but encouraged)!

Another idea presented to Council was that of reviving the craft show. As you recall, we held one such event in the fall of 2019. It was a success, but then the pandemic shut down a reprise. We will be looking at organizing a repeat event next year, in the spring or the fall.

One issue Council discussed was that of volunteers. Many of you signed up for activities during Rally Sunday – thank you! But we still have numerous slots to fill. These include:

- Sunday drivers for our Fox Run members and friends (Sandy Greer)
- Volunteers to periodically visit shut-ins (Sandy Greer)
- Two or three volunteers to join our stewardship committee (Steve Plummer)
- Volunteers to help plan and organize the craft show (Kevin Gromley)
- Open usher positions (Kevin Gromley)

- One open position on our Education Board (Kevin Gromley)

If you are willing to help, please contact the individuals noted above.

As you can gather from the above, our stewardship drive is coming in October. During these Sundays we will talk about how the Church uses your monetary gifts and what they mean to us. The drive culminates in November when we ask members and friends to give an estimate of giving for 2023. This is an important activity in the life of the Church, it forms the basis for our budgeting and operational plans for the coming year.

I wish you all a safe, happy, joyous fall, may all of our favorite football teams win all their games.

### Executive Council Notes

Executive Council met on September 26 and considered the following:

- Assets & Resources and Treasurer: Revenues are 2% below budget, expenses 6% below budget. Our endowment has been affected by the market declines, down 18% through end August. The Assets & Resources Board is looking at other options for internet and phone service – we have had reliability issues with Spectrum, our current provider.
- Diaconate: The Diaconate Board has continued to be busy with memorial services, which have been well organized and attended. Any future memorial receptions that involve food will be in Fellowship Hall. Diaconate is looking for volunteers, as noted above.
- Fellowship: Rally Sunday was a success, thanks to everyone that participated. The Board is making plans for Trunk or Treat. We will have one Trunk or Treat at North Church on October 30, after worship. We will also participate in the interfaith event at the Costick Center on October 9.
- Missions: The Missions Board organized volunteers who worked at Crossroads on September 25, we had about a dozen workers from North Church. We are also enjoying the speakers the Board has arranged for our current Missions Month.
- Worship: The Choir is back (hooray!). For the time being we will continue to offer communion with individually packaged bread.
- General: Council discussed office hours and the need for coverage. We may reach out for volunteers for specific times when the office staff need help, e.g., busy weeks before a memorial service.



*“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:18, NIV )*

***Kevin Gromley***



## ***OCTOBER MEETINGS***

Worship Ministry Board – Sunday, October 9 at 11:30 a.m. (Hybrid)

Education Ministry Board - Monday, October 10, 7:00 p.m.

Diaconate Ministry Board – Tuesday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Missions Ministry Board – Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Assets & Resources Ministry Board – Monday, October 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Ministry Board - Tuesday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Council - Monday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m.

## **NORTH CHURCH ARTICLES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **WORSHIP MINISTRY BOARD**

#### **WORLDWIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY**

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on **Sunday, October 2nd** during worship.

#### **CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Director of Music, **Laurie Meeker**, has scheduled Choir rehearsals for Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. – until further notice.

### **DIACONATE MINISTRY BOARD**

#### ***Greetings from the Diaconate!***

Our new church structure relies heavily on volunteers to accomplish many of the activities that are so important to our membership. The Diaconate needs your time and talents to continue our work of serving our congregation.

Most of our activities do not require anything other than a little time and the desire to serve our members and friends. On Rally Sunday, the Diaconate will have a table with sign-up sheets and a board member who will be able to answer your questions. Please consider signing up for one or several of the following:

- Communion activities
- Contacting/Visiting Shut-Ins
- Assisting with Memorial Receptions
- Providing transportation to church for Fox Run residents



- Writing notes or cards to various church members and friends
- Providing meals (as needed)
- Delivering flowers during Advent (sign-up sheets will be available at that time)
- Delivering flowers during Lent (sign-up sheets will be available at that time)
- Knitting/crocheting prayer shawls (sign-up sheets will be available when shawls are needed)

Sign-up sheets will be available throughout the year, even if you miss Rally Sunday. You can also contact any member of the Diaconate to let them know of your interest.

Thank you for your support!

## **MISSIONS MINISTRY BOARD**

### **MISSION BENEVOLENCES *for the month of October***

Farmington/Farmington Hills Community Foundation for Youth and Families,  
Congregational Library

### **MISSION MOMENT SPEAKERS**

We welcome you to these particularly informative Sundays in October and throughout the year and encourage you to invite family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to any or all of our worship services.

**October 2:** Greg Smith, Principal of Lanigan Elementary School and board member from the Farmington/Farmington Hills Foundation for Youth and families.

**October 9:** MiVida Burrus, Director of Development at Haven

## **FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY BOARD**

### **A MESSAGE FROM STEVE EKIZIAN**

Please join my "family, friends and colleagues" team for this annual event to help prevent, cure and support those with Breast Cancer. All ages and abilities are welcome for this often-picturesque 5K walk or run on the Detroit riverfront. All registered participants will get a race day shirt. Learn more and register: <https://bit.ly/PWA2022>

**Komen Detroit Race for the Cure, team with the Ekizians - Sunday, October, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Millikan Park, Detroit.**

7:00am On-site Registration Open

8:00am Opening Ceremony

8:45am Shotgun start for runners, followed by walkers at 9:00am

10:30am Closing Ceremony & Awards

## 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 this month on **Tuesday, October 4th and 18th**. If you have any questions or would like to join them, please contact **Tom Modick**.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship will meet in the Plymouth/Bradford Room on **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**, at **12:30 p.m.**

## TRUNK OR TREAT – OCTOBER 9, 3 – 6 P.M.



## Faith & Blue and the Farmington Hills Police Department

present

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Trunk or Treat, a fun-filled event for the entire family!

Admission is free! Trunk or Treat will be held at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile in Farmington Hills, from 3 – 6 p.m. There will be crafts, balloon creations, costume contests, a best decorated car prize, a photo booth, candy, and an opportunity to meet Raini. We will have 2 or 3 vehicles decorated. Please bring a non-perishable item to donate to C.A.R.E.S.

If you have any questions, please contact **Tim Sirovy** at [timsirovy@gmail.com](mailto:timsirovy@gmail.com).

If you plan to have a decorated vehicle, please let **Tim Sirovy** know.

## TRUNK OR TREAT – AT NORTH CHURCH

Please plan to join us **Sunday, October 30th** for the NCC Trunk or Treat. We will provide a strolling lunch at 11:30 followed by a parking lot Trunk or Treat. We will be inviting our local neighbors to be a part of this fun gathering. More details to come!

## **BOOK GROUP**

### **UPCOMING READS – discussed at 1 pm in church library or on zoom**

**October 19** - The Mists of Avalon by Marion Zimmer Bradley – focusing on the theme of transition between the old Celtic ways and the incoming Christian faith in the Arthur legend.

**November 16** - The Book Woman's Daughter ( a sequel to The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek that we read last year) by Kim Michele Richardson – The story of Kentucky's "blue people" continues, with so many ideas about exclusion and embrace based on prejudice and changing cultures.

**December 21** - Cookbooks! Last year we did the ones that inspired us; this year, bring one of your most recent acquisitions or interests! We'll have holiday refreshments and a fun time talking about cooking and our memories connected with cooks and the things they made.

**January 25** (A week later: I'll be coming back from grandma duty in Boston on the third Wednesday) - Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson- a story of how the inheritance of betrayals, secrets, memories, and even names can shape relationships and history, in a journey through the life of a family changed forever by the choices of its matriarch.

**EVENT: Marie Benedict**, author of **The Personal Librarian**, will be speaking (by teleconnection) and answering audience questions at the Farmington Library 12 Mile branch on **October 20, 2022, 7-8:30 PM**. This was our September book and sparked a good discussion. Signup: <https://farmlib.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=33537&Lib=ALL&backTo=Calendar&startDate=2022/10/01>

**EVENT: Louise Penny** will be speaking at Rackham auditorium in Ann Arbor on December 1st at 6:pm, sponsored by Literati Books. We can carpool and meet up with those who are driving themselves. Tickets (which each attendee needs to buy in advance for themselves) are \$34.37 and include a signed hard cover copy of Louise Penny's new Armand Gamache mystery, A World of Curiosities.

Please let **Rev. Mimi Biedron** know if you'll be joining us!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/literati-bookstore-presents-louise-penny-tickets-411345624837-->

**WATCH:** At our September meeting we talked about the challenges that people face trying to come to and fit into American society, and I mentioned the story of Tony Shalhoub's family on Finding Your Roots. It's from Season 7, episode 4, available if you have a PBS Passport (a benefit for donors to Detroit Public TV) at <https://www.pbs.org/video/shirts-their-backs/>

### **LIFE LINE HEALTH SCREENINGS – OCTOBER 20TH**

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions. These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening on **Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**, in Fellowship Hall. Pick up a pink flyer in Fellowship Hall for further information on the screenings, cost, and registration information.