

North Star

An e-publication of North Presbyterian Church
March, April, May 2019

Lent: Confronting White Fragility within Ourselves

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th, this year. It marks 40 days of preparation before the celebration of Easter, the day of Christ's resurrection. The 40 days of Lent are actually spread across about six and a half weeks, excluding Sundays. Forty is significant because Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness before he began his ministry. In the Bible when the number "40" is associated with an event (rain for 40 days and 40 nights in Genesis, the Israelites wander 40 years in the desert during the Exodus), it's often understood as a metaphor meaning a very long time, so it may not be intended literally. But the church has understood it literally and has used this period as a way of giving us time for focus and examination as we contemplate Jesus' death and resurrection.

Many of us have been raised with some kind of tradition of giving up a behavior or activity during Lent. We might give up eating chocolate or smoking or drinking coffee (a huge mistake, by the way!). But giving up things that aren't too good for us to begin with doesn't seem like the kind of sacrifice intended for Lent. Over the years I've encouraged folks to take something on during Lent; a commitment to a spiritual discipline, say, or a volunteer activity in the community. This year I'm inviting everyone at North Church to consider a searching self-examination around racism.

If you're white, have you ever asked yourself, "Am I racist?" I suspect most of us would answer emphatically, "No!" But the book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo might change your mind. DiAngelo is a white woman who has spent many years leading race awareness workshops for businesses, school districts, and other organizations around the country. She has noted how defensive white people often become when they are confronted with their own racism. As she observes: "The smallest amount of racial stress is intolerable—the mere suggestion that being white has meaning often triggers a range of defensive responses. These include emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt and behaviors such as argumentation, silence, and withdrawal from the stress-inducing situation. These responses work to reinstate white equilibrium as they repel the challenge, return our racial comfort, and maintain our dominance within the racial hierarchy. I conceptualize this process as *white fragility*." (DiAngelo, p. 2)

Confronting white fragility within ourselves, and learning ways to overcome it, strikes me as an important step white people must take if we are truly committed to racial justice and equity. Along with the book, during our weekly Tuesday night soup suppers, beginning March 12th, we'll be viewing and discussing the fascinating and powerful documentary *Race: The Power of an Illusion*.

This topic may not seem very spiritual to some. But in the history of our country the specter, the pathology really, of white supremacy has haunted our efforts to live the gospel fully. Dispelling, or exorcising, if you will, that demon from our souls is the only path toward healing our spirits. And it can only begin with us. We have to look inward and confront our inner biases and prejudices before we can look outward meaningfully. I hope you'll join us in this effort. *White Fragility* is available through Amazon or Barnes & Noble or independent bookstores in the area. There are also several copies in the Buffalo library system.

Let's take a hard look at ourselves this Lent and see what in us needs to be changed. As Paul writes, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) Let's work on transforming ourselves and our society toward racial justice.

Peace,
Pastor Bill

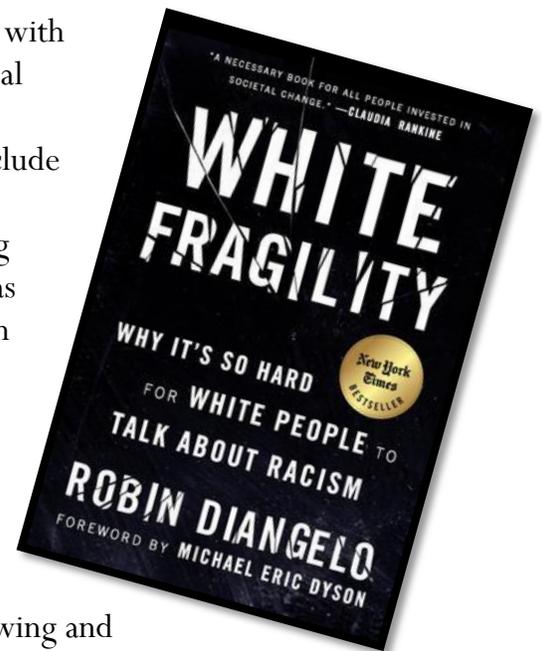


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Join Pastor Bill (left, in photo) and Rabbi Alex for interfaith classes in March. See page 18.

Our Stewardship Journey: Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Stewardship is a process that can strengthen faith, build a sense of community, support others in times of need, and help ensure the church is an important part of our life together. Stewardship never ceases; it is a year-round endeavor.

When the Stewardship Committee was formed last spring, it launched a series of activities to support the theme, *Together We Are North*. Letters, e-mails, and announcements emphasized that stewardship is a journey and not merely a short, targeted effort to raise money.

Each month in worship a church committee spokesperson shared what their committee is doing and extended an open invitation to others to participate. Staff members and representatives from special interest groups like the children's music program, Dress-a-Girl, and special offerings, spoke about their involvement and how others could participate. Receptions and other activities brought people together. The Worship and Stewardship committees look forward to hosting together the *Taste of North* Mardi Gras party on March 5, and hope the whole family will join in the fun. (See page 7.)

In the fall the annual pledge campaign asked for your time, talent, and treasures. We all have something to contribute. For instance, how could North Church possibly thrive without the dedication and hours spent by members of



the Property Committee who are seldom seen because they work behind the scene? Or the choir members whose musical talents make our worship services so meaningful?

And yes, money, that indispensable commodity needed to pay salaries and keep the lights on. Once again, the church family stepped forward willingly and generously. In late 2018 it looked like the year might end with a deficit, but generous gifts in response to a last-minute appeal from Session enabled the church to end the year with a small surplus.

The pledge campaign was also successful. As of February 10, 2019, 84 pledges totaling \$225,995 have been received. This is an increase of nearly \$33,000 from last year! Pledges are especially important for planning purposes, because they reduce the guess work involved in deciding what the church can afford to do in the coming year.

North had a great 2018. This year will be even better because *together we are North*. Thank you for all the ways you contributed to the life and outreach of North Church last year, and for the meaningful ways you will make a difference this year through time, talents, and treasures.

(Photo: Bill Townsend, who serves on the Property Committee and sings in the choir, is one of those who often volunteer behind the scenes.)

One Great Hour of Sharing

“You shall be called repairers of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.” Isaiah 58:12
This verse is the pervasive theme for 2019’s One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). One need only watch a newscast to see that there is much in our world that needs “repairing!”

Fortunately, Christians around the globe can easily become “repairers” by contributing to the OGHS special offering. With your loving and



generous support, our neighbors-in-need can be provided with food, shelter and self-development opportunities. The OGHS offering is commonly split into thirds with one third going to support Disaster Assistance; one third going to support Hunger programs; and the other third supporting programs that allow people to become self-sustaining. For two Sundays in March a flyer will be enclosed in the church bulletin that outlines examples of how your gift is being used.

As disasters both home and abroad have repeatedly struck, it is imperative that the church community rise to the challenge and help our neighbors. Your gift to OGHS is an easy way to meet this challenge.

The children will receive Fish Banks on Sunday, March 17, to initiate this special offering. The final collection of One Great Hour of Sharing will be held on Palm Sunday, April 14. Please be generous! Thank you, in advance, for being a “repairer of the breach.” *The Mission Committee*

Summary of Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 27, 2019, North Church held its annual congregational meeting at 11:30 a.m. in Westminster Hall. The Deacons provided brunch.

Treasurer Mary Beth Karr presented the 2018 financial reports. Operating income for 2018 was \$372,000, including approximately \$295,000 from donations and \$33,600 from building use. Total expenses for 2018 were \$366,600. Thanks to increased giving, North ended 2018 with a small surplus. This is the second year since 2010 that the operating budget achieved a surplus.

Duncan Hemink from the Finance Committee presented the 2019 budget, which had been approved by Session earlier in January. In order to produce a balanced operating budget for 2019 some hard decisions were made including not giving any salary increases, reducing some committee budgets, and suspending all 2019 Mission Committee expenditures from the operating budget. In 2018 the congregation donated nearly \$20,000 mission related special offerings that were not part of the operating budget. It is anticipated that similar giving may

occur which is not part of the operating budget in 2019.

Joe Alber provided a brief synopsis of the Stewardship Committee's efforts for the year. (See page 4.) He showed a chart that illustrated the decline in the number of pledges and the dollars pledged over the past nine years and discussed the importance of reversing those trends.

He then turned his attention to some of the things that are being done to find new sources of revenue from the use of the building. In just the past three years the money earned from building use nearly doubled. Everyone was asked to help in making these numbers grow even more by spreading the word that the church has affordable office space available for lease.

Joe completed his comments by discussing the cost of the recent roof repairs and the expected need to spend additional money for the roof. Due to these anticipated costs coupled with interest by many in the congregation to enhance the sanctuary and pursue other initiatives he announced that Session recently appointed a small committee to research and report back on the feasibility of conducting a multi-year fundraising campaign.

Sue D'Angelo gave an update on the Northtowns Family Justice Center (FJC) satellite housed in North's former manse. In partnership with other agencies, the FJC offers services to victims of domestic violence. Since

opening in 2014 through January 2019, the FJC has provided services to 443 clients. (See page 7 to learn more.)

In other matters, the congregation approved the pastor's 2019 Terms of Call. Congratulations to the Rev. William Hennessy, who has begun his 11th year at North.

Ann Eisenlord, a member of the Mission Committee, gave a brief report of their work. She noted that the congregation has been generous, giving just over \$31,000 to special offerings and projects. This was in addition to the Mission Committee's distributions from the operating budget.

There was considerable discussion about the suspension of the Mission Committee Benevolence line item for 2019. Following discussion, it was moved, seconded, and VOTED to request the Session to revisit its decision to eliminate Mission funding from the 2019 budget in consultation with the Mission Committee and the congregation.

Elder Joe Alber thanked Elders (Session) and Deacons who will be completing terms of service this spring. Elders in the Class of 2019 include Bill Clark, Sue D'Angelo, and Marsha Villano. Deacons in the Class of 2019 include Karen Hopkins, Sheridan Skura, and Carol Suckow.

Elected as Deacons in the Class of 2022 were Jeff Ebsary, Linda Gowans, Kath Hahn, Lisa Marsherrall, and Diane Sprague. Elected for

Elders in the Class of 2022 were Sharon Dittmar, Dirk Pouli, Clark Squires, and Pat Townsend. Thank you to everyone who agreed to fill a role. Together we sang *We are the Church* to conclude the meeting.

Installation and ordination for new elders and deacons will be Sunday, March 31.

Facts about FJC Satellite

The Family Justice Center's Northtowns satellite, which opened in 2014, is housed in North's former manse. In partnership with other agencies, the FJC offers services to victims of domestic violence.

*Hours of operation: Monday and Tuesday
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.*

- To date, 443 clients have received service; countless more have received assistance on the Safe Line
- We have set records for the satellite:
Most clients in one day: 7
Most clients in one month: 25
- Services provided on-site:
Danger assessments; safety planning;
orders of protection
assistance; writing; video conferencing; Forensic Medical Unit; photographic documentation of injuries; resources such as books and pamphlets; food/essentials

pantry; referrals; legal; DSS; counseling; emergency shelter; housing options; spiritual support

- NPC provides:
Building (\$1 per year); maintenance contract for furnace; sewer tax; lawn mowing and snow removal
- FJC provides:
Professional staff; licensed social workers; utilities; gas; electric; internet; phone; insurance; maintenance/cleaning
- How we can help:
Volunteer; direct client services, cleaning/yard work; food pantry donations; raise community awareness

Fun for the Whole Family: “Taste of North” Mardi Gras Party

Save the date for this family-friendly event! Join us on Tuesday, March 5, from 5-7:30 p.m. to celebrate “Fat Tuesday.” We are organizing a “Taste of North” competition for



sides and desserts—the main dish (pulled pork—yum!)—will be provided. You need not enter the contest to attend. There will be fun and games for the whole family. The Balloon Brothers will make a special appearance from 5:30-6:30. We will have face painting, pancake races, cookie decorating, and music.

You are encouraged to dress festive and/or accessorize, if you wish. If you have questions, please email n.church@verizon.net or call 716.632.1330.

Lenten Study and Soup Suppers

Join us for Lenten study and soup suppers in Westminster Hall on March 12, 19, 26, and April 2, 9, and 16 from 5:45-7:30 p.m. Enjoy homemade soup, fresh bread, salad, and a dessert for only \$5/person. Children eat free.

We'll be viewing and discussing the fascinating and powerful documentary *Race: The Power of an Illusion*. If you plan on coming, please call 716.632.1330 or email n.church@verizon.net. We want to be sure to have enough soup!

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday Worship, Clarence Presbyterian Church

April 18—7 p.m.

One of the most meaningful services of the year, we gather to remember Jesus' last hours with his disciples. On this night he instituted the Lord's Supper and endured his time in the garden. This service is shared by the clergy and congregations of Amherst, North, and Clarence Presbyterian churches. Clarence will host the service.

Good Friday

April 19—noon

Prayer, reflections and music in the sanctuary with mixed choir from Amherst, Clarence and North Presbyterian churches.

Easter Worship Services

April 21

8:30am Worship, Chapel

9:00 Breakfast, Westminster Hall

10:15 Worship Service, Sanctuary



Easter Flowers & Music

Easter lilies, daffodils and hyacinths will adorn

the sanctuary, and a brass quintet will play for our Easter worship service. Those desiring to make a contribution toward the flowers and music in honor, memory, or celebration of loved ones may call the church office at 716-632-1330 by **April 8**.

Northtowns Presbyterian Youth Group

The Northtowns Youth Group is the shared youth group of North Presbyterian and University Presbyterian churches. The youth group offers fun activities, like a pizza party or a retreat, and also participates in mission work in and around Buffalo throughout the year. Join us for these activities, and invite your friends! Please contact Mack Barker with questions at mackintosh716@gmail.com.

Chili Cook Off

On Sunday, February 10, the youth group raised \$450 through its chili cook-off at North.

The money has been sent to Iglesia Presbyterian en Lares in Puerto Rico. This is a partner church that was badly damaged during Hurricane Maria. Thank you for participating in this fun event and helping to make a difference. The top two chili recipes were submitted by the youth group and Debbie Hutton. (See the recipes on page 19.)

Sub Sale

Save the date for a sub sale at North on Sunday, March 31. Money raised will help fund costs associated with Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Stay tuned for more information.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium

July 16-20, 2019

We will travel to Purdue University on July 15 and home on July 21. The Presbytery of WNY will cover travel costs. Synod of the NE will give \$100 to each participant who registers before May 14. For more information, contact Mack Barker.

Sunday School News

Sunday school has been fun this year! We have worked on many mission projects this year during class, which followed our reading and discussion of the lectionary Bible readings. Our two most recent mission projects for January and February were cleaning and refilling the children's worship activity bags and making Valentine cards for the Deacons to take on their visits in February. Each card contained a Bible verse about how much God loves us all. I believe that mission is important within our church and for the community.

A special thank you to those of you who have taught this year. The children enjoy getting to know different congregation members. If you have an idea for a project that the children can work on to make a difference within our church or in the community, please let me know. If you are interested in teaching a portion of the classes in the 2019-20 curriculum year or would like to be a substitute teacher, or even to shadow a teacher to help you decide, please let me know that too. Thank you for your support of our youth!

(Submitted by Debbie Hutton, Children's Christian Education Team member
dsnyder97@yahoo.com
716-903-1053 voice or text)

Sunday School Schedule

3/3/19
3/10/19
3/17/19
3/24/19
3/31/19
4/14/19
4/28/19
5/5/19
5/12/19
5/19/19
5/26/19
6/2/19
6/9/19-last Class

No Sunday school
4/7/19
4/21/19

Children's & Youth Choir

Any child in grades 1-8 is welcome to join us Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:10 for music, instruments, games, fellowship and fun! Children's choir will meet nearly every Sunday and contribute beautiful music during worship a few times throughout the year.

We love to see familiar faces and new faces; please consider joining even if you haven't participated before or if you are not (yet) a regular church attender. All are welcome. Since the choir really enjoyed playing chimes last year, we will be using the chimes more regularly throughout this year and we have some really fun songs to work on.

Children's Choir Schedule

March 3

(March 10--no choir)

March 17

March 24

March 31

April 7

April 14 Palm Sunday (children may sing)

(April 21 Easter no choir)

April 28.

May 5

(May 12 Mother's Day no choir)

May 19 (children may sing)

Breakfast Series at Clarence Features Dr. Othman Shibley

*Saturday, March 23 at 9 a.m. at
Clarence Presbyterian Church*

Clarence Presbyterian Church will host the third and final breakfast in a series held with North and Amherst Presbyterian churches. Dr. Othman Shibley,



clinical professor in the UB School of Dental Medicine, will be the speaker. Dr. Shibley travels twice a year to the borders of his native Syria to help deliver dental care to more than 2,000 refugee children. He will share his experiences with us. A light breakfast of bagels, fruit, and coffee will be served. Cost is \$5.

Recreating Bible Stories with LEGOS: an intergenerational event

The Adult Education Committee will be sponsoring an intergenerational event on March 24 after the 10:15 a.m. worship service. All ages are invited to attend. This would be a great opportunity to invite your friends to meet our church members.

We will be forming multiple groups with mixed ages and then each group will read and discuss a Bible story as they create the scene of the story using Legos. Who does not like LEGOS?

At the end, each group will share their Bible story and their creations with everyone. It

will be interesting to see how different ages see different things about the Bible stories.

Following the event, a light lunch will be served where dessert will be served first. Intergenerational adult education gives everyone the opportunity to learn from each other by sharing their wisdom, compassion and hope for the world.

(Submitted by Louise Cooper)

New Books in the Library

Several new books have recently been added to the North Church library. All can be found on the bookshelves in the Dickinson Room.

Almost Everything—Notes on Hope by Anne Lamott

This exploration of hope and the place it holds in our lives is another profound yet funny book by a much-loved author.

Devotions—the Selected Poems of Mary Oliver
Poet Mary Oliver has touched countless readers, including our pastor who quotes her lines in his sermons, with her brilliantly crafted verse. The book, arranged by Oliver, shows the poet at her best.

Hannah Coulter by Wendell Berry
This is the latest installment of Berry's acclaimed story about the citizens of Port William, Kentucky. In it Hannah Coulter, now in her late seventies, twice-widowed and alone, sorts through her memories.

Just Mercy—A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson.

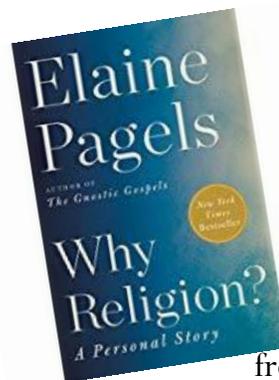
When Stevenson was a young and gifted attorney he founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending the poor, the wrongly condemned, and those trapped in the depths of our criminal justice system. This book features the story of Walter McMillian, sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit and Stevenson's fight to gain McMillian's freedom.

On the Brink of Everything, Grace, Gravity & Getting Old by Parker J. Palmer

Well-known and loved author Parker Palmer, now in his eighties, explores what he's learning about self and work. He meditates on the meanings of life, past, present and future.

What is the Bible by Rob Bell

The bestselling author of *Love Wins* writes on how an ancient library of poems, letters, and stories—the Bible—can transform the way we think and feel about everything.



Why Religion? A Personal Story by Elaine Pagels

This provocative and deeply moving memoir from a religious scholar who has experienced great personal tragedy, explores the spiritual dimension of human experience.

(Submitted by Ann Eisenlord)

Book Groups

Everyone is invited to participate in a book group discussion. Below are the books and the meeting time/date. Book groups meet in the church library.

March 20, at 10:00 a.m.: *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover

March 27 at 1:00 p.m.: *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

April 14 at 1:00 p.m.: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

May 22 at 1:00 p.m.: *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

Adult Ed.: The Challenge of Paul

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the church library

The Adult Education topic for the next three months is the Challenge of Paul, i.e who is Paul the apostle? The series is based on some 15 video segments developed and narrated by Dr. Dominic Crossan, a well-known New Testament scholar who has authored at least 30 books about Christianity, Jesus, and Paul. The February section is about Paul and Jesus. During each session we view the video and then discuss issues arising within the group.

Letter from a Birmingham Jail

(In January Adult Ed. offered a series of classes to discuss MLK's Letter. This summary is submitted by Pat Townsend)

Martin Luther King's 1963 *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* is eloquent writing coming out of the civil rights struggle of African Americans.



Directed to the well-meaning white clergymen of Birmingham, Alabama, of King's day, it speaks to all Christians when

we choose to support an evil status quo by elevating peace over justice. The most recent General Assembly of the PCUSA voted to propose the *Letter* for inclusion in the denomination's Book of Confessions. For three Sunday mornings in January, the NPC Adult Forum in the library studied MLK's letter. We began by studying the document in hard copy and hearing it read aloud on a video. If you missed our study, you can investigate it from any of the links in this document. The second week we put ourselves back into the 1963 context. We introduced ourselves by saying what each of us was doing in 1963.

Creating a time line for the 1960s, we added civil rights milestones as well as how our denomination (only the northern church at that time, the UPCUSA) responded to these events and issues.

- 1958 The UPCUSA appointed a committee of theologians to work on a brief, modern confession. The African American member of the committee was [Gayraud S. Wilmore](#).
- 1963 The [Commission on Religion and Race](#) was formed, headed by Wilmore, to support ministers

involved in protests and to carry out initiatives for racial justice.

- 1967 The [Confession of 1967](#) was adopted. Centered on the theme of reconciliation, it included robust statements about poverty and race.

On the third Sunday we asked whether the *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* should be added to the [Book of Confessions](#). Some arguments **for** including it:

- It is really, really important for us to hear right now.
- It is eloquent and should be as widely known as MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech.
- Teaching elders will be reminded that they should preach prophetically rather than timidly supporting the status quo.

Some arguments **against** including it:

- Between the Barmen and Belhar confessions and the Confession of 1967, we already know what we should do, we just need to **do** it.
- Unlike other confessions, the letter has not come out of a **community** of reformed Christians. Some of the others had single authors (e.g. Barth and Barmen) but still represented the collective experience of the church.
- The confessions are so little read that it might be the kiss of death to adopt the *Letter* as one of them. Better put it into sermons, church school curricula,

newsletters, bulletins, movies, and the arts.

Note: Each of us who is ordained as a Presbyterian deacon, elder, or minister has promised to be "guided by the confessions" as we make decisions. We might have a look at [the Book of Confessions](#) from time to time.

Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study meets most every Sunday, except during the summer, at 9:00 a.m. in the Resource Center for one hour. Attendance runs from five to 10 people, and there is room for more.

Over the past few years our studies have included Luke's and John's gospels, the book of Acts, and the life of Joseph and his family. Currently we are studying the scriptures in the lectionary for the Sunday on which we meet. We open and close each session with prayer.

The leader of each session is a volunteer from among those who attend. However, there is absolutely no requirement that attendees must lead a session. It is just fine to attend and listen. Our objective is spiritual growth, by learning more about God's plan for us and about life as a Christian from the Bible, Old and New Testaments, and from the questions we raised and the comments presented.

Leaders have resources from the Resource Center and North Church library to help them prepare, including Bible commentaries. Some attendees use their personal Bibles, including study Bibles, and for others, there are always

church pew Bibles available. We welcome any translation or version of the Bible. We have found that this variety often enhances our understanding.

We do not use resources that require prior purchase by attendees. Also, each session is independent from previous sessions so steady attendance is not necessary. We welcome any church member or visitor to attend. Ages of attendees have ranged from early twenties to persons in their eighties. (Submitted by Bill Clark)

Chair Yoga Classes

Everyone is invited to come to chair yoga at North Church offered by Olivia Ebsary. Generally every Monday and Wednesday (except second Wednesday of the month), from 10:15-11:00 a.m. in Westminster Hall. Donations are welcome and some insurance accepted. Questions? E-mail oliviaebsary@gmail.com.

NPC Needleworkers

Whether you're a pro or have always wanted to learn, please join us. In addition to making prayer shawls, scarves, and squares for Roswell, there are many wonderful outlets for our time and talents. We will be meeting on the first Thursday of the month; our next meeting is March 7 from 1-3 p.m. in the Dickinson Room. Questions? Contact Sue D'Angelo at sjdangelo@hotmail.com.

InerG Is for Everyone

"InerG" is the intergenerational choir that provides special music once a month during worship, led by music assistant Kurt Ebsary. We are musicians (vocal and instrumental of all skill levels) ranging in age from 8th grade through adult who want to experience the joy of creation and praise through music. The ensemble practices at 9:30 on the morning of the performance, which is during the 10:15 a.m. worship service. (See schedule below.) Everyone is welcome! Contact Kurt Ebsary with interest or questions.

Sunday, March 17

Sunday, April 28

Sunday, May 26

Sunday, June 16

Preschool Open House at North

Saturday, March 2, from 10am-2pm, and Sunday, March 3, from 9am-1pm



You are invited to check out LE3

Academy, the preschool program that is in the

church's south

basement and operates year round M-F from 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Even if you do not have children or grandchildren that might go to the program, please check out their space and say hi! North Church

families receive a 25-percent discount! To learn more, call or email Ellie, the director, at 716.430.9322 or epoleon@le3-inc.org, or do a virtual visit at www.le3-inc.org.

Coffee Hour Assignments

We have had some communication issues with the coffee hour schedule recently. To avoid further confusion, please refer to this schedule. The current and next month's Coffee Hour Host Committee will appear in the bulletin along with the names of other Sunday worship volunteers.

It is NOT necessary to provide baked goods or other snacks, but you can if you wish. Something as simple as donut holes will be well received. You may want to check the freezer for goodies to see if anything is available.

Schedule	
September	Choirs: Adult, Bells, InerG members
October	Human Resources
November	Property
December	Membership
January	Worship
February	Mission
March	Finance
April	Deacons
May	Session
June	Adult Education
<i>July and August will rely on volunteers.</i>	

Dress-a-Girl

Seamstresses, doll makers, ironers, cutters, and runners: come sew with us! Meetings occur the fourth Monday of each month from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Stay for the whole time or for as long as you can. Please bring a salad ingredient for our build-a-salad supper. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Friends of Night People

We serve a meal at Friends of Night People at 394 Hudson St., Buffalo, the fourth Tuesday of every month.

- At 8:00 a.m. that day, volunteers prepare the meal in the kitchen at North Church. If you can help one time or regularly, please contact Ann Eisenlord at 632-7487 or anneisenlord@roadrunner.com.
- That evening from about 4:30-7:00, volunteers help serve the meal. If you would like to help serve, contact Barb Beall at beaschwa87@yahoo.com or call 716.479.5794.

Mike Randall is Mark Twain

If you like to laugh, you won't want to miss "Mark Twain Live" brought to you by actor and meteorologist (Channel 7-Buffalo) Mike Randall on Saturday, April 6, at 3:00 p.m. at North Presbyterian Church. This free event, which is open to the public, is sponsored by the Presbyterian Village at North Church.



Seating is limited; please RSVP on or before April 4 to Lisa at 716.631.3430.

Mike Randall began impersonating America's greatest author and humorist at the age of 17. More than 40 years and 2,000 performances later, he continues to enjoy his close encounter with Mark Twain. You will surely enjoy it too!

Births

Congratulations to Jim and Diane Sprague on the birth of their first grandchild—**Natalie Claire**—born to Nathan & Jessica Sprague on 8/27/18.



On January 14, 2019, the Spragues also became grandparents to **Sloan Mary**, daughter of Brad & Teresa Sprague.

Congratulations to Heather Randall on the birth of her grandchild, **Lincoln Harrison Sage**, on November 19, 2018.

Infant Baptisms

Natalie Claire Sprague on December 30, 2018

Rocco Garfield Tortora on February 24, 2019

Necrology

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost loved ones.

- Jefferson Simmons—October 5, 2018
- Bob Kelso—October 15, 2018
- Butch Eisenlord—November 19, 2018
- Bruce Buyers—November 28, 2018
- Betty James—December 17, 2018
- Parker Price—December 20, 2018
- Tony Link—December 30, 2018
- Frina Boldt—February 17, 2019

North Donates Nearly 900 lbs. of Food in 2018

Thank you to North Church folks who donated food, calendars, toiletries, and greeting cards to the University Presbyterian Church (UPC) food pantry last year. Now logged in pounds, our donations totaled almost 900 pounds of food. They supplemented the monthly orders from the Food Bank of Western New York and enabled the UPC Food Pantry to serve 145 families (260 family members) in 2018. The estimated equivalent meals exceeded 28,000.

With donations from North's Turkey Basket project, the UPC pantry distributed complete Thanksgiving dinners for 187 people in November. In December, the *Buffalo News* Neediest program donated Christmas dinners, which the pantry provided to 178 people in 100 families.

The UPC food pantry is grateful to the individuals, churches, and organizations who provide food and monetary contributions on a

regular basis. Besides North Church, these include Amherst Community Church; Amherst Presbyterian Church; Antioch Baptist Church, Fillmore Ave; Buffalo, Brighton Square Senior Apts, Tonawanda; Christ United Methodist Church, Snyder; Cornerstone Community Free Methodist Church; Crossroads Lutheran Church, Snyder; Daemen College; Smallwood School Teachers; St. Andrews Episcopal Church; St. Joseph's University R.C. Church; St. Peter's Episcopal Church; Trinity United Methodist Church; Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst; University of Buffalo Food Services ; The Amherst Education Association (Teachers Federation); the Cub Scouts #189; Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; and the Food Shuttle of WNY.

Volunteers also donated more than 2200 hours of their time in 2018 to help at the food pantry. Please consider joining their ranks. And thank you in advance for your continued donations.

No Will? Gambling Is Risky

Business

For most people, it's that time of the year when we start collecting financial records to prepare our taxes. We will look back at the year just ended and reflect how we managed our assets and controlled our expenditures. Sometimes we use this information to make future plans.

Perhaps your thoughts about the future include

creating or updating your will, something all of us should do periodically.

A recent *Buffalo Business First* article by Patrick Connelly titled *Dying without a Will Is a Gamble* that appeared in the December 21, 2018, edition, illustrates how easily you can lose control of what happens to your assets in the absence of a will. Connelly explains some of the myths people have about how they think their assets will be distributed versus what can really happen. The moral of his story is everyone should consult with an attorney and have a current will. If you need to update yours or need to make one, please consider how you can include North Presbyterian Church in your estate planning.

By including North you can ensure the church will:

- have a secure source of funds to support its mission and ministries;
- be able to meet unexpected needs;
- have the resources to supplement the annual budget during tough economic times; and
 - be able to capitalize on opportunities that will arise in its future.



A pamphlet titled *Remembering North with a Legacy Gift* in the literature rack near the

church office provides more detail. Please pick up a copy and look it over. The members of the Planned Giving Committee (listed below) can answer general questions, but consult with your attorney or financial/tax advisor for specific details concerning your estate plans. Thank you.

The Planned Giving Committee:
Joe Alber, Roger Gross, and Mary Beth Karr

Giving to North through an IRA

If you have a traditional IRA and are 70 ½ or older, it may be advantageous to you to make a



qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to North from your IRA. This can help satisfy your required

minimum distribution as well as your pledge or other donation plans for the church. In addition, it may provide you some tax benefits because the QCD does not count as annual income.

It is important the QCD is paid directly to North by the company holding your IRA and not by you. Please consult your tax/financial advisor to ensure you are eligible for this tax savings strategy.

Interfaith Classes

Pastor Bill and Rabbi Alex (Congregation Shir Shalom--CSS) invite you to join them for an interactive four-part class—"The G-Word: What Judaism and Christianity Have to Say about God and Faith" on March 6 and 13 (at North) and March 20 and 27 (at CSS). All classes start at 10:30 a.m.

Save the Dates

March

- 5 Mardi Gras Party
- 6 Ash Wednesday service at Amherst Class with Pastor Bill and Rabbi Alex (NPC)
- 10 Pew Communion/Daylight Saving Time begins
- 12 Lenten Study and Soup Supper
- 13 Class with Pastor Bill and Rabbi Alex (NPC)
- 19 Lenten Study and Soup Supper 20 Class with Pastor Bill and Rabbi Alex (CSS)
- 23 Work morning at NPC Breakfast Series at Clarence
- 24 Intergenerational Event: Bible Stories with LEGOS
- 26 Lenten Study and Soup Supper
- 27 Class with Pastor Bill and Rabbi Alex (CSS)
- 31 Installation/Ordination of new elders and deacons

April

- 2 Lenten Study and Soup Supper
- 6 Tour: Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center
Mike Randall as Mark Twain
- 9 Lenten Soup Supper & Study
- 14 Receive OGHs offering
- 16 Lenten Study and Soup Supper
- 18 Maundy Thursday service at Clarence
- 19 Good Friday service at North (communion)
- 21 Easter (communion)

May

- 12 Communion Sunday
- 15 *North Star* deadline
- 16 Walk of Abraham
- 27 Church office closed for Memorial Day

For more calendar items visit

<https://northchurchwilliamsville.org/weekly-bulletin-and-north-star/>

Chili Recipes (see story page 8)

Turkey Chili (youth group recipe)

- 1 T. vegetable oil
- 1 onion, peeled and chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- 1 red bell pepper, seeds and rib removed, finely diced
- 1 green bell pepper, seeds and rib removed, finely diced
- 1 ½ lbs. turkey breast meat, coarsely ground (or ground beef)
- 2 T. flour
- 1 to 1 ½ T. chili powder
- 1 to 2 t. ground cumin
- 2 t. powdered cocoa

- 1 to 2 t. cayenne pepper
- ¼ c. tarragon or apple cider vinegar
- 2 T. strong brewed coffee
- 3 14-oz. cans plum tomatoes, crushed
- ¼ t. salt
- 2 c. cooked black beans
- 1. Heat the oil over medium-high heat in a Dutch oven or deep skillet. Add the onion, garlic, red bell pepper, and green bell pepper; sauté, stirring frequently, for 5 minutes. Add the ground meat and sauté for 5 minutes, stirring constantly and breaking up any lumps.
- 2. Stir in the flour, chili powder, cumin, and cocoa. Stir over low heat, stirring frequently, for 3 minutes to cook the spices. Add the remaining ingredients except the black beans and bring to a boil over medium heat. Simmer the chili, stirring occasionally, for 40 to 45 minutes, until thick and the meat is tender. Add the black beans and cook for an additional 5 minutes.

Chili (modified by Debbie Hutton from Betty Crocker Cookbook (2001))

- 1/2 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound ground turkey
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon dried Italian seasoning
- 1 can Wegmans smooth marinara spaghetti sauce
- 1-32 ounce can crushed tomatoes
- 1-32 ounce can diced tomatoes with Italian seasoning

- 1 Tablespoon chili powder
- 3/4 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon fruit/chat masala spice
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can pinto beans, Drained
- 1 can garbanzo beans, Drained
- 1 can black beans, Drained

1. In soup pot, cook ground turkey, onion, garlic, Italian seasoning over medium heat 8 to 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until ground turkey is browned. Drain liquid.
2. Place meat mixture back into soup pot. Stir in remaining ingredients except beans. Heat to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and simmer for one hour, stirring occasionally.
3. Stir in beans. Heat to boiling; reduce heat. Simmer uncovered about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until desired thickness.

Communication Corner

Newsletter (*North Star*)

You can submit story ideas to <http://northchurchwilliamsville.org/weekly-bulletin-and-north-star/> as well as e-mailing it to n.church@verizon.net. The newsletter is produced in March, June, September, and December. The newsletter is available online but we are happy to mail it to you if you wish. Please call the office if you want it mailed to you.

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS MAY15, 2018.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/northchurchwilliamsville?ref=hl>

Bulletin

If you have an announcement, please e-mail n.church@verizon.net by **noon on Wednesday** or submit it to <http://northchurchwilliamsville.org/weekly-bulletin-and-north-star/>

Weekly E-mail Blasts

This church-wide e-mail generally goes out on **Thursday evening**. If you are not receiving this communication but would like to, e-mail n.church@verizon.net to be added.

Phone

Your call is very important to us. We try to take every call but if we missed yours, please leave a message at 716.632.1330. We make every effort to return your call within 24 hours or less.

Phone Extensions:

- 21 Office/Cynthia Machamer
- 22 Pastor/Bill Hennessy
- 26 Facilities/Mike Callaghan
- 24 Organist/Marlene Harrington
- 29 Bookkeeper/Karen Thomas
- 631-0979 Resource Center

Church Address

300 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221
Office is open M-Th. 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
and Friday 8:30 a.m.-noon.