



## **NORTHBROOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

### **MARCH 2018 MESSENGER**

We are fully into the Season of Lent now, continuing through all of the month of March with Easter on April 1st. Our theme for Lent--practicing Sabbath as resistance to the frantic performance and production-driven way of our culture, is hitting home for so many of us. The discipline of Sabbath, of cultivating a space, a sphere of inactivity where we can truly rest and heal, where we can forgive the other for being other, know gratitude for the gifts given and received, take pleasure in relationships, and pick up our own cross that has now become lighter and go on to follow Jesus--this is truly a discipline that is going to take quite a bit of support and practice to learn. Our Scriptures are truly filled with the way of Sabbath-making. It appears from reading the Gospels that the religious leaders and religious "rightists" had the most anger with the way that Jesus and Jesus' followers flaunted the Sabbath as they knew it with a long list of rules that they were policing. Jesus was healing people, telling the hurting to get up, take up their mat, and walk; harvesting food for a meal; taking delight in sharing a meal with the wrong kind of people, all of it on the Sabbath!

Let's help each other these weeks of Lent to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. What kinds of things are you finding to create a day to rest and renewal? Can we help each other to step out of the production and purpose-driven race to find a different rhythm? Please join us for these Sundays in Lent, Sunday's being the "little Easters" to celebrate the way of Sabbath-making that our God has given us as a wonderful gift.

**Sunday, March 4**, Lent 3: Resisting the temptation to perfection. Standing for Compassion.

**Sunday, March 11**, Lent 4: Resisting the temptation to fear of scarcity. Standing for Abundance.

**Sunday, March 18**, Lent 5: Resisting the temptation to guilt. Standing for Peace.

**Sunday, March 25**, Palm Sunday. We pick up our palm branches on this Sunday and re-enact the crowds doing civil disobedience with Jesus as he rides into Jerusalem, resisting the way of taking up the weapons of power and privilege to make space for God's way of love in the world.

**Thursday, March 29**, Holy Thursday, 6:00 p.m. We create a worship space for re-enacting Jesus' last meal with his followers before his fake trial and execution.

**Friday, March 30**, Good Friday, A Service of Tenebrae, 6:00 p.m.

The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning "darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial.

This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. A loud noise may also sound symbolizing the closing of Jesus' tomb. The worshipers then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection.

**Sunday, April 1,** Easter Sunday, :

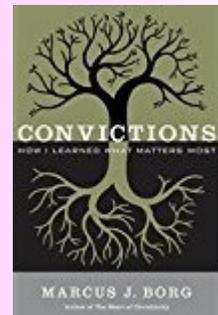
8:15 Gather for prayer, coffee, and rolls to prepare for the Resurrection celebration

10:00 Worship and Celebration with Holy Communion

11:00 Easter Egg Hunt and more celebration

**CONVICTIONS**, a book of heartfelt learning of the late teacher and theologian, Marcus Borg.

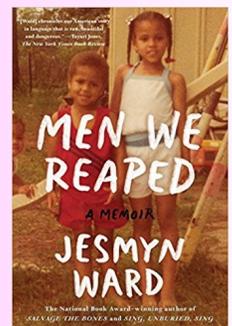
Please join in a small group book study for the last half of Lent and beginning weeks of the Easter season. We'll be gathering at the church on Saturday mornings, 9:30-11:00 beginning Saturday, March 10. There will be coffee and bagels, good discussion, and the freedom to come whichever of the 6 Saturdays you are available.



March 10; March 17; No gathering on March 24; March 31; April 7; No gathering on April 14; April 21; and the last gathering on Saturday, April 28.

Get your copy of the book at the shelf to your right as you enter the main door of the church.

For our **MARCH BOOK CLUB** meeting we will be reading Jesmyn Ward's memoir, *Men We Reaped*. Jesmyn Ward is the National Book Award-winning author of *Salvage the Bones* and *Sing, Unburied, Sing*. Her memoir, *Men We Reaped*, shines a light on the community she comes from, in DeLisle Mississippi, a place of quiet beauty and fierce attachment. Here, in the space of four years, she lost five young men dear to her, including her beloved brother, to accidents, murder, and suicide. As she dealt with these losses, Jesmyn came to see the connections between their deaths and some agonizing realities of the history of racism and economic disadvantage, problems whose roots are woven into the soil under all our feet. In this book she tells their true stories, and her own. We'll gather on March 21, 7 p.m. at the Lowly's, 2203 Illinois Rd, in Northbrook.



Pastor Sherrie

Hello AGAPE friends—**we are meeting on March 4 and March 18**

We had an a good session on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, and were happy to have Pastor Sherrie with us. And Sherrie, you are welcome to come to AGAPE whenever it fits in your schedule.

NOTE: Sherrie is offering a series on Marcus Borg's book *Convictions* during Lent. Many in AGAPE are interested in participating. Sherrie is going to let us know what meeting time is selected for this book discussion. Many people indicated they could meet on Saturday for this discussion.

On Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> we had a full time of **sharing** personal updates. We also delved into the issue of “gun safety” as we are all processing the recent Florida shooting, the students’ activism on this issue, and how our country’s culture of guns affects us..

**About March 4<sup>th</sup>**, remember that there will be a special Church Conference immediately after worship this Sunday. This meeting is to consider a proposal by the NUMC Finance Committee to use a portion of the 2018 distributable funds of the endowment to cover a shortfall in the Church budget for 2018. Basically, there will be a vote on using endowment funds to balance the NUMC operating budget for 2018. After we participate in that meeting, our AGAPE will meet where we normally meet.

Looking forward to gathering together, Chris and Peter

## **RAIN update - -**

RAIN (Racial Awareness in the Northshore).

Please think about signing up to attend a four-part series on “Transforming White Privilege” on Monday evenings in March at the Unitarian Church in Evanston. Pastor Sherrie Lowly and Alice Lonoff are attending this. To sign up and for more information, <https://ucevanston.org/event/transforming-white-privilege/2018-03-05/> to register.

Please plan to join us at a separate facilitated discussion on White Privilege that is co-sponsored by the Northbrook Public Library and RAIN on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> in the Pol-lak Room of the Library. 7-8:30. We will view two short videos and break into small groups to discuss.

From Bruce Woolman, Financial Secretary

I am the new Financial Secretary and we have established a new e-mail for you to contact me with any issues regarding your donations to Northbrook United Methodist Church.

It is [financialsecretary2018@northbrookumc.org](mailto:financialsecretary2018@northbrookumc.org)

Please be sure to let me know if you make stock donations to the church at this email address

**Thanks you for your support of Northbrook United Methodist Church**

### FOOD PANTRY DONATION

The Northfield Food Pantry is asking for cereal during the month of March. Please help out those not as fortunate.

Please bring all donations to Penberthy.



### BOOK CLUB

We had a good book discussion in February of Cristina Henriquez's *The Book of Unknown Americans*. I recommend it if you haven't already read it.

For our **MARCH BOOK CLUB** meeting we will be reading Jesmyn Ward's memoir, *Men We Reaped*. Jesmyn Ward is the National Book Award-winning author of *Salvage the Bones* and *Sing, Unburied, Sing*. Her memoir, *Men We Reaped*, shines a light on the community she comes from, in DeLisle Mississippi, a place of quiet beauty and fierce attachment. Here, in the space of four years, she lost five young men dear to her, including her beloved brother, to accidents, murder, and suicide. As she dealt with these losses, Jesmyn came to see the connections between their deaths and some agonizing realities of the history of racism and economic disadvantage, problems whose roots are woven into the soil under all our feet. In this book she tells their true stories, and her own. **We'll gather on March 21, 7 p.m. at the Lowly's, 2203 Illinois Rd, in Northbrook.**



## MARTHA CIRCLE

Martha Circle will meet on  
Thursday March 8.

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. ,  
Back to our regular time.  
All are welcome.

Any questions or need a  
ride, call Linda Reed  
[847-800-7008](tel:847-800-7008)

## CHOIR

Love to sing?

Love making new friends?

Love being part of a group?

Join the church choir.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings  
from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Please see Shirley Mosteller  
for more information



NUMC is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- Click link: [here](#)
- Click on the **Create Profile** button, then
- Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.



\*If choosing the option to donate via credit card; we ask that you consider adding 3% to your donation to cover the processing charges that NUMC would have to cover.

Please contact John Trout ([jwtrout01@gmail.com](mailto:jwtrout01@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or would like more information.

## Sabbath Ideas for Families – or anyone!

During Lent we are exploring the gift of Sabbath. Many of us are *weary. Tired. Worried.* Our family lives are busy. The news is filled with tragedy. We worry about everything from what to make for dinner to the safety of our children. Is the light of your spiritual tank glowing an urgent yellow? Our kids worry, too, about tests and grades, friends and loved ones, and getting hurt.

Sabbath rest is not a luxury, but a necessity for connecting with God and ourselves. This month we've been curating our favorite resources for mini-Sabbath's. Enjoy this list, and please contact me if you have any to add!

- \*Fill your tank with [thirty activities that can be done in 1,3, or 5 minutes](#), from author Traci Smith
- \*Seven days of free [gratitude meditations](#) from Calm.com
- \*Have each family member name 3 things they are thankful for before dinner or bedtime.
- \*Create a [gratitude box](#).
- \*Let go of worry and negativity with this [balloon](#) imagery.
- \*Visit [this link](#) for [mindfulness activities](#) to try as a family.

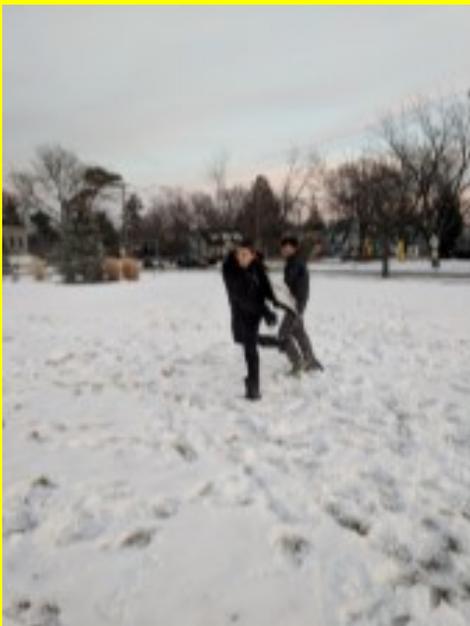
### Sunday morning Faith Formation during Lent:

**PreK-2:** [Godly Play Lessons on the Faces of Jesus](#) - a beautiful series on Jesus life and ministry as we lead up to the mystery of Easter

**3rd-5th:** Holy Communion. We'll answer lots of questions about these sacraments. Can kids take communion? What does it mean? Does taking a communion make me a cannibal vampire (thanks to my nephew for that question!)

**6-12th grade youth:** Following along with worship - what do we stand FOR/Sabbath as resistance. We'll be exploring the UMC's Social Principles.

Christine Hides



# Faith Formation Calendar     Spring 2018

## March 2018:

4	10 a.m.	Lent 3 -All Ages Worship
	5-7 p.m.	Parent and Youth Discussion re: Coping with Stress
11	10 a.m.	Faith Formation for PreK-5 <sup>th</sup> , Youth (6-12 <sup>th</sup> grade) Series 2 Class
	11:15 a.m.	Children's and Youth Ministry Meeting re: Summer
	5-7 p.m.	Youth Group
18	10 a.m.	Lent 5- Faith Formation for PreK-5 <sup>th</sup> , Youth (6-12 <sup>th</sup> grade) Series 2 Class
	5-7 p.m.	Youth Group
25	10 a.m.	Lent 5- All Ages Worship (Spring Break)
		No Youth Group (Spring Break)
29		Holy Thursday
30		Good Friday

## April 2018:

1	10 a.m.	EASTER - All Ages Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Egg Hunt
		No Youth Group
8	10 a.m.	Faith Formation for PreK-5 <sup>th</sup>
	11:15 a.m.	Confirmation Meeting for Fall 2018
	5-7 p.m.	Youth Group - Innovation Lab
15	10 a.m.	Faith Formation for PreK-5 <sup>th</sup>
	5-7 p.m.	Youth Group – Innovation Lab
22	10 a.m.	Faith Formation for PreK-5 <sup>th</sup>
	5-7 p.m.	Youth Group
29	10 a.m.	Faith Formation for PreK-5 <sup>th</sup>
	11:15 a.m.	Children's and Youth Ministry Meeting re: Summer
	5-7 p.m.	Youth Group

**May 2018:**

6	10 a.m.	All Ages Worship – Graduation Recognition Sunday (tentative)
	5-7 p.m.	Youth Group – End of Year Celebration
13	10 a.m.	Mother’s Day, Faith Formation for PreK-5 <sup>th</sup>
		NO Youth Group
20	10 a.m.	Pentecost, Faith Formation for PreK-5 <sup>th</sup>
	5-7 p.m.	NO Youth Group – Prom Weekend
27	10 a.m.	All Ages Worship – Memorial Day Weekend
		NO Youth Group

To add the youth calendar to Google calendar, “Add by URL”: [https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/northbrookumc.org\\_4sm4kasjet6adaveqqfs748o5c%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/northbrookumc.org_4sm4kasjet6adaveqqfs748o5c%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics)

For Other Apps the ICAL link is: [https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/northbrookumc.org\\_4sm4kasjet6adaveqqfs748o5c%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics](https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/northbrookumc.org_4sm4kasjet6adaveqqfs748o5c%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics)

**NORTHBROOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**1190 Western Avenue  
Northbrook, IL 60062**

Phone: 847-272-2442

Email:  
[office@northbrookumc.org](mailto:office@northbrookumc.org)

Mailing Label