



Northbrook United Methodist Church

Seek God Serve Others Support All

May/June/July 2018

Reverend Sherrie Lowly



SUMMER. I know it's not here yet, but we're thinking about it, making summer plans, getting ready. Here at Northbrook United Methodist Church we're making our plans and talking about how we can create the experiences of all that happens this summer at our church, be as open, invitational, and hospitable to all ages as much as is possible. Some of us may wonder whether having multi-generational worship experiences may "water down" the message and worship for adults, and/or be too "over the heads" for children. We'll experiment together, and we value your feedback and questions. Yet, where else are we able to gather in a safe place with others face-to-face from age 3 months to age 90? Where else can we breathe together the breath of creation and birth with the breath of wisdom and age, conspiring together with the Holy Spirit? [In our Pentecost worship we spoke about how the word "conspire" means "to breathe together". We took some deep breaths of the Holy Spirit together and began our Jesus conspiracy!] When can we hear the prophecy of a three-year-old and the vision of a 70-year-old? Where can we hug and laugh, sing, and pray with someone who is different from us, and where we can experience God in our otherness?

I would love to share a meal, go for a walk, get to know you better, and hear your story this summer. Please phone or text me. I can come to you too! Cell Phone: 773-957-4505

Pastor Sherrie

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS FOR PASTOR SHERRIE

Monday: Sabbath Day Off

Tuesday: 10 am – noon; 12:10 –1:30 Rotary Meeting; 2 - 6 pm

Wednesday: Out in the community. Call for a meeting.

Thursday: 10 am – 6 pm

Friday: 9 am – 5 pm Worship and Sunday message prep.

Saturday: 9:30 am – Small group Gathering; Call for a meeting.

Sunday: 8 am – 1:00 pm, Worshiping with You!

My Family and I will be on vacation from Sunday July 29 to Saturday August 11.

This Summer we will look at the Faces of Our Faith; faces in our church, faces in our Scriptures, and faces in our mirrors, that tell the bold and untold stories of our faith and our church. We'll be creative with games, music, color, journals, (journals based on the series will be available) and laughter.



FACES OF OUR FAITH

BOLD & UNTOLD STORIES

Some of you may know of StoryCorps, the wonderful podcast of stories made up of interviews done by ordinary people to record the stories of whoever you may desire to interview. **StoryCorps' mission is to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world.**

Our series, Faces of Our Faith is similar. To share the stories of characters from our Hebrew and Greek Scriptures as well as the stories of NUMC members, in order to build connections between each other and with God. Whose face and story have influenced your faith? Is there someone from NUMC whose story you would like to hear? Please let us know. Join us. Here are a few of the stories from Scripture we'll focus on:

Sunday, June 10: Adam and Eve

Sunday, June 17: Jonah

Sunday, June 24: Deborah

Sunday, July 1: Mary Magdalene

Sunday, July 8: Eutychus

Sunday, July 15: Lydia

Sunday, July 22: Philemon

Christine Hides, Director of Ministries With Children and Youth



Faith Formation – New things for summer!

On May 20th we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost with balloons, stories and interactive activities. It was a faith-filled morning! This past month, the Children's and Youth Leadership teams have been identifying the Spirit's presences in our worship, learning and gathering times. We've noticed that we feel God's presence at NUMC when we are building relationships and community, having fun, sharing stories, and have all ages together. We've decided it is time to explore

what lies beyond traditional the traditional Sunday school model. During the summer, we are taking a few risks and trying new things. Some things may flop. But others will show us where the Spirit is leading us as we grow deeper in faith and stronger as a community. Here are the highlights:

Interactive, All Ages Worship for Summer

Pastor Sherrie and I are working together to include children more fully each Sunday. We'll be incorporating art, music, movement and more into our Sunday morning to engage everyone of all ages in sharing what amazing things God is doing in the world. Given our busy schedules, taking time to worship says, "God, you are important." Worshiping all together reminds us that Gods is forming us into a community of diverse people gathered around one common table.

Youth Group:

As is tradition, youth group will be hosted at family homes through the summer. Come enjoy food and building friendships. Those entering 6-12th grades are welcome.

Wonder Time and Faith Together:

Our teachers have declared, "We want more Godly Play – not just for kids!" Now that we have invested in materials and training, we are excited to share the stories with a wider audience. Wonder Time will be suited for preschool and elementary children and their families. We'll gather for the story, then play at the park. Faith Together will be an opportunity for breakfast and learning before worship beginning in August. Mark your calendars for these brand new faith formation opportunities.

The NUMC Faith Formation Team includes: Erin Gosser (chair), Heather MacDonald, Paige Brooks, Susan Clark, Karen Wells, Janelle Wood, Sherrie Lowly and Christine Hides

Faith Formation Calendar- Summer 2018

June 2018:

| | | |
|----|-------------------|---|
| 3 | 10 a.m. | All Ages Worship NO Youth Group- Finals |
| 10 | 10 a.m. 5 p.m. | All Ages Worship Youth Group hosted by the Brooks |
| 12 | 5:30 p.m. | Wonder Time- Godly Play in the Park – Floral Park Northbrook |
| 17 | 10 a.m | Father’s Day – All Ages Worship |
| 18 | 7:30 p.m. | Monday Moms Group begins – see Erin Gosser for details |
| 24 | 10 a.m. | All Ages Worship |

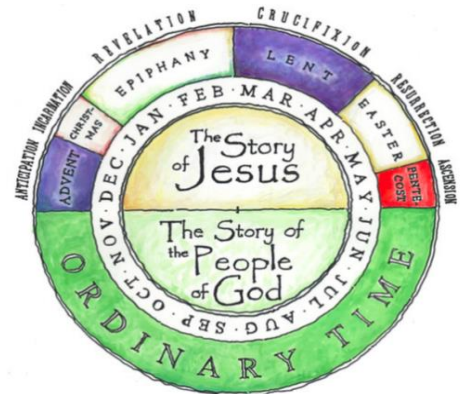
July 2018:

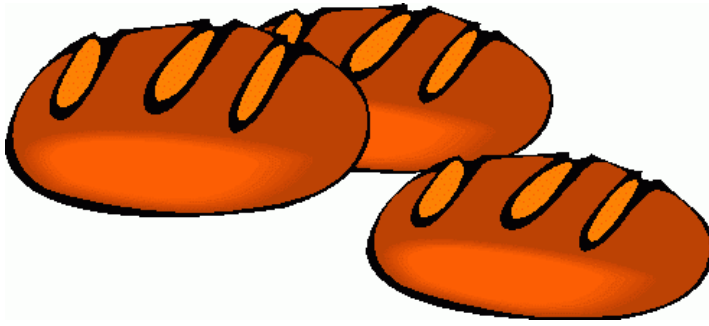
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| 1 | 10 a.m. | All Ages Worship NO Youth Group- Fourth of July Week |
| 8 | 10 a.m. 5 p.m. | All Ages Worship Youth Group hosted by MacDonald’s |
| 15 | 9 a.m. | “Pre Game” Bocce Ball |
| 15 | 10 a.m. | All Ages Worship |
| 21 | 9:30 a.m. | Wonder Time – Godly Play in the Park – Little Bear Park, Glenview |
| 22 | 10 a.m. 5 p.m. | All Ages Worship Youth Group Hosted by the Clarks |
| 29 | 10 a.m. | All Ages Worship |

August 2018:

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--|
| 5 | 10 a.m. 5 p.m | All Ages Worship Youth Group Hosted by the Tuckers |
| 12 | 9 a.m. 10 a.m. 11:30 a.m. | “Pre-Game” Fun and Community Building for all Ages All Ages Worship Faith Formation Team Meeting |
| 19 | 10 a.m. | All Ages Worship – Back to School Sunday |
| 26 | 9 a.m. 10 a.m. | Faith Together – Breakfast and Learning for All Ages All Ages Worship |

A Year In The Life Of Our Students





THE BREAD SERIES

For the last five weeks of Summer we'll think about bread and eat bread; bake bread; pack sandwiches with bread; and wonder about God as Bread.

Sunday, July 29: Five barley loaves

Sunday, August 5: Bread of God

Sunday, August 12: Bread of Life

Sunday, August 19: Bread is You

Sunday, August 26: The Spirit of Bread

PASTOR SHERRIE AND TIM LOWLY SPEAKING AT THE EKKLESIA PROJECT GATHERING

The Ekklesia Project is a network of Christians from across the Christian tradition who rejoice in a peculiar kind of friendship rooted in our common love of God and the Church. We come together from Catholic parishes, Protestant congregations, communities in the Anabaptist tradition, house-churches and more as those who are convinced that to call ourselves Christian means that following Jesus Christ must shape all areas of life.

2018: Defining Beauty

WHERE/WHEN

The 2018 Gathering will take place at the Techny Towers Conference and Retreat Center in Techny, IL from July 12-14.

<http://d1swb5ay1qopx0.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Ekklesia-Project-Summer-Gathering-2018-Program.pdf>



RAIN (Racial Awareness in the Northshore) will have its next planning meeting on Tuesday, June 5th in the Civic Room of the Northbrook Public Library from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come. See Alice Lonoff if you have questions about RAIN.

History Beyond the Textbook –

Please come to the next event sponsored by RAIN (Racial Awareness in the Northshore) in partnership with the Northbrook Public Library on Tuesday, June 19th at 7 pm in the Pollak Room of the Library. We will show a short video about Juneteenth – a celebration of the end of slavery in the U.S., followed by a discussion led by former GBN teacher of A.P. history, Bill Horine. He will discuss other little known aspects of U.S. history that is not taught in our schools or history books. The discussion may challenge your understanding of American History. Following his talk, he will answer questions. If you never heard of Juneteenth you are not alone. Please come and bring a friend! NUMC folks who are active in RAIN, include Pastor Sherrie, Carol Konvalinka and Alice Lonoff

Summer Worship Schedule

JUNE 2018

June 3 Communion

Faces of our Faith Sermon Series

June 10 Adam and Eve

June 17 Jonah

June 24 Deborah

JULY 2018

July 1 Communion and Mary Magdalene

July 8 Eutyclus

July 15 Lydia

July 22 Philemon

The Bread Sermon Series

July 29 Five Barley Loaves

AUGUST 2018

August 5 Communion and Bread of God

Aug. 12 Bread of Life

Aug. 19 Bread is You

Aug. 26 The Spirit of Bread

NUMC Trustees Meeting

June 5, 2018

7:00 pm

For questions speak to Susan Clark

NUMC Council Meeting

June 7, 2018

7:00 pm

For questions speak to Dave Hansen



New on our calendar:

MOM'S SUMMER GROUP

Moms in all stages of parenthood are invited!
NUMC has such strong women, but sometimes,
it's nice to feel the love of our "village." Come join
with other moms to support each other and
discuss a wide range of topics.

Every Monday for the summer beginning

June 18, 2018

7:00 to 8:30 pm

At the home of Erin Gosser

Please, no children at this group.

CHOIR

Love to sing?

Love making new friends?

Love being part of a group?

Join the church choir.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings
at 7:30 pm beginning in September

Please see Shirley Mosteller
for more information



Oakton Community College Opportunity

OCC in Skokie is looking for Volunteers in Teaching Arts (VITA) volunteers. A strong base allows them to serve more than 1000 students annually in their quest to improve their reading writing and speaking skills. If you would like to volunteer with VITA, call 847-635-1426 or check out their website at

www.oakton.edu/onted/volunteer-programs/

Elizabeth Tharp
Literacy VITA Program Manager
Oakton Community College

SUMMER READING FOR THE SEPTEMBER BOOK CLUB:

"A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Rules of Civility*—a transporting novel about a man who is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel.

In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this singular novel casts a spell as it relates the count's endeavor to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a man of purpose.

The book club will meet again in September, place to be determined.

Trustees Update

For Earth Day we cleaned out storage areas and recycled 38 gallons of old paint, over 200 used light bulbs, two full boxes of broken electronics including a large microwave. We also disposed of 3 bags of trash and two broken tables. We've just touched on cleaning the storage areas and hope to get them in better shape over the summer.

Boy Scout Troop 67 planted perennial flowers (Columbines, Forget Me Nots, Astilbes, Salvia, Coral Bells, & Decorative Grasses) at our entrance, a mixture of annual flowers in our pots, and mulched our flower beds Mother's Day weekend.

Saturday, June 9 from 9:00am-12:00pm is Church Clean Up Day. We will have check off lists for each room and area. You can wash tables, windows, blinds, toys or dust. Please come even if you only have an hour. There will be a lot of jobs for every age.

Sunday, June 10 Charge Conference at 11:00am

The purpose of this conference is to ask to use Land Sale Funds in excess of the \$50,000 written rule and to **not** require the 25% congregational giving on the heating project.

Currently the rules in place to use Land sale Funds are: Land Sale Funds will be used for Capital Improvement with the following limitations: Land Sale Funds will match congregational giving. Minimum ratio is 3 to 1 (75% from land sale proceeds and 25% from the congregation). Church Council can change this ratio to require more congregational giving for a particular project. Any project that requires a less than 3/1 ratio approval (less congregational giving) on a project by project basis will need to be approved by the Charge Conference.

Because the new heating/cooling system will cost around \$200,000 we need a vote to allow the release of funds over the allowed \$50,000. We will also be asking members to vote Yes or No on not having to match the 25% of giving for the project but use 100% of the project cost from the Land Sale Fund.

Trustees are currently looking at two different ductless systems and getting competitive bids so we can have heat by the start of next winter.

Why do we need a new heating system for the older part of the church?

1. The boiler pipes that carry water through the Sanctuary, Penberthy and Office Wing are in the ground under cement and asbestos tile. The pipes were originally laid on top of brick and

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wood which have developed moisture and caused the pipes to disintegrate from the outside in. We have had 4 pipe leaks in the past 17 months costing the church around \$20,000 in repairs and damages. Luckily insurance has covered some of this.

2. Another large pipe leak is bound to happen and probably soon. We know we have another leak somewhere but have yet to pin point it. It's very difficult to find leaks under cement and tile until the water seeps up above ground. Leaks make heating difficult and the Sanctuary and building is often cold.

3. Our insurance company and Risk Manager for the Northern Illinois Conference have reminded us that we are responsible for maintaining the building including old pipes. If we continue having claims for the same issues there will be a point where they will no longer cover the damage and repairs. This could be financially catastrophic for the church.

Will we still keep the boilers?

1. Yes, we will still run the boilers and be using them jointly with the new heating system we will be able to have a dual system. The Education wing and basement use boilers with pipes that run above ground. This is the same and not changing. We will then have the new heating/cooling system for the Sanctuary, Penberthy and Office Wing (this is the old part of the church and is on a cement slab).

When will the new system be installed?

1. The new system will be installed this Fall before winter.

We hope to have everyone's support on June 10 at the Charge Conference. If anyone has any questions, please reach out and we'd be happy to answer them. This was one of those things that was not planned, but after the Sanctuary flooded so badly the week of Palm Sunday, we decided we needed to address the whole pipe issue and solve the problem once and for all.



Yours in Christ,
The NUMC Trustees
Susan Clark, Steve Szumowski, John Coult,
Phil Braden, Okhee Choi, Tony Camardo,
Pastor Sherrie and Helayne Levin

SMALL GROUP GATHERING

Who is a Prophet? Who were the prophets? How did they know they were a prophet? Did they join a prophet's club? Do we have prophets today? The Saturday morning gathering is continuing into the summer. After reading Marcus Borg's book, *Convictions*, we became interested in the prophet called Amos, since Borg writes how much reading Amos influenced his life and his convictions. We wondered what Amos is about. So... we'll read about Amos and other prophets, we'll gather together at 9:30 am on Saturday mornings, beginning Saturday, June 2 with A STUDY GUIDE that will be available for pick-up at church. We'll talk about prophets, and I know we'll end up talking about our own lives too, over coffee and snacks, and we'll pray together. It's a good time. Join us whenever you're able.

Nobody wants to admit we are the prophets of these times—just as we're the mystics of these times—but we are. The mystics dwell in and embody the oneness we're all enfolded in (ask any physicist or mystic: separateness is an illusion, just as things are--we're all events unfolding, evolving--even a rock is mineral life in the process of evolution.)

Mystics know the oneness bit and prophets speak out when that oneness is disrupted. We speak out FOR each other, WITH each other, ON BEHALF of each other. Prophetic action is action taken for the whole because of love for the whole. It's not intellectual. It's not well thought out. It's not the only way. It's just mindful, loving action that leans toward harmony, justice, compassion.

You can be prophetic in a grocery line, at the gas station, or the dog park. It's just speaking out for the benefit of the whole human family. It's saying loving words. It's daring to SHOW UP and live out loud from wherever that place is your commitments live. That's the thing that'll bring fire back in your life. You don't aim to be a prophet. You aim to be a force for good, to risk kindness and a little honesty. You aim to let loose some of that Energy that breathes you and holds you up through the day.

Nobody goes around saying "I'm a prophet!" but people everywhere are calling out in the wilderness. People everywhere are saying enough with false religion. People everywhere are writing new sacred texts. Just so you know you're not alone...

Jan Phillips

Serving in Leadership:

Pastor Sherrie Lowly

Dir. Children and Youth: Christine Hides

Choir Director: Shirley Mosteller

Organist: Mijin Kim

Administrative Assistant: Helayne Levin

Council Chair: Dave Hanson

Recording Sec'y: Nancy Buehler

Staff Parish Relations Chair: Steve Tucker

Finance Comm. Rep: Heather MacDonald

Treasurer: Peter Greulich

Lay Mem. Annual Conf.: Alice Lonoff

Board of Trustees Rep.: Susan Clark

Mission Chair: Sharon Noha

Reconciling: Alice Lonoff and John
Cheung

Spiritual Formation: Christine Hides

At Large: Andrea Giannini

Youth Member At Large: Emily

MacDonald

Ex Officio: Pastor Sherrie Lowly

Hearing Loop System

Thanks to several generous donors, a hearing induction loop system was part of the 2012 chancel renovation. A hearing loop is a thin, tape-like wire that encircles the sanctuary and magnetically transmits sound to hearing aids and cochlear implants with telecoils (T-coils). Individuals with hearing aids and cochlear implants equipped with t-coils can now hear everything that is said or sung into a microphone without additional headsets.



The Northfield Township Food Pantry serves over 600 people in need, on a daily basis. We help by providing all sorts of non-perishable food items including cereals, pasta, pasta sauces, canned vegetables, baking mixes, flour, sugar, coffee, and so on. Please help your neighbors in need, drop donations on the shelf in Penberthy



NUMC DIRECTORY

Northbrook United Methodist Church
1190 Western Avenue, Northbrook, IL 60062
847-272-2442 northbrookumc.org

During office hours, Monday – Thursday from 8am to 2pm, all incoming calls are answered personally. Here is a directory of names and extensions if you wish to email or leave a message:

Pastor Sherrie Lowly – ext 12

Sherrie@northbrookumc.org

Christine Hides - ext 11

Christine@northbrookumc.org

Shirley Mosteller – Shirley@northbrookumc.org

Mijin Kim – Mijini@hotmail.com

Helayne Levin – ext 10

Office@northbrookumc.org

Bruce Woolman -

Financialsecretary2018@northbrookumc.org