



Words from Pastor Sherrie Lowly

March, April 2019

The church season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 6. Ash Wednesday is a day to tear open our hearts and receive the ashes of the burned palms we used to usher Jesus into the city on last year's Palm Sunday. Ashes are a symbol of the death of our hopes and dreams in our privilege and power. Today, on the day that I complete my message for this issue of our Messenger, I am heartbroken and angry at the decision of the special General Conference held in St. Louis February 23 – 26, to pass a plan for the United Methodist Church that excludes LGBTQIA persons of sacred worth from ordination and marriage in the UMC and punishes bishops, clergy, boards, and agencies who practice otherwise. My heart is torn. I'm angry and grieving that such an oppressive plan could be passed. It is the death of the United Methodist Church as we have known and experienced it. Ash Wednesday is very fitting to again tear my heart open, experience the ashes of dead dreams and hopes in preparation for something new to be born.



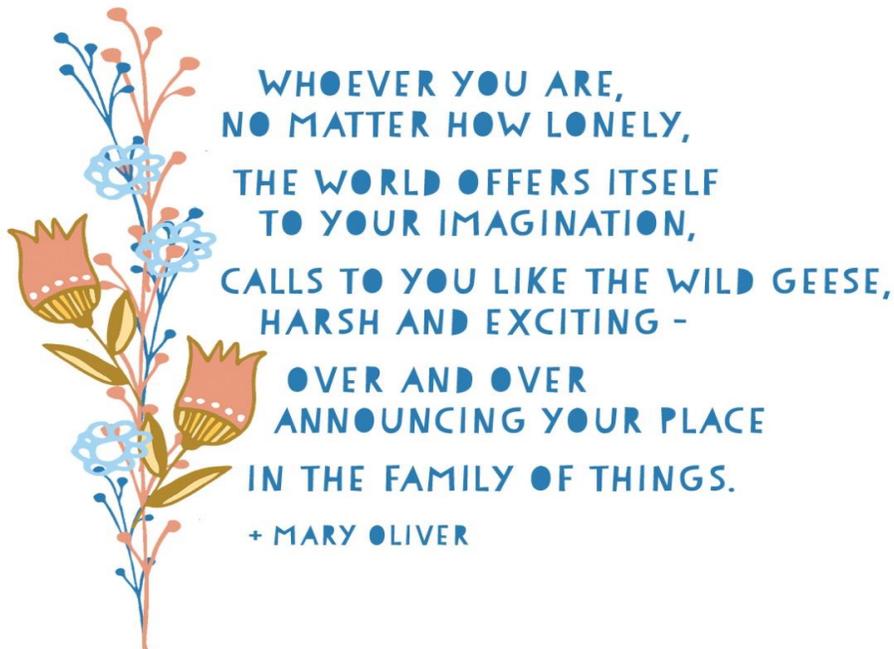
**THINGS! BURN THEM, BURN THEM!
 MAKE A BEAUTIFUL FIRE!
 MORE ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR LOVE,
 FOR THE TREES! FOR THE BIRDS WHO OWN
 NOTHING - THE REASON THEY CAN FLY.**

+ MARY OLIVER

This Lent at Northbrook United Methodist Church we are going to engage our torn hearts in the arts and practices of creativity as a way of aligning our hearts with the Creator of all things new. We'll engage the creative processes of writing, art-making, story-telling, music-making, dancing, and theatrical performing—the practices that keep our hearts open to letting go of the old and practicing something new. We'll celebrate these processes in our worship times, our small-group times, and in our times of fellowship and prayer together.

Pastor Sherrie Lowly con't.

It hurts to experience death. It's painful to let go of the old dreams. But I have no doubt that God is creating something new, because that is the God I know and love. It is the way that Jesus lived and taught. Please join with me for our Ash Wednesday burning of palms and receiving of ashes. Find a way to join in the community of creation, Making All Things New—Sunday events of celebration, small group gatherings, Good Friday potluck, social justice and mission events, gatherings for fellowship and community. In these acts of community and creative practice, I pray that you and we will experience the new thing God is doing among us so that on Easter morning, we will celebrate the Resurrection and the new reality that death does not have the final word.



At our Saturday morning small group gatherings we will share discussion and fellowship and prayer with the book, *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings* by John Philip Newell. Copies of the book for \$10.00 will be available at the church for pickup at our Ash Wednesday service or any time after that. We will begin our small group gatherings on Saturday, March 16 at 9:30 am.

Want to join a small group online? We'll read and discuss the new study written by our Bishop Sally Dyck with Rev. Dr. Myron McCoy, pastor at Chicago First UMC. You can download your copy of the devotional study here: <https://www.umcnic.org/media/files/resources/Lenten%20devotional%202019.pdf>

We'll engage with the study together online through our Facebook closed group page:
Northbrook UMC Community



LENT, 2019, MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

Isaiah 43:16-21 "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
This year for Lent, let go of the old, and partner with God and with others in the community of faith in creating something new.

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 6, 2019 6:30

Burning of Last Year's Palms for this year's ashes. 7 pm Taize style prayer and song with receiving of ashes

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart." Creative Practice, Writing

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

Service of Confirmation of Faith, Creative Practice, Artmaking

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

L.I.F.T. SERVICE • BREAKFAST AND LEARNING IN FAITH TOGETHER. Creative Practice, Storytelling

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away" Creative Practice, Dance

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

"Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? Creative Practice, Music

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, PALM SUNDAY

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem) Creative Practice, Theatre, Dramatic Performance

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, HOLY WEEK, GOOD FRIDAY 6 pm – 8 pm
POTLUCK MEAL AND EXHIBITION

Church Archives

Are you interested in history or archival information? Helayne Levin, our office administrative assistant has agreed to take on the task of cleaning up all the old paperwork in the building. Much of it does not need to be saved and clearing out all that paper will lighten up the building.

We are looking for a few strong people to help us get all the boxes from all the rooms in this building, into one room so they can be worked on. Then we need a few people who might like to help with the process of weeding out what we do not need. If you are interested, please be in touch with Helayne in the office at 847-272-2442 or office@northbrookumc.org

This project will begin this summer.



Music Notes

Chancel Choir will soon begin rehearsing special music for Easter. If you love singing, please consider joining us for the Easter season. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00.

Chimes are playing "What Wondrous Love is This" during the service on March 10. We also plan to play again sometime in May. This is a wonderful parent/child activity. No musical knowledge is required, just the ability to count to 4! We rehearse for a half hour after Sunday services the month before we play in service.

Instrumentalists of all types and abilities are invited to join in helping accompany some of the hymns during services. Rehearsals are Sundays before service and some Saturdays, as needed.

For more information, contact

Shirley Mosteller

shirley@northbrookumc.org.



CHOIR

Love to sing?

Love making new friends?

Love being part of a group?

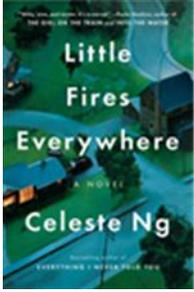
Join the church choir.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings
at 7:30 pm.

Please see Shirley Mosteller for more
information.



BOOK CLUB March 20 - Host: Chris Greulich
Little Fires Everywhere - Celeste Ng



In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is meticulously planned – from the layout of the winding roads, to the colours of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.

Enter Mia Warren – an enigmatic artist and single mother – who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than just tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the alluring mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past, and a disregard for the rules that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

When the Richardsons' friends attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town and puts Mia and Mrs. Richardson on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Mrs. Richardson becomes determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs to her own family – and Mia's.

Little Fires Everywhere explores the weight of long-held secrets and the ferocious pull of motherhood-and the danger of believing that planning and following the rules can avert disaster, or heartbreak.

A NOTE FROM YOUR FINANCE TEAM

Thank you, again, for your pledges of gift-giving for 2019. It helps us immensely to have estimated numbers to work with as we craft a working budget for 2019. In order to bring our working budget into balance we need to ask for a church membership vote to use some of the Endowment Fund's yearly mission-giving amount to go into the General Church Budget. That vote will be taken on Sunday, March 17, after our worship.

Each year, the Endowment Fund committee makes available the yearly interest on our endowment investments, for grant proposals of mission and service projects. The invitation to make a grant request will be coming out soon.

We have begun discussion and making initial plans for a Capital Campaign to fund and support our Board of Trustees in the work of bringing our buildings and property into the working condition that aligns with our Strategic Plan.

Thank you for prayers and support as we seek to steward our finances for God's mission in our church.

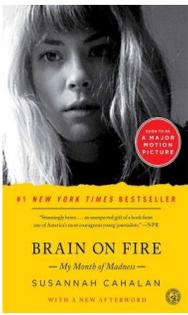
Finance Team Chair – Heather McDonald

Financial Secretary – Bruce Woolman

Treasurer – Peter Greulich

Trustees Representative – Bruce Ahlborn

Team Members – John Trout, Chris Jenkins, Pastor Sherrie



BOOK CLUB April 17 - Host Lin Berdahl
Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness by Susannah Cahalan

An award-winning memoir and instant *New York Times* bestseller that goes far beyond its riveting medical mystery, *Brain on Fire* is the powerful account of one woman's struggle to recapture her identity.



UPDATE ON RAIN

Racial Awareness In The Northshore

"A Global Perspective on Racism and Prejudice" on Thursday, April 4th in the Northbrook Library Interactive Classroom, 7-8:30, featuring clips and narrative from Nat Yogachandra's extensive travels in other countries. Free.

For more information about RAIN please contact Alice: alonoff72@gmail.com

March 5th – 7-8:30 – Northbrook Library Interactive Classroom – next **RAIN planning** meeting.

March 12 Deerfield Public Library*

Panel discussion on the attempt to integrate Deerfield in 1960's

April 4th "A Global Perspective on Racism and Prejudices"

Nat Yogachandra will discuss his perspective, co-sponsored by Bahais of Highland Park.
7-8:30 in Interactive Classroom of Northbrook Public Library. **RAIN sponsored event**

May 2 Color of Law

Author, Richard Rothstein will be speaking at Deerfield Public Library*.
He will talk about Deerfield's effort to integrate

May 20 FAN (Family Action Network) event

"Charged: The New Movement to Transform American Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration."
Check FAN website for more info.

May 22nd American Creed

Documentary shown in auditorium at Northbrook Public Library

June 4th American Denial

Follow-up documentary to Creed –in a discussion about how the American Creed is not available to everyone.
RAIN partners with Library

Holocaust Museum – Purchased Lives

An exhibit about the slave trade through August 25, 2019.

* You can register for Deerfield Library events on line to be assured a seat.

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.



Serving in Leadership:

Church Council Chair:

Dave Hanson

Recording Secretary:

Donna Lee Gulley

Staff Parish Relations Chair:

Steve Tucker

Finance Committee Chair:

Heather McDonald

Treasurer:

Peter Gruelich

Lay Member to Annual Conf.:

Alice Lonoff

Board of Trustees:

Bruce Ahlborn

Missions:

Sharon Noha

Reconciling Committee Chairs:

Alice Lonoff & John Cheung

Spiritual Formation Ministries:

Ellen Gotelli

Music:

Shirley Mosteller

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.



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

Ellen Gotelli – ext 11

ellen@northbrookumc.org

Shirley Mosteller – Shirley@northbrookumc.org

Mijin Kim – Mijini@hotmail.com

Helayne Levin – ext 10

Office@northbrookumc.org

Bruce Woolman -

Financialsecretary2018@northbrookumc.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY NEWS

Please advise Bruce Woolman at Financialsecretary2018@northbrookumc.org if you have any questions regarding your Giving Statements. Please let me know if you donate stock to the church so I can give you credit for it.

Thank you. Bruce Woolman
Financial Secretary

MOM'S 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.

Monday Moms will continue throughout the year on the third or fourth Monday of the month.

Dates through June 2019 are
3/18, 4/22, 5/20, 6/24.

At the home of Erin Gosser
from 7:30pm to 9:00pm

Please, no children at this group.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

As we end Black History month we thought it might be interesting for you to check your facts and see if you learned any new ones during the month. Below is a link to a United Methodist Black History quiz filled with interesting facts. Check it out and see how many you know or how many new facts you learn. Enjoy!

http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/Resources/documents/PDF_Complete_Answers_Page_Black_History_Quiz.pdf



CAN PROJECT UPDATE

Years ago, I started the Can Project with the hope of raising enough money to someday put solar panels on the church's roof. Unfortunately, the project never lived up to my expectations. That, and the fact that it would have taken fifty thousand dollars or more to realize the original goal. I found other groups and individuals outside the church to donate cans to and the emphasis switched from solar panels to supporting SHORE Community Services. They received the funds from recycling the cans because, they do good things for individuals with developmental disabilities, and, through their work training program, they donated more than half the cans.

Not long ago, SHORE found that they could no longer store the cans and opted out of the program. I then turned to our second biggest donor, Chestnut Square, in Glenview. Thanks to the efforts of long time NUMC member, Jane Carey, Chestnut Square had been donating thousands of cans a year to the project. It seemed only fitting that they benefit. In 2018, Jane moved to an assisted living facility in Northbrook. Before she moved, she hooked me up with a man named Gideon Falk who agreed to keep collecting cans for the Project. Gideon, in turned out, heads up Chestnut's environmental committee. He and his group try to find ways to make Chestnut more sustainable. Great. Now the money we collect from aluminum cans could be used for the original goal of the project, i.e., to find ways to save all the species of our planet from environmental catastrophe.

Here are a few of the ways Gideon would like the Can Project money to be used at Chestnut (which by the way is operated under the Methodist umbrella of services). Gideon wants to replace all the plastic containers used in their coffee shop with recyclable paper products and he wants to purchase cloth shopping bags that residents can reuse when they go get their groceries. Finally, I suggested that he encourage his fellow residents to swap out incandescent light bulbs with wattage saving CFL bulbs. NUMC just happens to have hundreds of those bulbs in its basement from the Porchlight Project. I'm sure Church leaders would love to donate some of those bulbs to a worthy cause.

Across from the bathrooms in the hallway off Penberthy Hall sits a green garbage can. You can help keep the Can Project alive by bringing your aluminum cans and depositing them in that green receptacle, even make it a habit every time you come to church.

It is amazing how much those cans can help different organizations so keep them coming.
Dan Lloyd



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