

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

APRIL 2015

ISSUE 4

A Word from the Pastor . . .

This past week I had the privilege of being at one of our denominational conferences in Chicago called NEXT church. Their mission statement reads in part: “Trusting in God’s sovereignty and grace, NEXT Church will engage the church that is becoming by cultivating vital connections, celebrating emerging leadership and innovation, and working with congregations and leaders to form and reform faith communities.” It was an inspiring conference in many ways and featured a keynote address on Tuesday March 17th from Diana Butler Bass, an Episcopalian historian. Her most recent book Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening is worth reading. It is both sobering and hopeful. She admitted during her lecture that her initial work on “the end of the Church” was discouraging, but that subsequent focus on the “new spiritual awakening” gave hope for the future of Christianity as it is expressed in communities of faith. An incredibly broad and oversimplified summary of her lecture is that we are in the midst of a Fourth Great Awakening in which transformation is about to occur within Christianity. It is a painful and difficult time between endings and new beginnings-not unlike the Saturday that exists between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We find ourselves very much between death and resurrection. Our faith is that THE Resurrection is the final word, so we have new life ahead. She delivered this hopeful word and gave resources to those in attendance for work within our ministry contexts. It was exciting to hear her speak. The context was energizing as well. I’ll share here what I mean.

A phenomenon with which I was not familiar demonstrated itself during worship and lectures at Next Church. It was live tweeting through the social media Twitter. If you don’t know what that is, ask your grandkids. Think of it as instant email on your smart phone in phrases made up of 144 characters or less. This happening during worship and lectures was initially disconcerting.

(continued on next 2 pages)



ALLELUIA!
He Is Risen!

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

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W. Franklin Sparks, Pastor Emeritus

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If there is an omission or an error,
please contact the editor so a
correction can be made.

Thank You
Emily Aldinger, Newsletter Editor

After a short while I was able to adjust and embrace it. I mention Twitter because during Diana Butler Bass' lecture it was tweeted that the Presbytery of the Palisades voted to approve Amendment 14-F. This vote gave the amendment the needed majority of 171 Presbyteries needed to pass the amendment. During Bass' lecture, this news came across the Twitter feed. Within a few minutes a person stood up in the balcony and announced their excitement at the decision. The person said they couldn't contain it and they wanted to rejoice with the gathered body of faith in the sanctuary of Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago. The news was met with a standing ovation, but not by everyone. It was refreshing to have a Presbyterian congregation clap out of joy over something in a worship-like setting, but I noticed that some folks stayed seated. This led me to pray that we would be able to keep from having further splits in the Body of Christ within the PC(USA). If nothing else I hope there is more dialogue between the factions who disagree over this amendment.

Amendment 14-F has been added to the Book of Order, one half of our Church Constitution (The other half of our PC(USA) constitution is The Book of Confessions). The amendment goes into effect June 21, 2015. The amendment provides a way for Presbyterian Church USA congregations and teaching elders (the new Presbyterian way to refer to pastors) to joyfully celebrate same sex marriages as worshipful and Christ centered. The language of the amendment is a carefully worded compromise between those who support same sex marriage and those who do not. The amendment provides a way for folks whose interpretation of Scripture precludes them from holding such weddings within their community of faith to refrain from doing so. The amendment also provides a way for our denomination to practice the radical inclusion of God's love for humanity regardless of sexual orientation and affirm people in monogamous committed Christ-centered relationships.

Our session has made no official vote on how Northminster Presbyterian Church will respond in the event that our church has a request to celebrate a same sex marriage. The issue was brought up at the February session meeting as something we had to consider. At that time the amendment hadn't passed and the Supreme Court has not recognized gay marriages as legal in the state of Ohio. Our status as a Covenant Network Church (in support of LGBT people being ordained and fully included in church life and governance) suggests it is likely the session of Northminster will support gay marriage, but no vote has occurred. Here are some pieces of information to help understand our denomination's actions:

Amendment 14-F reads in part (*italics added*):

“Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment *between two people, traditionally a man and a woman*, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community...”

“...In civil law, marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married couple in society. In the Reformed tradition, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges. If they meet the requirements of the civil jurisdiction in which they intend to marry, a couple may request that a service of Christian marriage be conducted by a teaching elder (pastor) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), *who is authorized, though not required*, to act as an agent of the civil jurisdiction in recording the marriage contract. A couple requesting a service of Christian marriage shall receive instruction from the teaching elder (pastor), who may agree to the couple's request only if, in the judgment of the teaching elder (pastor), the couple demonstrate sufficient understanding of the nature of the marriage covenant and commitment to living their lives together according to its values...”

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“...In making this decision, the teaching elder (pastor) may seek the counsel of the *session*, which has authority to permit or deny the use of church property for a marriage service...”

“...A service of worship recognizing a civil marriage and confirming it in the community of faith may be appropriate when requested by the couple. The service will be similar to the marriage service except that the statements made shall reflect the fact that the couple is already married to one another according to the laws of the civil jurisdiction...”

“...Nothing herein shall *compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service that the teaching elder or the session believes is contrary to the teaching elder’s or the session’s discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God.*”

Moving forward as a session and a community of faith I am aware that our congregation seems to reflect the makeup of the folks gathered in the sanctuary at Fourth Presbyterian Church on Tuesday night March 17th. Some, if not many, within our congregation rejoice at God’s justice rolling down like the waters and providing affirmation for our LGBT brothers and sisters in Christ. Some find themselves in a different place because of their differing interpretation of Scripture.

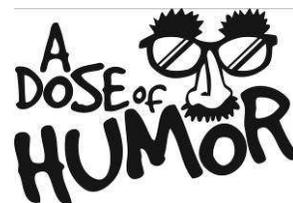
I do not hide that I am in support of this amendment and of LGBT brothers and sisters in Christ in general. However, I am pastor to everyone at Northminster regardless of where each person stands on Scripture interpretation on this or any other issue. Our community of faith has done a good job of differing on political and social issues in the past. We have done so by coming together around our shared need for salvation by God’s Grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. I trust we will remain skilled at practicing our shared communal life in this manner. I invite everyone to research the amendment and its implications for our local congregation and for our denomination. I’ve provided this summary in hopes that you will know how to answer when someone asks about the Presbyterian Church USA’s stance on gay marriage. Here are some helpful links to visit to conduct further study: www.pcusa.org, www.pres-outlook.org, www.covnetpres.org,

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work within Northminster as we seek to faithfully serve Jesus Christ and lift up His name and His Kingdom as a broader more inclusive place for all to thrive under God’s Grace. Please speak with me if you have concerns over this vote. Let it be an opportunity for discussion, growth and building bridges. God will lead us forward. God’s Grace will continue to be sufficient for our life of faith together. Peace of Christ be with you.

Dwight

Funny Church Signs

1. I wish Noah had swatted those two mosquitoes.
2. Life is cray cray, Jesus is the way way.
3. What happens in Vegas is forgiven here.
4. God, help me to be the person my dog thinks I am!
5. If you are the one that keeps praying for snow, please stop.
 6. Do not criticize your wife’s judgment. See who she married.
 7. Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him.
 8. We’re not Dairy Queen but we have great Sundays
 9. The Bee Gees aren’t the only ones staying alive! Happy Easter
 10. To Err is human. To Arrrrr is pirate.
 11. Sign Broke. Message Inside.



Sources: buzzfeed.com/pophangover.com/pinterest.com

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND READINGS

April 1

Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Ps. 70;
Heb. 12:1-3; John 13: 21-32

April 2

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14; Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 3

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Ps. 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

April 5

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
Easter Evening: Isaiah 25:6-9; Ps. 114
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

April 12

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Ps. 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

April 19

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

April 26

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Ps. 23; 1 John 3: 16-24; John 10:11-18

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

APRIL 2, 2015

to be held at

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
7:00 PM

A combined service
with Covenant and
Northminster Presbyterian Churches.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

GREETERS

April 05	Eileen Reeves	June Hughes
April 12	Joe Stalder	Marta Stalder
April 19	Helen Parker	*OPEN
April 26	Donna Sebastian	Judy Heaton

USHERS

April 05	Judy Heaton	Bill Harrison
April 12	Bill Benston	Barbara Benston
April 19	John Emerich	Carol Emerich
April 26	Shirley Sebright-Bierley	Richard Bierley

CAFÉ

April 05	Carl & Dee Ahlm
April 12	Eileen Reeves & Irene Hughes
April 19	Terry Rigio & Susan Dersch
April 26	Sarah McCormick

** The remaining open slot still needs to be filled—
please consider serving on that Sunday.
Sign-up sheets are located on the
information table outside the sanctuary doors.*

Easter Egg Hunt ~ Saturday, April 4th ~ 1:00 PM

Northminster is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt in cooperation with Villa Springfield on Saturday, April 4th at 1:00 PM. A sign-up sheet to donate cookies and ready-to-use lemonade is in the family room on the bulletin board next to the side door. For additional information please see Sarah McCormick or Cindy Chesnut.





Presbyterian Women

Faith, Fellowship and Fun with a Circle of Friends.
All are welcome to participate.

Co-Moderators

Joan Generous
June Hughes

Secretary

Anne Hines

Treasurer

Ruth Martin



P.W. Board Meeting

Monday,
April 6, 2015
10:00 AM

Bazaar Workshop

Meets Tuesday
Mornings from
9:30 AM to 12 Noon

Esther Circle Salad Supper

Monday,
April 13, 2015
6:00 PM

Ruth Circle Meeting

Thursday,
April 9, 2015
11:00 AM

P.W. Spring Dinner

Friday,
April 24, 2015
6:00 PM

RUTH CIRCLE

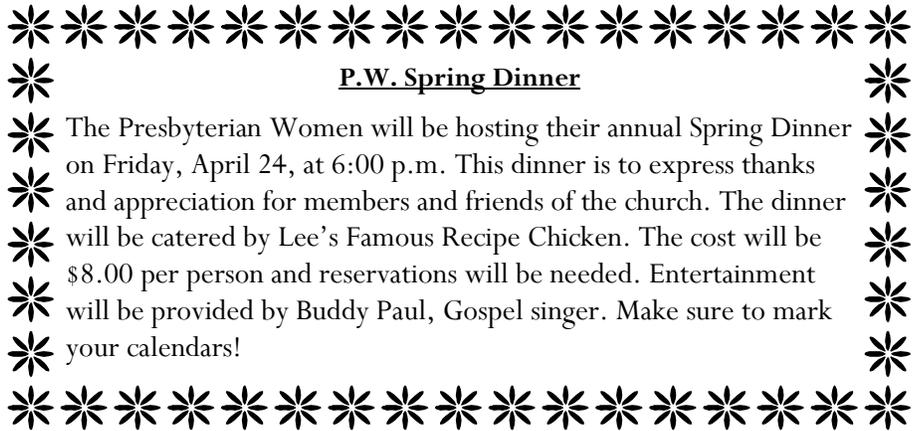
Ruth Circle will meet **Thursday, April 9th** at 11AM at the church.
Hostess: Mary Smith Program: Irene Hughes

ESTHER CIRCLE

Salad Supper

Esther Circle will meet for a salad supper on **Monday, April 13th** at 6:15 p.m. at Northminster. This meeting will feature Charlene Campbell speaking about her trip to the Holy Lands. This is open to the entire congregation. If you plan to attend, please bring a salad to share.

Hostesses: Ruth George and Sue Stucky



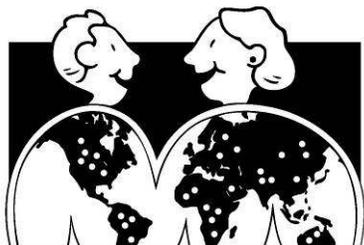
P.W. Spring Dinner

The Presbyterian Women will be hosting their annual Spring Dinner on Friday, April 24, at 6:00 p.m. This dinner is to express thanks and appreciation for members and friends of the church. The dinner will be catered by Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken. The cost will be \$8.00 per person and reservations will be needed. Entertainment will be provided by Buddy Paul, Gospel singer. Make sure to mark your calendars!

SUMMER YARD SALE!

Do you have any items you really just want to be rid of? You're in luck! The Presbyterian Women will be hosting a Yard Sale on June 13, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Donations will be needed as well as volunteers to unpack and sort donated items. Please mark your calendars and plan to give a few hours to help with this project.





Missions Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing Collection

Easter Sunday, April 5th, is the official day Northminster will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The offering's three impactful programs are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People. Please consider what you can give to this long-standing ecumenical effort aimed at raising the funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster.

Your castoffs can be put to good use!

Towels, washcloths, blankets or small throw rugs can all be used by the Animal Welfare League (AWL) as it cares for the dogs and cats in its custody. When you do your spring cleaning, gather those items that are a bit ragged or that are not being used. The Mission Committee will have collection boxes in the Family Room during the month of April.

The AWL is a non-profit no kill shelter serving Clark County. They started in 1959 when a group of animal lovers joined together to help the homeless dogs and cats of Clark County. Their shelter is at 6330 Willowdale Road, just north of Lawrenceville, and is open Wednesdays at 9 a.m. to noon and Saturdays, noon to 2 p.m. AWL feeds and shelters approximately 175 animals that are all spayed and neutered and have their shots. While their goal is to adopt all the animals at the farm, a shortage of good homes results in a number of permanent residents. AWL also operates a thrift store at 3 W. Pleasant Street and is on Facebook (Animal Welfare League of Clark County, Ohio).

Keep Bringing in Your Box Tops and Labels

The Mission Committee continues to collect Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education to give to the Oesterlen Services for Youth. The collection envelope is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex along with the list of products with these box tops and labels.

Watch for information about Relay for Life luminaries in next month's newsletter.

Thank you for supporting Northminster's mission efforts!

Submitted by:

Susan Dersch, Committee Chair



Vacation Bible School Is Upcoming!

It doesn't seem possible that it is time already for V.B.S, but it will be here very soon. The dates for V.B.S. this year are June 9-13. The times are the same as last year: 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Please mark those dates and times on your calendars.

The theme this year is "Everest." It will be a week of learning how to cope with life's challenges. We are currently in the planning stages, once again partnering with Covenant Presbyterian. We are promising to make this year very exciting and fun for all involved.

Like last year, we will need volunteers to make this happen. If you volunteered last year and would like to help out again, please let either Terry Rigio or Lois Shroyer know. If you were not able last year, but would like to help this year, please do the same. Members of the committee will also be calling for workers. It takes quite a few volunteers to make the week successful.

Please keep your eyes posted for V.B.S. information on the round table in the family room. In the next few weeks there will be sign up sheets for snacks and supplies that will be needed for the week. Your help with those items will be greatly appreciated.

The committee would once again like to thank the congregation for their support last year and are looking forward to that same support this year. If you have any questions concerning V.B.S., please contact Terry or Lois.

Submitted by:

Terry Rigio

Christian Education Committee Co-Chair



Easter Bunny Chow

6 cups Puffins cereal or Chex

1/3 cup creamy peanut butter

1 cup white chocolate chips

1/4 cup sprinkles (your choice)

2 pkgs. Vanilla Instant Pudding, sugar free (1 oz. pkgs)

Optional: Add Easter M&Ms



*The Northern
Light
Recipe Corner*

Found on peanutbutterandpeppers.com

1. Add your cereal to a bowl, set aside.
1. In a microwave safe bowl, add peanut butter and white chocolate chips. Microwave for 30 seconds, mix well; if the mixture is not creamy, place back in microwave for 10 second intervals, mix until creamy and no lumps remain.
2. Pour peanut butter mixture over cereal; add sprinkles, and mix until all the cereal is covered. Be careful not to crush the cereal.
3. Place cereal in a large ziplock bag and add both packages of vanilla instant pudding. Seal the bag and shake until all the cereal is covered.
4. Place cereal on a baking sheet and let it dry. At this time you can mix in M&Ms and seal in an air tight container.

CHURCH'S CORPORATION

President – Chuck McMahon
 Vice President – Bob Triebelhorn
 Clerk of Session – Lois Shroyer
 Treasurer – Bill Harrison



Class of 2016

Carl Ahlm
 Charles McMahon
 Terry Rigio
 Charles Vanarsdall

Class of 2017

Judith Heaton
 Denise Molnar
 Eileen Reeves
 Kate Smith

Class of 2018

Bob Triebelhorn
 Gini Collins
 Nancy Baker
 Ron Reid

Class of 2016

Dee Ahlm
 Emily Aldinger
 Joe Stalder



Class of 2017

Rob Adams
 Lindy McMahon
 Nate Smith

Class of 2018

Ruth George
 Sue Creager
 Cathy Reid

Moderator—Ruth George
 Co-Moderator—Sue Creager
 Treasurer—Dee Ahlm
 Secretary—Emily Aldinger



The Deacons will be hosting their annual Pentecost Picnic on **May 24th**. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, beverages, condiments, and dessert will be provided by the Deacons. The congregation is asked to bring a side dish to share.

Thank you to all those who donated to the Food Pantry drive that took place in March. A total of 44 bags were collected and given to the Clifton Avenue Church of God Food Pantry.

There will not be a Deacons Meeting in April.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Stephanie Molnar-Whiteside</i> | April 2 |
| <i>Anne Hines</i> | April 3 |
| <i>Grace Adams</i> | April 7 |
| <i>Tim Wertime</i> | April 10 |
| <i>Tom Stout</i> | April 11 |
| <i>Maryellen Purkey</i> | April 12 |
| <i>Mary Smith</i> | April 14 |
| <i>Jane Johnson</i> | April 14 |
| <i>Colin Creager</i> | April 15 |
| <i>Laura Creager</i> | April 16 |
| <i>Lucy Wheeler</i> | April 16 |
| <i>Martha Ater</i> | April 17 |
| <i>Joyce Carpenter</i> | April 20 |
| <i>June Hughes</i> | April 20 |
| <i>Edna Roeder</i> | April 23 |
| <i>Joe Stalder</i> | April 24 |
| <i>Marta Stalder</i> | April 26 |
| <i>Lindy McMahon</i> | April 26 |
| <i>Lois Shroyer</i> | April 29 |

April 2015

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Springfield, Ohio

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

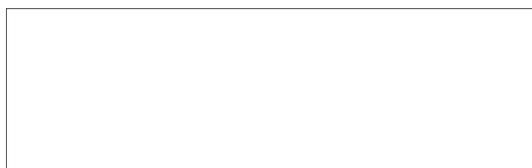
			1 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	2 6:00 Springfield Dulcimer Club 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	3 <i>Good Friday Church Open; Office Closed</i>	4 1:00 Easter Egg Hunt
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>Blood Pressure Screening</i> <i>Communion</i>	6 9:30 Young Women's Mission 10:00 PW Board Meeting 6:30 Yoga	7 9:30 Bazaar Workshop 6:30 Mission Committee Meeting	8 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	9 11:00 Ruth Circle	10	11 6:00 Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser at Buckeye Lodge
12 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	13 6:00 Esther Circle Salad Supper 6:30 Yoga	14 9:30 Bazaar Workshop 6:00 Finance Meeting	15 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	16	17	18 Clifton Ave. Breakfast
19 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 9:30 Bazaar Workshop 7:00 Session Meeting	22 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	23	24 <i>6:00 PW Spring Dinner</i>	25
26 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	27 6:30 Yoga 6:30 Quilt Guild at another location	28 9:30 Bazaar Workshop	29 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	30		

**NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



THE NORTHERN LIGHT
Issue 4



April 2015

- April 2 Maundy Thursday Service @
Northminster 7 p.m.
- April 3 Good Friday– Office Open
- April 4 Easter Egg Hunt
- April 5 Easter Sunday
Blood Pressure Screening
Communion
- April 18 Clifton Ave. Breakfast
- April 20 Newsletter Deadline
- April 21 Session Meeting—7:00 p.m.
- April 24 PW Spring Dinner 6PM

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

Matthew 28:6

*Northminster Presbyterian Church will develop disciples of Jesus Christ
and learn how to follow the way of Jesus.*