

# THE NORTHERN LIGHT

JULY 2020

SPECIAL ISSUE

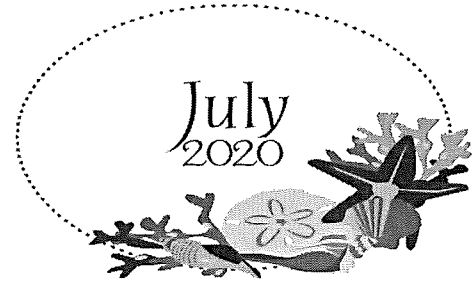
ISSUE 7



What a difference a year makes. This time last year my family and I were preparing to travel out of the country on sabbatical for a life changing experience. Northminster's leadership and congregation were functioning well in our absence. This year the absence is collective and based not on a chosen sabbatical but a global pandemic. The level of functioning is yet to be determined. In addition to the pandemic, we are also learning (hopefully) that our country has a long way to go to address systemic racism. We are learning what it means to be church during a global pandemic and an awakening on race relations. This is no small task, but it is worthwhile work God has put before us. Thankfully, God is helping us discern how to be and what to do. Because of our imperfections, mistakes have been made and will still be made. God, we know will remain faithful even as we stumble.

One dilemma in existing as the church in a new context was a realization that around 30 people out of our average of 75 on Sundays utilize no computer technology. The required lack of in person activities brought this to the forefront. The solution to staying connected has been phone calls and letters to check in on people and update folks on church happenings. This still leaves a space where in person worship used to be. We now have the option to be back together.

(Continued on next page)



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

400 Villa Road

Springfield, Ohio 45503

PHONE: (937) 399-0838

[office@northminsterspringfield.org](mailto:office@northminsterspringfield.org)  
[www.northminsterspringfield.org](http://www.northminsterspringfield.org)

PASTORS

Dwight McCormick II, Pastor  
W. Franklin Sparks, Pastor Emeritus

CHURCH STAFF

Tammy Hickman	Office Manager/ Financial Secretary
Bill Harrison	Treasurer
Adam Veith Debbie Husted	Custodial Staff
David Hapner	Choir Director
Kali Lawrence	Bell Choir Director
Dawn White	Organist
Terry Rigio	Presbyterian Women
Angie Haylock	Librarian

The Northern Light is published monthly September thru May with one summer issue.

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

Thank You

Tammy Hickman, Newsletter Editor

(Continued from page one)

Worshiping together again face (masked) to (masked) face will be possible beginning at 10am on July 19<sup>th</sup> at Northminster. The session decision to resume worship is based on precautions that were mailed out to folks already or published via email so I will not rehash them in this space. A list will be shared elsewhere in the newsletter. A very general summary of what to do in the building is to avoid physical contact with others, wear masks, use sanitizer and observe physical distancing. Thanks to Ron Reid and Bob Triebelhorn, chairs have been arranged and pews have been marked off to establish six feet increments.

If you choose to attend worship on July 19th, we also trust you have made a calculated decision on what is best for your health and the health of others. I look forward to seeing you in person if you choose to attend and will continue to pray for you and with you for an end to this pandemic. God will sustain us and guide us through. I point yet again to the comforting Psalm 46. Please read it again in its entirety. The line that continues to stand out verse one: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble”.

Yours in Christ, Dwight



### *Session Highlights*

The Session met in stated meeting June 16, 2020, by Zoom conference call. Rev. Dwight McCormick opened the meeting with prayer.

Pastor's report: Rev. McCormick reported that he will continue posting Sunday worship services on Facebook live stream even after we resume holding in person services. He also reported that he will be taking vacation from June 25 through July 8. The Rev. Stan Gockel will cover for pastoral emergencies. The Northminster congregation is invited/encouraged to join Covenant Presbyterian Church's virtual worship on Facebook live on Sunday June 28 and July 5.

Finance Committee report: The financial report for May showed an income, year-to-date, of \$79,000 (this includes several pledges that have been prepaid for the entire year) and expenses of \$74,359.

The main topic for consideration was planning for when and how to resume in person worship, meetings, and other activities at Northminster. After discussion and consensus building, session approved a motion to resume in person worship on July 19, observing restrictions/best practices to protect participants. Session also approved a motion that in person committee meetings will not resume until August 1, at the earliest.

The next stated meeting of Session is online on July 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Please continue to pray for the Pastor and Session as we serve this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ.

## RETURN TO IN PERSON WORSHIP

Some of the safety measures that will be taken when we gather on July 19<sup>th</sup> and on subsequent Sundays:

- 1) Wearing masks while in the building is required. A mask will be provided at the door for folks without one. Volunteers at each entrance will help with this.
- 2) Use of hand sanitizer upon entry to the building (and more often as needed when you occupy the building) will be required. Volunteers at church entrances will direct you to stations with sanitizer.
- 3) Washing hands with warm soapy water for 20 seconds or more is suggested if you touch your face and of course after trips to the restroom.
- 4) Keeping at least six feet apart from other worshipers is suggested. Six-foot distances will be marked on the floors of the family room and sanctuary. Therefore, hugging and handshakes are discouraged.
- 5) Volunteers will be directing you to your seat at the beginning of worship (filling up from the front of the worship space). Volunteers will be dismissing people by rows starting from the back of the worship space upon conclusion of worship. We ask that you exit the building upon conclusion of worship.

Some familiar and beloved elements of worship and fellowship will be missing in the interest of the health of attendees:

- 1) There will not be a café or fellowship time inside the building.
- 2) Worship music will be different. It will be a combination of pre-recorded special music and/or instrumental solo or ensemble performances. These will replace congregational singing.
- 3) We will NOT be celebrating communion until we have arranged for a safe way of sharing the elements with one another. We will share with you as soon as we have logistics in place for this.
- 4) No bulletins--use of the screen to follow along with liturgy, prayers and Scriptures will be our approach. Some large print bulletins will be provided for people who are visually impaired.

Included during worship will be glorifying God through:

- 1) Prayers throughout worship as usual.
- 2) Liturgy
- 3) Proclamation of The Word--Scripture readings and sermon
- 4) Offerings received by placing them in a collection plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Physical space arrangement is being addressed by the Property committee:

- 1) Chairs will be prearranged with six feet distances between them--some will be arranged to accommodate people from the same household sitting with one another.
- 2) Pews will be blocked off for safe distance between worshipers.
- 3) Six feet increments of space will be marked on the floors of public spaces.

Thank you for your help in following these guidelines in an effort to protect your own health and the health of others.



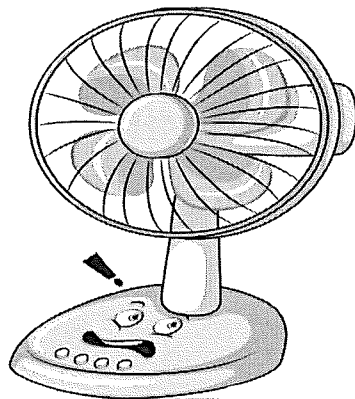
## Mission and Outreach Committee

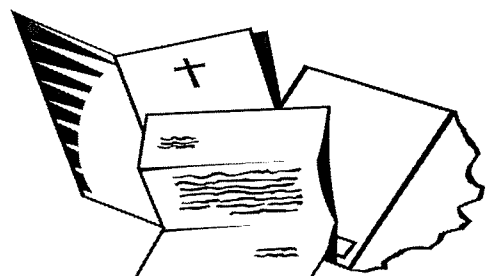
Northminster Presbyterian Church will be hosting a shoe drive on August 15 and 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. To donate, simply drive through the drop off station at our church and donate unwanted shoes. All types, sizes and conditions will be accepted, as long as they are free from mold/mildew. Physical distancing and wearing masks will be observed on collection days.

Shoes collected will be given to WaterStep, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing safe drinking water to children and families in need all over the world. WaterStep sells the shoes to an exporter and uses the funds to equip people with training and technology enabling them to provide safe, clean water to communities in need. The exporter takes the shoes into some of the same developing countries where Waterstep does water purification projects and sells them to local vendors instead of giving them away. Because of this, we are contributing to micro-enterprise ventures that benefit the economy. This business model helps provide funds for WaterStep, the exporter, and those small business owners in developing countries. The enclosed provides more information about WaterStep and the need for safe drinking water around the world.



Why did the stadium get hot after the game?  
All the fans left.





## Memorials & Gifts

*2020 Gifts Remembering . .*

Dick Johnson  
David Hines

## ADULT VISIONARY MINISTRY

As many communities begin to envision a new path forward in re-opening, re-connecting and re-discovering, there is dense grief and unrest that prevails. This season of the COVID-19 has brought us to our knees—in our individual lives, societies and countries. We have been shaken to our core. Now, it is coming to light that this great disturbance has given way to the unveiling of deep instability relative to other unresolved and critical issues around the world.

We cannot control what is happening in our midst, but we do have control of how we “show up” in our lives. We also have capacity to hold a life-affirming vision and contribute to transformation as we seek a new path forward. It may be that we do not have the language or images to optimally have discourse about the future. Yet, this is a point in our lives when voices of wisdom from all generations must be heard and considered. This is the point where we let go of what once felt sure, safe, and comfortable, and embark on a fresh course. It is like we have just let go of a flying trapeze and are now reaching to grasp the next.

Whether our leave-taking from the past is exhilarating or anxiety-provoking, sorrowful or determined, we are likely to encounter loneliness and fear of isolation. Obstructions are bound to rise up, especially familiar social systems everyone knows but cannot seem to successfully depart from in order to break into an encouraging and flourishing era. Discovering a new path forward is like learning to speak a foreign language. We likely will stumble over the spoken and unspoken subtleties and ways to clearly articulate and hopefully be understood. Yet, as we reflect on what we have learned these past months, perhaps we realize that we also *can* learn to speak a new language.

Our lives have flowed rather directly along paths laid out by our understanding of the world. However, from many years of life experience there comes realization that we have lived long enough to know that sometimes paths taken have made sense and at other times we needed to muster courage to discover a different way of being. Hearing outcries around the world, we may feel hopeless and wonder if we have the power to make a difference. The truth is that we are interconnected and need each other, and our precious planet also needs our care. More is asked of us during an Era of Awakening. How will we participate? What needs to change in order for us to see more clearly and to dream new dreams?

Question for your consideration: What have I discovered in the past three months that has shifted my personal beliefs?

Excerpted from “Era of Awakening-Seeking a New Path” by Sage-ing International

### Closed Path by Rabindranath Tagore

I thought that my voyage had come to its end  
At the last limit of my power,  
That the path before me was closed,  
That provisions were exhausted  
And the time come to take shelter in a silent obscurity.

But I find that thy will knows no end in me.  
And when old words die out on the tongue  
New melodies break forth from the heart;  
And where the old tracks are lost,  
New country is revealed with its wonders.

**NORTHMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

400 Villa Road  
Springfield, Ohio 45503



**THE NORTHERN LIGHT**  
*Issue 7*



*Stay Safe  
and  
Healthy*

---

**Summer 2020**

- |         |                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| July 4  | Independence Day                  |
| July 19 | Return to in person worship       |
| July 19 | Quarantine Cantina—1:30 p.m. Zoon |
| July 21 | Session Zoom Meeting—7:00 p.m.    |

**“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.”**

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