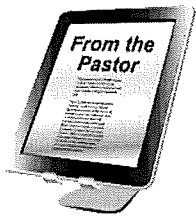


NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

MAY 2021

ISSUE 5



Reverend Susan Sparks is a lawyer and standup comedian turned Baptist minister who serves as pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City. In addition to these vocations, she is also an author. In reading her blog at www.susansparks.com recently, I learned about one of her concepts of the grace of God. She talks about the theological concept of grace by describing her interaction with her grandma whom she grew up calling "Ganny". She describes experiencing grace at Ganny's house. She says,

"...And while the great theologians like Martin Luther and St. Augustine have attempted to describe grace in powerful ways, I believe the home of Grace Foster Sparks (Ganny) provides the best image of all.

"...And while the great theologians like Martin Luther and St. Augustine have attempted to describe grace in powerful ways, I believe the home of Grace Foster Sparks (Ganny) provides the best image of all.

To me, grace is not necessarily a thing, but a place—a place of grounding and belonging where you feel special, like you are wrapped in an inordinately long, squishy hug, eating the filling out of a pie."

She says we all need to find that place because of the pressures of the world. Perhaps particularly in a pandemic, we need to find a place where we find solace from God and where we are grounded in the love of God that has no end. Sparks reminds us that one of the places we find God's grace is in the Scriptures. She then lists several Scriptures that she calls "squishy". That is, "Bible verses that make me feel like I am wrapped in an inordinately long, squishy hug, eating the filling out of a pie." I'm going to share the Scriptures with you that she lists, and I pray that you find some solace in them as I did.

Psalm 57:1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings, I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by.

Isaiah 41:10 ...do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

2 Timothy 1:7 ...for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Psalm 55:22 Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Continued on page 2

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

400 Villa Road

Springfield, Ohio 45503

PHONE: (937) 399-0838

office@northminsterspringfield.org
www.northminsterspringfield.org

PASTOR

Dwight McCormick II

CHURCH STAFF

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Tammy Hickman | Office Manager/
Financial Secretary |
| Bill Harrison | Treasurer |
| Greg Veith
Debbie Husted | Custodial Staff |
| David Hapner | Choir Director |
| Dawn White | Organist |
| Kali Lawrence | Bell Choir Director |
| Terry Rigio | Presbyterian Women |
| Angie Curtin | 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 can be made.

Thank you,
Tammy Hickman, Newsletter Editor

Isaiah 43:1-2 But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Isaiah 40:31 ...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

She asks that folks email her with their “squishy Scriptures”. I’m going to ask the same thing. Please share with me the verses or passages of Scripture in which you find God’s grace grounding you and encouraging you. Send me an email or a note in the mail to let me know: dwight@northminsterspringfield.org. Praying God’s blessings upon you.

Yours in Christ,
Dwight



I would like to thank you for the enormous outpouring of support for me and my family during my medical leave. The cards, the food, and the prayers communicated to us how much we are loved. We love you too and thank God for your kindness and generosity. The McCormick’s have many reasons to feel gratitude and you all are among the most important ones.

Yours in Christ,
Dwight

To the Members and Staff of Northminster,

What a blessing you have been! Words cannot fully express how much your support has meant to us during the illness, and following the death of our beloved husband/father, Frank Sparks. Food arrived and was gratefully eaten and enjoyed by the family. Phone calls and cards have both celebrated Frank’s life and given us comfort. Donations in his memory are being received at the church office, to be used for capital improvements—he would be honored. We are so grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

The Frank Sparks Family

Mary Sparks, Brenda Sparks Fisher, Sharon Sparks, Brad Sparks

Session Highlights

The Session met in stated meeting April 20, 2021, by Zoom conference call. The Moderator, Rev. Dwight McCormick opened the meeting with prayer.

Finance Committee report:

The financial report for March showed an income, year-to-date, of \$44,833 and expenses of \$37,091, giving a surplus of \$7,742. Finance chair Carl Ahlm pointed out that the YTD income includes some pledges that have been paid for the whole year.

Strategic Planning Committee: session approved the following:

The committee has made plans for the officers of both boards to resume their study of “Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation”, now that we can have in person meetings again. The first meeting (immediately after church on May 16) will be an introduction to the program for new officers and a review of the work done before the pandemic lockdown last year. The first full session will be from 9:00 am to noon on June 12 and 11:00 to 12:00 on June 13.

CARE (Caring and Responsive Environment) Committee:

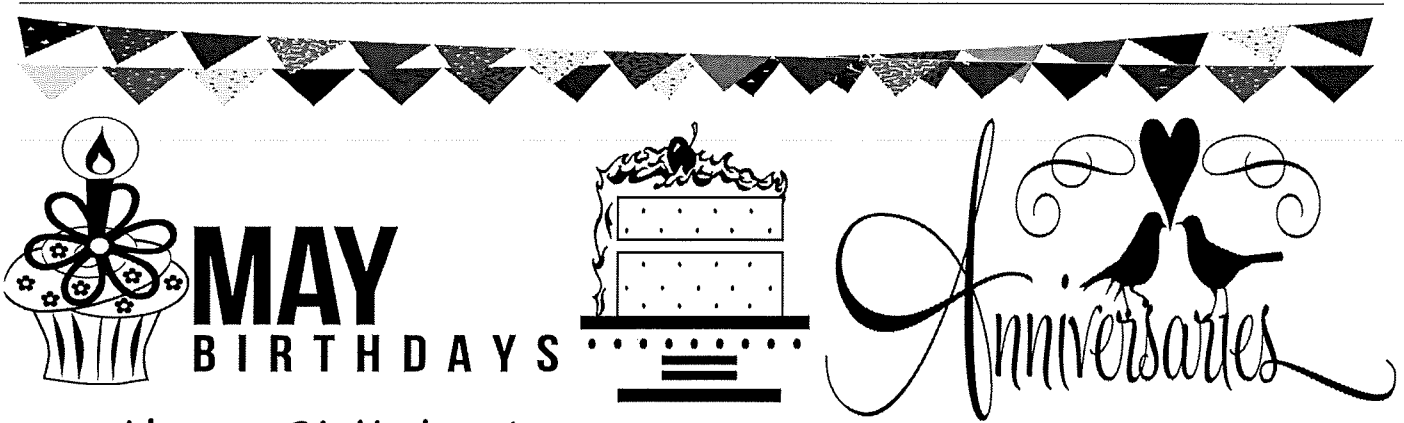
Current members of the committee are Kevin Creager (Chair), Emily Spriggs, Nancy Baker, Cindy Chesnut, and Lyndy McMahan. The committee began planning how to meet needs for congregational care (phone calls, cards, visits, transportation, food for funerals and other crisis situations).

Mission and Outreach Committee:

Session approved motions from the committee to donate Northminster’s portion of the Pentecost Offering to the Promise Neighborhood, to take a special offering for Kirkmont, and to sell luminaries in support of Relay for Life (if Relay for Life is held this year).

The next stated meeting of Session is on May 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM, in person.

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



**MAY
BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to:

- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| Mark Mussman | May 1 |
| Kevin Creager | May 3 |
| Gini Collins | May 8 |
| Jerilyn Hines | May 16 |
| Diana Harrison | May 27 |
| Helen Parker | May 29 |

Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to:

- | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| May 7 | Bill and Barbara Benston |
| May 18 | Andrew and Kristen Wheeler |
| May 31 | Chuck and Lisa Mansfield (1980) |



Mission and Outreach Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you for your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing. Together, we collected \$1,105 for this special offering. Your gift enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and help to empower the poor and oppressed.

Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost offering will be collected May 23. The Presbyterian Mission Agency will receive 60% of this offering.

25% will go to programs that bring young adults together in fellowship, worship and service

25% will help in ministries that guide youth in their walk with Christ

10% will go to child advocacy that protects and nurtures children and youth in mind, body and spirit

Northminster retains 40% of this offering and it will go to the Promise Neighborhood this year. This organization works to further the growth and development of our children right here in Springfield.

Spring for Children

Thank you for your generosity in donating items to Promise Neighborhood for children in Kenwood, Lincoln, Perrin Woods and Fulton schools here in Springfield. Two carloads have been delivered to them and they were most appreciative!

Pill Bottles

Please continue to clean and donate your used pill bottles. There is a container for this in the family room.

Shoe Drive

Remember when you are doing your spring cleaning to hold on to those shoes you are planning to toss out and donate them to our shoe drive! Dates for this year's drive are August 21 and 28. This donation to WaterStep is important because they help countries that do not have access to clean water.

CARE (Caring and Responsive Environment) Committee

Kevin Creager (Session) (937)631-7210

Emily Spriggs (Columbarium) (937)399-1473

Nancy Baker (Presbyterian Women) (937)399-0475

Cindy Chesnut (Deacons) (937)215-5894

Lyndy McMahon (Congregation) (937)305-7180



Phone numbers for transportation needs:

Springfield ADA Paratransit -- (937) 328-7228

United Senior Services -- (937) 323-4948

The intent of this committee is to assist the church in responding to the deaths of church or family members, illnesses, or hospitalizations, and personal or family crises. We need to remind you that HIPAA regulations now forbid hospitals or funeral homes from contacting the church, so we are asking you to contact one of us or the church directly, if you have a family need or become aware of someone that does have a need in one of the above areas.

We would also like to establish a pool of volunteers to assist in making calls, sending cards, making visitations (when we are allowed), and providing transportation or food when needed. So please contact us if you are interested in supporting your fellow church members in any of these ways. We are all members of the Northminster Family.

Thank you.



The CARE (Caring and Responsive Environment) Committee is in need of any greeting cards you have on hand that you are not using and would like to donate. If so, please drop them off to the office.



Presbyterian Women

Faith, Fellowship and Fun with a
Circle of Friends.

All are welcome to participate.

ATTENTION ALL LADIES:

The Presbyterian Women's Board could use your ideas. We have just begun meeting again in person and are interested in new ideas to help us continue to support the goals of our church. As with many organizations, we are having to re-examine the kind of activities that we can do while continuing to practice safe health protocols. Please consider joining our group and help us to look into the future to plan new and exciting activities.

We have been meeting the second Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the library. If you are working and would be interested, do not let the time stop you. It is certainly flexible and can be changed to meet the group's needs. Just get in touch with a member of the board to let them know you are interested.

The Board members are: Nancy Baker, Judy Heaton, Marilyn Scheiderer, and Terry Rigio.



Memorial Ribbon Tribute

For this month of May, we will have a memorial tribute of trellises surrounding the cross in front of our church. You can write on a ribbon the name of a loved one or friend who has passed. The names can be of people who have passed at any time, not just this past year, and they do not have to be members of our church. We would welcome the trellises filled with these ribbons by Memorial Day.

You can do this at any time during this month. There will be a waterproof tackle box by the cross with precut waterproof ribbons made into bows, waterproof markers, and green wire. Please write the person's name on the tail of the bow and attach with the green wire. Please make as many bows as you would like.

ADULT VISIONARY MINISTRY

Older Americans Month: Communities of Strength

May 2021

In tough times, communities find strength in people—and people find strength in their communities. In the past year, we've seen this time and again in Clark County as friends, neighbors, and businesses have found new ways to support each other.

In our community, older adults are a key source of this strength. Through their experiences, successes, and difficulties, they have built resilience that helps them to face new challenges. When communities tap into this, they become stronger too.

Each May, the Administration for Community Living leads the celebration of Older Americans Month (OAM). This year's theme is *Communities of Strength*, recognizing the important role older adults play in fostering the connection and engagement that build strong, resilient communities.

Strength is built and shown not only by bold acts, but also small ones of day-to-day life—a conversation shared with a friend, working in the garden, trying a new recipe, or taking time for a cup of tea on a busy day. And when we share these activities with others—even virtually or by telling about the experience later—we help them build resilience too.

This year, Northminster will celebrate OAM by encouraging community members to share their experiences. Together, we can find strength—and create a stronger future.

Here are some ways to share and connect:

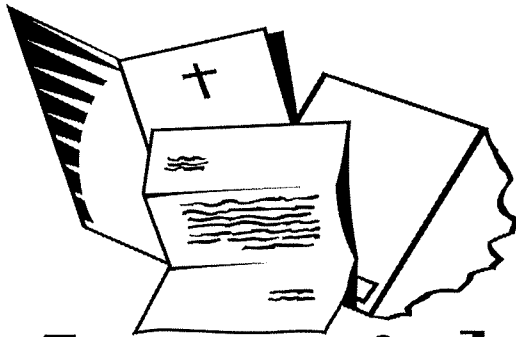
- * **Look for joy in the everyday:** Celebrate small moments and ordinary pleasures by taking time to recognize them. Start a gratitude journal and share it with others via social media, or call a friend or family member to share a happy moment or to say thank you.
- * **Reach out to neighbors:** Even if you can't get together in person right now, you can still connect with your neighbors. Leave a small gift on their doorstep, offer to help with outdoor chores, or deliver a homecooked meal.
- * **Build new skills:** Learning something new allows us to practice overcoming challenges. Take an art course online or try a socially distanced outdoor movement class to enjoy learning with others in your community. Have a skill to share? Find an opportunity to teach someone, even casually.
- * **Share your story:** There's a reason storytelling is a time-honored activity. Hearing how others experience the world helps us grow. Interviewing family, friends, and neighbors can open up new conversations and strengthen our connections.

When people of different ages, backgrounds, abilities, and talents share experiences—through action, story, or service—we help build strong communities. And that's something to celebrate! Please join Northminster in strengthening our community – reach out to friends, family and neighbors, phone, send a card or note, visit across the fence. Listening to others shows us how to connect and help.

Julie Griffin



Where There's A Will, There's A Way...



Memorials & Gifts

2021 Gifts Remembering

Janet Digel

Frank Sparks

Mike Blumenschein

Don Hughes

Dorothy Kozak

Edna Roeder



2021 BEQUESTS

Frank Sparks



We wanted to share the contents of a letter we recently received from Young Woman's Mission:

Pastor and Congregation,

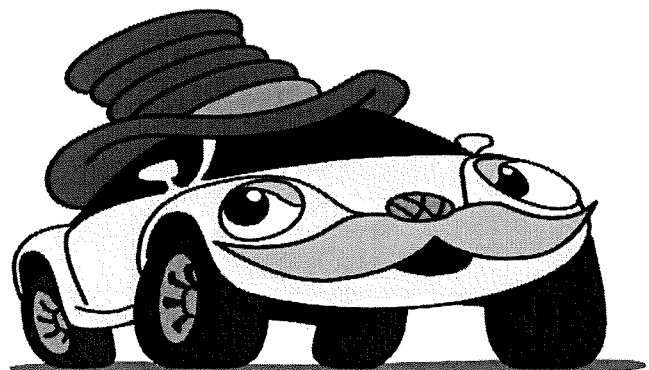
The pandemic has been difficult this past year in so many ways. YWM has missed our group lunch and meetings at your lovely church. We know that churches have had difficulties without the full support of their programs.

We have been fortunate that our customers at The Nearly New Shop have continued to support us with our reduced hours of operation. Therefore, we wish to donate \$350 to Northminster to cover part of our rental for the past year.

We are encouraged by the improvement in the pandemic and hope that we will be able to join together when you open your church for groups. Best wishes from the members of YWM.



WHERE DO VOLKSWAGENS GO
WHEN THEY GET OLD?
THE OLD VOLKS HOME.



**NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



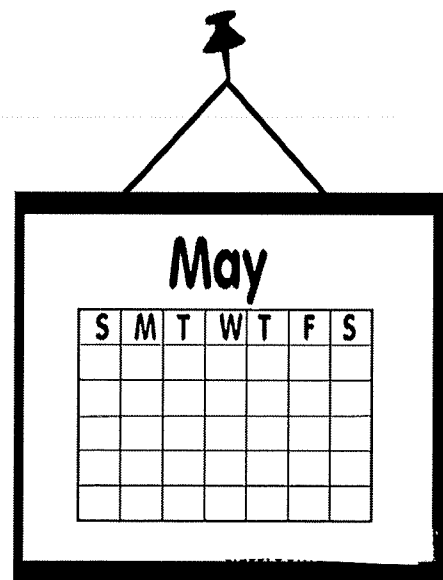
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2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

**“NOW THE LORD IS
THE SPIRIT, AND
WHERE THE SPIRIT
OF THE LORD IS,
THERE IS FREEDOM.”**

May 2021

- May 3 Adult Visionary Ministry—6:15 p.m.
- May 5 Music/Worship Committee—6:00 p.m.
- May 6 Dulcimer Club—5:00 p.m.
- May 9 Happy Mother’s Day
- May 11 Finance Meeting—6:00 p.m.
- May 12 Strategic Planning—6:15 p.m.
- May 14 CARE—12:00 p.m.
- May 16 7 Marks of Vital Cong.—11:00 a.m.
- May 18 Session Meeting—7:00 p.m.
- May 23 Communion
 Newsletter Deadline
- May 24 Quilt Guild—6:30 p.m.
- May 31 Memorial Day—Office closed



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