

Shared Sanctuary: Moving ahead with care, prayer

Now, work begins to move Modern Worship into the Sanctuary for good.

To recap, the elders agreed last month to move Modern Worship out of the Well permanently as soon as details can be worked out. The move comes after God answered our prayers: More families, more children, more worshipers have been joining us each Sunday, pushing capacity to its limit in the Well.

We know a lot more about what the move will look like after Modern Worship was conducted in the Sanctuary on Easter and Palm Sundays – the most heavily attended Sundays of the year. Now, as we plan for a permanent move, we'll be listening to your thoughts and seeking your support.

A suggestion box is available in the Commons. You also can leave feedback on the website: northminsterchurch.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Want details about the decision to move Modern Worship to the Sanctuary? Pick up a copy of the latest Newsletter Plus in the Commons or read it online.

SABBATICAL HOPES



Pastor Greg will be away from the church from April 14 to July 14

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- Who'll be in charge? And other questions answered
- These 5 people will preach on Sundays

'My prayers for you'

By PASTOR GREG KENNEDY

My sabbatical goals all revolve around the themes of creation and renewal. Whether I am building a kayak (creating) or going to places that fill my soul (renewal) they all have a purpose. But enough about me, what about you? What are your goals for the church

and yourself in this unique season? What might the church do? What might you do?

Unfortunately, there are no automatic guarantees that sabbaticals will be a profitable experience for all. Choices must be made for good to be experienced. I have seen

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**NORTHMINSTER
WHO'S WHO**

Senior pastor:

Greg Kennedy

Executive Director:

Mike Steel

Director, Congregational Care:

Daniel Meister

Director, Children's Ministry:

Sara Potts

Director, Student Ministries:

Brady Chastain

Director, Traditional Music:

Carolyn Miller

Organist:

Karen Balogh

Director, Modern Worship:

Rachel Steel

Clerk of Session:

Jane Whalen

Production Director:

Tom Haines

Communications Director:

Collin Jung

Facilities Director:

Jason Colemann

Ministry Assistant:

Trudy Teemley

**ATTENDANCE
REPORT**

Average attendance for the past four Sundays, including children:

Modern Worship
In person: 137
Online: 104
Traditional Worship
In person: 125
Online: 44

WORSHIP WITH US

Modern

9 a.m. Sundays in the Well

Traditional

11 a.m. Sundays, the Sanctuary

Online and on demand

northminsterchurch.org +

Facebook Live

**HELP US
TEACH, TREASURE
OUR SUNDAY KIDS**

Northminster runs on enormous volunteer power, and nowhere is the need more urgent than in the children's wing on Sunday mornings. We need your help to make sure as many as 40 kids each week are happy and safe. You can teach a lesson (all materials provided!), be a classroom or nursery assistant or just be here and on call to provide extra help if needed, one Sunday a month or more, or less, your pleasure.

Thank you for helping our children learn the love of Christ.

Call us at (513) 931-0243 or email Sara Potts at spotts@northminsterchurch.org

CALL US: (513) 931-0243
703 Compton Road
Cincinnati, OH 45231

FINANCIAL REPORT Through February	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Gain or (Loss)	Comment
TOTAL INCOME	\$198,258	\$255,059	(\$56,801)	Pledges coming in significantly below budget
Pledged/unpledged giving	\$195,495	\$252,725	(\$57,230)	Some giving in 2024 completed 2023 pledges
Interest, other income	\$2,763	\$2,334	\$429	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$207,247	\$199,914	(\$7,333)	Not a concern; we prepaid some bills for full year
INCOME MINUS EXPENSES	-\$8,989	\$55,145	(\$64,134)	
SAVINGS/FUNDS TAPPED	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	From Big Step Fund, as budgeted
NET SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	\$6,011	\$70,145	(\$64,134)	It's early year, but pledged offerings need to increase

Vacation Bible School sign-ups open

Join us for a week of games, crafts, music, science, story time and the best fun a kid could have this summer. Even better? Our children will learn how to trust God whenever they're afraid.



"Whenever I'm afraid,
I put my trust in you."

– Psalm 56:3

June 17-21

9:30 a.m.-noon each day

Ages 3 through 5th grade

Register at northminsterchurch.org/vbs

Seeing with New Eyes: The History & Experiences of Black Americans

We don't all see the world the same way, but we can listen. Join us as we explore how individual histories and experiences shape our views on race and racism, leading us to experience everyday situations differently.

This Northminster workshop will be facilitated by Scott Steel, elder and lifelong Northminster member, and DaVona Chapman from Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Space is limited. Child care will be provided if you let us know you'll need it.

When:
Saturday,
April 20
8:30 a.m.
to 12 noon
Where:
The Well



Register:
Email
scottsteel81@gmail.com
or use this QR code to sign up online.

Students retreat to 'Make it Matter'



High school students will be off on a retreat this month at Camp Campbell Gard in Hamilton. Theme for this year's weekend getaway, an annual event, is "Make it Matter." Through games, worship and discussion, the youths will be talking about making their Christian lives matter outside of church. The weekend starts at 3 p.m. Friday and concludes at 4 p.m. Sunday.

April 5-7

Interested? Contact student ministries director Brady

Chastain at bchastain@northminsterchurch.org.

Register online at the website



Journey to Hope: Consumed by grief? Let us help you

Progressing through Grief
Starting: April 2
7-8:30 p.m.
Sign up: jtoh.org

Losing a loved one can be devastating, we know. This group, meeting over five Tuesday evenings, will help you understand why grieving is so important and how it affects your body. Led by people who have been there, you will learn self-care skills to help you deal with all the complicated feelings in your own space and time. Cost is \$25. Can't pay? Scholarships are available.

The tax team everyone loves

By the time April 15 arrives, Northminster volunteers will have prepared and filed state and federal tax returns for about 425 people. David Addison, Marianne Lord and Dan Wells help dozens of taxpayers in the Well every Wednesday and some Tuesdays in a free program in partnership with the IRS and United Way.

"They love this team, they love this location," says Trudy Teemley, ministry assistant. She often takes calls from people wanting help setting up an appointment. Many are intimidated by the IRS and worry over money owed. "It's not just the numbers. It's the anxiety and fear. I hear it in their voices."

People have been coming back for years: young and old, married and single, some with little kids in tow. Some speak limited English, a few can't read. Most are from Finneytown, Mt. Healthy, North College Hill, College Hill, Greenhills and Forest Park.

IRS rules limit the free assistance to people with incomes under \$70,000. But no one is turned away, and everyone is treated with care and respect.

Appointments are taken now, but before covid, it was first come, first served. As many as 70 people might line up in the parking lot hours before doors opened at 10 or 11. In cold or rain, people would take turns holding each other's spots as they took quick breaks inside their heated vehicles.

These days, Marianne and Dan



Our tax team, from left: Dan Wells, Marianne Lord and David Addison.

welcome visitors, often with cookies and coffee, and make sure they have proper forms and documentation. David and several other non-church volunteers prepare the returns. It's not unusual for them to file returns for multiple states if that's where people worked. Most people receive a refund, but not all.

David says reward comes with every return filed: "It's a way to help others."

Limited appointments are still available. Call the United Way at 211 or church office at (513) 931-0243. Interested in joining the tax team next year? Assistance starts each January. Email David Addison at addifam@fuse.net.

NEW MEMBERS

RICK & KELLIE CANTER
 Son **ANDREW**
 Attend
 Modern Worship
 *

JONATHAN & HANNA JENKINS
 Son **WALTER**
 Attend both
 services
 *

NICK & MELANIE MUNIZ
 Attend
 Modern Worship
 *

DAVE WOELLERT
 Sings in choir
 Attends
 Traditional



'I found Jesus!'

Easter eggs weren't the only things kids found around the church and preschool last month. Someone* left tiny Jesus figures in unexpected places to remind everyone of our Savior's love.



Let's get creative and do life together

Crafts & Community



Saturday, April 13
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Downstairs
RSVP at
northminsterchurch.
org/events

You're invited to our new Ladies' Crafts & Community event. Bring the project you've been wanting to finish or supplies to start something new. We'll work on our crafts and share our creative sides and stories with each other. If you don't currently have a project, no worries. We'll have some fun things for you to try. The event is free. Drop in or stay the whole time. And lunch is provided!

Your blood wanted

Northminster will partner with the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming on a Hoxworth Blood Drive. Appointments are urged, and all donors will receive a Reds hoodie!

When:
Sunday
April 14
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Where:
Wyoming
Presbyterian
lower level
225 Wyoming
Ave.
Schedule
appointment:
hoxworth.org/
groups/wyoming



50+ gonna shake some Bones

The basement will rock with The Bones when this quintet of trombones regales us with musical favorites past and present. We'll hear classics including "Georgia On My Mind," "It is Well with My Soul" and the seasonal hit "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." The five musicians are all active in musical groups in the area, representing more than 250 years of professional music experience.

*

Don't miss lunch! Chef Joy Dreyer is preparing her marinated chicken breast, roasted spring veggies, orzo pasta salad, rolls and dessert.

Thursday, April 18
Lunch at noon, \$10; program at 1 p.m.
Downstairs, Disciples Hall
Sign up in the Commons or call (513)
931-0243 by noon Monday, April 15



Brass Band Concert

The River's Edge Brass Band may be the first brass band ever to perform at Northminster. The award-winning group of brass and percussion musicians volunteer their time from day jobs as engineers, health-care specialists, finance experts and active and retired music educators.

A special treat for us: Our organist Karen Balogh will join the band to perform the Camille Sant Saëns Organ Concerto.

The concert is free.

Sunday, April 28
3-4 p.m.
The Sanctuary
Reception follows
in the Commons



Students plan mission to serve greatest Influencer of all

High school students will head to Indianapolis this summer for a week of serving in soup kitchens, helping with children's programs and other community service. During the evenings, they'll take part in lessons, worship and discussions all centered around the theme "Influencer." By looking to Jesus, the greatest influencer of all time, the young people will learn how their own influence can positively change the worlds around them.

When: June 30-July 4

Cost: \$248

Register: northminsterchurch.org/events

Not going but want to participate? You can contribute items the group will donate including snacks, nonperishable food, backpacks, school supplies, soap, socks, toothbrushes and deodorant.



Phillip Roebuck, center, and Northminster teens learned to love serving others while teaching the Bible to kids in Philadelphia in 2006.

April Second-Mile Offering: Youth scholarships for missions

To contribute, go to northminsterchurch.org/give or drop a check to Northminster into the collection plate, with "April Second-Mile Offering" on the memo line.

Learning God's missions

A young Phillip Roebuck and friends were moved to tears, so heartbreaking was the poverty they found on a mission trip in Philadelphia in 2006. In Nicaragua, teens helped build a new community to rescue poor families living in a "Devil's Triangle" between a toxic river and a cemetery. People were so desperate they were rummaging through trash in the river hoping to find items to use or sell.

Phillip recalls these missions and others as life-changing, powerful experiences that helped build faith, friendship and a deep desire to do God's work, wherever that took him.

Today, Phillip is a new elder and chair of the Missions Committee. He has participated in 13 mission trips beginning as a summer youth intern in 2005. Since then, he has helped lead missions to places including New Mexico; Iowa; Niagara, N.Y.; Alabama; the Gulf Coast of Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina; and right here in Cincinnati.

The Second-Mile offering in April will provide scholarships for youth and young adults to continue taking trips like these. This summer, Northminster teams will be on missions in Guatemala and Indianapolis.

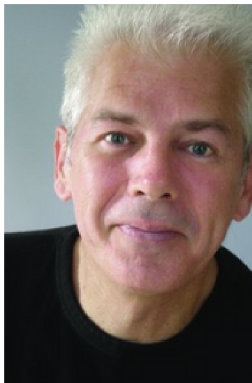
"This Second-Mile offering will impact countless people, including those who receive the scholarships, the other members of their teams, and the people they serve. Mission trips had a profound impact on my faith, relationships and the way I seek to live my life as a follower of Jesus. Please consider giving to help others at Northminster have a similar experience."

-- Phillip Roebuck



Guest preachers while Greg is away

Dave Workman



Pastor, led growth at Vineyard Cincinnati church

Dave led Vineyard Cincinnati megachurch from 1986-2013 and was senior pastor for 13 years. He spearheaded the groundbreaking Healing Center that offers services including a food pantry, clothing supply and job and health-care coaching. As president of the Elemental Group, Dave is helping guide our staff and lay leaders in "Do Life Together." He has a lifelong love of music and plays guitar at every opportunity.

Lisa Allgood



Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Cincinnati

Lisa leads our Presbytery, which supports 63 churches including ours. She's a ruling elder and has served in many capacities at Crestview and Covenant-First Presbyterian churches. An immunologist by training, Lisa spent 36 years as an executive in the pharmaceutical industry. She is on the boards for nonprofits Angel's Castle, which helps young adults with intellectual disabilities, and Sinapis, a Christian organization based in Nairobi.

Chip Hardwick



Executive, Synod of the Covenant

Chip leads the Bloomfield Hills, Mich.-based Synod of the Covenant, which supports 11 presbyteries (including Presbytery of Cincinnati) and 700 congregations (including ours) throughout the Midwest. He has served as pastor at churches in Atlanta and Lake Forest and Bloomington, Ill., and is a trustee at Princeton Theological Seminary. Chip also writes the Bible Explorations column for Presbyterians Today.



Jane Whalen



Rachel Steel

Jane, Rachel to fill out the pulpit

We've seen Jane and Rachel around the church for years. Jane, an elder and Clerk of Session, has been preaching about every six weeks since January 2021, when we started posting Sunday sermons online during covid. A registered nurse, she is certified in specialties including cardiac surgery and acute and critical care. Jane loves to travel, read and walk all over Finneytown, where she has lived since 1992.

Rachel is Director of Modern Worship and leads the band each Sunday. She's been leading worship at various churches since 2013. Rachel lives in Finneytown with husband Mike and three children. She enjoys gardening, reading and camping.

**Greg, from front page**

pastors and churches neglect or misuse the opportunities a sabbatical allows. My hope is that the next three months will be marked by health and abundance, not crisis and scarcity. My prayers for you:

Everybody finds and experiments with their mission.

You don't have to discover the perfect mission for which you were created. Just seek your mission for the next few months. We've been talking about Connecting Every Day, knowing there are ample opportunities to share our gifts.

Everybody discovers the unique health of the church.

When a church leans into its God-given identity, enduring health results. Scripture describes the church as a body in which every part has a purpose. We have staff and lay leaders who are humble and gifted. I pray the abundance of leadership will become evident to all.

Everybody sees a season of purpose and opportunity.

This should be a season of purpose both for me and for y'all. To that end, we will have two significant listening initiatives. First, we'll listen to God. He is leading us to wonderful new places at Northminster. Then, we will listen to each other, working together to keep up with God's plan for our future.

Embrace the opportunities,

Who'll be in charge? And other Qs answered

What exactly is a sabbatical?

A period of rest, renewal and recovery. For three months, Greg will be able to step away from Northminster for prayer and reflection without the urgent demands of day-to-day church leadership. He will not be answering phone calls or returning emails, and we will not be reaching out to him.

Is a sabbatical a common thing for a pastor?

Yes. It's spelled out in a policy by the Presbytery of Cincinnati, of which we are a member. Session approved Greg's sabbatical last October, and it's part of his terms of call. Nancy Ross-Zimmerman was the last pastor at Northminster to take a sabbatical, from May 1-Aug. 31, 2011. And a sabbatical actually has roots in the Bible, in the concept of Sabbath or rest after seven days.

Who'll be in charge while Pastor Greg is out?

Pastor Daniel Meister, our Director of Congregational Care, will be answering pastoral concerns. Mike Steel, executive director, will continue to handle administrative affairs. Church elders and deacons, staff and volunteer leaders, Life Groups and regular activities will continue as usual. The office will be open normal working hours and reachable at (513) 931-0243.

Will anything be put on hold while Greg's gone?

Not really. Greg asks that we think of this as a time to likewise pause, reflect and renew our own missions of connecting every day with people in our homes, communities and workplaces.

You heard it through the grapevine



Thanks for reading this issue of the Northminster Newsletter. Have comments, questions, suggestions? We'd also love to share your milestone birthdays, anniversaries, new jobs, the moments that matter to you and your family. Email Lee Ann Hamilton at hamilton@cinci.rr.com. *My son-in-law J.T. Harrison