



*The **Good News Corner** of*  
**North Northfield United Methodist Church**  
*Come to the Corner — Sanders and Dundee in Northbrook, Illinois*  
**March 2025**

## A Word from the Pastor

*By Rev. Dr. Min H. Woo*

Chicago winters are notoriously long and harsh, often leaving us yearning for the warmth and vitality of spring. Just last Monday, the temperature plummeted to a staggering -5 degrees, leading to frigid conditions that forced me to cancel Young's doctor's appointment due to a burst water main in nearby Skokie. However, as March approaches, there is a growing sense of hope that winter in the Chicago area will soon give way to the sweet promise of spring.



Many of us, myself included, eagerly await the return of sunshine and the gentle rays that herald spring. This anticipation parallels our spiritual journey during Lent, a season characterized by reflection and renewal. Just as the bitter cold envelops us, so too do we face hardships and moments of darkness in our lives. The cross of Christ encourages us to cultivate a spring-like hope amidst these winter-like trials, reminding us of God's profound love and unwavering presence in our struggles. The God of Immanuel, through the redemptive act of Jesus, assures us that we are never alone in our moments of weakness or suffering.

As Lent unfolds once again, I invite you to pause and consider how this year's observance resonates with you personally. It is a deeply contemplative time, prompting us to reflect on the sacrificial love expressed through the suffering of Jesus Christ. Through His crucifixion on Golgotha, Jesus opened a doorway to hope and everlasting salvation, transcending our earthly challenges.

In Romans 5, the Apostle Paul reminds us, "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). This powerful statement underscores the essence of our faith; God sent His only begotten Son into the world to endure suffering on our behalf. Thus, the cross transforms from a mere symbol of hardship into a testament to God's incredible love. It is within this divine grace that we find the courage to approach each day with renewed boldness.

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This seasonal transition mirrors the deeper meaning woven into the narrative of Jesus' death and resurrection. Soon, the frozen earth will thaw, and the trees will awaken from their dormant state, symbolizing the rebirth found within each of us. Jesus' resurrection signifies not merely a change in seasons but a transformative journey into a higher plane of existence. Our faith is nurtured during this spiritual winter, leading us into the joyous spring of resurrection where hope and joy flourish abundantly.

Yet, on our spiritual journeys, it's common to encounter periods resembling a winter of the soul. During times when God feels distant, or our prayers seemingly go unheard, let us remember that these moments are not signs of regression. Rather, they present opportunities for deeper connection with God. Just as a tree develops roots during winter, our spiritual winters can foster resilience as we strengthen our faith. Through perseverance and patience, we become fortified, ready to embrace the exuberance of God's new life and resurrection.



"The Last Supper," early 16<sup>th</sup> century European sculpture in limestone. In the collection of the Metropolitan Museum, New York. [Photograph](#) released to public domain.

As we enter this Lenten season, we direct our gaze towards the hope embodied in the cross. Jesus' journey was fraught with suffering, yet it ultimately paved the way for resurrection and abundant life. As we navigate our own winters—whether they manifest emotionally, physically, or spiritually—we uncover God's love, forgiveness, and eternal hope shining through the darkness. The message of the cross illuminates our paths and instills a sense of hope akin to the arrival of spring.

This Lent, we embark on a journey alongside Jesus through His suffering and victory. To aid us in our meditations, we will be using the book "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado, a profound exploration of God's love revealed through Jesus' suffering. This Bible study will commence on Thursday, April 13, at 6:00 p.m. and span five weeks, each session delving into essential themes: Session 1: He Chose to Be One of Us; Session 2: He Chose to Forgive Us; Session 3: He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence; Session 4: He Chose to Love Us Forever; Session 5: He Chose to Give Us Victory.

Within the pages of this book, Max Lucado masterfully articulates God's ultimate gift to humanity—love. His insights are both timeless and impactful. God's love was not simply offered; it was manifested through the profound suffering of the cross. Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, endured a crown of thorns and nails piercing His hands and feet, yet through the empty tomb, God unveiled the magnitude of His love, guiding us beyond the pain of the cross toward the glory of resurrection.

I warmly invite you to join this Bible study and hope many of you will participate. This Lent presents an opportunity for us to meditate on the cross, to recognize and embrace God's love, and to demonstrate that love and forgiveness to our neighbors. This shared journey will encourage us to reflect inwardly, repent sincerely, and prepare our hearts to welcome the exuberance of the resurrection. The path of the cross is undoubtedly challenging, yet as we navigate it together, we will experience the profound joy and peace that God generously pours into our lives. It is my heartfelt hope that our cherished Church family will find rest in the deep, abiding love that God offers throughout this Lent.

# A Word from the Worship Committee

By Betsy Fresen and Karen Peter, Co-chairs

## Finding Focus

*What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to lay aside his crown for my soul?*

Besides a beautiful melody, the lyrics of the familiar hymn *What Wondrous Love Is This* by Paul Christiansen (1955) invite us to focus reverently on the unfathomable depth of God's love and sacrifice for each one of us.

Reverent focus during Lent? Is that happening for you? ... Maybe in the moment of hymn singing, but let's be honest—the pace of our everyday lives sweeps many of us along in a swirling current of continual busyness. It isn't easy to press a personal pause button to allow for meaningful reflection on God's selfless and monumental gift of grace.

Good news! Carving out time to participate in one or some or all five of our weekly Lenten study sessions will not only help each of us find that focus and meaning, it will foster our growth as Christians together.

The Lenten season will begin at North Northfield United Methodist Church with the Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5.

Throughout Lent, we will offer a weekly opportunity (with refreshments) for thoughtful reflection on Thursday evenings, from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The first session will be on March 13. There will be five Lenten Study sessions in all: March 13, 20, 27, April 3, and April 10.

Each session will include a brief video viewing and discussion of Max Lucado's work entitled *He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart*.

We'll observe Palm Sunday together at our worship service at 10 a.m. on Sun., April 13.

Our traditional Tenebrae service will be at 7 p.m. on Good Friday, April 18.

Our celebration of Easter will be Sun., April 20, at 10 a.m.

Please note announcements and watch the church newsletters/bulletins for more information and the opportunity to order Easter flowers. Please watch for a flower order form in the bulletin on April 6.

## March's Bible Memory Verse

"But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)

## Start Saving for Thrift Sale

Spring is the time to do some cleaning up and cleaning out. Please put aside things to donate to the church for a potential thrift sale. Date is TBD. Questions or help? please contact Melanie. Thank you.

## Can You Help Us With a Snowblower Donation?

The Hartzes would like to donate to the church an MDT snow blower purchased in 2010. It is a 24-inch 2 stage, 3 forward and 2 reverse gears, manual, with a gas can.

We need someone to pick it up at Hartzes' and transport it to church. If you can help, please contact Jack at 847-828-8655 or Barb at 312-865-3095.

## March Fellowship Coffee Hours

March 9 – Birthday celebrations

March 23 – Hosted by the Greenwoods.

Please consider hosting a fourth Sunday Coffee Hour needed in the months ahead.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Thank you!



## March Birthdays

Why not save this sheet and pray for these fellow members on their birthday?

3/3	David Mohr	3/13	Hugh Foster	3/26	Richard Piggott
3/4	Jeffrey Moon	3/14	Barbara Holloway	3/22	Kristal Centeno
3/7	Gregory Piggott	3/17	Pat Mackie	3/29	Molly Hammer
3/9	Wayne Fresen	3/19	Young Mi Woo	3/30	Mary Jung-Ok Lee
3/13	Victor Cooper	3/22	Lily Schellenbach		

## Upcoming Activities

- Ash Wednesday service, March 5, 7 p.m.
- Thursday evening Lent studies, starting March 13, from 6 to 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with Max Lucado's "He Chose the Nails."
- Palm Sunday, April 13.
- Easter Sunday, April 20

## Recurring Activities

- Adult Sunday school, Sundays, 8:45 a.m., Education Building.
- Children's Sunday school, Sundays (during morning service).
- Praise and prayer before Sunday service at 9:45 a.m. (also available on Zoom by joining online service early).
- Small Group, next meetings Wednesday, March, 12 and 26, 5 p.m.
- Ladies Group, Tuesdays, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall.
- Choir rehearsal, Thursdays, 7 p.m.

# Calendar



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.  
The people of the United Methodist Church®

Join us for worship, **Sundays, 10 a.m.**  
Invite friends!

## March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>23</b> Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 HCC* PGM†	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall A.A., 7:30 p.m.	<b>26</b> T.O.P.S., 1 to 3 p.m.	<b>27</b> Chancel choir, 7 p.m.	<b>28</b> Yoga 10 a.m. PGM†	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Last Sunday after Epiphany Transfiguration of the Lord Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 HCC* PGM†	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall A.A., 7:30 p.m.	<b>5</b> Ash Wednesday, service 7 p.m. Chancel choir, 7 p.m. T.O.P.S., 1 to 3 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Yoga 10 a.m. PGM†	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> First Sunday in Lent Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 Coffee Hour HCC* PGM†	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall A.A., 7:30 p.m.	<b>12</b> T.O.P.S., 1 to 3 p.m. Small group, 5 p.m. Education Building	<b>13</b> Lent study, 6 to 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall Chancel choir, 7 p.m.	<b>14</b> Yoga 10 a.m. PGM†	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Second Sunday in Lent Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 HCC* PGM†	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall A.A., 7:30 p.m.	<b>19</b> T.O.P.S., 1 to 3 p.m.	<b>20</b> Lent study, 6 to 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall Chancel choir, 7 p.m.	<b>21</b> Yoga 10 a.m. PGM†	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Third Sunday in Lent Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 Coffee Hour HCC* PGM†	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall A.A., 7:30 p.m.	<b>26</b> T.O.P.S., 6:30 p.m. Small group, 5 p.m., Education Building	<b>27</b> Lent study, 6 to 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall Chancel choir, 7 p.m.	<b>28</b> Yoga 10 a.m. PGM†	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Fourth Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing (special collection) Adult Sun. Schl., 8:45 HCC* PGM†	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Ladies Group, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall A.A., 7:30 p.m.	<b>2</b> T.O.P.S., 1 to 3 p.m.	<b>3</b> Lent study, 6 to 7 p.m., Fellowship Hall Chancel choir, 7 p.m.	<b>4</b> Yoga 10 a.m. PGM†	<b>5</b>

\* HCC, Happy Christian / Agape Baptist Church, 12:30 p.m. service (in Korean)

† PGM, Prayer Garden Ministries Full Gospel Church, Christian education, Friday, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.

### North Northfield United Methodist Church

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Sunday services: 10 a.m. (join us early at 9:45 a.m. to sing praise songs!)

Church office hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Pastor — Rev. Dr. Min H. Woo,  
(224) 633-8002; mhwoo21@yahoo.com

Choir Director — J.D. Rich  
Pianist — Mathew Nall