



LAY YOUR WORRIES AT THE CROSS

THIS MONTH

"Reclaiming Life"

New class: How to win freedom from the digital demons.

Led by
Kate Tuttle



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Gold Medal swimmer



Davis Ward:
Special Olympics
champ!
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Babies & birthdays

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All the Easter celebrations, page 3

Easter invite: The cross beckons

Our giant Cross on the Lawn became such a hit after it was built last Easter that we kept it year-round.

Church members still gather to pray and connect. Visitors write their hopes and fears on stones and lay them at the cross. Random drivers stop and turn into the church to gaze and reflect.

"The community spoke, and we listened," executive director Mike Steel said.

As Easter nears this year, on April 20, the cross is calling us all to take another look. Bring the kids and write a prayer. Take a seat. Talk to God. Listen to Him.

Remember that Jesus died for our sins so we can have eternal life with Him.

Then watch the purple cloth draped on the cross turn to black on Good Friday and white on Easter.



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:

Henri Lo

Director, Traditional Music:

Carolyn Miller

Organist:

Karen Balogh

Director, Modern Worship:

Rachel Steel

Clerk of Session:

Jane Whalen

Production Director:

Tom Haines

Finance Director:

Soteros Maniatty

Communications Director:

Collin Jung

Facilities Director:

Jason Colemann

Ministry Assistant:

Trudy Teemley

ATTENDANCE REPORT

Average in-person attendance for the past four Sundays, including children

Modern Worship	
This year: 136	
Last year: 137	
Traditional Worship	
This year: 96	
Last year: 125	

WORSHIP WITH US

Modern

9 a.m. Sundays in the Well

Traditional

11 a.m. Sundays, the Sanctuary

Online and on demand

northminsterchurch.org

Explore Northminster

Interested in learning more about Northminster or becoming a member? Join us this month to learn about our community, ways to get connected, and how to become part of our church family. This is a great opportunity to meet members and staff and discover our values.

Everyone is welcome!

**When: Sunday, April 6
10:10-10:50 a.m.**

**Where: Youth room
upstairs**

VISIT US

703 Compton Road
Cincinnati, OH 45231

CALL US

(513) 931-0243

FINANCIAL REPORT Through February	YTD Actual	Comment
TOTAL INCOME	\$244,548	Under budget by 3.6%
Current giving	\$240,218	Over budget by 3.3%
Interest, dividends, other income	\$4,330	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$251,933	Under budget by 3.0%
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(\$7,385)	
NET TRANSFER FROM CHURCH FUNDS	\$1,667	
INVESTMENT GROWTH / (REDUCTION)	\$44,910	
INCREASE IN CHURCH RESERVES	\$39,192	YTD reserve growth!



Before He rose,
there was

Good Friday's sorrow

Travel with Jesus through his final days on earth in this moving Good Friday service. Mixing choral anthems, responsive readings, scripture, prayer and hymns, we'll share the journey from the upper room to Gethsemane to trial to profound grief as our Lord was nailed to the cross.

It's one of the year's most powerful services.

"No matter where they come from, I hope people leave with a sense of wonder," said Gary Tyler, Traditional Music Coordinator.

Gary started planning the service after season favorite Lessons & Carols was performed last Christmas. The 38 members of the Sanctuary Choir have been rehearsing since early March. A 13-person chamber orchestra will include violins, a viola, a cello, string bass, oboe/English horn, French horn, flute, clarinet, bassoon, percussion/timpani, harp and keyboard.

A 10-foot, rough-hewn cross will be draped in black. A crown of thorns will be affixed on the cross to remind us of the



JOIN THE CELEBRATION

EASTER EGG HUNT, Saturday, April 12

10:30 a.m. church lawn, weather permitting.

PALM SUNDAY, April 13

Modern and Traditional services in the Sanctuary

9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Children parade in annual Palm Processional.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20

Modern and Traditional services in the Sanctuary

9 a.m. and 11 a.m.



anguish Jesus suffered. Special symbols and colors will represent service, obedience, humility and forgiveness. Lights will be low.

Gary has conducted the service for more than 13 years, changing it each time for a memorable experience. It's anchored in the traditional "Tenebrae," which means "darkness" or "shadows" that pull congregants into Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. Candles will be extinguished at precise moments of the story. Only one,

the Christ candle, will remain lit.

When the service ends, people will leave in silence as the magnitude of Jesus' crucifixion sets in. We all know that Easter is just ahead, the greatest celebration of all. But on Friday, there is sorrow.

"When we conclude the service, people should be coming to question, 'What have I done? He died for me,'" Gary said. "I nailed Him there."

**Friday, April 18
7 p.m., the Sanctuary**



Reserve your Easter flowers

Honor a loved one's memory with a spring flower in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. You may take it with you after services or leave it for deacons to deliver to a homebound member or friend of the church.

**Order on website
or at Welcome Desk
by April 6, Cost: \$17**

NSM Student retreat set

High school students will be retreating to Camp Campbell Gard YMCA in Hamilton April 4-6 for a weekend of learning to be "Fearless." They'll explore how faith is key to stepping boldly into the future.

Cost: \$50

Register on website

VBS signups start April 13

It's almost time to sign the kids up for a week they won't forget this summer. This year's Vacation Bible School theme will be announced and registration will open on Palm Sunday.

VBS June 9-13

9:30 a.m.-noon each day

Ages 3 thru 6th grade

Register on website

Outpost Academy: "Reclaiming Life" How to thrive in our 24-7 digital world

Is your phone running your life? Do you feel an irresistible urge to check every notification or find yourself mindlessly scrolling when bored? Have a teenager who's always online?

If so, this four-week class is for you. We'll examine how digital technology has reshaped modern life and its impact on relationships, mental health, communities and spiritual well-being. We will reflect on academic research and biblical teachings as we explore topics like digital addiction, distraction and loneliness.

Throughout the course, we will share practical strategies for reclaiming our attention, fostering meaningful connections and ensuring technology serves us—rather than the other way around.

Inspired in part by Jonathan Haidt's acclaimed "The Anxious Generation," the class will also explore how adolescents and teens are affected by the "great rewiring of childhood," and how we can help the young people in our lives grow into resilient, thriving adults.

Invite a friend! This class is for everyone seeking safety and peace in a tech-driven world.



Meet Kate Tuttle

The class will be taught by Kate Tuttle, a social psychologist, Northminster member and mother who's passionate about developing an intentional relationship with technology.

You're invited!

WHEN:

Mondays in April

7-8:30 p.m.

WHERE:

The Well:

REGISTER:

northminsterchurch.org

CHILDCARE:

Provided



Gold medal champ

Davis Ward is a Special Olympics champion!

Davis placed first in his division in the Men's 50M Backstroke and second in the Men's 50M Freestyle swim races at The Ohio State University last month.

He represented Hamilton County, competing with hundreds of



Davis Ward

other athletes in the 2025 Special Olympics Ohio Indoor Winter games.

Davis, on staff with the church cleaning crew, bowled, ran track and played basketball and tennis with Special Olympics in Washington state when his family lived there. After they moved to Cincinnati in 2021, he began swimming with Hamilton County Special Olympics.

"I didn't know what to expect," Davis said of his first state swim meet last month. "It was a great experience."

Jennifer Ward, his mom, credits dedicated coaches and volunteers for Special Olympics programs that run year-round. Davis usually swims at Xavier University.

Track season began last month, which both Davis and Raymond Stone, another church member, participate in. Davis also bowls, plays bocce ball and pickleball. Raymond swims and bowls.

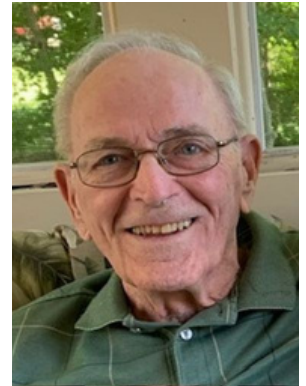
Congrats to our guys!

DENZEL NICHOLSON

June 22, 1939-
March 13, 2025

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**Celebration of
Life: April 16
10 a.m.
visitation
11 a.m. service
Sanctuary**



Nick Nicholson, 85, will long be remembered for his keen intelligence and love for life.

"He was a genuine man, a family man," said Marilyn, his beloved wife of 63 years. "What you saw was what you got."

Nick and Marilyn joined Northminster in 1970. He was an usher and collection counter; the couple usually sat in the last pew on the left at Traditional service.

A chemist, Nick spent 30 successful years at P&G in the Miami Valley Labs research and development facility. He held 16 patents and was happy not to have to wear a jacket and tie, the required dress at other P&G locales, Marilyn said. "He never pretended to be anything he was not."

After retirement, Nick and Marilyn loved collecting and researching Cincinnati pottery. They even wrote two books about it. "He loved the research more than the writing," Marilyn said. "He was always reading."

Marilyn is glad Nick is resting in peace, restored after struggling the past few years. "Now that I understand that, I know it to be true," she said.



Sharing their love of music



Sara and Brian Potts,
Brenda Hartman

Musical maestros Sara and Brian Potts and Brenda Hartman took 41 Wyoming Choir students to NYC last month for a weekend to remember.

They toured Radio City Music Hall and performed at historic St. Bartholomew's Church. They saw two Broadway productions, Hamilton and Hadestown. And after seeing Hamilton, they had a private session with the cast.

Sara, director of Children's Ministry, teaches music at Wyoming Middle School. Husband Brian is a music teacher at the middle and high school. Brenda, vocalist and keyboard player in our Modern Worship band, is choir accompanist for Wyoming schools.



Welcome to the world, Kennedy grands

Pastor Greg and Connie Kennedy are thrilled to welcome their first grandchildren, Walter James and Chloe Marie. The twins were born on March 15 in Nashville to Michael and Madeline Kennedy. Walter was 5 lbs. 2 oz. and Marie was 4 lbs. 8 oz. "I'm a changed man!" Greg said the next Sunday. "They're wonderful and beautiful!"

50+ hosts piano and song

Pianist Tom White makes an encore return to 50+ for an afternoon of music and song to stir the spirit. A 1971 graduate of Finneytown High School, Tom holds advanced music degrees from Miami University. He's also a former Northminster member. He returns this month with baritone vocalist Dick Watson.

When: Thursday, April 17

Where: Disciples Hall

Lunch at noon, before the program: \$10

Sign up in the Commons April 6 or 13

Or call (513) 931-0243 by April 14

BIRTH

Rhett Daniel Steel
Born Feb. 28, 2025

Parents are David and Laura Steel. Grandparents are Scott and Lynne Steel. Uncle and Aunt are Mike and Rachel Steel.



HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Melissa Abbott
- Dave Brandt
- Mike Brooks
- Nancy Brown
- Julia Burchwell-Hogan
- Jim Dickerson
- Linda Frisa
- Lee Ann Hamilton
- De Heggem
- Mel Hensey
- Hilda Hunter
- Patti Kellett
- Bonnie Sue Lewis
- Laura McGrath
- Christ Needham
- Joyce Nippert
- Rita Ross
- Ross Royce
- Deb Smith
- Michael Steel
- Bob Suddendorf
- Denise Tepe
- Carissa Weiser
- Cindy Wolford



A RARE BUILDER OF PEOPLE

David Max Hasler was a civil engineer who built big projects for P&G. But he'll forever be remembered for building beautiful relationships with people.

We lost Dave on Feb. 28.

He was 80, a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend. A man of deep faith, he was an elder, a small group leader and a member of Northminster for 27 years.

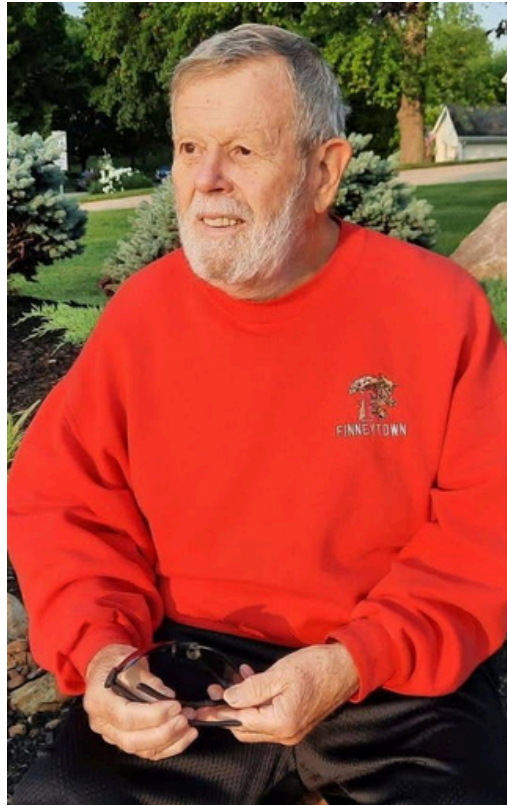
"He was a people person," church friend Jim Dickerson said. "People have no idea how much he did for everyone."

If someone needed a dryer vent installed or an unsafe sidewalk repaired, Dave was there with bucket and hammer. If someone needed encouragement, Dave brought empathy and a smile.

Chris Hasler, Dave's son, said his dad learned frugality and resourcefulness growing up on the family farm in Indiana. After graduating from Purdue, Dave worked for Shell Oil, served two years in the Army and 30 with Procter & Gamble.

His deep faith carried him through enormous challenges as a young man. He lost his first wife Linda to brain tumors just 15 months after Chris was born. Four years later, Dave married Elizabeth, who he cherished until death.

Elizabeth was one of 100 miracles that Dave counted during this time. She agreed to marry him only after they had



The family invites you to share your stories and memories of Dave at DMHmemories@gmail.com

**'He was a builder,
but he built people
and possibility.'
-Pastor Greg Kennedy**

thoroughly discussed his famous "Spousal Criteria." It included requirements for faith, education, common interests and other attributes. The family still laughs over Dave's written list, which exists to this day.

"Safe to say, Mom, you exceeded his expectations," Chris said.

At work, Dave earned top awards for his engineering

skills, but even at P&G he put people first.

"My dad was a champion of diversity and the importance of broad representation in the workplace at a time when this was just not a priority in the world," Chris said.

Dave also loved to play. He was an expert gardener and competitive racquetball player. He coached cross country at Finneytown High School and was a school board member. The family vacationed regularly at Lake Cumberland, where Dave loved to boat and waterski and teach others the same.

Younger son Pat Hasler, one of the nation's best long-distance runners, credits his dad for a lifetime of encouragement.

In February, Pat ran 151 miles in 24 hours to qualify for the U.S. men's team that will compete for best in the world in France this year. A motivational sign popped up on the route in Pat's 17th hour of running. It said: "Remember your Why."

"Dad was my Why," Pat said.

Dave fought dementia the last years of his life, but "that disease did not have the last word," Pastor Greg said.

Said Pat: "As much as I miss him, he's at peace. I'm grateful for his mind and body being at rest. He had absolutely no doubts about where he was headed. He is fully restored."



A letter from our newest & youngest missionary

LUKE KELLETT



Luke Kellett, 24, is halfway through his year's service in New Orleans as a Young Adult Volunteer, sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA).

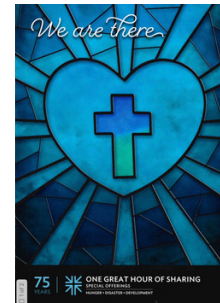
Hello!

The past several months have been full of growth and challenges. One of the most rewarding aspects is building relationships with students I teach, people we serve on Wednesdays and my fellow volunteers. Every day, I'm reminded that community isn't just about working alongside others but about truly seeing and valuing each person.

My service work continues to stretch me in new ways. Teaching 3rd graders has been both a joy and a test of patience, but seeing their excitement when they grasp a new concept makes it all worth it. Our Wednesday meal service has become a sacred space for me – where sharing food is an act of care and dignity.

Of course, there have been moments of exhaustion and doubt, but also moments of clarity and purpose. As I look ahead to the last few months of this journey, I'm holding onto gratitude for the lessons, the people and the ways God continues to work in and through this experience.

Many thanks!
Luke



April's 2nd Mile: One Great Hour of Sharing

For 76 years during Lent, this special offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has shared God's love around the world. Programs help people recovering from natural and human-caused disasters, refugees fleeing war and others fighting poverty and/or injustice.

To contribute, go to northminsterchurch.org/give or write a check with "One Great Hour of Sharing" on the memo line.



Take the next step to well-being

- Grief Yoga Journey
April 9, 2-3 p.m.
- Living Well,
Leaving Gracefully
April 30, 1-2:30 p.m.

**For more info or to sign up:
Go to jtoh.org**

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, honors, new jobs, the moments that matter to you and your family. Email Lee Ann Hamilton at hamilton@cinci.rr.com.

Have a great month!

