

Grapevine

From the Pastor's Desk

Jesus came down from the mountain with them and stood on a large area of level ground. A great company of his disciples and a huge crowd of people... joined him there. They came to hear him and to be healed from their diseases... Luke 6:17-18

Happy New Year!

How are you with New Year's resolutions? Do you choose the standard ones of exercise more, eat less, drink less, get finances squared away, etc.? Or maybe your resolutions are a little less tangible. As I was considering what to write about for the first newsletter of the new year, I kept thinking about the sermon from last Sunday about changing our mindset. Another way of saying that might be "think differently". I wonder what would happen in our lives if we expanded this idea of thinking differently, and intentionally applied this principle to every aspect of our lives. Is it even possible? Jesus spent a good portion of his ministry turning things upside down in terms of what was the thinking of the day societally and religiously. He re-framed what it meant to be poor, ill, or outcast in Jewish society of that day. Much of what Jesus taught was a reinforcement of what had been taught by the Hebrew prophets many years previously. But what Jesus taught was not theoretical or head knowledge-it was practical. Richard Rohr (whom I quote a lot) says,

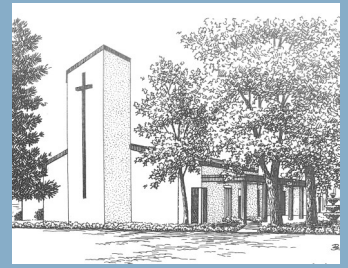
"We do not think ourselves into new ways of living, we live ourselves into new ways of thinking." Interesting...I think there's a lot of truth to that. We all have a set of constructs about people, ideologies, money, religious beliefs, and societal norms to name a few, and I'd venture to say they are pretty set...until something comes along to shake those assumptions. Most of the time the thing that shakes us is something or someone who challenges us. Northkirk is experiencing a new challenge as you begin a search for a new pastor. This is the perfect time for you to consider what God is calling you toward in the future.

On January 12th we will begin a sermon series called "Following the Call" where we will spend some time looking at Jesus' teachings in Luke's "Sermon on the Plain".

May God be with you as you follow Jesus' call-

Pastor Claire

GOING ON AROUND NORTHKIRK



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Northkirk hosted our annual "Breakfast With Santa" on Saturday, December 14th. It has been a wonderful opportunity for us to open up our church to locals and to our church partners.

Our volunteers served a delicious breakfast of coffee, juice, sausage and all-you-can-eat pancakes! Santa Claus was even able to attend to ask kids what they want for Christmas. Parents were welcome to take photos of their children with Santa.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers and those who were able to join us on this exciting Saturday.



Lake Arrowhead Bell Choir

Northkirk hosted the Lake Arrowhead Bell Choir on December 7th. We had a great turn out where everyone was able to enjoy the wonderful music they had to offer. We would like to thank them for coming and look forward to their next visit!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Advent Wrap-up

Well, advent is over and Northkirk had many great events. We had the wonderful hand-bell choir from Lake Arrowhead Presbyterian church present a great Christmas concert. Thanks to Jodie Stahl and Thelma Campbell for putting the event together. Breakfast with Santa was the following weekend although we got beat out by the hugely popular big event Rancho Cucamonga Snow Day at Heritage Park. Thanks to all who volunteered and help extensively – Joyce, Lina, Sam, Phil, Laura, Nona, Mary Lee and Scarlett, Marilyn, Terry, JD (as an Awesome Santa), Missy, Sue, Corey, Margie, Matthew, Elizabeth, Tom E., Steve, Sally, Tom S., Jodie and Emily. Northkirk choir and deacons caroled several local Adult Living facilities and a few friends. And don't forget a wonderful Christmas Eve service of music and scripture. To go along with our special events, thanks to all who helped out during advent, including the decorators, the candle lighters, and the beautiful music by the choir and the bell choir. A special thanks to Thelma, Harold and Claire for leading us this season. Our church is blessed.

Session

December session meeting was a bit thin, we received a MoMCo report from mentor mom Nancy Kwedar and session approved Christmas bonus' for their hourly employees.

Blessings,

Daniel Beauvais



Average Attendance for Online & In-Person Worship Services For December:

Facebook live:	3 viewers
YouTube live:	4 viewers
In-Person:	72 attendees
Cadence:	10 viewers



HEALTHY LIVING

FAITH

FELLOWSHIP

FITNESS

FOOD

Sheet-Pan Salmon with Sweet Potatoes & Broccoli



Photo: photography / Caitlin Bensel, Food Styling / Emily Nabors Hall

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons low-fat mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 4 teaspoons olive oil, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper, divided
- 4 cups broccoli florets (8 oz.; 1 medium crown)
- 1 1/4 pounds salmon filet, cut into 4 portions
- 2 limes, 1 zested and juiced, 1 cut into wedges for serving
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta or cotija cheese

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with foil and coat with cooking spray.
2. Combine mayonnaise and chili powder in a small bowl. Set aside.
3. Toss sweet potatoes with 2 tsp. oil, 1/4 tsp. salt, and 1/8 tsp. pepper in a medium bowl. Spread on the prepared baking sheet. Roast for 15 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, toss broccoli with the remaining 2 tsp. oil, 1/4 tsp. salt, and 1/8 tsp. pepper in the same bowl. Remove the baking sheet from oven. Stir the sweet potatoes and move them to the sides of the pan. Arrange salmon in the center of the pan and spread the broccoli on either side, among the sweet potatoes. Spread 2 Tbsp. of the mayonnaise mixture over the salmon. Bake until the sweet potatoes are tender and the salmon flakes easily with a fork, about 15 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, add lime zest and lime juice to the remaining 1 Tbsp. mayonnaise; mix well.
6. Divide the salmon among 4 plates and top with cheese. Divide the sweet potatoes and broccoli among the plates and drizzle with the lime-mayonnaise sauce. Serve with lime wedges and any remaining sauce.

Makes 4 servings.

HEALTHY LIVING

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What Is Our 4F Ministry?

4F stands for Faith, Food, Fitness, Fellowship and it is a ministry focused on how we can honor and serve our Lord with healthy minds, bodies and spirits. There are many verses in the bible that refer to long life, health, and illness.

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body".

Here at Northkirk, we hope our time of worship and gathering is a blessing and growth for our minds and spirits. The 4F ministry is striving to add food and fitness to our ministry as a support for anyone seeking to know God better and serve Him in strength.

Part of the ministry is that one or two articles are written in our monthly Grapevine newsletter on the latest information and research on health and wellness. Look for a healthy recipe every month as well.

For the month of January and into February, the 4F ministry has presented an opportunity for better health by introducing a book called *The 40 Day Sugar Fast: Where Physical Detox Meets Spiritual Transformation* by Wendy Speake. "The goal of this fast isn't that you will begin to choose healthy food options; it's that you will come to see Christ as the only option". Page 17

We honor and respect everyone's personal and private faith journey with our Lord. We do not want to tell anyone how to live. As the body of Christ, we do want to offer support, encouragement and information for anyone who is seeking a closer relationship to God .

This fast will begin on January 6th but you can join anytime online. Google: the 40 Day Sugar Fast sign up. I highly recommend buying the book if this is something you want to do. We have more than half a dozen people interested in doing this and we agreed to check in with each other after church in the library for prayer and encouragement. See Teri Smits or Nona Cabral for more information.

-Teri Smits



HEALTHY LIVING

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Fitness Classes for Seniors

Do you have a goal to add more fitness to your life? Are you intimidated by the big gyms and all their equipment and classes? Do online courses not really cut it for you? There is a local fitness class that is geared towards seniors taught by Monique Hamilton. She is a pastor's wife, mother, former gymnast and she was the senior fitness instructor at the Lewis Family Senior Center on Baseline for over 15 years. She had to move her classes when the senior center was closed down because of Covid.

She teaches a twice weekly 45 minutes strength class followed by a twice weekly 45 minutes stretch class held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at her church. The strength class is at 7am and the stretch class is at 8am at ChurchTwo42, 8680 Helms Avenue, Rancho Cucamonga located below Arrow Hwy between Hellman and Archibald. Participants may pick and choose which classes to attend weekly or all of them. Monique also repeats the classes via zoom on Wednesdays and Fridays so you may attend in the convenience of your home.

Monique is very open to having you attend a class for free to see if it will work for you. You may reach her via text for scheduling and pricing at 909-957-7779. If you have questions, you may contact church members who attend Monique's classes: Teri Smits at 909-227-8068 or Nancy Kwedar at 909-518-1267.

-Teri Smits



MOMCO OF NORTHKIRK

“A MOM COMMUNITY”

The month of December was bursting with holiday fun for MomCo moms and their kids. We crafted “Cookies in a Jar” at our first meeting, then did an “Adventure Day” ornament making at a park, another “Adventure Day” at a petting zoo, and holiday party games. Our children enjoyed making Christmas Crafts in the classrooms at the last meeting of December during childcare. Fun for everyone!



We want to give a big ‘Thank You’ to our Mentor Moms Teri, Holly, Cynthia, & Nancy and all the volunteers who have helped make this program full of blessings.

The theme “Wild Hope” will continue in January. Each meeting’s devotional shares a different aspect of ‘Be Open to Receive’, ‘Build Endurance’ and ‘Live Passionately’. Our next Book Club Night will be on February 7th featuring the book “Adventuring Together” by Greta Eskridge. Our next fundraiser is Wednesday, January 22nd at Richie’s Diner at 8039 Monet Ave, RC 91739 near Victoria Gardens. This fundraiser will run all day.



Our moms who come through MomCo of Northkirk tell us how much they are influenced and changed, and how very grateful they are to Northkirk for this ministry that helps so many families in the community.

-Nancy Kwedar (mentor mom)

FACILITIES & GROUNDS



Christmas Offering

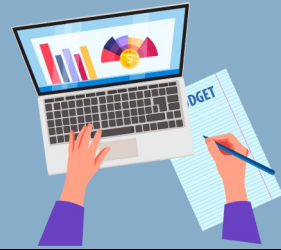


As we celebrate the miracle of Our Saviors' birth, we also celebrate the miracle of our Christmas gift. While we knew that the patio roof needed attention, in October we saw the water damage to the plywood under the shingles. We approached the Congregation and our campus partners with a huge request. To raise \$9400 for the patio roof and paint for the classrooms. We were truly blessed. The goal was far exceeded with donations of over \$12,227 by the end of the year. We will be moving ahead and having the roof repaired as soon as possible. We will be working with the Legacy group and will buy the paint for the classrooms. We are looking forward to all the volunteer painters this Spring. There will be work for all regardless of their skill levels. The roof will be done by professionals. As happened last year we may find surprises during the process so the donations over goal will provide a safety net. We promise to be good stewards with your donations and thank you again for your faith in us to do the work of the Church.

-Steve Hanson

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2024
 Emily Scholz, Church Treasurer



Operational Budget	November Budget	November Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Actual
Giving/Receipts	17,286.53	19,505.02	207,438.34	200,540.08
Expenses	24,271.70	23,686.01	291,260.51	250,059.78
Net Operating Surplus/Deficit	-6,985.17	-4,180.99	-83,822.17	-49,519.70

The net operating deficit is subsidized by saving reserves and investment funds. The session has budgeted a total of \$87,622.87 to be withdrawn from our investments this year. Stewardship/Finance has set a goal of \$80,000 and approved by session to withdraw this year. We have withdrawn \$51,000 so far this year. This amount is 64% of our budgeted total. 91.6% of the year has passed. Our actual contributions are higher than our budgeted estimates, and our expenses are lower than the budgeted estimates.

The session is budgeting for 2025. Our pledge campaign is underway. Please turn in your pledge cards to the offering plate as soon as possible. The session will be meeting on January 21st.

Each of our members has a tithe to the Presbytery to pay for Per Capita. 2024's fee is \$40 per member. We really appreciate the members who pay a little extra to Per Capita for those that cannot pay the tithe. The Presbytery bill of \$2960 has been paid. So far, we have collected \$340.

If anyone has questions or comments regarding our budget, loan balances, bank balances or investments, please contact the church office at 909-989-4919 and your questions will be forwarded to our church treasurer or to someone on the stewardship/finance team.

-Emily Scholz

Northkirk Elders Area of Responsibility

Dan Beauvais – Clerk Of Session
 Nona Cabral – Christian Education
 Steven Hanson – Facilities and Grounds
 Jo Simmons – Membership and Fellowship
 Tom Stahl – Missions and Evangelism
 Thelma Campbell – Music, Worship and Arts
 Alan Simmons – Stewardship and Finance
 Chris Maitlen – Northkirk Community Coordinator
 Joyce Brand – Personnel



Electronic Giving Accounts

events@northkirk.org
 mops@northkirk.org
 giving@northkirk.org
 theatre@northkirk.org
 loveoffering@northkirk.org

These may be used with Zelle. Currently mops@northkirk.org can be used with Venmo, the other accounts cannot.

NORTHKIRK HISTORY CORNER



Eagle Scout Award Projects at Northkirk!

You may not know this but Northkirk is fortunate to have a scout house on our property. I hope to write more about it in a future article but having a scout house on our property with a scout troop using it has been very advantageous for Northkirk. We have received many blessings from them. (The scout house is located at the back south side of the property if you are curious). They attend our church services on Scout Sunday and they have participated in work projects besides Eagle Scout projects.

The Eagle Scout projects will be highlighted in future Grapevine Newsletters. This month, I want to highlight Joshua Beauvais's Eagle Scout project which was completed in 2010. Joshua is the son of Evelyn and Daniel Beauvais, members of our church. Our scouts do approach the pastor and session for ideas and session approval for their projects. Dan says that Pastor Dick Green, who was here at that time, suggested cleaning up the area right outside the church office. Previously, it had an old tree stump, weeds and overgrown ice plant; it was not an attractive welcome to our church. Over three Saturdays and with the help of fellow scout members, Joshua cleared out the stump and removed the overgrown foliage and it was hard work. Next, Joshua built the wood retaining wall, added the grass and two benches for people to sit and rest. We are very grateful for our scout contributions to Northkirk.

Thank you, Joshua!

-Teri Smits

