

# Grapevine

## A Minister's Moment

### *"What Are You Seeking?"*

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7:7-8*



As we begin a new year, some of us make resolutions for the year, while others of us say "why bother?" Most resolutions center around getting healthy or changing a habit, but what about our spiritual lives? I wonder how often we spend time asking

what God wants for us in this new year? I imagine God's answer might be "to love God and love neighbor" But what just does that mean to "love God with our whole heart, mind, and strength", and what gets in the way of that? One of the most life changing books I have read in the last 10 years is James Bryan Smith's book, *The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows*. In Chapter One, "What are You Seeking?", Smith begins by asking questions such as "Would you like to have abiding peace?...a heart filled with love?...the kind of faith that sees everything—even your failures and losses, in light of God's governance for good? Would you like to have the kind of hope that endures even in discouraging circumstances?" In his book, Smith explores the character of God, and through spiritual exercises helps the reader fall in love with the God

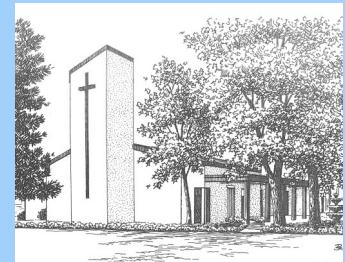
Jesus knows and grow into a deeper relationship with God. Who doesn't want that?

I have been participating in and leading small groups for going on 30 years now and I will say unequivocally that studying scripture, reading a book, discussion, prayer, supporting, and serving in small groups is the number one way to spiritual growth. Personally, I believe it is also a major factor contributing to my decision to go to Seminary and into full-time ministry. For many churches, Small Groups have been their foundation. In the past, Northkirk had a very vibrant Small Group Ministry which not only helped people know God, but also one another on a deeper level.

It seems odd to be talking about Lent when we just finished Advent and Christmas but believe it or not Ash Wednesday is February 18th! Your Christian Education Committee and Session would like to form some Small Groups for the season of Lent and Easter, reading and discussing *The Good and Beautiful God*. As we form some groups, we are looking for people willing to facilitate and host those groups. Don't worry, there will be training for the facilitators. We will begin sign-ups January 18th. I am excited to share this journey to the heart of God with you!  
Pastor Claire



# GOING ON AROUND NORTHKIRK



## Christmas Dinner

We had a Christmas Dinner Potluck here at Northkirk on Christmas Day, in Baird Hall. Turkey and ham was provided, and everyone brought wonderful food to share. It was a great afternoon of Christmas Spirit and fellowship. We hope to do this again next year. Merry Christmas!

## Committee Nights

WE NEED YOU to come join us at committee night!!! Come out and check out our committees – see what's going on, and join in. We need everyone's help to make Northkirk a vibrant congregation. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, that's January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

## Caroling & Cookies

Your Northkirk Deacons and other members went out and had a wonderful time Caroling to Ruth Lee, Cadence Senior Memory Care, and Ivy Park with the Evergreen Community. Thank you for all that donated cookies, and a special thank you to Harold for accompanying us by playing piano harmonica.



## Session Highlights

December's session meeting approved two upcoming congregational meetings, with the first scheduled for January 18 (after church) for the purpose of electing the Pastor Nominating Committee. These candidates have been forwarded to the congregation from the Church Nominating Committee. Their charge was to create a diverse committee that is representative of our congregation. The second congregational meeting will be February 22<sup>nd</sup> for the presentation of Northkirk's annual report.

Among the other subjects that came up during our December meeting, was approval of the 2026 annual budget, Life Reformed Church withdrawing from using our facility (Life Reformed was using room 6 during Sunday mornings during our worship and have decided to disband), and updates on the great repaving job of our parking lot.

Daniel Beauvais

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

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Facebook live: | 3 viewers    |
| YouTube live:  | 2 viewers    |
| In-Person:     | 77 attendees |



# MOMCO OF NORTHKIRK

## “A MOM COMMUNITY”



December is a busy month for everyone, especially for our young MomCo moms, yet they still make time for our bimonthly meetings. Our first meeting was very small due to cold/flu season. Those who were able to join us enjoyed time together sharing a meal, concerns, prayer requests, and friendship.

Our second meeting was our Christmas celebration. Our childcare workers and the children came dressed cozily in PJs and had fun making crafts. We were blessed to have Pastor Claire join us for breakfast and share a Christmas message with us. The moms asked each of us to bring a favorite thing we enjoy that is less than \$5 to give to each other as a fun gift. We received notepads, pens, and lovely soaps. One mom was sick and could not attend our Christmas party, so Pastor Claire offered to drop off her gifts since she drives past her house on the way home. She was so grateful and extends many thanks to Pastor Claire.

We are looking forward to what 2026 will bring us!

-Teri Smits



M O M C O



# HEALTHY LIVING

FAITH

FELLOWSHIP

FITNESS

FOOD

Source: Consumer Reports: On Health  
Sunday, January 2025, Volume 38, Issue 1

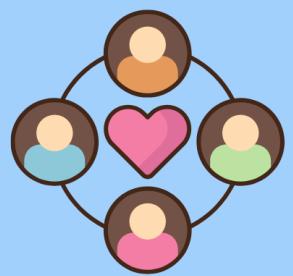
- 1) Working out for 2 to 5 minutes at least twice daily could have more of a payoff than you'd expect. Short bursts of exercise for inactive adults improved lung and heart function.
- 2) A Harvard University study found that adults with genetic markers for Alzheimer's disease had about a 35% lower risk whose diets were rich in produce, whole grains, fish, nuts and legumes such as in the Mediterranean diet.
- 3) Benefits of coffee-this article was lengthy but key points stated that coffee is associated with a lower risk of a number of illnesses including type 2 diabetes, liver disease, stroke, heart disease, some cancers, and certain neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease. It's healthier to drink filtered coffee rather than using a French press because unfiltered methods result in high concentrations of a compound that can raise LDLs. So enjoy your cup(s) of Joe!
- 4) The vaccine everyone should get over 50 is the shot that protects against shingles. And a 2025 study showed the shingles vaccination reduced the probability of dementia by 20%.

Here's to a happy and healthy New Year!

-Teri Smits



# DEACON'S CORNER



## A Gratitude Reflection for 2025

As this year comes to a close, I pause with a thankful heart for God's faithfulness and care.

I am grateful for my health and for the Lord's protection throughout the year. I thank God that my heart procedure went well and that I was able to recover smoothly. During that time, I felt God's presence and the peace that comes from trusting in Him.

I am thankful for the strength God gives me each day—to stay active, to swim, and to take care of myself. I am grateful for restful sleep and for the comfort of knowing that God watches over me and keeps me safe.

I thank God for my family and for the home we share. I am grateful for the opportunity to care for my family in simple, everyday ways and for the blessing of being together. These daily routines and moments are gifts I do not take for granted.

I am especially thankful for my children and grandchildren. Traveling to spend time with them, attending their concerts, recitals, games, and special events, and celebrating holidays together bring me so much joy. Watching my grandchildren grow and perform fills my heart with gratitude.

I am thankful for my church family and for the opportunity to serve as a deacon. It is a blessing to serve with compassion and to be part of a caring and supportive faith community.

As I look ahead to the new year, I place my hopes in God's hands. I pray for

### **Prayer:**

Thank You, Lord, for every way You carried me through this year. As I enter the New Year, please continue to give me strength, wisdom, and strong faith in You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

-Violet De Leon



# Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2025

Emily Scholz, Church Treasurer

| Operational Budget            | November<br>Budget | November<br>Actual | Year to Date<br>Budget | Year to Date<br>Actual |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Giving/Receipts               | 18,768.00          | 18,093.56          | 206,448.00             | 188,295.55             |
| Expenses                      | 22,215.60          | 19,447.87          | 244,479.60             | 231,163.58             |
| Net Operating Surplus/Deficit | -3,447.60          | -1,354.31          | -38,031.60             | -42,868.03             |

November's finances seem normal.

The net operating deficit is subsidized by saving reserves and investment funds. The session has budgeted a total of \$67,373.10 to be withdrawn from our investments this year. Stewardship/Finance has set a goal of \$55,000 and approved by session to withdraw. We have withdrawn \$49,500. No funds were withdrawn in December. Plans are to withdraw a large amount in January after the year-end earnings from the corporations have been submitted. These funds will reside in our savings account with the Bank of America.

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



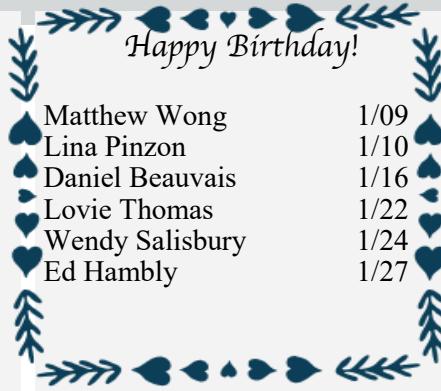
# JANUARY EVENT CALENDAR

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                    | SATURDAY  |
|--|--------|--|---|---|---------------------------|---|
| 28<br>Worship Service 9:30 am<br>                                    | 29     | 30<br>Prayer Part. 9 am                            | 31  | 1<br>NK Office Closed<br><b>2026</b>                            | 2<br>Youth Group 7:30 pm  | 3   |
| 4<br>Communion<br>Worship Service 9:30 am<br>                        | 5      | 6<br>Prayer Part. 9 am                             | 7<br>Bible Study (CoCo's) 7:30 am<br>MomCo 9 am           | 8<br>Caring Crafters 2 pm                                       | 9<br>Youth Group 7:30 pm  | 10<br>Work Day 8:00 am<br> |
| 11<br>Worship Service 9:30 am  | 12     | 13<br>Prayer Part. 9 am<br>Committee Night 6:30 pm | 14<br>Bible Study (Pastor's Office) 7:30 am<br>MomCo 9 am | 15<br>Handbells 5:30 pm<br>Choir 6:30 pm<br>Praise Band 7:30 pm | 16<br>Youth Group 7:30 pm | 17  |
| 18<br>Worship Service 9:30 am<br>Congregational Mtg. 11:00 am<br> | 19     | 20<br>Prayer Part. 9 am<br>Session Mtg. 7:00 pm    | 21<br>Bible Study (Pastor's Office) 7:30 am<br>MomCo 9 am | 22<br>Caring Crafters 2 pm                                      | 23<br>Youth Group 7:30 pm | 24  |
| 25<br>Worship Service 9:30 am  | 26     | 27<br>Prayer Part. 9 am<br>Deacons Mtg. 6:30 pm    | 28<br>Bible Study (Pastor's Office) 7:30 am               | 29<br>Handbells 5:30 pm<br>Choir 6:30 pm<br>Praise Band 7:30 pm | 30<br>Youth Group 7:30 pm | 31  |

Prayer Partners Tuesday, 9 am, Mary Lee's home. Call Mary Lee with prayer requests or to be part of the group.

Bible Study at 7:30 am Pastor's Office, Contact Terry Switzer. First Wednesday of the month meets at CoCo's on Baseline and Haven.

3D Study - Sunday, 11 am contact Claire Schlegel 909-240-8049 \*On Break\*



Happy Anniversary!

Steve & Kathi Hanson 1/16



During the month of **January** Northkirk is collecting **Nonperishable Goods** for Inland Valley Hope Partners and to The Home of Neighborly Service in San Bernardino.

Hope Partners has a warehouse where low-income and homeless people of the Inland Valley can receive nonperishable food items.

**You can also drop off grocery gift cards in the Northkirk office.**

## Northkirk Presbyterian Church

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### Transitional Pastor

Rev. Claire Schlegel  
cschlegel@northkirk.org

### Office Manager &Grapevine Editor Custodian

Abby Thomas  
northkirkoffice@northkirk.org  
Pilar Yarur

*“Living out God’s Love as we gather together and reach out.”*

## January Prayer Calendar

|                            |                           |                      |                                 |                            |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 28<br>Discipleship         | 29<br>Wallin Family       | 30<br>Jun Wang       | 31<br>Harold Willome            | 1<br>Beverly Wiltse        | 2<br>Wong Family                 | 3<br>Holiness & Protection    |
| 4<br>God’s Glory           | 5<br>Pilar Yarur<br>Aguad | 6<br>Allison Amos    | 7<br>Judy Amos                  | 8<br>James Beagle          | 9<br>Daniel & Evelyn<br>Beauvais | 10<br>Hope & Courage          |
| 11<br>Peace & Comfort      | 12<br>Tim Best            | 13<br>Joyce Brand    | 14<br>Mary S. Brown             | 15<br>Debbie Bruce         | 16<br>Allison Burgess            | 17<br>Love & Compassion       |
| 18<br>Guidance & Direction | 19<br>Nona Cabral         | 20<br>David Campbell | 21<br>Thelma & Ronn<br>Campbell | 22<br>Clonts Family        | 23<br>Dean & Dawn<br>Collins     | 24<br>Growth & Transformation |
| 25<br>Wisdom               | 26<br>Catherine Crook     | 27<br>Violet De Leon | 28<br>Cherry Dobbs              | 29<br>Tom & Paula<br>Emick | 30<br>Carol Entler               | 31<br>Spread of the<br>Gospel |

**Deacon of the Month:**  
Violet De Leon