

NORTHERN LIGHT UNITED CHURCH NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2016

Phil's Thoughts

One of the topics media commentators and theologians discuss in U.S. election years is the appropriate role of religious groups in the political process. The general consensus in our country has been that religious communities and leaders can (and should) address social issues, but not endorse candidates for office. I believe this is wise middle ground between “religion and politics don’t mix,” and “God told me which candidate to vote for.” If we take our faith seriously, it should inform all of life – our public, political decisions as well as our private, personal actions. But, we should also be careful not to overstate our ability to “speak for God” regarding particular candidates.

There are two current opportunities to express our faith in this political season that I believe are worthy of consideration. The first is from Bread for the World (Bread) in support of its campaign to end hunger by 2030. Bread is a Christian advocacy organization dedicated to shaping public policies that will reduce and eliminate hunger in the U.S. and across the globe, and our church is a Bread for the World congregation. Bread’s latest initiative is a push to make sure hunger and poverty are addressed by candidates in this election cycle.

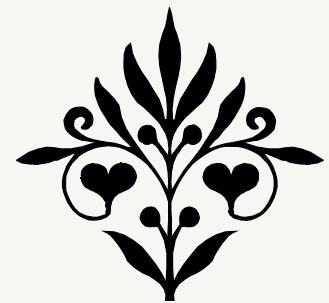
Bread is calling upon candidates to make ending hunger a priority,

and it is advocating that issues of hunger and poverty be addressed in the upcoming Presidential debates. You can sign the “I vote to end hunger pledge” and find other resources for public advocacy at <http://www.bread.org/breads-i-vote-end-hunger-campaign>.

I learned about another new effort at the National Church Leadership Institute I attended last month in Atlanta. It is called “We Stand for Love,” and it is the collective work of faith leaders, families and others to change the tone of the political debate. Instead of win/lose negativity rooted in anger, fear, and denunciation, We Stand for Love is launching a positive drive that is inclusive of everyone and that is rooted in love. Rather than divisive rhetoric, We Stand for Love appeals to our better selves and offers practical steps for responding in love. You can join the movement at <http://westandwithlove.org>.

Ending hunger and promoting love are two goals I believe that can unite us across ideological and theological differences. I hope that during the campaign season and beyond we continue to find ways to do both.

The mission of our church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, through God-centered worship and people-centered ministry.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Youth News</i>	2
<i>School Year Schedule Returns</i>	3
<i>Weekend Food Program</i>	3
<i>Join the Earth Care Team!</i>	4
<i>Volunteers</i>	5
<i>Family Promise Fundraiser</i>	6
<i>Responding to Louisiana Flood Disaster</i>	7

Youth News

THIS YEAR WILL BRING
NEW FACES: NEW
YOUTH, NEW PARENTS
AND GUARDIANS,
MEMBERS OF THE
VARIOUS FAITH
COMMUNITIES WHO
WILL BE PROVIDING
DINNERS AT YOUTH
GROUP, AND NEW
ADULTS WHO ARE IN
MINISTRY AS A PART OF
THE YOUTH MINISTRY
TEAM.

Welcome to a “new year” of the Cooperative Youth Group! Personally, this is my 4th year as director and it is an absolute pleasure to be a part of our young people’s lives as they grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. This year will bring new faces: new youth, new parents and guardians, members of the various faith communities who will be providing dinners at youth group, and new adults who are in ministry as a part of the youth ministry team.

This year’s theme is the life cycle/life span: dying, birthing, rising. We see this play out in a variety of ways: humanity, the seasons, our own human experience of dying/surrendering to something so that something else can birth in our lives, our own resiliency. These themes also are important to a number of faith perspectives and traditions, which we will be exploring.

That being said, if you, or your young person, is in 6th-12th grade/homeschooled in that age range, you are welcome to join the Cooperative Youth Group. Here is to another wonderful year!

Blessings and joy,
Rev. Melissa Engel, Director

Schedule: (all youth group gatherings are at Northern Light unless otherwise specified)

Sun. Sept 4 5:15-7:15 PM Youth Group

Sun. Sept 11 5:15-7:15 PM Youth Group

Sun. Sept 18 5:15-7:15 PM Youth Group

Sun. Sept 25 1:30-4 PM Youth Group Screening of “Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War” at DCUMC (Location change)

Sun. Oct 2 5:15-7:15 PM Youth Group at Aldersgate UMC

Small Group Dinner Coordinator Sought

This fall we hope to revive a fellowship opportunity by organizing a round of **small group dinners**. These gatherings will help members and friends of the church to know each other better. **Groups of 6 – 8 meet in homes and share a meal.** We would like to schedule dinners this fall, and we **are seeking a coordinator(s)** to head up the effort. The coordinator will promote the dinners, recruit hosts and other dinner participants, and help organize the groups. If this is something you would like to help with, or to find out more, contact our pastor, Phil, nlucpastor@ak.net, 586-3131. Thanks!



School Year Schedule Returns, Sunday, Sept. 11. Worship at 11 a.m.

Our Sunday morning Worship and **Christian Education program will resume September 11** and will include some new features this year. This year's schedule:

10 AM - Middle School, High School, and Adult Classes will meet— Middle School in Rm. 9 and High School in the Loft. **The Adult Bible Class will not meet until Sept. 18** and will then hold forth in the Skuse Room.

During 11 AM Worship - This year we will offer two worship based education experiences, one for **preschool-K and one elementary children during the worship hour; these will begin after children's time.**

We will use a worship based curriculum that will follow lectionary and church year themes as do our worship services. **Teachers will rotate and several have been identified, but more are needed!** Curriculum will be provided, and a **teacher orientation session**

will be held Tuesday, Sept. 6, 5:30—7 p.m. at church. Teaching frequency will range from a few times a year to once a month. If you would be **interested in helping with the children's classes**, have questions, ideas, or need more information, please come on Sept. 6,, and/or contact Phil, 586-3131, nlucpas-tor@ak.net. Thanks!

Weekend Food Program

Again this year we will provide weekend food bags for **students at Riverbend Elementary** who receive free school breakfast and lunch during the week. Your donations and help are welcome! Items needed for the food bags include:

apples, tangerines, cheerios, large bags of raisins, Kirkland organic chocolate milk (individual boxes that need no refrigeration), individual servings of mac & cheese, soup, small serving vegetables, either pop top cans or plastic cups, large bags of

ready to eat carrots, etc. Money donations can be checks made to NLUC with "Weekend food program" in the memo line. **Over 80 food bags are packed 10 AM on Thursdays.** Helpers welcome. Thanks!

Join the Earth Care Team!



What: NLUC Earth Care Team

Who: Anyone with a special interest in the care of the earth.

When: Occasional get-togethers through the fall and winter.

Why: To help NLUC become an Earth Care Congregation.

In April, our church council signed the Earth Care Pledge affirming God's call to be careful, humble stewards of creation and promising to care for the earth through action in four areas: worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Signing the pledge is the first step in seeking certification as a Presbyterian Church (USA) Earth Care Congregation. To receive this designation, congregations must earn a specific number of points on a checklist assessing how they care for the earth

through the four areas. This checklist also helps identify possibilities for future action.

George Partlow and Teresa Campbell are serving as our initial ad hoc "earth care team" and have begun work on the checklist. They report that NLUC is well on its way to meeting the criteria of an Earth Care Congregation and are excited about increasing the church's earth care ministry. NLUC could host a special speaker, have an event for all ages to share earth care ideas, learn a new creation focused hymn, make earth care banners for worship, organize a church group to clean up trash in the neighborhood, install motion activated light switches in the restroom ... The ideas are many!

It's time to expand the earth care team to make it

all happen! This team will meet occasionally through the fall and winter to complete the checklist, prepare the application for submission in January, and help focus our earth care goals for 2017. If you have a particular interest in the environment, have ever wondered how the church can improve its stewardship of resources, or would like to learn more about the relationship between faith and care of the earth, then this group is for you. To learn more or express interest, contact George Partlow (928 581-8146) or Teresa Campbell (500-7476).

You can learn more about Earth Care Congregations at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>

Volunteers: The Foundation for Northern Light Programs

Volunteers make Northern Light's programs work. Given the number and magnitude of tasks that need to be done in a variety of places at relatively the same time, some programs (e.g., Summer Lunch, Camp Champ, Weekend Food) would probably not even exist without volunteers. Volunteers are critical to envisioning new programs, planning their implementation, actually implementing them, and ultimately evaluating the programs' effectiveness.

Volunteering can be evaluated in a variety of ways. Perhaps most significantly is in terms of how the volunteers and associated program impact the lives of individuals and groups. Although Northern Light's programs enhance human potential and well-being in numerous ways, that enhancement is truly difficult to quantify, especially in the relative, short-term perspective that often dominates our modern thinking.

Measuring the magnitude of volunteering at Northern Light in terms of hours of time spent has its own challenges. There isn't a "supervisor" who clocks each individual volunteer's time. Even if one were to ask each individual to report their hours spent volunteering, the amount of time re-

ported would be debatable because of how differently each person self-perceives what they do.

In what follows I make my own estimates of time spent: based primarily on what programs I am aware of and my estimates of how many individuals do what -- all supplemented by the insights of a hand-full of other individuals who helped "fill me in" on what is actually occurring. My best estimate of the hours of time volunteers devote to Northern Light activities over the course of a year is about 4900 volunteer hours. (One volunteer working one hour is 1 volunteer-hour.) One year's worth of 8-hour working days is usually considered to total 2080 hours. Using that standard, volunteers provide Northern Light programs with the equivalent of about 2 1/2 full-time positions. (Northern Light currently employs less than 3 full-time-equivalent employees.)

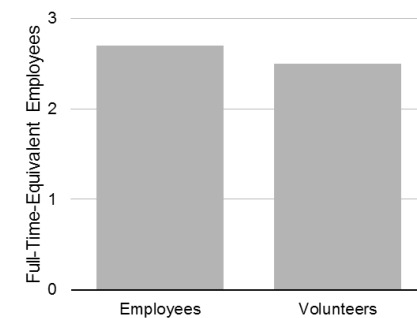
A challenge in assigning a monetary value to volunteer time is determining what compensatory rate to assign to the hours volunteered. What is the best rate to assign to a volunteer who has a life-changing impact on a person s/he is serving -- even if the work

is, theoretically, not highly skilled? Volunteer work provided for Northern-Light-related activities ranges from highly skilled to tasks that require minimal special preparation. In society at large there is a similar range of preparation required in the various jobs people have. In that spirit consider that in 2010 the average, annual *per capita* income for Juneau was \$34,923. If that amount was paid to an employee for 2080 hours of work during the year (full-time), it would equal \$16.79 per hour. At that hourly rate 410 hours of volunteer time would be valued at slightly less than \$6900.

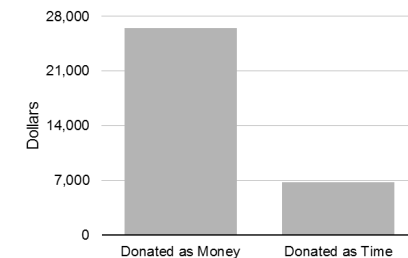
However we think about it, volunteering is an incredibly significant factor in making Northern Light the agent of change and possibility that it is. **Thank You** for your part in this mission.

-Jim Alter

ESTIMATED PERSONNEL WORKING ON NORTHERN LIGHT PROGRAMS, Expressed as Full-Time-Equivalent Employees



AVERAGE MONTHLY SUPPORT OF 2016 NORTHERN LIGHT PROGRAMS, Expressed as Dollars



Family Promise Fundraiser September 25th

FAMILY PROMISE
IS A COMMUNITY
RESPONSE TO
HOMELESS
FAMILIES BY
PROVIDING
HOSPITALITY IN
AREA
CHURCHES

Family Promise is moving closer to being a reality in Juneau. We have eight congregations signed on to participate, including Northern Light and we have received our non-profit tax exempt status.

Family Promise is a community response to

homeless families by providing hospitality in area churches. Guests stay overnight in the church building and dinner and breakfast are provided by volunteers. Family Promise case managers work with guest parents to ensure they can regain their self-sufficiency.

There is a Family Promise Fundraiser [on Sunday, September 25 from 5-7 pm](#) at Northern Light United Church. Tickets are a suggested donation of \$20 and there will be a silent auction. The menu is Halibut Caddy Ganty with baked beans, cole-slaw, and rolls.

Church Cleaning Changes

The Staff Parish Relations Committee, in consultation with the Church Council and the Property Management Committee, has been reviewing the best ways to meet the church's changing build-

ing needs. As one result, the church has contracted with Mari's Marine Cleaners for regular custodial services and deep cleaning of the kitchen and restrooms. This means that the custodian posi-

tion has been eliminated as a church staff position. Leonard Johnson, our long-time custodian, has concluded his work, and we thank him for his many years of service.

Alaska United Methodist Women (AUMW)

The Annual Gathering of UMW will be held October 7-9, 2016, at Anchor Park United Methodist Church in Anchorage. This year, UMW's justice work will focus on four priority areas: Climate Justice, Maternal & Child Health, Racial & Gender Justice, and Economic Inequality. During the gathering you can join

education and advocacy opportunities as these issues are explored.

The Community of Christian Women has **funds to assist** with the cost of attending this Annual Gathering for two women from our church. A flyer titled "Anchored in Hope" is posted on the bulletin board outside the

kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. Think about joining with United Methodist women from all around the state, meet new friends and possibly renew old friendships. Please contact Judy Knight (586-9562) or Carol Barril (586-1002) if you have questions.



Responding to the Louisiana Flood Disaster

On August 11, severe flooding began in portions of Louisiana and Mississippi, and to date, at least 40,000 homes and countless businesses have been affected. Over 30,000 people have been rescued from the rising waters and sadly, eleven people have perished. Clean up and rebuilding efforts are underway and will continue in the months and years to come.

Church agencies are among the most effective, efficient, and compassionate responders in such times. If you would like to donate to the flood

relief work, you are invited to write checks payable to our church (NLUC). All the funds collected will be divided between the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

In addition, the church's **Households with Children group** is planning a gathering to assemble **cleaning buckets** to be sent to the disaster areas. As we go to print, the date for the gathering has not been finalized, but it will likely be a Saturday evening in October at the church, and it will include

a meal.

ALSO – mark your calendar for

****SATURDAY, SEPT.**

24** Marc Wheeler is one of the organizers of “Boogie for da Bayou” at the Juneau Yacht Club to benefit **Louisiana Flood Relief** starting at 5 p.m. Alaska Cajun Dinner at 7 (\$30), and live music at 9. Food, drink and live music, all for a good cause! Proceeds will go to the Baton Rouge Area Foundation’s flood relief fund, and tickets for the event will be available at the JAAC, Hearthside Books, and www.jahc.org.

CHURCH
AGENCIES ARE
AMONG THE MOST
EFFECTIVE, AND
COMPASSIONATE
RESPONDERS IN
SUCH TIMES

CCW Annual Bazaar

It’s coming sooner than you think, the Annual Holiday Bazaar sponsored by the Community of Christian Women will be held **Saturday, November 12**. Are you a knitter, do you sew, are you a wood worker or a crafter – we could use your handiwork contributions. Do you bake bread, cookies, pies, cake,

make candy, do you make jam and jelly – we will sell these also. Home made items are always well received. We’ll need several people willing to make a large pot of soup for the lunch, which is served with home made bread and pie. Catalogs for SERRV products will be available in October in case you wish to place an

order prior to the Bazaar. We will also have many SERRV products for sale during the Bazaar. Funds earned at the Bazaar are distributed to projects benefitting women and children in Juneau, other areas of Alaska and around the world. Come join the fun.

Birthdays



2	Lillian Petershoare	11	Mark Millea	20	Scott McHenry
3	Don Kussart		Richard Doogan	23	Rebecca Easton
4	Deborah Reifenstein	12	Glendia Malaby		Carrie Hope
	Marie Wilson	13	Ross Soboleff	25	Margaret Pugh
5	Ronald Williams	14	Dorothy Bowen	26	KJ Metcalf
	Miranda Holland		Selina Everson	28	Leona Williams
8	Christian Veliz	15	Daniel Brown	29	Rudy Brantner
9	Ray Malaby	17	Katherine Hope	30	Howard Rider
10	Marion Gotschall	18	Susan Bus		David Dobler
	Gail O'Dell		Nancy Lehnhart		Jackson Lehnhart

Did you know.....

- There is a **lockbox** near the A Street entrance that contains a church entrance key. Those who need to **access the building after hours** may **contact the church office** to ask about the lockbox code
- **On Sundays**, in addition to our main parking lot west of the church, **parking is available in the playground lot** at 12th and A. Enter off the alley between 11th & 12th.
- **During the worship service**, anyone who has to leave the sanctuary to tend to a young one, etc. is welcome to go to **Room 9**, just off the Fellowship Hall, **where the service is live streamed**.

Thank yous

Many people and groups are involved in making sure things happen at NLUC. Each month we would like to recognize some of those individuals and groups for their special services. Special thanks to:

*those who served as Liturgists: Metcalfs, Tom Perkins, Carol Barril, Linda McCargar

*those who served as Greeters/ushers: June Degnan, John and Nancy Norman, Marianne Mills, Margaret MacKinnon

*Tom Perkins, Alan Akiyama, Mana Gurung and Jean Overstreet who assembled the August newsletter

*Those who provided breakfast: KJ and Peggy Metcalf, Native Ministries, Judy and Bruce Morley, Myra Munson, Margaret Pugh and Jean Ann Alter

*Those who provided flowers: Rebecca Gerondale, Judy Knight, Carol Barril, Linda McCargar and George Partlow

*Jim Alter, April Rezendes, John Pugh, Pat Gorman, Jan and Don Kussart, Margaret MacKinnon, Carol Barril, and Mary Borthwick for their help in counting and recording financial gifts received by Northern Light.

*Special thanks to Steve White for mowing the grass and weed eating during the month of August.

*Belated thanks to George Reifenstein for the donation of a lawn mower for the church's use.

If you have a suggestion for a thank you, call Christina at the church office, 586-3131 or e-mail her at nluc@ak.net.

SEPTEMBER 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 Weekend Food Bags (WFB) 7 Care for Creation Interfaith Service	2 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons	3 9 Bartlett Toddlers
4 10 Worship Note-last day of Summer Worship Schedule 5:15 Youth Group	5 OFFICE CLOSED 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5:15 Juneau People for Peace & Justice	6 3 Violin Lessons 5:15 Climate Change 5:30 Christian Ed. Leaders orientation—p. 3	7 12 ACOA 5:30 Cancel Choir	8 8:30 Interfaith Power and Light 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 WFB 5 Council	9 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons	10
11 10 Christian Education 11 Worship 3 Piano Recital 5:15 Youth Group	12 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5:15 Juneau People for Peace & Justice 6 Pre-school Board	13 12 Interfaith Council 1:30 Family Promise 3 Violin Lessons	14 9:00 Sources of Strength 12 ACOA 5:30 Cancel Choir 7:00 Mudrooms	15 8:30 Interfaith Power and Light 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 Weekend Food Bags	16 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons	17
18 10 Christian Education 11 Worship 5:15 Youth Group	19 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5 Staff Parish 5:15 Juneau People for Peace & Justice	20 3 Violin Lessons 5:15 Climate Change	21 12 ACOA 5:30 Cancel Choir	22 8:30 Interfaith Power and Light 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 WFB	23 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 3 Violin Lessons	24
25 10 Christian Education 11 Worship 12:15 Deacons 5 Family Promise Fundraiser - p. 4	26 11 LifeRing 12 Bartlett Toddlers 5:15 Juneau People for Peace & Justice	27 3 Violin Lessons	28 12 ACOA 5:30 Cancel Choir	29 8:30 Interfaith Power and Light 9:30 Lectionary Study 10 WFB 5:30 CPM	30 7 Men's Breakfast 12 ACOA 1 SEACC 3 Violin Lessons	

Northern Light United Church
400 West Eleventh Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1512

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JUNEAU, AK
PERMIT NO. 13



Downtown at 11th and 'A' Street

T: (907) 586-3131

Email: nluc@ak.net

Pastor: Rev. Phil Campbell

E-mail: nlucpastor@ak.net

Youth Director: Rev. Melissa Engel

E-mail: pastor.engel.ak@gmail.com

Sunday Services streamed at

<http://livestream.com/nluchurchjuneau>

Newsletters and Juneau Empire articles also
can be found on our website:

northernlightchurch.org or you can find us on face book.



Sunday, September 4 - Worship at 10
Fall Worship Schedule starts September 11

Christian Education for all ages 10 am
Worship at 11 am

No matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.