

## *Phil's Thoughts*

*You shall have no other gods before me... You shall not make for yourself an idol... You shall not bow down to them or worship them...* Exodus 20: 3-5

Opinion polls reveal substantial opposition to San Francisco football player Colin Kaepernick's decision to kneel during the playing of the National Anthem. Kaepernick has stated that his protest is meant to highlight racial injustice in our country. Public opinion notwithstanding, the protesting during the playing of the national anthem is spreading and has now extending to other patriotic observances such as an Anchorage Assemblyman Patrick Flynn's kneeling during the Pledge of Allegiance at a recent meeting.

Such actions are not new. I was a pastor in Denver in 1996 when Nuggets basketball player Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf drew ire when he sat during the National Anthem. Decades earlier, baseball icon Jackie Robinson wrote in his autobiography that "I cannot stand and sing the anthem. I cannot salute the flag. I know that I am a black man in a white world."

The protests testify to the reality Langston Hughes cap-

tured in his 1935 poem, *Let America Be America Again*: "America never was America to me... There's never been equality for me, Nor freedom in this 'homeland of the free.'" They are also reminiscent of what songwriter and producer Ice Cube said about his hit recording, *AmeriK-KKa's Most Wanted*: "I spelled America with three 'K's' [an overt reference to the Ku Klux Klan] because that's what America means to me. When I see the Stars and Stripes or hear the national anthem, I feel nothing. What I see is white supremacy." (I quoted Ice Cube in a 1991 sermon. The specific act in the news then was flag burning.)

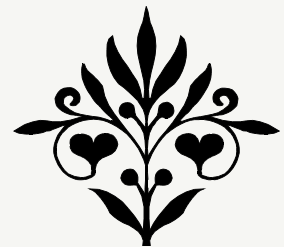
As is the case with many social issues, responses to recent protests divide along racial lines. 63% of blacks and only 24% of whites support Kaepernick's actions.

The majority of people who oppose the protests do not believe they should be outlawed (thankfully), but what I find discouraging is that much of the (mostly white) public reaction to them has been about their being disrespectful and unpatriotic. *What if instead of denouncing the protests, the discussion focused on why the protests are happening?* What if seeking to understand our neighbors' plight dominated the discourse rather than reactive defense of our country's great-

ness and the rightness of patriotic displays?

In my view, racial injustice is the affront to our country, not the refusal to stand for our anthem. Disparities in education, health care, rates of incarceration, and treatment by police are well documented. As Spelman College President Emerita Beverly Tatum has said, "Every social indicator from salary to life expectancy, reveals the advantages of being white." And it starts early.

*Continued on page 2*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Youth News</i>	2
<i>Households with Children</i>	3
<i>Postcards for Disarmament</i>	3
<i>Annual Bazaar</i>	3
<i>Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering</i>	4
<i>Communion Sunday</i>	4
<i>Budget Update</i>	5
<i>Giving Opportunity</i>	5

## *Youth News*

Our hearts, prayers, and meditations go out to the friends, family and community of Ryan Mayhew, who was a senior at Thunder Mountain High School.

### **Schedule**

- October 2 at Aldersgate UMC, 5:15-7:15 PM

- October 9 at Northern Light, 5:15-7:15 PM

In addition to our youth group norm of dinner, spiritual practice, and a game, Helena from the Juneau Shambala Center will be joining us to talk in relation with what we watched in “Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War” about her mother’s history and its impact on her.

- October 16 at Northern Light, 5:15-7:15 PM

- October 18 (Alaska Day)

Interfaith Day of Service with the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program (More information to come!)

- October 23 at Northern Light, 5:15-7:15 PM

- October 30 at Northern Light, 5:15-7:15 PM

Halloween Party: Costumes encouraged!!

## *Phil’s Thoughts continued*

The Civil Rights Data Collection survey reveals that black preschoolers are 3.6 times more likely to be suspended than white preschoolers, and that Black students are 2.3 times more likely than white students to be referred to law enforcement or arrested as a result of a school incident. Native youth are 3 times more likely than whites to be held in a juvenile detention facility. The school to prison pipeline indelibly impacts students of color and its effects last a lifetime. The NAACP reports but one example: African Americans are

incarcerated at nearly six times the rate of whites.

It is a wonderful thing that the flag and national anthem serve as powerful symbols of freedom and opportunity for many. But these statistics tell the troubling story that “liberty and justice for *all*” remains elusive. It is discouraging and outrageous that despite progress, so many inequalities persist. My prayer is that beyond the protests and reactions to them we will overcome weariness and resistance and all will commit/recommit to the struggle for equity and opportuni-

ty for everyone. In the defiantly hopeful words with which Hughes ended his poem, *O, yes, I say it plain, America never was America to me, And yet I swear this oath--America will be!*

I look forward to your responses and to your ideas for next steps in the quest for racial and social justice.

We might also ask why the national anthem is played at sporting events in the first place; the perils of civil religion are many. But, that’s another column...



## *Households with Children gathering October 8*

Join us for **food, fellowship** and the assembling of **cleaning buckets** for those rebuilding in the aftermath of the recent **severe flooding** in Louisiana and Mississippi. In Louisiana alone, at least 40,000 homes and countless businesses have been affected. We will gather on **Saturday October 8, 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. We will put together buckets with items such as sponges, detergent, household cleaner, work gloves, and trash bags.

To learn more about how churches react when disasters such as flooding occurs, visit the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, <http://pda.pcusa.org/situation/gulf-flooding-2016>, and <http://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/#bucket>, and United Methodist Committee on Relief, <http://www.umcor.org/umcor/resources/news-stories/2016/august/lafoods>, and <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies> websites.

The **households with children group** is for those with pre-K through middle school children. If you need more information or would like to help with food or planning for this event, please contact our pastor, Phil, [nlucpastor@ak.net](mailto:nlucpastor@ak.net), 586-3131.

## *Postcards for Nuclear Disarmament*

On September 25 after worship, the Committee on Community Opportunities (COCO) provided postcards for those wanting to write to our U.S. Senators and Representative urging their advocacy for nuclear disarmament. The committee also provided background infor-

mation, sample letters, addresses, and postage. **52 postcards were written to Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Representative Young!** Handwritten notes make a difference. Research indicates that Legislators view each handwritten communiqué as representing

100 constituents, meaning that those sent by NLUC members and friends represent the views of 5200 like-minded citizens.

**Thank you** to all who furthered the peacemaking ministry of our church through their support for nuclear disarmament!

## *Annual Holiday Bazaar*

Mark your calendar: Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Holiday Bazaar, a fund-raiser benefiting women and children sponsored by the Community of Christian Women. We welcome your participation, whether it's contributing to the bake sale; hand-made crafts; soup, bread or pie

for the lunch; donating clean, lightly used attic treasures; helping at one of the tables; set up or clean up.

After the Sunday church services in October you'll have an opportunity to pre-order from the SERRV catalog so that items arrive in time for

your holiday gift giving (or for yourself).

Have questions or need more information, call or contact Carol Barril (586-1002), Janet Kussart (586-6457), Judy Knight (586-9562) or Melody Millard (321-5067). Hope to see you there.

JOIN US FOR FOOD,  
FELLOWSHIP AND THE  
ASSEMBLING OF  
CLEANING BUCKETS  
FOR THOSE REBUILDING  
IN THE AFTERMATH OF  
THE RECENT SEVERE  
FLOODING IN  
LOUISIANA AND  
MISSISSIPPI.

IN 2015 MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF NORTHERN LIGHT GAVE \$6,502 TO THE OFFERING. OUR GIFTS THIS YEAR TO THE PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING WILL HELP "SHARE THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S PEACE," AS TOGETHER WITH CHRISTIANS NEAR AND FAR WE GATHER ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY AT CHRIST'S TABLE OF PEACE.



## *Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering to be received October 2*



On World Communion Sunday, October 2, we will receive the annual Presbyterian Peace and Global Witness (formerly Peacemaking) Offering that goes to support global, national, regional and local peacemaking endeavors. 50 % of the offering is sent for the work initiated nationally and internationally by the Presbyterian Church USA; 25% goes for Presbytery peacemaking efforts, and our church re-

tains the other 25% of the offering for its peacemaking initiatives. Among the efforts supported by the Peacemaking Offering are: resisting sexual violence and warfare in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Transforming guns into parts for water pumps in Decatur, Georgia; and supporting racial reconciliation in Denver, Colorado.

In 2015 members and friends of Northern Light gave \$6,502 to the offering. Our gifts this year to

the Peace and Global Witness offering will help "share the abundance of God's Peace," as together with Christians near and far we gather on World Communion Sunday at Christ's Table of Peace. **Checks for the offering may be made to Northern Light United Church and designated "Peace Offering" in the memo line.**

## *World Communion Sunday, October 2*

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with our sisters and brothers around the world. Northern Light will join the celebration as we share our gifts of breads and fab-

rics from many cultures and traditions at this special service of worship. Thus it is appropriate that this is also the time we take our Annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of shar-

ing what we have with our brothers and sisters in need.

If you feel called to **share special bread or fabric to add to our Sanctuary decorations please leave a message for Gail at [godell@gci.net](mailto:godell@gci.net) or cell phone 321-3864.**

## *Neighborhood Meeting October 10*

In response to a recent spate of crimes in the Flats neighborhood, residents have organized a meeting with the Juneau Police department. We will host it at the church on **Monday, October 10, 6:30 p.m.**

Sergeant Krag Campbell and Officer Tommy Penrose from the police department will join neighbors to exploring effective steps for responding to theft and burglary.



## September's Operational Giving Maintains Above-Budget Levels

Congregational giving in support of Northern Light's operational budget was above-budget during September. September's giving offset some, but not all, of August's under-budget giving. Nevertheless, as of the end of September, overall congregational support for 2016 is still about \$13,000 above the year-to-date budget. THANK YOU for your continuing generous support of Northern Light.

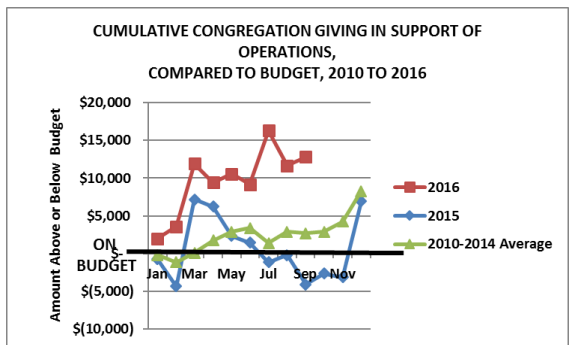
The adjacent graph measures congregational giving for church operations against the adopted budget for the indicated year. The budget is set each fall for the coming calendar year and serves as a guide for what eco-

nomics expenses the church can assume during the budget's year. Each year the budget changes, depending on past years' giving in support of the budget and what church leaders feel the congregation can "afford" in the coming year. Although each year's budget is different, comparing each year's pattern of giving is useful because, in each year's case, the graph is showing a relative difference.

For instance, last year (2015) congregational giving was significantly over-budget at the beginning of the year; declined (relative to the budget) to below-budget levels; then shot back up to first-of-

the-year, over-budget levels in December. That pattern was different than the average pattern for the previous five years (2010 - 2014): when total giving (relative to respective budgets) steadily increased throughout the year from slightly below budgeted levels to significantly above.

This year (2016) operational giving was well above-budget early in the year and has more or less plateaued (with some further increase) through the middle half of the year. What will the last quarter of the year bring in terms of giving?



## Giving Opportunity

You can give part or all of your IRA "required minimum distribution" to a charity (such as NLUC) tax free. If you are over 70 1/2 you are required to take part of your IRA each year. Any amount of your IRA you give comes off the top of your gross income for tax purposes, not just as a deductible donation. Confirm this is to your advantage, contact your financial advisor and tax person. Forms and sample letters are available.

Don Gotschall



## *Birthdays*

1	Pat Carr		Marti Early	25	George Trani
3	Norman Williams	13	Marianne Mills		Thomas Paddock
	Isaac Powers	14	Peggy Sue Wright	26	Emma Borbridge
4	Jason Ginter		Bruce Morley	29	Karen Dillon
6	Judith Maier	18	Molly Sanders	30	Teresa Campbell
	Laura Dobler		Celia Wheeler		Loren Hope
7	James Elisoff	20	Aaron Standerwick		
10	Don Gotschall	21	Pua Maunu		

## *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**.
- **Donations of socks, warm mittens and hats** for Glory Hole and Front Street Health Center patrons may be placed in the **Sox Box** in the **Fellowship Hall**

## *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: George Partlow, Carol Barril, Tom Perkins, Kelly Henriksen
- \*those who served as Greeters/ushers: Denise Carroll, June Degnan, Marianne Mills, Carol Barril
- \*Tom Perkins, Alan Akiyama, Mana Gurung, Don and Jan Kussart and Deb Reifenstein who assembled the September newsletter
- \*Those who provided breakfast: Su Alexander and Carol Barril
- \*Refreshment Hosts: Gail O'Dell, KJ Metcalf
- \*Those who provided flowers: Judith Maier, Judy Knight, Judy Morley, Denise Carroll
- \*Steve White for mowing the church's grass mowing during September. He even tackled the overgrown weeds and grass in the parking lot playground.

*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](mailto:nluc@ak.net).*

# OCTOBER 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>JPPJ - Juneau People for Peace &amp; Justice</p> <p>IL&amp;P - Interfaith Light &amp; Power</p> <p>WFB - Weekend Food Bags</p> <p>LS - Lectionary Study</p>			<p>ANS - Alaska Native Sisterhood</p> <p>ACOA - Adult Children of Alcoholics</p> <p>SEACC - Southeast Alaska Conservation Council</p> <p>FP - Family Promise</p>			<p>1 8 SEACC</p> <p>9 Bartlett Toddlers</p> <p>8 Juneau Symphony Concert &amp; Reception</p>
<p>2 10 Youth &amp; Adult Ed.</p> <p>11 Worship &amp; Children's Ed.</p> <p>2 Concert &amp; Reception</p>	<p>3 11 LifeRing</p> <p>1 Bartlett Toddlers</p> <p>5:15 Juneau People for Peace &amp; Justice</p> <p>6:30 ANS Camp 70</p>	<p>4 All Day Elections</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>5:30 Climate Change</p>	<p>5 12 ACOA</p> <p>5:30 Chancel Choir</p> <p>6 Nursery Registration</p>	<p>6 8:30 IL&amp;P</p> <p>9:30 Lectionary Study</p> <p>10 WFB</p> <p>6 ANS Service</p>	<p>7 7 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12 ACOA</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p>	<p>8 10 COOP Pre-School Fundraiser</p> <p>5 Households with Young Children - p. 3</p>
<p>9 10 Youth &amp; Adult Ed.</p> <p>11 Worship &amp; Children's Ed.</p> <p>5:15 Youth Group</p>	<p>10 11 LifeRing</p> <p>1 Bartlett Toddlers</p> <p>5:15 Juneau People for Peace &amp; Justice</p> <p>6:30 Neighborhood Meeting - p. 4</p>	<p>11 12 Interfaith Council</p> <p>1:15 FP</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>6 Pre-school board</p> <p>7 Mudrooms</p>	<p>12 12 ACOA</p> <p>5:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>13 8:30 IL&amp;P</p> <p>9:30 LS</p> <p>10 WFB</p> <p>5 Council</p> <p>7 Nonviolent Communication</p>	<p>14 7 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12 ACOA</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>3:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 10 Youth &amp; Adult Ed.</p> <p>11 Worship &amp; Children's Ed.</p> <p>5:15 Youth Group</p>	<p>17 11 LifeRing</p> <p>1 Bartlett Toddlers</p> <p>5:15 JPPJ</p>	<p>18 3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>5 Staff Parish Relations Committee</p> <p>5:30 Climate Change</p>	<p>19 12 ACOA</p> <p>5:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20 8:30 IL&amp;P</p> <p>9:30 Lectionary Study</p> <p>10 WFB</p>	<p>21 7 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12 ACOA</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>3:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 10 Youth &amp; Adult Ed.</p> <p>11 Worship &amp; Children's Ed.</p> <p>3 Recital</p> <p>5:15 Youth</p>	<p>24 11 LifeRing</p> <p>1 Bartlett Toddlers</p> <p>5:15 Juneau People for Peace &amp; Justice</p>	<p>25 3 Violin Lessons</p>	<p>26 12 ACOA</p> <p>5:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27 8:30 IL&amp;P</p> <p>9:30 Lectionary Study</p> <p>10 WFB</p> <p>5:30 Property Committee</p>	<p>28 7 Men's Breakfast</p> <p>12 ACOA</p> <p>3 Violin Lessons</p> <p>3:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 10 Youth &amp; Adult Ed.</p> <p>11 Worship &amp; Children's Ed.</p> <p>5:15 Youth Group</p>	<p>31 11 LifeRing</p> <p>1 Bartlett Toddlers</p> <p>5:15 Juneau People for Peace &amp; Justice</p>					

**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](mailto:nluc@ak.net)

Pastor: Rev. Phil Campbell

E-mail: [nlucpastor@ak.net](mailto:nlucpastor@ak.net)

Youth Director: Rev. Melissa Engel

E-mail: [pastor.engel.ak@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://northernlightchurch.org) or you can find us on face book.



**Sunday Worship Schedule**

Adult, Middle, & High School classes at 10

Worship & Pre-K, Elementary Ed. at 11

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