

ENCOUNTER • LOVE • SERVE

BEYOND



FROM OUR PASTOR

Jesus often encouraged his disciples to become like children, to be humble, trusting, and full of imagination as to what God might accomplish through them. Through the years, Northbrook UMC has never been short of imagination. God has used Northbrook to impact many lives for the Kingdom of God. I've heard countless stories about the positive and life-changing work that you have done while following Christ's call. What a joy it is for me to serve as one of your pastors!

Almost 40 years ago, God had the idea of planting Northbrook UMC, and God is not finished with us yet. I am reminded of Paul's words to the Ephesians, when he writes of a God "who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us" (3:20). As we look to what God has in store for Northbrook over the next 40 years, I believe that He is indeed calling us to go BEYOND.

To that end, our plan to follow God's calling at Northbrook UMC is called BEYOND. This will be a Generosity One Fund Initiative that seeks to prepare Northbrook for the next generation. We believe the timing is perfect. We are already witnessing the blending of charter members, new families, and everyone in between! The time is right to come together in order that we might grow in ministry and mission.

Over the next two years, I'd like you to think BEYOND what God has already done at Northbrook, and prayerfully consider what you can do to respond to Northbrook's vision for the future. Commitment Sunday, November 4, will be your opportunity to make a two-year pledge of operating and expanded giving.

This initiative is bigger than any one person. I believe that if we have faith in God and in each other, we will see that God really is in the business of taking our expectations and going BEYOND. I hope you will join us!

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Laurie Moeller
Pastor

WHAT IS A ONE FUND?

The One Fund is a comprehensive financial plan that allows us to support all of the ministry needs for two years. Many organizations will undertake two giving initiatives at one time — one for the operating budget and another for any capital needs. Through this One Fund, Northbrook will be merging these ideas into a single pledge, providing funding and support to expand upon our work for Christ in our neighborhood, city, and BEYOND.

WHAT IS BEYOND?

BEYOND is a two-year generosity initiative in which all donations go into a single fund that allows us greater flexibility to expand our ministry and missions, and to significantly reduce our debt. The gifts pledged during this initiative (2019 & 2020) — in addition to funding our normal operating expenses — will be earmarked for special projects to fund our future ministries according to Northbrook's vision of Encounter, Love, and Serve.

OUR GOAL IS \$3.3 MILLION OVERTWO YEARS

Northbrook's BEYOND initiative seeks to provide the essential financial resources required for our operating budget, to enhance current ministries, and to take significant steps toward reducing our debt. The goal of \$3.3 million includes normal budget items totaling \$2.2 million for a two-year period PLUS expanded giving of \$1.1 million over that same time period. Our total giving over those two years will address three key areas:

ANNUAL GIVING \$2.2 MILLION



We anticipate the total church budget for 2019 and 2020 to amount to \$2.2 million. Our annual budget supports and funds the current operations, missions, ministries, and service of our church.

EXPANDED GIVING \$1.1 MILLION



EXISTING DEBT

Our loan balance from previous projects stands at just over \$2 million. This amounts to \$159,500 per year. With these additional dollars from the One Fund initiative, we can make significant additional payments on the loan principle, moving us closer to that moment when Northbrook is debt-free. Just think of all the amazing things we could do with those resources once the loan is retired!



MINISTRY ENHANCEMENT

Our ministries at Northbrook bless us and the community in incredible ways. In order to go BEYOND what we have always done, we need to provide additional resources. These additional resources will be used to honor our vision by:

ENCOUNTER – funding and implementing worship opportunities that are progressive, creative, capturing, and inspiring by offering training and teaching in music, art, and Biblical interpretation.

LOVE – showing the love of God through ensuring that our facilities and grounds are safer, cleaner, and brighter, as well as user-friendly, welcoming, and comfortable to all.

SERVE – creating a mission strategy and offering opportunities for all to show compassion to those in need. A generous portion of funds raised in this area will be utilized in Guatemala, where Northbrook members Craig and Carol Hill serve as full-time missionaries.

WHAT DO WE ASK YOU TO DO?

Over the next two months, think BEYOND what God has already done at Northbrook, and prayerfully consider what you can do to respond to Northbrook's vision for the future. Commitment Sunday, November 4, will be your opportunity to make a two-year pledge of operating and expanded giving.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 4, 2018.