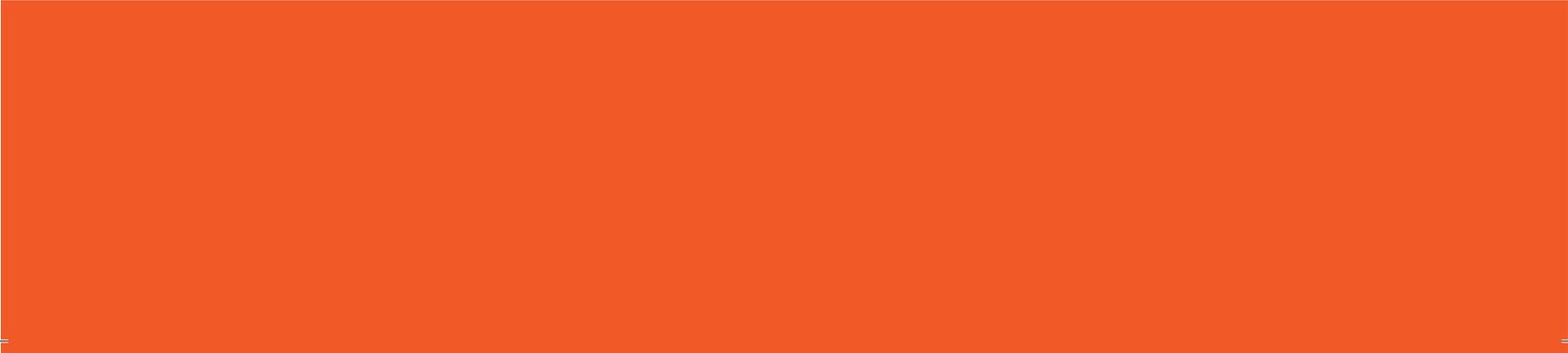
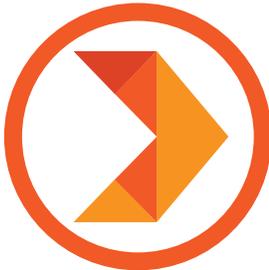


ENCOUNTER • LOVE • SERVE

BEYOND



**MESSAGE
LAURIE
MOELLER,
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 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 Northbrook has 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, 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 is called BEYOND. This will be a generosity 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 through community groups, mission opportunities, and more! It is the right time to be bold together through an initiative that will allow us to 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 4th, 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. Don't miss this opportunity. God is at work in Northbrook and God is at work in you!

— FAITHFULLYOURS, REV. LAURIE MOELLER | P A S T O R —



NORTHBROOK HISTORY

In the summer of 1979, a young pastor began visiting homes around north Roswell. Newly appointed by the bishop of the North Georgia Conference, the Rev. John A. Simmons was looking for other Christians who would share the vision for a new United Methodist congregation in Roswell, a vision he believed God had placed on his heart. Over the years, God has graciously used Northbrook as a vessel for change in the community. Whether that means increasing its footprint by acquiring land and building a new sanctuary, or creating opportunities for outreach through mission trips to Guatemala and partnerships with The Drake House, the people of Northbrook have continued to be a force for good in the community and the world.

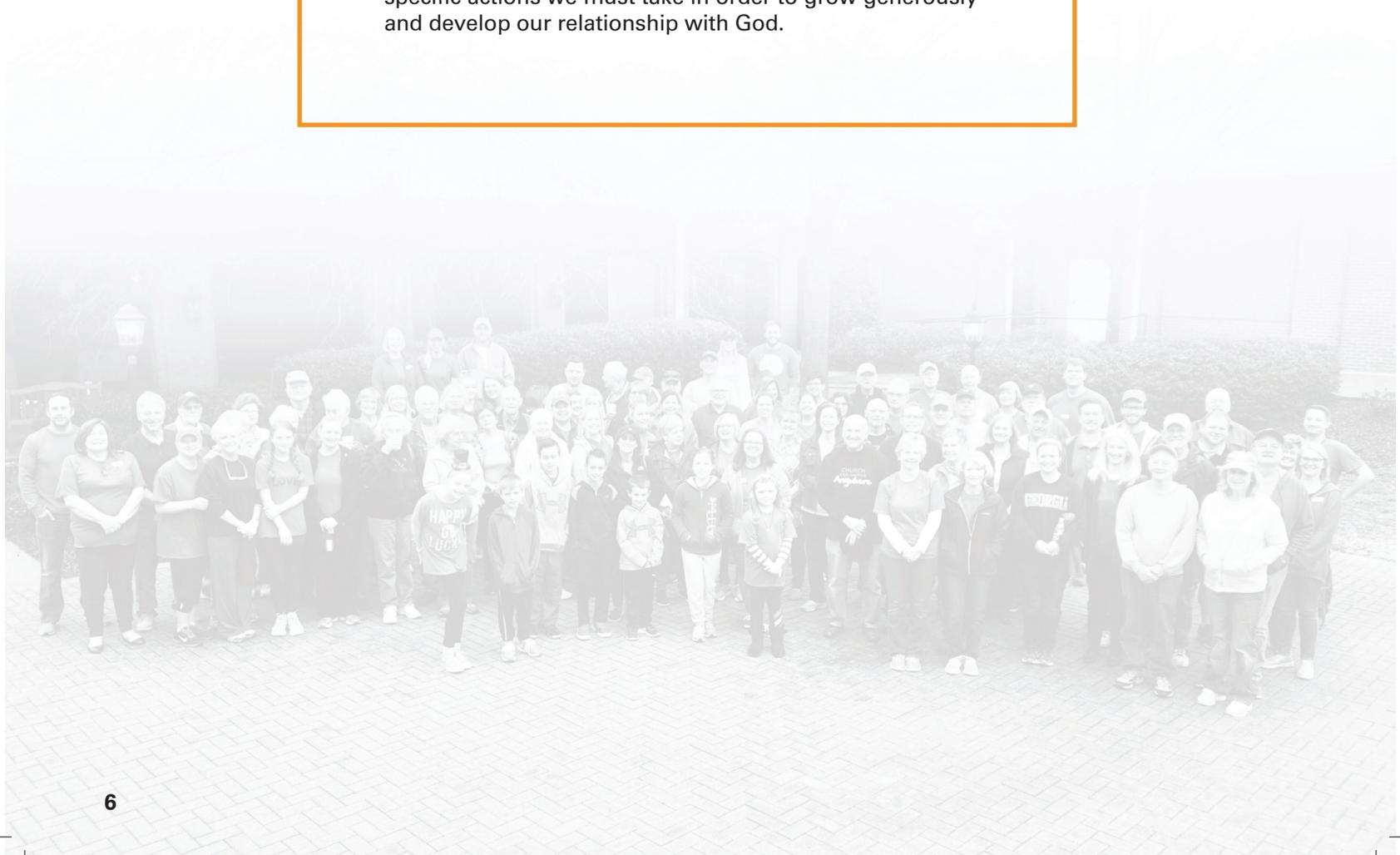


T I M E L I N E

- 1979 ● First Worship Service
- 1980 ● Northbrook UMC established with 110 charter members
- 1982 ● Northbrook moves into its first building
- 1982/3 ● Betty Mullennix begins Northbrook Preschool
- 1985-1988 ● Northbrook builds its education wing
- 1998 ● First Sunday in Northbrook Sanctuary
- 2000 ● Northbrook acquires 8 more acres of land
- 2008 ● The newest education wing and music suite is finished
- 2016 ● Northbrook establishes its new vision of Encounter, Love, Serve, Together

NORTHBROOK TODAY

Now, 39 years later, Northbrook has grown to a congregation of approximately 250 families with three buildings, two worship services, Sunday school, an accredited preschool, strong family ministries, numerous small groups, and countless outreach ministries. The vision God placed on the heart of a young pastor continues to grow in the hearts of the people of Northbrook as we worship together, grow in our faith, and serve Christ throughout the community and the world. Today at Northbrook we are focused on three specific actions we must take in order to grow generously and develop our relationship with God.





1. We ENCOUNTER God — through worship, through learning, and through prayer. Many small groups for men, women, older adults, teenagers, and children have been established at Northbrook and are open to those wishing to participate. Community groups and special support groups have been created to provide additional opportunities for those to expand their connection with Northbrook.

- Two vibrant Sunday worship services at 9:30am and 11am
- Community Groups
- Small Groups
- Special music
- Disciple and other Bible studies
- Confirmation for Middle Schoolers
- Youth and children retreats
- Church-wide studies



2. We are to LOVE others, the very people closest to us, our large extended family of faith, and all those whom God places in our path. Also, we continue to enhance our facilities to provide a safe and welcoming environment to our congregation and community.

- Prayer with Stephen Ministers after worship
- MOPs ministry
- Provide space for CBS
- Congregational care
- Prayer ministry
- Meals for those in need
- Wednesday night supper
- Carpet in sanctuary
- Paving of parking lot
- Remodeled Youth and Children spaces
- Parents' Time Out



3. We SERVE those in need and make intentional plans to learn more about the people in our community and the needs of the world. Currently, programs are in place to support these local charities:

- Great Day of Service
- Youth mission trips
- Family mission trips
- Mimosa Elementary School
- Esther Jackson Elementary School
- Parents' Time Out for foster care families
- North Fulton Community Charities
- The Drake House
- MUST Ministries
- Restore
- Habitat for Humanity
- UM Children's Home
- Murphy-Harpst Children's Home
- Street Grace
- Blood Drives
- Love Serve (Guatemala)

NORTHBROOK'S FUTURE | WHERE ARE WE GOING?

The past and present of Northbrook are rich and filled with awe-inspiring achievements. Perhaps the greatest comfort of having such a wonderful history is the strong foundation upon which we can build a magnificent future. In other words, God is not finished with us yet! With the vision that God has given Northbrook, we continue to pray and discern where God is leading us.

The vision of Northbrook (encounter, love, and serve together) can be divided into 3 distinct visions. We wish to provide a place where people can fully encounter the power of the living God through worship, prayer, and study. We desire to show the love of Christ to all people and to give of ourselves to serve others in the name of Jesus. Above all else, we want to be able to equip and empower more people to join us in this mission.

Recently, we have been praying about the next steps God would have for Northbrook. We believe God is calling Northbrook to realize and dream new dreams. These dreams come in the form of a new initiative called BEYOND. Through Beyond, we hope to build on the courageous acts of the past as we look to the future.

Through many conversations with leaders and the people of the church, one of the themes which has surfaced is a call to grow our music ministry. For many people, worship is an entry point to a more lasting relationship with God. We want to ensure that Northbrook has dynamic and creative music for all generations. Part of our dream for encountering God can include a more extensive music program. We can also enhance our current Youth and Children's programs with music as well as look at other new ways for our children and youth to learn and grow.

We will always need to be mindful of our current facilities and campus regarding updates, repairs, and expansions. Beyond gives us the opportunity to dream about how we will use our campus in the future to continue to love both one another and the community.



The call to help more people in need and to serve both our community and the world will continue to grow. Beyond will give us the opportunity to help both the people of Roswell and the people of Guatemala in more significant ways. Through this initiative we will be able to accomplish new ministry in ways we never thought possible.

In Ephesians 3:20, Paul gives glory to God, “who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by His power at work within us.” In the Beyond Initiative, we are asking you to join us on a journey that will no doubt challenge each of us. However, as we rise to this challenge together, we truly believe that God is going to do great things. In fact, we believe that God will do beyond what we could ask or imagine!

We are at an exciting point in Northbrook’s history, and we have an opportunity to add to the timeline. What will your part say?

Perhaps it might say that in 2018, a group of people at the corner of Crabapple and Houze accepted a challenge to change the future. Perhaps it might say that in an initiative called Beyond, people at 11225 Crabapple Road decided to focus on the community and all those that did not already call Northbrook home.

Or perhaps it might be as simple as: In 2018, God called Northbrook to go beyond its expectations, and Northbrook heeded that call.

WILL YOU JOIN US?



HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET TO THE FUTURE?

The Beyond Initiative works to achieve our mission. Beyond is a two-year generosity initiative which seeks to fully fund our mission through the One Fund approach. The One Fund is a new method for fully funding the mission and ministry at Northbrook. Instead of giving to both operating budget AND a separate capital project, we are funding everything through One Fund. In the One Fund, all giving goes into a single fund which allows us greater flexibility to expand our ministry and missions and to radically reduce our debt. All giving from Beyond (2019 & 2020) will go toward 3 areas:

1. Fully funding our operating budget [2019 & 2020].
2. Radically reducing our current debt.
3. Increasing the impact of Encounter, Love and Serve.

BEYOND GOAL = \$3.3 MILLION

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.

OPERATING BUDGET - \$2.2 MILLION



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

EXPANDED GIVING - \$1.1 MILLION



Our loan balance from previous projects stands at just over \$2 million. This amounts to \$159,500 per year - in both principle and interest payments. With the expanded giving from Beyond, we will make significant additional payments on the loan principle, moving us closer to that moment when Northbrook is debt-free. Think of all the amazing mission and ministry we will accomplish when the debt is eradicated!



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?

Think beyond what God has already done at Northbrook and consider what you can do to respond to Northbrook's vision for the future by:



PRAYING GENEROUSLY

- Pray for your own generosity to grow as you examine your heart regarding the gifts God has given you.
- Pray for generosity to abound in the hearts of Northbrook families.
- Pray for Northbrook leadership and staff in ongoing decisions to be made during this initiative.



COMMITTING GENEROUSLY

- Commit to being part of the Northbrook activities during Beyond
- Commit to living in a more generous way in all areas of your life.
- Commitment Sunday, November 4, will be your opportunity to make a two-year commitment of operating and expanded giving



PARTICIPATING GENEROUSLY

- Participate by giving generously to help reach our goal of \$3.3 million over the next two years. This goal is not beyond what God can do.
- Participate by joining one of the many small groups at Northbrook to expand your connection with this congregation.
- Participate generously in the mission projects available at Northbrook.



TRUSTING GENEROUSLY

- Trust in God's faithful provision for Northbrook.
- Put your hope not in your own abilities, but in God's power, promise and faithfulness.
- Know that God will never leave or forsake us.

DAILY PRAYER FOCUS:

Monday October 8

Read the story of Joseph in Genesis

We can easily relate to the brothers' jealousy of Joseph - we have all felt at one time or another like someone else is getting more: more attention, more affirmation, more love. What times in your life have you felt jealousy for another person? Pray about your feelings of envy and in some cases disappointment in not getting "more."

Tuesday October 9

Read, listen, or search online for a current situation in our world where people are suffering from lack of resources. Pray for them throughout the day.

Wednesday October 10

Think of someone you love beyond measure. Pray for that person today. Write a note or send a text to share your words of love and gratefulness.

Thursday October 11

Consider someone in your life who needs to experience the love of Christ anew. Maybe that person is you, or someone close to you. Maybe a total stranger comes to mind. Pray for God's presence to be made known to them this day.

Friday October 12

Consider someone in your life or in the news who is experiencing great triumph or success or celebration. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings they are experiencing. Consider someone in your life or in the news who is in battle - either with addiction, conflict, or living in a time of unrest. Pray for them throughout the day by simply saying: "Lord give ____ peace this day."

Saturday October 13

Read Mark 7:37

They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." What wonders has God surprised you with "beyond measure?" Pray a prayer of gratitude for the Holy Surprises.

FAMILY TAKE HOME CONVERSATION STARTERS

RETELL: How did Joseph get himself into a position to be storing grain?

WONDER: What do you see when you close your eyes and listen to the scripture?

PRAY: God is always able to provide what we need. List some things he's provided for you and take the time to give thanks.

PRAISE: Give up something that you really love today. Thank God that you are cared for.

SHARE: Tell about a time when you needed something and it was provided.

RESPOND: Share your abundance. Make an abundance of dinner and invite someone over or deliver a meal to someone. Buy an extra cup of coffee for a friend. What's an abundance you can share?

BEYOND THE JORDAN

JOSHUA 1:1-15

“Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord,commanded you, saying, ‘The Lord After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ assistant, saying, “My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, “Pass through the camp, and command the people: ‘Prepare your provisions; for in three days you are to cross over the Jordan, to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God gives you to possess.’”

“Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, ‘The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest, and will give you this land.’ Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan. But all the warriors among you shall cross over armed before your kindred and shall help them, until the Lord gives rest to your kindred as well as to you, and they too take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to your own land and take possession of it, the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan to the east.”

NOTES:



DAILY PRAYER FOCUS:

Monday October 15

Read Joshua 3:12-13

So now select 12 men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap."

What has God done in your life that has caused you to pause. What experiences have you had in your life that led you to experience the awe of God.

Tuesday October 16

Many times, in order to move into a new place physically, we must get rid of some of the stuff we have. In order to move to a new place spiritually, the same truth holds. Pray about what you need to give away in order to move forward in your faith, and in your relationship with God.

Wednesday October 17

The Children of Israel were being led to new land beyond the Jordan. The Jordan, however, needed to be crossed in order to arrive at the place where God was leading them. Meditate on some of the "Jordans" you have crossed in the past. What might you need to go beyond in order to discover where God is calling you next?

Thursday October 18

Read Joshua 4:1-3

When the entire nation had finished crossing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua: "Select 12 men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, 'Take 12 stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood, carry them over with you, and lay them down in the place where you camp tonight.'"

Reflect on the memories of your ancestors. What have they done for you? Why are you thankful for their legacies?

Friday October 19

Read Joshua 4:6-7

"When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever."

How do you want to be remembered?

What things would you want your children and their children to remember about you?

What kind of legacy do you want to leave?

Saturday October 20

God is calling us all to move forward, to grow as His children into the image of Christ. Ask God about His plans for you and your future. Listen for several minutes to what God might reveal to you.

FAMILY TAKE HOME CONVERSATION STARTERS

RETELL: Read Joshua 3 together. Find and decorate a stone to represent YOUR tribe (family) being cared for by God.

WONDER: Watch a video of a rushing river. Imagine what it would look like if an invisible wall just stopped all the water from flowing.

PRAY: Make up actions for the underlined words, then pray: Dear God, guide our minds to follow you. Lead us on your path. Fill us with all your promises. Amen.

PRAISE: Drink only water all day. Thank God for all of the troubled waters he has brought you safely through.

SHARE: Tell about a promise that God fulfilled for you.

RESPOND: The Israelites used the stones as a memorial of God's provision for them. Make or find an item in your house that can remind you of God's provision for your family

BEYOND HUMAN REACH

ISAIAH 40:26-31

Look up at the sky and consider:

Who created these?

The one who brings out their attendants one by one,
summoning each of them by name.

Because of God's great strength
and mighty power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, Jacob,
and declare, Israel,
"My way is hidden from the Lord
my God ignores my predicament"?

Don't you know? Haven't you heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the creator of the ends of the earth.
He doesn't grow tired or weary.

His understanding is beyond human reach,
giving power to the tired
and reviving the exhausted.

Youths will become tired and weary,
young men will certainly stumble;
but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength;
they will fly up on wings like eagles;
they will run and not be tired;
they will walk and not be weary.

NOTES:



DAILY PRAYER FOCUS:

Monday October 22

Go outside sometime today for the sole purpose of seeing God around you. Take several minutes to reflect on God's creation and the creativity of our creator.

Tuesday October 23

Read Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory

in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants

you have established a stronghold against your enemies,

to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens,

the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars,

which you have set in place,

what is mankind that you are mindful of them,

human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels

and crowned them with glory and honor.

You made them rulers over the works of your hands;

you put everything under their feet:

all flocks and herds,

and the animals of the wild,

the birds in the sky,

and the fish in the sea,

all that swim the paths of the seas.

Lord, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Read a second time as a prayer.

Read a third time slowly and choose one verse or image to meditate upon today.

Wednesday October 24

Have you felt a feeling of weariness in life? In what ways has God lifted you and allowed you to continue? Pray for someone who is burdened and weary.

Thursday October 25

Consider what God has given you throughout your life. Keep a running list and pray a prayer of thanksgiving for God's abundant generosity.

Friday October 26

How do you express your own generosity in the world? Ask God to guide your thoughts about a new perspective on generosity.

Saturday October 27

Pray the words of Psalm 93

The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength;
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.
Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity.
The seas have lifted up, Lord,
the seas have lifted up their voice;
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.
Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea—
the Lord on high is mighty.
Your statutes, Lord, stand firm;
holiness adorns your house
for endless days.

FAMILY TAKE HOME CONVERSATION STARTERS

RETELL: Read the scripture while standing under the night sky, looking at the stars.

WONDER: How many stars do you think are in the sky? How many people on the earth? Give thanks that God knows every single one.

PRAY: God is an everlasting God who summons the stars by name. Think of words that describe God and say them in a popcorn prayer.

PRAISE: Sing, "The Doxology" (Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow).

SHARE: Tell about a time God amazed you.

RESPOND: Hang a strand of lights somewhere and give God thanks for being eternal and amazing each time you turn them on.

DAILY PRAYER FOCUS:

Monday October 29

Pray these words from Ephesians:

God of abundant love and mercy, I ask that you will strengthen me in my inner self from the riches of your glory through the Spirit. I ask that Christ will live in my heart through faith. As a result of having strong roots in love, I ask for the power to grasp love's width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. I ask to know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that I will be filled entirely with the fullness of God.

Glory to you, O God; you are able to do far beyond all that I could ask or imagine by your power at work within me; glory to you in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.

Tuesday October 30

Spend time in prayer with the following:

Most Holy and Generous God, I ask that You would strengthen the people of Northbrook in our inner selves from the riches of Your glory through the Spirit. I ask that Christ would live in our hearts through faith. As a result of having strong roots in love, I ask that we would have the power to grasp love's width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. I ask that we would know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that we would be filled entirely with the fullness of you, O God.

Glory to You, Almighty God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by Your power at work within us; glory to You in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.

Wednesday October 31

On Halloween, people often wear masks. On other days, many times we wear masks that keep our true selves hidden. Pray about the masks you might wear in life - with others and with God.

Thursday November 1

Today is All Saints Day, a day we celebrate the life and sacrifice of the saints of the church. Spend time reflecting on the Saints in your life, those who gave generously to ensure that the church would continue to thrive and continue to share the good news of Jesus' love and mercy.

Friday November 2

God has and will do amazing things through you and through Northbrook. Ask sincerely for God to move in your heart. Ask God how you might be used in the Beyond Initiative.

Saturday November 3

Ask again for God's wisdom in making your commitment to the Beyond Initiative. Are you at peace with the amount you have decided upon?

FAMILY TAKE HOME CONVERSATION STARTERS

RETELL: Everyone stand while the scripture is read and take a step at each of these words: know, beyond, filled, entirely, fullness, far, ask, imagine, power, work.

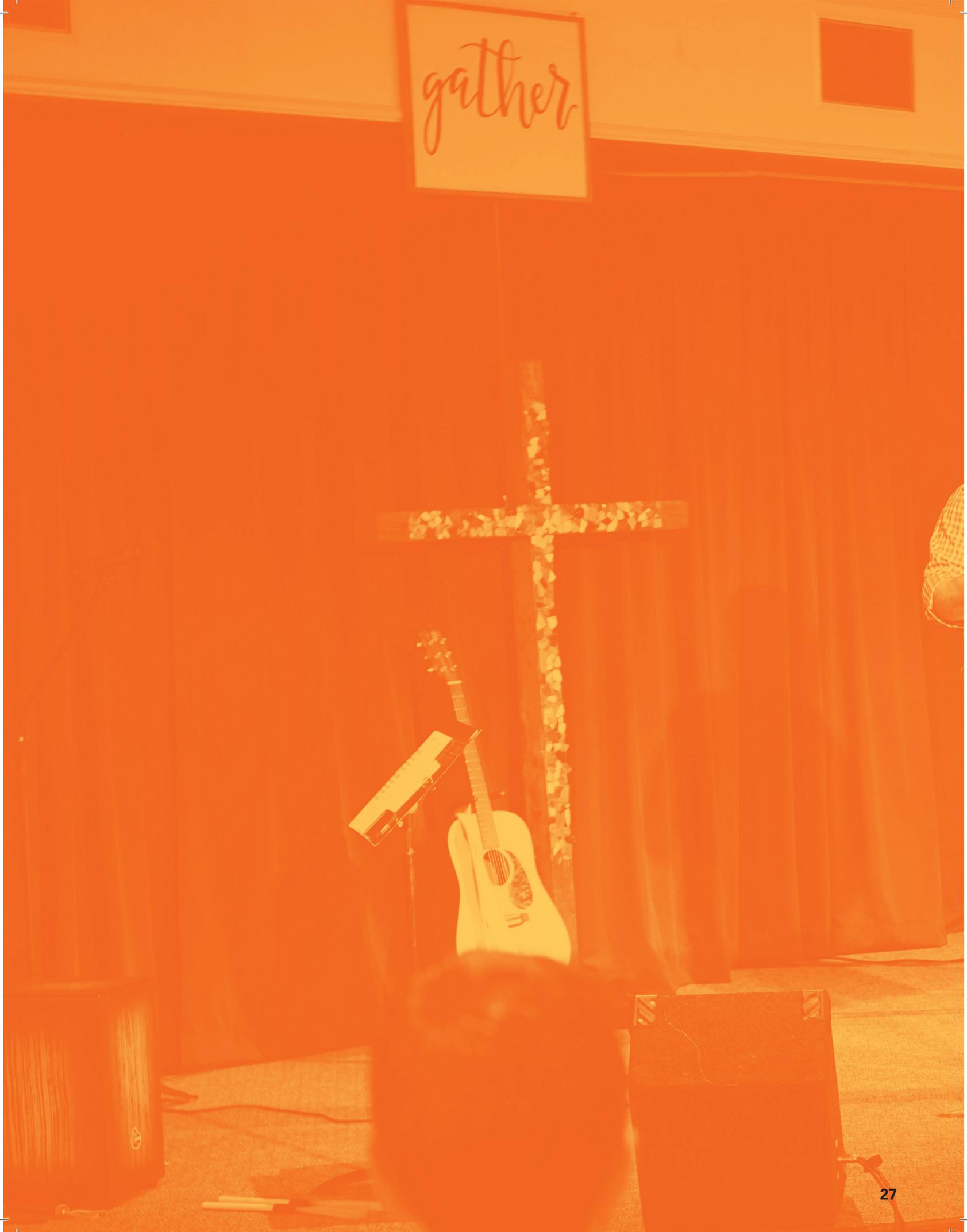
WONDER: What is the greatest thing you can imagine God doing? What is "far beyond" that?

PRAY: Pray that God will help you know him "beyond knowledge," stepping into faith in your walk with him.

PRAISE: List ten ways your family has been blessed "beyond." Choose one of them and praise Jesus by using one of them in a specific way to honor him.

SHARE: Make a list or picture (drawn or magazine clippings) of what you imagine your family will be like in 10 years. Share what things are most important to each of you.

RESPOND: Learn how to say "imagine" in 5 different languages.



REFLECTIONS ON THESE LAST 5 WEEKS OF THE BEYOND GENEROSITY INITIATIVE:

What was the most challenging part of this initiative?

In what ways were you inspired to be more generous?

What changes will you have to make in your life in order to fulfill your commitment?

What has God revealed to you through the Beyond Initiative?

What has God done in your life which has been beyond what you ever hoped or imagined?





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