

## April Minister's Report to the Board

This feels almost absurd to write, as I am fairly confident you are all aware of what I have been doing since our last board meeting-pivoting and supporting others in pivoting to all-online ministry. I have no idea how long we'll be doing this, but the Worship Arts Team and I are already planning May services online. Regardless of what state and county officials may say, I have no reason to believe that gathering in large groups will be safe for our congregation for at least that long.

So much communicating. Worship has been the biggest part of my work, and I've created a number of documents and guides for folks putting together worship. I've been meeting weekly with a small subsection of Worship Arts, and together we have successfully made this transition while maintaining our fidelity to the spirit of shared ministry and collaboration that is so important to the way we worship. This Sunday, I did nothing! We had our first all-lay-led online service, and they were truly splendid.

I've also spent a lot of time with my supervisor hat on, and working with Jamie and Gay Lynn on transitioning their work to online and work from home. We are truly lucky to have such great folks working for Northwoods, and both have taken everything in stride and risen to the occasion. This week, we had our quarterly supervision one on one meetings, and much of what we discussed had to do with what we are learning and how things have changed, with an eye towards insights we can use in the future.

Membership team members have also risen to the occasion, and I have met several times with various parts of that team. We created a Membership Online Transition playbook the first week of digital ministry, and have executed most of our plans successfully, as well as figured out how to keep track of attendance numbers and who's coming to online services. (Our online worship team now includes online greeters as well as other worship roles.) Groups of Ten have been employed, though low rate of response is frustrating to the group leaders. Membership and Groups of Ten have been helpful in terms of keeping me in touch with pastoral care needs, in addition to Cyndie and the lay ministry team.

And lastly, I have spent my time creating ways for Northwoods folks to connect with me online throughout the week. These are somewhat informal and require minimal preparation on my part, and have been well-received. I've also facilitated a session of our reproductive justice curriculum as well as helping lead Pathways online today.

In last month's minister's report, I shared the column I'd written that week, encouraging handwashing and rolling out cactus stickers—yes, just last month! Those stickers were in place one week before we moved to gathering online. It's been a busy month, and a stressful one, but I am noticing things of value: more folks are attending worship, both newer folks and longtime members we've missed recently in worship. How can we keep that momentum? How do we serve folks who connect online but are less frequent physical visitors? I think that we will have some choices to make with more options to choose from when we come out of this. How will we continue to incorporate Zoom in leadership meetings? Are there benefits to doing online small groups and classes? I am asking these questions of myself and with others, but only time will tell what answers will come.

Attachments: Weekly Connections Schedule, Membership Transition Plan, Online worship worksheet

## NORTHWOODS ONLINE CONNECTIONS

<b>MON</b>	<p><b>Monday Meditation (9 am)</b> Rev. Sarah takes a Sabbath every Monday, and she likes to begin her Monday morning with time for meditation. Light a candle and join her in spirit from your own home at 9 am every Monday.</p>
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<p><b>Lunch with Rev. Sarah (noon – 1 pm)</b> Join Rev. Sarah for a midday break. (Lunch not provided.)          Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/7668335778">https://zoom.us/j/7668335778</a>          Meeting ID: 766 833 5778</p> <p><b>Tuesdays at Two (2 – 3 pm)</b> Come join Coordinator of Religious Education Gay Lynn Pierce in celebrating a few of your favorite things— pets, toys, music, hiding places, games and more.          Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/596081594">https://zoom.us/j/596081594</a>          Meeting ID: 596 081 594</p>
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<p><b>Lunch with the CRE (noon – 1 pm)</b> Come join your Coordinator of Religious Education for lunch. We can visit while we have our lunch break and catch up on what is happening around your home.          Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/605601879">https://zoom.us/j/605601879</a>          Meeting ID: 605 601 879</p> <p><b>Wednesdays @ The Well (6:30 pm – 7:30 pm)</b> Is your well running dry? Come and take a long cool drink. Tank on empty? Come and fill 'er up with a midweek connection with your Northwoods community. Rev. Sarah will offer a couple of poems or readings for reflection as a group, and we'll have the chance to check in with each other as well.          Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/7668335778">https://zoom.us/j/7668335778</a>          Meeting ID: 766 833 5778</p>
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<p><b>Northwoods "Happy Hour" (2 pm – 3 pm):</b> Join Rev. Sarah for a midafternoon pick-me-up. Starting at 2 pm, she'll share something that makes her happy- a song, a video, a poem, who knows?!-every fifteen minutes for an hour. In between, folks can share something that makes them happy, reflect on what Rev. Sarah shared, or just chat.          Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/7668335778">https://zoom.us/j/7668335778</a>          Meeting ID: 766 833 5778</p> <p><b>Pandemic UU Parenting Support (PUUPs) (7 pm – 8 pm)</b> Come join a group of fellow parents as we connect, encourage, commiserate, and problem solve together. At the end of each meeting we can decide a topic for the next week. No prep needed, just bring yourself and a beverage.          Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/319200550">https://zoom.us/j/319200550</a>          Meeting ID: 319 200 550</p>
<b>FRIDAYS</b>	<p><b>Chalice Challenge (7 pm – 8 pm)</b> Join us to participate in fun challenges that require skill, out of the box thinking, and bragging rights as the Chalice Challenge winner of the week!          Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/246139420">https://zoom.us/j/246139420</a>          Meeting ID: 246 139 420</p>
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	<p><b>Coming of Age Group (9:30 am – 10:30 am)</b> For grades 6-8. The Northwoods Coming of Age group will be meeting with their teachers to continue their programming in modified fashion. If you are interested in your child attending, please contact CRE Gay Lynn Pierce (<a href="mailto:re@northwoodsuu.org">re@northwoodsuu.org</a>)</p> <p><b>Sunday Worship (10:30 am – 11:30 am)</b> Join Northwoods online for an inclusive, all-church worship experience followed by time to check-in and connect with each other. All ages welcome.          Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/7668335778?pwd=aHVFYjZkTjhdNHFRQUZvbklpK3b0VWdr09">https://zoom.us/j/7668335778?pwd=aHVFYjZkTjhdNHFRQUZvbklpK3b0VWdr09</a>          To join by Meeting ID, enter the Meeting ID, 766 833 5778, followed by the password, church.</p> <p><b>Youth Group (11:30 am – 12:30 pm)</b> For grades 9-12. The Northwoods Youth Group will meet with their advisers to continue their programming in modified fashion. If you are interested in your child attending, please contact CRE Gay Lynn Pierce (<a href="mailto:re@northwoodsuu.org">re@northwoodsuu.org</a>)</p> <p><b>Adult Forum and Lunch Bunch (12:15-1:30)</b> Following service and time for fellowship, we will alternate between Adult Forum, offering topics of interest to community members from the perspective of guest and member speakers, and Lunch Bunch, a free time for conversation, community and getting to know one another. Either way, please bring your lunch and join us! (Takes place in the same Zoom as worship.)          Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/7668335778?pwd=aHVFYjZkTjhdNHFRQUZvbklpK3b0VWdr09">https://zoom.us/j/7668335778?pwd=aHVFYjZkTjhdNHFRQUZvbklpK3b0VWdr09</a>          To join by Meeting ID, enter the Meeting ID, 766 833 5778, followed by the password, church.</p>

## Membership Online Transition Plans

### **Sunday Greeting**

- Hospitality role remains even though some of the tasks are not being utilized.
- How to find visitors?
  - Ask visitors to introduce themselves in the chat, and greeters privately message them “Hi, I’m one of Northwoods’ online greeters. Welcome! If you’d like to share your email address, get on our newsletter. You might also want to follow us on Facebook at LINK.”
  - Contact info for church admin in the chat @ end of service
  - Not all greeters would have the skillset for this, and we would need to offer training. (Sara Moser will poll current greeters)
- Attendance: create document of names from who is participating (Sara Moser compiling), as well as do a roll call during the “take a minute to greet your neighbors” (cross-reference lists)
  - With number of people watching maybe?

### **Pathways to Membership (4/19)**

- If people are available and interested, then we should do it
  - Need to advertise widely-email to visitor log signees (Jamie), FB, Bits, Meet and Greet participants (Sara DaSilva)
- How do we get to the sacred space of sharing stories?
- Might interest folks who’ve been members for a bit but didn’t take Pathways (also builds connections with older members and newer)
- Big barrier for many is time/scheduling conflicts- this might be a way around that
- IDEA: Monthly gathering for newer members (<one year) as follow-up

### **Group of 10**

- Asked them to touch base with their people but not sure how that’s going. Is it time to ask everyone to get in touch with everybody in their group?
  - A number of folks report that they haven’t heard from their Go10 leader, and present Go10 leaders report low response rate as well
- Go10 presence should be out there pretty consistently with our membership right now.
- “Social Groups”- a couple are interested in having Go10 Zooms
- “corpus callosum” between membership and pastoral care- needs assessment, health concerns, point of contact. Functions in a new way right now as my avenues to finding out about pastoral care needs are slimmer
- Attendance in service- Sara DaSilva will update Go10 Google sheet with Attendance/Roll Call docs

### **Meet & Greet**

- Lay Leader @ beginning- invite visitors to come to meet and greet group after service- end at noon
  - @end, after inviting visitors to introduce yourselves, ask them if they’d like to go to the meet and greet small group and add them to breakout group
- Next M&G: March 29 (Sara DaSilva leads breakout group)

### **Information Table**

- Working on creating a “virtual information table” with downloadable PDFs of the info sheets on the table
  - Will need to a) figure out which cards remain relevant, b) prioritize relevant info cards, and c) update cards with info before we ask Jamie to build the page on website (Under “Information for Visitors” tab)

### **Membership Records**

- Kate will go through records and the membership group will go over lists
- April 17- last day to join and be eligible to vote at congregational meeting
- If folks wish to join, Rev. Sarah can meet and do a virtual book signing via Zoom.

Sections of Service:	Service Element	This Week:	Notes
Pre-service: Time to gather, greet, announce, offer Zoom instructions	Pre-Service Routine		Notes
	Welcome From Lay Leader		standard, scripted welcome
	Announcements		Could these scroll before the service?
	Greeting Our Neighbors		
Beginning- primary goal is to draw people in to connection/participation in worship experience	Ringing of the chime		
	Welcome/Call To Worship (Min/GS)		combine lay leader welcome with minister call to worship)
	Community/NUUC Chalice Lighting		(have minister and lay leader alternate these)
	Opening Hymn/ Special Music "Prelude"		(have minister and lay leader alternate these)
	Affirmation		
	Message For All Ages (Thing 1)		
	Centering Song	Spirit of Life	(stays the same every week)
	Reading/Video (Thing 2)		silent meditation and reading or guided meditation or other thing
	Meditation (Alt Thing 2)		Introduce the special cause of the week as well as pledge giving
	* Optional: NW Connection, STP		Offering continues during anthem
Weekly message content (changes the most)	Offering introductory words		
	Anthem/Special Music		
	Homily (Thing 3 - Min/GS)		
	Closing Hymn/ Special Music		
	Benediction (Min/GS)		
	Send-off: move people out of worship mode into returning to rest of life renewed	Extinguishing The Chalice	
Postlude			
After Service			new folks/ visitor intro/'s, check in time for all