

North Star

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Our Building: A Gift to the Community

Lately you may have seen a lot of people around North Church you don't recognize. During the past two years the Session has made it a priority, through the leadership of Joe Alber, Ralph Doerzbacher, and Tim Hutton, to make our building more available to outside groups and organizations for lease and rental. Currently, our downstairs south wing and two rooms in the north wing are being leased by LE3, a before- and after-school program that provides a caring, safe environment for homework help and recreation for elementary school-age children. This has

given our community a much-needed resource and has become an important source of revenue to support our ministry here at the church.

In addition to LE3, we are also home to three Mindfulness meditation groups on Monday, Wednesday, and Sunday evenings. These groups are open to the public and draw a number of folks from the community who might not otherwise cross our threshold, to our chapel for meditation. That's a good thing for us and for them.

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and there is hardly a day or evening when there isn't someone using our building.

We are here to serve our whole community by providing a space where children and adults can find wholeness spiritually, physically, and intellectually. We are an indispensable presence in our neighborhood and community. And we're always open to more groups or organizations looking for a home.

On Monday and Wednesday mornings a chair yoga class is held in Westminster Hall, led by Olivia Ebsary, and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings a Silver Sneaker Senior Circuit for fitness is offered, also in Westminster Hall, led by Jody Hares.

On Tuesdays and Saturdays if you walk by the chapel you may hear the sounds of viola or piano as lessons are given by Leslie Bahler or Karen Schmid, respectively. And on Wednesday evenings, if you happen to stroll through the north wing basement, you may hear the laughter and antics of WNY Improv that meets each week to practice their craft.

Add to all that the variety of meetings and classes, as well as the monthly meetings of the Girl Scouts, Embroiderers' Guild, and a more recent addition, WNY Needleworkers' group,

Sometimes it can feel like we're too fixated on the upkeep of our building, that our resources should be spent in other ways. But this building is our gift to the community. Providing a place that's secure and inviting where folks can come to improve their lives or help bring wholeness to others is an essential ministry. We have reason to be proud of that contribution; it's an honor to serve the community in this way. May God continue to use us to be a blessing for our community.

Peace,
Pastor Bill