



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Experiencing and sharing God's love to transform our homes, community and world.

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"As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. 'Tell us,' they said, 'when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?'"

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains." (Matt 24:3-8)

There's been a lot of talk lately about the "End Times" and when Jesus is coming back. Christians have been trying to figure that out since Jesus first ascended into heaven. This always happens when we have an abnormal pattern of highly destructive natural disasters, or when unusual events occur in the heavens (such as eclipses, comets, etc.), or when wars break out around our planet. Most recently, a report made the news that the "End Times" would begin on Saturday, September 23. Saturday came and went, and all is well - if not a little bit hotter than we usually expect for late September.

I'll be honest, there's a lot about the "End Times" that I don't know or understand. In fact, Jesus himself said that there's a lot about this that we're not going to know or understand: *"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."* (Matt 24:36) Here's what we do know: Jesus is coming back (Revelation 22:20). When he comes back, all that is broken will be made right (Revelation 21:1,5). Until Jesus comes back, we will have suffering and persecution for His name's sake (John 15:18-25). Outside of those things, Jesus invites us to trust and abide in Him (John 15:1-17).

The Thessalonians were swept up in waiting for Jesus' return. They fully believed his return was so imminent that they stopped doing the work of the Kingdom. We should be diligent in avoiding the same mistake. So what should we do as we wait for Christ's return? The same thing Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to do:

And we urge you, brothers & sisters, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:14-22)

Note particularly verses 23 & 24:

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

In other words, be about the work of the Kingdom, and trust in the God who's name is Faithful. He is true to his promises, and He is true to you. Amen!

Pastor David

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 7 Marie France
- 11 Elizabeth Ogden
- 13 Bobby Irvine
Elizabeth Kidd
- 15 Robi Vandevander
- 16 Alayna Vandevander
- 18 George Brine
Jonathan Bryant
- 19 Mickie Brine
- 21 Gabbie Scruggs
- 23 Debbie Irvine
- 26 Lois Stewart



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- 25 Bob & Marie France, 1951



OCTOBER CHILDCARE

- 1 Ron & Judy Reyburn
- 8 Ron & Andrea Sieviewright
- 15 Debbie Irvine & Sandy Stafford
- 22 George & Mickie Brine
- 29 Ron & Judy Reyburn

MORNING CIRCLE – 2017-2018

Oct. 3 – 10 a.m.

**A New Bible Study - "A Love Worth Giving"
by Max Lucado**

Loving people isn't easy. Sometimes the world in which we live puts us to the test. Whether it be someone breaking in line at the grocery store or getting bumped in a crowd, all of us face situations in which we are tempted to put aside what we know is the Christian thing to do and fall back into the old self.

Along with the Bible Study, we will be planning our Sunshine Meals, which will be resuming in October. If you know of anyone interested in a meal, please let us know.

Bible study materials and books are available. Please contact June Hedrick (846-6447).

I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:4 NIV



Prayer requests:

Hurricane victims in this country and other places.

Mary Wilhelm fell and broke her left arm Sept. 23.

Holly Hodges, Mary Wilhelm's daughter, had gall bladder surgery Sept. 24.

John & Margie Seal's grandson, Ryan Buchanan, had surgery in early September. He is now home.

Keith Mann's father, Cary, has been diagnosed with cancer.

Maggie Brockman's brother, John Kent, is recovering from surgery.

Andrew Brunson, a missionary in Turkey, has been falsely imprisoned in that country. We request that you stop at noon each day and pray for Andrew.

Pauline Kalin continues her battle with cancer, but has been coming to church recently.

All active service men and women.

Law enforcement personnel, first responders.

Missionaries serving Jesus Christ, particularly those going through persecution.

Remember others who cannot be with us in church:

Bob & Marie France, John Collins, Elizabeth Ogden, Dot Rucker, Dick Collins, Albert & Bobbie Garrett.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – meeting Oct. 3

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, October 3 at 10 am. They are beginning a new Bible study, "A Love Worth Giving" by Max Lucado. June Hedrick will have study guides for all participants.

Evening Circle:

The evening circle will meet the same evening at 7 p.m. in the NewSong room. Judy Reyburn will be moderating the meeting. They have chosen the study, "Sermon on the Mount", a DVD presentation by Jen Wilkin. The October meeting will be the author's introduction to this study. Participants need to purchase a study book, available in the church office at \$14.

Looking forward to church events:

On November 18, all women in the church will be invited to a "cookie exchange". Details to follow.

On December 5, we will host the MS Support Group Christmas Dinner.

Next spring, we are planning a large yard sale as a fundraiser to support Nyanzi Jude's Christian school in Uganda (www.daystar.ac.ug).

CHURCH VITALITY WEEKEND **NOVEMBER 10-12, 2017**

Mark your calendars now for this special weekend "in house" retreat, led by Dr. Ken Priddy from the EPC Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic's GO Center. Friday evening and Saturday are for church staff, elders and key leaders as we dig in to the biblical and spiritual underpinnings of vitality, and the accompanying strategic concepts, principles and tools.

On Sunday, November 12, Dr. Priddy will teach during the Sunday school hour as well as preach during worship. This is going to be a fun and exciting weekend for the entire congregation as we seek to discern what God has in store for Northminster in the months and years to come.

Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

MEN'S BREAKFAST **Sat., Oct. 14 – 8 a.m.**

All men of the church are invited to a BREAKFAST and DEVOTION on Saturday October 14 at 8:00 am



We'd love to have YOU join us, and only ask that you let Harry know so we can prepare enough food.

(HCRucker@outlook.com or 929-2407)

PASTOR DAVID ALLEN GARRISON TO **BE ORDAINED IN THE EVANGELICAL** **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, October 22, 2017

Service: 5 p.m.

Dinner Celebration: 6 p.m.



We are honored to be the church Pastor David Garrison is serving as he is ordained into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and installed as our pastor.

Members of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic EPC will be present to lead the worship service at 5 p.m. Dinner will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

We hope our congregation and David's friends and family will be here for this special time in his ministry and in the life of Northminster's congregation.

Please let us know if you will attend so that we can make accurate plans for the dinner. Call 929-2713, or email office@npcmh.com.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB **Sat, Oct. 28, 10am - Noon**



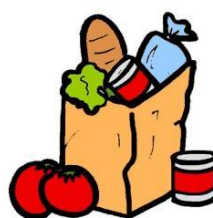
The Women's Book Club will meet October 28 at Vonnie Rucker's home from 10 a.m. until Noon. They are reading *The Blue Bottle Club* by Penelope J. Stokes.

Like to read? You are welcome to join them. Please let Vonnie know if you plan to be there.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

On the first Sunday of each month we ask for donations of non-perishables to the Monroe Baptist Church food pantry. Paper products, personal

hygiene products and childcare products are especially welcomed. Your monetary gifts are appreciated as well. Their volunteers can buy food from the Food Bank in Lynchburg at a much lower cost than from the grocery store.



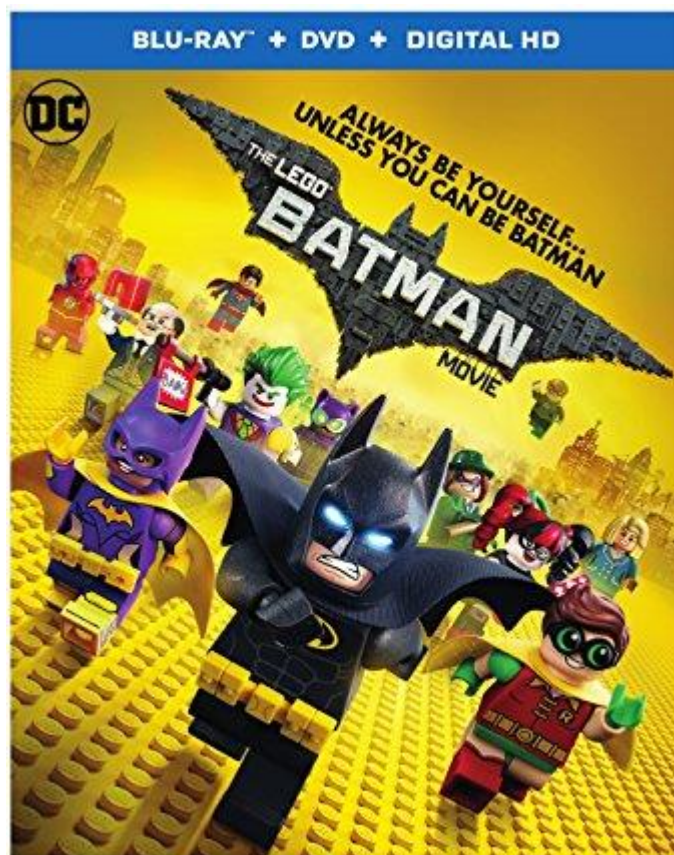


MOVIE NIGHT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8
6:00 PM

The Mission-Outreach-Evangelism Committee invites you, your family and your friends to join us for our next movie night! We'll be watching *The LEGO Batman Movie*. One of the most effective ways to share the Gospel with others is to find things in our culture that show the Gospel or God's truth and love. While the creators of *The LEGO Batman Movie* certainly didn't set out to make a "Christian" movie, there are many opportunities to see the Gospel at work in the story. We'll have a short discussion time afterward to talk about some of those scenes and moments. If you'd like to learn more about the movie, and to help you decide if it's appropriate for your family, please visit:

<http://www.pluggedin.com/movie-reviews/lego-batman-movie>.

We look forward to seeing you there!



YOUTH GROUP

Attention all 5th-12th Grade Students!

Join Us Sundays, 6:00-7:30
(Dinner included!)



Ever since Jesus first came, over 2,000 years ago, people have been trying to figure out who, exactly, he is. Some have said he's a wise man, a great teacher, a prophet, a healer and many other things. The Bible says He's the very Son of God and savior of the world. Ultimately, though, the only way to know who Jesus really is (and yes, we really do think the Bible is right on this one), is to "come and see" for ourselves. Join us each week as we look at the things Jesus did and what he said in order to "come and see" what Jesus meant when he said, "*I have come that you might have more and better life than you've ever dreamed.*" (John 10:10). See you there!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE SING

I read an interesting article recently about singing in church, and thought that, as someone on the Worship Committee, it might be appropriate to share it.

A much fuller delve into this subject can be found at this link (<http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/words-of-wonder-what-happens-when-we-sing>), and if you ever care to spend a few minutes reading it, I think it will be time well spent. Until such time as you might want to check out that link, here are just a few thoughts from that article.

Before I share those thoughts, let me make it plain that I am simply sharing this to perhaps introduce some folks to some thoughts about singing they may not have previously considered. I am NOT IN ANY WAY trying to criticize or put down people who don't like to sing as much as I do or don't like to sing period. I am simply hoping to give you some food for thought about church singing. Thank you for giving me the benefit of the doubt and believing that, and believing me when I say I love you and respect you and am thankful for you whether you join in congregational singing or not. You are my brothers and sisters in Christ, and I am thankful for you. **Harry Rucker – Worship Committee**

Below are excerpts of thoughts from Bob Kauflin's talk at the Desiring God 2008 National Conference. I didn't see any copyright restrictions, but at least want to make sure I give him the credit for these words, to make sure we are doing the right thing legally and out of respect for his work.

God's Passion for Singing

God's heart for setting words to melodies is evident from even a casual reading of the Scripture, which contains over 400 references to singing and fifty direct commands to sing. Why does God so often tell us not simply to praise Him but to sing His praises when we meet? Why not just pray and preach? Why sing? One reason is that God Himself sings (Zephaniah 3:17), and, on the eve of His crucifixion, Jesus sang hymns with His disciples (Matthew 26:30). We worship a triune God who sings, and He wants us to be like Him.

How Music Relates to Words

Some Christians think that music supersedes the Word, believing words without music are dry, unaffecting, and unimportant. Other Christians think that music undermines the Word, believing that when you combine music with words in the church, you're asking for problems. And still others think that music can distract us from the Word.

But music and the Word aren't meant to be in conflict with each other. God Himself wants them together. That's why He tells us in Psalm 147:1, "Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting." God didn't intend that music supersede the Word or that music undermine the Word. He gave us music to serve the Word. When that relationship is understood and appreciated, music becomes a powerful gift from God that complements, supports, and deepens the impact of the words we sing.

Some misc. other thoughts about singing from this article

- Singing Can Help Us Remember Words
- Singing Can Help Us Engage Emotionally with Words
- Singing Can Help Us Use Words to Demonstrate and Express Our Unity

Can the book of Revelation, which gives us a glimpse of worship in Heaven, give us any insights on worship and singing?

What will we experience in *that* world, in the new heavens and new earth? No, we won't be singing all the time, but when we do sing, it will be like nothing we've ever experienced. We'll have clearer minds

to take in the glories of God. We'll have new strength to give Him the glory He deserves. And we'll have an unlimited time in which to do it, free from any and every influence of sin. Singing will fully and finally serve the purpose for which it was intended.

And until that day comes, we continue to sing — thanking God for old songs that join us with the saints of history, enjoying new songs that enable us to express eternal truth in fresh ways, and anticipating the songs that are yet to come.

The Savior has rescued us so that we might sing the song of the redeemed. May we sing well, constantly, and passionately — singing for His glory and for the advancing of His gospel until the time comes when our songs will never end.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Pledges to Campaign*</u>	
	<u>August</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Income	9,778	85,134	1,211	33,530
Expense	19,278	78,851		
Balance	-9,500	+6,283		
*Campaign is the PCUSA debt				

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Pastor David Garrison

ELDERS

Judy Reyburn

Harry Rucker

Debbie Irvine, George Brine,

Ron Reyburn, Clerk

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent*

of Sunday School

Vonnie Rucker, *Secretary/Treas.*