



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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LENT IS COMING

Most folks really struggle with February. Even though the days are getting longer, it's often the month that winter really kicks into gear - the coldest temperatures and messiest weather. I think part of what makes it worse is the "Indian summer" that so often happens in mid-to late-January. Having been teased a taste of spring, to have winter make a comeback just makes it so much worse. Added to the mix is the reality that, in most years, Lent kicks off in February. So not only is it still cold and dark weather-wise, but the church kicks off what is often considered to be its most drab and drear season. At least, that's how I always viewed Lent when I was a child. Maybe for you as well.

Lent = *Lencten* = "Springtime"

So it's probably not too hard for you to imagine my surprise when I found out that the word "Lent" comes from an Old English word, *lencten*, which is best translated as "springtime." Chuck DeGroat writes, "In this season, one begins to see the goodness which emerges from the darkness of winter. But the darkness of winter is necessary for the greening of Spring." There is, and ought to be, a somberness associated with the season of Lent, but that's not all that there should be.



Spring Cleaning for your Soul

As we transition from winter to spring, most of us will celebrate the annual ritual known as "spring cleaning." We clean out the cruff, muck, dust and general detritus that's built up in our homes and yards over the past year in preparation for the warmth and growth of spring. Spring cleaning isn't usually fun, and it's often messy, but it's worth the work because we know what is to come. Lent is the season of the year when we do the same thing spiritually. What happens physically in and around our homes also happens spiritually in our hearts and souls as well. It is my hope and prayer that the season of Lent would be an opportunity for you to have "Springtime for your Soul."

This year, Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14 (how ironic). We have a variety of ways for you take time for spiritual spring cleaning, from new devotionals, to a Sunday sermon series, to Wednesday Lenten services shared with churches around the area. Keep your eyes and ears open for special worship opportunities during Holy Week as well. May God bless you and enrich your soul this Lent!

Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison

[Schedule for Lenten Services on page 2.]

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Beckett Bryant



FEBRUARY ATTENDANTS

- 4 Mickie Brine & Vonnie Rucker
- 11 Linda Lange & Judy Reyburn
- 18 Debbie Irvine & Sandy Stafford
- 25 Barbara & Ernie Baker



MARCH ATTENDANTS

- 4 Gerald & Sharon Bryant
- 11 Marge Mills & Mickie Brine
- 18 Maggie Brockman & Anne Wilkins
- 25 Judy & Ron Reyburn

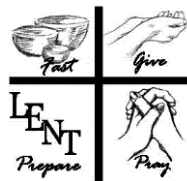


We extend our sincere sympathy and Christian love to Bob, Marge and Tim Mills in the death of Bob's mother on January 5.

LENTEN SERVICES

Begin Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday

During Lent, we share services with other church neighbors for a time of community worship. Services begin at 12 Noon and at about 12:30, lunch is served by the host church. To help defray expenses, a donation for lunch is appreciated.

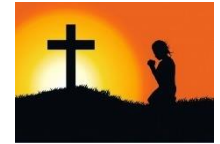


The offering taken at each service is in support of The Helping Hands Ministry of this part of Amherst County. The Helping Hands is administered through Madison Heights Baptist Church and assists our neighbors in need.

SCHEDULE

- Feb 14 Union Christian Church
- Feb 21 Elon Baptist Church
- Feb 28 Monroe United Methodist
- March 7 Elon Presbyterian
- March 14 First Baptist Church of Monroe
- Mar 21 NORTHMINSTER EPC
- (No Lenten Service during Holy Week)
- Mar 25-Palm Sunday April 1-EASTER

I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. Psalm 34:4 NIV



Prayer requests:

John Lange is having knee replacement surgery February 21.

Lorraine Ledden is recovering from a fall she had at home earlier in January.

Dot Stinnett is currently at The Elms, 2249 Murrell Rd., Lynchburg. She would appreciate visits and phone calls to help her stay in touch with her church family.

Peggy Wright has returned to church after hurting her back.

Arlene Horton is in a back brace due to spine fractures. She is getting physical therapy to regain some strength.

Bobby & Albert Garrett appreciate your prayers for their health. Being homebound, they look forward to phone calls and visits.

Susan May is traveling to Burundi for a month with her mission organization, Ripe for the Harvest.

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.

All active servicemen 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:

John and Dick Collins, Margaret Watts, Elizabeth Ogden, Dot Rucker, Doris Eden, Bob & Marie France.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, February 6 at 10 a.m. Their study is "A Love Worth Giving" by Max Lucado. June Hedrick is the study leader and has the necessary material for participants.

Evening Circle:

The women's evening circle will meet that same evening at 7 p.m. in the NewSong classroom. Their study entitled "Sermon on the Mount" is a DVD presentation by the author, Jen Wilkin, and group discussion from the study book. Barbara Baker will lead the discussion this month on Lesson 4. Maggie Brockman will lead the lesson in March.

Notice the article on page 3 concerning the Yard Sale coming in April.

**YARD SALE TO SUPPORT
Daystar Junior School
Kirombe Uganda, Africa
Sat., April 21**

Last August on a missions Sunday, we heard Nyanzi Jude speak about his Christian school in Uganda, serving children ages 3- approximately 11. Although his school is growing, they still have many needs. Since last fall, the school has been building a larger structure with a new kitchen; however, they still have not finished.

On April 21 we will hold a yard sale to raise money to support Daystar Junior School. We are excited for the possibility of giving these young children a better, healthier environment in which to learn and grow in their Christian faith.

We welcome items for children such as toys, clothes, furniture, also books for all ages, and most household items. We have seen in the past that adult clothing does not sell well, so we will not be accepting clothes.

Watch our newsletter and website for more details as we get closer to April 21. Contact Vonnie Rucker or Maggie Brockman if you have questions.

Visit Daystar's website to learn more about the work at Daystar Junior School Kirombe. <http://www.daystar.ac.ug>. Also friend Nyanzi Jude on his FaceBook page.

**FELLOWSHIP COVERED-DISH DINNER
Sunday, Feb. 11**

There will be a Fellowship meal after worship on February 11. The theme is "Valentines," the Fellowship Committee will furnish drinks and everyone is invited to attend and bring a favorite dish to share.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The collection for the food pantry at the First Baptist Church of Monroe takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

Monetary gifts are welcomed as well. They can purchase certain foods from the Blue Ridge Food Bank at a cheaper price than in the grocery stores.



**TABLE TALK CONTINUES
Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:45 pm**

Each Wednesday we offer "Table Talk", a presentation and discussion for everyone. Right now and for the next 3 weeks Pastor David is talking about the five generations – how they have very different values, priorities, understandings of truth and meaning, and approach life in very different ways. So what does that mean for us, individually and as a church?

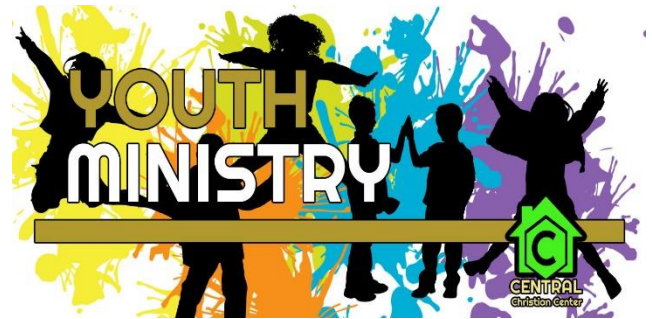
We begin at 5:30 with a meal and ask \$5 per person, \$15 maximum for a family of 3 or more. We end by 6:45 p.m.

January 31 the topic will be the Boomers (born 1946-65); February 7, the Survivors (born 1966-1985), and February 14, the Millennials (born 1986-2003).

Christian Faith and Other Faiths:

Beginning February 21, Bob Mills and Michael Babcock will offer a 5-week study on Christianity and other faiths. Previous studies in this series covered Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. This time we will explore Judaism.

We begin at 5:30 with a meal and end by 6:45 pm.



Our Youth Group continues to meet on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm. Pastor David and Karey lead the group and we continue to have at least six youth to attend. The group invites youth in grades 5 – 12 to come and take part.

Please consider helping with the meal we provide each week. As David and Karey are with the children, a meal provides their family with an evening meal as well as the children. We keep it simple -- pizza, hot dogs, subs, etc. If you can provide a meal, it would be very helpful. If you are not able to provide a meal, a financial contribution would be greatly appreciated.

Please speak with Debbie Irvine or Karey Garrison if you have any questions. Thank you for your prayers and support of this program.

Worship Committee's "What Is Worship?" 2018 Project

Northminster Family,

I have previously mentioned that one of the Worship Committee's goals is to promote and encourage the heartfelt love of and worship of Christ. In keeping with that goal, we hope to bring you monthly (friendly) reminders that help us focus clearly on what is involved with genuine, heartfelt worship – essentially some tidbits are what that type of worship "looks like".

Below is the first installment of that series. Our goal is to also post these in the hallway, as more-permanent reminders. We pray you are encouraged and blessed and refreshed by these.

- In Christ's name from your Worship Committee

True Worship Begins...

True worship begins by **acknowledging** that Jesus is **God** (John 10:30), **Savior of mankind** (Luke 19:10), and the One **for whom and through whom** everything was made (Colossians 1:16).



He is the centerpiece of the universe.

Prophets and prophecies of Scripture, miracles of God, the story of the nation, the Mosaic law – **it's all about Him.**

We can add other witnesses, too. Paul says that even nature and history point to Jesus (Ephesians 3:8-9), and the gospel writers tell us that the voice from Heaven declared Jesus' authority at His baptism and at His transfiguration.

If the **entire universe, all history, all humanity, and every true revelation** (Revelation 19:10) are about Jesus, what does that say about the direction of our lives? **Shouldn't we be entirely about Jesus, too?** **If we don't, we are swimming against the tide of all creation.**

CHURCH CANCELLATION -- IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Sunday Services:

When Sunday services are questionable due to bad weather, we will follow this procedure:

- A decision will be made by 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning
- A telephone message will be sent out to everyone using the church's One-Call Now telephone service.
- We will post the cancellation on the church web-site www.npcmh.com and record a message on the church answering machine.

Programs other than Sunday morning:

Cancellations regarding events other than Sunday morning will be decided as soon as reasonably possible. You will be notified using the church's One-Call Now telephone service. We will also put a message on the church answering machine.

PER MEMBER ASKING FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC SUPPORT

The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic of the EPC asks its churches for their financial support in the amount of \$25 per Active Member. They call this the *EPC Per-Member Asking*. Although this is not mandatory, Northminster has pledged to financially support our denomination, realizing they have expenses just as we have. We have on several occasions reaped benefits from the Presbytery at no charge to us. For example, they recently provided the speaker/instructor for our retreat on church revitalization, and provided officer training when we first moved to the EPC.

Active members are asked if they can *voluntarily* give to this fund, beyond their regular tithe, once a year. If you are able to do so, please use a pew envelope or include \$25 in your offering envelope designating “EPC Per-Member Asking”.

Because of your faithfulness to your pledge to our Campaign to pay off our commitment to the PC USA, we have made our 3rd annual payment of \$7,400. We also have a head start on next year’s payment. [Notice Pledges to Campaign in the chart below.]

FYI: Original Debt: \$89,600; paid 3 years @ 7,400 = balance \$67,400

2017 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Pledges to Campaign</u>	
	<u>December</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Income	13,513	129,164	1,566	39,564
Expense	15,269	131,245	-7,400*	32,164
Balance	- 1,756	-2,081	*PC USA 2018 payment	

DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session*

Judy Reyburn, Harry Rucker, George Brine

John Lange, Sharon Bryant, Anne Wilkins

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent*

of Sunday School

Vonnie Rucker, *Secretary/Treas.*