



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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APRIL 2019

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"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." — Matt. 11:28-30 THE MESSAGE

Out of Rhythm

About 5 years ago, my kids and I were swimming at a friend's house and I found I couldn't catch my breath. Even sitting still, I was breathing heavily and my heart was racing. I had no idea what was going on. Erring on the side of caution, my wife took me to the ER and we found out my heart was in atrial fibrillation. The ER staff took great care of me, and a few hours later we were on our way home. A couple of years later, my family went to Sliding Rock in North Carolina (pictured). I've never experienced water as cold as that. Hitting that water was such a shock that it not only knocked the wind out of me, it sent my heart into a.fib a second time. Just like the first time, I couldn't catch my breath even standing still and my heart was racing. Having experienced it before, I knew immediately what the problem was. This trip to the ER resulted in an overnight stay, and somewhere around 15 hours later, my heart returned to normal rhythm on its own. Fortunately, other than these two instances, I have a very healthy heart and haven't had any further issues. Some folks go into a.fib and aren't aware of what's going on for several days. When your heart gets out of rhythm, it affects everything else.



Life Arrhythmia

I think many of us spend our lives in a kind of "life arrhythmia". Our lives are out of rhythm and we often don't even realize it. We live and move and work in something of a semi-frenzy, desperately trying to keep up just enough to catch our breath every now and then. We yearn for rest, but find that even in the moments of rest (whether a couple of hours or a week of vacation), we still can't catch our breath. Our souls weren't meant to live like this, and when we spend our lives out of rhythm, it affects everything else. Sometimes we know what the problem is; often we don't. If we continue to try to force ourselves to live according to the rhythm of the world around us, we'll never get in sync and will be constantly racing to keep up. We need to look for a different way.

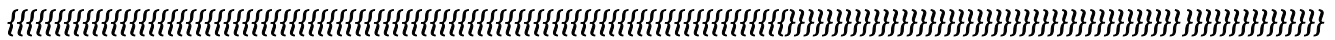
The Unforced Rhythms of Grace

That different way is the way of Jesus and of grace. This is the natural rhythm in which we were created "to live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). It is a rhythm that enables us, as the passage above says, to find true rest.

Following the unforced rhythms of grace isn't about another burden, or rule, or expectation placed upon us, but rather finding ourselves synchronized with Christ in such a way that we are able to live freely and lightly regardless of the rhythm of the world around us. A part of our goal in our worship services is to provide an opportunity to get out of the frenetic pace of our lives in order to connect with the unforced rhythms of the grace of Jesus Christ, if only for a few moments. Initially it feels discordant, even boring. But as we take the time to settle into the moment, we begin to feel the new rhythm and experience the rest and freedom Christ offers.

As we continue to move through this season of Lent and prepare for the joyous celebration of Easter, may you hear the gentle invitation of Jesus to 'walk with Him and work with Him — watch how He does it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace' and find yourself living freely and lightly.

Blessings, Rev. David Garrison



**What 21st-Century Christians Can Learn
From the Early Church
A Lent 2019 Table Talk Series
Wednesdays, 5:45-6:45 p.m.**

Those who study and observe the ebb and flow of culture say that we are no longer a “post-Christian” culture but have actually returned to a “pre-Christian” state. If that is true, we would do well to take a closer look at the Early Church and see what we can learn in order to more faithfully live and effectively share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here’s what the remaining weeks in this series will focus on:

April 3: “Contending for the Faith: Heresy and Orthodoxy”

The battle over “sound doctrine” was the defining challenge of the early church. To this day, we recite creeds that were formulated in direct response to false teachings. Docetism, gnosticism, Arianism—these heresies struck at the very heart of the gospel by redefining the person and work of Jesus Christ.

April 10: “Constantine: The Church’s Worst Nightmare?”

On the evening of October 27, 312, as Constantine was standing near the Milvian Bridge in Rome he saw a vision that forever changed his life, the Christian Church, and the western world. But did he really see a vision? The results were unmistakable. Constantine dramatically “converted” to Christianity and the status of the western church would never be the same. This session will explore what happens when the church makes common cause with politics.

April 17: “The Death Throes of Paganism”

By the end of the Roman period, Christianity had triumphed over paganism in Europe. Temples and idols were destroyed. Pagan institutions were shut down. Profane literature was censored and burned. This session will explore how Christians of every age must be vigilant in defending the purity of the church.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Vera Campbell
- 5 Ed Campbell
- 6 Liz Boothe
- 15 Arlene Horton, Dot Rucker
- 16 Harry Rucker
- 19 Sue Burnett
- 24 Peter Garrison
June Hedrick
Linda Lange
- 30 Anita White

Happy Birthday

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Harry & Vonnie Rucker, 1985
- 17 Ian & Debbie Moore, 1993
- 17 Michael & Christy Sechler, 2004
- 28 Rob & Andrea Sieviewright, 2007

APRIL NURSERY ATTENDANTS

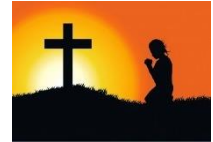
- 7 George & Mickie Brine
- 14 Gerald & Sharon Bryant
- 21 Marge Mills
- 28 Maggie Brockman, Anne Wilkins



More nursery attendants are needed. If you can volunteer once every 2 months to serve our children in this important ministry, please contact Sharon Bryant (sharonc.bryant5@gmail.com or 929-0610)

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

Psalm 34:4 NIV



Prayer requests:

Marge Mills has been diagnosed with stage I breast cancer and is scheduled for surgery on April 11.

Sandy Stafford's mother, Bessie Gillie, is scheduled for surgery in April.

Sue Burnett continues treatments for lung cancer.

Bobbie Garrett is at Liberty Ridge recovering from a broken leg. Please keep her and Albert in your prayers.

Julie Lerner is recovering at home from a broken arm. She is receiving physical therapy and hopes to return to church very soon.

Will Thomasson is in school in Lima, Ohio to become a mechanic. He is looking for work.

Laura Hoffman's brother, Rick Ricketts, has had his leg amputated below the knee. Also pray for Laura as she is responsible for the care of Rick and her cousins, John and Dick Collins.

Dick Collins recently moved to a facility in Lynchburg where he can get more extensive care. His new address is: The Carrington, 2406 Atherholt Rd., Lynchburg, 24502.

The Leddens' grandchildren, Keith & Denna Crumrine, are missionaries in Papua New Guinea.

Law enforcement personnel, first responders.

Remember others who cannot be with us in church:

John and Dick Collins, Dot Stinnett, Leonard Rowe, Margaret Watts, Dot Rucker, Doris Eden, Monyeene Wood, Bob & Marie France.

With Sympathy

Our sympathy and Christian love go out to Arlene Horton and the Price family due to the death of Arlene's

sister, *Juanita Price*, on March 2. Jack & Juanita Price were charter members of Northminster and were active members for 20 years.



Julie Lerner would like to thank everyone for all of the cards, phone calls, prayers, warm thoughts, and meals

during these past couple of months while she is recuperating from a broken arm, up at her left shoulder. She is so thankful for this church family, and hopes to be back in church soon!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The Morning Circle will meet at 10 am on Tuesday, April 2 in the Tatman Room. Their study book is *A Love Worth Giving--Living in the Overflow of God's Love* by Max Lucado.

Evening Circle:

The women's evening circle will meet April 2 at 7 p.m. Maggie Brockman is the study facilitator and will host the group at her home. The lesson is from *Pursuing God*, a DVD presentation by author Margaret Feinberg. This 12-session study covers the books of Genesis and the Gospel of John – 6 sessions in each.



A huge
“THANK
YOU” for
making
Sunday, March
17, such a

special day for me. The reception, including a beautiful cake, and the kind words made it one of the TOP best days of my life. And most certainly, I have had a lot of those!

God has so blessed both, June and I, and our children, in so many ways through the years—one of those being when He found us a church family at Northminster some 57 years ago. Our both being “only children” makes **you** doubly important because our birth relatives are few. And, those being in the body of Christ are the best kind! You are our family.

Any Sunday School Teacher will tell you that the teacher of a class receives a far greater blessing than the student. Serving our Lord Jesus Christ with each of you is what I call real joy! I can't express in words how much you mean to us. Thank you again.

Don


**SAVE YOUR PLASTIC
GROCERY-STORE BAGS**
for
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The Morning Circle would like for you to bring to church each Sunday your PLASTIC GROCERY-STORE bags. Deposit them in the wicker basket found underneath the coat-rack in the Entrance Foyer of our church. The folks who shop at Neighbors Helping Neighbors have need of them to carry home their grocery selections. The bags must be dry and clean. No bags which have contained refrigerated items with moisture nor ones from produce that may have contained residue from soil such as potatoes are reusable.

This is a project that is very little cost to us, will help someone else, and will aid us in keeping our environment clean. Thank you for your participation.

Your 2019 Church Directory is available now. Be sure to pick up a copy to have the latest information

Church Directory - March 2019



Northminster

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

FIRST SUNDAY
COLLECTION OF
NON-PERISHABLES
FOR THE MONROE
BAPTIST CHURCH
FOOD PANTRY



Can't bring your donations on the first Sunday? Leave your items any time in the basket in the Tatman Room. Monetary contributions are appreciated as well. Monroe Baptist volunteers can purchase food from the Blue Ridge Food Bank at a much lower price than at the grocery stores.

Don't forget, items for children and pets are needed as well.



COMMUNION SUNDAY
April 7

We observe the Sacrament of communion on the first Sunday of each month.

"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."
 Luke 19b-20

SonWorld Adventure Park VBS

June 23-27

6-8PM



A visit to a theme park is a day of choices. The clickety-clack of a wooden coaster, or the speedy swoosh of tubular steel? The cool tartness of frozen lemonade, or the gooey richness of a giant cinnamon roll?

The choices we make in a theme park will determine the kind of day we'll have. But the big and little choices we make every day will determine what kind of lives we'll have, our relationships with those around us, and ultimately our relationship with God. And all that begins with our understanding of who is Jesus and how we will choose to respond to Him? At SonWorld Adventure Park VBS, kids will meet various people who encountered Jesus and discover how they responded to Him:

- A blind man was given sight by Jesus. Afterward, the man made the startling claim that Jesus is God's promised Savior. Will your kids also **Choose to BELIEVE?**
- Then men with leprosy were healed by Jesus. When your kids see people in need of God's love, will they **Choose to ACT?**
- When a paralyzed man was first forgiven and then healed by Jesus, witnesses questioned Jesus' right to forgive sin. Will your kids **Choose FORGIVENESS?**
- A rich young ruler met Jesus, seeking eternal life. When he learned what he needed to give up in order to obey Jesus, he walked away sadly. Will your kids **Choose to OBEY?**
- The disciple Thomas doubted his friends when they said that Jesus is alive. But when he saw Jesus, he believed. Will your kids also **Choose JESUS?**

At SonWorld Adventure Park, there's no height requirement, the lines are short and everyone gets a good view of the parade. But hold on to your hats and glasses, because it's sure to be a life-changing ride!

Sign up to volunteer by calling or emailing Karey Garrison (kareygarrison@gmail.com, 386-8869).

Registration for kids coming soon!

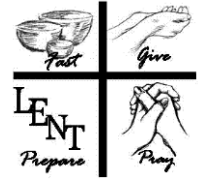
WEDNESDAY LENTEN WORSHIP

During the season of Lent, we combine Wednesday noon services with other local churches 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 Amherst County. This ministry assists our neighbors who have an emergency need. The Helping Hands is administered through Madison Heights Baptist Church.

REMAINING SCHEDULE:

- Apr 3 Elon Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- Apr 10 First Baptist Church of Monroe
- April 14 - Palm Sunday
- April 21 – Easter



Palm Sunday, April 14 – Worship at 11 am.

“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Our Palm Sunday service will include a procession of palms with our children and choir. We will all be given the opportunity to connect with the joyous spirit and celebration of that first Palm Sunday through special music from a trumpet quartet from Liberty University and other elements of the worship service.



Good Friday, April 19 – Service @ 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday is one of the darkest days in human history, but if not for that darkness, hope would not shine as bright. In order to get to the wonder and joy of Easter morning, we must first pass through the pain and hurt of

Good Friday. This service of scripture, prayer and song is an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice our Savior made on our behalf.



Easter April 21! Sunrise Service @ 7:30 a.m.

He Is Risen. He Is Risen Indeed!

We celebrate the Light's defeat of darkness with an early outdoor worship celebration. Join us on the patio outside the foyer, then stay for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

Worship at 11 a.m. We gather to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior



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. 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".

UPDATE – PCUSA DISMISSAL DEBT

Due to your faithful giving over the past 3 years, we feel like we can reach our goal within 1 more year. You will see below in the Financial Stewardship Report that we have \$48,667 towards the balance owed (\$60,000). Please help us reach our goal of obtaining the full amount owed within this year by continuing your giving to the PC USA Dismissal.

<u>PC USA DISMISSAL DEBT UPDATE</u>	
Nov. 2015, Original amount:	\$ 89,600
Paid:	29,600
Held in savings as of March 30:	<u>48,667</u>
Balance needed:	11,333

<u>FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT</u>				
	<u>General Operating Fun</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income	8,802	19,279	1,345	47,473
Expenses	<u>11,736</u>	<u>23,898</u>		
Balance	-2,934	-4,619		

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 Website: www.npcmh.com

DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session*

Judy Reyburn, Michael Babcock, 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.*