



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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MARCH 2019

Volume 38, Issue 3

*"Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you;
he will never let the righteous fall." — Psalm 55:22*



Teach Us To Pray

Over the past several weeks, we've been exploring the Lord's Prayer, asking Jesus to do the very thing He did for the disciples: "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). We have seen that this somewhat simple and very well-known prayer is loaded with depth and meaning. The Lord's Prayer is incredibly profound, especially considering how succinct it is, and it certainly provides an excellent template for our prayers, let alone making it part of our daily prayer routine.

More Than Knowing How

But knowing "how" doesn't always get us to the point of actually "doing." We all know how to eat well, but still eat too many French fries. We all know how to exercise, but we still watch too much TV. Over time, we get stuck in routines and habits that unintentionally create hurdles and obstacles that keep us from doing what we know we ought to do. Or we find ourselves facing a difficult situation (like a large pizza) that keeps us from doing what we know we ought to do (not eat an entire large pizza). There comes a time when we need to hit a "reset" button and start over. Cultivating a habit and lifestyle of prayer is no different. It's far too easy to allow the busy-ness and stress of our daily lives to fill our schedules, leaving us with the feeling that we're too busy to pray. Or we run into a situation where we really have no idea how to lift that up in prayer.



A Spiritual "Reset" Button

That's one of the reasons why Lent is one of my favorite seasons of the liturgical year. It's an opportunity to hit that spiritual "reset" button. Lent is an Old English word that means "springtime." Spring is a season where we clean up the muck of the past year to prepare our yards for new growth and to freshen and straighten our homes. Spiritually, the season of Lent provides the same opportunity. It's an opportunity to restart some old habits that have been lost or begin new habits out of a desire to clean the spiritual muck out of our hearts and souls to make room for the new spiritual growth the Holy Spirit has in store for us. We take advantage of this season by setting aside some bad habits that are keeping us from praying, or starting new habits to enable us to pray more effectively.

On Sundays during Lent, we'll use the prayer book of the Hebrews, the Psalms, as our guide to praying through some of the more challenging things that come up in our lives. Over the course of this series, we'll look at the problem of prayer, how to approach the Inapproachable, how to pray when we've done wrong, how to cultivate a trust that never stops, how to pray when there is no hope, and what rejoicing really looks like.

May this season of Lent and our time spent in the Psalms nurture and encourage your soul.

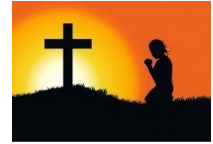
Blessings, Rev. David Garrison

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Ron Reyburn
- 8 Beverly O'Brien
- 15 Clellan Vandevander
- 16 Doris Eden,
Leonard Rowe
- 21 Jeff Porter
- 24 Ernie Baker
- 25 John Ledden
- 26 Maggie Brockman
- 28 David Garrison
- 31 Bryce Brine,
Wyatt Sievwright



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



Prayer requests:

Paul Sydnor and family. Paul's mother, Mary Jane Sydnor, died in mid-February.

Sandy Stafford's mother, Bessie Gillie, has been diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer and is consulting with her doctor to determine treatment.

Sue Burnett continues treatments for lung cancer.

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

Julie Lerner is recovering at home from a broken her arm.

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

Laura Hoffman's brother, Rick Ricketts, has a variety of health issues. Also pray for Laura as she is responsible for the care of Rick and her cousins, John and Dick Collins.

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.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 Caitlin & Carlos Vera, 2014



MARCH NURSERY

ATTENDANTS

- 3 Maggie Brockman/
Anne Wilkins
- 10 Ron Reyburn, Sandy Stafford
- 17 Ernie & Barbara Baker
- 24 Linda Lange, Judy Reyburn
- 31 Debbie Irvine/Vonnie Rucker



SUNDAY RECEPTIONS

Notice a schedule for March and April on the bulletin board for receptions following worship. Our desire for these receptions is to have time to fellowship after church and meet visitors. Hosts are encouraged to keep the receptions simple. There is a list of suggestions-instructions on the bulletin board if you are unsure about what this entails.

If another date suits you better than the one suggested, feel free to change the date.

Thank You! Your Fellowship Committee

Notice: The Fellowship Committee will host the reception March 17.



To the
Congregation:

I have been overwhelmed with the love and care shown to me in recent months because of my health issue. And it continues. I am convinced that I have been able to have an almost normal life and feel good as a result of your prayers. The words "thank you" do not convey my gratitude for those prayers and each one of you who say them. Please don't stop.

Love to all, Sue Burnett

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The Morning Circle will meet at 10 am on Tuesday, March 12, instead of on March 5. Our study book is *A Love Worth Giving--Living in the Overflow of God's Love* by Max Lucado. We will be studying Lesson 14, "When You Are Low on Hope." And, our lesson begins with the story of Noah! Like us this winter, when we've looked out of our windows and seen another rainy day, snow, or wintry mix, Noah looked out of that Ark and all he saw was water. Soon our wintry days will bring forth Spring. Already there are traces of it. There is hope at the end of the tunnel. Our lesson shows us, how, when there are more pressing needs in our lives than the weather, to look out of ourselves and find the hope of which we so long for and to remember God is with us--our stronghold and our strength.

We also will be continuing our card ministry to special folks who might need a boost on a rainy day, enjoying our time together, finding out truths in God's word so relevant to each of our lives.

Evening Circle:

The women's evening circle will meet March 5 at 7 pm in the Tatman room. Sharon Bryant is the study facilitator this month as they discuss lesson 5 of *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.

MISSIONS GIVING FOR 2018

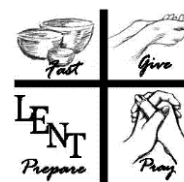
We were able to support 18 individual missions and ministries in 2018 with your generous contributions and from budgeted funding. A total of \$17,580 was given which equals 10.6% of all the income in 2018.

Aside from monetary support, we offer our facilities to the Amherst Recreation Department Seniors Group, Amherst County Habitat for Humanity, and Amherst Emergency Recovery Group. Pastor David serves on both boards of the last two mentioned groups. And a number of our people volunteer their time with ministries outside of our church.

SEASON OF LENT

BEGINS MARCH 6 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 Amherst County. The Helping Hands is administered through Madison Heights Baptist Church and assists our neighbors in need.

SCHEDULE:

- Mar 6 Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian
- Mar 13 Union Christian Church
- Mar 20 Elon Baptist Church
- Mar 27 Monroe United Methodist Church
- Apr 3 Elon Evangelical Presbyterian Church
- Apr 10 First Baptist Church of Monroe
- April 14 - Palm Sunday
- April 21 - Easter

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



Can't bring your donations on the first Sunday? Leave your items any time in the basket in the foyer area. 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.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

March 30, 2019

The Women's Book Club will meet on March 30 at 10 a.m. at the home of Sharon Bryant.



Like to read? Join this group for fun insights into various genre of books. Please let Sharon know if you are able to come.



COMMUNION SUNDAY

March 3

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

Church Directory - March 2019



Northminster

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Your 2019 Church Directory will be available at church beginning March 3. Be sure to pick up a copy to have the latest information.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS

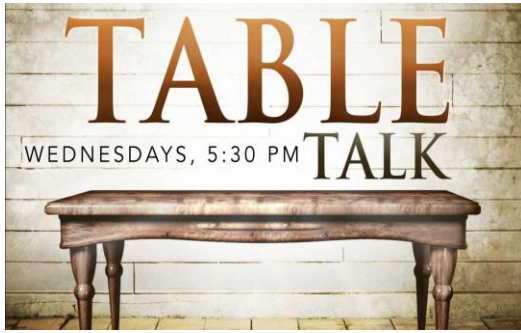
IN CONCERT AT NORTHMINSTER EPC

WED. MARCH 6, 7 pm

PUBLIC IS WELCOME – NO CHARGE

The Liberty University Chamber Singers will be performing in our sanctuary on Wednesday, March 9, at 7 p.m. Known for their excellence in the choral art, the Chamber Singers perform music from the Renaissance to Contemporary periods. Under the direction of Dr. Wayne Kompelien, the group holds concerts throughout the school year. We are honored that they have requested to kick off their spring tour at Northminster once again.

Make plans to come. Bring a friend or two. This performance will indeed be "music to our ears!"



**What 21st-Century Christians Can Learn
From The Early Church
A Lent 2019 Table Talk Series
Beginning Wed., March 13**

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 each week of this series will focus on:

March 13: “How the Early Church Was Made”

Acts gives us the “formula” for how the early church was made: the ministry of prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. This first session will look at God’s blueprint for the church as laid out in scripture and illustrated in the first century.

March 20: “Going, Loving, Dying: The Missionary Church in Action”

The early church was a missionary church. It was a church that went to the ends of the earth, just as Jesus had commanded. The early church was also known for its love.

March 27: “Lessons from the Catacombs”

Were you taught that the catacombs were places of refuge in times of persecution? Did you learn that the fish symbol was a secret message? Well, think again! There are many persistent myths about the catacombs. These burial places did, in fact, serve an important purpose in the early church—but it’s not entirely what you think.

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.

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 \$47,473 towards the balance owed (\$60,000). If we are to have the full amount within the next year, we ask everyone who has been giving toward the PC USA Dismissal Debt to continue to give their same amount for 1 more year.

<u>PC USA DISMISSAL DEBT UPDATE</u>	
Nov. 2015, Original amount:	\$ 89,600
Paid:	29,600
 Held in savings as of Feb 28:	<u>47,473</u>
Balance needed:	12,527

<u>FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT</u>				
	<u>General Operating Fun</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income	10,477	10,477	1,840	46,128
Expenses	<u>12,162</u>	<u>12,162</u>		
Balance	-1,685	-1,685		

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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.*