



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

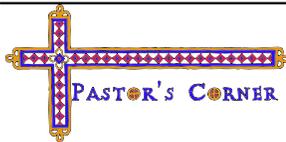
office@npcmh.com

434/929-2713

www.npcmh.com

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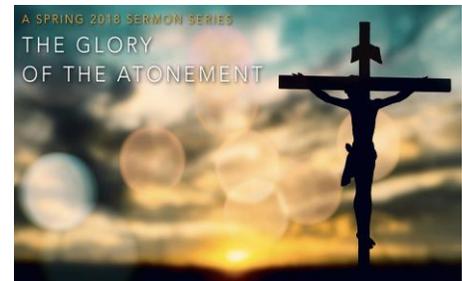


EASTER IS HERE!

The forty days of spiritual house-cleaning has come to a glorious conclusion! Springtime for our souls, and in our lives, has finally arrived! All that kept us from God - our sinfulness, our insecurities, our doubts and so much more - has been swept away through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The wonder of this is more than can be comprehended in a day, and so with Easter Sunday we also begin the fifty day season of Easter. *"The Easter season is a time to let the implications of the resurrection sink in deeper, inviting us to realign our worldview and conform our living to the reality that we have been raised with Christ to new life"* (Philip Reinders, *Seeking God's Face* pg 329).

The Centrality of the Atonement

But that is the crux of our modern struggle - realigning our worldview and conforming our lives to the reality of new life in Christ through his sacrifice on the cross. In short, we struggle to believe and accept the doctrine of the Atonement - so much so that many Christians have rejected it outright. But as Emil Brunner once wrote, the atonement *"is the Christian religion itself; it is the main point; it is not something alongside of the center, it is the substance and kernel, not the husk."* To that end, on Sunday mornings through the season of Easter, we will seek to explore and unpack the wonder and glory of the atonement in order to "realign our worldview and conform our living" to our new life in Christ.



Tiptoeing Through the TULIPs

As Presbyterians, we are a part of a "stream" of Christianity known as Reformed Theology, which is itself heavily inspired by the writings and teachings of John Calvin. If you want to kill the mood at a party, just casually mention you're a "Calvinist." Most people view Calvin and the theology named after him with something of a stuffy, negative intellectual light. But nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, Calvin and his theology is very passionate and full of life and Spirit, as evidenced by his logo and slogan, pictured at right. We hope you'll consider joining us for Table Talk on Wednesday evenings beginning at 5:30 on April 11 as we "tiptoe through the TULIPs" and see just what Calvin taught and what it means for us today.



Blessings, Rev. David Garrison

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



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

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

APRIL ATTENDANTS

- 1 Marge Mills, Ron
Reyburn
- 8 Linda Lange, Judy Reyburn
- 15 Debbie Irvine, Sandy Stafford
- 22 Ernie & Barbara Baker
- 29 Gerald & Sharon Bryant



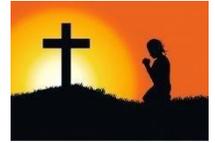
FIRST SUNDAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The collection for the food pantry at the First Baptist Church of Monroe takes place on the first Sunday of each month. However, if you forget your items on the first Sunday, the receptacle is available at all times in the foyer coatrack area.

Your monetary contributions are appreciated as well. The church can purchase many goods from the Blue Ridge Food Bank at a lower price than local grocery stores.



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



Prayer requests:

Elizabeth Ogden is under hospice care in her home. She suffers from congestive heart failure.

John Lange had knee replacement surgery Feb. 21 and is having physical therapy.

Dot Stinnett is at The Elms. She loves hearing from you. Address: 2249 Murrell Rd., Lynchburg.

Arlene Horton is back at church!!!

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

Susan May will return to Burundi May 31.

Andrew Brunson, a missionary in Turkey, has been falsely imprisoned in that country. His trial is set for April 6. Please pray for his release.

Families in Parkland, Florida affected by the recent school tragedy.

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, Dot Rucker, Doris Eden, Bob & Marie France.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, April 3 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. June Hedrick will lead the discussion this month on Lesson 6.

See Yard Sale, pg. 3

**YARD SALE TO SUPPORT
Daystar Junior School
Kironde Uganda, Africa
Sat., April 21 8 am - Noon**

Last August on a missions Sunday, we heard Nyanzi Jude speak about his Christian school in Uganda, serving children ages 3- approximately 11. This school is growing, and they have many needs. Nyanzi shared with us that the school has two primary needs for the facility: a sufficient kitchen and sanitary bathrooms.

On **Saturday, April 21** we will hold a yard sale to raise money to support Daystar Junior School. Our goal is to raise the money needed to finish their kitchen. God willing, we'll make enough for the bathrooms as well!

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

You can start donating books April 8. Bring to the NewSong room. Bring other items the week of April 15-20. Contact Vonnice Rucker or Maggie Brockman if you have questions.

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



**SUNDAYS 6-7:30 pm
Confirmation Class begins
April 8**

Beginning Sunday, April 8, all students in 5th-8th grade are invited to participate in this year's Confirmation Class. The class will run for 6 weeks, with the students joining on Pentecost Sunday. This year's Confirmation theme is, "What's the Point?" What's the point of being a Christian? Of worship? Of being a disciple? Of serving others? We'll be exploring these questions, and more, each week. The class will meet during youth group, from 6:00-7:30 each week. We look forward to seeing you there!



DINNER ANYONE?

Are you looking for small group fellowship? How about a Dinner Club?



Either 'In Home' or 'Let's Meet Out'

Please see the bulletin board for a sign up list to show your interest!

More details to follow once we have your input.

Your Fellowship Committee

**BURUNDI HOPE PROJECT
RIPE FOR HARVEST WORLD OUTREACH**

Susan May has returned from Burundi and is already planning her next trip. She will return to Burundi with a team of five and has started booking tickets and preparing for visa requests. She and the team will depart on May 31 and return on June 12. The team is a visionary trip for four of the team members to determine how they can further be involved on the ground in Burundi.

They would like to bring some specific things with them since they will have a larger than normal number of free checked baggage. Please contact a Mission, Outreach, Evangelism committee member if you can help with any of these items:

100% Cotton Flannel: minimum of 200 yards

Cloth Diapers: minimum of 400

Diaper Covers (any style): minimum of 200

New FaceBook account: Prayer4Burundi

Website: burundihopeproject.com

Thank you,

Mission, Outreach, Evangelism committee

Don and June Hedrick, Sue Burnett, Judy Reyburn

**WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB
Sat, April 7, 10am - Noon**



The Women's Book Club will meet April 7 at Mary Wilhelm's home from 10 a.m. until Noon. They are reading *An Extra Mile* by Sharon Garlough Brown.

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

**MISSION, OUTREACH, AND EVANGELISM COMM.
ALONG WITH THE PW EVENING CIRCLE WILL HOST**

Roads to Recovery for dinner
Tuesday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Roads to Recovery provides non-clinical recovery management services to help individuals and families recover from alcohol and other drug problems. Their services are designed to help people increase their motivation for recovery, to initiate recovery, to support recovery efforts, and to manage and maintain their recovery over the long term.

Our own Sue Burnett is a Family Support Specialist and Peer Recovery Specialist. Please call (434-946-5273) Judy Reyburn to volunteer to make and/or serve dinner.



The Worship Committee invites you to check out our “Worship Is...” posters on the wall to the left of the sanctuary entrance.

The goal is to bring you friendly reminders about some things Scripture tells us about true worship. Our prayer is that these Biblical reminders will give us fresh insights into the type of worship that pleases and honors our Lord. We also pray they bring refreshment and vitality to our expressions of love and adoration to our Lord through our personal and corporate worship.

Each month there will be a new “Worship Is...” bulletin insert, which we will also post in that month’s newsletter.

Your Worship Committee is honored to worship alongside you here at Northminster EPC.



A thank you to my church family at N.E.P.C.,

I would like to express my sincere thanks, gratitude and love to my church family. Since my surgery on Feb. 21, I have never been without prayer or comforting from family, friends and specifically my church family. During the last few weeks your demonstrated thoughts and prayers were helpful and enjoyed. It’s a great feeling when you know people around you care enough to send you their well wishes. Reading your get-well messages helped me very much. I really appreciate your thoughts. In addition, your continued prayers for healing and well-being are greatly appreciated. I want to thank God for all of you and I’m so grateful to you all.

I want to thank God for Pastor David and everyone that visited, called, brought or sent food, and I truly appreciate all the beautiful cards that were sent. They were a comfort to me and they brought joy to me and lifted up my spirit. So, a very big thank you and I love you all.

And a very special thank-you to my loving family for their love and for being there for me. A very, very, big special thank you to my wonderful wife Linda who continues to nurture, love and yes tolerate my many shortcomings during this time of healing and extra need.

I love you all very much, may God Bless and keep you always.

John D. Lange



To our sisters in Christ:

We want to thank the women of the church for the abundant love shown Mandy and Christopher Newsome at their baby shower March 18. New parents need a lot of “things”, but your support and generosity to them means much more and will remain with them always.

Harry & Vonnie Rucker

AFTER-WORSHIP RECEPTIONS

Our after worship receptions are always an enjoyable time, as they give church members and visitors an opportunity to chat and get to know each other better in a welcoming, relaxed setting. We would like for there to be at least one reception every month. A sign-up sheet is



available on the bulletin board, along with suggested dates and themes. For example, in May, men of the church are invited to host a reception in honor of Mother’s Day!



If you would like to host a reception on another date than is suggested, you are very welcome to add it on the signup sheet. Often several people will host a reception together. Receptions do not need to be elaborate, and the bulletin board has an information sheet with helpful guidelines and suggestions. Please consider signing up to host an after-worship reception!

The Fellowship Committee



AFTERNOON AT THE THEATRE

Big Fish

Sunday, April 29, 2018, 3 p.m.
Liberty University Tower Theatre

Join Northminster members and friends for an afternoon at the theatre to see the play “*Big Fish*” at the LU Tower Theatre on Sunday, April 29. This activity is organized by the Fellowship Committee. For those that have signed up by **Sunday, April 1**, Liz Boothe has already purchased tickets. She will be happy to purchase tickets after this date for anyone that signs up later (if tickets are still available). For more information, please call Liz at 841-9084.

- 2 p.m. Meet at Northminster. Carpool to the Tower Theatre at Liberty University.
- 3 p.m. Enjoy the Play!

Approximate Ticket Costs: \$15 to \$20, plus tax and a service fee. Discounts are available for youth and seniors (60+).

A CHALLENGE, A SIGN, A PRAISE, A PRAYER

You may remember that last fall, Ken Priddy – representing our denomination’s GO Center (an EPC ministry for Missional Vitalization & Revitalization) – spoke to us. He encouraged us by sharing how our Lord works through churches just like ours. And he **challenged us to be purposeful in looking for ways** to not only take care of our own membership, but also to look for ways **make ourselves and our ministries known** to the surrounding community, and to include them when we carry out our plans, programs, ministries.

Much of that begins **with identifying with and relating to our community**. A step in that direction is some letters and a logo we will be installing on the front of our building to help ingrain our building and our name in peoples’ minds. When people hear our name, we need people to see this building and its name, instead of us simply being “that building next to the funeral home”, or “that building across from Amelon School”.

The great news associated with the sign is that we are able to use memorial money for it. No money is used from “general giving” or any other funds. Only monies, which people have thoughtfully given in the past to honor loved ones with projects like this, are being used. **Praise God for His goodness in this provision!**

This is great news, for which we are very thankful, **but it’s just one step in the process** of helping Northminster be a household name in our community, and being the name people think of when they think about God’s work in our community. We thank you for your faithful and sacrificial monetary giving, and pray you will continue to do so, **but that’s only part of the process and goal**. We also thank you for your participation in committees, choirs, youth work, and service projects, and we pray you continue to do those same things, **but they are also only part of the process and goal**.

(continued on back)

The biggest part of Ken Priddy’s challenge (and more importantly, part of Jesus’ challenge to make disciples) is yet to come, and much of it is still unknown to us, and **that’s where we covet your help the most – PRAYER.** Persistent prayer that our good God will help us know how to reach others, and that He will draw them to us, so that **we effectively share His message of salvation with them and effectively minister in His Name** to them.

Take a couple of minutes to read the **curious parable Jesus tells in Luke 11.** This parable is easily misunderstood, so you are invited to **look deeply for the PRINCIPLES** at work here, and they are: **Pray and keep on praying.** It doesn’t matter if the hour is inappropriate, or the request is large, or the initial answer is “no” – **just keep praying.** Jesus doesn’t tell us why persistence is required, but it is. **Prayer calls for boldness and persistence.**

Or read in Luke 5 about the friends that tenaciously work to get their friend in front of Jesus for healing. Chris Tiegreen says, “our Western sensibilities want to tell those stretcher-bearers to get in line with the other people waiting”, and our instincts say, “tell that man (Luke 11) to stop pestering his neighbor”. But Jesus has no such rebuke for them. **Their brazenness seems to honor Him. This is how the Father is to be sought – with a clear knowledge that it is His NATURE to MEET NEEDS.**

1 Thess. 5:17 says – “Pray without ceasing”. Far from offending God, **our boldness PLEASES Him.** In the Luke 11 parable, **Jesus almost begs His disciples** to KEEP ON ASKING.

So...as we look for ways our ministries can benefit not only those inside our church, but also those in our community, let’s remember to **be PERSISTENT in our prayers** that the Lord will use us. As we think about how zealously we pray for ministry on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and also of the “lost” in our community and in the world, it may be good to **regularly ask ourselves if our boldness in prayer equals that of the persistent neighbor** in Luke 11. Scripture never gives us permission to drop a request just because it does not get an immediate answer.

Harry Rucker – In Christ’s Name on behalf of your Session

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>February</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Income	8,404	19,065	1,406	35,618
Expense	<u>10,730</u>	<u>22,934</u>		
Balance	-2,326	-3,869		

Visit us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/npcmh)

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.