



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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What Are The Essentials?

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock." (Matt. 7:24–25)



If someone were to ask you what the essential beliefs of Christianity are, would you be able to answer? My guess is that most of us would probably struggle to answer that question. In fact, most likely if you were to ask 5 different people that question, you'd get 6 different answers. And yet, it's a pretty important question. There are some beliefs that are quite essential to being Christian, regardless of denomination or preference. There are also a lot of things that we believe as Presbyterians that our Baptist or Methodist brothers and sisters don't — and yet we recognize each other as Christians despite those differences. These are areas we see as non-essential, areas we can agree to disagree on and still be friends. While it's important to know what makes us unique as Presbyterians, sometimes we need to be reminded about what we hold in common as Christians and why those beliefs matter.

Our denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, has listed the essentials of the Christian faith in a document unsurprisingly called "The Essentials of our Faith" (you can read the whole list for yourself here: <https://epc.org/about/beliefs/#essentials>). This list includes what we believe about Scripture, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, sin & salvation, the Church, Christ's return, and our mission & ministry. It's not *everything* we believe about those topics, but the most important things we believe about them. These essentials comprise the bedrock, the foundation, of our faith as Christians. They're what make Christianity unique from every other religious or belief system.

Over the course of the season of Epiphany (which runs from January 6 until Ash Wednesday, March 2), we're going to take a look at each one of these Essentials to gain a better understanding of why they matter and what they mean for our faith and our lives. We hope you'll join us as we together explore the Essentials of our Faith.

Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison

January 2022 Youth Ministry News & Info

Sundays from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

From off-brand cereals to knock-off luxury items, we know that anything of value probably has a counterfeit version floating around out there. The same is true for our faith. Maybe copying the behaviors of other believers was a great place to start your faith journey (we all start somewhere), but how can we move beyond copying Christians to actually following Jesus? How do we make our faith our own? The difference between a counterfeit faith and an authentic faith is growth and heart change. And we'll discover that God can use just about anything to help us grow a faith of our own.



January 9: Real faith is about doing, not just knowing.

January 16: Real faith grows with other people.

January 23: You will never get over what God does through you.

January 30: God can use turning points to grow our faith.

February 6: Real faith is an everyday faith.

Note: SNL & Youth Group resumes on Sunday, January 9!

Join us @ Youth Group, Sundays, 6:30 p.m.

Tithes & Offering Envelopes

For those of you who use the dated Tithes & Offering envelopes for your offering, your set for 2022 is in the foyer. Please pick them up to begin using in January. If you have not been using the boxed set of offering envelopes, but would like to, please ask in the office for a set. These envelopes are a good way to keep up with your offering and they are helpful for our record keeping as well.



Life Together

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- 3 Andrea Sievewright
- 4 Jack Thomasson
- 7 Rob Sievewright
- 12 Mason Brine
- 15 Barbara Baker
- 16 IvyElizabeth Mann
- 18 Mandy (Rucker) Newsome
- 19 Mary Wilhelm
- 30 Cheryl Bray
- 31 Karen Aspengren



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



Prayer Requests:

Ray Vandall will be having hip replacement surgery January 7.

Tim Wright has been diagnosed with stage 3 kidney failure. Tests are being done to determine the best course of treatment.

Margie Seal is home healing from surgery to fix a broken hip.

Delores Wright continues healing from a fall in November. While nothing was broken, she is going through physical therapy.

Caiti & Carlos Vera need prayer as Caiti serves at the University of Pennsylvania. Carlos is currently back in California, receiving medical treatment for injuries he received while in the military.

All medical personnel who have continued serving those with coronavirus in spite of the possibility of getting infected themselves.

Remember others who cannot be with us in church: **Dot Stinnett, Peggy Wright, Leonard Rowe, and Margaret Watts.**

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 Mandy & Christopher Newsome 2016

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

GENERAL FUND

November 2021 Y-T-D

Income	10,193	189,132
Expenses	<u>10,867</u>	<u>118,866</u>
Balance	-674	70,266

The Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet in the New Year at Sherry Meng's home on January 13 at 10 a.m. They are reading *Fast Girls* by Elise Hooper. No worries, these fast girls were the 1936 Olympic track stars in a time when females were not even accepted in the track and field category. This historical fiction touches on many social issues of this time in the USA; and even the potential boycott of the Berlin Olympics in 1936 due to their discrimination toward athletes of Jewish heritage.



Missions, Outreach, and Evangelism Update



Christmas Cheer Baskets

We're excited to announce that thanks to your generosity and the kindness of our partners, 140 Christmas Cheer boxes were packed! We know they will be a blessing to those in need in our area and a reminder to them of Christ's love.

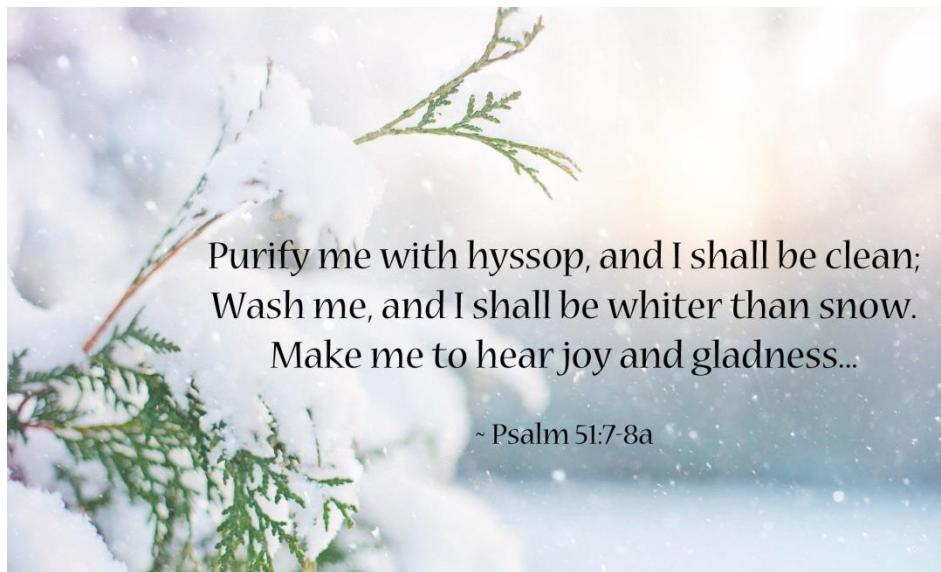
If you're interested in joining us, we will be going to Gleaning on January 20.

MOE committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. on January 19.

Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Join us in person or online for a midweek Bible study with Pastor David as we focus on learning to study the Bible ourselves and apply it to our daily lives. We are currently studying the Book of Hebrews and would love to have you join us. Sign up at <https://npcmh.churchcenter.com/groups/small-groups>



Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me to hear joy and gladness...

~ Psalm 51:7-8a

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DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session,*

Michael Babcock, George Brine, Maggie Brockman

Sharon Bryant, John Lange, Judy Reyburn

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent
of Sunday School*

Vonnie Rucker, *Treasurer*