



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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The Only Difference That Matters

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

— 1 Cor. 15:12–19



There are a lot of things about the Christian faith that are unique and special, that differentiate it from all of the other religions and philosophies throughout history. But nothing is more important than what we celebrate on Easter Sunday. It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ that makes all the difference. As Paul writes in the passage above, if Jesus Christ wasn't bodily raised from the dead on Easter, then everything we believe as Christians completely falls apart. Even more, our eternal hope disintegrates. It's easy to become complacent about our Easter celebrations, but we should make the effort to avoid falling into that trap.

In the fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul explains so well how essential the resurrection of Jesus Christ is to our faith. As quoted above, he first says that if Christ wasn't raised from the dead, then our faith is futile. He then points out that Christ has, in fact, been raised from the dead so that "as in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Cor. 15:22). It is because of the resurrection that we are baptized, which is a symbolic dying and rising again. It is because of the resurrection that we are able and even willing to endure hardship, persecution and suffering for the sake of Christ.

Paul then describes what the resurrected body will be like: a very real body, but also a spiritual body. All of the weaknesses and imperfections of the natural body replaced with the perfection and strength of the spiritual body. It is because of the resurrection of Christ that the power of death has ultimately been broken. What causes fear for the unbeliever is the source of our greatest hope.

We are all looking for God to restore and redeem our lives. What we're looking to have restored varies from person to person. It might be mental, physical, or emotional restoration, but it's certainly spiritual as well. Christ's death on the cross provided for our spiritual redemption. Christ's resurrection from the grave promises our eternal restoration. Sometimes, God brings restoration to us while we're on this side of glory. Whether He does or not, because of Easter Sunday, we can know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that one day our restoration will be full and complete, because if Christ rose from the dead, so shall we. Praise the Lord!

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O death, where is your victory?"

O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. — 1 Cor. 15:54–57

Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison

2023 April Youth Ministry News & Info

Sundays from 6:30-7:45 pm

If you knew your time on Earth was coming to an end, what would you want to say to the people in your life before you go? For Jesus, the days leading up to His death were filled with meaningful conversations with the people around Him. In this series, as we look at some of His last words, we'll discover what Jesus really wants His followers—both then and now—to know.

March 19: Remembering reminds us of what Jesus has done, is doing, and will continue to do.

March 26: Unity begins with You.

April 2: Consistently be real with God about how you feel.

April 9: **No Youth Group** (Easter)

April 16: **No Youth Group** (Spring Break)

April 23: Because of Jesus, we can be close to God.

(This meeting will not be held at the church.)

April 30: God's grace is unfairly good.



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DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn (Clerk of Session),

John Lange, Liz Boothe

Sharon Bryant, Judy Reyburn,

Mike Henderson, Anne Wilkins

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*
Sharon Bryant, *Sunday School Superintendent*
Mike Henderson & Barbara Baker, *Treasurers*

Life Together



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- 3 Vera Campbell
- 5 Ed Campbell
- 6 Liz Boothe
- 13 Cathy Work
- 15 Arlene Horton
- 16 Harry Rucker
- 24 Peter Garrison
- 24 June Hedrick
- 24 Linda Lange
- 30 Anita White

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- Harry & Vonnie Rucker, April 13, 1985
- Ian & Debbie Moore, April 17, 1993
- Rob & Andrea Sievwright, April 28, 2007

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2023 GENERAL FUND

	February	Y-T-D
Income	9,538	18,545
Expenses	<u>10,382</u>	<u>23,352</u>
Balance	-844	-2,808

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

Prayer Requests:



Several members have asked for prayers for needs that they'd prefer not to share publicly. Please lift up these prayers, knowing that God knows for whom you pray and just what they need.

Dot Stinnett is healing from a broken femur. Please pray for comfort and a relief from pain.

Lorraine Ledden is recovering from a fall. Praise the Lord that she experienced no major injuries.

Arlene Horton continues healing from hip surgery. Praise the Lord that she is doing well.

Ray Vandall continues to heal from his hip replacement surgery. Praise the Lord, the surgery went well!

Remember others who cannot be with us in church: **Arlene Horton, Mary Murray, Margie Seal, Dot Stinnett, Delores Wright and Peggy Wright.**

Lost & Found

In cleaning up for the Prsebytery meeting, we have set up a table of Lost & Found items in the fellowship hall. **Please stop by** to make sure none of the items are yours.



The Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet on **Thursday, April 20, at 10 a.m.** Anne Wilkins' house. They will be reading *The Man Who Died Twice: A Thursday Murder Club Mystery* by Richard Osman. Our four fearless septuagenarians are at it again, solving yet another mystery; this one involves diamonds and murder. All women are welcome.

A MUSICAL EASTER EGG by Bob Mills

In my younger days, I enjoyed participating our town's annual Easter egg hunt. It was held on the Little League field; little kids on the infield, big kids in the outfield. Not until I became a big kid did I notice that while the infield was freshly mowed, the outfield appeared to have laid undisturbed since Thanksgiving.



In the intervening decades, "Easter egg" has acquired a more technological application. In computer program, movie, and video game parlance, an Easter egg is a message, picture, or feature that's hidden in the software. Like many of the Easter eggs I corralled on the short infield grass, these digital delights often hide in plain sight. You just have to know where to look.

That observation leads me to one of the world's great pieces of Easter music, the chorus "Hallelujah" from Handel's oratorio *Messiah*.

The Hallelujah Chorus? Easter music? Really?
Yes!

Messiah has more than 50 movements divided into three parts. Part I, often described as the Christmas portion of the oratorio, starts with Old Testament prophecies of Jesus' coming and continues through his birth. Performances of Part I often end with the Hallelujah Chorus. And for this reason, the Hallelujah Chorus is often linked with the Christmas season.

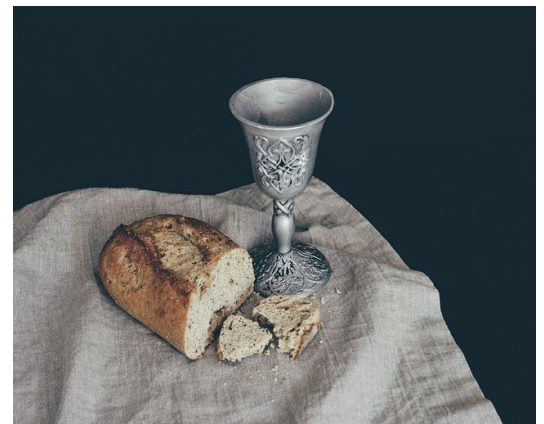
But that wasn't Handel's intent. He put the Hallelujah Chorus at the end of Part II, which musically describes "the accomplishment of redemption by the sacrifice of Jesus." In its original context, the Hallelujah Chorus is a triumphant celebration of Jesus' resurrection. It's an Easter anthem hiding in plain sight.

Here are a couple clues to help you find it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUZEtvBJT5c> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3TUWU_yg4s.

Merry Easter.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Let's gather together during this special week as we remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our salvation and then celebrate His victory over death on Easter morning.



Palm Sunday, April 2 – 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

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

Easter Sunday, April 9 – 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

EASTER LILIES FOR THE SANCTUARY

Northminster members and friends, we will again provide Easter lilies in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one. These lilies will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9, and then be available to take home. To participate, please sign your name on the church bulletin board list and follow the instructions for payment. Lilies are \$8 each, and **the deadline is Sunday, April 2**. Please contact Liz Boothe if you have any questions,



Minute 4 Missions Burundi Hope

“Open My Eyes,” a hymn written by Panam Percy Paul, comes to mind when thinking of Burundi and the mission we help to support there. The song begins with a plea to God saying, “Open my eyes that I may see, glimpses of truth Thou hast for me.” It continues on with the words: “Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth Thou sendest clear.” This is what is happening with the Burundi Hope Project at the Kanura School for the Blind and at the Ephphatha Deaf School. The students literally cannot hear or see!

In 2004, Mark and Susan May had a vision to establish the Burundi Hope Project which enabled them to establish schools for 220 deaf or blind students and their teachers. Mark and Susan have a heart for serving children with special needs; now they both serve as short-term missionaries in Burundi. Living in Amherst County and being one of our own, makes this project special to us. Therefore, Northminster has supported them in their mission for a number of years. We have seen them here at our church many times when they have given us updates on how the work there is progressing. They are our friends. And most importantly, supporting their work is one way Northminster can fulfill God’s mission of spreading the Word throughout the nations of the world.

Mission strategy has changed through the years. In the past, missionaries went and never came back home. Today’s strategy allows the people in Burundi to take ownership of their projects, with missionaries becoming more or less advisors. When in Madison Heights, Susan and Mark work with folks in Burundi by way of the Internet. Then, at least twice a year, sometimes more, they do short-term mission trips. Besides the schools, Mark and Susan have also seen the people establish a fish farm, a sewing center, a chicken business, and new churches. Burundi Hope also provides training for pastors and teachers.

To thank us for our support and to update us on their ministry, Mark and Susan have invited those interested to a dinner: Saturday, April 22, from 5-7 P.M. – **Legacy Wealth Management**

1971 English Tavern Road, Lynchburg, Virginia

RSVP by April 1

Text or Call: 434-610-9465

We’d love to have you attend with us, *The Missions Committee*



THE NEW RIVER

PRESBYTERY (EPC)

MEETING AT NORTHMINSTER

Friday, May 5,
and Saturday, May 6

Great Experience, Great Opportunity for our church family and friends!

In just **4-5 weeks**, the teaching and ruling elders representing approximately 40-45 churches of the New River PRESBYTERY will be here. Yes, here at Northminster! We are hosting with Elon Presbyterian. Our leadership is excited to have this opportunity to share our church with others of the Presbytery.

The meeting runs from Friday morning to Saturday noon. On Friday morning the committees meet and at 1p.m. the general meeting starts. The meeting will adjourn late afternoon and attendees will travel to Elon Presbyterian for dinner and a 7 p.m. worship service. Saturday morning the general meeting will continue at Northminster to include the examination of candidates for Teaching Elders (new pastors).

Please see below for the many areas of opportunity to help with this endeavor. Please give prayerful consideration to ways you may help.

Preparing:

Have you noticed the activity with cleaning up the grounds, the windows looking brighter, and the classrooms neater. Check out the library. Thank you, Michael and team!

We are not done with our spring housekeeping. It is a work in progress and we still need your help!

- Cleaning interior windows. Sandy Stafford has been busy with windows. In addition to regular cleaning, she has been doing some deep cleaning. Please contact Sandy (434-945-0550) for suggestions on how you can help. Thank you, Sandy!
 - Cleaning of outside windows is delayed until 1-2 weeks prior to May 1 due to the dust from the construction in the lot beside us.
 - The church will be closed the evening of Sunday, April 23 through Tuesday, April 25, so that the floors can be professionally cleaned and waxed prior to the meeting.
 - Weeding and trimming. John Lange is your contact (434-660-4846) if you are available to assist outdoors or with general church maintenance OR improvements.
 - Marge Mills has openings on her team to continue exploring classroom storage areas, sorting through craft items, teaching materials, and church school items no longer used/needed. We will be donating many items to Susan May for her mission in Burundi.
 - Bulletin boards need to be refreshed.
 - ❖ Large bulletin boards in the hallway outside the sanctuary
 - ❖ Bulletin board in the fellowship hall
 - ❖ Bulletin board inside the back entry door
 - ❖ Mission Bulletin Board – Don & June Hedrick have already started working on this one.
- Thank You!



Providing:

A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board for the following items and specific quantity needed to be purchased/donated prior to the meeting days.

- 8 oz (small) bottles of water
- 7.5 oz (small) cans of soda – regular and diet
- Snack size candy bars
- Individually packaged crackers, for example peanut butter/cheese
- Individually packaged nuts
- Individually wrapped candies/mints
- Energy/granola bars
- Boxes of Kleenex
- Hand sanitizer
- Clorox wipes
- Individually wrapped Biscotti
- Individually wrapped **small** muffins
- Fresh fruit—apples, mandarin oranges, bananas. *Please bring no earlier than Thursday, May 4.*
- Orange juice
- Fresh Flowers for key areas. Sharon Bryant (434-942-8566) is coordinating flowers. Please contact her if you would like to help.



If you are unable to shop, monetary donations will be accepted and are much appreciated. Please indicate “presbytery meeting” on your check memo line and/or envelope.

We also have need of the following items to be **loaned** to us for the weekend.

Please contact Anne or Linda prior to bringing to the church.

- ❖ Coolers
- ❖ Air-pots/pump type coffee/beverage servers 2-3 liters

NOTE: Please clearly label any loaned item(s) with your name!

ATTENTION: Sunday, April 9th

A list of volunteer opportunities will be posted for sign up. The list will include time frames for both Friday and Saturday. Please check your calendars and be prepared to sign up.

- Greeters inside and outside
- Parking guides
- Registration desk
- Restroom checks
- Host snack station, make coffee
- Restock snacks
- Restock cold drinks



Ready to volunteer? Please contact Anne Wilkins 434-941-3108 or Linda Lange 434-660-4858.

Questions? Call Pastor David. JUST KIDDING! Anne and Linda will gladly try to answer your questions.

Easter Joy by Christy

On Easter morning when I was a kid, my father would clomp down the stairs in his suit and big, black dress shoes to shout, “He is risen!” into the darkness of our first-floor bedrooms. My brother and I, barely coherent in our cozy beds on opposite sides of the hallway would croak, “He is risen indeed,” with far less enthusiasm. It was Easter Sunday, and we were getting up before the crack of dawn to attend the Easter sunrise service. We lived in New Jersey, so we never actually *saw* the sun rise because it was usually cold and cloudy, but there was always the service to attend with a breakfast to follow.



As a kid, I didn’t really appreciate Dad’s pre-dawn enthusiasm, although when I did finally wake up, I enjoyed the day. I remember the Easter baskets Mom spent so much time and effort making, and the Easter eggs she dyed with us the day before, and the fun time with my grandparents and great aunts who came over for Easter dinner, but I also remember with such clarity Dad’s early morning announcement.

Looking back now, from a middle-aged life filled with much more experience—a life that has seen pain, struggled with faith, and said goodbye to loved ones, I have a new and deeper appreciation for Dad’s unbridled Easter joy. “He is risen!” Death has lost its sting! The tomb is empty, and the grave has been defeated! Jesus lives and His resurrection means that I will see my dear loved ones when I, too, die. It means that no matter what happens in my life, as long as Easter happened, everything will be alright in the end.

I wish I could travel back to those days as a kid and wake up once again to hear Dad tromping down the stairs followed by Mom dressed in her Sunday best and hear Dad yell, “He is risen!” I would answer him with much more joy, hope, and excitement. “He is risen indeed!” Hallelujah! What a Savior!



Join Pastor David On A Trip To Israel July 21-30, 2024

I invite you to join me on a tour of the Holy Land next summer, July 21-30, 2024. This trip will bless you in every way, encouraging your faith and strengthening your walk with the Lord. There are few things in life that can compare to walking in the same places that Abraham, Moses, David, Jesus and the Apostles went. This land has a special place in God’s heart, and it should be in ours as well, even as we wait eagerly for the new heavens and new earth to come down with Christ when He returns.

You can find a brochure with more information on the table outside the Sanctuary. Let me know if you have any questions!