



# 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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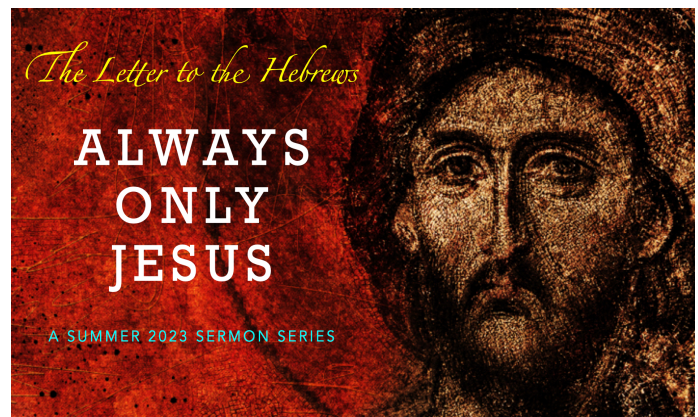
JUNE 2023

Volume 42, Issue 6



## Always Only Jesus

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. — Hebrews 1:1–4*



I had a conversation with a friend a few weeks ago about faith and spirituality. He was sharing with me the story of his own faith journey and how he'd come to believe in the divine spirit, that sense of love, peace and acceptance that is so essential to human existence. It was an impersonal spirit that accepts no matter who we are, loves no matter what we've done, is always present no matter how far we run. It was an interesting conversation because it was so full of half truths, while missing some of the most important truths of all. It's actually kind of marvelous, because you get all the benefits of a personal relationship with God, without any of the pesky things that come along with a God that is actually intimately, personally present in our lives and expects anything of us.

We live in a time where "spirituality" is perhaps more important to people now than ever before. It's a somewhat unexpected development, given modernity's efforts to eradicate the spiritual from all areas of life. Where many feared what postmodernism might do to matters of faith, it turns out that the door has been opened in many unexpected ways. The door hasn't just been opened, it's been flung wide, so that it's become an "anything goes" spirituality. When people talk about their faith and spiritual journey, like my friend above, it's almost always a belief in a non-specific, impersonal "deity" that only loves and never rebukes, always accepts and never holds accountable. If we're honest, many of us have allowed these kinds of ideas to get woven into the fabric of our faith as well. While we say it's "always only Jesus," in practice our faith is a lot of "Jesus and..."

That’s why the Letter to the Hebrews was written. As Eugene Peterson writes,

In the letter, it is Jesus and angels, or Jesus and Moses, or Jesus and priesthood. In our time it is more likely to be Jesus and politics, or Jesus and education, or even Jesus and Buddha. This letter deletes the hyphens, the add-ons. The focus becomes clear and sharp again. God’s action in Jesus. And we are free once more for the acts of faith, the one human action in which we don’t get *in* the way but *on* the Way.

This summer, we’re going to get back to Always Only Jesus, with the book of Hebrews as our guide. We’ve all added on to our faith, probably without even realizing it. Let’s shed the extra baggage and get back to living the free and light life of faith Jesus died to bring us. We look forward to worshipping with you.

*Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

— Hebrews 13:20-21

Blessings,  
Rev. David Garrison

*Graduation Sunday - June 25, 2023*

Join us as we celebrate our graduates

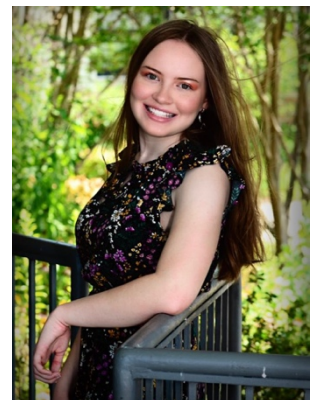
*Megan Aderholt*

*E. C. Glass High School*

*Kaleigh Bennett*

*Amherst County High School*

during the worship service at 11 o’clock  
and afterward at a reception in the Narthex



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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

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

- 9 Judy Reyburn
- 14 Marge Mills
- 21 Kaleigh Bennett



## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:

- Don & June Hedrick, June 12, 1960
- Bobbie & Debbie Irvine, June 26, 1971
- Bob & Marge Mills, June 28, 1980

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT**  
**2023 GENERAL FUND**

	<b>April</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>
Income	10,784	41,183
Expenses	<u>9,522</u>	<u>40,677</u>
Balance	1,262	253

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

## 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** was moved to Forest Health and rehab on Friday, May 19. Pray for her transition as she settles in to her new environment.

**Jimmy Wright** had a spinal tap on Friday, May 26 to relieve pressure and improve mobility. Pray he continues to improve.

**Julie Lerner** is still recovering from her recent illness and asks prayers for relief from the side effects of the medicine she's been taking.

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



## **The Women's Book Club**

The Women's Book Club will meet at June Hedrick's home on Thursday, June 15 at 10:00 am! The book we are reading is The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah!

*The Nightingale* is a historical fiction novel by American author Kristin Hannah published by St. Martin's Press in 2015. The book tells the story of two sisters in France during World War II and their struggle to survive and resist the German occupation of France.

All women are welcome.

# Minute 4 Mission Daystar Jr. School



We all know how important it is to invest in the next generation, and Daystar Junior School is doing just that. This school for children ages 3 to 15 years is located in the slum areas of Kiroombe Uganda, East Africa. It is fully registered with the Ministry of Education Sports as a nursery and primary day school.

Founded in 2014, it opened its doors on February 2, 2015, with the vision “Raising children who are good examples.” The school’s mission is “To help our children discover, develop, release and maximize their potentials in God.”

Our contact with the school is Jude Nyanzi, the school’s founder and principal who is a man full of vision and determination. He often sends us pictures of the school and occasionally shows up on our Facebook live worship service, as well as in person to let us know how the school is thriving. Our donations from here in Central Virginia have helped to purchase uniforms for the students and provide materials so that they can build new desks.

We are excited to see the ways that God continues to use Daystar in the lives of these precious children, and we feel privileged to be able to help the school in their vital mission of raising children who “maximize their potentials” for the Kingdom of God.

**Plan to join us for Sunday School on June 25 to hear directly from Jude about how things are going at Daystar! He will also be sharing briefly during the worship service that morning.**



## Lunch & Guest Speaker - Gleaning for the World

On Sunday, June 11, following worship, we will have a potluck meal to kick off the summer. Bring your favorite foods to share. Our guest speaker will be Michael Justice, Director of Donor Services at Gleaning for the World. We look forward to a rich time of fellowship, delicious food, and the chance to learn about this vital ministry right here in our own backyard.



**GLEANING**  
FOR THE WORLD

## Habitat for Humanity Project

Habitat for Humanity is a non-governmental and non-profit Christian organization whose vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Work is done to perpetuate this vision in all 50 states in the U.S. and approximately 70 other countries. This goal is accomplished by building strength, stability and self-reliance in partnership with families in need of decent and affordable housing. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.

By partnering with Habitat, families and communities transform their lives with the incredible effects of safe and affordable shelter, including improvements in health, safety, child development, economic opportunity and educational achievement.



Northminster has been a long-time supporter of this organization. In past years our members have helped with the actual building of homes. We have donated money and we continue to provide meeting space for the monthly meetings of the Amherst Habitat Board of Directors.

Several months ago Pastor David was approached by the Irvine family about monetary contributions for a specific home. This would be a memorial home in honor of Sue and Larry Irvine's son, Chris Irvine. Chris worked for Habitat-Lynchburg before his death and he designed this particular home. He is remembered as growing up in our church and the Missions Committee has chosen this as our mission project for the month of June.

## REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY!

**Mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>!**

**Be at church at 6 pm for pizza, fellowship and brainstorming ideas!**

**Your ideas are wanted!**

Now that our church is more visible from Route 29, we want to find ways to welcome the community. We need ideas for reimagining our church life with growth and outreach in mind. Be thinking about how we can make our exterior, interior, and programs appealing to the community. Let's make plans!

