

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

August 20, 2023Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Liturgist: Mike Henderson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: All who thirst, come to the water.  
Come, all who are weary;  
come, all who yearn for forgiveness.

People: The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ has washed over us, and our gracious and holy God beckons and blesses us.

Leader: Drink deeply of these living waters.  
People: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

\*OPENING HYMN #2Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty

\*OPENING PRAYER

\*SONGIn Christ Alone

GUIDED PRAYER

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — Westminster Larger Catechism Q.48  
Leader: How did Christ humble himself in his life?  
People: Christ humbled himself in his life by subjecting himself to the law, which he perfectly fulfilled, and by struggling with the indignities of this world, the temptations of Satan, and the frailty of his body, whether common to the natural human condition or particularly associated with his own poor situation. Amen.

SONG OF RESPONSEDraw Me Close

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

FOR OUR GUESTS:  
WELCOME TO  
NORTHMINSTER EVANGELICAL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are glad you are here. We hope the information listed on these pages will help you choose your next steps in connecting at Northminster. If you need help finding anything or have questions, just ask an usher or the pastor. To learn more about activities here, please pick up our newsletter from the rack in the hallway or foyer table. You can also learn more about us on our website: [www.npcmh.com](http://www.npcmh.com), on Facebook/[npcmh](https://www.facebook.com/npcmh), and YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@npcmh](https://www.youtube.com/@npcmh).

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 20-27

Sunday, August 20:  
9:45 am – Sunday School  
11:00 am – Worship  
5:00 pm – Youth Cookout @ Bryants on the James  
7:00 pm – Rehearsal for Union Worship Service (@ Madison Heights Baptist Church)

Tuesday, August 22:  
12:00 pm – Lynchburg Daily Bread Meal Distribution

Wednesday, August 23:  
12:00 pm – Midweek Prayer Time

Thursday, August 24:  
10:00 am – Women's Book Club (@ Cindy Copp's House)  
7:00 pm – Rehearsal for Union Worship Service (@ Madison Heights Baptist Church)

Next Sunday, August 27:  
9:00 am – Sunday School  
10:00 am – Coffee & Conversation  
10:30 am – Worship  
7:00 pm – “Let Us Sing” Community Worship Service (@ Madison Heights Baptist Church)



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children are welcomed in the service. A nursery is provided for infants – 4 years. Others needing childcare may leave worship after the ANTHEM.

YOUTH BACK TO SCHOOL COOKOUT – SUN. 8/20, 5:00PM

Join us for a back to school cookout on Sunday, August 20 from 5-7pm at The Bryants' place on the James River! You provide drinks, sides and desserts, we'll provide the meats. Bring a swimsuit if you want to swim, poles and bait if you want to fish, or whatever else you might want to do while we're there.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB – THURSDAY, 10:00AM

The Women's Book Club will meet at Cindy Copp's home on Thursday, August 24 at 10:00 AM. This month's book is Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel by Shelby Van Pelt.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE CHANGE – BEGINS 8/27

Beginning Sunday, August 27 the worship service will start at **10:30 am**. Additionally, Sunday School will begin at **9:00 am**. We are excited about how this change will enhance our discipleship, worship and fellowship. Read more about this change in this month's newsletter.

FALL KICKOFF & RALLY DAY– SUNDAY, 8/27, 9:00AM

Exciting things are coming this fall, and it all begins on Sunday, August 27. Join us for a pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 9AM. We're looking forward to all that God is planning to do in and through us, and hope you'll join us as we get things started!

“LET US SING” COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE – SUNDAY, August 27, 7PM

We're gathering with other churches in Madison Heights for a night of worship at Madison Heights Baptist Church on Sunday, August 27 at 7pm. This summer's service will focus on God's good and perfect timing in all things. We look forward to worshipping with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the area!

MISSION FOCUS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

Our focus for the month of August is **Amherst Cares**, a collaborative effort of church, school, and community to feed hungry students in Amherst County Public Schools. If you would like to donate funds to help Amherst Cares, please specify “Amherst Cares” on your check memo line. See the newsletter for more information. Thank you for your support!

WORSHIPPING GOD WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

\*Offertory Response – *Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

\*Prayer of Dedication

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Hebrews 12:1-17

*Pastor: The Word of the Lord*

***People: Thanks be to God***

SERMON: KEEP ON KEEPING ON  
SERIES: ALWAYS ONLY JESUS

*Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. — Hebrews 12:12-13*

\*CLOSING HYMN #484 The Old Rugged Cross

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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*Pastor, David Garrison*

ELDERS  
Ron Reyburn (Clerk of Session),  
John Lange, Liz Boothe,  
Sharon Bryant, Anne Wilkins,  
Mike Henderson  
Bob Mills, *Director of Music*  
Sharon Bryant, *Sunday School Superintendent*  
Mike Henderson &  
Barbara Baker, *Treasurers*



SERMON NOTES, August 20

# Northminster

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?  
“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.  
<sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup> that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup> For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.