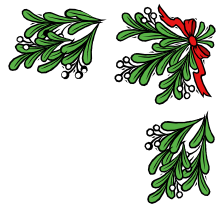




HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS



Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

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Waiting for What?

Each year, the month of December is marked by the Christian season of Advent. The word "advent" comes from the latin word, *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." It's a season of preparation, of "expectant waiting." Waiting for what, exactly? Well, somewhat obviously, we're waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Why are we preparing for something that's already happened?

Remembering and Anticipating

With each passing year, it is getting easier to lose our focus on Jesus' birth over the course of a month filled with shopping, Christmas parties, family gatherings and the general chaos and hustle of the month. Taking time to reflect carefully on the hopeful anticipation of the Hebrew people waiting for their Messiah and the wonder of the incarnation provides an antidote to the rampant consumerism of this season.

But more than just remembering Christ's first Advent, we also look forward with hopeful anticipation for His second coming. As Philip Reindeers writes,

"Advent is a season of expectant waiting, tapping into the sense we have that all is not well, the longing for the world to be made right again. It's a season for restless hearts and people weary of a broken world who want, with all our being, to know there's more than this.

Advent cultivates in us a discerning eye, helping us to spot the sin that clutters our lives and notice all the ways we need to be saved. By helping us to hope intensely for restoration, to feel our own need to be saved, Advent prepares us for genuine Christmas joy and faith in the One who saves us from our sin, Jesus."

Obviously we don't need to be saved over and over again - Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross and resurrection from the dead has atoned, paid for, all of our sins once and for all. But the Christian life is one of growing deeper in our relationship to God and realizing that there is more sinful clutter in our soul than we might've realized. This Advent, may we all be filled with joy in knowing that our Savior knows us better than we know ourselves, came 2,000 years ago to redeem us from our sins, and is going to come back one day soon and make all that is broken right.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen!

Blessings, *Rev. David Garrison*



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 3 Karey Garrison
- 3 Jackson Moore
- 5 Joan Porter
- 10 John Seal
- 12 George O'Brien
- 16 Bonnie Wine
- 17 Keith Mann
- 20 Dolores Wright
- 24 Matt Brine
- 27 Gerald Bryant



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- 1 Ron & Judy Reyburn, 1962
- 13 John & Lorraine Ledden, 1944
- 19 Jeff & Joan Porter, 1987



DECEMBER CHILDCARE

- 3 Sharon & Gerald Bryant
- 10 George & Mickie Brine
- 17 Maggie Brockman, Anne Wilkins
- 24 Debbie Irvine, Ron Reyburn
- 31 Ernie & Barbara Baker

We now celebrate the Sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of each month.
"This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."
 Luke 19b-20



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



Prayer requests:

Sandy Stafford's sister, Sheyenne Gillie, is expecting to deliver her baby any day now.
Bob Hopkins is in need of a liver transplant.
John Collins is recovering from pneumonia.
Dot Stinnett is receiving physical therapy at Guggenheimer after fracturing bones in her foot.
Ed Campbell is recovering at home after a recent heart attack.
Keith Mann's father, Cary, is being treated for cancer.
Dick Collins is on the mend after breaking his kneecap.
Elizabeth Ogden has a serious heart condition.
Andrew Brunson, a missionary in Turkey, has been falsely imprisoned in that country. We request that you stop at noon each day and pray for Andrew.
All active service men 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:
Bob & Marie France, Dot Rucker, Albert & Bobbie Garrett, Margaret Watts.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN – meeting Dec. 5

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, December 5 at 10 am. Their Bible study is "A Love Worth Giving" by Max Lucado. June Hedrick will have study guides for all participants.

Evening Circle:

The evening circle will not hold their study this month.

Looking forward to a special event:

Next spring, we are planning a large yard sale as a fundraiser to support Nyanzi Jude's Christian school in Uganda (www.daystar.ac.ug). Watch the church newsletter for more details as the time draws near.

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE LOCAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP

TUESDAY, DEC. 5, 6 P.M.

See sign-up list for food on bulletin board in the church hallway just outside the sanctuary doors!



**IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK
A LOT LIKE
CHRISTMAS!!!**

Saturday, Dec. 2 we will decorate the church with beautiful trees, greenery, wreaths, and candles. Our sanctuary tree displays numerous Chrismons that represent the many names of Christ. The foyer tree's lights beckon the passers-by to come inside and worship. Our children will decorate a smaller tree in the fellowship hall. They will also have a chance to make ornaments to take home.

Beginning at 9 a.m., we will provide refreshments to warm and energize you. When finished, those who wish to stay will have lunch.

**POINSETTIAS
Arrive Dec. 10**



We have ordered poinsettias to help decorate our church for the Christmas season. Members

have signed up to donate in memory and in honor of loved ones. If you were not able to sign up, give us a call at 929-2713.

Can you believe there are only 4 more Sundays until Christmas!



We will be ringing the SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE bells at both doors of Madison Heights Walmart on Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 a.m until 2:00 p.m. Please take part by signing up **on the scheduled posted on the bulletin board!**

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE SEASON:

The Liberty University Flute Ensemble will be playing during worship on **December 10.**

Our Northminster children and youth will bring us special music during worship on **Dec. 17.**

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA
"Sing Joy to All the World!"
A Christmas Celebration
by composer Lloyd Larson**

Northminster Church and Elon Choirs
Directed by  Bob Mills
Accompanied by Catherine Tucker
Sunday, Dec. 10, 3:00 pm
@ Northminster EPC

The combined adult choirs of Elon and Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Churches will present the cantata "Sing Joy to All the World!" at 3:00 on Sunday, December 10, at Northminster.

The cantata, by Lloyd Larson, tells the story of Emmanuel, God-with-us. It begins with God's promise of joy to those who wait and ends with a joyful celebration that our promised King has come. Larson's music includes original compositions along with familiar carols woven together with narration drawn from the Bible.

We invite members, families, and friends to join with us as we celebrate Christ's coming by singing *Joy to All the World.*



**JOIN US FOR CAROLING
SUNDAY, DEC. 17
4:30 - 6:30 pm**

We will visit several in our congregation and return to the church for a warm meal.

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Sun., Dec. 24 - 7 p.m.
A family service.**



**YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION – Sunday, Dec. 10, 6 PM**

All students in 5th through 12th grade are invited to join us as we celebrate the season with crazy Christmas games, fun activities, a message reminding us of why Christmas matters, and, of course, a ‘white elephant’ gift exchange! Each student should bring a gift (the crazier the better, but keep it under \$5...and yes, the sweater grandma gave you last Christmas is *perfect* for a white elephant gift exchange!). As always, we’ll wrap up by 7:30. We’ll see you (and we hope you’ll bring a friend, too) there!

Warm Clothes



As part of our outreach in our community, we are sponsoring a collection of coats, gloves or mittens, and caps for children and adults. Coats that have been gently used are acceptable.

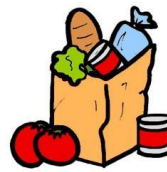
We will have boxes with designated labels on a table in the entrance foyer of the church beginning the first Sunday of Advent, December 3. We will collect items until after Christmas. The clothes will then be distributed to children in several of Amherst County Elementary schools.



As always, we thank you for your generosity.

MOE Committee.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



On the first Sunday of each month we ask for donations of non-perishables to the Monroe Baptist Church food pantry. Paper products, personal hygiene products and baby-care products are especially welcomed. Your monetary gifts are appreciated as well.

Monroe Baptist pantry operates to serve those in our community qualifying through Amherst County Social Services or recommended by churches. They distribute food on Thursdays.

More Support for families in need:

Neighbors Helping Neighbors distributes food from their warehouse on Dillard Road each 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10 am – noon. Individuals/families will need to qualify when signing up at this location. They can take part once a month. Most of the food comes from donations from local grocery stores and churches.

Learn more about NHN on their website @ <http://www.nhnamherst.org>.

| FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | <u>General Operating Fund</u> | | <u>Pledges to Campaign*</u> | |
| | <u>October</u> | <u>Y-T-D</u> | <u>October</u> | <u>Total to date</u> |
| Income | 11,938 | 107,061 | 1,596 | 36,632 |
| Expense | 13,362 | 104,919 | | |
| Balance | -1,424 | +2,142 | | |

*Campaign is the PCUSA debt

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

Pastor David Garrison

ELDERS

Judy Reyburn

Harry Rucker

Debbie Irvine, George Brine,

Ron Reyburn, Clerk

Bob Mills, Director of Music

Liz Boothe, Organist

**Sharon Bryant, Superintendent
of Sunday School**

Vonnie Rucker, Secretary/Treas.