



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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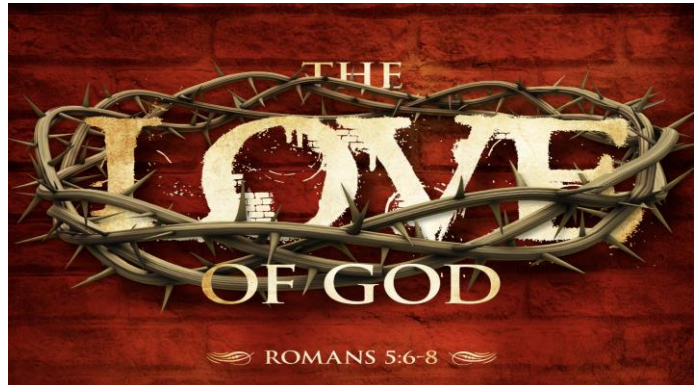


⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. — Romans 5:6–8

Too Good to be True?

On Sunday mornings the past few weeks we've been exploring the idea of Lent as an opportunity for us to have "Springtime for our Soul" (you can get caught up on that idea by reading last month's article and listening to the sermons at www.npecmh.com/teaching). One of the central themes running through this series is that God loves us, delights in us, knows us, and desires for us to abide in Him (John 15). For many of us, this idea sounds good in theory, but in reality we suspect too good to be true. There's no way God could love me that much. In fact, just the other day someone asked me, "Doesn't God sometimes just turn His love off?"

What a fantastic question! And aren't there times when we all feel that way? Maybe God loves me in general, but he's sure turned it off lately!



God is Love

Thank goodness for the apostles and the Bible! In 1 John 4:8 and again in 16 it says, "God is love." God is entirely made up of love, so it would be impossible for God to "turn off" His love. If He were to do that, He would cease to exist. Paul writes in Romans 8, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38–39)

Yeah, But You Don't Know...

No, I don't know. I don't know what you've done, I don't know what's in your heart. I don't know the hurts and wounds you carry. But I know that God does. And I know this: that God loved you this much even before you were saved (see verse 8 at the beginning of this article). And I know that the verses from Romans 8 say that there's nothing in heaven or on earth that could separate you from His love. How wonderful that God's amazing love for us doesn't depend on our believing or accepting it!

As the temperature slowly warms up over this month, may the warmth of God's love saturate your heart and soul as well.

Blessings, Rev. David Garrison

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Ron Reyburn
- 8 Beverly O'Brien
- 15 Clellan Vandevander
- 16 Doris Eden,
Leonard Rowe
- 21 Jeff Porter
- 24 Ernie Baker
- 25 John Ledden
- 26 Maggie Brockman
- 28 David Garrison
- 31 Bryce Brine,
Wyatt Sievwright



MARCH ATTENDANTS

- 4 Gerald & Sharon Bryant
- 11 Marge Mills & Mickie Brine
- 18 Maggie Brockman & Anne Wilkins
- 25 George Brine & Vonnie Rucker



LENTEN SERVICES schedule:

During Lent, we share services with other church neighbors for a time of community worship. Services begin at 12 Noon and at about 12:30, lunch is served by the host church. To help defray expenses, a donation for lunch is appreciated. The offering taken at each service is in support of The Helping Hands Ministry of this part of Amherst County. The Helping Hands is administered through Madison Heights Baptist Church and assists our neighbors with emergency needs.

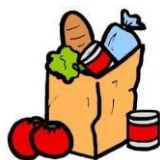


SCHEDULE

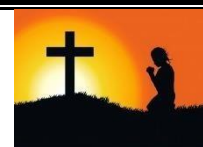
- Feb 28 Monroe United Methodist**
- March 7 Elon Presbyterian**
- March 14 First Baptist Church of Monroe**
- Mar 21 NORTHMINSTER EPC**
(No Lenten Service during Holy Week)
Mar 25-Palm Sunday April 1-EASTER

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The collection for the food pantry at the First Baptist Church of Monroe takes place on the first Sunday of each month.



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



Prayer requests:

- Elizabeth Ogden** is under hospice care in her home. She suffers from congestive heart failure.
- John Lange** had knee replacement surgery Feb. 21.
- Sue Burnett** has had cataract surgery.
- Sharon Bryant** is doing well after surgery.
- Dot Stinnett** is back at The Elms, after a stay in the hospital. Address: 2249 Murrell Rd., Lynchburg.
- Arlene Horton** is in a back brace due to spine fractures. She is getting physical therapy to regain some strength.
- Bobby & Albert Garrett** appreciate your prayers for their health. Being homebound, they look forward to phone calls and visits.
- Susan May** has asked for prayers for the team going to Burundi in June to be able to get the proper vaccinations since there is a critical shortage of yellow fever vaccine.
- Andrew Brunson**, a missionary in Turkey, has been falsely imprisoned in that country.
- Families in Parkland, Florida affected by the recent school tragedy.**
- All active servicemen 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:*
John and Dick Collins, Margaret Watts, Dot Rucker, Doris Eden, Bob & Marie France.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, March 6 at 10 a.m. Their study is "A Love Worth Giving" by Max Lucado. June Hedrick is the study leader and has the necessary material for participants.

Evening Circle:

The women's evening circle will meet that same evening at 7 p.m. in the NewSong classroom. Their study entitled "Sermon on the Mount" is a DVD presentation by the author, Jen Wilkin, and group discussion from the study book. Maggie Brockman will lead the discussion this month on Lesson 5.

YARD SALE TO SUPPORT**Daystar Junior School****Kirombe Uganda, Africa****Sat., April 21****8 am - Noon**

Last August on a missions Sunday, we heard Nyanzi Jude speak about his Christian school in Uganda, serving children ages 3- approximately 11. This school is growing, and they have many needs. Nyanzi shared with us that the school has two primary needs for the facility: a sufficient kitchen and sanitary bathrooms.

On **Saturday, April 21** we will hold a yard sale to raise money to support Daystar Junior School. We are excited for the possibility of giving these young children a better, healthier environment in which to learn and grow in their Christian faith.

We welcome items for children such as toys, clothes, furniture, also books for all ages, electronics, and most household items. We have seen in the past that adult clothing does not sell well, so we will not be accepting clothes for adults.

April 21 is right around the corner, so set aside items to donate as you do your spring cleaning. Contact Vonnie Rucker or Maggie Brockman if you have questions. Visit Daystar's website <http://www.daystar.ac.ug> to learn more about the work at Daystar Junior School Kirombe. Also friend Nyanzi Jude on his FaceBook page.

**SUNDAYS 6-7:30 pm**

Our Youth Group continues to meet on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Pastor David and Karey lead the group of

teens in grades 5 – 12. The youth are encouraged to bring friends.

Please consider helping with the meal we provide each week. We keep it simple – such as, pizza, subs, hot dogs. If you cannot provide a meal but would like to help, you can make a contribution to the “Youth Program” when giving your tithes and offerings.

Thank you for your support!

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) is not just a saying. It's a real community need and an opportunity for us all to reach out to our less fortunate neighbors. Located in the old Box Factory warehouse building, is an all-volunteer organization that provides nourishing meals and take home food for qualified families. This service has been provided since May 2016 and continues to grow, serving over 120 families per warehouse day. The food warehouse is open first and third Saturdays and free lunch is provided each Wednesday at Madison Heights Baptist Church and each Thursday at Ascension Episcopal in Amherst.

Much of the food distributed is donated by community businesses but this has to be supplemented by purchased food to fill out a typical family's food requirements. Cash donations (tax deductible) are always needed. Donations can be made through the church or directly to NHN.

To volunteer, go to NHNamherst.org or telephone 434.226.0019.

TABLE TALK – CHRISTIAN FAITH AND OTHER**FAITHS:****Understanding and Outreach**

For the first four Wednesdays in March, “Table Talk” will continue the series *Christian Faith and Other Faiths: Understanding and Outreach*. Our focus will be on Judaism, emphasizing how our understanding of Jewish history and theology shapes our understanding of Christianity. On the first two evenings, Michael Babcock will highlight Jewish history from the biblical era until today. For the next two weeks, Bob Mills will help us explore three distinctive Jewish doctrines – monotheism, covenant, and worship – and consider how those doctrines are foundational to, and have been transformed by, Christianity. We invite you to join us at 5:30 for dinner. Our studies will end by 6:45.

A BIG THANK YOU!



We collected new or very gently used clothes for area schools during last year's advent season. As always, Northminster was extremely generous.

There were all colors and sizes of caps, gloves (no mittens this year), scarves, three adult sweaters, socks, blankets and seven warm coats.

The adult items went to the Salvation Army in Lynchburg. The children's winter wear went to Amherst and Central Elementary schools. The staff at Central said there was a real need for warm clothes and they would be put to good use.

Again, thank you for giving,

Mission, Outreach, and Evangelism

Jesus said, "When you do this for the least of my children, we do it for HIM"

AFTERNOON AT THE THEATRE

Big Fish

Sunday, April 29, 2018, 3 p.m.

Liberty University Tower Theatre

Join Northminster members and friends for an afternoon at the theatre to see **Big Fish**. Based on the celebrated novel by Daniel Wallace and the acclaimed film directed by Tim Burton, **Big Fish** centers on Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman who lives life to its fullest... and then some! Edward's incredible, larger-than-life stories thrill everyone around him – most of all, his devoted wife Sandra. But their son Will, about to have a child of his own, is determined to find the truth behind his father's epic tales. Overflowing with heart, humor and spectacular stagecraft, **Big Fish** is an extraordinary new Broadway musical that reminds us why we love going to the theatre – for an experience that's richer, funnier and BIGGER than life itself.

- 2 p.m. Meet at Northminster. Carpool to the Tower Theatre at Liberty University.
- 3 p.m. Enjoy the Play!

Approximate Ticket Costs: \$15 to \$20, plus tax and a service fee. Discounts are available for youth and seniors (60+).

This activity is organized by the Fellowship Committee. For those that sign up by **Sunday, April 1**, Liz Boothe will purchase tickets that evening. She will also be happy to purchase tickets after this date for anyone that sign up later (if tickets are still available). For more information, please call Liz at 841-9084.

The women of the church are
Invited to a baby shower
For: Mandy (Rucker) Newsome
Sun., March 18 2-4 pm
Come share in
Mandy's & Christopher's joy,
as they prepare for their baby
GIRL!!!

See their registry at
Target and Amazon

Please RSVP by March 11
To Judy Reyburn at
434.946.5273 or
ronjudyreyburn@yahoo.com

**NORTHMINSTER EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (NEPC)
SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS RESOURCE TEAM**

The purpose of this letter is to notify you, our congregation, of the renewed interest in addressing the issues of safety and security for our community, church family and friends. Recently the Amherst County Sheriff's Office advertised a community presentation on "Sanctuary...House of Worship Safety". In response to that advertisement, more than 120 people (including 3 representatives from NEPC), from churches of all denominations in Amherst and Nelson Counties attended to hear how the Sheriff's Department planned to meet their goal of "Making our place of worship safe-er". Instruction and discussion emphasized the renewed focus on the topic of church safety and security within our communities. We all left this presentation with a new/renewed understanding of what all churches need to be aware of as it related to safety and security.

In order to be prepared to respond to situations within or on our NEPC property a Safety and Preparedness Resource Team is being assembled to identify and implement such plans that would keep our congregation and property safe at all times. This team would be under the responsibility of the Session Property Committee.

In response to this community meeting, NEPC plans to do the following:

1. create NEPC Safety and Preparedness Resource Team
2. draft a Plan of Response for NEPC Safety and Preparedness (environmental and medical emergencies)
3. invite the Sheriff's department to come to NEPC for an on site survey and review of safety plan (if you would like to participate in this visit, please contact John D. Lange)
4. based on the above review, revise/amend/implement plans to improve the safety environment for all at NEPC

If you have an interest in providing input to and/or participating on this team, please notify John D. Lange, Property Chair (434-660-4856) or notify Vonnie Rucker, Church Secretary through the church office (434-929-2713). There are many within our congregation with backgrounds in health, safety and security. If there is someone you would recommend be on this team, let John Lange know so he can contact that individual personally.

Please consider being a part of this very important team for the safety and security of all at NEPC.

Points of concern needing regular review and periodic updates are as follows. This is not an all inclusive list but begins to bring to the forefront situations of priority. Additional situations will be addressed as needed:

1. Heart attack – what to do, who to turn to?
2. Child and adult failure to breathe – what to do who to turn to?
3. Falls resulting in unconsciousness – what to do who to turn to?
4. Building and grounds design and upkeep as it relates to safety and security
5. Fire or explosions - what to do who to turn to?
6. How to exit the building in various alarms and alerts - what to do who to turn to?
7. Weapon on premises - what to do who to turn to?
8. Questionable conduct and behavior by stranger - what to do who to turn to?
9. Intruder alerts - what to do who to turn to?
10. Intruder/s with intent to harm - what to do who to turn to?
11. Who is responsible for call 911
12. Who is identified to monitor uninvited guests
13. Where are security cameras installed
14. Who monitors security cameras and when.
15. *And the list goes on.....*



PALM SUNDAY, MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER!

Palm Sunday, March 25.

Worship with us as we remember Jesus' joyous entry into Jerusalem as the crowds cried out "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"



Maundy Thursday Service, March 29.

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for a Seder Meal.



Good Friday Service, March 30

We will have a service at 7:00 p.m.



EASTER morning: April 1

Join us for an early morning service At 7:30 a.m. on the patio outside the entrance foyer. Stay for breakfast, prepared by the Men of the Church.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Pledges to Campaign*</u>	
	<u>January</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Income	10,661		1,776	34,213
Expense	12,204			
Balance	-1,543			

*Campaign / PCUSA debt

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

DAVID GARRISON, Pastor

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn, Clerk of Session

Judy Reyburn, Harry Rucker, George Brine

John Lange, Sharon Bryant, Anne Wilkins

Bob Mills, Director of Music

Liz Boothe, Organist

Sharon Bryant, Superintendent of Sunday School

Vonnie Rucker, Secretary/Treas.