



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

office@npepmh.com

434/929-2713

www.npepmh.com

NOVEMBER 2018

Volume 37, Issue 11



THE END OF THE YEAR IS UPON US

The end of the year is here! Perhaps you're wondering if I mixed my months up - a distinct possibility! But no, I'm just looking at a different calendar. While the Gregorian calendar (the one we use daily) has two months left, the Christian calendar is drawing to a close.

The Spiritual Celebration of The King

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." (Revelation 11:15)



Toward the end of this month the longest season of the Christian Calendar (called "Ordinary Time") comes to a close. Ordinary Time is a season devoted to giving space to consider all the implications of God's salvation in Jesus Christ for our day by day, week-in, week-out lives. But as the season moves on, and the chaos of the world presses in, we can begin to wonder if God is even at work any more. And so Ordinary Time ends with Christ the King Sunday (this year, November 25), the last Sunday before Advent and a reminder that Jesus is king, that all the world is subject to him, that the Kingdom of God is already at hand, and that one day soon He will come back to consummate His kingdom and His rule. The world may seem to be spiraling into chaos, but Jesus is still sovereign and holds it all in His hands. We may not understand much of what is happening, but we can trust that Jesus does.

A Secular Season of Gratitude

But what fascinates me about these calendars is how the Spirit moves in both sacred and secular seasons. I don't imagine that those who suggested we celebrate Thanksgiving in November did so with any thought for the Christian calendar, but there are few ways better to celebrate the end of the Christian year than by focusing on being grateful for the kingship of Jesus Christ as well as for all that we have and are. Perhaps that's one of the problems with the rampant anger and angst in our culture today - we focus too much on our discontent and not enough on being grateful for what God has provided for us. As Paul writes to the Colossians:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16)

May God bless each of us as we celebrate not just all we have to be grateful for, but also that ultimately we can be thankful because Jesus is King and we can trust in Him!

Blessings, Rev. David Garrison

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Linda Sievewright
- 3 Janet Vandall
- 5 Lorraine Ledden
- 9 Christy Sechler
- 15 Colin Scruggs
- 15 Anne Wilkins
- 21 Joel Carnefix
- 22 Sandy Stafford
- 30 Meg Garrison



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- 20 Ed & Vera Campbell 1965
- 25 Joel & Virginia Carnefix 1964



NOVEMBER NURSERY ATTENDANTS

- 4 Marge Mills & Karen Aspengren
- 11 Maggie Brockman & Anne Wilkins
- 18 George & Mickie Brine
- 25 Ron Reyburn & Vonnie Rucker



More attendants are needed. Please see Sharon Bryant if you can volunteer once every 2 months.

FIRST SUNDAY COLLECTION OF NON-PERISHABLES FOR THE MONROE BAPTIST FOOD PANTRY

Can't bring your donations on the first Sunday? Leave your items any time in the receptacle in the foyer area. Monetary contributions are appreciated as well. Monroe Baptist volunteers can purchase food from the Blue Ridge Food Bank at a much lower price than at the grocery stores.

Don't forget items for children and pets are needed as well.



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



Prayer requests:

Betty Reed has been moved to Valley View assisted living. She would love to hear from you. She has the same phone number.

Sue Burnett is undergoing chemotherapy treatments for lung cancer.

Albert & Bobbie Garrett need prayer for improved health. They would also appreciate visits.

Anita Moore is receiving chemotherapy for colon cancer.

Will Thomasson is in school in Lima, Ohio to become a mechanic. He is looking for work.

Sandy Stafford's mother, Bessie Gillie, is awaiting test results for spots on her lungs.

The Leddens' grandchildren, Keith & Denna Crumrine, and children are in Papua New Guinea.

Law enforcement personnel, first responders.

Remember others who cannot be with us in church:

John and Dick Collins, Dot Stinnett, Leonard Rowe, Margaret Watts, Dot Rucker, Doris Eden, Monyeene Wood, Bob & Marie France.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, November 6 at 10 a.m. in the church Library. June Hedrick is the study leader. They continue their study with Max Lucado's book, *A Love Worth Giving*. If you were not a part of this circle last year, you can still begin. New members are always welcomed.

Evening Circle:

The women's evening circle will meet the same evening at 7 p.m. in the NewSong classroom. Their new Bible study is *Pursuing God*, a DVD presentation by author Margaret Feinberg. This 12-session study covers the books of Genesis and the Gospel of John – 6 sessions in each. This session will be led by Caiti Vera.

See page 5:

WOMEN'S HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE

**YOUTH GROUP -- Every Sunday
6:00-7:15 P.M.**



Like a tattoo, our lives show we've been marked.

People get tattoos for a lot of different reasons, but in almost every case, it's because they want to make a statement. To physically and permanently show others something about themselves, or what they believe, or what's important to them. And the thing about tattoos? They're pretty much forever. You can't easily get rid of that statement, that mark.

The Christian life is a lot like a tattoo. When we place our trust in Christ, our lives are changed, transformed, marked. Permanently. And how we live our lives, the decisions and choices we make every day, speak as loudly as a tattoo. What does your life tell others?

Each Sunday @ Youth Group we'll be exploring just what a life marked for Christ looks like. What are the characteristics and attributes that show a life that lives and shows "trust in Christ, expressed in love" (Gal. 5:6)? How do we live this out in our daily lives? Join us as we explore those questions and more!

NO YOUTH GROUP SUN., NOV. 25

**WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB
Sat, Nov. 10, 10am - Noon**



The Women's Book Club will meet November 10 at Mary Wilhelm's home at 10 a.m. The ladies are reading Earl Hamner's *The Homecoming*, the much-loved story of Spencer's Mountain. Like to read? You are welcome to join them. Please let Mary know if you will attend.



**Table Talk Continues
Nov. & Dec. Wednesdays 5:45 – 6:45**

Through the month of November, we'll continue to answer your questions from "Q&A Sunday." On Wednesday, **November 7**, we'll explore the question, "What do I say to the homosexual members of our community when trying to share the Gospel?" The following week, **November 14**, we'll wrestle with forgiveness — "How do we forgive people - what comes after saying 'I forgive you'?" We will not have Table Talk on the **Wednesday, November 21** before Thanksgiving.

Our December Table Talk series will be "Aspects of Advent." There is a lot of nuance and "hidden" depths to the Advent and Christmas stories that we miss because the biblical authors assumed certain cultural, historical and prophetic knowledge that has been lost in the 2,000 years since the stories were recorded. Michael Babcock and Pastor David will explore several of these different facets in an effort to enrich and deepen our understanding and celebration of the incarnation of our Savior. Upcoming topics include:

- November 28:** Politics of the Times –
Rev. David Garrison
- December 5:** Fulfilling Prophecy –
Dr. Michael Babcock
- December 12:** No Room in the Inn –
Rev. David Garrison
- December 19:** Questioning Christmas –
Dr. Michael Babcock
- December 26 & January 2:** No Table Talk



COMMUNION SUNDAY
November 4

We observe 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

FELLOWSHIP POT-LUCK
LUNCHEON
Sunday, Nov. 4-
Following Worship



We go off daylight savings time this Sunday, so remember to set your clocks back an hour.

Bring your favorite dish to share and let’s give thanks for our many blessings.

Your Fellowship committee

GRATITUDE BEYOND WORDS

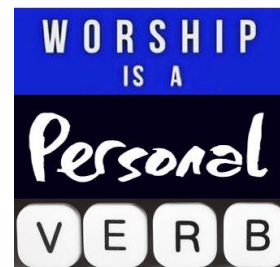
To say “thank you” feels inadequate to express the gratitude my family and I feel for the love and appreciation you’ve extended to us over the past month. A mere part of that is because you all have shown us your love and appreciation throughout the past year. My greatest boast about you all when I talk with other pastors is how well you love one another, and support and encourage me and my family. As much as you appreciate me as your pastor, know that I appreciate each and every one of you as part of the congregation. You truly exemplify and live out the saying, “blessed to be a blessing.”

With much gratitude,
Rev. David Garrison and family

Worship Is A PERSONAL Verb
Part 5 of the “Worship Is...” series

I will praise the LORD as long as I live.
Psalm 146:2

- + *My worship is not dependent on anyone or anything else. It is my decision and an act of my will.*
- + *My worship is not dependent on loud or soft music, and it’s not dependent on old or new songs.*
- + *My worship is not dependent on a good or bad or long-winded sermon.*
- + *My worship is not dependent on whether the leaders asked for money today, or whether my best friend showed up, or whether my special ministry got a big enough announcement.*
- + *I will worship God today because He is great, and I am not, and He has done great things for me that I am totally unworthy of.*



Daylight Savings Time Ends Sun., Nov. 4
Remember to set your clocks BACK 1 hour.



WOMEN'S HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE
SATURDAY, NOV. 17
2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

All the women in the church are invited to a "Holiday Cookie Exchange" at Maggie Brockman's home on Saturday, November 17, at 2 p.m.

Please provide 2 dozen of your favorite cookies to share. Also bring the recipe printed on a recipe-size card to be displayed with your cookies. You don't bake cookies? No problem . . . bring a dessert that can be shared.



This is a good fellowship opportunity for all the ladies to get to know each other better. And – you might pick up a cookie or two that will become a part of your holiday menu.

Sponsored by the PW Evening Circle



SAMARITAN'S PURSE
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This wonderful project, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse (Billy Graham) brings such joy, not only to the children receiving the gift, but also to our children preparing each box knowing it is going to a child who may receive only this one Christmas gift. These boxes represent much, and we are dedicated to making our children aware of God's love for all children throughout the world and the importance of being children of God by sharing our blessings.

If you cannot purchase items and would like for us to do so for you, you may make a financial donation, and we will be happy to make your purchase for you. It cost \$9 per box to mail. The children will be packing the shoeboxes during Sunday school on November 11.

Thank you for your generosity and your support of this ministry. God Bless each of you during this time of year when we all are thankful for what God has given us and when we look for ways to share these blessings.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Income	15,832	96,494	1,576	47,661
Expenses	12,908	106,629		
Balance	+2,924	-10,135		

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.*