



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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Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! — Psalm 90:13

The Christian calendar begins, not with January 1st, but instead with the first Sunday in Advent. It's an interesting decision that the early church fathers made in doing this. Interesting because the Christian year begins not with resolutions and activity, but with waiting. Advent is an intentional season of preparation and pause, a time to reflect and prepare for the celebration of the coming of the Lord's Messiah, Jesus Christ. There is great wisdom in this decision, particularly for our current times. We live in a culture of hurry and rush and activity, the last thing we want or like to do is wait for anything.

By starting the year with a season of waiting, we are invited to settle into a different rhythm of life and living, a rhythm that is ultimately about trust. Trusting in the God who created Time, trusting in the One who has set His plans in motion and will see them through, trusting that there is One who knows and understands more than we do, trusting that He is good and that He is love.



So the Christian calendar begins with a reminder that there is a holiness and a righteousness in waiting. But there is a hard-ness and challenge in waiting as well. The Psalmists cry out, with great regularity, "How long, O Lord?" Even as they wait on the Lord, they express their frustration, their discontent. And in that we are shown that there is such a thing as a holy discontent.

But as much as we are waiting to celebrate the birth of our Savior, the season of Advent points to an even more significant event, an event most of us usually forget is yet to and actually is going to happen. The Hebrews waited over 500 years for the Messiah to come the first time. We've been waiting nearly 2,000 years for him to return. May our lives be lived with the faith that comes from knowing our Savior's return is imminent, with the hope that comes from knowing that what is broken will soon be made right, and with the love for those who don't yet know that their Messiah has already come once and will come again.

*He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
— Revelation 22:20*

Blessings, Pastor David Garrison

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 3 Karey Garrison
Jackson Moore
- 5 Joan Porter
- 10 John Seal
- 12 George O'Brien
- 16 Bonnie Wine
- 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 ATTENDANTS:

- 1 Ernie & Barbra Baker
- 8 Sharon & Marge Mills
- 15 Linda Lange & Judy Reyburn
- 22 Debbie Irvine & Ron Reyburn
- 29 George & Mickie Brine



Sympathy & Understanding

We send our sincere sympathy and Christian love to the family of **Monyeene Wood**. Monyeene passed away November 1. She had been living at Westminster-Canterbury for the last several years but continued to attend here as much as she was able. Monyeene and husband Ran Wood had been active members of Northminster since 1974. Condolences can be sent to Monyeene's daughter and son-in-law, Teresa & Ken Wood, 1025 Messner Rd., Chester Springs, PA 19425.

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



Prayer Requests:

Virginia Carnefix has returned home after physical therapy at Westminster-Canterbury.
Margie Seal is recovering from surgery.
Ron Reyburn has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.
David's mother, Janet Garrison, recently had surgery due to cancer. She is doing well.
Mary Wilhelm's son, Stan, continues treatments for an immune deficiency. He is showing some improvement.
Sue Burnett has started another round of radiation for lung cancer.
Bobbie Garrett has numerous health problems. Also pray for Albert as Bobbie's main caretaker.
All active servicemen and women.
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, and Betty Reed.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Morning Circle:

The morning circle will meet Tuesday, December 3 at 10 am Their Bible Study is "Busyness—Finding God in the Whirlwind." Pick up the study materials from June Hedrick.

Evening Circle:

The evening circle will not meet in December. In January they will continue their Bible study of the book of John with Margaret Feinberg's DVD presentation, *Pursuing God*.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

December 1

We observe the Sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of each month.





**Christmas Decorating –
Saturday, Nov. 30,
9AM-Noon**

It's that exciting time of year when we dress up our homes for Christmas. And, we also delight in being able to dress up God's house, too. We would love for you to join us Saturday, November 30, from 9am – noon (or whenever during that time you are available), as we put up beautiful trees, candles, wreaths, banners, and more! Hope to see you there.



**Ring the Salvation Army Bell –
Saturday, December 7, 10AM-2PM**



Join us at Food Lion in Amelon Square in Madison Heights from 10:00AM-2PM as we ring the Salvation Army bell. When you volunteer to bell ring or give at a red kettle, you help improve, and even save lives. If the Salvation Army does not get enough volunteers, they have to pay people to ring the bells. This means less money for their ministry. The money dropped in a kettle goes right back into your local community. Every day of the year The Salvation Army provides basic needs, housing, youth services, rehabilitation, and counseling and spiritual care to people in the communities we serve. The Salvation Army is also often the first to arrive and the last to leave during times of disaster or crisis.

**First Sunday in Advent – Sunday,
December 1, 11AM**



We kick off the season of Advent with a wonderful worship service in which we light the first candle of the advent wreath and celebrate the Sacrament of Communion.

**Christmas Cantata –
Sunday, December 8, 4 PM**

Join us for worship on the Second Sunday in Advent as we light the 2nd candle of the advent wreath.



The Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church choir will present the original cantata *Songs of Advent, Old and New* at 4:00 on Sunday, December 9, at Northminster. The cantata includes readings from Isaiah's prophecies of the coming Messiah and songs about Jesus' advent from Luke 1-2. The first half of the cantata will feature four hymns based on Isaiah's prophecies, using hymn tunes dating as far back as the Renaissance. For the cantata's second half, Tim Mills has composed original settings of the songs, recorded in Luke's gospel, that were sung by Mary, Zechariah, the angels, and Simeon.

Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to join us as we celebrate the season in song. Following the cantata, all are invited to stay for a reception hosted by the Fellowship Committee. You bakers are asked to help by bringing some of your cookie creations to the church that Sunday morning.

Third Sunday in Advent – Sunday, December 15, 11AM



For the Third Sunday in Advent, we will celebrate with the lighting of the 3rd candle of the Advent wreath.

Additionally, the children will perform their Christmas program during the worship service. This year's program has been written by our very own Christy Sechler and features the children of the church performing, singing, and speaking.

Following worship, join us as we throw a birthday party for Jesus in the Fellowship Hall! Thank you to our Fellowship Committee for this "party".

Youth Ministry Christmas Celebration – Sunday, December 15, 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!

Fourth Sunday in Advent – Sunday, December 22, 11AM

For the fourth Sunday in Advent, we will



celebrate with the lighting of the 4th candle of the Advent wreath.

That afternoon, join us from 4:30 – 6:30 for caroling. (continued next page)



Also Sun., Dec. 22, join us from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. for our annual tradition of spreading Christmas cheer by caroling to our homebound members. We'll carpool together, then come back to church and warm up with some delightful hot chocolate and wonderful fellowship. This is a great opportunity for folks of all ages to come together as we spread some Christmas cheer!

**Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24, 7:00PM**



On Christmas Eve, we invite you to join us for a family-friendly candlelight service celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This service of song, carol and Scripture provides a wonderful opportunity to get a sense of how eager the Hebrews were for the coming of the Messiah so long ago, and reminds us how eager we are for his return. We look forward to seeing you there!

WINTER ITEMS NEEDED

We are collecting winter clothing items now through **December 15**. The Mission, Outreach & Evangelism Committee is collecting new and gently used, clean, warm, winter clothes to be given out to area schools and the Salvation Army.

A container is available in the entrance foyer for your donations.



FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Coming in early 2020: in response to your feedback from our September Interests Survey, we are pleased to announce that there are exciting events scheduled early in the new year, starting with a Soup and chili Bowl Potluck, just in time for the Superbowl! We have your Valentine plans taken care of too!

It's gonna be a great year with lots of fun in store, so watch the monthly newsletter for further details.!

PC USA DISMISSAL DEBT UPDATE	
Nov. 2015, Original amount:	\$ 89,600
Paid:	29,600
Held in savings as of Nov. 25:	<u>58,857</u>
Balance needed:	\$ 1,143

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT FOR 2020

Thank you for your pledges to the church's operating expenses for 2020. Your support has been overwhelmingly encouraging as we go forward.

Above is an update on the funding of the PC USA Dismissal Debt. Because of your dedication to paying off this debt, we have no doubt we will have raised all the funds needed by the end of this year.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT				
	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income*	12,396	102,029	652	57,865
Expenses	<u>12,061</u>	<u>117,193</u>		
Balance	+ 335	-15,164		
	<i>*Tatman 1,197</i>			

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DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session*

Judy Reyburn, Michael Babcock, 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.*