



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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Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (1 Tim. 4:7-8 ESV)

What's Your Resolution?

This is the time of year that gyms and diet programs love, because we all seek to take advantage of the new year and the “fresh start” it provides. Year after year, at the top of the list sits resolutions to get healthier and lose weight. We know we need to take care of our bodies, that we just spent a month (or more) overeating and indulging, and that summer is just a few months away. Taking care of our physical health is important, and I applaud you if you've made such a resolution. But as Paul says in the passage above, are we as equally resolved regarding our spiritual health and well-being?

Lord, Teach Us To Pray

Just as with physical health, our spiritual health takes intentionality and commitment, and it begins with prayer. Prayer is a funny thing — most everyone has prayed at some point in time since they were a little child, and yet it's also the one thing I hear that people struggle with more than most anything else. In fact, at one point even the disciples had to ask Jesus to teach them to pray:

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1 ESV)

Praying Like Jesus

We're going to be intentional in learning to pray like Jesus prayed. On Sunday mornings through the course of the season of Epiphany, we'll dig deeply into The Lord's Prayer - a prayer we all say every Sunday, but many of us don't fully understand what we're saying about or asking of God. Then, through Lent and leading up to Easter, we'll explore the prayer book of the Hebrews, the Psalms, and find guidance for some of the problem areas of prayer.

If you, like the disciples (and most of us if we're honest), are looking for someone to teach you to pray, or maybe you could use some encouragement in your prayer life, I hope you'll join us. May God bless you in this new year!



Blessings, Rev. David Garrison

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Virginia Carnefix
- 3 Andrea Sievewright
- 4 Jack Thomasson
- 7 Betty Reed,
Rob Sievewright
- 12 Mason Brine
- 15 Barbara Baker
- 16 IvyElizabeth Mann
- 18 Mandy (Rucker) Newsome
- 19 Mary Wilhelm
- 23 Silas Bryant
- 30 Cheryl Bray
- 31 Karen Aspengren



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 16 Mandy & Christopher Newsome 2016

JANUARY NURSERY

ATTENDANTS

- 6 Maggie Brockman
Anne Wilkins
- 13 Ron Reyburn, Sandy Stafford
- 20 Ernie & Barbara Baker
- 23 Gerald & Sharon Bryant
- 27 Linda Lange, Judy Reyburn



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



We extend our sympathy in Christian love to Debbie Moore and family due to the death of Debbie's niece, Dorothy Bandy. She lived in San Diego, CA and was the mother of a 2-year-old son.

I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.

Psalm 34:4 NIV



Prayer requests:

Betty Reed has moved to Valley View Retirement Community. She would love to hear from you. She has the same phone number.

Sue Burnett continues treatments for lung cancer.

Bobbie Garrett is home after receiving some helpful physical therapy. This is great encouragement to her and Albert!

Anita Moore received a "cancer free" report!

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

Jennifer Mann was injured in an automobile accident and is receiving therapy.

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, January 8 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.***

Evening Circle:

The women's evening circle will meet at Maggie Brockman's home January 8, at 7 pm. Maggie is the study facilitator this month as they discuss lesson 3 of ***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.

Worship & Praise:*More SIMILAR than DIFFERENT*

Part 6 of the “Worship Is...” series

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, enter His courts with praise.” Psalm 100:4

- *PRAISE helps us express our THANKS TO GOD for all He has done, and is doing.*
- *WORSHIP is a spirit of ADORATION & ADMIRATION for who God is.*
- *PRAISE & WORSHIP are not exclusive of one another. When we praise God for what He has done, this leads to praising Him for who He is.*
- *True praise to God is an element of worship and true worship gives praise to God. In the end, they are part the common goal of getting closer to God. As we draw near God, He draws near to us (James 4:8).*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE:
OFFICERS ELECTED

In a meeting of the congregation November 18, Michael Babcock and George Brine were elected to serve 3-year terms on the session. George is just finishing a 3-year term and will remain on the session. Michael will be serving as elder for the first time since joining Northminster. These officers will be installed January 20 during the worship service.

Thank you to Harry Rucker, for your service to this congregation as chair of the Worship Committee for the last 3 years. Your dedication, energy, and love for the Lord have been evident.

DON'T FORGET:

- We have a FAX machine in the church office that is available to members.

- Our church secretary is a notary for the Commonwealth of Virginia. She can notarize your signature at no cost to members of the congregation.
- We have a wonderful Library and you are encouraged to use it. Check out books on the honor system. There are also periodicals in a magazine rack that you are welcomed to use.
- We have a computer in the Library available to you at any time. (It is not set up to print.)
- Contributions are needed for the *Capital Improvement Fund*. These funds are needed for large property improvements and/or repairs.
- We have a Body-Life Fund for the express purpose of helping our own members with emergency financial needs.

We like to use email, our website, our FaceBook page, and One-Call Now to communicate with you. If we don't have your email address or you are not on the calling list, please give us that information in the office.

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.



YOUTH GROUP RESUMES ACTIVITIES

Youth Group resumes this Sunday, January 6 at 6 PM at Northminster. We'll be starting a brand new study, so if you or your teen hasn't been around in a while, this Sunday is a great time to jump in and join us.

The Winter Retreat is coming up, February 8-10 at Eagle Eyrie. Cost is \$100 for the weekend (that includes housing, meals AND ice skating Saturday afternoon). I'll have more detailed information for y'all next week. Last year's retreat was pretty awesome, and this year's is going to be even better.



**WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB
January 12, 2019**



The Women's Book Club will meet on January 12 at the home of Sherry Meng. The group is reading *The Sea Keeper's Daughters* by Lisa Wingate.

Like to read? Join this group for fun insights into various genre of books.

**COMMUNION SUNDAY
January 6**



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

**CHURCH CANCELLATION -- IN CASE OF
INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Sunday Services:

When Sunday services are questionable due to bad weather, we will follow this procedure:

- A decision will be made by 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning by 2 or 3 designated people in the congregation
- A telephone message will be sent out to everyone using the church's One-Call Now telephone service.
- We will post the cancellation on the church web-site www.npcmh.com

Programs other than Sunday morning:

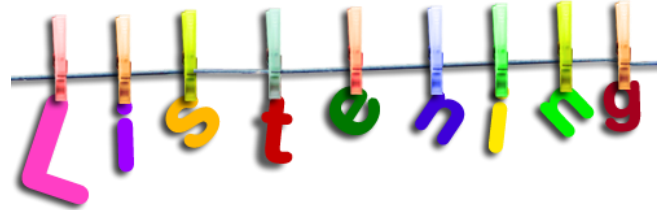
Cancellations regarding events other than Sunday morning will be decided as soon as reasonably possible. The group taking part in the program being canceled will receive a call using the church's One-Call Now telephone service.

For any service involving the entire congregation, everyone will receive a call by the church's One-Call Now telephone service.

In every instance, it would be very helpful if each person would notify someone in the congregation.

What will CAREFUL LISTENING bring to us in 2019?

It's **easy to hear familiar Scripture passages** being read, and only **halfway listen** and **consider** the words and meaning. That's perhaps **even more true during the Christmas season** when we hear again all the very familiar Bible passages about Jesus' birth that we have heard many, many times before.



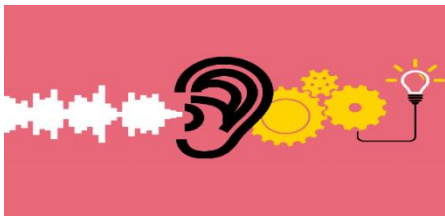
Writer Chris Tiegreen reminds us that **it's also all too easy to think that by hearing the Word of God and even understanding its meaning, we have also integrated it into our lives.**

But, Jesus, in His parable of the 4 soils (Luke 8), has a careful warning to us. He says it this way: **"Consider carefully how you listen"**. Or, as the NLT translation puts it, **"Be sure to pay attention to what you hear"**. That sounds a lot like James' admonition to the person who listens to the Word of God but **"does not do what it says."**

This is not a scolding by the way, but just a loving and friendly reminder that as we learn, we need to make sure we are **not growing in knowledge only**. Chris Tiegreen reminds us that **"real growth comes from real application – diligence in integrating God's Word into our hearts and then living it. "Careful listening (as Jesus urges in Luke 8), brings radical change and lasting fruit."**

My heartfelt desire for each one of us is that we be "careful listeners" in 2019 – letting God's Word not only **inform** us, but also **transform** us. I wonder what God might do with us, as individuals and as a church, when we let His Word shape our **preferences, decisions, likes and dislikes, plans, goals, outlook on the unreached and unsaved**, and so on.... I wonder how we can change Madison Heights and the surrounding area if God's Word not only **flows into us** but also **out of us**?

Matt. 9:36, Matt. 14:14, Luke 7:13, John 11:35, and Mark 1:41 all show examples of Jesus' character that we can all aspire to; after all, **He is our example in everything**, and Romans 8:29 confirms that it's God's will to make us like Jesus. The passages just mentioned remind us that the **sick, the hungry, the prodigals of this world are all objects of His concern**. His priorities in these things and more can be ours, too, when we "listen carefully" and regularly ask ourselves when we hear God's Word, **"what does that passage mean; what does it mean for me personally; what does it mean for our church?"** If 2019 is going to be different (better) for me, for my family, for my church, for my neighborhood, what "marching orders" might God be trying to **reveal to me/us** (even if it takes us into some new/different/slightly uncomfortable territory) **through His Word**, if we will just make a commitment to **CAREFUL LISTENING**?



Chris Tiegreen concludes his thoughts this way: **"Those who fulfill God's deepest desires for their lives are those who first hear His Word, then believe it, then retain it, and then persevere in it. They let it sink into their hearts. They meditate on it. They build their lives around it. It becomes a part of them, and they abide by it because it has reshaped them. It defines their identity – and their behavior – and they conform to the heart of God."**

Even if 2018 was a great year for you, don't let's settle for just "part 2" in 2019. What exciting ways can we, individually and as a church, make a difference for God's Kingdom in 2019 if we dedicate ourselves to being **Careful Listeners**, with a heart that it **determined** to follow God's leading, **no matter where it leads**, for the **sake of His Kingdom**? (Excerpts from *Indeed Magazine* Nov/Dec 2018)

Your friend and brother in Christ – Harry Rucker – on behalf of your Worship Committee

UPDATE – PCUSA DISMISSAL DEBT

The Officers are pleased to announce that we have paid our 4th annual dismissal payment to the Presbytery of the Peaks. As you know, we held a 3-year pledge campaign in 2015 to ask for pledges to pay this debt, and planned to hold another 3-year pledge campaign starting in 2019; however due to your faithful giving over the past 3 years, we feel like we can reach our goal within 1 more year. You will see below in the Financial Stewardship Report that we have \$49,938 towards the balance owed (\$60,000). If we are to have the full amount within the next year, we ask everyone who initially contributed toward the PC USA Dismissal Debt to continue to give their same amount for 1 more year.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT				
	<u>General Operating Fun</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
Income	11,291	117,320	1,061	49,938
Expenses	<u>11,393</u>	<u>128,885</u>		
Balance	-102	-11,565		

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Website: www.npcmh.com

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.*