



# 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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FEBRUARY 2020

Volume 39, Issue 2



## THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS

Almost every Christian would say that they believe in the Bible, but according to a recent Lifeway Research survey, more than half of Americans have read little or none of the Bible. I hear from many folks who have tried to read through the Bible, usually in a year, but haven't been able to finish. To be honest, it can be a daunting task.

One of the other challenges with reading the entire Bible is that many of us only read the Bible in small snippets, a few verses here or there, usually in a Sunday school class or a sermon on Sunday morning. Don't misunderstand me here, those are important and necessary ways to understand what the Bible is teaching and how to apply it to our lives. But we risk missing how each of these isolated passages relate to the grand arc of redemptive history.

### Binge Reading...

One of my favorite TV shows was *LOST*. The hardest part of the show, though, was keeping track of all of the different threads and plots from week to week. A couple of years ago, my son and I sat down and binge-watched the entire series in a few days. Doing so enabled us to keep track of the various threads much more easily. Sometimes we need to experience the big picture so we can appreciate the details even more. That's what we're going to do with the Bible—we're going to "binge read" it.

### ...The Bible in 90 Days

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the Session and I invite you to make a commitment to reading through the entire Bible in 90 days. By the time Pentecost rolls around, we'll have read the whole Bible, from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22. That might sound daunting, but it actually works out to just 12 pages a day. And, you won't be going through this alone—this is a church-wide endeavor, and we'll be making several tools available to help you succeed.

### What Bible Should You Read?

You can read any Bible you like (even an app that reads the Bible to you!)—we'll provide a reading schedule for those who would like it. However, we recommend purchasing the Bible in 90 Days Bible and participant's guide (we'll have these available for \$20). You can also find them for your favorite e-reader (Kindle, iBooks, etc). The B90 Bible has a couple of advantages: first, it has the daily readings already broken down in the text, which makes it easier to follow along; second, it has minimal notes and whatnot, which can be very distracting when you're trying to read on a schedule.



**Sharing the Journey Together**

In addition to the Bible readings, we'll be asking everyone to sign up for a discussion group. We will have two groups from which to choose—one on Wednesday evenings at 5:45 p.m., and one on Sunday mornings that will take the place of our usual Sunday school classes during B90. Your discussion group will be an essential part of helping you to read through the Bible in 90 days successfully, as it provides accountability and an opportunity to learn and discuss what we've just read the previous week. In addition, each Sunday's sermon throughout the 90 days will follow along with our reading.

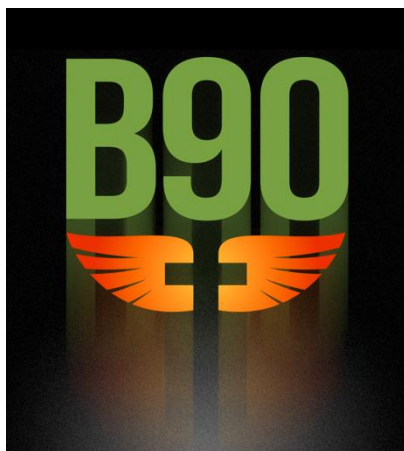
**Who Can Participate?**

Anyone who can read, frankly! Aside from that, we're encouraging our youth and all adults to participate. Please feel free to invite folks from the community to join us on the journey as well, especially folks you know who might be interested in learning more about what the Bible says—this can be a fantastic evangelism tool.

**Find Out More on Sunday, February 23**

Come to Sunday school on February 23 at 9:45 where we'll be providing more information about why we believe this is important for our church and how this will work. It's going to be an exciting journey for all of us, and we look forward to traveling together on *The Path of the Phoenix*.

**Blessings, Rev. David Garrison**



THE JOURNEY BEGINS  
**2.26.2020**

Preparing for the journey...



**Table Talk Series: READING THE BIBLE AS A SINGLE BOOK**  
 Wednesdays, February 5, 12 & 19 at 5:45 p.m.

Have you ever felt overwhelmed with how long and diverse the Bible is? Do you struggle with seeing it as “one book” with a single message? Join us at Table Talk as we explore the unity of the Bible. We'll be meeting at the church at 5:45 p.m. on February 5, 12, and 19. This is a practical, hands-on series that will equip you to read through the Bible with greater understanding. You can expect to gain useful tools and resources that will make reading the Bible from cover to cover a more meaningful experience.

# Life Together

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Janel Babcock



## FEBRUARY ATTENDANTS

- 2 Marge Mills & Sharon Bryant
- 9 Linda Lange & Judy Reyburn
- 16 Debbie Irvine & Ron Reyburn
- 23 George & Mickie Brine



## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB February 15

The Women's Book Club will meet on Saturday, February 15, 10 a.m. at Vonnie Rucker's home. The group is reading *Tears Are for the Living* by Margaret Banister.

Like to read? Join this group for fun insights into various genres of books. Please let Vonnie know if you plan to attend.



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

## Prayer Requests:

**Bonnie Wine** has not had to have surgery for her shoulder, but is still praying for further improvement.



**Ron Reyburn** has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He is consulting with his doctor about the proper treatment.

**Mary Wilhelm's son, Stan**, continues treatments for an immune deficiency. He is showing some improvement.

**Sue Burnett** continues chemotherapy 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, and Betty Reed.**

## COMMUNION SUNDAY

### February 2

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



## *A Special Thank You*

For several years friends my age have asked me, "When are you retiring?" My answer was always, "I'll stay as long as they will keep me." Well, I know the folks at Northminster are much too kind to ever have told me I needed to retire, but I finally decided I was ready. As of November 1, 2019, I had worked at the church for 28 years! It was the best job I ever had. It's been much more than a job—the folks at Northminster are family. I'm not leaving the church, only the office; this has been my church since I was 13 years old. I will continue as the church's treasurer, volunteering my time from home.

Thank you for your many kind wishes and compliments and the wonderful reception held in my honor Sunday, January 19. Thank you for the generous gift of a stay at Wintergreen. I know Harry and I will enjoy such a nice getaway.

What a blessing it has been to have served you and God in the capacity of secretary over the last 28 years! I look forward to other ways in which I can serve Northminster and God in the future.

Lovingly,  
Vonnice Rucker

**FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

As promised in the January Newsletter, we have plans for your Valentine’s night out! On Saturday, February 15, be at the church by 5 p.m. for an **Italian dinner** with live music. Be sure to sign up so we know how many to expect. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

There will be a buffet style dinner accompanied by a strolling violinist. Bring someone you love or just come be with loved ones!

*With love from  
Your Fellowship Committee*



**CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY!**

During the cold days of winter, there’s nothing like sitting down with a good book. Happily, many Christian fiction books have been added to the church library over the past year, so there are plenty of good reading materials just waiting for you to enjoy.

The library is located right beside the sanctuary, and checking out a book is easy... Just remove the card from inside the back cover, write your name and the date on it, and place it in the small index card box that sits on the window sill. Take as long as you want to enjoy your book. When you’re finished with it, simply put it in the wooden “book return” box in the library, and then check out another!



**SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS**

We will be partnering with Neighbors Helping Neighbors to serve the next evening meal on Tuesday, February 25, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at Virginia Limeworks (111 Highview Dr, Madison Heights). Posted on the hallway bulletin board are sign-up sheets for cooking, helping in the kitchen, and serving guests in the dining area. Feel free to sign up for several options. If you aren’t called upon to help out on February 25, you will be contacted to help another time.



*From the Missions, Outreach, and Evangelism  
Committee*

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**Morning Circle:** The morning circle will meet Tuesday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m. Their Bible Study is “Busyness—Finding God in the Whirlwind.” Pick up the study materials from June Hedrick.

**Evening Circle:** The evening circle will meet Monday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Group room. They will continue their Bible study of the book of John with Margaret Feinberg’s DVD presentation, “Pursuing God.” Barbara Baker will lead the study from Session 11.

## *As We Celebrate Lent Together*



### **BIBLE IN 90 DAYS PREVIEW**

**Sunday, February 23 at 9:45 a.m. (Sunday school hour)**

If you're wondering just what's involved in participating in the Bible in 90 Days, why we're so excited about this endeavor, or how it's going to work, then make sure to join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 23 at 9:45 a.m. We'll provide an overview of the program, explain what you're committing to, provide some best tips and practices, as well as answer all of your questions and assuage your fears. We encourage everyone to join us for this preview as this is a church-wide effort. We'll see you there!

### **ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Wednesday, February 26 at 7 p.m.**

"Lent" is an old English word which means springtime, and the Lenten season is one in which we commit to making space for new spiritual growth in our souls, just as we are doing "spring cleaning" in our homes and yards to make room for the new growth of spring. This year, as we've already mentioned, we're making a commitment to read through the Bible in 90 days through the seasons of Lent and Easter.

You are invited to join us for a special service of worship and commitment as we begin our journey on "The Path of the Phoenix: From Ashes to Flames." This service will mark the "official" beginning of our endeavor to read through the Bible together. It will be a special opportunity to set our hearts on the Lord and His Word for the next 90 days. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES**

During the Wednesdays of Lent, you are invited to join with other church neighbors for a time of community worship. Services begin at 12 p.m. and lunch will be served by the host church at about 12:30 p.m. To help defray expenses, a donation for lunch is appreciated.

An offering will be taken at each service to support The Helping Hands Ministry of Amherst County. The Helping Hands is administered through Madison Heights Baptist Church and assists our neighbors in need.

This year, Northminster is not hosting a service or lunch. However, you are encouraged to attend the services at the other churches. On Wednesday, April 8, Northminster will be joining the other churches for a Holy Wednesday Worship Service at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Monroe. Elon Presbyterian will be hosting a Maundy Thursday service that is open to the community at 7 p.m. on April 9. Then on Good Friday, April 10, Northminster will be holding a service at 7 p.m.

### **Community Lenten Services – Wednesdays at Noon**

March 4 – First Baptist Church of Monroe  
 March 11 – Union Community Church  
 March 18 – Elon Baptist Church  
 March 25 – Monroe United Methodist Church  
 April 1 – Elon Presbyterian

### **Holy Week Services at 7 p.m.**

April 8 – 7 p.m. Community Holy Wednesday Service at First Baptist of Monroe  
 April 9 – 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service at Elon Presbyterian  
 April 10 – 7 p.m. Good Friday Service at Northminster



**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
- A telephone message will be sent out to everyone using the church’s One-Call Now service.
- We will post the cancellation on the church web-site [www.npcmh.com](http://www.npcmh.com), on our Facebook page, and record a message on the church answering machine.

**Programs other than Sunday morning:**

Cancellations regarding events other than Sunday morning will be decided as soon as reasonably possible. You will be notified using the church’s One-Call Now telephone service.



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

	<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Campaign/PC USA Debt</u>	
	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Income</b>	9,774	124,337	\$992	\$59,647
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>11,564</u>	<u>140,762</u>	<b>Pd. PCUSA \$10,000</b>	
	<b>-1,790</b>	<b>-16,425</b>	<b>Balance = \$49,647</b>	

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Website: [www.npcmh.com](http://www.npcmh.com)

DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

**ELDERS**

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session,*

Michael Babcock, George Brine, Maggie Brockman,

John Lange, Sharon Bryant, Anne Wilkins

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent of Sunday School*

Vonnie Rucker, *Treasurer*