



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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MAY 2020

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We are about to begin our second full month under quarantine, and under normal circumstances we would be celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper this Sunday. As we all know, however, these are not normal circumstances. How do we celebrate the sacrament in these times? Should we celebrate the sacrament during

these times? Is it possible to celebrate the sacrament "virtually"? These are questions pastors and elders have been wrestling with over the past month.

As the kids say these days, the "TL;DR" (too long; don't read) answer that your Session has come to, is that for right now we, once again, *will not* be celebrating the Sacrament this month.

Now for the (slightly) longer version.

As said, these are unusual times. Someone commented to me the other day how much they appreciated the online worship service, as it provided a sense of "normal" in very abnormal times. That's one of the key reasons why we are doing our best to keep the order of service as much as normal as possible. But, these are nevertheless unusual times, and there are some things we might normally do that we hold off on until we get back to normal, and the Lord's Supper is one of those things. Our "virtual worship" is a blessing, but it is not a replacement for the real thing.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is inherently communal and physical. As a visceral, physical experience it is one of the most tactile moments in our worship service. It involves all of our senses - taste, touch, smell, sight, and sound. It is also communal; it is an act of the community. While we are symbolically together through Facebook Live, yet we are not physically together. It's like when traveling for work. I can still FaceTime my wife and kids, which is better than a phone call, but it's not the same as being physically present with them.



Much like the spiritual discipline of fasting is meant to remind us of our deeper longing and need for God, it is our hope that as we "fast" from communion, it would remind us of how the sacrament serves as a "sign and seal" of our salvation. As one theologian said regarding this absence, "The practice of the sacrament is an aid to our faith, it's absence is not a detriment." It is our hope and prayer that the absence of the sacrament will foster in each of us a longing for that wondrous day when we, once again, gather together as a congregation to worship our Savior and celebrate this sacrament once again.

Blessings,

Rev. David Garrison

Life Together



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Pat Callahan
- 4 Madison Newsome
- 5 Michael Babcock
- 7 Grady Mann
- 10 Jeremy Vandevander
- 13 Debbie Moore
- 16 John Lange
- 19 Jay Vandevander Jr.
- 23 Julie Lerner
- 25 Rudy Burnett
Tim Mills
- 27 Emerson Bryant
- 29 Luke Sechler
Michael Sechler

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rudy & Sue Burnett, 1982

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club was canceled in March, as all church activities were. The group looks forward to a time, soon, when they can be together.

Looking for something to read during this time of social distancing?



Books some of these ladies are reading:

- Tending Roses***, by Lisa Wingate
- I Will Always Write Back*** by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda
- When Christmas Comes*** by Debbie Macomber
- The 5th Avenue Story Society*** by Rachel Hauck.
- Before We Were Yours*** by Lisa Wingate.

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

Prayer Requests:

Jeb Clarke's mother, Barbara,

Is in the hospital in Virginia Beach following a pulmonary embolism in her lungs.

Jeff Porter's father, Ethan is at home receiving hospice care. Keep him and Jeff's mother, Mary, in your prayers.

Michael Babcock's mother who is recovering from a stroke. And making things worse, Michael's father, Jerry, cannot be with his wife during this time.

Jennifer Tucker, Joel & Virginia Carnefix's daughter has stage 3 breast cancer. Chemo began the first week of March.

Bobby Irvine, Debbie Irvine's husband has had serious stomach surgery. Pray for Debbie and Bobby as he will have a long recovery.

John Ledden is in the hospital in Bedford with congestive heart failure.

Ron Reyburn has received treatment for prostate cancer.

Mary Wilhelm's son, Stan, scheduled for a bone marrow transplant in early June. Liz Boothe (sister) is a donor match, but others are being tested as well.

Sue Burnett continues chemotherapy for lung cancer.

Bobbie Garrett has numerous health problems. Also pray for Albert as Bobbie's main caretaker.

All medical personnel who have continued serving those with coronavirus in spite of the possibility of getting infected themselves.

Remember others who cannot be with us in church: **Dick Collins, Dot Stinnett, Leonard**

Rowe, Margaret Watts, Dot Rucker, and Betty



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

THANK YOU

Ref: April mass email request
for outside work help

On the 15th of April the Property Committee sent out a mass email to request the help of our church congregation to weed, trim and attend to the outside needs of OUR CHURCH. In response to that call several folks responded and the task at hand is in the process of being accomplished. Those who donated time and volunteered to address this task, thank you very much.

Because of the acknowledgement that personally doing the work at church was nearly impossible, Kristin Kidd volunteered to hire and pay for the work of her outside landscaper to do the work at Northminster. In addition, Debbie Irvine offered to help with paying for the cost of the landscaper's work. Thank you very much to Kristin and Debbie for making this donation to OUR CHURCH.

Zach Anderson, the local landscaper, does this as a second job and did a wonderful job. Thanks to Zach for his speedy response, work and effort.

Finally, during this time of social distancing and the inability to meet together, the tasks of caring for the building and grounds, which we now own, (pending the PCUSA timeline) we are blessed to have folks who will donate time and money to take care of the property. We will have additional opportunities to participate in building maintenance as time passes. Please keep our church and its congregation in your daily prayers.

Again, thank you Northminster family for your attention, dedication and participation. Praise be to our God as we focus on his gifts.

John D. Lange, Property Committee Chair

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Neither Morning nor Evening Women's Circles are meeting in May. The Morning circle will be announcement as soon as possible when they will be together again.

The evening circle will be starting a new study in the fall.



Working Behind the Scenes

Our Finance Committee and Tech Team have been working hard over the past few weeks to find the best online giving solution for our church and it's now live! Details about how to give online are included at the bottom of Page 4.

As always, your giving is anonymous to everyone except the treasurer. And using **tithe.ly** (our online giving service) is as secure as any other online bill paying or donation service.

Northminster Adds Online Worship and Giving

As we continue to adjust to what is hopefully a short-term “new normal” of social distancing and quarantine, Northminster is working hard to take advantage of various online resources to help us stay connected during this season. Right now, our efforts are focusing on helping you join us for worship on Sunday mornings through live-streaming the service, and providing ways for you to make your donations to church online. Here’s a basic tutorial for these services.

Worshipping with us through Facebook Live

On a Phone or Computer

On any internet-connected device, go to www.facebook.com/npcmh to find our worship service. You *do not* need a Facebook account to access this. If you don’t see the Live feed, refresh your browser to reload the page. We expect to start the live stream right at 11am (or whatever time the service is scheduled), but we might be a minute or two late every once in a while. To make it easier for you, if you have a QR scanner on your smartphone (built into the camera on most newer phones), you can scan the code you see to the right.



If You Have a Facebook Account

Make sure you “Like” our page and set it to notify you whenever we go live, and Facebook will send you a notification when the service starts. You can find our page by searching for “npcmh” in the Facebook search bar, or scanning the QR code.

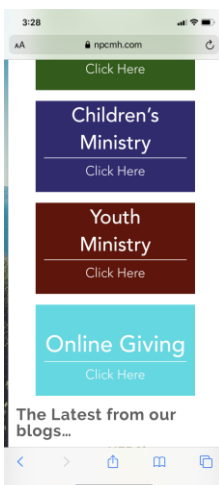
We do encourage you to watch the service on the largest screen you have available, to help give the sense of “being there.” Many modern TVs allow you to “send” a video from your phone or laptop directly to the TV.

On A “Smart” TV, Roku device or Apple TV

If you’ve purchased a TV in the past 5 years or so, most likely it is a “smart” TV that includes a variety of streaming services and apps. On those TVs, or if you have a Roku or Apple TV, you can download the Facebook Watch app. Again, you do not need a Facebook account to use this app. Once downloaded, search for “npcmh” to find our page and our videos.

Download the Bulletin Each Week

To assist your worship, the bulletin will be available on our website at www.npcmh.com/sunday-bulletins. Be sure to download and print it off prior to worship. The bulletin will have all the liturgical elements as well as hymn and song lyrics included each week.



Making Donations Online Through tithe.ly

You can now make donations online! You can do this on a computer, phone or tablet. Simply go to our homepage, www.npcmh.com, and scroll down until you see the blue “Online Giving” button (pictured on the left). Tapping or clicking on it will send you to a secure donation page. Once there, you can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation. There is a small processing fee for each transaction, and you can choose to include those fees in your donation if you would like (otherwise the church absorbs those fees). You **do not** need to make an account with tithe.ly in order to make a donation.

If you have a smartphone with a QR scanner (built into the camera on most newer phones), you can simply scan this barcode to go directly there!





FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2020

	<u>March</u>	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>PC USA DEBT</u>
Income	10,996	32,003	50,065
Expenses	<u>10,610</u>	<u>31,258</u>	
Balance	+ 386	+ 745	

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DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session,*

Michael Babcock, George Brine, Maggie Brockman

Sharon Bryant, John Lange, Anne Wilkins

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent*

of Sunday School

Vonnie Rucker, *Treasurer*