



# 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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## How to Vote in November

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be added to you." (Matt. 6:33)*

In a couple of months we will vote for who will serve as President of the United States of America for the next four years. We now know definitively that it will either be Joe Biden or Donald Trump. Many Christians are wondering how they should vote in the upcoming election. Some Christians have already declared that the only "true" Christian vote is for the candidate they support. Well, let this article serve as the definitive guidance on how Christians should vote in November.

### There's More Than Just the Presidency

It is important to remember that there is more happening this November than just the presidency, and it is quite possible that the various local governing offices and the issues on the ballot could well have a greater impact on your day-to-day living than who is elected President. So often, we are so focused on the one office that we don't pay as much attention to the other issues or political offices that are more local to us and therefore have greater impact on our lives. The presidency is important, and certainly grabs all of the headlines and news, but don't miss the rest of the electoral forest for this one, admittedly big, tree.

### Vote for the Kingdom of God

The most foundational objective for every Christian is to work to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth. In addition to the verse at the beginning of this article, most all of us pray for this every Sunday in the Lord's Prayer: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10). As you look at the candidates for office (including but not limited to the presidency) and the issues on the ballot, how can your vote contribute to bringing the Kingdom of God here on earth? Perhaps the first question to ask is, what are the values and character of the Kingdom of God? Jesus lays out his most succinct and thorough vision for the Kingdom of God in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Over the next weeks and months, take time to read through the Sermon on the Mount prayerfully and intentionally and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discernment as you look at the candidates and issues on the ballot.

### Vote Your Conscience

One of the most beautiful hallmarks of both our faith and our democratic process is that we are all free to vote our conscience. I've seen a lot of folks make comments to the effect of, "if you don't vote for \_\_\_\_\_, then



you aren't really a Christian." That statement is, to quote one of my seminary professors, 'straight from the pit of hell and smells like smoke.' People will want to know who and how you are voting, but you are under no obligation to answer those questions — and, to be honest, I encourage you not to answer them. How you vote is between you, your ballot, and God. The beauty of our process is that the only vote that is "thrown away" is a vote not cast.

### **Disagree with Grace**

This election seems to be more emotionally charged than any I can remember before, which amazes me because I didn't think things could get more charged than the last one. It is more important than ever before that we learn to disagree with grace. Faithful, God-honoring and -loving Christians are going to discern how to vote for the Kingdom of God and their conscience in very different, and opposing ways. As Augustine once said (and is the motto of our denomination), "Unity in the essentials, liberty in the non-essentials, and in all things charity (love)." How we vote is *not* an essential of our faith, and we need to be able to dialogue and disagree with love and grace.

### **Accept the Results with Humility and Submission**

The person and issues you vote for won't win every time. It's entirely possible that the issues you care about most end up with the result you would least like to see. No matter how things go, accept the results with humility and submission. If your candidate wins, be excited, but don't gloat. As Paul reminds us in Romans 13, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment." (Rom. 13:1–2) Keep in mind that Paul wrote this when Nero was emperor of the Roman Empire, one of the most tyrannical emperors ever seen. If Paul could encourage the Christians of his day to submit to Nero, we can submit to the candidate that wins the election.

So there you have it. The definitive guide to how a true Christian should vote in November. May God bless you as you seek to discern how to vote in November, and may His Kingdom come.

Blessings,  
Rev. David Garrison

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## **Pastor's Midweek Bible Study**

Every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.  
Beginning September 16  
in the Fellowship Hall or Online

Join us in person or online for a midweek bible study with Pastor David! We'll work our way through a book of the Bible, with a focus on learning to study the Bible ourselves and apply it to our daily lives. As 2 Timothy 3:16 says,

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." It's easier to see this in some passages than others, but together we'll be encouraged and equipped. We look forward to seeing you there!



# Life Together

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jeb Clarke
- 8 Addison Clarke (2013)
- 10 Dot Stinnett
- 11 Ian Moore I
- 11 Caiti Vera
- 16 Ray Vandall
- 17 Beth Clarke
- 19 Sharon Bryant
- 23 Peggy Wright
- 27 Tim Wright



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Anne & Vance Wilkins, 2007
- 5 Janet & Ray Vandall, 1956
- 10 George & Mickie Brine, 1977
- 10 George & Linda Sievwright III, 1977
- 13 Kristin & David Kidd, 2014
- 18 David & Karey Garrison, 1999
- 21 Beverly & George O'Brien, 1974



## With Sympathy

Our sympathy and Christian love are extended to the family of Dick Collins upon his homegoing.

Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to Lorraine and the family of John Ledden upon his homegoing.

Both godly men will be deeply missed by all who were privileged to know them.



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



## Prayer Requests:

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

**Ron Reyburn** has received treatment for prostate cancer.

**Mary Wilhelm's son, Stan**, continues treatments for an immune deficiency. He underwent a bone marrow transplant on July 21.

**Sue Burnett** continues chemotherapy for lung cancer.

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

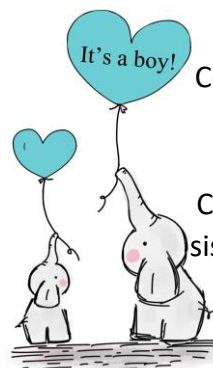
Remember others who cannot be with us in church: **Dot Stinnett, Leonard Rowe, Margaret Watts, Dot Rucker, and Betty Reed.**

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2020

	July Y-T-D	
Income*	11,092	78,680
Expenses	<u>10,798</u>	<u>72,803</u>
Balance	294	+5,877

**PC USA DEBT – 50,827**

\* Tatman 870.31



Congratulations to Mandy and Christopher Newsome on the birth of their son, **Cameron Elijah on August 3**. Little Cameron was welcomed by 2-year-old, big sister Madison and his proud grandparents, Vonnie and Harry Rucker.

## Youth Ministry Fall 2020 Kickoff

Sunday, September 13, 6-7:30 p.m. @ The Garrisons

It's been too long! Join us Sunday, September 13, as we kick off the fall season of youth ministry! All students in 6th-12th grades are invited. We'll meet at the Garrisons and primarily be outside. We'll eat (details TBD) and talk about what the fall is going to look like. We hope you'll plan to join us!



website: [www.npcmn.com](http://www.npcmn.com)

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*

