



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church

*Experiencing and sharing God's love to transform our homes, community and world.*

[office@npcmh.com](mailto:office@npcmh.com)

434/929-2713

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

APRIL 2021

Volume 40, Issue 4



## It's Just Not the Same

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Heb. 10:25)*

One of the most incredible aspects of the past year is how businesses and people adapted to the realities of the pandemic and stay-at-home orders. Things we used to only be able to do by leaving the house transformed in a few short weeks into things you could do from the comfort of your couch. Need groceries? Place the order online and you can pick them up without ever leaving your car. Want to eat out? No problem, they'll bring the food and leave it at your door. The latest blockbuster movie? Catch it on release day right there in your living room. A year ago only the largest and wealthiest churches were live-streaming, but now almost every church is doing so, including ours. These are amazing and wonderful advances and changes, for which there is much to be thankful.

But can we be honest for a moment? As great as all of that is, it's just not the same. How many times have you purchased the wrong quantity of something because you couldn't tell how big it was from the teeny picture on your phone? We've almost finished a 25lb bag of flour we accidentally bought last April. Being able to use Doordash and UberEats is great... but no matter how quick they are, nothing beats the ambiance of the restaurant and eating it fresh from the kitchen. And *Greyhound* and *Soul* were amazing movies... but something gets lost when you're not seeing it on the big screen.



All of that is even more true when it comes to church and corporate worship. We've learned a lot over the past year about what it truly means to be the church, that in many ways we are able to do more "Kingdom work" outside these walls than within them. And we are so grateful to be able to provide the ability to worship together when we can't physically be present at the church. But, again, can we be honest? It really isn't the same. And it shouldn't be the same.

Much more so than eating out, going to the movies, or shopping for groceries, worshipping our Lord and Savior is meant to be done by being physically present with other believers. Yes, the Holy Spirit is still present with us and unites us together even when we're apart, but there is something crucial and important that happens when we gather together for Sunday worship. Whether it's singing our praises to the Lord, praying for one another, celebrating the Sacraments, or hearing the Word of God proclaimed, it's meant to be experienced in-person, not over a screen.

You'll see throughout this newsletter how we are moving back to in-person worship, ministry, and mission. We'll be talking about it more as the weather warms up as well. Right now, we're looking at Pentecost Sunday as our "target date" for coming together as the Body of Christ. You are welcomed and encouraged to join us for in-person worship before that date or on it. Please know we're not choosing to ignore the realities of the pandemic or letting our guard down. We are recognizing that great strides have been taken over the past few months and that we are now at a place where we can, with confidence, say, it's time to gather back as the Body of Christ and get to work on the mission Christ has given to us in Madison Heights, Amherst County, and around the world. As our website says,

*We are a biblically-based Presbyterian church seeking to experience and share God's love to transform our homes, community and the world. We hope you will join us.*

See you soon!

Blessings,  
Rev. David Garrison

---

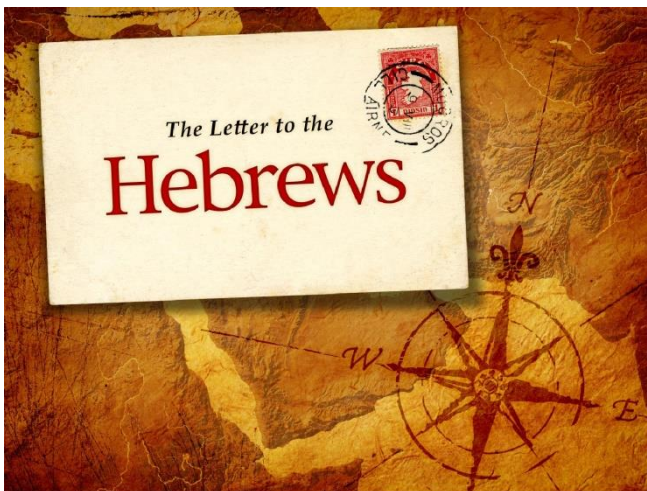
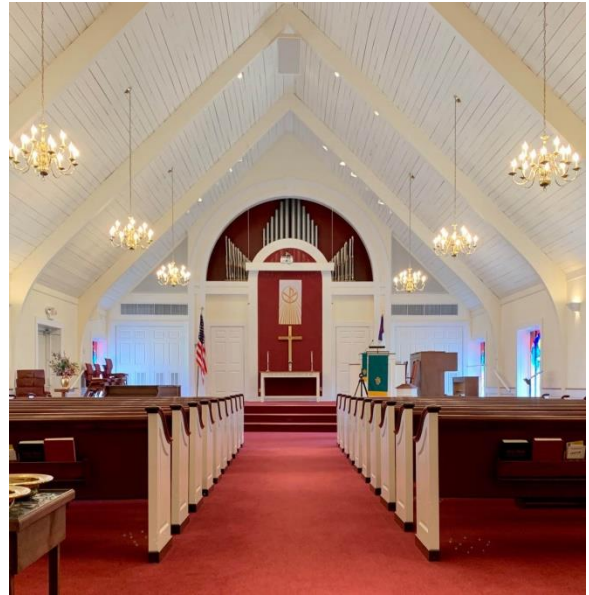


## Pentecost Sunday Celebration!

*Northminster Members,*

At Session this month we had a devotional from Leviticus on Sabbath Rest. We as a country and a congregation have been on a forced sabbath rest for the last year. Based upon the science and the number of us that have or are getting shots we have decided to get back to meeting together for worship, Sunday school, and other group functions. The Worship Committee is planning a special worship service for Pentecost Sunday. This is our target date but, if you feel comfortable attending services before that, we encourage you to do so. I don't know about you, but I am more than ready to see each and every one of you and hear how things are with you. More information will be coming as the details are fleshed out.

*Clerk of Session,  
Ron Reyburn*



## Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

**Every Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.**

**Resumes Wednesday, April 14 @ 10:30 a.m.**

On April 14, we begin a study of the Book of Hebrews. Eugene Peterson writes, "[The letter to the Hebrews was] written for 'too religious' Christians, for 'Jesus-and' Christians. In the letter, it is Jesus-and-angels, or Jesus-and-Moses, or Jesus-and-priesthood. In our time it is more likely to be Jesus-and-politics, or Jesus-and-education, or even Jesus-and-Buddha. This letter deletes the hyphens, the add-ons. The focus becomes clear and sharp again: God's action in Jesus. And we are free once more for the act of faith, the one human action in which we don't get *in* the way, but *on* the Way."

Join us in person or online for our midweek Bible study with Pastor David! Our focus is 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."

We look forward to seeing you there! Sign up at <https://npcmh.churchcenter.com/groups/small-groups>

# Life Together

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

3 Vera Campbell

5 Ed Campbell

6 Liz Boothe

13 Cathy Work

15 Arlene Horton

16 Harry Rucker

19 Sue Burnett

24 Peter Garrison

24 June Hedrick

24 Linda Lange

30 Anita White



## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

Harry & Vonnie Rucker, April 13, 1985

Ian & Debbie Moore, April 17, 1993

Michael & Christy Sechler, April 17, 2004

Rob & Andrea Sievwright, April 28, 2007

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



## Prayer Requests:

**Larry Irvine** is recovering from heart valve replacement.

**Anne Horton** continues recovering from a fall in January.

**Peggy Wright** is doing much better recovering from pneumonia, but she's still getting some therapy.

**Ron Ricketts** has returned home.

**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, and Margaret Watts.**

## Women's Book Club

Thursday, April 29 @ 10 a.m.

The Women's Book Club will meet Thursday, April 29, at the home of Sherry Meng. The group is reading *The Women of the Bible Speak: The Wisdom of 16 Women and Their Lessons for Today*, by Fox Journalist Shannon Bream. This is a brand new book that will be released Tuesday, March 30. Please let Sherry know if you will be attending.



# Missions, Outreach, and Evangelism

In spite of COVID we have been able to continue lending a helping hand to those in need! Here are some of the things we've done, and will continue to do, in the months ahead.

1. We were able to supply bedding for a Madison Heights family with four children through **CarePortal**. Thank you for your support.

2. John Collins and Dick Collins generously served Northminster and their community during their lifetimes, and their impact continues to be felt. Because of a bequest they left to Northminster, we are helping:

- **Amherst County Habitat for Humanity** build a home
- **Nyanzi Jude with Daystar** distribute food to the poor in his community over Easter.
- **Eliya Pranhan** reach children in Nepal with the gospel
- **Burundi Hope** support Christian educators and students

3. This Christmas we will partner with Amelon United Methodist, Randolph Memorial, and Madison Heights Baptist churches in filling and delivering **Christmas Cheer Boxes**. We're excited about this ministry because it offers our youth several opportunities for involvement. Beginning in July we will begin collecting items for these boxes. July's collection will be peanut butter and jelly.



### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2021

	February	Y-T-D
Income*	11,510	22,509
Expenses	<u>9,987</u>	<u>20,126</u>
Balance	1,523	2,383

# Youth Ministry April 2021 Update

Sundays, 6:30-7:30 pm

All students in 6th-12th grades are invited to join us Sunday evenings for youth group, a fun time of games, bible study, and fellowship. Join us at 6:30 p.m., and we'll wrap up by 7:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

With the latest guidance from the CDC and VDH, social distancing for schools is now down to 3 ft; and with the increase in vaccinations and indoor groups expanded to 50, we have decided **to no longer continue the Zoom youth group meetings**. We hope all students will join us in person.

**Note:** There will be **No Youth Group** on Easter Sunday, April 4, or the following Sunday, April 11, for Spring Break.



[www.facebook.com/npcmh](https://www.facebook.com/npcmh)

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

DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

**ELDERS**

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session,*

Michael Babcock, George Brine, Maggie Brockman

Sharon Bryant, John Lange, Judy Reyburn, and Caitlin Vera

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent  
of Sunday School*

Vonnie Rucker, *Treasurer*

Sandy Stafford, *Secretary*

## Northminster Online Worship and Giving

Over the past year, Northminster has worked hard to take advantage of various online resources to help us stay connected. Our efforts have primarily 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.npcmh.com/live](http://www.npcmh.com/live) to find our worship service. You *should 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 about 5 minutes before the service begins, but we might be a little bit late every once in a while.

#### 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.

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 shouldn't need a Facebook account to use this app. Once downloaded, search for "npcmh" to find our page and our videos.

### NORTHMINSTER ON THE 'NET

#### Website

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

#### Calendar, Directory & more

[npcmh.churchcenter.com](http://npcmh.churchcenter.com) (This is also an app for your phone! Go to your app store and search for "Church Center")

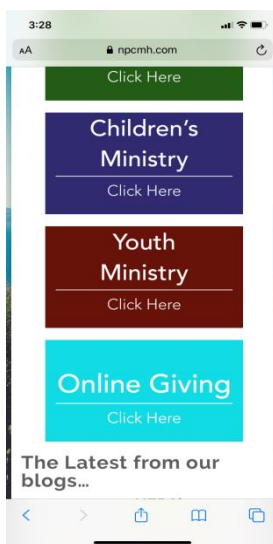
#### Facebook

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

#### YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI-8UYbBtfkYSO-QbVGmakQ>

(Tip: find it more easily by going to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for "Northminster Clearview")



### Download the Bulletin Each Week

To assist your worship, the bulletin will be available on our website at [www.npcmh.com/sunday-bulletins](http://www.npcmh.com/sunday-bulletins). Be sure to download and print it off prior to worship. The bulletin will have all 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](http://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).

