



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

office@npcmh.com

434/929-2713

www.npcmh.com

AUGUST 2021

Volume 40, Issue 8



Does It Matter?

Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" — John 6:11–14

I heard of a preacher recently who, when talking about the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 in the Gospels, asked if it really mattered if this was an actual miracle where Jesus took 5 loaves and 2 fish and managed to feed 5,000 people with it, or whether he simply inspired the crowd to share what they had with each other. The preacher's point was that the real miracle wasn't the method, but the end result. What matters is that Jesus provided for the people; it doesn't matter if it was supernatural (the multiplication of the loaves and fishes) or inspirational (motivating the people to share what they already have with each other).



However, I think the means is equally, if not more, important. Of course the point is that Jesus provided for the people's needs, and he'll provide for yours, too. But the question of whether he did so miraculously or inspirationally is crucial. If it's merely the latter, then Jesus is simply really good at motivational speaking. He pretty much gave the best TED Talk ever on the importance of sharing with others. That's impressive, but have you watched a TED Talk before? They're all impressive. The thing is, that isn't how the Bible talks about Jesus. Do these passages sound like they're describing a really good motivational speaker?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. — Col. 1:15–17

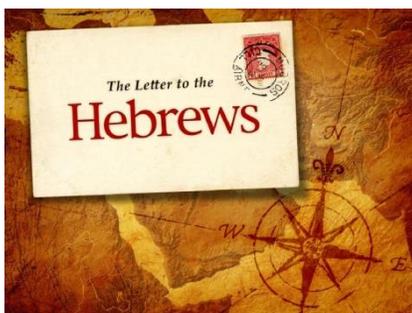
But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. — Heb. 1:2–3

And commenting on this event to the disciples, Jesus himself explains,
“Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” — John 6:32–35

The divine power and might of Jesus is what makes his provision so wondrous and incredible. And it really isn't even that Jesus provided bread and fish for the people — it's that Jesus *is* the provision for the people. Jesus is the bread of life. Jesus is what we need. Whatever it is we're wanting or needing, Jesus is both the means and the ends of our provision. When we cry out to the Lord in need, He has the power, authority and ability to literally move heaven and earth to meet our needs. Nothing is impossible for him, no matter how unlikely it might seem to us.

Does it matter whether the miracles of Jesus are actual supernatural events or just powerful motivational moments? You bet it does. The supernatural aspect of this miracle shows that Jesus not only meets our physical needs, but our spiritual needs as well. I don't know what you need today; I don't know what the emptiness or brokenness is in your life or in your heart. But I do know that when you turn and cry out to Jesus, He will meet you in your need with himself. He will provide for you in ways you cannot dream or imagine, ways that might very well defy explanation and reason. He will provide for not just what you think you need, but what He knows you need as well. He will care for your person, and for your soul. He truly is “the Bread of Life.”

Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison



Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Starting again on Wednesday, August 11

Join us in person or online for a midweek Bible study with Pastor David as we focus on learning to study the Bible ourselves and apply it to our daily lives.

We are currently studying 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.”

Sign up at <https://npcmh.churchcenter.com/groups/small-groups>

Life Together



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

- 11 Tatum Sievwright
- 21 Jackie Hodges
- 21 Bob Mills
- 25 Emmalynn Kidd
- 27 Kristin Kidd
- 29 Vonnie Rucker

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

John & Linda Lange – August 4, 1973

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.

Arlene Horton is in need of healing in her right leg and from other complications after her fall.

Peggy Wright needs restoration of speech following a minor stroke last month.

Beth Colville, Lorraine Ledden’s daughter, has been diagnosed with skin cancer.

Sue Burnett continues treatment for lung cancer and is now at home after her fall.

Peter Garrison is recovering from having his wisdom teeth removed on July 30.

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.**

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2021

	JUNE	Y-T-D
Income*	10,419	126,239
Expenses	10,533	61,324
Balance	-114	64,915

*Tatman 588.65

www.facebook.com/npcmh

Website: www.npcmh.com

DAVID GARRISON, Pastor

ELDERS

**Ron Reyburn, Clerk of Session,
Michael Babcock, George Brine, Maggie Brockman
Sharon Bryant, John Lange, Judy Reyburn, Caitlin Vera**

Bob Mills, Director of Music

Liz Boothe, Organist

**Sharon Bryant, Superintendent
of Sunday School**

Vonnie Rucker, Treasurer

Sandy Stafford, Secretary

Missions, Outreach, and Evangelism Update



Christmas Cheer Boxes ♦ Pancake Mix and Syrup

August is pancake mix and syrup month! If you would like to contribute to the Community Christmas Cheer Boxes there will be a bin by the front door for your contribution.

Meals on Wheels

Do you have 90 minutes to devote to community service? Meals on Wheels has added routes in Madison Heights and is looking for help with delivery. You can volunteer once a week, once a month, twice a month, or occasionally. Perhaps you have a friend or family member to invite to partner with you. Meals can be picked up at Canteen Services on Odd Fellows Road between 10:00 -10:30 or Virginia Baptist Hospital between 11:00-11:30. Thermal delivery bags are provided and returned to Randolph Memorial Baptist Church. If interested, contact Maggie Brockman 434-929-0536 or mkbrockman60@gmail.com.



Donut Drop-off

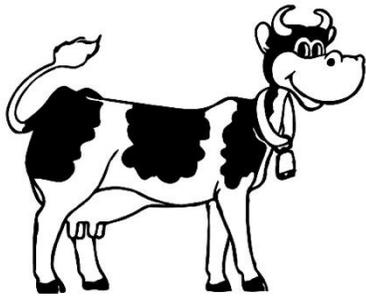
As a community outreach, we are looking for a volunteer to purchase donuts (with funds provided by the church) and deliver them to the faculty of Amelon Elementary in September.

The next MOE committee meeting is August 25 at 6:00.

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club met July 29 to discuss *How to Be a Good Creature: A Memoir in 13 Animals* by Sy Montgomery and Rebecca Green. Please be watching for news about the next book and meeting place.





EAT MORE CHICKEN!
at Northminster's
**SUMMER OF FREEDOM
FRIED CHICKEN POTLUCK**
(An Indoor Summertime Picnic)

Following our Worship Service ♦ August 15

**Fried chicken and drinks provided!
You bring the sides and desserts!**



**Youth Ministry
August 2021 Update**

We're taking a break from Sunday night youth group, but not from the fun! Stay tuned for some exciting, summer-themed events & activities as we wrap up the summer!!

Fall Kickoff is September 12!



Rally Day Ministry Fair

Sunday, August 29 at 9:45 a.m.

Interested in learning about the ministries of our church? Excited to try something new? Join us for the ministry fair as we kick off the start of the school year with a time of fellowship, finger foods, and fun.



SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

Coming In September!

Coming this September, a new weekly opportunity for children and youth in 4th through 12th grades on, you guessed it, Sunday evenings! Pencil in Sunday, September 12 right now, and look for more information coming in next month's newsletter!

Holy Land 2022 — February 23rd – March 3rd

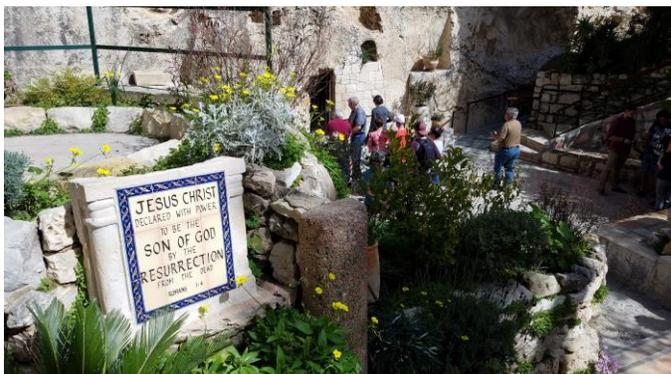


{ A view from the Garden of Gethsemane, across the Kidron Valley—
Up towards the Golden Gate of Temple Mount! }

More views where that one came from!

Join Pastors Cameron Smith and David Garrison for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Ten days of traveling from the Mediterranean coast, up Mount Carmel, through the Jezreel Valley, navigating the streets of Nazareth, taking in the sights of the Sea of Galilee, examining the ruins around Mount Hermon, traveling through the hills of Samaria, conquering the top of Mount Gerizim, hanging out at Jezebel and Ahab’s place for a spell, dipping your feet into the Jordan across from the Plains of Moab, hiking down the Pilgrim Road on the Mount of Olives, exploring the Old City of Jerusalem, experiencing David’s palace, the solitude of footsteps on the Herodian pavement of the Temple Mount, and of course, Bethlehem. This, and so much more.



*Never read your Bible
the same way.
Now, live it!*

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 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.

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 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).

NORTHMINSTER ON THE ‘NET

Website
www.npcmh.com

Calendar, Directory & more
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

YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI-8UYbBtfkYSO-QbVGMakQ>
 (Tip: find it more easily by going to www.youtube.com and search for “Northminster Clearview”)