



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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A Look at Love

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

(1 Cor. 13:1-3)

The Longest Shortest Month of the Year

There isn't much in February to celebrate. For most of us, by the time February rolls around we're tired of winter and ready for spring, and that makes the shortest month of the year feel all that much longer. Of course, sports fans get the Super Bowl and Daytona 500, and baseball fans start to get excited because pitchers and catchers report to spring training. Outside of that, though, pretty much all there is in February to look forward to is Valentine's Day. This is a day in which we celebrate romantic love, named after a 3rd century saint who was martyred for his care of the faithful during times of persecution. How a 'holy day' commemorating him became associated with romantic love is something of a historical question, but nevertheless, that's what's happened. Interestingly, this year Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday, and is also the same date as the Daytona 500, which means my wife can look forward to a romantic afternoon watching a car race...but that's beside the point... however you might want to pray for her... or me...



It All Boils Down To...

As I've been thinking about Saint Valentine, and Valentine's Day, and all that's going on around us this year and last, I'm reminded of what Jesus said when asked what the greatest commandment is: "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 'The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. 'There is no commandment greater than these.'" (Mark 12:29-31) Love. That's what it all boils down to for us. Many of us have grown up singing the hymn, "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love." Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to be what Christians are known for these days. Mostly we seem to either be known for what we fear or what makes us angry. Maybe this Valentine's Day (and month) we would do well to get back to the way of love.

(continued)

“Full of Sound and Fury, Signifying Nothing” — Macbeth

As Paul writes in the passage quoted at the start of this article, if we don't have love, we're just making noise, having nothing, gaining nothing. The way to truly experience and share the love of God in our homes, neighborhoods and world is through love. Loving God (Mark 12:30), loving one another (John 15:12), loving our neighbors (Mark 12:31; “Who is my neighbor?”: Luke 10:25-37), even loving our enemies (Matthew 5:44). Pretty sure that covers most everyone in our lives...at least, I can't find any exceptions in there. Loving others day in and day out is hard...but the path of love is relatively straightforward. Simply ask yourself, in each conversation and action, “Is this word or deed a way to show the love of Christ to this person?” Again, it's an easy thing to think and ask ourselves — it's in the doing it that becomes more difficult. But wouldn't it be nice if we were known for our love rather than our anger and fear? That might just be enough to change the world.

We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother. (1 John 4:19–21)

Blessings,

Rev. David Garrison

Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

Every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

Join us in person or online for a midweek Bible study with Pastor David! We're working our way through the book of Judges, 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!



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

Life Together



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

3 Janel Babcock

Women's Book Club

February 18 @ 10 a.m.

The Women's Book Club will meet Feb. 18, at 10 a.m. at Sharon Bryant's home. They are reading *Before and After: The Incredible Real-Life Stories of Orphans Who Survived the Tennessee Children's Home Society*, by Judy Christie and Lisa Wingate. This non-fiction book is a follow-up to January's book *Before We Were Yours*, Lisa Wingate's novel based on the Tennessee Children's Home Society.

If you have not been attending the Book Club due to the Coronavirus, you can rest assured that we are taking the appropriate precautions by wearing masks, washing hands, keeping socially distanced and bringing our own snacks. We would love to have you join us!



Our Deepest Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Larry and Sue Irvine in the death of their eldest son, Chris. Chris passed away in early January after a battle with the COVID19. He is also the nephew of Bobby and Debbie Irvine.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Dot Rucker. Dot passed away from natural causes on January 4. She would have been 100 in April. Dot and husband Don joined Northminster in 1983 and were very active members here during all of the years their health enabled them to attend. They are fondly remembered by all who knew them.



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.

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

Ron Ricketts has returned home.

Cati Vera has recovered from COVID and is currently receiving training in Rhode Island.

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.**

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2020

	December	Y-T-D
Income*	9,112	131,908
Expenses	<u>10,075</u>	<u>125,167</u>
Balance	-963	6,741

PC USA DEBT – 40,503

Christian Education

Elementary Catechism



Our elementary class is excited to restart our **CATECHISM FOR CHILDREN** Sunday School project.

If your child is in the elementary Sunday school class and wants to keep participating in this special project, just help them study the #1 Blue Section. Then call Ms. Marge (434-525-0436) and have your child recite the answers to the Blue Questions for her. If you want, you and your child could even meet with her on Zoom to answer the questions!

Once your child has completed the first section, they can work on the second section for the next month.

We hope to learn at least one section a month with a goal of having a special in-person ceremony in January 2022, if the LORD allows.

And be on the lookout for a letter from Ms. Marge with all of the extra information in it!

Youth Ministry February 2021 Update

Sundays, 6:30-7:30 pm

Here's what you need to know about things happening in and around the youth ministry at Northminster in the month of February:



No Youth Group on February 7! Enjoy the big game with your family!
Go Team! Sports! Yay!

Time Change: We are now meeting from 6:30-7:30 each week.

Weekly Youth Group Resumes: Sunday, February 14

Keep your eyes on your email and Facebook for more info as the month rolls on!



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*

Northminster 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.npcmh.com/live 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 about 5 minutes before the service begins, but we might be a minute or two 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).

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!

