



# 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 2021

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PASTOR'S CORNER

*"I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."* (John 16:7–11)

I received some news this afternoon that absolutely threw me for a loop. The news itself wasn't particularly bad or good, and really wasn't even directly for or about me. And yet, it absolutely threw me off balance and left me in a place of profound introspection and self-examination. For whatever reason, it "laid bare my soul" and I found myself questioning much of what I thought I knew, believed, and took for granted even just a few hours ago. What was it that caused me to react in such a way?

Conviction. Specifically the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

One of the reasons Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit is to convict us of our sin. Not in a "you're a horrible, miserable person and I want you to feel guilt and shame" way, but rather a "sin keeps you from the fulness of life I bought for you on the cross, so let's get rid of as much of it as we can" kind of way. We have an amazing ability to get comfortable with our misaligned priorities and values. Those priorities and values are probably not necessarily bad in and of themselves, but if they are more important to us than God and His Kingdom, then they are sinful and not righteous — it's a subtle form of idolatry. It's not necessarily that we have to get rid of those values and priorities, just that we need to put God's values and priorities first. In the Sermon the Mount, Jesus said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matt. 6:33) I need to put God's kingdom first, and trust Him to provide the rest.



The Holy Spirit used the news I received to shine a light on a couple of areas in my life where the kingdom of David was more important than the Kingdom of God. I'll be honest, it wasn't fun, and I spent quite a while doing some phenomenal self-rationalization and self-justification with God. And, honestly, I'm still working through it. I don't like being told I'm wrong or in error, and I'm sure you don't either. But I also know that God is shining the light in these areas of my heart because He loves me and wants His best for me. The same is true for you.

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One of the key aspects of growing in holiness and faithfulness is keeping a soft heart that is sensitive to when the Holy Spirit is at work in us, convicting us of the areas in our lives that aren't aligned with God's heart and vision. As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost this month, I pray that each of us would have tender hearts, shaped and formed by the Spirit of God in the image of the Son of God.

*"...he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:10–11)*

*Blessings,*

*Rev. David Garrison*

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## Children's Ministry Spring Update & Lunch Sunday, May 16, following Worship

Join us on Sunday, May 16, for a Spring Update about our children's ministry! We'll share what God has been doing through the children's ministry and what we believe God is getting ready to do in the months and years to come. We'll also share a bit about this summer's VBS and a few other plans that are coming down the road. If you'd like to hear what God is doing through the children's ministry of NEPC and how you can be part of it, we'd love to have you join us! This lunch is open to the whole church—anyone who has a heart for children's ministry, and particularly **parents** and **grandparents** of elementary-age children.



*Lunch and childcare will be provided. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Sharon Bryant.*



**May 23, 2021**

**Worship Service - 11 A.M. & Picnic Lunch - 12:30 P.M.**

**LET THE EARTH REJOICE!**

Please join us as we gather for a time of renewing relationships through worship, food, games, and fellowship!

\*Bring a picnic lunch and beverage!

\*If you prefer a lawn chair to a church folding chair, bring that, too!

\*Wear something red!

RSVP to the Northminster Office at 929-2713 by May 19.

Looking forward to seeing you there

[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, Caitlin Vera

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent  
of Sunday School*

Vonnie Rucker, *Treasurer*

Sandy Stafford, *Secretary*

# Life Together



**MAY BIRTHDAYS:**

- 5 Michael Babcock
- 10 Jeremy Vandevander
- 13 Debbie Moore
- 16 John Lange
- 19 Jay Vandevander, Jr.
- 23 Julie Lerner
- 25 Rudy Burnett
- 25 Tim Mills
- 29 Luke Sechler
- 29 Michael Sechler

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES:**

Rudy & Sue Burnett, May 1, 1982

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2021**

	March	Y-T-D
Income*	9,539	32,048
Expenses	<u>9,674</u>	<u>29,800</u>
Balance	-135	2,248

*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 strength in her right leg

**Beth Colville**, Lorraine Ledden’s daughter, has ongoing, undiagnosed pain.

**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

At the printing of the May newsletter, the Women’s Book Club had not met. However their book for discussion was, *Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream. This book delves into the lives of 16 women who made significant contributions to Biblical history. It was designed as a Bible study, with questions at the end of each chapter that allowed the reader to go deeper into the minds of the women portrayed. “The author offers a deeper understanding of each, and wisdom and insights that can transform our own lives today.” We encourage you to read it, too!

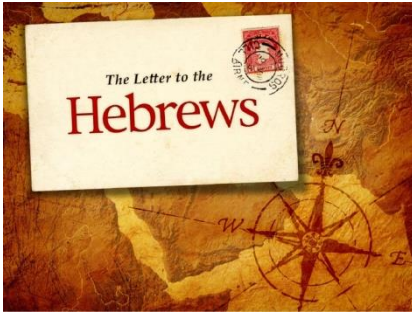


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# Missions, Outreach, and Evangelism Update

- NHN is **no longer collecting bags** for their grocery ministry. Thank you for your faithful service in this area.
- We have helped another Amherst County family through **CarePortal**. Four children were provided with bed linens.
- **Burundi Hope** continues to thrive under the direction of Susan May. A new Health Check Program has been established, the Sewing Center continues to provide jobs for women, pastors are receiving training, new churches are being planted, and Women of Hope ministries is organizing teaching teams which travel nationwide addressing the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of women.
- Part of the Collins donation went to **Daystar Ministries** in Uganda where food was provided for 100 families at Easter. Below are pictures of them distributing the food bags which contained sugar, rice, salt, bread, tea, and a bar of laundry soap.





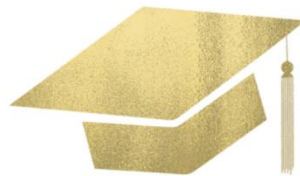
## Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

Every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

Join us in person or online for a midweek Bible study with Pastor David 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>



GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE

*Bridget and Larisa*

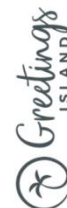
FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021  
5-9PM

AT NORTHMINSTER EPC  
106 CLEARVIEW RD, MADISON HEIGHTS

CLASS OF 2021  
LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

*vs up to*

Larisa at 910.548.2024



# Youth Ministry May 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 pm, and we'll wrap up by 7:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Because of the changes made by the CDC and VDH regarding social distancing in schools being down to 3ft, 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.

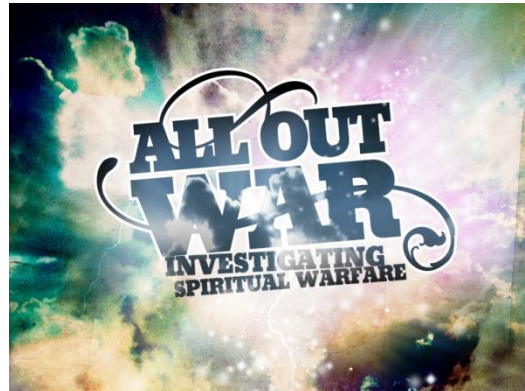
**Schedule Note:** No Youth Group on Mother's Day, May 9.

## Current Series: All Out War: Investigating Spiritual Warfare

Every day we are under attack from a culture that dismisses the idea of truth and mocks a serious faith in Christ. With spiritual warfare being a very real, but often times neglected, issue with our faith, the need to defend our hearts and our faith become extremely important. In Ephesians 6, Paul wrote about the Armor of God, key parts of a healthy spiritual life that will protect us from temptation, misinformation, and disillusionment.

- Week 1 The Belt of Truth
- Week 2 The Breastplate of Righteousness
- Week 3 Shoes of Peace
- Week 4 Shield of Faith
- Week 5 Helmet of Salvation
- Week 6 Sword of the Spirit.

Join us @ Youth Group, Sundays, 6:30 PM



## Vacation Bible School – Save the Date! Friday, July 23- Sunday, July 25

We're doing something new this year—VBS over the weekend! That's right, this year we'll have VBS on Friday night, Saturday during the day, and finish off on Sunday morning. We hope this change will make it easier for families and for volunteers. Please be praying about how you might like to help—anything from teaching a class to cutting out crafts in the comfort of your own home.

We look forward to seeing what God has in store for VBS this year!

# *Easter Lilly Donations*



## Donors

Gerald & Sharon Bryant

Paul & Laura Hoffman

Debbie Irvine

Beverly O'Brien & Jackie Hodges

Debbie & Bobby Irvine

John & Linda Lange

Ron & Judy Reyburn

Richard Ricketts Jr

Harry & Vonnie Rucker

Linda & George Sievewright

## In Memory/Honor of

Sue Burnett

Frances, John & Richard Collins

Betty & Jack Reed

Chris Irvine

Mary & Lucian Irvine

Harold & Ivy Graham

Robin Reed & Jim Phillippe

Shawn & Daphne, Jay Robert, Sandy, Sarah & Rick

Dick & Joan Ricketts

Their parents