



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

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Dancing With the Devil

Tell me something, my friend. You ever dance with the devil in the pale moonlight?

— The Joker

Don't... tempt me Frodo! I dare not take it. Not even to keep it safe. Understand, Frodo. I would use this ring from a desire to do good... But through me, it would wield a power too great and terrible to imagine.

— Gandalf



Something's been nagging at the back of my mind for the past several months, and I thought I'd work through it with you in this space. Sometimes things happen in our lives and culture and we wonder how to think it through biblically, and that's what I hope to do here.

Have you noticed the incredible surge in advertisements for sports betting apps recently? You can hardly watch anything on TV or stream on the internet without being barraged with advertisements for these apps. This has happened because sports betting became legal in Virginia as a result of two bills that passed through the Virginia General Assembly last year.

Now a referendum is coming up for Amherst County on the November ballot. Voting "yes" on this referendum will allow pari-mutuel wagering in the county. If it passes, a Rosie's Gaming Emporium will open in Seminole Plaza. By this point, this should be old news — the amount of money and effort being spent to promote this referendum and change is pretty amazing (that alone should be cause for concern). It's being presented as a "win-win," particularly for Madison Heights and Amherst County. Bringing in Rosie's, we're told, will jumpstart a much-needed revitalization and transformation of our community.

I suspect this isn't going to work out as we expect. Every time I see an ad for those betting apps or Rosie's I keep thinking about the quotes at the top of this article. Take the lottery for example. It was supposed to provide a financial windfall for public education. But how has it worked out? The amount the state spends on education

has been significantly reduced, a reduction almost directly related to the amount received from the lottery. So instead of a significant increase to education spending, schools have the same amount of money available.

This is what happens when you try and dance with the devil. He lets you think you're leading and makes all sorts of wonderful promises, but it's always too good to be true. He offers us shortcuts to the things we want, often even the things we need, but never comes through on delivering. Satan even tried the same thing with Jesus, telling him that if Jesus would serve Satan instead of God, then Jesus could accomplish all he came to do without the pain and suffering of the cross. But Jesus didn't bite, because he knew it wasn't true (you can read about this in Matthew 4).

We, as a church, have committed to being an active part in "transforming our homes, community and the world." But there's a key part of the transformation we want to see happen: the power of God. In fact, our purpose statement says that we are "seeking to experience and share God's love to transform our homes, community and the world" (emphasis added). We want to see the Kingdom of God come so that Amherst County can experience and be transformed by God's love and grace. There are no shortcuts in this work, and you can't use the devil's tools to accomplish it. Jesus said, "*How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.*" (Mark 3:23–24)

Honestly, I am sure Rosie's might well provide some good for our community and our county. I'm sure you can win some easy cash using those betting apps. However, when the devil comes promising blessing, you can count (I was going to say bet, but the irony stopped me) on there being a catch. As Paul warned the Corinthians, "*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.*" (2 Cor. 11:13–15) There might be some good... there will certainly be more bad that comes from it. Is it really wise and good to promote anything that will surely increase addiction, poverty and family dysfunction—issues that are already running rampant in our area?

As the saying goes, "the house always wins." At the very least, you can count on Rosie's getting more out of Amherst County than they put into it. There are better ways to revitalize Madison Heights and Amherst County. It might take longer and more work, but it'll be better for the people and the community in the long run.

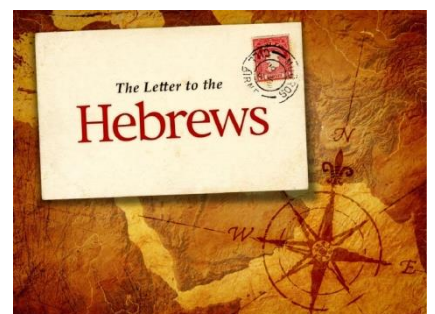
Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. — 1 Peter 5:8–9

Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison

Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

Wednesdays at 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 and would love to have you join us. Sign up at <https://npcmh.churchcenter.com/groups/small-groups>



Life Together

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Linda Sievwright
- 3 Janet Vandall
- 5 Lorraine Ledden
- 9 Christy Sechler
- 15 Colin Scruggs
- 15 Anne Wilkins
- 21 Joel Carnefix
- 22 Sandy Stafford
- 30 Meg Garrison



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- 20 Ed & Vera Campbell 1965
- 25 Joel & Virginia Carnefix 1964



Shout for joy
to the LORD,
all the earth...
~ Psalm 98:4

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

Prayer Requests:



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 and healing from her fall.

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

Julie Lerner is recovering well from heart valve replacement surgery.

Joel Carnefix is recovering from a medical issue during worship on October 24.

Katie & Carlos Vera need prayer as Katie serves at the University of Pennsylvania.

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.**

Operation Christmas Child Coming Soon

All Christmas Boxes are due on Sunday, November 7

It’s not too soon to think about Operation Christmas Child (shoeboxes). This year we have plenty of supplies, but we need monetary donations to help send the boxes on their way! You can make a donation to the church and write “Operation Christmas Child” in the memo line. If you’d like to pack your own box, we have boxes available in the church foyer. You can bring your filled boxes to the church on or before Sunday, November 7, and we’ll get them to the drop-off center. Please contact Sharon Bryant if you have any questions at 434-942-8566.



Missions, Outreach, and Evangelism Update



Christmas Cheer Boxes

This month's collection for the Christmas Cheer Boxes is canned meat and cereal.



Gleaning for the World

GFTW will meet on November 18 in the parking lot at 8:30 and return around 12:00.

MOE committee will meet November 17 in the Tatman Room at 6:00 pm.

Books and Cookies

The Women's Book Club will meet next on Thursday, November 11, at 10 a.m., at Sharon Bryant's home. They are reading *The Harbinger*.

On Thursday, December 9, the Book Club invites all the women in the church to a "cookie exchange" at Judy Reyburn's home. We will gather at 1:00 p.m. for a time of fellowship and holiday celebration. You are invited to read *The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci. Whether you read the book or not, you are welcome to attend. Watch your bulletin and the December newsletter for more details.



Don't Forget!

Turn your clocks back on Sunday, November 7, as Daylight Saving Time ends!



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2021

	SEPTEMBER	Y-T-D
Income*	17,555	167,151
Expenses	11,063	96,578
Balance	6,493	70,573

*Tatman 588.65

November Youth Ministry News & Info

Sundays from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

You can probably tell your teenagers are gaining more and more influence, authority, and power in their lives – even if it’s in small ways like having later curfews, getting car keys, or having more say in how they spend their time and money. You’ve probably also noticed they’re more vocal about their opinions of the power structures they see at home and in the media. And what happens when those in authority don’t behave in a way that’s worth following? Well in this series, In Charge, we’re inviting students to examine how Jesus turned the world upside down with the unexpected ways he used his power.



November 7: Jesus turned the idea of power upside down.

November 14: In the upside down kingdom, honor is greater than power.

November 21: In the upside down kingdom, power is for lifting up, not tearing down.

November 28: It’s Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas!

Join us @ Youth Group, Sundays, 6:30 p.m.

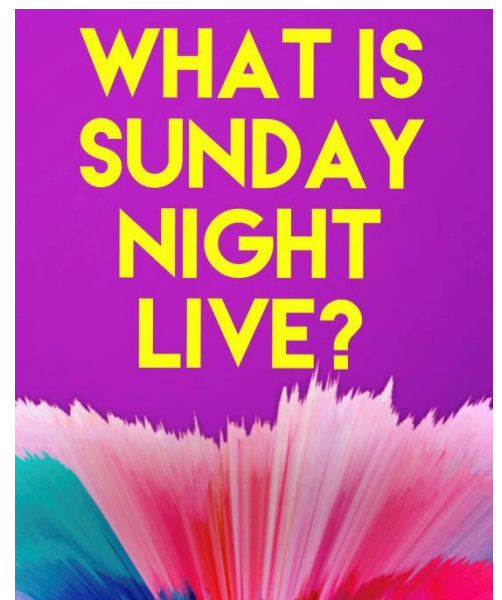
SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

What is Sunday Night Live?

For the past several years, we have had a strong and healthy youth ministry (grades 6th-12th) meeting on Sunday nights. But we got to thinking: Why should the teenagers be the only ones to have all the fun?! On Sunday nights we are looking to provide opportunities for everyone in the church to learn more about who Jesus is, grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, and build strong, healthy relationships with each other. Sunday Night Live provides age- and developmentally-appropriate programming, games and lessons to meet Christians of all ages wherever they may be in their walk with Jesus Christ.

Who is Sunday Night Live for?

Sunday Night Live is for anyone who wants to learn more about who Jesus Christ is and the life He offers each of us, and those who want to grow deeper in their relationship with Christ. Right now, we are offering two programs at Sunday Night Live. As more people plug in and express interest, we will expand the opportunities accordingly. If you're looking for a Sunday Night Live program, but don't fit in the groups we're already offering, just ask!



F.A.S.T (Fourth, Fifth And Sixth, Seventh Together)

Our late elementary & early middle school group is called FAST and is for all students in 4th through 7th grades.

Youth Group

The late middle school and high school group is called Youth Group (because we're just creative like that) and is for all students in 8th through 12th grades.

When Is Sunday Night Live?

Sunday Night Live is (somewhat obviously) every Sunday night, from 6:30-7:45pm. We will take some Sundays off for holidays and special events.

What Happens at Sunday Night Live?

Over the course of the evening, we'll play games, study the Bible, build relationships with each other, and share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Not Just Sunday Nights, Though

While our "program time" will be on Sunday evenings, we believe that we grow as followers of Christ throughout the week. A couple of key components of Sunday Night Live are devotionals for the students to use throughout the week, and emails for parents to help them connect with and grow alongside their students. We firmly believe that no one has more impact on the life of a student than his or her parents, and we want to come alongside parents as they grow with their children in their relationship with Jesus Christ!

Weekly Student Devotionals

Weekly student devotionals can be found by downloading the YouVersion Bible app (it's free!) from your phone's App Store.

Parent Cue Emails

Parent Cue emails are sent out at the beginning of each series. Simply let us know you'd like to receive these emails, and we'll be sure to add you to the list!

If you can't tell, we're really excited about Sunday Night Live. Whether you are a regular worshipper at Northminster or not, you and your student are welcome to join us. If you have questions that we didn't answer above, be sure to let us know!

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

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent
of Sunday School*

Vonnie Rucker, *Treasurer*

Debbie Irvine, *Secretary*

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!

