



# 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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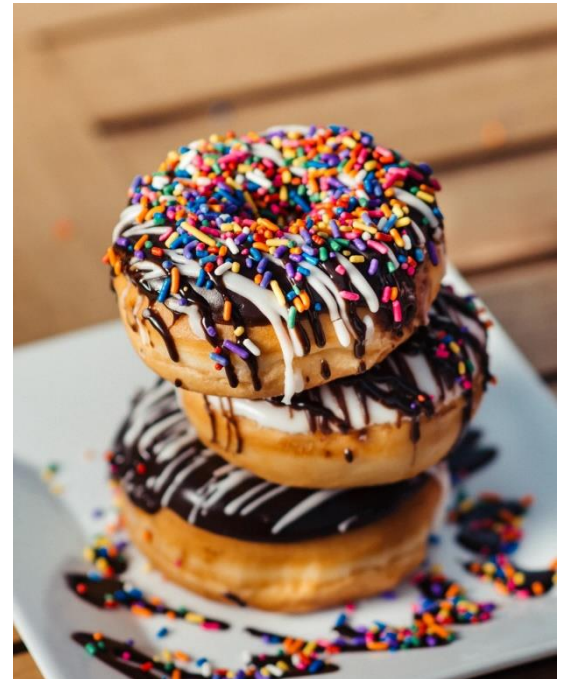


## Taste & See

*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!*

*Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! — Psalm 34:8*

Thursdays are becoming something of a problem for me. That's the day you'll find The Wandering Donut 2 in the Town & Country Shopping Center, and I am of the opinion that Wandering Donuts are some of the best donuts you can find in the greater Lynchburg metropolitan area (Mama Crocketts are pretty darned good, too). The only thing working in my favor is that I rarely drive past that shopping center — out of sight, (usually) out of mind. The thing about donuts, though, is that they aren't something you eat to satisfy your hunger; they provide very little nutritional value. The donut is entirely about the experience, about throwing a party for your taste buds, a little sweet something for your sensory system that brings a smile to your face. Talking about a donut doesn't come close to explaining what makes a good donut so incredibly fantastic; hearing others share their donut stories (like this article) can't convey the delight that a donut can deliver.



I enjoyed my donut this morning (a maple bacon donut, since you asked, which was invented in heaven and brought down to earth by the angels) alongside a steaming cup of coffee as I spent time in Scripture and prayer. As my soul was nourished by the Word and the Spirit, and my taste buds were tickled by sugar and bread, I thought of the Psalm quoted above. The life of faith, the journey of walking with Christ, is one that is meant to be experienced and savored. So often we intellectualize and compartmentalize our faith. We talk about it, we are inspired and encouraged by the stories others share of their relationship with God, we even spend time studying our faith and our Bibles. Those are

good things to do...but they can't compare to the actual experience of "taking refuge in the Lord," of "tasting and seeing that the LORD is good!"

In Revelation 10:8-11, the Apostle John is given a scroll by an angel, who says, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." (Rev. 10:9) We "taste and see" when we live out what we read in the Bible, when we spend time with the Lord in prayer, when we love our neighbor as ourselves, when we love the Lord with all of our heart, mind, body, and strength. Sometimes, that will taste bitter to us, such as when the Word of God or the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin. Often, it will be as sweet as honey, like when we are overwhelmed anew with the wonder of God's great love for us. Unlike a donut, any time spent in God's Word and in prayer, even if we aren't fully "tasting and seeing" is good for us. It really is a case of anything is better than nothing. But if infinite joy and delight, if "more and better life than you've ever dreamed of" (John 10:10, THE MESSAGE) is being offered to us, why wouldn't we want to experience as much of that as possible?

It's been almost an hour since I partook of that particularly potent pastry, and my taste buds are still smiling. Tasting the joy of the Lord satisfies our soul in a way that is far more rich, true and deep. What is keeping you from tasting and seeing the goodness of your Lord today? How might you experience His lovingkindness more fully this week? If that's something you'd like help with, reach out and let us know.

Blessings,  
Rev. David Garrison

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### *Speaking of Tasting...*

## **The Church Picnic Sunday, Oct. 3 @ 5 p.m.**

Please join us for our fall picnic! Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, and condiments will be provided. Please bring your favorite sides or desserts to share. There is a signup sheet on the table by the Tatman Room, so we know how much food to prepare. Or contact the church office if you are not currently able to worship in person.



# Life Together

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 13 Bobby Irvine  
Elizabeth Kidd
- 15 Robi Vandevander
- 16 Alayna Vandevander
- 18 George Brine  
Jonathan Bryant
- 19 Mickie Brine
- 21 Gabbi Scruggs
- 23 Debbie Irvine
- 26 Lois Stewart



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 26 Jeb & Beth Clarke, 2003



*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** had heart valve replacement surgery at the end of September.

**Sue Burnett** continues chemotherapy for lung cancer and is home and doing well after breaking her other hip.

**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.**

### **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2021**

	AUGUST	Y-T-D
Income*	11,642	149,598
Expenses	<u>11,184</u>	<u>85,327</u>
Balance	-458	64,271

\*Tatman 588.65

## Check Out the Library



With the evenings getting shorter and colder, it's the perfect time to curl up with a soft blanket, a hot cup of tea, and a good book. If you aren't sure what to read, why not stop by the church library and see what's available? There are plenty of options to choose from whether you enjoy romance, adventure, history, or all three. In the Christian fiction section authors like Dee Henderson, Gilbert Morris, and Jeanette Oke will warm your heart or keep you on the edge of your seat! Plus, there are nonfiction books as well. We hope you'll stop by and check some out! Happy reading!

# Missions, Outreach, and Evangelism Update



## Christmas Cheer Boxes

This month’s collection for the Christmas Cheer Boxes is dried goods—beans, rice, and pasta.



## Gleaning for the World

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. on 10/21/21 to go to Gleaning for the World. We usually return a few minutes after 12:00.

## Women’s Book Club

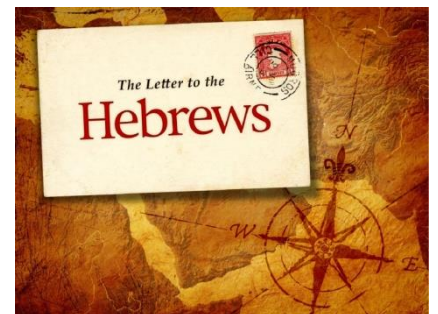
We will meet at June Hedrick’s home at 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 14, to discuss *Drenched in Light* by Lisa Wingate. For November we are reading *The Harbinger*, by Jonathan Cahn. We will meet at Sharon Bryant’s on November 11 at 10 a.m. On December 9, the Book Club will meet at Judy Reyburn’s to read a book about Christmas, although the title has yet to be decided. We hope you can join us!



## 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>



[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

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Superintendent of Sunday School*

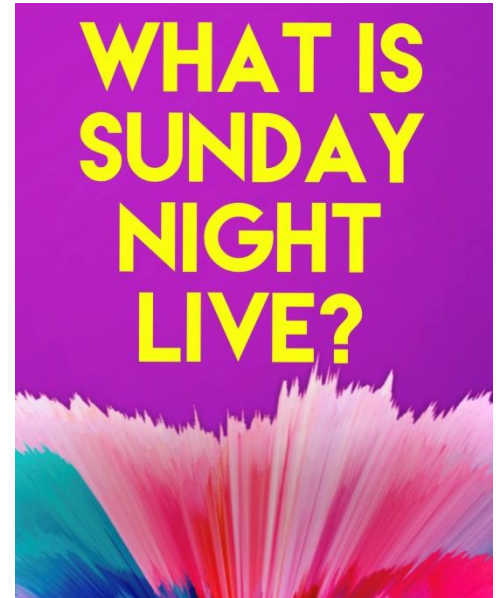
Vonnie Rucker, *Treasurer*

Sandy Stafford, *Secretary*

# 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.

*(continued on next page)*

### **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 and searching for the series title.

### **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!

## **Youth Ministry News & Info**

**Sundays from 6:30-7:45pm**

Sunday Night Live continues through October, and we'd love to have you join us! FAST (Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth, Seventh grades) and Youth Group (8th-12th grades) will be talking about the Upside Down Kingdom.

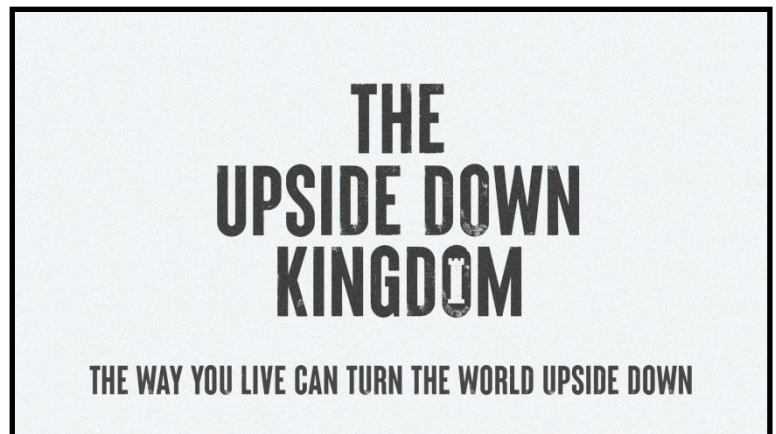
You can probably tell your teenagers are gaining more and more influence, authority, and power in their lives – even if it's in small ways like having later curfews, getting car keys, or having more say in how they spend their time and money. You've probably also noticed they're more vocal about their 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, The Upside Down Kingdom, we're inviting students to examine how Jesus turned the world upside down with the unexpected ways he used his power.

WEEK 1: Jesus turned the idea of power upside down.

WEEK 2: In the upside down kingdom, honor is greater than power.

WEEK 3: In the upside down kingdom, power is for lifting up, not tearing down.

Join us @ SNL, Sundays, 6:30 PM.



## God's Unscheduled Visits

The Scripture reading associated with my morning's devotion was the account of God "dropping by" to see Abraham, in Genesis 18. As I read about all the things Abraham did to welcome his "guests" and make them feel comfortable, I do realize that some of what he did was simply "how people did things" in those days. However, I also realize that it still took quite a bit of time/energy/resources to make all that "welcoming stuff" happen. And, the wonderful result of it was that God lingered, talked with him, reminded Abraham of past promises, and revealed to Abraham new things.



As I read that, I couldn't help but be respectfully jealous of Abraham. What wouldn't I give to have God "show up" in my life, and do those same things with and for me? And then it sadly occurred to me that very likely He already had shown up, probably many times, and I had just been too busy to notice, or too "booked up" to invite Him in. In other words, I had left no "margin" in my life for such things.

Dr. Richard Swensen, in his book *Margin*, in various ways describes "margin" as the difference between the things demanded of us (or responsibilities voluntarily taken on by us), and the mental/physical/spiritual/financial capital we have available to apply to those things. His assertion (which I totally agree with) is that VERY few people have afforded themselves any "margin."

That implies that most, if not all, people do have some input as to the amount of "margin" they have, or don't have. And that led me to question, once again, how much "margin" I have in my own life. More specifically, when it comes to having any "margin" for God...have I left any time, energy, or attention in my life for God, for the times He would choose to "drop by"? In an age where our busyness and productivity and zero down-time schedules seem to be the measure of our value, have I bought into that (erroneous) assessment, too?

It seems I have to regularly remind myself that enjoying the onward march of progress does not have to also mean a day filled beyond capacity in order to keep up with that progress. Nor does it mean that progress is the be-all, end-all prize. The be-all, end-all prize is what GOD says and shows it to be. And in order to benefit from that, I need to remember that my times with God, and His decisions about when to "show up", are not schedulable.

It may not "suit" God to only show up during my daily or weekly 10:37-10:42 p.m. calendar time-slot. And the sobering question I need to resolve is...WHO is the ultimate loser when I'm too booked-up to have time for God's unscheduled visits?

*In Christ's Name and for His sake – your brother in Christ – Harry*

## Holy Land 2022 — February 23<sup>rd</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>



{ 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!*