



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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18 Months

It's now been just about 18 months since this pandemic really started exploding across our country, and what a rollercoaster of an 18 months it's been. There were the first few months of initial fear when everything shut down in March of 2020. But as we moved through the summer and the infection numbers in central Virginia stayed relatively low, we began to hope that things would return to normal by the fall, if not Christmas. With the return of school (although not "normal" school) in the fall, that hope continued to rise. But then as we moved into December and January, we saw a severe spike in infections in our area, and our hope began to fade. But then the vaccines became widely available, and numbers began to shrink again through the spring of 2021 - the end seemed to be in sight! Hope burned more brightly through this summer, as numbers in our area continued to decrease and plans to go back to "normal" school were put in place...but an anxiety lurked under the surface as news of highly contagious variants began to spread. And then school did begin, just last week (at the time I'm writing this). Now here we are today, on August 26, after only 6 schooldays, and all secondary schools in Amherst County are closed for a week and the Delta variant is running rampant in our area. Is this ever going to end? What do we do? How are we to hold on to hope in this midst of this rollercoaster of uncertainty?

Consider the wisdom of Psalm 40:

*I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the LORD. (Psalm 40:1-3)*



Whenever I read this Psalm, I always think of the picture of the lighthouse above. Look closely. Do you see the man standing in the doorway, completely at ease as these giant waves crash around him? He is still in the midst of the storm, but God has set him securely on the rock and protected him from harm. We would all prefer that

God bring an end to this pandemic, and one day He surely will. In the meantime though, He invites us to trust Him even in the midst of the storm. Whether that storm is a pandemic, the loss of a job, a crisis of health, being persecuted for your faith, or any other number of things, the counsel is still the same. Trust in the Lord. He likely won't remove the storm, but He will hold you safe and secure in the midst of the storm.

As we all become worn out and weary, tempted to lose hope that COVID will ever go away, hold fast to the Lord. Continue to cry out to Him and trust in Him. He might not remove the storm, but He will set your feet on the Rock of Jesus Christ and secure you. As you find His peace in the midst of the storm, may you find yourself singing a new song of praise to Him.

Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison



SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE is finally here!

For All Students in 4th-12th Grades

Mark your calendars and plan to join us on **Sunday, September 12, at 6:30 p.m.** for the kickoff of *Sunday Night Live!* This is a *brand new* opportunity to teach our children and youth about the fullness of life offered by Jesus Christ and how to live as His disciples. With age-appropriate and focused lessons and games, we're really excited to see how *Sunday Night Live* encourages our children and youth in their walk with the Lord and their families as well. Want to know more? Plan to join us September 12!

***Note: Feeling left out? Wish there was a Sunday Night Live opportunity for your younger children or perhaps for adults? Talk to Sharon Bryant, chair of Christian Education, or David Garrison. While we're starting out focused on 4th-12th grades, we'd love to expand beyond that. All you have to do is let us know you're interested!*

Life Together

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jeb Clarke
- 8 Addison Clarke (2013)
- 10 Dot Stinnett
- 11 Ian Moore I
- 11 Caiti Vera
- 16 Ray Vandall
- 17 Beth Clarke
- 19 Sharon Bryant
- 23 Peggy Wright
- 27 Tim Wright



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Anne & Vance Wilkins, 2007
- 5 Janet & Ray Vandall, 1956
- 10 George & Mickie Brine, 1977
- 10 George & Linda Sievwright III, 1977
- 13 Kristin & David Kidd, 2014
- 18 David & Karey Garrison, 1999
- 21 Beverly & George O'Brien, 1974



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

Prayer Requests:



Peggy Wright is still healing from a minor stroke several months ago.

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

Lorraine Ledden fell. Please pray for her to heal quickly.

Julie Lerner will have 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.

Caiti & Carlos Vera need prayer as they move to PA where Caiti will serve at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mandy & Chris Newsome, Harry & Vonnie's daughter & son-in-law, tested positive for COVID.

David Dudley Jr, Megan Aderholt's stepfather, tested positive for COVID.

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

	JULY	Y-T-D
Income*	11,717	137,956
Expenses	<u>12,819</u>	<u>74,143</u>
Balance	-1,102	63,813

*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

Youth Ministry News & Info

2021 Youth Group Fall Kickoff
Sunday, September 12
6:30-7:30pm

Youth group returns to its weekly schedule on Sunday, September 12, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Northminster! We have a lot of great things planned for this coming year and can't wait to see y'all there. Check out the **Sunday Night Live** announcement for more info.

The Big Questions

We all ask questions. And not just about what's for dinner, what to wear or who serves the better chicken sandwich: Popeye's or Chick-fil-a. At some point, we ask the bigger questions of life. Things like, *who am I? Where do I fit? And do I matter?* Following Jesus helps us address these questions in a meaningful way, which is exactly what we'll do in this series, The Big Questions.

Join us @ Youth Group, Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m. beginning September 12.



Missions, Outreach, and Evangelism Update



Christmas Cheer Boxes Canned Fruit & Pasta Sauce

This month's Christmas Cheer Box collection items are canned fruit and pasta sauce. Please place any donations in the bin by the front door.



Gleaning for the World

Volunteers for Gleaning for the World will meet at 8:30 a.m. on September 16 to carpool. We will return to the church about 12:30 p.m.



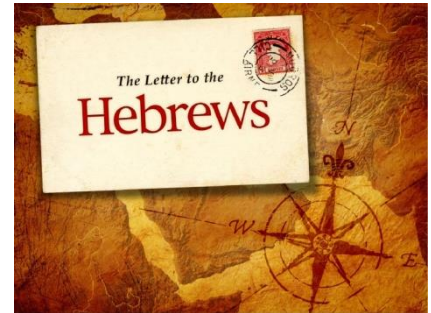
Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

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. 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>



Ladies of the Church Coffee Hour

Saturday, September 4, 11 a.m. @ Baine's (Second Stage)

Let's have another "Coffee Hour" at Baine's Books & Coffee, Second Stage in Amherst. Meet together on Saturday, Sept. 4 at 11 a.m. Enjoy a refreshing coffee or tea, even lunch if you wish, with your sisters from Northminster.

No response necessary. Just show up!

Women's Book Club

We will meet next on Sept. 23 at the Bryants' place in Monacan Park. We will be reading/discussing *A Little Slice of Heaven*, by Angela Woodruff Scott. "On an out-of-the-way corner of a Virginia country road, four generations of the indomitable Woodruff family struggled and overcame impossible odds to create Woodruff's Cafe & Pie Shop, home of what Southern Living magazine called 'the best apple pie ever (yes, really ever).'"

In October we will meet at June Hedrick's home at 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 14, discussing *Drenched in Light* by Lisa Wingate.





COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Join our neighbor churches in a
night of worship.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 | 6:30 PM
MADISON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH

An offering for our Christmas Cheer Baskets
will be taken during this event.

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.

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")

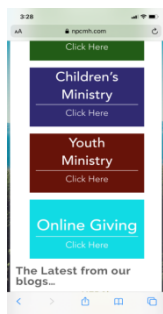
Facebook

www.facebook.com/npcmh

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCl-8UYbBtfkYSO-QbVGmakQ>

(Tip: find it more easily by going to www.youtube.com and search for "Northminster Clearview")



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).