



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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Trust and Hope

¹Yahweh, my heart is not haughty, I do not set my sights too high. I have taken no part in great affairs, in wonders beyond my scope. ²No, I hold myself in quiet and silence, like a little child in its mother's arms, like a little child, so I keep myself. ³Let Israel hope in Yahweh henceforth and for ever.

(Psalm 131, New Jerusalem Bible)



Every once in a while you happen across a passage of scripture that catches you off guard. At first, you think, "that's a nice Psalm." But then you keep thinking about it. A few hours later, it becomes, "man, I can't get that Psalm out of my mind." As the hours turn to days, you start to think, "Yeah, there's something going on here. Why is this Psalm continuing to rattle around in my head?" If you haven't already, this is the point when our thinking should turn into praying. We ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and soften our hearts in order to hear what He is trying to tell us.

That's what happened to me just a few weeks ago. I came across this Psalm in preparation for last month's Session meeting. It made a very nice opening devotion for our meeting. But then I couldn't stop thinking about the Psalm. I love the imagery it uses — the idea of resting contentedly in God's arms the way a little child rests in his mother's arms speaks to the deep longing of my soul. But that's not the part that stuck with me. It was the first verse that wouldn't leave me alone. The hard truth of the matter that I'd prefer not to admit is that my heart is inclined toward haughtiness. I do tend to set my sights too high. I am prone to thinking that I'm the one who has to solve all of life's problems, in great affairs and wonders beyond my scope. It's not that I'm terribly arrogant or boastful, rather more that I often think it's my responsibility to figure everything out and know what the right course or solution should be. I am often discontent with my lot, and think it's up to me to change it.

But that isn't what God wants from me, or from us. Rather, we're invited and encouraged to be still and quiet, to rest contentedly in His arms. That's the image of verse 2. A child, whose every need has been met and trusts fully in her mother, peacefully at sleep, without a fear or worry. That is the kind of relationship God yearns to have with us. God yearns to provide for our every need, to keep us safe and secure, to hold us warmly and tenderly so we can rest in Him without fear or worry. What keeps us from experiencing that kind of love is our discontent, our constant striving for more... in other words, the haughtiness of our hearts and the setting of our sights too high.

The Holy Spirit is still convicting me through this Psalm. My soul yearns for this peace and rest, but my heart resists. I find myself praying through this Psalm and also Paul's words in Romans 7: "I do not understand my own behavior; I do not act as I mean to, but I do things that I hate" (Rom. 7:15). Maybe that's something you find happening in your heart and soul as well. That's ok; it's part of the journey. As soon as we learn to trust God a little bit, He invites us to take the next step and trust Him even more deeply. To steadily and steadfastly rest in Him more and more; to become progressively more content with His provision. It's easier said than done, but the rewards are well worth it.

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Phil. 4:11–13)

Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison

2022 March Youth Ministry News & Info

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

Where did the idea of "finding the one" come from in the first place? If having that idea looming over you while dating in high school seems like a lot of pressure...that's because it is! So, what if dating in high school wasn't that high-stakes? Instead, what if dating in high school could be more about who you're becoming, and less about finding your "one"? In this 4-week series—for those who are currently dating and those who aren't—we focus on how **becoming** the one is better than **finding** the one, fighting unhealthy obsession, and dealing with breakups. This series challenges students to pick their perspective when it comes to dating and disappointment.



March 6: A breakup doesn't have to break you.

March 13: You pick your perspective.

March 20: ****New Series**** Prism: You can be close to God.

March 27: Prism: You can be part of making wrong things right.

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

Life Together

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

- 7 Ron Reyburn
- 8 Beverly O'Brien
- 15 Clellan Vandevander
- 16 Leonard Rowe
- 24 Ernie Baker
- 26 Maggie Brockman
- 28 David Garrison
- 31 Bryce Brine
- 31 Wyatt Sievwright



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Caiti & Carlos Vera, March 20, 2014

Pastor's Midweek Bible Study

We will be meeting Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. through Lent due to the Lenten services at noon.

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>

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

Prayer Requests:



Tim Wright had been diagnosed with stage 3 kidney failure, but he recently received news that his numbers have significantly improved. Please pray for his numbers to continue improving.

Delores & Jimmy Wright have both been diagnosed with COVID. Please pray for their quick recovery.

Ray Vandall, as he continues to wait for his hip replacement surgery to be scheduled.

Caiti & Carlos Vera need prayer as Caiti moves to California to be near Carlos.

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.**



Our Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Michael and Janel Babcock on the passing of Michael's father, Jerry Babcock, on Wednesday, February 2. While we rejoice in his entering the Kingdom Triumphant, we grieve his absence on earth.

Missions, Outreach, and Evangelism Update

Why We Serve

The love God has for you is abiding and constant. Ephesians 1:4 tells us that before we were born God loved us. You cannot earn God's favor. Doing good doesn't make God love you more. So then, why do we serve?

The prize for a Christian, whether in this life or the next, is the presence of God. Psalm 84:10 tells us that a single day in God's presence is better than a thousand anywhere else. Service to others makes us aware of God at work in our community and His presence with us now. Service isn't us doing something for God. It is us seeing what God is doing in Amherst County, how the Kingdom of God IS coming here and now. Service is not us working FOR God...it is God working IN us, changing us more and more into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

If you need help finding the right area of service, feel free to reach out to anyone on the MOE committee. We would be delighted to assist you. MOE members are Don and June Hedrick, Harry and Vonnie Rucker, and Maggie Brockman.

Last month we have provided an infant car seat for a premature baby in Madison Heights and have donated \$200 to Burundi Hope for teaching supplies for the deaf school.



Our committee will meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2.

We will go to Gleaning for the World on Thursday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day). Meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. if you would like to carpool, and we usually work from 9:00-11:30 a.m. We'd love to have you join us!

The Women's Book Club

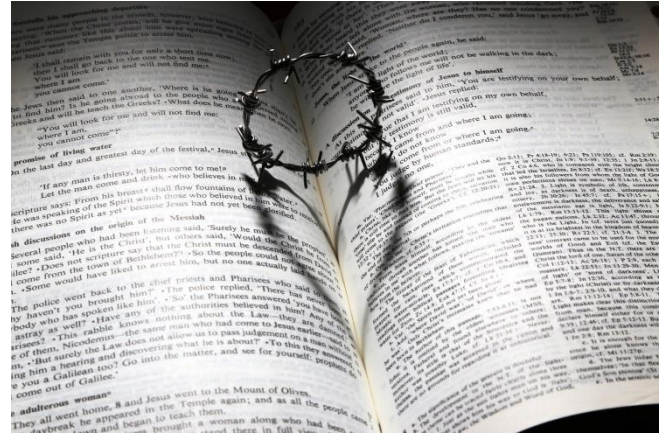
The Women's Book Club is meeting Thursday, March 10, at 10 a.m. at the home of Liz Boothe. They are reading *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*, by Robert Dugoni. (His name is Samuel Hill, but you will quickly understand the title.) Ladies, you don't want to miss the discussion of this thought-provoking novel about the effects of bullying, friendships, and the devout faith of a mother who knew her son would live an "extraordinary" life, the life God had planned for him. Please let Liz know if you attend.



2022 Lenten Services

Wednesdays at noon

This Lenten season we're partnering with our friends at Randolph Memorial Baptist Church, Madison Heights Baptist Church, Madison Heights Community Church, Rose Chapel, and Amelon United Methodist Church for a series of worship services. Each Wednesday at noon, you're invited to join us for a 30 minute worship service (we will not be serving lunch at any of the churches this year) to help us focus on and celebrate what God has done and is doing as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Each week a different church will host the services. We look forward to seeing you there!



Date	HOST CHURCH	PREACHER
March 2 (Ash Wed.)	Amelon UMC	Derik Hamby
March 9	Madison Heights Baptist	Dave Edinger
March 16	Randolph Memorial	Donald Hamlette
March 23	Rose Chapel	David Garrison
March 30	Northminster	George Harris
April 6	Madison Heights Christian	John Moxley and Sara Hubble

Northminster on the 'Net

Check us out online!

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/UCI-8UYbBtfkYSo-QbVGmakQ>
(Tip: find it more easily by going to www.youtube.com and search for "Northminster Clearview")

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

GENERAL FUND

January Y-T-D

Income*	11,545	11,545
Expenses	11,107	11,107
Balance	438	438

*Tatman 1,334.00

Have we outgrown heartfelt innocent worship?

Priscilla Shirer tells of something that happened at a women's conference where she once spoke. During the praise and worship time, she noticed a young girl who was so involved in worship that she literally danced right out of her seat and proceeded to demonstrate acts of worship up the aisle and all the way to the front of the room. This seemed to cause a bit of consternation to some of the more mature and reserved people in the crowd, but that did not seem to bother this young lady at all.

Afterward, Priscilla found out this young woman was autistic—a 2-year-old trapped in the body of a 17-year-old. Priscilla then shared these thought-provoking comments about the young lady and this situation: *"Apparently she hadn't learned that her style of worship should please and impress people. Her worship hadn't been tainted with religious pomp and circumstance. She didn't pay attention to the people around her or worry about what they might think of her. Out of her childlike relationship with her Savior, she just gave Him everything she had."*



Perhaps we need to ask ourselves a hard question: Do we have a childlike relationship with the Lord Jesus, our Savior? Or have we become "too grown up" to humbly and unashamedly receive what He has for us, and offer back to Him thanks and worship in a demonstrable way? Are we too dignified to respond wholeheartedly, like a child would? If so, could distance be at least one reason why we don't hear His voice more clearly?

One thing I have NEVER FOUND in my Bible reading is a place where God says, "Stop all that worship – you're embarrassing Me. Be a little more reserved and dignified and somber." Other *humans* have a problem with extravagant worship (*David's wife Michal is one famous example*), but you never see God telling anyone that they are showing their worshipful love for Him "too expressively."

Chris Tiegreen says that it *seems* that many people have, somewhere along the way, been "conditioned out of" their childlike faith and innocence. Perhaps through some unanswered prayer, or some teaching that downplays God's promises and instead focuses on all the caveats and fine print of those promises. Have we lost the wonder of His transcendence? Have we "gotten used to" the salvation He provides? Do we interact with Him transactionally, but not like Father-child?

Whatever the reason, maybe He just isn't as special to us as He used to be. Maybe being reserved in worship is just *more comfortable* than being looked at as if some emotion we've expressed is just unwarranted and/or out of place.

What describes us, in *our* times of worship? Does our heartfelt expression of loving worship of Jesus outweigh what anyone else thinks about the way we express that love?

Hannah Whitall Smith says that **"A child lives by faith, and his chief characteristic is freedom from care."**

Your friend and brother in Christ - Harry

Excerpt from *He Speaks To Me* © 2006 by Priscilla Shirer; Moody Press

And *Praying in Faith* © 2021 by Chris Tiegreen; Tyndale Publishing

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DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session,*

Liz Boothe, Maggie Brockman

Sharon Bryant, John Lange, Judy Reyburn

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Sunday school*

Superintendent

Vonnie Rucker, *Treasurer*