



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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Irritating

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (Rom. 7:21–24)

We are deep in the throes of pollen season. You can't really miss it, since we're all driving greenish-yellow cars right now. It is arguably the most singularly irritating season of the entire year. If you suffer from allergies, it's torture. If you don't, it's irritating. The pollen gets everywhere and covers everything. Occasionally you can even see clouds of the stuff blowing out of the trees, but even when you can't, you can taste it every time you step outside. Constant sneezing, runny noses, and itchy eyes are part and parcel these days. Considering how small pollen particles are, it's pretty impressive how much trouble they cause.



The only relief we can look forward to is the next rain shower. For a brief moment, perhaps a few hours or even a day if we're lucky, the rain will wash the pollen away. Our cars return to their usual colors, our decks and homes are washed clean, and the air doesn't attack our nasal passages. For a little while, at least. Of course, that very rain triggers even more pollen to come, but I'm working on an analogy here so let's not push things farther than they're meant to go.

We focus a lot of our time and energy on avoiding the "big" sins (such as sexual immorality, rage, jealousy, envy, drunkenness and the others listed in Galatians 5:19-21), which we should. But sometimes I think we forget about the "small" sins, or we think they're not that big of a deal. As long as we're not "too bad" then we should be ok, right? However, kind of like pollen, those small sins can become big irritants. If we don't attend to the small sins in addition to the big ones, they can irritate our faith and our walk with the Lord. The simple truth is that sin is sin, regardless of its size.

Just like we yearn for rain to wash the pollen away, we can rest assured that, through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can "*draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water*" (Heb. 10:22). Jesus didn't

just cleanse us of the “big” sins, but the “small” ones too. The pure water of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God wash us clean. May we take all of our sins to the cleansing waters of the Holy Spirit so that we can be refreshed, renewed and restored.

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:25–27)

Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison

Missions, Outreach, and Evangelism Update

One Truth

I don't know about you, but I find sharing Jesus with a stranger difficult. What if they ask a question I can't answer? I don't know everything in the Bible; I'm not sure I know enough.

My friends, you don't have to know everything. You just have to know one thing, one truth. Jesus came to make a relationship with God possible. On this truth you can plant both feet and stand secure. You don't have to be eloquent. You don't have to be educated. You do have to be sincere – sincere in your love for Jesus and sincere in your love for others.

In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul tells us that love never fails. Isaiah tells us that God's word accomplishes what He sends it to do. So when an opportunity presents itself for you to share Jesus, you can speak one truth confidently with love, resting on the knowledge that God Himself is responsible for the outcome. We are simply the messengers.

1 Peter 3 15-16 says, “And if someone asks you about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way.”

And if, perhaps, questions do arise that you can't answer, what a great opportunity to extend an invitation to attend church!

MOE Meeting May 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Tatman Room.

Gleaning for the World – May 19, 8:30 a.m. carpool from church parking lot. Return at 11:30 a.m.

May collection for the Meals on Wheels Birthday Boxes – lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes



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

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 recovery.

Ray Vandall continues to heal from his hip replacement surgery. Praise the Lord, the surgery went well!

Barbara Baker asks for prayers for her niece, **Sheila Layton**, who is recovering from breast cancer surgery. This was to address a recurrence of the cancer after 26 years.

Dot Stinnett fell a few days ago and broke three ribs. She is currently at LGH for care and treatment.

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: **Leonard Rowe and Margaret Watts.**

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

GENERAL FUND

	March	Y-T-D
Income	8,736	29,323
Expenses	<u>12,074</u>	<u>37,619</u>
Balance	-3,338	-8,296



The Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet on Thursday, May 12, at 10 a.m. at the Bryants' dock in Monacan Park. In case of inclement weather, they will meet at Sharon Bryant's home. They are reading **The Rose Code** by Kate Quinn. This historical fiction is based on women in England during WWII who cracked code for the war effort. Please let Sharon know if you will be attending.

HUNDRED MILE YARD SALE FOR YOUTH

Do you want to help our youth and get rid of used items at the same time?

On Saturday, May 7, the Northminster Youth Group will be “renting” the church’s parking lot spaces and tables to church members, friends, and family who would like to participate in the HUNDRED MILE YARD SALE that will be passing through from May 5-8.



Renters bring their own supplies and keep their profits, but pay \$5 per parking space; you can buy 3 or 4 spaces if you have a lot to sell! If you want, you can also rent a table from the fellowship hall for \$5 per table, ordered ahead of time and set up in advance by our youth.

In addition, the youth will be hosting a bake sale on the premises with baked goods and water bottles donated by church members.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to send the youth to Fun in the Sun Summer Camp. Sign up by using the blue tear-off sheet located on the table outside the sanctuary.

Faith, Family, and the Right Flour

Woodruff’s Cafe’ and Pie Shop opened in January 1952 as a general store on land owned by Angie Woodruff’s grandfather. They sold gas, oil, chicken and hog feed, and grocery items. Her father and friends built the building out of cinderblock and the family lived above the store.

After 30 years the general store closed, unable to compete with big grocery chains. The building sat empty for several years before becoming apartments and then a fish market for a couple of years.

When Angie attended a family reunion in the 1990s on her father’s side of the family, she learned more of the history of her family in the area. **And you can learn more, too, because Angie is coming to Northminster!**

On **Sunday, May 15, following worship** we will have a potluck where Angie and her family will share some of their history. Please join us to hear more about Angie and the whole Woodruff family. Bring your favorite dish to share. Pie and drinks will be provided.

Anyone interested in reading *A Little Slice of Heaven* by Angie Woodruff Scott can borrow the book from Sharon Bryant, Anne Wilkins, June Hedrick, or Mary Wilhelm. You can also visit Amherst Public Library (two copies) or Lynchburg Public Library. Liz Booth is happy to help find the book in the library system.



Good Always

Romans 12:21 reminds us of the following truth: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

That’s a great challenge, but also a hard one. Every one of us knows that we cannot accomplish this without being filled by the goodness of God, and that’s made possible only by the enabling of the Spirit of God.

Chris Tiegreen has this to say about the goodness to be found in a Christian’s life:

The Christian’s life is to be marked by constant goodness in his or her relationships. When everyone is nice to us, we are to be good. When people are rude and offensive, we are to be good. When we are slandered or threatened or stolen from, we are still to find a way to maintain a posture of goodness, even in the midst of that. There is no loophole for us; we are always to be good. WHY? Because we are made (and remade) into the very image of a very good God.

As we’ve said before...for others to yearn for the Kingdom of God, they sometimes need to see the Kingdom of God. And...we may very well be the only glimpse of His Kingdom that some people will see.

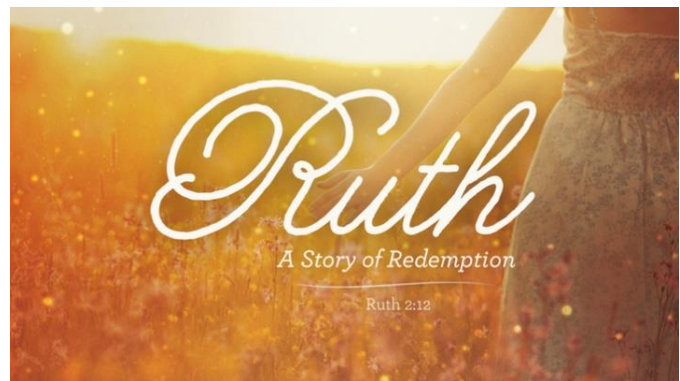
Your friend and brother in Christ

<><

Harry

Excerpt from Indeed devotional – walkthrough.org

Join us Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.
for our latest sermon series,
“Ruth: A Story of Redemption.”



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Sharon Bryant, John Lange, Judy Reyburn

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