



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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Left On 'Read'

*O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath.
Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;
heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.
My soul also is greatly troubled.
But you, O LORD—how long? – Psalm 6:1–3*



If you are looking for a way to annoy a teenager (and really, who isn't? It's so much fun!), one of the best ways is to read a text message they send you and not respond to it. This might be a trick that only works on iPhones, but here's the basic idea. iPhones can send a status update for texts sent to other iPhones, letting the sender know when the message was delivered and read (you can see an example in the picture, look below the text bubble that says "on"). It absolutely drives my daughter crazy when I read her text messages and don't reply promptly. It upsets her because she knows I've received her message, and I've even read it, but I haven't yet answered her. The first time she called me out on it, she exclaimed, "Dad, you left me on 'read'!" I had no idea what she meant until she explained it to me. While that time was accidental, I now do it all the time, just to annoy her.

The thing is, though, I always respond to her messages, but I don't always do so via text. I might wait until the next time I see her. I might choose to respond with actions instead of words. I might respond to the text message with an email or a phone call. Sometimes, I'll respond through her mother or brother. I don't actually do this to annoy her (most of the time), but because I think those might be more efficient or effective ways to respond at the time.

This has been on my mind lately, because I think there are a lot of times when it feels like God has left us on 'read.' We pray, but we don't hear an answer... or maybe the better way to say it is that we don't receive an answer from Him in the way we would prefer. If my daughter texts me, she would like a text message back. Promptly. Sometimes, God answers our prayers in very different ways from what we might prefer or desire. Sometimes, He answers our prayers weeks, months, sometimes even years after we lift them up to Him. We know God hears our prayers, the Psalms remind us of that all the time (see Psalm 3:4, 4:3 17:6, 55:17, and 116:1), but it seems like God leaves us on 'read' when He doesn't answer our prayers when or how we would like.

But God does, in fact, always hear our prayers. And He always answers them. Our task is to trust in Him and wait patiently for His answer. His timing is always perfect, and His methods are precisely what we need. The question is, when God seemingly leaves us on 'read,' will we continue to trust in Him?

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

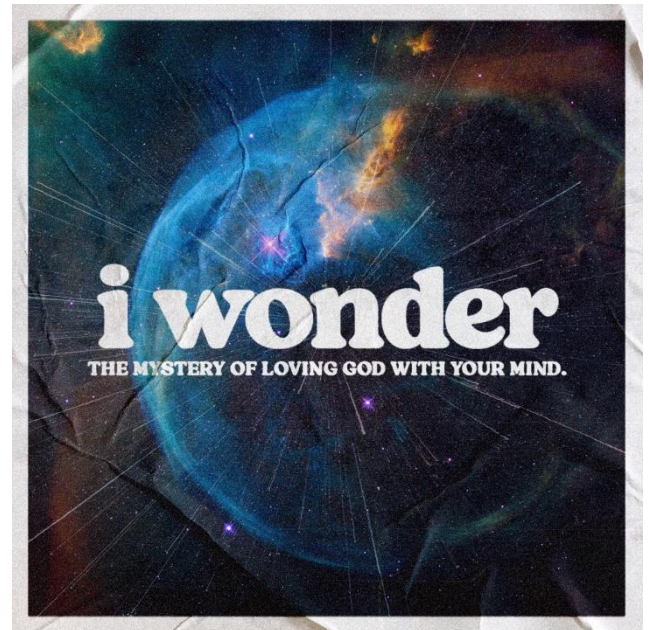
Blessings,
Rev. David Garrison

Youth Ministry News & Info

2022 Youth Group Fall Kickoff
Sunday, September 11 from 6:30-7:30pm

Youth group returns to its weekly schedule on Sunday, September 11, 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.

Science and faith don't always seem like they can coexist. And what should we do when we feel the tension between the two? Do we have to choose between using their brain or building their faith? In this series, we'll discover how to seek answers for the things we wonder about while continuing to be filled with wonder about a God who goes beyond our understanding. Figuring out how to love God with all of your mind doesn't have to be a mystery anymore. In fact, we'll learn that embracing your intellect by exploring science might just be one of the best ways to expand your faith.



Join us @ Youth Group, Sundays, 6:30 p.m. beginning September 11.

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



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

Prayer Requests:



Tim Wright will be having knee surgery. Please pray for a successful surgery and a smooth recovery.

Debbie Moore will be having surgery later this summer to address a severe case of carpal tunnel syndrome.

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.

All medical personnel who have continued serving those with coronavirus in spite of the possibility of getting infected themselves.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

GENERAL FUND

	July	Y-T-D
Income	10,461	74,555
Expenses	<u>10,840</u>	<u>81,980</u>
Balance	-379	-7,425



Our Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Albert D. Garrett, Jr. on his passing from this life into Eternity on Thursday, August 18. While we rejoice that Albert is safe in the arms of his Savior, we mourn his loss on Earth.

Missions Outreach and Evangelism

Christmas Cheer Boxes – Again this year we are partnering with Amelon United Methodist, Randolph Memorial Baptist and Madison Heights Baptist churches to collect items for Christmas Cheer Boxes. Last year 140 boxes were delivered. The collection bin is by the front door.

September's items are peanut butter and jelly.

Gleaning for the World – September 15. Meet at the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. We will work from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If you have never participated before, please consider joining us.

MOE Meeting Monday, September 12, at 1:00 p.m.



Joan Ricketts Body Life Fund

Following the lead of Pastor Ray Steadman in his book, *Body Life*, Northminster seeks to be the body of Christ. One way of doing this is by reaching out not only to people in our community, but also assisting members of our own congregation who find themselves in a financial crisis.

When a family in the church has special needs that they were unable to meet, perhaps due to losing a job, or some sort of crisis, money from the Body Life Fund can be requested to help. While money does not usually solve people's problems, it can be a source of great encouragement to a family that is struggling through a crisis. Although the church cannot fully support a family that is out of work, any financial help is usually appreciated greatly, and tells them that the church truly cares.

Northminster's "Body Life Fund" was established in 2002 and named in honor of Joan Ricketts.

Funding for the Body Life Fund occurs through contributions made directly to Body Life, not from the general income. Over the past several years, we been blessed to be able to provide special assistance to many in our congregation. As a result, the balance in the fund right now is very low. We invite you to prayerfully consider making a special donation, above and beyond your regular giving, to help replenish this fund so that we might be able to bless others in our church family should the need arise.



The Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet on **Thursday, September 22, at 10 a.m.** They will be reading *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brandon Slocum. Ray McMillian has faced untold obstacles to make it in the cutthroat world of classical music, but when his precious violin is stolen on the eve of his greatest performance, will he be able to face yet one more obstacle that stands in the way of his dreams? All women are welcome!

How We Worship – A Focus on Holy Communion

Here at Northminster, we celebrate the sacrament of **Holy Communion**, also referred to as the **Lord's Supper**, on the first Sunday of each month. In preparing to write this newsletter article, I took a retired reference librarian's approach by checking several reference sources!

The website of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the oldest English-language general encyclopedia, provides an introductory article on the Eucharist with a historical perspective. Here are some excerpts:



In Christianity, the Eucharist, also known as **Holy Communion** or **Lord's Supper** is a ritual commemoration of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. The Eucharist (from the Greek *eucharistia* for "thanksgiving") is the central act of Christian worship and is practiced by most Christian churches in some form.

Its Origin in Scripture. The story of the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus on the night before his Crucifixion is reported in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; and Luke 22:17–20) and in the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (I Corinthians 11:23–25). According to the Gospel accounts, Jesus established the practice at the Last Supper, a traditional Passover seder, when he blessed the bread, which he said was his body, and shared it with his disciples. He then shared a cup of wine with his disciples and told them that "this is the blood of my covenant, which is poured out for many." According to St. Luke, Jesus called on his followers to repeat the ceremony in his memory, and the letters of the Apostle Paul and the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament demonstrate that early Christians believed that they were to continue the celebration as an anticipation in this life of the joys of the banquet that was to come in the kingdom of God.

Did You Know?

World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by many Christian denominations, taking place on the first Sunday of every October, that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. The tradition was begun in 1933 by Hugh Thomson Kerr who ministered in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. This year it will be observed on October 2, 2022.

In the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, discussion of the Lord's Supper can be found in our denomination's doctrinal foundation, the **Westminster Confession of Faith** including the **Larger and Shorter Catechisms**). Our **Book of Worship** (part of the **Book of Order**) provides instruction on what Holy Communion is and how it is to be administered. Highlights include:

What is Communion. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus on the night of His betrayal. It is to be celebrated until the end of the world as a perpetual remembrance of what He did for mankind on the cross. The Lord's Supper is a seal of all those benefits of Calvary for believers and signifies their spiritual growth and nourishment. It is a bond and pledge of the communion of believers with Jesus Christ and with each other as parts of the Church

The frequency of the Lord's Supper. The Session is responsible for determining the frequency of celebration of the Lord's Supper. It is proper to observe it as often as each Lord's Day, but it should be observed at least quarterly.

The place of the Lords Supper. The Lord's Supper is a part of the worship of God's people. For that reason, it should be celebrated ordinarily as a part of a regular service of worship. The observance of the sacrament should always be in conjunction with the reading and preaching of the Word, with the prayers of the people accompanied with hymns of praise.

Whenever we participate in the Breaking of the Bread, let us all reflect and remember.....

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus on the night of His betrayal. It is to be celebrated until the end of the world as a perpetual remembrance of what He did for mankind on the cross.

Liz Boothe

Chair, Worship Committee

Ministry Opportunity – Holy Communion Preparation

Would you be interested in assisting with preparation of Holy Communion? Our Worship Committee has several people who faithfully help each month, but we can always use more willing workers! There are numerous activities you could help with, including:

- Purchasing or making communion supplies including bread and grape juice
- Setting up plates of bread and cups of grape juice and placing on the communion table
- Setting up paraments on the Communion Table
- Moving the heavy Communion Table from the front of the sanctuary down to the floor before the Sunday service and moving it back afterwards.
- After the service, removing communion cups from the sanctuary pews, cleaning bread plates, communion trays, and chalice, and removing paraments from the Communion Table.
- Take paraments to dry cleaners as needed
- Substitute in any of these activities when regular Communion preparers are away.

If you are interested in learning more, please speak with Liz Boothe, Worship Committee Chair. Thank you!



For More Information, Check Out These Sources:

Encyclopaedia Britannica website article on Eucharist

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Eucharist>

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 27 (The Sacraments) and Chapter 29 (The Lord's Supper)

<https://epc.org/wp-content/uploads/Files/1-Who-We-Are/B-About-The-EPC/WCF-ModernEnglish.pdf>

Larger Catechism, Questions 162-164 (on The Sacraments) and Questions 168-177 (on The Lord's Supper)

<https://epc.org/wp-content/uploads/Files/1-Who-We-Are/B-About-The-EPC/LargerCatechismModernEnglishORIGINAL.pdf>

Shorter Catechism, Questions 92-93 (on The Sacraments) and Questions 96-97 (on The Lord's Supper)

<https://epc.org/wp-content/uploads/Files/1-Who-We-Are/B-About-The-EPC/ShorterCatechism.pdf>

Canoeing the Mountains

Sometimes we have to leave our canoes behind if we want to cross the mountains!

You are invited to join Pastor David and the session as they go through the book *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger. Our world is changing at an ever-accelerating pace and it often feels like the Church is doing ministry that no longer reaches the felt needs of people. As we look out on this strange, new world, how can God change our perspective and goals so that we effectively share the Gospel with those who don't know they desperately need it?



Time and dates will be coming soon, so make sure to check your bulletins. We hope you can join us for this important study.

Mark your calendars!

Youth Group Returns – Sunday, September 11

BINGO Game Night – Friday, September 16

Church Picnic – Sunday, October 2

DAVID GARRISON, *Pastor*

ELDERS

Ron Reyburn, *Clerk of Session,*

Liz Boothe, Maggie Brockman

Sharon Bryant, John Lange, Judy Reyburn

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Website: www.npcmh.com

Bob Mills, *Director of Music*

Liz Boothe, *Organist*

Sharon Bryant, *Sunday school
Superintendent*