

# NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

## APRIL 2024 MISSION FOCUS

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a nonprofit organization with the primary focus to assist individuals in Amherst County in overcoming food insecurity. They also help connect those in need to area resources that can help build self-sufficiency and quality of life.

### The mission statement:

- Provide hot nutritious meals to the hungry of Amherst County
- Educate citizens of Amherst County on needs of the hungry
- Advocate for citizens in need.

### The vision:

- Approximately 14% of all ages and 20% of children of Amherst County residents Live in Poverty. WE WANT TO CHANGE THIS.
- Promote self-sufficiency and improve quality of life for those in need
- Understand the challenges of poverty.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Amherst County was established in the fall of 2015. In May of 2018 actual hot meals were served and this was



done until the Covid Shutdown. There continues to be a Selective Food Warehouse providing “guests” the opportunity to shop for their groceries. This food warehouse is open the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays from 8 until 10:30 am. Funded through donations from businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals, mostly from our area, the existence of NHN is truly Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Food donations are accepted and monetary contributions allow for bulk purchases of foods and to cover operational expenses. We also collect plastic grocery bags and empty egg cartons for 12 or 18 eggs. A collection receptacle is located in coat-hanging area of the narthex. 18 volunteer workers are need per distribution day and administrative help is welcome.

Donations for Neighbors Helping Neighbors can be made by designating “NHN” in the memo field of your check or in the notes field if giving online. We thank you for your ongoing support of this important service to our community!



## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE 'NORTHMINSTER WING' AT DAYSTAR JUNIOR SCHOOL

*With the funds raised last year, Daystar Junior School has broken ground on a new building with three classrooms. The new facility is expected to be ready for students in July.*

We recently received an update from Jude Nyanzi regarding their plans for new classroom space at Daystar. While our fundraising efforts came up short of the \$100,000 we were hoping to raise, they have adjusted the location and plans for new classrooms so that work can begin immediately and with the funds we provided.

The original location required a lot of excavation in order to build a basement, the new location does not. In fact, they have already broken ground on the new building! Similar to the original plan, the first floor will consist of three classrooms, with the ability to add floors as funds become available.

Construction of the new classrooms is expected to take about three months, which means the new rooms should be ready for students in late June or July. In a recent

letter, Jude expressed his gratitude for our ongoing support:

*Thank you! As you know, your contribution is very important to our most important people, the kids we serve. Your ongoing commitment to our kids truly means the world, and we really couldn't serve them better without you, we are so glad you chose us. We thank everyone for making an investment into the future of this school, the anonymous matching of funds is a real testament that God works in mysterious ways! We thank him or her for the generosity! May God bless you all.*

Here are some design pictures of the new building and where it is being built. More information and updates can be found on the church website.



First-Class Postage Here

Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
106 Clearview Rd  
Madison Heights, VA 24572



# LIFE TOGETHER

*Keeping in touch with one another*

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

3 Vera Campbell  
5 Ed Campbell  
6 Liz Boothe  
13 Cathy Work  
15 Arlene Horton  
16 Harry Rucker  
24 Peter Garrison  
24 June Hedrick  
24 Linda Lange  
30 Anita White



## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Harry & Vonnie Rucker, April 13, 1985  
Ian & Debbie Moore, April 17, 1993  
Rob & Andrea Sievwright, April 28, 2007

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Several members have asked for prayers for needs that they'd prefer not to share publicly. Please lift up these prayers, knowing that God knows for whom you pray and what they need.

**Jimmy Wright** asks for prayer as he has experienced a setback with his insulin treatments and fluid buildup in his eye.

**Garrett Mann** is home from college on medical leave. Please continue to pray for the doctors and nurses treating him as they seek to discern what is causing his ailments.

Remember others who cannot be with us in church: **Pat Callahan, Arlene Horton, Margie Seal, Dot Stinnett, Dolores Wright** and **Peggy Wright**.

All active servicemen and women.  
Law enforcement personnel, first responders.

# SEARCHING FOR SMART COOKIES!

*Are you a smart cookie who likes to bake delicious treats?  
Or a smart cookie who prefers to do a grocery run?*

We are in need of folks to sign up to provide refreshments for our after-worship fellowship times. These generally happen the third Sunday of each month, unless the church calendar or holidays necessitate moving to a different date. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Thanks, Smart Cookies!

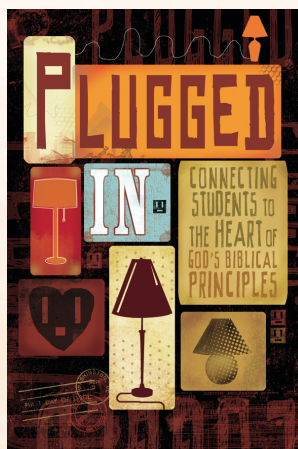


## **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT** 2024 GENERAL FUND

	February	Year To Date
Income	\$10,423	\$21,208
Expenses	<u>\$10,758</u>	<u>\$20,613</u>
Balance	\$-335	\$595

## Youth Ministry Update

*Youth Group Resumes Sunday, April 14.  
Graduation Sunday is June 9.*



As Christians, we're designed to be connected to God at all times — to be "plugged in" to the source. More often than not, though, we try and go it alone. In this series, we're going to talk about staying connected to God. We'll look at five biblical principles that, when we live them out, help us stay and even deepen our connection to God. Growing in our faith doesn't happen accidentally, we need to make sure we stay plugged in to the Lord.

Join us Sundays, 6:30pm.

# Eastertide Reflections on Jesus' Resurrection

This year, the beginning of April coincides with the beginning of the season of Easter. Easter is the final Christological season of the Church year. It starts on Easter Sunday and ends 50 days later, on Pentecost. Then comes Ordinary Time, which, this year, ends on November 31. December 1, the first Sunday in Advent, starts a new liturgical year.

Throughout the history of the Church, the Easter season has been seen as a time that highlights spiritual renewal and rebirth. It reminds Christians of the promise of new life, both in our present, calendar-addicted world and in the world to come, where time shall be no more (Rev. 10:6). Above all, the season of Easter invites Christians and congregations to celebrate and meditate on who Jesus is and what he has done for us through the glorious reality of his resurrection.

Here are three topics you might want to reflect on as this Easter season unfolds.

**Authority.** Before his death, Jesus said his resurrection would be a sign of the *authority* of his teaching. "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40).

Then, on Easter Sunday afternoon, the risen Jesus met two of his disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus and explained to them that his death and resurrection was a central theme of the Old Testament. "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). Jesus' resurrection is our assurance that he has the authority to accomplish everything he promised.

**Hope.** Because Christ is risen, we have hope. Peter tells us God has given Christians a "new birth into a living *hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). In the Bible, hope conveys an attitude of trust and assurance, not wishful thinking. As Andrew Purves and Charles Partee write, "What faith believes, hope expects. Faith is the foundation, and hope nourishes and sustains that faith. Hope has the same goal as faith, namely, a confidence in the benevolence of God toward us."

**Triumph.** Jesus' resurrection also means that the power of God has *triumphed* over the powers of sin, death and the devil. As Paul explained to the Romans, Jesus "was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification" (Rom. 4:25). Paul recognized that for Christians, a restored relationship with God the Father is inseparable from Jesus' resurrection. To deny one is to deny the other.

To close with another quote from Paul:

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith ... He disarmed the rulers and *authorities* and put them to open shame, by *triumphing* over them in him" (Col. 2:15).

– Bob Mills

# Young Life All-Area Club

On Monday, March 25, Northminster hosted Young Life Central Virginia All-Area Club. Over 100 teenagers from all of the area high schools, including Amherst, Appotmattox, Bedford, Lynchburg, and Rustburg, gathered together to have a lot of fun and learn about Jesus. It was great to see the Fellowship Hall packed wall-to-wall with students!

Young Life is a Christian ministry that reaches out to middle school, high school and college students in all 50 of the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world. Their mission is to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grown in their faith. They accomplish their mission by praying for young people, going where kids are and building personal relationships with them, earning the right to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, inviting kids to personally respond to the Good News and walking in friendship with them regardless of their response, and working in community alongside like-minded adults (volunteer leaders, committee members, donors and staff). Young Life clubs are typically led by volunteer college students.

On a typical week, around 40-45 students from Amherst County High School gather at Second Stage in Amherst on Monday evenings for "club." Club is a youth-group type of meeting that involves skits, games, singing and a Gospel-focused message. It's geared toward creating an inviting and safe environment for students to learn about Jesus.

Students who want to learn more and grow deeper in their faith are invited to attend a weekly Bible study called "Campaigners." Campaigners meets at 6:15 am on Friday mornings (in the Garrisons' living room!). Currently, about 17 students show up each week, and some of them don't have classes or work on Fridays but make the effort to be there because they're so excited to learn more about Jesus.

Amherst County Young Life is led by 7 volunteer college students, under the direction and guidance of Allen Miller, the area director for Central Virginia Young Life. These college students give 15-20 hours or more each week to invest in the lives of teenagers in order to share Jesus with them. We are grateful for the opportunity to support the work of Central Virginia Young Life.

Learn more about Young Life at [www.younglife.org](http://www.younglife.org).



# Women's Bible Study Monday, April 8 at 7 PM

Barbara Baker will lead our discussion on *Second Chances* as we look at the relationship of Ruth & Boaz.



The Women's Bible Study will meet on Monday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Barbara Baker will be our facilitator and hostess this month. We are using the book, The Love Stories of the Bible Speak by Shannon Bream. We will also be using the workbook that goes with the book. You can get a copy of the book online, Mardel, Barnes and Noble or wherever books are sold.

We will be studying Ruth and Boaz – *Second Chances*. Ladies, read your book and complete your workbook! Bring a friend. As always, if you don't get your homework done, come anyway!! Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 8th!

As always, feel free to bring friends or neighbors with you to this Bible study group.

Ruth 4:13  
"So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife."

Our meetings for the rest of the year are as follows:

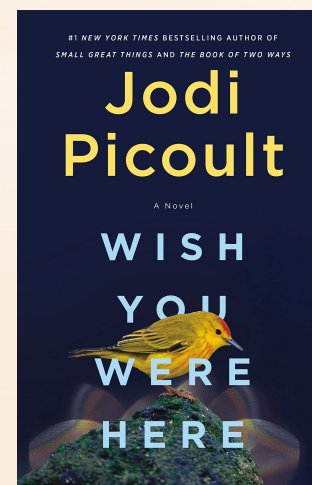
April 8 - Ruth and Boaz - *Second Chances* - Barbara Baker

May 6 - David and Abigail - *The Rebel and the Peacemaker* - June Hedrick

Please join us as we study the Bible and learn to apply its teachings to our life!

# Women's Book Club

Our next meeting is 10 AM on Thursday, April 18th at June Hedrick's Home.



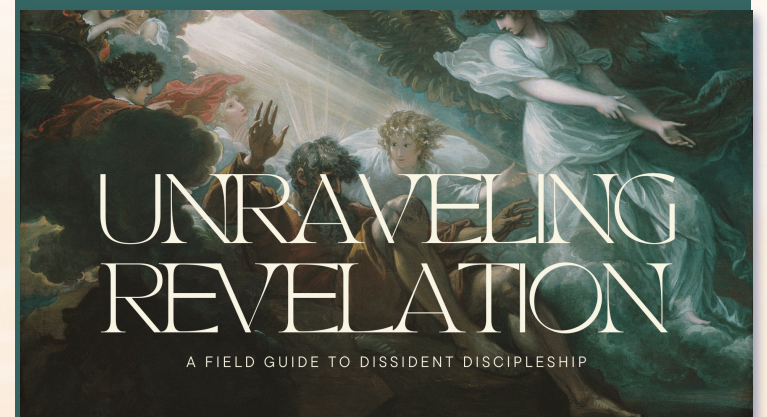
Diana, a 29-year-old art historian, must decide if she should go on a vacation to the Galapagos without her boyfriend, Finn, a doctor who needs to stay put and help manage the crisis on the front lines. She goes, and she ends up getting stuck there. Of course, there are worse places to ride out COVID.

Come and bring a friend and if you haven't finished the book, come anyway!!

# Unraveling Revelation

A new Sunday school opportunity, beginning Sunday, April 14 at 9 AM.

If there's one book of the Bible that people have questions about or don't understand, it's the very last book, the Book of Revelation. In many respects, it is one of the most unique books in the entire Bible, bringing together all sorts of unusual imagery and confusing language. It's become quite popular to read it in such a way as to try to unlock the secrets to the future, but doing so actually robs the book of its true power and import. Revelation isn't so much about the future as it is a field guide to dissident discipleship in the here and now. Join us for Sunday School beginning April 14<sup>th</sup> as we seek to Unravel Revelation.



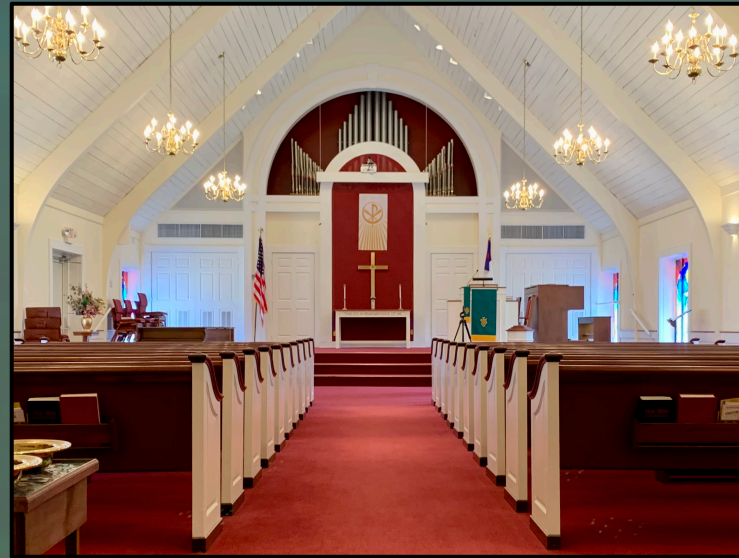
# April Pastor's Corner – Refuge

*Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary. — Ps. 28:2*

As I come to a half-century of walking this earth, I find that the frenetic nature of our culture is wearing on me more often than not. Everything seems to operate at a “hurry up and wait” pace that leaves me stressed and exhausted, and there are few places to go to find a respite from it. Social media stirs up my anxiety and my discontent. The news stirs up my fears and worries. The pleasure of eating out is often tainted by slow service due to understaffed restaurants and higher prices due to supply chain issues. The advancements of technology that were meant to improve the quality of our lives (and in many ways it has) seems to have had the opposite effect more often than not. It's not just our youth and children whose faces are plastered to their phones, but all generations. Instead of having more time to rest and relax, we are constantly pushed to do more in less time. We need sanctuary. Sanctuary from the frenetic pace of our culture, our lives, and ourselves.

“Sanctuary” is defined as “a place of refuge or safety.” For thousands of years, the spaces we set aside for encountering God have been called sanctuaries. Even still today, we refer to these spaces as sanctuaries, and in those spaces we experience and do things that are different than any other place to which we go. A sanctuary is an inherently counter-cultural space; it is intrinsically different from anywhere else in our lives. Everywhere else we go is designed to meet some need or want in our lives. We want to go to those places because we expect them to do something for us. A sanctuary, though, is different. The sanctuary provides refuge and safety because it enables us to look beyond ourselves, to see and experience God.

The fundamental flaw with the typical rhythms of our lives is that it all revolves around us. I structure my life in order to meet my wants and needs. “I” am the center of my life. While that's somewhat obvious, it is also the primary problem, because “I” can not satisfy myself. “I” can not meet the deepest longings of my soul, as hard as I might try. And trying is exhausting. What



we do in a sanctuary is designed and intended to move our eyes off our navels and onto the cross – away from myself, and onto the Lord. In the sanctuary, we move from the familiar to the unfamiliar – from what we know to what we don't. From what we want to Who we need. In the sanctuary, we are reminded that we are not the center of the universe, or even our lives. That it's not always all about me, or you, but rather about Him.

Ultimately, sanctuary isn't a particular place but rather a Person, Jesus Christ. ‘Sanctuary’ is found wherever we find Him, it isn't necessarily bound to any specific physical place. But practically we need particular places of sanctuary, spaces intended for refuge and safety for our souls. Places where we do things differently than anywhere else in our lives, where we worship our God, confess our sins, receive His word, practice His sacraments. Come to the sanctuary, and find refuge and safety from the frenetic world in which we live.

*But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. — Psalm 59:16*

Blessings,  
Rev. David Garrison

# Online Worship & Giving

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 YouTube On a Phone or Computer**

On any internet-connected device, go to [www.npcmh.com/live](http://www.npcmh.com/live) to find our worship service. You *do not* need a Facebook account to access this. If you don't see the Live feed, refresh your browser to reload the page. We usually 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 YouTube/Google Account**

Make sure you subscribe to our YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/@npcmh](http://www.youtube.com/@npcmh)) and set it to notify you whenever we go live, and YouTube will send you a notification when the service starts.

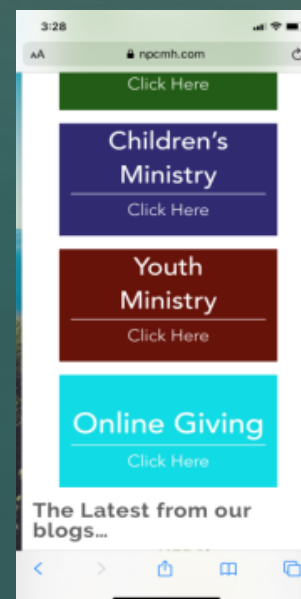
We do encourage you to watch the service on the largest screen you have available, to help give the sense of “being there.” Many modern TVs allow you to “send” a video from your phone or laptop directly to the TV.

## **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 open the YouTube app. You don't need a YouTube or Google account to use these apps, but it can make finding the service easier. If you need to search for it, go to the search tab and enter “npcmh.”

## **Find the Bulletin Online Each Week**

To assist your worship, the bulletin will be available on our website at [www.npcmh.com/online-order-of-worship](http://www.npcmh.com/online-order-of-worship). This is formatted to work well on a computer, phone or tablet.



## **Donate 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](http://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).

## NORTHMINSTER ON THE 'NET

**Website**  
[www.npcmh.com](http://www.npcmh.com)

**Calendar, Directory & more**  
[npcmh.churchcenter.com](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/npcmh)

**YouTube**  
[www.youtube.com/@npcmh](http://www.youtube.com/@npcmh)